



## Trustees' Report for the Annual General Meeting, 26 March 2023

### 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

Post-Covid we had recorded a sharp decline in invitations to speak to schools and clubs. This was a direct consequence of committees and teaching staff having to review their policy and limiting numbers of visitors coming on site. We hope that in the future this will revert to more open invitations but in the meantime, we have had to be innovative in getting the word out there.

So we are truly grateful for our new look – the new logo and also, of course, our new website.

Firstly, the logo incorporates everything about our trust that we love: it could be a butterfly, but perhaps it's a moth. It is organic but immediately conveys our kaupapa. The typeface is professional but has a youthful touch. It has the koru shape in its wings, just like a ponga frond unfurling as it grows, symbolising renewal.

We know the designer, David Brown of Kawika Design, found our long name challenging but didn't he do a great job. What has evolved is something quite unique and representative of NZ.

Our social media presence continues to grow. Facebook and Instagram are very busy for the MBNZT, and we now have included TikTok and YouTube into our educational outreach. The free e-news goes out most Fridays and is always well received. Our new website also has a 'blog' and we have had several guest presenters which have been very popular. The material continues to be informative, interactive, and professional.

We planned and executed a media campaign in Spring and into the Summer: **Approved by Butterflies**, to ensure that butterfly-lovers were more aware of the risk in buying swan plants that might have spray on them. The Kings Plant Barn chain and Oderings in Christchurch/Hawkes Bay supported this campaign and we were happy to direct customers to these two groups as we could be confident that their plants had no spray on them when they were on sale. Jacqui held presentations online to brief their staff members. The feedback was amazing.

Angela Moon-Jones has been driving The Butterfly Discovery Project, raising funds to employ a PhD student who will carry out the research to identify copper butterflies in NZ. This campaign has raised \$12,000 to date, and we will be undertaking more fundraising in a few months. Watch this space!

We have also had more gardens and habitats certificated as being good examples of places for butterflies and moths. This is very rewarding to see. Shortly we will be embarking on another initiative – to reward schools or classes that have been incorporating butterfly habitat in their school grounds.

The butterfly house in the grounds of Mercy Hospice in Auckland CBD is proving very popular. Mercy Hospice is set in magnificent parklike grounds and a butterfly house has provided another beautiful, peaceful feature for contemplation and respite. Michael continues to monitor the health of the caterpillars and plants (including wasps and aphids) throughout the year.

A very special thank you to Jacqui and the team for all their hard work and dedication. We once again acknowledge Carol Stensness who manages our accounts. In fact, the whole team of volunteers helping out in many ways. Thank you all – we couldn't manage without you.

### **Publications**

Our magazine continues to be popular. It is particularly rewarding to see the work being done in schools and communities. And don't forget the e-news that goes out each Friday. Please feel free to forward those on to friends and colleagues – they may wish to join us too!

### **Transects**

Member Chrissie Ward has been diligently keeping up her transects even though we have not yet incorporated the transect platform on our website. We plan to promote this project more over the next year, especially to those who walk regularly. Transects are the building blocks of our field observations of butterflies. With them we can learn about the complexity of a natural environment over time and compare this with other areas. This is so important with climate change having more and more effect on habitat and our species.

### **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 was 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. Which doesn't mean the National Butterfly Centre couldn't be sighted in another area of NZ.

## **Funding**

We are thankful to funders such as the [Auckland Council Community Co-ordination Fund](#), [Foundation North](#), the Lazarus Trust and the [Lion Foundation](#) for their generous grants to boost our projects. We are very grateful to our financial members who enjoy our magazine but also anyone who buys our products from our shop online.

Our plant sales and sales of cuttings have once again been successful and we wish to thank those who pull these together, especially by growing plants. We hope to hear from others who would like to do something similar in their own neighbourhood, to raise funds for their projects. Please contact Jacqui if you are interested.

We always appreciate donations and those who have signed up to payroll giving and Rewardhub. Please encourage friends and family to join us as well.

## **Sponsors**

We are very fortunate to have the support of sponsors such as [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.

We hope our members can return the compliment by patronising their business 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. It is important that we 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 us 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.

The agenda for the AGM is on this webpage. 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. You will note that we are suggesting a change to the Trust Deed.

When our deed was drafted in 2005, the necessity for an annual audit was included and subsequent Boards have always ensured this process was followed. However, the standards for an audit have changed over the years. In 2005 it was possible to ask a retired bank manager or JP to 'check the books' but just as the laws have tightened with internet security and international taxes over the years, it is now required that audits are performed by a qualified auditor following

international standards. There are numerous regulations and mandatory procedures which make audits a costly exercise. For example, accountants need to have two separate teams: one to prepare the financial accounts and the other to complete the audit.

Our usual accountant/auditor found this impossible, and with a new auditor it was extremely expensive.

Under the Charities Act 2005 only charities with a total annual expenditure exceeding \$1,100,000 must be audited. We are well short of this threshold. Your Board recommends, therefore, that we remove the necessity for the accounts of the MBNZT to be audited each year.

Your trustees keep a very close eye on expenditure. All payments need to be approved by the Board and two of our signatories need to 'sign off' payments before the bank will release them. In the future, should there be an issue of concern to members or a member, Clause 18.5 (to be renumbered 18.4) stipulates reasonable access to the financial records be allowed, and any ten members of the Trust could request a Special General Meeting where all financial members would be notified (clause 14).

Your Board is also recommending an increase in subscriptions by \$5, so that a magazine sent in the mail will be \$50, and to be read online it will cost \$40. The last increase to our subscriptions was in 2019.

This change will come into effect at the beginning of the financial year, 1 July 2023.



**CHAIRPERSON**



**SECRETARY**

March 2023