

# Moths and Butterflies of New Zealand Trust Pūrerehua Aotearoa



## Trustees' Report for the Annual General Meeting, 20 March 2022

Despite the ongoing upheaval caused by COVID-19 the MBNZT has managed to keep on track and continue its worthwhile work – even embarking on a new initiative. We hear much positive feedback for our magazine, our professional website and the completion of our projects.

### **Vision**

Our vision is to ensure that New Zealand's ecosystems support thriving moth and butterfly populations.

### **Mission**

To engage with New Zealanders to ensure our biodiversity promotes a thriving moth and butterfly population.

### **Outreach**

Jacqui has continued to promote our aims and activities, explaining the importance of our Lepidoptera species. This past year many school and garden club visits have been rescheduled due to COVID-19 restrictions, but where she has managed to present, we always hear positive comments about her presentations. It's amazing how many more people are now planting stinging nettle for the admirals! A broken ankle and then later another accident affecting her mobility has kept her unable to drive and indoors for much of the year but she has continued to fight the good fight from her desk.

Despite this we are very proud of a new initiative: a butterfly house in the grounds of Mercy Hospice in Auckland CBD. Mercy Hospice is set in magnificent parklike grounds and a butterfly house has provided another beautiful, peaceful feature for contemplation and respite. We particularly want to thank our member, Michael, who has tended to the caterpillars and plants (and aphids and wasps) throughout the summer.

Our membership numbers continue to rise – we now have over 500, about half of whom receive the magazine in the mail, with the others reading it on-line. We are always keen to find new members so if you have any ideas, please talk with Jacqui who will be delighted to give you some back copies of magazines and/or brochures.

Our Facebook and Instagram pages continue to be very popular, and thanks to the assistance of Aashna Rahi who volunteers her time as 'social media butterfly', the material continues to be informative, interactive and professional. The free e-news goes out most Fridays and is always well received.

A very special thank you to Jacqui and the team for all their hard work and dedication.

We are also very fortunate to have the extremely able Carol Stensness managing the accounts, and her assistant, Surbhi Gupta. And there are several other volunteers too who help out in many ways. Thank you all – we couldn't manage without you.

## **Publications**

Four 16-page, seasonal magazines, full colour, have been produced over the past twelve months. They are always interesting and it is wonderful to see the work being done in schools and communities.

And don't forget the e-news that goes out on Fridays. Please feel free to forward those on to friends and colleagues – they may wish to join us too!

## **Forest Ringlet Project**

We have continued our work to protect the forest ringlet (*Dodonidia helmsii*) ably led by Norm Twigge and Hugh Smith, both in the Bay of Plenty, and from our office. The forest ringlet, an endemic forest species, is extraordinarily beautiful and also at risk. It is not only rare but the only species in the genus *Dodonidia*. Hugh and Norm will vouch for just how rare it is!

We were thankful that Lottery NZ extended the grant period which helped us better utilise the funds they gave us. We are learning more about it all of the time, and their funds has been a huge benefit to the project.

## **Transects and MLMP**

We are encouraging more people to walk transects and to become involved in the [Monarch Larva Monitoring Project](#) with our American colleagues. We plan to promote both of these projects more over the next year.

## **National Butterfly Centre**

Our plans for the development of the National Butterfly Centre/Te Matauranga o nga Pūrerehua o Aotearoa are still in mind. Work on the site next to the Auckland Museum has been understandably hampered by COVID-19 and the Auckland Council having to put a hold on all major projects. We will continue to consult with local organisations as well as iwi. Auckland Council recognises 19 iwi authorities. Whanaungatanga, or building relationships through sharing experiences and working together, provides a strong basis for an intercultural Auckland. If you would like to be involved, we could certainly use more people who are skilled in community liaison.

## **Funding**

We are thankful to funders such as the [Auckland Council Community Co-ordination Fund](#), [Foundation North](#), the [Lion Foundation](#) and [Lottery](#) for their generous grants over the past year which have boosted our projects. We are very grateful to our financial members who not only get to enjoy our magazine but also buy our products from the website and on-line shop.

Our plant sales or sales of cuttings have been very successful to date and we will continue to do these so long as it fits with COVID-19 protocols and legislation. We would always be interested to hear from others who would like to do something similar in their own neighbourhood to raise funds for our projects. Please contact Jacqui if you are interested.

Former trustee Marilyn Little (Wellington) held two sales of items from our shop over the summer period. These were very successful, not only boosting funds but also promoting an awareness of what we are doing and also the butterflies and moths to watch out for.

We always appreciate donations and some people have signed up to Payroll Giving schemes run by their employers. It might be something you'd like to consider if your employer does these.

Please encourage friends and family to join us as well. Subscriptions contribute to the day-to-day work of the Trust.

## **Sponsors**

We are very fortunate to have the support of sponsors such as [Sandfield Associates](#), [Storage King](#), [Yates NZ](#) and [Yealands Wines](#) as well as [Daltons](#), [Fiskars](#), [Kings Plant Barn](#), [Kings Seeds](#), [Kiwi Gardener](#), [Omni Products](#), [Parva Plants](#) and [Redpath Pacific](#), our magazine sponsors. As well we would like to mention our calendar sponsors: [DM Gibson](#), [Tui Garden Products](#), and [Zealandia Horticulture](#) for making our fundraiser a success.

Without their backing we simply could not function, and we appreciate their support. Our chairman has personally contacted all of them to thank them for their involvement and they all have confirmed their ongoing commitment.

We hope our members can return the compliment by patronising their stores or choosing their products.

## **Trustees**

We have an excellent group of trustees who have met throughout the year via Zoom. We are always keen to attract people from wider NZ locations and with different life experiences, lifestyles, and outlooks to maintain our diversity while we plan for the future. Do contact Jacqui if you have an interest in joining us as a trustee.

## **Volunteers**

We wish to place on record all those people who help in so many ways with the administration of the MBNZT. We have great support from others with repetitive tasks such as collecting the mail, sending out products, helping with social media, research, editing videos, packaging seeds, collecting seeds... Thank you so much to you one and all.

## **Future possibilities**

Our Planning Meeting (for the trustees) will be held in May of this year and once again, online.

For those of you who attend the AGM thank you for taking an hour to show your interest in the work we are doing. To make it more enjoyable, of course, we will be joined by Sara Dykman who pedaled her way from Mexico to Canada and back again, following the magnificent monarch migration in North America. Her stories are amazing and she is a delight to listen to... you will appreciate what she has to say.

The agenda for the AGM is on the next page and also on our website. Please email [trust@nzbutterflies.org.nz](mailto:trust@nzbutterflies.org.nz) if you intend to come along. We will need a quorum of financial members present (20).

Thank you again one last time.



Maurice Mehlhopt  
**CHAIR**

# Agenda

Annual General Meeting of the  
Moths and Butterflies of NZ Trust  
to be held on Sunday, 20 March, 1.30pm, on-line

1. Apologies
2. AGM Minutes 2021
3. Matters Arising
4. Trustees' Report
5. Forest Ringlet Project Update
6. Audited Accounts for 2020-21
7. Auditor's Report
8. Budget for 2022-23
9. Annual Subscriptions for 2022-23
10. Election of Members of the Board
11. Reappointment of Secretary
12. Reappointment of Treasurer
13. Reappointment of Legal Advisor
14. Reappointment of Auditor
15. General Business

After the meeting there will be a presentation  
by adventurer Sara Dykman, 'Bicycling with Butterflies'