

Australian Painted Lady (*Vanessa kershawi*)



Australian Painted Lady, *Vanessa kershawi*, showing upper, left, and underside, right.

Photos: Euan Moore

Other Common Names: Blue-spotted Painted Lady.

Family of Butterflies: *Nymphalidae* (Browns and Nymphs).

Size: Wingspan: 43mm male, 47mm female.

Local observations: There are numerous observations from the Mount Alexander region on Atlas of Living Australia and iNaturalist. This butterfly is common around Castlemaine.

Tony Morton's documented records of Australian Painted Lady from the local area (between 2000 to 2013): Twenty-seven

Date	Location	Notes
29-Aug-2013	Vaughan garden	first butterflies seen this season
24-Nov-2012	JML's garden Fryerstown	
30-Oct-2012	The Monk, Chewton	
11-Sep-2012	Kalimna Park	
11-Sep-2012	Vaughan garden	Male
28-Aug-2012	Vaughan garden	first b'fly noticed this season
14-Oct-2011	Kalimna Park	
13-Oct-2011	JML's garden Fryerstown	
15-Jan-2011	Bot Gardens, off Froomes Road, C'maine	

Date	Location	Notes
5-Dec-2009	Vaughan walk Central Springs	11.30 - 1.30 p.m.
4-Oct-2006	Vaughan Walk	a few
Between Jan 2005 to Oct 2006	Kalimna Park	
5-Sep-2005	Vaughan walk	Fresh
16-Nov-2004	Kalimna Park, Castlemaine, Vic.	
7-Nov-2003	Kalimna Park, Castlemaine, Vic.	
17-Oct-2003	Vaughan	
8-Sep-2001	Vaughan	fresh. 3 or 4 seen
4-Dec-2000	Irishtown Track, Irishtown	
14-Nov-2000	Rotunda, Kalimna Park	
8-Nov-2000	Rotunda, Kalimna Park	
8-Nov-2000	Mt. Alexander	
6-Oct-2000	Track, 2k. E. Vaughan	
28-Sep-2000	Irishtown Track, Irishtown	
15-Sep-2000	Vaughan	
15-Sep-2000	Vaughan	Mass of nettles seen growing in Springs flowerbed. No sign of larvae yet.
28-Jul-2000	Vaughan	

Distribution outside our region: There are records from across Victoria although fewer in the drier areas of the far north-west. There are records from all Australian states and New Zealand.

Larval Host Plants: Everlastings, Cape Weed, Scotch Thistle, Common Cudweed.

Larval association with ants: None.

Adult Flight Times in Victoria: Adults have been recorded during most months in Victoria (August to May), with a peak from September to January. Usually one of the first spring butterflies in Victoria. Fly fast, and close to ground. Several generations completed each year. This species is partly migratory with movement into Victoria from further north following favourable breeding seasons.

Conservation Status:

[The Action plan for Australian Butterflies](#): Vulnerable in Australia
[Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#): Not listed
[Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 – Threatened List 2021](#): Not Listed

Other Notes: Resident and common the Mount Alexander Shire, particular in areas with Cape Weed or everlasting daisies..

References and further reading:

Atlas of Living Australia – [Vanessa kershawj](#), Australia Painted Lady.

iNaturalist – [Vanessa kershawj](#) , Australian Painted Lady.