

This year Gill has sent details (sex and size) of Monarchs she has released, to Dr Myron Zalucki, Queensland entomologist. Would anyone else like to provide statistics of their own Monarchs, and send them on? Gill is definitely getting more female Monarchs than males. Please contact Gill at paws.for.thought@xtra.co.nz.

Butterfly Bay Update

You may recall that the Trust was formed in order to protect Butterfly Bay, just south of Whangaroa Harbour here in the Far North, due to the notification of a development which was to take place there.

Funds raised were to firstly engage an entomologist who would, we hoped, identify the flora and fauna on the site, and the ways in which the Monarch could be best protected.

Jacqui had been to the bay in the early 1980s and witnessed thousands of Monarchs overwintering there (see our website for more information). However, on several site visits, Dr Peter Maddison and Jacqui saw at most about 20 Monarchs!

As soon as Peter's report is available we will put it on the website and send those of you with email addresses a message that the report is now available. (Email is much more economic when contacting members. Please ensure we have got your email address – contact membership@monarch.org.nz.)

If you don't have a computer/email/website access, but would like a copy of the report, please send a self-addressed A4 envelope to us, with 90c postage, and we will send you a photocopy when it is available.

Snippets from Gill



Did you know that butterflies' and moths' wings are actually transparent?

The iridescent scales, which overlap like shingles on a roof, give wings the colours that we see. Contrary to popular belief, many butterflies can be held gently by the wings without harming the butterfly. Of course, some are more fragile than others, and are easily damaged if not handled very gently. Both butterflies and moths belong to the order lepidoptera which is Greek for 'scale wing'.



Did you know that butterflies taste with their feet?

Their taste sensors are located in the feet, and by standing on their food, they can taste it! Butterflies have six legs and feet. The Monarch tucks its front pair up under the body most of the time – they're difficult to see.



Did you know butterflies don't have mouths that allow them to bite or chew?

As in most moths, they have a long straw-like structure called a proboscis, which they use to drink nectar and juices. When not in use, the proboscis remains coiled like a garden hose. When the Monarch emerges, the proboscis is in two pieces and has a forked appearance, and the butterfly begins working on it with two palpi (found on each side of the proboscis), forming it into one tube. It must do this successfully in order to be able to nectar.

Thanks to <http://www.milkweedcafe.com>

If you've finished with this newsletter... why not pass it on to a friend, put it on the community noticeboard, give it to a school...

Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust

December 2005 Newsletter

C/- NZ Post, Russell, 0255

Telephone 09 403 8543

<http://www.monarch.org.nz>

trust@monarch.org.nz



Report to Members

The amazing response goes on. Thank you one and all for your support!

The Trustees decided to send you this newsletter by regular mail so that you had an opportunity to buy some of the extraordinary collection of beautiful Monarch items we have for sale to members – they're ideal as gifts for family, friends, grandchildren and grandparents – the whole whanau, not forgetting YOU!

Pictures of the various items are on the website, <http://www.monarch.org.nz>

The Trust has been invited to host a 'Butterfly Room' exhibit in the Canterbury Museum as part of the Festival of Flowers & Romance in February. This is something we dreamed about doing... an exciting opportunity, but we need YOUR help.

If you live in Christchurch or have friends/family there, please tell them about it – and if they'd like to help us ensure the event's success, we'd love to hear from them. If you're a teacher (whatever level, and not just in Canterbury) then we'd love to get your advice on handout material. We want everyone to go away with a memory of the Monarch and a plan for how they can help the Monarch butterfly.

To this end we have applied for funding to buy 'roll-up' banners, which would also be available for members to use in their own communities. These look like Holland blinds, upside down. When they're 'pulled' they make an instant backdrop of information – one will have our metamorphosis poster on it, another with the different varieties of milkweed in NZ, and another with pictures of the most common nectar plants.

In researching this, Shelley has found in the Butterfly Breeders' Manual (USA) how they recommend '*hebes varieties, available from New Zealand*' – a great plug for these wonderful little native plants, with their colourful mauve, lilac, purple or white flowers, and something we can all grow.

You might have seen the piece in the December NEXT magazine (*page 257, Everyday Heroes*) profiling the Trust – great publicity.

Gill has been busy in the wonderful forum on the website – some amazing pieces of advice coming through from Monarch-lovers, do take a look. If you have a problem (as Jacqui did, with ants!) leave a message and someone will help.

Here in Russell we have been co-opting people to help us raise the profile of the Trust by writing on coffee-stirrers (ice-block sticks) the website, www.monarch.org.nz – and these have been distributed to nurseries and garden centres and put in their Swan plants. So far about 20,000 Swan plants have been sold in NZ this season! Incredible!

Gill, Helen, Jacqui and Shelley - Trustees

You can print this off and mail to us with your payment (cheques preferred) – or for quicker results you can cut and paste your details into an email, or fax your order to 09 403 8544, and bank the funds directly to our bank account **Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust, Westpac Pathia, 03 0394 0129340 00**, quoting **surname/postcode** as reference.

Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust



**C/- NZ Post
Russell, 0255**

sales@monarch.org.nz

ORDER FORM

GIVEN NAME	
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MAIL ADDRESS	
Postcode:	Ph: Email
Payment enclosed for annual membership 1 July 2005-2006 – \$20.00 \$	
covers four newsletters sent (preferably) by email.	
Packets of Gomphhecarpus physocarpus seed @ \$5/packet 2005 SOLD OUT	\$
Envelope seals (6 full-colour labels of the Monarch) @ \$2/sheet	\$
Bumper Sticker(s) , approx. 297mm x 10mm @ \$4.50 each	\$
Bookmarks , four styles, make ideal gifts, by Jan Read @ \$3.50 each	\$
Posters A4, showing metamorphosis, full colour, @ \$4.50 each	\$
Posters A3, showing metamorphosis, full colour, @ \$12.50 each	\$
Posters A2, showing metamorphosis, full colour, laminated @ \$60.00 each	\$
(mounted on Korflute, add \$25.00)	
Pins with Monarch Butterfly, approx. 25mm @ \$4.50 each	\$
T-shirts , 100% combed cotton (185gsm) top-stitched armholes, short sleeve, come in sizes S (104cm) M (110cm) L (116cm) XL (124cm) 2XL (130cm) 3XL* (142cm) 5XL* (158cm). On reverse words "Monarchs Rule" and "www.monarch.org.nz"	
(a) Shelley, white shirt with butterfly collage by Russell artists @ \$32.95 (*\$36.00) each	\$
(b) Rowena, coloured shirt with Pauline Neilson original artwork @ \$35.95 (*\$39.00) each	\$
Comes on orange shirt (as shown) or gold	
TOTAL ATTACHED Please make cheques payable to Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust OR \$	
pay by internet bank transfer to Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust, Westpac Pathia	
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quoting surname/postcode as reference	
Order can then be emailed or faxed to 09 403 8544.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment must be made at time of ordering. • Order will be filled within two weeks of receipt, unless otherwise advised. • All orders include postage and packaging to NZ addresses. • To overseas addresses, extra charges will apply – please email sales@monarch.org.nz. 	
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Receipt:	By: _____
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Have a Wonderful Festive Season and Summer

In Auckland, on holiday? See the Butterfly House (Monarchs) at West Lynn Gardens and Butterfly Creek (tropicals) at the airport. Highly recommended. Their websites are linked to ours - take a look.