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**HOME – IN ABOUT US**

Welcome to Moths and Butterflies Australasia Inc. (MABA). We are a not-for-profit organisation with charitable status that aims to encourage interest in the scientific study, research and conservation of moths and butterflies (Lepidoptera) in the Australian Region (Australasia). The society was founded in 2021 and provides a forum to unite people with similar interests in moths and butterflies across Australia, New Zealand, and adjacent islands. The society has a broad appeal to a wide range of interest groups, including amateur naturalists, photographers, conservationists and citizen scientists who are passionate about observing, collecting and studying moths and butterflies, not just professional entomologists. Thus, through community engagement we increase connectivity between various people, research institutions and non-government organizations, facilitating networks between experts and promoting collaborations.

**Contact us**

Mailing Address

Moths and Butterflies Australasia Inc.

c/o Division of Ecology and Evolution, Research School of Biology, RN Robertson Building, 46 Sullivans Creek Rd, Australian National University, ACTON ACT 2601, AUSTRALIA

Email: [enquiries@maba.org.au](mailto:enquiries@maba.org.au)

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Benefits**

The benefits of joining MABA are several fold.

Networking

MABA provides a forum to unite people with similar interests in moths and butterflies at a national and international level. Within Australia, much of the current expertise (and the major national collection) is geographically centred in Canberra; thus, there is a critical need for broader linkages of expertise across the country and beyond. We aim to increase connectivity between various people, research institutions and non-government organizations, facilitating networks between experts, promoting collaborations and avoiding duplication of work. MABA also aims to provide better coordination nationally and regionally by bringing together some of the smaller, local interest groups (e.g. BCSA, BOIC, MBNZT). MABA is based on a strong scientific foundation but has a broad appeal to the community and a wide range of interest groups (e.g. photographers, conservationists, citizen scientists), not just taxonomists or ecologists. High scientific standards and centres of research excellence are at the foundation of MABA upon which knowledge of the Australasian fauna is built.

Publications

MABA provides a forum for publishing natural history observations and discoveries (e.g. life histories, linking caterpillars to adults, behaviour). Such publications currently take the form of an electronic newsletter, with links to Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Education

MABA has an important role in education by assisting the general public, industry, government and other stakeholders with species level identifications (e.g. from images) or providing information on species. The development of tools for identification of images on the internet (e.g. of live adults and larvae) is seen as an important resource and an adjunct to the Moths On-Line.

Biodiversity Fund

MABA intends to establish and maintain a public fund – the MABA Biodiversity Fund – for the specific purpose of supporting the society’s environmental objectives on biodiversity conservation.

Research and Advocacy

MABA aims to identify knowledge gaps for further research, such as poorly known taxonomic groups in need of revision, or the conservation, pest or biosecurity status of individual species. The scientific research (and underlying data managed by MABA) are to be used in various ways, for example, for research, policy and advocacy on matters relating to biodiversity, land use, conservation of threatened species, biosecurity and management of pest species. With your support MABA will also advocate and lobby (in partnership with Taxonomy Australia) for more resources for specialist positions in Lepidoptera (especially in systematics and biodiversity discovery) at museums, universities and other government institutions, recognising that there are very few professional Lepidopterists currently employed in Australasia.

Environment

MABA aims to create a safe environment that: (1) encourages more young people (the next generation) to become interested in and stimulated by moths and butterflies, recognising that we have an ageing (and declining) population of experts; (2) mentors the next generation, with the expectation that some of these people will go on to become expert taxonomists or field ecologists (possibly even professional Lepidopterists); (3) provides older generation Lepidopterists exposure to new approaches and technologies, and new modes of communication; and (4) embraces and promotes diversity.

**Membership categories**

Ordinary Members.

Ordinary members are persons over the age of 18 years paying an annual subscription to the society.

Student/Concession Members

Student members are persons under the age of 18 years or who are bona fide full-time students currently attending a school, college or university. Concession members are those retired or not working in full-time employment.

Honorary Life Members

Honorary life members are those persons, duly elected by the society, who have rendered or are rendering distinguished service to the society or to the cause of moths and butterflies. These persons are to be entitled the same privileges as Ordinary Members, without subscribing an annual fee to the society. Honorary Life Members shall be approved by the Council and elected by a two-thirds majority at the Annual General Meeting.

Member Bodies

Member Bodies are defined as being any trust, association, institution, organization, department or instrumentality of government, local government authority educational organization or other body which in the opinion of the Council will support the aims and objectives of the society.

**Membership form**

[PDF document for new members]

**Subscription fees**

There are currently no subscription fees for 2022. However, fees will be introduced in 2023.

**EVENTS**

**Future Meetings**

**Past Meetings**

**Code of conduct**

The society is dedicated to a safe and hospitable environment for everyone attending our events, and consideration and respect is expected. All attendees, members and speakers should refrain from behaviour that is demeaning, discriminatory or harassing. This includes offensive gestures or verbal comments; the sending or sharing of offensive images, videos, emails, texts, or voicemails; deliberate intimidation; stalking, following, harassing photography or recording; sustained disruption of talks or other events; inappropriate physical contact; and unwelcome attention. Participants asked to stop such behaviour are expected to comply immediately. The society may take any action it deems appropriate in dealing with a participant who engages in demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behaviour, ranging from a simple warning to the offender, expulsion from society events to termination of membership.

The society shall not be responsible for any defamatory, offensive, or illegal conduct of participants at events, and shall not be held liable for personal injury, property damage, theft or damage of any kind suffered by the participants at or in connection with society events. By registering for and attending any society events, each participant acknowledges that they have read this Policy and Disclaimer, and expressly releases MABA and its officers from liability in connection with society events.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Newsletter**

The Newsletter is produced annually or biannually depending on demand and content. It includes a range of items, such as natural history observations and new discoveries (e.g. life histories, caterpillars and adults, behaviour), reports from field trips, summaries of talks, interim research reports, book reviews, brief biographies, letters to the editor, awards and achievements, obituaries, requests for information or specimens, advertisements for equipment, business activities of the society, and other newsworthy items as deemed appropriate by the Editor.

[archive to download PDF of all newsletters]

**RESOURCES**

Australian Moths Online

<https://moths.csiro.au/>

The caterpillar key

<https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/the-caterpillar-key/>

Butterflies Australia

<https://www.butterflies.org.au/external/home>

Australian Lepidoptera Research Endowment

<https://www.australianlepidopteraendowment.com/>

National Moth Week

<https://nationalmothweek.org/>

The Lepidopterists’ Society

<https://www.lepsoc.org/>

Moths and Butterflies of New Zealand Trust

<https://www.nzbutterflies.org.nz/>

Butterfly and Other Invertebrates Club

<http://www.boic.org.au/>

Butterflies Conservation South Australia

<https://butterflyconservationsa.net.au/>

**ABOUT US**

**Our society**

The aims and objectives of MABA are:

To bring together in a scientific forum people of all ages and backgrounds interested in moths and butterflies;

To exchange scientific knowledge, specimens and observations of moths and butterflies in a social and congenial atmosphere;

To compile and disseminate information on the identity, taxonomy and distribution of all species of moths and butterflies, both native and introduced, for the purposes of advancing education, training, biosecurity and evaluation of pest status;

To promote and support the conservation of moths and butterflies and their habitats, and provide information to government agencies and non-government organisations on land use, threatened species and biodiversity for the purpose of advancing the health of the natural environment;

To lobby for improved funding and training for research on moths and butterflies.

**Office bearers**

President

Doug Hilton

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Vice-President

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Chris Sanderson (conservation officer)

[conservation@maba.org.au](mailto:conservation@maba.org.au)

position vacant (website officer)

[website@maba.org.au](mailto:website@maba.org.au)

Robert Hoare

position vacant (fund raising officer)

[biographies and images of all council members]

**Constitution**

[PDF document that can be downloaded]

**Logo**

[some information about the design and artist Sharyn Wragg]

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

[links to Twitter/Facebook etc, news items, press releases]

**2023 – content to be completed**

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**Donate to the society**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Membership login/profile**

**Online subscription for membership renewal**

**Membership form**

[alternative option for those that prefer to download a PDF form for membership renewal]

**RESOURCES**

[Butterflies Australia database - phone app and database]

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**Making a donation**

**EDUCATION**