

Autumn : A time of change

You will remember the front page of the last newsletter had some interesting pictures of places that Monarchs chose to pupate. Well, we have discovered more, and have made sure that many of the photographs are displayed on our website.

Recently, while visiting Portland School, Jacqui was shown a smartboard in a classroom where the juniors had been studying Monarchs – and of course one ‘smart’ Monarch caterpillar had decided to be very smart... Look for the photograph on the website. The children were so proud!

The Trust has been very active – a successful interactive display in Christchurch, and preparations for a showstopper of a Conference as well as a team of taggers up and down the country. 20,000 tags are being distributed to people who register by going on the website. If you haven’t registered yet, and would like to be involved, then look for the information under the ‘Projects’ menu.

Not only did Vicky Steele co-ordinate an amazing exhibition in Christchurch as part of Botanica, but also she is responsible for the wonderful look of our website. You will find information so much easier to find – do take a look, it’s a resource that is the envy of many others.

One of the most popular places on the website is the forum, where you can leave messages for other members, and have your questions answered. It’s far better to post your ‘why?’ and ‘how?’ and ‘what is?’ questions there than emailing us – because you very soon have the advice of many other members.

We hope to see many of you at the conference – less than three weeks away!

Tagging at Kindergarten



This year children at Glenbrook kindergarten, south of Auckland, have been extremely interested in the Monarch butterfly’s life cycle.

“We have all learned what the word ‘metamorphosis’ means!,” said Claire, one of their teachers.

“Inside we have an area for the swan plants, a special display on the wall and a range of related books for the children to look at,” added Charlotte, the second teacher.

The children really enjoy looking through magnifying glasses and observing the caterpillars and chrysalises up close.

“Every session we all wait with anticipation hoping to see a caterpillar change into a chrysalis or watch a butterfly emerge and dry its wings,” they said. “We currently have over 30 chrysalises hanging, have released several and tagged ten.”

The teachers are getting very good at identifying if the butterfly is male or female and tagging them, although this definitely requires two pairs of hands!

“The children are thoroughly enjoying learning about this fascinating butterfly and we are enjoying being involved in the Monarch Trust tagging programme.”

It’s great to have you aboard, Glenbrook.

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Botanica, the Buzz on Bees, Butterflies, Bugs and Botanicals

Run by Science Alive! in Christchurch the Botanica exhibition is promoted as 'where pollination and seed dispersal are part of the hands-on interactive fun and learning for ages 3 to 103'. Ruud Kleinpaste was in attendance and the exhibition (included a working beehive and many amazing photographs and videos contributed by Landcare Research) showed pollinators in action.

With such a big focus on pollination, the Trust accepted Science Alive's invitation to participate, seeing it as an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of NZ butterflies and their role as pollinators.

A purpose-built 6 x 4.5m walk-through butterfly house was populated with host plants for Monarchs and Admirals and nectar sources, and then larvae, pupae and Yellow Admiral butterflies were added for the opening. Monarchs and Yellow Admirals shared equal billing. The butterfly house was timber-framed, covered with wind-cloth and featured two entrances with wheelchair access and a hard floor with raised edges to ensure the safety of caterpillars and butterflies. The environment was controlled with an air conditioner, a humidifier and a 1000w hydroponic grow-light. The floor was covered with mulch.

Science Alive! staff were given training on the butterflies, and armed with enough information to answer most questions.

Visitors were only allowed in the house accompanied by a staff member or Trust representative.

The house had four areas. Monarch Mews ran along the right-hand side, and was designed to replicate a garden complete with a weatherboard house wall. Several milkweeds sat among pittosporums and hebes and were bordered with nectar plants and guarded by a garden gnome. The opposite side, Admiral Avenue, was divided into two areas. 'Admirals in the Wild' featured a section of farm fence with potted nettles (*Urtica urens*) nestled among other potted 'weeds'. The second part, 'Admirals in the Garden', designed to showcase nettles, was backed by trellis with jasmine and bougainvillea and surrounded by hebes and nectar plants. It had a wise garden owl keeping watch. The final area, Butterfly Boulevard, was the nectar garden, filled with butterfly favourites.

There was also useful information and pictures, posters for the upcoming conference and a Wanted poster profiling

butterfly enemies.

Nettles sustain more than just Admiral caterpillars, and the various moth larvae on the plants were encouraged. In particular, Silver Y moth larvae were plentiful, adding a greater biodiversity to the environment. Visitors could compare the motions of the various caterpillars as well as see the difference between a cocoon and a chrysalis.

One of the more unusual moths identified by Ruud was a female Beet moth which ate the docks and then spent her time with her abdomen in the air looking for a suitor.

An Admiral pupa, found in the wild, was isolated in a jar and when the chrysalis produced *Pteromalus puparum* wasps instead of a butterfly, the unbreakable jar (with childproof lid) was used as a display.

The Monarchs dutifully used the props provided to pupate on but the Admirals, true to form, wandered far and wide and picked some unusual spots, and frequently tucked themselves in among the Monarchs. While the Monarchs didn't fly around a lot the Admirals did, delighting children by frequently landing on them. The Monarchs put up a display of their own, however, mating often in the afternoon sun.

Maintaining the exhibit was almost a full-time job but the rewards were wonderful. Awareness, particularly of the difficulties Admirals face, was raised; some of the comments were priceless. Nettles are certainly off the endangered list in many people's gardens now, and children, in particular,

were fascinated by the 'baby butterflies'.

The Monarch, too, earned new legions of fans and Science Alive! personnel were able to pass on valuable information to first-time butterfly gardeners.

Neville Petrie, CEO, and Amy Johnston, Public Operations Manager, Science Alive! had this to say:

"Thousands of visitors have poured into Science Alive! with the main purpose of visiting Botanica and the Butterfly House. It's proven very popular with people of all ages and is often named as the favourite exhibit in our surveys. The butterfly house has increased our visitors' knowledge of butterflies and has renewed public interest in growing swan plants and nectar plants."

"One of the biggest pluses of the house was educating the public about nettles and the Admirals' reliance on them. Most of the visitors went away with a pledge to grow
continued page seven...



We are still
accepting
registrations

Bring Back the Butterflies

Tauranga, Easter 2009

Saturday, 11 & Sunday, 12 April - Bureta Park

Conference of the
Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust

Bring winged beauty into your garden!

Keynote Speakers

- Dr Barrie Frost, Canada,
 - Dr George Gibbs, Wellington
 - Dr Mark Hauber, Auckland
- (thanks to the University of Auckland)



and more...

Prices

Earlybird CLOSED
Full registration CLOSED
Late registration:
1 February onwards - \$180

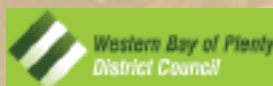
Teachers, gardeners, parents...
this event is for you.

EVERYBODY WELCOME

More Information & Programme on website, www.monarch.org.nz:

Write: MBNZT, C/- NZ Post, Russell
Ph. 07 576 4752 or 09 403 8543
Email jacqui@monarch.org.nz
or mary@monarch.org.nz

The Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust thanks the following for their support in bringing this event to you:



Greenwood Trust

Conference 2009

If you're wondering if you should or shouldn't get to Tauranga for this year's conference – we strongly suggest you come along.

It is unlikely that there will be a conference in the near future. It is unlikely that there will ever be this strong line-up of knowledge and practical experience at any future conference.

There are butterfly educators, scientists, gardeners, photographers. It's going to be a BLAST.

The workshops are all about learning and practising practical skills, and having fun while we do it.

Keynote Speaker: George Gibbs

George is grandson of entomologist George Hudson, who during his lifetime wrote three tomes on butterflies and moths, with over 2,500 coloured paintings.

“Those books have never been replaced,” said George Gibbs. “No wonder they sell for hundreds of dollars.”

George Hudson also inspired his grandson, who went on to publish his own work, *New Zealand Butterflies*, in 1980.

From a background of entomology, George has pursued a career researching butterflies, moths, weta and, in particular, the evolutionary background of our fauna and flora. His book, *Ghosts of Gondwana*, is an award winner.

“New Zealand is an extraordinary place, unique on Earth, and the story of how and why life evolved here is remarkable and very exciting,” he said.

George Gibbs will speak on *The Origins of New Zealand's Butterflies and Moths*, as well as lead a workshop on photography.

Monarchs and Migration: Barrie Frost studies the fascinating topic of how animals navigate, and he will share with us not only tips about our Monarchs, but also their migration habits.

Photography: Everyone has admired George Gibbs' stunning photographs of butterflies and moths. He is going to share his skills and teach us how to do it, whatever your camera.

Moths: New Zealand has over 1500 species of moths – some still to be discovered and identified – and on the Saturday night we will be undertaking some light-trapping to see what we can find at Te Puna Quarry Park.

Beforehand, Alan Emerson, who is writing a book on moths, will introduce us to some of the moths that we might meet on a day out in the countryside, or around our garden.

While we tend to think of moths as the 'butterfly's poor cousin', a nuisance, an insect which attacks our food and clothing, some moths are quite stunningly beautiful. It will be fun to learn more about them, their differences and their value to the environment.

Taking Cuttings: Many garden plants can be grown from cuttings, and we will learn lots of tips so that you can double or treble the number of plants in your garden – without costing the earth.

Jo Dawkins was a Regional Finalist in the Gardener of the Year Contest. Jo and Mary put in much time at Te Puna Quarry Park garden.

Seedsaving: The art of keeping seeds from one season to another, to continue the strongest plants, has largely been lost. We hope to be able to share the skills with you how to get the best seed from the best plants.

Raising Admirals at home: Norm Twigge has been doing this for years, and is going to show us shortcuts working with nettle, and how to raise these attractive little NZ butterflies. Norm won't be satisfied until he finds them in every corner of NZ - won't that be a thrill for all of us?

Tagging: You will be able to try tagging your own Monarch and then go home armed with tags and all you need to know to work in your own backyard.

Earlier in the program, Mark Hauber will share some of the results of tagging in New Zealand.

Pest Control: What is a pest? What 'good' are some insects? At this workshop you'll learn more about gardening naturally and not to see pests and parasites as ogres but something that occurs naturally and just needs to be kept in the right place. When we're all gardening naturally, the world will be a much healthier place.

How to Design a Butterfly Garden: There are many things you can do in your garden to attract more butterflies - the right plants in the right place with the right shelter and right attitude. And you'll learn it all here!

Environmental Education Workshops: Lots of things for families to do – or school classes, play centre, clubs, school holiday programmes. Ideas for all ages – educational AND they're great fun.

PLUS: Be among the first in NZ to find out about the Monarch Teacher Network – this environmental education network which is spreading across the world.

Yes, there are some places left at the conference, both days. It's not too late to register. Hope to see you there.

AGM AGENDA

Bureta Park, Tauranga - 9.30am Sunday, 12 April

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Chairperson's Report
- (c) Statement of Accounts for 2007-2008
- (d) Auditor's Report
- (e) Budget for 2009-2010
- (f) Elections of Members of the Board
- (g) Election of a Chairperson
- (h) Election of Secretary/Treasurer
- (i) Changes to Trust Deed (see last newsletter and website)
- (j) Fix annual subscriptions for 2009-2010.
- (k) General Business

The meeting will also be held on line.

For those of you who can't be in Tauranga, have a computer and broadband internet, and want to be involved: email trust@monarch.org.nz for more information.

Your Trustees

Sadly, we report the resignation of both Gilly Jackson and Edith Sharpe this issue. Gilly, who lives in Russell, was one of the founding trustees. She has watched the trust grow hugely since it was conceived a few years ago.

“I will be the first to admit I don’t enjoy meetings and management roles,” she said. “And now I’m becoming more involved with bird rescue, I’d rather feed fledglings!”

Edith has been suffering ill health for some months, and feels it is time to focus on herself rather than her work for several charitable entities. We are very grateful for the time and effort that you have put in on our behalf, Gilly and Edith. Many, many thanks.

Three members have offered their services, and a vote will be taken at the Annual General Meeting in Tauranga on 12 April, at 9.30am.

Trisha Allan

Trisha is a trained journalist, now living in West Auckland, whose business background is in the media and publishing industries, in a variety of capacities. Her roles have included writing, editing, managing technical projects, events and client management in a PR company, managing corporate sponsorship, database design (from the management perspective).

Trisha’s favourite job was editor of community newspapers in Auckland.

Her children are adults, and Trisha adds that apart from short spells when her children were born, she has always been a businesswoman.

“We always had vegetable and flower gardens and I grew a couple of swan plants each season for the children’s enjoyment.”

She has been a bit of a ‘greenie’ since childhood.

“My father was an organic gardener before the phrase was coined.”

Full-time employment has not been an option for her for the past five years ago due to an injury. Fortunately for the Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust, this summer she decided to learn about, and raise, Monarchs.”

“And now I am hooked.”

She has already become very involved in helping with press releases, media contact, and answering correspondence. Thanks Trisha – we know you’ll be very useful and supportive.

Charlotte Beesley

Charlotte has lived in West Auckland for 32 years with her husband Allan. The couple have two daughters aged 25 and 27 years and three grandchildren.

Char is a Cleaning Manager/Trainer for Spotless Services at Mercy and Ascot Hospitals. In the three years she has been there, she has achieved her Supervisor’s Diploma and

become an ITO training assessor for the company.

“I have always been fascinated by butterflies,” she said. “My husband and I started with one swan plant last year and it’s become addictive since then.”

The couple now have a wonderful garden of swan plants and a greenhouse; Allan has also built a butterfly house. Char has planted stinging nettle for the Admirals, and has helped out a few Westies who were short on feeding plants for hungry caterpillars.

She also kindly rescued hundreds of Monarch caterpillars from the ARC Botanic Gardens, when another member reported on the Forum that the plants there were smothered in caterpillars.

Good on you, Char, your kind heart and background experience will be a benefit to the MBNZT.

Chrissie Ward

Chrissie Ward was born in Nelson to parents who were passionate gardeners. Her father was a plant pathologist in the Nelson/Tasman area.

She left on her OE in 1975, and didn’t return until 1998. In the interim, among other activities, she had a market garden in the Shetland Islands, off the north coast of Scotland.

An author, Chrissie has had three non-fiction books published: “Dear Lizzie: A Kiwi Soldier Writes From The Battlefields Of World War One” (HarperCollins, 2000); “Kia Ora Postie: A love affair with kiwi letter boxes” (New Holland, 2006); and a children’s book “Curious Kiwi Creatures” (New Holland, 2007).

Since her return to Nelson Chrissie has become increasingly involved with lepidoptera — not just monarchs, but also assisting Roger Frost with his Royal Society/Landcare Research project involving weekly transect walks.

Last month (wearing her Flowers That Fly T-shirt, of course) she spoke to the ‘Creative Living’ group at the local hospice, including six patients, volunteers, and the manager.

“They were fascinated,” said Chrissie, “and the manager is now planning to plant a butterfly garden.”

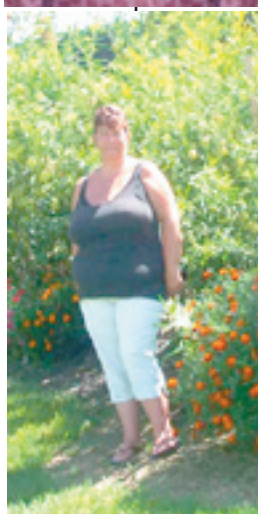
Annie, who invited Chrissie along, said it was a wonderful talk and everyone really appreciated her sharing her extensive knowledge.

“I am going to make it a regular activity to plant seeds so that we have a good supply of plants,” she said. “Chrissie is a real star and has given a small group of people a great deal of pleasure.”

According to Chrissie, it was a very special afternoon.

“Halfway through, two Monarchs appeared in the garden behind me,” she said. “After fluttering around for a while, one came into the room!”

She wondered if her T-shirt was the attraction.



From the top,
Trisha, Char and
Chrissie



Photographing Butterflies

How many of us are likely to see the endangered Forest Ringlet, let alone take a stunning photograph like the above?

Thanks, George Gibbs, for making your wonderful photographs freely available to us for identification.

Come along and learn the best in tips from George Gibbs. Be in to win the Butterfly Photographer's Handbook by William B Folsom – value \$50+ which will be raffled at the Conference.

Changes to Trust Deed

The following changes have been proposed to our Trust Deed. The original Trust Deed can be found on our website – or email trust@monarch.org.nz for a copy.

11.2 Resignation Deemed - Any member who fails to pay the annual subscription on or before the expiration of six months after it has become due shall be deemed to have resigned from membership of the Trust.

This meant that technically members who had not renewed their subscription were still members until the end of December, and should be sent September and December newsletters.

The Trustees suggest that this clause should be modified so that members were given two months' leeway (instead of six). The MBNZN would not be required to send any more newsletters after June, until membership subscriptions for the new year had been paid.

13.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Trust shall be held each year not later than four months after the end of the financial accounting year of the Trust at such place, date and time as the Board shall determine.

It was difficult finalising the accounts and having them audited within a four-month period. Last year's AGM had been held in January, and the 2009 conference/AGM was planned for April.

If the clause was changed to nine months it would be much easier to accommodate all that was required, and would still give two-three months to implement the budget, which needed to be approved at the AGM for the following year.

These changes will be discussed and voted on at the Annual General Meeting.

Conference Programme

Saturday - 11 April

8.30	Registration
9am	Welcome from the Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust
9.15	Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust Jacqui Knight – Direction
9.30	'Madam Butterfly' presents – Metamorphosis
10.30	BREAK
11am	Two 30 minute workshops (rotated) 1. Tagging – Jacqui Knight 2. Raising Admirals at home – Norm Twigge
noon	LUNCH
1pm	Keynote Speaker – George Gibbs "Origin of NZ's butterflies and moths"
2pm	Barrie Frost Migration and Navigation – Importance of Tagging
3pm	BREAK
3.15	Mark Hauber – Results of Tagging in NZ
4pm	Alan Emerson – Moths
4.30	Outing to Te Puna Quarry Park/ Butterfly Garden/Picnic/Light Trapping
	Sunday - 12 April
8.30	Butterflies 101 – Q&A
9am	Kathryn Rowe – Principal Elsthorpe School, Hawkes Bay Teaching with Monarchs : Environmental Education I
9.30	AGM
then	Teaching with Monarchs : Environmental Education II
10.30	BREAK
11am	Three 20 minute workshops (rotated) 1. Striking Cuttings – Jo Dawkins/Mary Parkinson 2. Establishing a habitat project – Jacqui Knight 3. Seeds – TBA
noon	LUNCH
1pm	Pest Control : What IS a pest – Peter Maddison Mantis, aphids, wasps etc
2pm	Nectar for NZ butterflies – Wildflower World
2.30	BREAK
3pm	Butterfly Photography – George Gibbs
4pm	Conclusion and depart

Notoreas

Those of you who read our March 2008 newsletter (now on our website) learned about the imperilled Notoreas moth. It breeds on species of Pimelea, a native daphne, in coastal regions on the Tasman coast of our country. It is the serious decline of coastal vegetation which puts this species of moth at risk.

There are over thirty different species of this brightly-coloured, day-flying endemic moth. Entomologists believe the species is very old – and more will be learned on its origins at the forthcoming conference in Tauranga.

In Taranaki the moth is often referred to as ‘the Taranaki moth’, and is found along the coast from near Oanui extending down as far as near Manaia.

Eggs are hidden and crowded among developing buds of the Pimelea. The caterpillars at first mine leaves of the host plant, a prostrate shrub found on coastal cliffs adjacent to farmland, growing among pioneer plants. With sharp eyes or a lens, one can clearly see the entry and exit holes as the caterpillar burrows its way through the leaf. This leaf-mining behaviour is unknown in other geometrid moths.

Caterpillars are usually a pinkish-purple colour with a herringbone pattern of various colours including black, white or green. After their first moult, the caterpillars greedily devour buds and leaves of the host plant.

As they grow they are usually found under trailing mats of stems and leaves, close to the ground. They pupate in leaf litter in a loose cocoon of soil and silk under the Pimelea. There are two emergence periods – from September to November, and then again from March to April.

Survey work has so far turned up nine coastal species of Notoreas, all very localised. Declining distribution and rarity is a cause for concern as it reflects the degraded



Photo Brian Patrick

state of much of the NZ coastline. This is often caused by grazing stock or our own recreational pursuits. Livestock’s hooves break off the delicate branches of the host plant and also alter the structure of the soil.

Scientists believe that Notoreas moths, and the communities of which they are an integral part, can give an insight into where NZ’s alpine ecosystems originated.

Notoreas moths are in a group distinguished by looper caterpillars and adults with slender bodies and triangular-shaped wings. The shape, size and colour pattern of the wings are informative characters in distinguishing the various species.

According to entomologist Brian Patrick, day-flying moths are an important part of this country’s insect classification. NZ has 82 day-flying species in the family Geometridae – known as geometrid moths.

The number of day-flying Geometrid species in this country is greater than those found in Europe, North America or Australia. Their colours enliven many habitats from the coastal to the high-alpine, and from northern NZ to the subantarctic.

Research so far undertaken by DoC scientists indicates that the species is in ‘serious decline’, which means there are fewer than 5,000 mature individuals – or predicted to be at risk of a decline of between 5 and 30% in the next ten years.

There are two ways that we can help:

- **becoming involved in the replanting and weed control of coastal habitat, and**
- **reduction in damage from humans and stock, respecting areas of coastal vegetation and encouraging others to protect it from recreational activities and livestock movement.**

Botanica: continued from page two...
nettles as well as swan plants.”

They said that the main advantage of having the butterfly house in an educational institution is that the visitors were already in a mindset to learn, rather than just look. Families learnt together so there was a multi-generational impact.

“The house had another spin off effect. The environment we had inside was perfect for the caterpillars and chrysalises and we produced many very healthy butterflies that could be released into the wild.”

“Visitors will remember the house for years to come and we thank the Trust, Vicky, Hugh and Cherie for providing such a valuable exhibit for Science Alive!”

“It was refreshing to see an ecological exhibit geared towards adults and children,” said Poppy, a science student visiting from Britain. “The Trust did an excellent job; it was informative, provided a fascinating insight into life stages of native butterfly species and it was fantastic to get close to the butterflies among their natural food plants.”

Over 4,000 children viewed the exhibition. It is also a popular tourist attraction and many people, of all ages,

visited from out-of-town and overseas. The butterfly house was officially closed on 21 March.

Thanks go to Eureka Trust for help with funding, Oderings and Terra Viva Garden Centres for generous discounts, and Mitre 10, Bishopdale, for donating plants and props for the display. Thanks to Catherine O’Neill and Heather McCormick who grew lush milkweed and Phil and Fiona Rushton who allowed their wonderful nettle patches to be raided. And thank you to Cherie Harris who worked into the small hours installing host plants, and supplied the first lot of Monarch caterpillars and chrysalises.

A big thank you to Margie McKenzie for driving all the way from Rangitata, near Ashburton, to spend a day in the butterfly house topping up host plants, moving caterpillars, feeding butterflies and deadheading flowers.

And finally, to Hugh, I couldn’t have done it without you. We are so grateful.

Over the course of the display, about 700 Yellow Admirals and 250 Monarchs were released from the butterfly house – adding to the summer attractions in Christchurch.

Vicky Steele, Trustee

The Autumn Butterfly Garden

The wet, wild winter last year destroyed much of the milkweed in people's gardens and created a shortage of host plant for many of us.

If you visit the forum on the website you will notice that some people have had a surplus of Monarch larvae, while others have a need for more milkweed.

In Russell, we had one flush of caterpillars early in the summer, and then the wasps and other predators took many of the following generations. Result: in March we have large plants going to seed, and very few butterflies.

It's Nature at work. Next year these plants should have doubled in size; the seed that has been scattered by the wind will produce seedlings early in the spring, and there should be a profusion of Monarchs.

Vicky's good advice in the last newsletter still stands: you can never have enough milkweed. With your young plants pinch the middle out and give them a chance to bush out. Keep planting seedlings, and when weeding, move any unwanted seedlings to pots. Without the autumn generation, we wouldn't have Monarch butterflies to overwinter and return in spring.

Growing milkweed under the eaves or against a building, even a fence, is a great idea, offering shelter for your winter plants. Caterpillars are affected by extremes of temperature – very hot or cold conditions can kill them.

Don't pull out plants that have lost their leaves – fertilise and mulch well, and they should come away again. Use a natural product – home-made is best – and avoid anything that has had hormones added as these might affect your insect life.

Make sure you've thought ahead with your plantings of nectar sources too. If you have asters or cosmos in your garden, the butterflies will be appreciating those flowers. It is probably too late to plant Michaelmas Daisy (see below with Yellow Admiral and Cabbage White) but if you see it blooming in a friend's garden, ask them if they will give you a piece of their plant during the winter.

Don't mow lawns too short - let the blue butterflies enjoy the clover. Next time you're in the country, take a few minutes to enjoy the insect life in the grass verges beside rural roads. How sad to see some people mowing the wild spaces.



Raffles

We have some awesome prizes on offer which will be raffled at the Conference. But even if you're not coming to the conference, you can still take part. Email for more information: trust@monarch.org.nz. Tickets \$2 each.

The prizes:

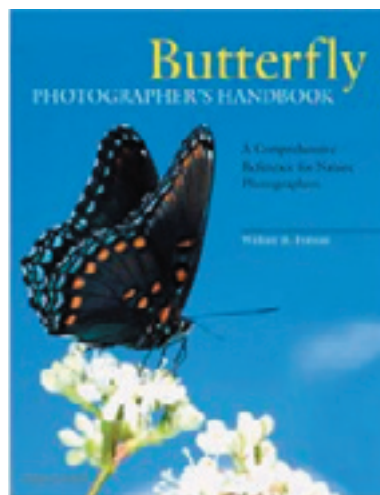
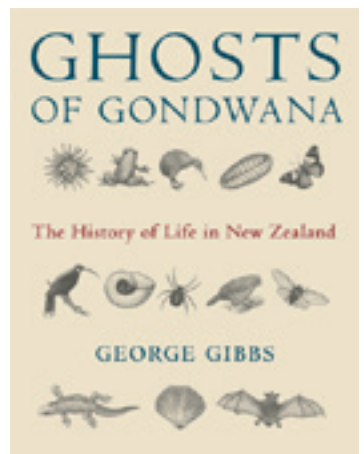
Butterfly: A Photographic Portrait is an extraordinary snapshot of the world's butterflies and moths from Swiss



photographer Thomas Marent.

With over 500 photographs of butterflies and moths, Thomas shares his personal experiences of studying these insects in their natural habitats, resulting in a book that will open your eyes to the wonders of life on the wing. Generously donated by Penguin. RRP \$70.

How and why life evolved in NZ is the subject of George Gibbs' exciting **Ghosts of Gondwana**. It leads to an understanding of where our fauna and flora came from and how they evolved to become some of the strangest in the world. Heavily illustrated with photographs, it is popular science writing at its best. Donated by Craig Potton Publishing. RRP \$60.



Butterfly Photographer's Handbook is an in-depth look at butterflies and how to best capture them on film, this fascinating handbook is equal parts field guide and photography handbook. A complete overview of the ecological system of butterflies is included.

With an understanding of butterfly biology,

photographers can comfortably explore the technological aspects of nature photography. Composition, white balance, focus, and exposure advice is combined with invaluable tips on using a flash and digital manipulation. RRP \$50.

William B. Folsom is the resident photographer for Meadowlark Botanical Gardens as well as a photography instructor; his generous donation will aid projects of the Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust.