

TOPIC: "ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR GARDEN".

GUEST SPEAKER : ROSS KENDALL – Butterflies & Other Invertebrates Club

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 29 OCTOBER 2019 AT THE OLD WITTA SCHOOL

Ross grew up on a farm, was a teacher for 35 years and started breeding butterflies 25 years ago. He is based in Brisbane where he breeds butterflies as a primary producer and supplies them for gardens, parties, weddings and funerals around Australia and internationally. He is president of the not-for-profit Butterfly & Other Invertebrates Club Inc and has written two books – 'Butterfly Host Plants' \$16 and 'Mistletoes' \$30. The Club is involved in restoration of habitat and informs and encourages people to plant butterfly host plants. There are five families of Australian butterflies : Hesperidae (Skippers) 80+ species: Lycaenidae (Blues) 140+ species: Pieridae (Whites and Yellows) 30+ species: Nymphalidae (Nymphs) 80+ species: Papilionidae (Swallowtails) 18 species - includes the Richmond Birdwing.

- Family 1 – Hesperidae – Regent Skipper *Euschemon rafflesia* lives off the leaves of its host eucalypt tree; Splendid Ochre Trapezite likes *lomandra*; Orange Palm-Dart likes palm fronds; Rice Swift likes grass
- Family 2 – Lycaenidae – Common Pencil Blue caterpillars feed on dozens of plant buds and young growth; Cycad Blue caterpillars strip cycad fronds; Silky Jewel is the least colourful of the Jewels – ants protect the caterpillars; Copper Jewel likes mangroves, red ash (soap bush); Small Green-Banded Blue lays tiny eggs on the underside of red ash leaves; Southern Purple Azure has large caterpillars looked after underground by Sugar Ants. Butterfly will only lay eggs on mistletoe where there is a sugar ant nest at the tree base. Ants escort caterpillars up the tree trunk
- Family 3 – Pieridae – Large Grass Yellow lays its eggs on young shoots; Lemon Migrant feeds on *Cassia fistula* and has many colour variations; Caper White will chew off the toughest leaves of host trees e.g. native orange; Black or Common Jezebel favours several different mistletoes and lays eggs in a patterned cluster; Scarlet Jezebel's egg clusters are not patterned. Has an interesting chrysalis and is a beautiful butterfly
- Family 4 – Nymphalidae – Varied Eggfly lays tiny blue eggs and has a slightly spiky caterpillar; There are no 'itchy' caterpillars from butterflies – only from moths; Blue Banded Eggfly not found here or in Brisbane but further north; Common Crow favours Oleanders and can be toxic to birds; Monarch is iconic but not native. Found in Brisbane in 1860 – needs milkweed; Tailed Emperor uses 30 different trees as host – enjoys feeding on overripe figs; Cruiser from North Queensland exhibits sexual dimorphism, is a large butterfly and feeds on native passion vines; Blue Triangle likes camphor laurel; Pale Triangle uses custard apple trees; Four-Barred Swordtail uses zigzag vine and goes from egg to chrysalis in two weeks
- Family 5 – Papilionidae – Clearwing Swallowtail has bright orange eggs and see through wings; Orchard Swallowtail likes citrus trees; Dainty Swallowtail lays eggs only on young growth and chrysalis is camouflaged ; Chequered Swallowtail is widespread throughout the inland with good rainfall; Ulysses closes its wings as soon as it settles, is black and bright blue which is visible when it flies – North Queensland only; Richmond Birdwing is the iconic butterfly of South East Queensland
- Butterflies taste plants through their feet. Wasps lay their eggs in the butterfly eggs and 64 wasps emerge from one butterfly egg. Sugar Ants look after butterfly eggs and caterpillars. Butterflies live from weeks up to 7 months

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