

Tony Morton (1935 – 2017)

Tony Morton initially came to Australia to teach at Melbourne Grammar for two years, but he stayed for around 30. He taught German and French, coached cricket, and maintained an active interest in music and drama over his lifetime. He was a warm, colourful character and a multi-talented man.

When Tony moved to Vaughan Springs with his wife Jenny, he brought with him another of his interests, butterfly collecting. Tony became our club's local butterfly expert. His talks and articles were always amusing and informative, and his enthusiasm for his subject was infectious.

Over 12 or so years Tony extensively documented the butterfly fauna in and around his home in Vaughan, and elsewhere throughout the local area. He documented 41 butterfly species from the Mount Alexander Shire, which is about one third of all species known to occur across Victoria. Several of these species had not been documented previously in this area. Tony prepared the original documentation, since updated, that is available on our website.

You can read several of Tony's contributions in our newsletter archives. In March 2006 Tony wrote about the Imperial Hairstreak (*Jalemus evagorus*), including his unsuccessful attempt to introduce them to suitable acacia bushes at his home; and in September 2009, in *Timing is everything*, Tony describes the irony of finding Rayed Blues (*Candalides heathi*) in *Myoporum* sp. outside the Red Rooster in Horsham after returning famished from a failed attempt to find them in the field.

His last presentation gave a blow-by-blow description of his efforts to find a home for his wonderful butterfly collection in Australia and illustrated so well Tony's sense of humour and his positive outlook on life. Unfortunately, he was not able to find a home for his collection in Australia and it is now housed in America. We are, however, fortunate to have his local photo collection and records as a basis for our club *Butterflies of the Mt Alexander Region* site.



Tony Morton, left, with Linda Rogan and wife, Jen, on the hunt for butterflies.