Moths and Butterflies Australasia Inc Council Biographies

**Patrons**

Marianne Horak

Caption for photo <Marianne in the ANIC collection>

Dr Marianne Horak is currently an Honorary Fellow at the Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra. After completing her PhD degree in Switzerland, she joined the ANIC in 1982 to study the taxonomy and biology of Southern Hemisphere moths, particularly Tortricidae, but also the subfamily Phycitinae of the family Pyralidae and to address other major problems in the Australian Microlepidoptera, including Oecophoridae and Bucculatricidae.

Earlier she spent two years in New Zealand (1967–1969) and two years at Bulolo in Papua New Guinea (1971–1973). Her PhD work on Tortricidae culminated in landmark findings on the phylogeny of the family, and the structures that are important in its taxonomy. She then embarked on a series of revisions of the Australasian Tortricidae. In 2001, she became head of the Lepidoptera unit at the ANIC, a position which she held until retirement in 2010. She has continued as Chief Editor of the Monographs on Australian Lepidoptera series, played a leading role in the establishment of the website, Australian Moths Online, and instituted the regular “Moth Weekend” workshops. She also established the Australian Lepidoptera Endowment Fund to facilitate studies of Lepidoptera in the ANIC. In 2008, Marianne won the inaugural J.O. Westwood Medal for the comprehensive work Olethreutine Moths of Australian (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae), which was published in 2006. In 2019, Marianne was awarded the Karl Jordan Medal by the Lepidopterists’ Society, and thus gained the distinct honour of being the first woman to receive this prestigious international award. Marianne fully embraces the concept that one can achieve more by encouraging others than one can by working alone.

Edward “Ted” Edwards

Caption for photo <Ted with the Karl Jordan medal>

Ted is an Honorary Fellow and former curator of Lepidoptera at the Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra, He joined the ANIC in 1970 and retired in 2000. He then became a Post-retirement Fellow and then an Honorary Fellow, a role in which he is still active. In today’s scientific world of narrow specialisation, Ted Edwards has maintained a broad interest across all families of Lepidoptera in the fields of taxonomy, biogeography, conservation, literature and natural history for over 50 years. During this period he has described species in twelve lepidopterous families and been author or co-author of more than 150 papers and articles ranging from book reviews, obituaries, literature analyses, bibliographies, popular articles on biology to scientific papers, book chapters and books. He has long acted as an elder statesman and mentor, and his extensive field experience, curation of the Lepidoptera collection in the ANIC over many decades, intimate knowledge of the scientific literature and accumulated wisdom form the basis for almost all studies of Australian Lepidoptera, enabling researchers as well as amateur biologists throughout the world to easily access the available knowledge of a unique fauna.

He was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to entomological science in 2012 and in 2015 he was the recipient of the prestigious Karl Jordan Medal, an international award presented by the Lepidopterists’ Society. His major contributions include the series of 39 chapters in the Checklist of the Lepidoptera of Australia monograph published in 1996; the Zoological Catalogue of Australia. 31.6. Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea, Papilionoidea published in 2001; the Australian Moths Online website released in 2005; and the book A Guide to Australian Moths published in 2007. Ted’s contribution comprises a legacy of original scientific knowledge and experience for both the Australian and international scientific community, as well as for dedicated amateurs.

**Council members and roles**

President: Doug Hilton

Caption for photo <Doug Hilton>

Doug is based in Melbourne where he is a research scientist and Director of the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. He studied first at Monash University (BSc) followed by BSc Hons. and a PhD at University of Melbourne. At the end of 1984 he undertook summer vacation work at ANU and fell in love with blood cells, later working as a research student in the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, studying the hormones that regulate blood cell production. He hasn’t worked on anything else in the last 35 years. He is fascinated by fundamental science, but also believes in the importance of translating discoveries into applications for the community that funds this research.

Doug’s research career has received considerable recognition. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering, and the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences. In 2016 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for his services to medical research, in particular his advocacy for gender equality in science and commitment to supporting young researchers.

Doug developed an interest in Lepidoptera after discovering that he was not very good at relaxing. On family holidays he’d be itching to go back to the lab and do experiments. This was not a great recipe for marital happiness, so he needed to find something to do while camping in the bush. What better solution than study moths?

Doug has an interest in the monotrysian moth families, including the Heliozelidae and other Adeloidea, co-authoring papers on the phylogeny of the Heliozelidae. He has also co-authored on the discovery of a new family on moths on Kangaroo Island, and a revision of the Australian Cossinae and other small cossid moths.

He hopes that MABA will spark a renaissance in community interest in moths and butterflies, stimulate a diverse range of people to look at these amazing insects, and contribute to their study using citizen platforms like iNaturalist. Hopefully this will raise awareness among our elected representatives of the importance of protecting the environment and funding the study of the unique and fascinating animals and plants we have in Australia.

Secretary: Michael F. Braby

Caption for photo <Michael in the field at Davies Creek National Park, Queensland>

Dr Michael Braby is an Honorary Associate Professor in the Division of Ecology and Evolution at the Australian National University and a Visiting Scientist at the Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra. He developed an interest in the natural history of butterflies at the age of 16 whilst a high school student and has been hooked ever since! He is recognised nationally and internationally for his research on the biodiversity of butterflies—particularly their taxonomy, systematics, biogeography and conservation biology. His research aims to better understand and document the composition, biogeographic patterns and evolutionary history of butterflies and the underlying processes shaping their assembly on the Australian continent, as well as management actions needed for their conservation. Michael has a keen interest in the photography and life histories of butterflies and diurnal moths, and his reference collection of Australian butterflies (c. 10,000 specimens) was recently donated to the ANIC. He is the recipient of several awards, including the The Whitley Medal in 2001 by the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales for the best book on the natural history of Australian animals (Butterflies of Australia: Their Identification, Biology and Distribution), the Whitley Award Certificate of Commendation in 2005 for the best book in the category of Field Guide (The Complete Field Guide to Butterflies of Australia). In 2011 he received the Hayashi Award from the Butterfly Society of Japan in recognition of outstanding contribution to the study of Lepidoptera through the publication of numerous books and research papers for both specialist and amateur lepidopterists. In 2012 he was awarded the Mackerras Medal in 2012 by the Australian Entomological Society for excellence in Entomology.

Vice President: Axel Kallies

Caption for photo <Axel in the field in Western Australia>

Caption for photo <Axel Kallies>

Axel is a professor of molecular immunology at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, University of Melbourne. Ever since he was a teenager he has been interested in moths, and has specialised in the taxonomy, systematics and phylogeny of the superfamily Cossoidea, including Cossidae, Sesiidae, Brachodidae and Castniidae, describing more than 170 taxa mostly in these families. This includes moths from Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, and of course Australia. He is the author or co-author of over 80 scientific papers, including research articles on moth phylogeny, taxonomic descriptions and revisions, biology, faunal lists and new distributions.

Over the last 10 years, he has been working with a group of other Australian entomologists including Doug Hilton, Andy Young, Liz Milla and others on Australia’s monotrysian moths, including Heliozelidae, Adelidae, Opostegidae and Hepialidae, and additional evolutionary primitive families of moths. Other groups of interest include families such as Zygaenidae, Cyclotornidae and Glyphipterigidae. Together with Peter Marriott, he is also part of the Moths of Victoria project team, documenting the faunistics and ecology of Victorian moths.

Treasurer: Tony Moore

Caption for photo <Tony on his property at Port Macquarie>

Tony Moore is a veterinarian who worked after graduation in Australia in small animal practice during the 1980s, and then spent 17 years in the USA teaching veterinary oncology at Tufts University in Massachusetts. He left his position as Professor there to return to Australia in 2003, and co-direct a veterinary oncology consulting company. Although well published in the veterinary field, his interest in lepidoptera is primarily as a hobbyist, and he has collected butterflies since he was 12 years old. His academic career has allowed him to collect on all suitable continents and in such fabulous places as Sulawesi, Costa Rica and Madagascar. A more recent interest in moths has expanded his horizons (and number of cabinets) considerably. He and his wife live near Port Macquarie, on 25 acres recently designated as a Biodiversity Conservation Trust. Now semi-retired, he hopes to develop more dexterity and skills in the study of lepidoptera.

Editor: David Britton

Caption for photo <David at Encounter Bay, South Australia>

David currently works as an entomologist in the area of plant health surveillance, based in Cairns with the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment). He has been an entomologist for as long as he can remember and has diverse experience and interests which has covered physiology, behaviour, chemical and nutritional ecology, community ecology, conservation biology, insect life-histories, pest surveillance and monitoring, and management of pest insects. Much of this work has included Lepidoptera as the group of interest. His education included a series of degrees from University of Melbourne, La Trobe University, and the University of New England before he quite sensibly decided to part ways with the university system and get an actual job. This job was a long stint as entomology collection manager at the Australian Museum, and a shorter stint as the manager of the natural history collections at the Museum. He then decided on a change of scenery, heading north to his current location to work in a more tropical environment. David amassed a private collection from around 1988 to 2015 of over 10,000 specimens, primarily Lepidoptera from south-eastern Australia, but also moths and butterflies from South Africa, Arizona and Papua New Guinea. This has been donated to the Australian Museum. While not claiming to have any major expertise with any group of Lepidoptera or indeed other groups of insects, he does have a fondness for the Lithosiini and a very broad knowledge of entomology in general

Councillor (Conservation Officer): Chris Sanderson

Caption for photo <Chris in bird surveying mode>

Chris is based in Brisbane and is a reformed vertebrate ecologist who now spends most of his limited time in the field looking at butterflies. Currently working with the Queensland Government, his role is to provide habitat mapping and advice on fauna to legislators and decisionmakers within government. During his formative years, Chris was lucky to have a grandmother who was a passionate birdwatcher, a passion which appears to have rubbed off on him. This early love of birds turned into a love of butterflies, reptiles, mammals, frogs, orchids, dragonflies, and everything else that makes up the diversity of our natural world. Chris completed a dual degree in Science and Information Technology at the University of Queensland, before embarking on a career working in a diverse range of ecology related professions. He spent several years working for Birdlife Australia, particularly focusing on their citizen science activities (before people were calling it citizen science), which mostly consisted of convincing interested people to write down what birds they were seeing and send it to him. After this, he spent a long time working as an ecological consultant, where he spent most of his time writing down what animals he saw and sending that to other people. In 2012, Chris found a small orange butterfly near Darwin, which became a bigger deal than he expected, and eventually led to meeting Michael Braby and starting the Butterflies Australia project. Butterflies Australia is a citizen science project which established a nation-wide database for interested people to, you guessed it, write down what butterflies they see and send it to us! Chris is looking forwards to MABA continuing what was started with Butterflies Australia and growing the contribution of citizen science to the field of Lepidoptery.

Councillor (media officer): Suzi Bond

Caption for photo <Suzi with a saturniid in Ecuador>

Dr Suzi Bond is an ecologist working at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, where she is a specialist in biodiversity accounting. Suzi published the first field guide to the butterflies of the ACT in 2016, is a co-author on a forthcoming book on ACT moths due for publication in early 2022 and she has also published articles on birds and butterflies. Suzi leads a butterfly monitoring project in collaboration with citizen scientists and is a popular science communicator, conducting regular field surveys for butterflies and woodland birds as well as leading butterfly walks for the general public. She is an A-class bird bander, with experience handling a range of species from albatross to thornbills at multiple field sites across Australia. Suzi completed her PhD in Ecology at the Australian National University and is an honorary member of the Australian National Insect Collection at CSIRO, an honorary senior lecturer at the ANU's Fenner School of Environment and Society, and a butterfly moderator for Canberra Nature Map and Butterflies Australia.

Councillor (education officer): Catherine Byrne

Caption for photo <Cathy Byrne>

Cathy grew up in southern Tasmania, and as a child she used to love wandering around the bush, observing and collecting insects. She recalls always wanting to be an entomologist. She finally achieved that goal some decades after, raising a family of four kids along the way, and finishing a science degree followed by a PhD where she studied the systematics of native geometrid moths supervised by Peter McQuillan. Systematics had to take a back seat while she worked with Tasmanian Department of Agriculture on a project securing market access to Japan for locally grown cherries. This job gave her access to the Department’s large and historical Tasmanian insect collection, which featured collections from such notable Australian entomologists as A.M. Lea and J.W. Evans, both who had worked in the same Department. Working with collections has now become Cathy’s job as Senior Curator of Zoology at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) in Hobart. The curatorship position is a very diverse one, spanning collection and staff management, and public outreach and education. Curators are also expected to conduct systematic research, enabling Cathy to continue her productive and high-quality research on Australian Geometridae. Zoology at the TMAG has the very ambitious goal to have representatives every animal species in Tasmania held in the Museum collections. As part of achieving that goal the Museum conducts “Expeditions of Discovery” to remote and poorly collected areas of Tasmania almost every year. For Cathy this has resulted in finding many new lepidopteran species, faunal records and rarities, and much of Cathy’s time is now spent preparing and identifying moth specimens from this field work. Cathy sees MABA as an association that can bring together everyone who is interested in our diverse and fascinating Lepidoptera, highlighting how important our fauna is globally, with its diversity and high level of endemicity. She hopes it will provide a platform for the sharing of knowledge on our moths and butterflies both locally and internationally.

Public Officer: Julie Morgan

Caption for photo <Julie enjoying the south coast bush>

Julie lives on the south coast of New South Wales on a property that she manages for conservation. Her curiosity about her environment led her to research the many aspects of the natural world that surrounded her. It began with birds, then butterflies, plants, frogs, mammals, other insects, and more. Julie’s interest in moths started about twelve years ago when she began to photograph the many species that visited the outdoor lights at night. She found that identifying all the species was a challenge and was fortunate enough to be introduced to Ted Edwards who was very generous in sharing his knowledge of moths. She became fascinated with the wonderful variety in the moth world, from the stunning colours and patterns of emeralds, the various structures that case moths build, and the spectacle of ghost moths emerging after rain.

As Chair of the Eurobodalla Natural History Society, Julie encourages others to learn more about nature by leading field trips, writing newsletter articles and conducting talks. She believes that education is the way to connect people to nature and an important component of conservation. Presentations on Lepidoptera are particularly popular, with people both surprised and delighted with the beauty and diversity of moths and butterflies around them. The interest created has resulted in reports of species not previously recorded in the region.

Julie believes Moths and Butterflies Australasia Inc. will bring together a diverse range of people interested in Lepidoptera, balancing a strong scientific foundation with a wider appeal for community and other interest groups. MABA will play an important role in education and conservation and will promote the documentation of new observations and discoveries.

Councillor (New Zealand): Robert Hoare

Caption for photo <Our Aotearoa councillor Robert>

Robert was born in 1967 in Winchester, southern England. His father Ian is a keen amateur entomologist who made beautiful collections of butterflies and beetles; Robert first took an interest in Lepidoptera at the age of 6, when he remembers counting Tyria jacobaeae larvae on ragwort in Cornwall. After a classical education at Eton (1980-84) and Oxford (1985-89), he decided to pursue entomology more seriously, switching to biology and studying at Exeter University, where Robin Wootton was a lecturer. By this time his major focus of interest was Microlepidoptera. Attracted by realms with greater diversity and scope for discovery than post-Ice Age Britain, he moved to Australia in 1995 to pursue a PhD under Penny Gullan and Ebbe Nielsen, working on the tiny leaf-mining Nepticulidae. He took his current position in Auckland, New Zealand, at the New Zealand Arthropod Collection in 1998, after the retirement of John Dugdale, and since then has worked mainly on New Zealand Xyloryctidae and Noctuidae, but has now turned his attention to Tineoidea, especially the poorly known and bizarre Dryadaulidae. He retains a broad interest in all Lepidoptera families, though chiefly Microlepidoptera, and likes to rear through the early stages as much as possible. The strange and highly endemic New Zealand fauna is a source of constant fascination.

Councillor (website officer): Vacant

Councillor (fund raising officer): Vacant