

BUTTERFLIES ON BLACK MOUNTAIN

Black Mountain is regarded as a “hotspot” for butterflies, and we have enjoyed the Butterfly Walks led by Dr Suzi Bond.

The following butterflies were seen here in the last few years.

Macleay's Swallowtail	Imperial Hairstreak	Golden Ant-blue
Dainty Swallowtail	Spotted Jezebel	Broad-margined Azure
Bronze Flat	Imperial Jezebel	Varied Dusky-blue
Heath Ochre	Australian Painted Lady	Blotched Dusky-blue
Montane Ochre	Meadow Argus	Fringed Heath-blue
Flame Sedge-skipper	Tailed Emperor	Wattle Blue
Cabbage White	Common Brown	Saltbush Blue
Caper White	Marbled Xenica	Common Grass-blue

Suzi's book, **Field Guide to Butterflies in the Australian Capital Territory** (2016), has wonderful information and illustrations.

Butterflies go through different stages; egg, caterpillar and butterfly. As caterpillars they enjoy food plants, but when they become butterflies they seek nectar.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PLANTS THAT CATERPILLARS LIKE?

As caterpillars, they enjoy being on Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) and Black Wattle, Green Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), Hickory Wattle (*Acacia implexa*), in mistletoe (*Amyema miguelii*, *Amyema pendula*), grasses such as Spikey-headed Mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*), Grasses and Sedges e.g. *Poacea* spp Hooked Sedge (*Carex appressa*), and ground cover such as False Sarsaparilla and Purple Coral pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*).

When they emerge as butterflies, they are interested in nectar in acacia, eucalyptus and tea-trees, and other plants. On Black Mountain, this includes the acacia trees mentioned above and Hickory Wattle (*Acacia implexa*), the Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus rossii*), Brittle Gum (*E. mannifera*), Broad-leaved Peppermint (*E. dives*), Red Box (*E. polyanthemus*), Prickly Tea-tree (*Leptospermum continentale*), and Silver Tea-tree (*Leptospermum multicaule*).

It is good to see clusters of flowers because the butterflies love blue, yellow and red flowers. So they could be seen on the native Bluebells (*Wahlenbergia* spp), daisies such as the Sticky Everlasting (*Xerochrysum viscosum*), Yellow Buttons (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*), and Clustered Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*), or the red flowers of the Mountain Grevillea (*Grevillea alpina*).

They also like Australian Blackthorn shrub (*Bursonia spinosa*) and the climber Small-leaved Clematis (*Clematis leptophylla*), as well as the purple pea flower ground-cover (*Hardenbergia violacea*).

SOME BUTTERFLIES SEEN ON BLACK MOUNTAIN



Blotched Dusky-blue on Bushy Needlewood (*Hakea decurrens*)



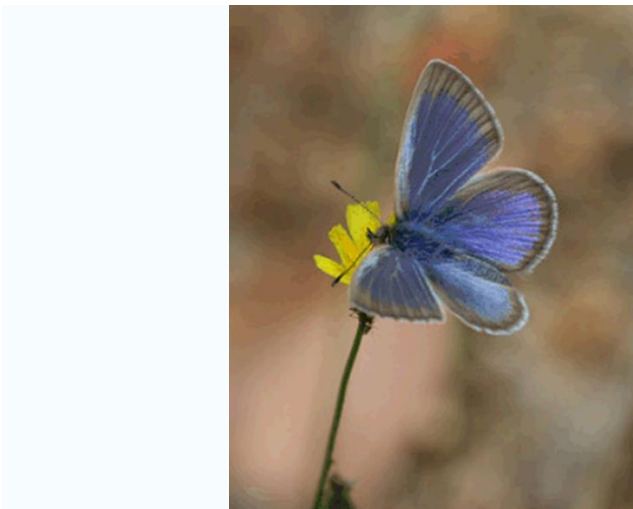
Blotched Dusky-blue at Black Mountain (S Bond)



Common Brown (Beth Tyerman)



Caper White (S Bond)



Common Grass-blue (S Bond)



Common Grass-blue larva (Cath Busby)



Dainty Swallowtail just emerged (Cecilia Melano)



Macleay's Swallowtail (S Bond)



Varied Dusky-blue (S Bond)



Yellow Admiral



Bronze Flat (S Bond)

Tailed Emperor (S Bond)



Heath Ochre (S Bond)



Spotted Jezebel (S Bond)



Imperial Hairstreak (S Bond)



Imperial Jezebel

SOME OF THE PLANTS BUTTERFLIES LIKE



Black Wattle, Green Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*)



Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*)



Spikey-headed Mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*)



Australian Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*)



Prickly Tea-tree (*Leptospermum continentale*)



Clustered Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*)



Silver Tea-tree (*Leptospermum multicaule*)



Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus rossii*)



Small-leaved clematis (*Clematis leptophylla*)



False Sarsaparilla, Purple Coral pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*)