

## EDITORIAL

David A. Edge

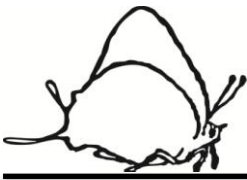
*Metamorphosis* developed from modest beginnings in 1983 under the editorship of Mark Williams. After seven years under his guidance there have been a series of excellent editors who have given unreservedly of their time, passion and commitment. As your new editor I am humbled by these accomplishments and hope that I am able to continue and build upon this proud tradition. The journal is about to undergo its own metamorphosis which will take us into the electronic publishing era. To this end we have established a dedicated website [www.metamorphosis.org.za](http://www.metamorphosis.org.za) which gives our members access to all current publications in readable or downloadable formats, as well as access to the complete archive of all past publications. This archive will take some time to develop since previous issues were not always saved in suitable electronic format, but you can be sure that we will bring this to you within a reasonable timeframe. The website also contains detailed instructions for would-be authors, prospective reviewers, and readers. We will be allowing limited access to non-LepSoc members enabling them to view and download articles from earlier volumes of *Metamorphosis*. LepSoc members will enjoy the privilege of receiving this annual hard copy version of *Metamorphosis* in A4 format, as well as access to current content.

In order to assist the editor in carrying out his brief an editorial panel has been established consisting of eminent persons from within and outside our society, as detailed on the inside cover.

The objectives of *Metamorphosis*, as established by the editorial board, and in consultation with the Council of LepSoc, will be to:

1. Encourage scientific research into African Lepidoptera
2. Increase the visibility of the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa and our journal to the world Scientific and Conservation communities
3. Have a dedicated *Metamorphosis* website with specialised functionality for accessing archives, purchasing past articles and submission/ review of articles by authors and reviewers
4. Make all previously published *Metamorphosis* articles available to non LepSoc members as PDFs. A small fee will be levied for recent articles during an embargo period.
5. Remove restrictions on content by having unlimited illustrations so that authors have no costs
6. To expand the quantity and quality of scientific peer reviewers
7. To continuously improve the quality of the published articles and the scientific standing of *Metamorphosis*
8. To publish whenever an article is ready and not have to wait to fill a full issue before publishing
9. To encourage authors new to scientific publishing by providing mentors where needed to develop author skills
10. To encourage the publishing of popular and informal articles in the LepSoc newsletter or as Forum posts on the LepSoc website immediately they become available, with no restriction on content or cost to authors
11. To entrench the Society's position as the primary source of all information on African Lepidoptera
12. To produce an annual hard copy version of *Metamorphosis* including all articles published for the year

The publication date of the print version of Volume 23 is March 2013, since this was when the *Metamorphosis* website was launched. The print version of Volume 24 will be published in December 2013, although the individual articles of Volume 24 will be published on line as soon as they have been reviewed and edited.



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Steve E. Woodhall

I am very proud to be able to write this, welcoming you to the printed version of our e-*Metamorphosis*. This is the culmination of many months of work by Dave Edge and his team, and the beginning of a new era for lepidopterology in Africa.

The move to e-publishing is happening in all fields. As an author myself I've seen this... e-books are here to stay, even if many still hanker after the 'feel' of wood-fibre. But the costs of producing and sending hard copy *Metamorphosis* were escalating to the point of eating up most of our membership income. It left nothing to spend on the many other activities where we engage with our members. Not to mention our growing involvement with conservation, since SABCA and the birth of the Virtual Museum, COREL and Butterfly Census Weeks. All of this costs money, but we were very aware of the need to keep the communications going.

Another great thing about e-*Metamorphosis* is that we will no longer have to wait 'until the bus is full' before going to press. 'Press' is now what Dave does with his finger when sending out an article! Those long waits for *Metamorphosis* will be a thing of the past. And, there will no longer be cost restrictions on the use of colour images... authors can now publish as many as they need to illustrate their work. I predict that e-*Metamorphosis* is going to be a vibrant, entertaining and informative Journal that keeps us all up to date with the latest developments in the subject we are passionate about.

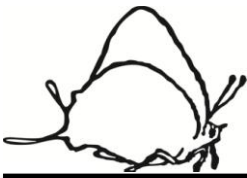
This publication in your hands is proof that we will have an annual printed version containing all of the year's articles. These articles are inevitably going to become more scientific in nature. This befits the growth of the Society into areas requiring an academically approved Journal. But this should not prevent any of you from submitting articles. Dave and his Editorial Panel will only be too happy to mentor you in the techniques of scientific writing. And we will also accommodate short articles containing brief new observation records (such as new host plant records) and these will be published under the section 'Letters to the Editor'.

*Metamorphosis* was in the past a delicious mixture of scientific and 'fun' articles. All of us have enjoyed this, with lighter articles interspersed with more serious fare. There will still be place in *Metamorphosis* for brief life history accounts, new foodplant records, checklists and field observations, but for the more lighthearted material we can now use the Forum and Newsletter on our LepSoc website, which has been revamped to make it easier to post to the Forum, and of course Yolande always needs topical material for her Newsletter.

I write this article today with a heavy heart, because I have just learnt of the untimely passing of John (Jo) Joannou. Jo was my mentor when I first joined LepSoc back in 1986, and he taught me all I know about rearing of the early stages and photography. His death is particularly poignant for me because he is the first of my regular butterfly companions to go. Life is like that I suppose... first one goes to weddings, then christenings, and as one gets older, funerals. But when the people with whom one spent many happy hours in the veld, or in a car driving to butterfly localities, and had too many beers with afterwards, start to go, that's when you are reminded... we are all mortal. This Volume 23 is therefore dedicated to Jo's memory and we respectfully publish an obituary, written by his daughter and one of his closest friends and co-workers. For my part, I just wanted to say in this forum.....

"Hamba kahle old friend - you will live on in all our memories".

**25 February 2013**



## SPONSOR AND HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS OF LEPSOC

The members in the left-hand column below, apart from their significant contributions to the Society as individuals, have chosen to be sponsor members for 2013 and have through their generosity provided significant financial support, which is much appreciated by the Society. In the right-hand column we list our honorary life members, who have been honoured by the Society for their outstanding contributions to the study and conservation of Lepidoptera.

### SPONSOR MEMBERS

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Hermann Staude  
Richard Stephen  
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### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

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Dr Douglas Kroon  
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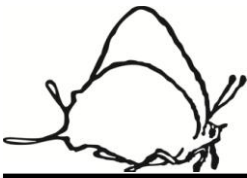
Any member of the Society can volunteer to become a sponsor member on an annual basis by making a contribution of R600. As the Society does need all the financial support it can get it is hoped that more members will select to become sponsor members in the future.

### DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY WILL ASSIST BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

Donations to LepSoc are needed more than ever, since we have now committed ourselves to a conservation programme known as COREL (Custodians of Rare and Endangered Lepidoptera). This programme is being funded through the Brenton Blue Trust (BBT), of which LepSoc was a founder member. Since the BBT is a registered Public Benefit Organisation, this means that any donations made through the BBT for butterfly conservation are tax deductible for the donor, and the BBT issues section 18A tax certificates.

Donors are therefore urged to make their donations by accessing our website page [www.lepsoc.org.za](http://www.lepsoc.org.za) and clicking on the "donate" button, or by making an electronic funds transfer to LepSoc's or the BBT's bank account, which are given below:

Lepidopterists' Society of Africa	Nedbank a/c no. 1905032617	Branch code 190541
Brenton Blue Trust	Nedbank a/c no. 2089033681	Branch code 108914



## OBITUARY – JOHN G. JOANNOU 22.01.1949 – 25.02.2013

Kate Kelly-Maartens and Hermann Staude

John (Jo) Joannou was a man who lived a full life and touched many people. He was a multi-faceted man: businessman, scientist, botanist, lepidopterist, ornithologist, photographer, fisherman, husband, father and grandfather. He had wisdom far beyond his 64 years and an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. He considered himself a student of the world and yet he was a mentor to so many, sharing his love of Lepidoptera and the natural world with all those that would care to listen.

Jo was born in Cyprus but at the age of two his family moved to Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia). From an early age he loved nature and his mother used to tell tales of all the weird and wonderful creatures that he brought home. He attended Prince Edward School where he excelled academically as well as on the basketball court. But it was really after school when he was working in the vet labs in Wankie (now Hwange) National Park and Gona-re-Zhou (now Gonarezhou) National Parks that he found his place in the world as a bona fide “bush boy”. Jo realised that he needed a job that would enable him to support a family so he apprenticed at Lobels Bakery as an accountant. During this period he met his wife Barbara through a mutual friend and they married in the spring of 1975. A year later their first child Andrew was born. Since Zimbabwe was embroiled in a war during this period a couple of years later the Joannous decided to move to South Africa. Kathryn (Kate) was born a year after this and the family moved to a smallholding just outside Krugersdorp where the children were raised. It was also here that 7-year-old Andrew one day showed an interest in a butterfly. Jo took him out butterfly catching and to his surprise found that he was having as much fun as Andrew. His interest in these fascinating little insects grew and a love of Lepidoptera was born.

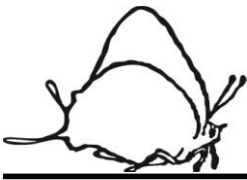
Over the years many of “the bug people” became firm fixtures in the Joannou household: the Henning families, Steve Woodhall, Mark Williams, Reiner Terblanche, Hermann Staude, Alf Curle, Bennie Coetzer, Andrew Mayer, Bill Steele, Ivan Bampton, Steve Collins, Dave McDermott, Colin Congdon, Nolan Owen-Johnston, Richard Stephen... there were just so many. Jo’s greatest passion besides his family was his “bugs” and accompanying fellow Lepidopterists on butterfly and mothing trips brought him so much pleasure that he became a member of LepSoc.

During the eighties and early nineties Jo’s Lepidoptera research was focused on the study of butterfly life histories and their photography - he never built up a butterfly collection as he felt that there were enough people doing this already. Jo photographed a large number of the early stages of South African butterflies for the first time, and many of these images appeared in Volume 1 of *Living Butterflies of Southern Africa*. They were also incorporated into the butterfly database Lepidops and his images appeared in various magazines around the country, winning a number of photography awards. Quite a few of his images have graced the covers of the journal *Metamorphosis*, and he helped pioneer the photography of butterfly eggs in South Africa. He was actively involved in the LepSoc ‘photography working group’ and mentored many a budding butterfly photographer, including the now well-known Steve Woodhall.

In the spring of 1994 Jo was invited to an evening of mothing at the Mogale’s Gate Biodiversity Centre (then called Gloster Game Farm). He enjoyed this so much that there and then he decided to take up moths seriously. He began collecting and studying, as he called them, the ‘hairy’ moths because no one seemed to be working on these in South Africa at the time.

Jo was a member of the LepiAfrica group, a group responsible for the development of the information contained within Lepidops, from its inception in 2002 to 2011. He was responsible for Lasiocampoidea, Bombycoidea and Notodontidae. During this time he contributed hundreds of images and much of the baseline information contained within the database for these groups. 10 640 voucher based and geo-referenced location records were entered by him into the database.

Jo also actively participated in the survey of moths in nature reserves, conservancies and other natural areas. He meticulously prepared many well illustrated unpublished reports to authorities and landowners, which were eagerly received and are still used as a reference by many of those fortunate enough to have received these. When a call came from BOLD for ‘fresh legs’ of African Lepidoptera for barcoding, Jo was one of the first to respond from South Africa and removed the legs from representatives of all the species in his collection.



Of all the 'hairy moths' he collected Jo enjoyed the family Lasiocampidae most, and much of his recent time was spent studying these Lepidoptera. He went to considerable trouble acquiring images of the holotypes and other specimens with location data from many of the museums around the world. In the process he also produced a gazetteer for African localities - a very useful tool given the numerous name changes to which African localities have been subjected over the years. He corresponded and collaborated globally with many other Lepidopterists working on the Lasiocampidae, and published what probably constitute his most important formal Lepidoptera contributions on this group.

Jo discovered the butterfly *Aloeides barbarae*, which he requested the Hennings to name after his loving wife Barbara. He also discovered many moth species new to science, most of which are yet to be formally described. Recently the hawk moth *Pseudoclanis joannoui* was named for him by Eitschberger & Ströhle.

Jo loved to study his delicate little insects and one of the greatest disappointments in his life was when the recent bouts of chemotherapy stripped him of his ability to think clearly and study his beloved moths. When his mind grew foggy and the mist would not clear he made the decision to donate his collection to the Ditsong Museum of Natural History, Pretoria. When he did this one could see the sadness wash over him as he mourned the loss of his deepest passion, betrayed by his own mind and body that would not allow him to continue his studies any further.

Jo loved his friends and family intensely and his remarkable passion for life enabled him to use all the gifts that God had given him. He truly lived ... and loved his life right until his very last breath.

## LEPIDOPTERA PUBLICATIONS BY JOHN G. JOANNOU

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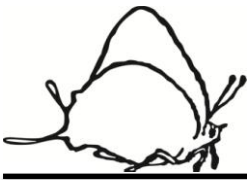
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Jo Joannou as we shall always remember him – Mutinondo, Zambia (2006)  
(photograph H.S. Staude)