

**Frequently seen Butterflies of our region....** *Christine Morrissey*

*Photos: Barry and Bernie Lingham, and Alison Watson*

Late spring until autumn are the times when our butterflies are most active. The first three described in this article belong to the 'Browns' and the next two to the 'Whites'. They are all nectar feeders, but their caterpillars (larvae) eat different types of foliage.

**Common Brown Butterfly - *Heteronympha merope***

Definitely the most common, the males and females are marked differently.



Common Brown - female

Males are duller and fly close to the ground in early spring, flying higher later in the season. Females are larger, with the brown colour showing more contrast. They have yellow markings towards the edges of the upper wings, and are more active in autumn. They are found in forests, urban areas and grasslands, and can be seen from September to March. This butterfly reproduces once a year.



Common Brown - male



Australian Painted Lady

**Australian Painted Lady / Blue-spotted Lady - *Vanessa kershawi***

One of the first to emerge in spring, the Painted Lady has white spots on the black section of the upper wings, the rest of the wings being black and brown. There are small blue spots on the lower wings - hence its common name. They fly rapidly and often, settling with wings partly outspread. They produce several generations of young annually, and are seen most commonly in spring in a wide range of habitats.

**Australian Admiral / Yellow Admiral - *Vanessa itea***

This brown and black butterfly has large yellow patches on its 'shoulders', like epaulettes, giving it its common name. It appears in early spring and produces several generations of young during the warmer months. It migrates between habitats from sea-level to mountains, preferring damper areas.



Australian Admiral



Imperial Jezebel

**Imperial Jezebel / Imperial White - *Delias harpalyce***

**Spotted Jezebel / Wood White - *Delias aganippe***

These two butterflies are very similar, being greyish-white on the upper surface of the wings, but dramatically patterned with black, yellow, red and white underneath. They are found in eucalypt open-forest situations. Adults emerge mainly in early spring and late summer.

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