

NATURE NOTES

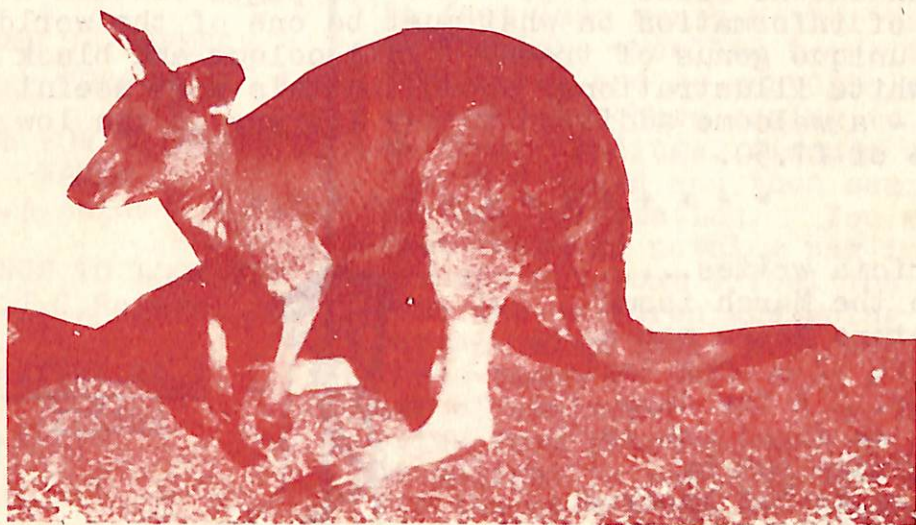


PHOTO: F.J.C. ROGERS

"THE BOUNDER FROM THE BUSH"

APRIL '70

Ringwood Inspectorate vol 7 no 2 1970 5c.

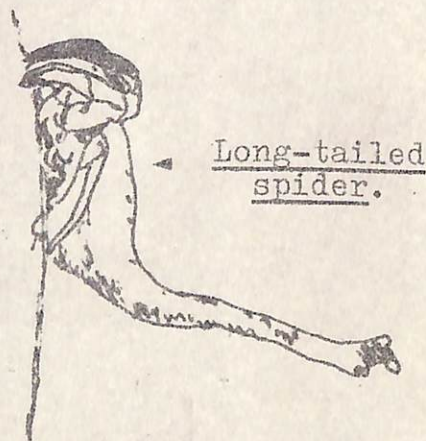
Registered at the GPO, Melbourne for transmission by post as a periodical

PRIZELETTER

Our first prize winning letter for 1970 comes from Tricia Rogers, Grade 6 of Ringwood Primary School. For her effort, Tricia wins one of the well known Periwinkle series, this time one of the newer books - Australian Eucalypts by Mervyn Millett and published by Landsdowne Press 1969. The 112 pages contain a fund of information on what must be one of the world's most unique genus of trees. Full colour and black and white illustrations, abound in this most useful book - a welcome addition to any library at the low price of £1.50.

* * * * *

Tricia writes.....
In the March issue of Nature Notes was a picture of a Long tail spider. A few days later we found one in the garden but by mistake we had knocked sand into its web. Patiently the spider would spin a thread holding him to the centre as he went along cutting off the sand laden threads. When frightened the spider hung in the centre of his web camouflaged.



Long-tailed spider.

ED.
Spiders are a fascinating study, particularly in autumn. Your observations must have posed many questions for you. Did you find all the answers? Keep up the good work.

..2

CONTENTS

PRIZE LETTER	2.
EDITORIAL	3.
SOUND OF SCIENCE	
K.G.Rogers	4.
CASE FOR SCIENTIFIC NAMES	
J.A.Baines	6.
THINGS TO LOOK FOR	
F.J.C.Rogers	8.
THE STORY IN A STAMP	
G.White	10.
FUNGI	
F.J.C.Rogers	12.
DROP A LINE	14.

Produced by the
Nature Notes
Committee of
Ringwood
Inspectorate

From the
Editor ...

Dear Girls and Boys,

March and April are usually among our best months for observing nature, in particular the insect world, and last month was certainly no exception, at least as far as our school was concerned. In fact last month Mother Nature at The Lake excelled herself. I have never had so many girls and boys and teachers coming to show me their findings, discuss what they had found and then search for further information. You may say that there is nothing new in this. Perhaps not, but I feel that this year the children are going much further with their observing. There seems to have been a greater air of excitement at their discoveries from preps to seniors, greater delight in watching and waiting for the next stage to happen as in insect life-cycle and finally, a desire to try and work out the hows and whys by further watching, experimenting and research.

All of the animals on the back cover and many many more were "discovered" last month. I hope that you too have been able to make many exciting discoveries.

Remember, nature is where you find it. Try to use all your senses - not just your eyes, and good hunting in April.

Sincerely,
L.J.DELACCA
Editor.

April '70.



SOUND!



Make different sounds, using only your mouth.

You can get many TONES can't you?

Use objects to make sounds - BANG, SCRAPE,

PLUCK, BLOW and so on.

Make the sounds LOUDER and softer

What actually causes the sound do you think?

When sounds from different sources sound well

together, we have HARMONY.

Draw SOME MUSICAL instruments:

What about MAKING SOME MUSICAL instruments?

The following might give you some ideas BUT

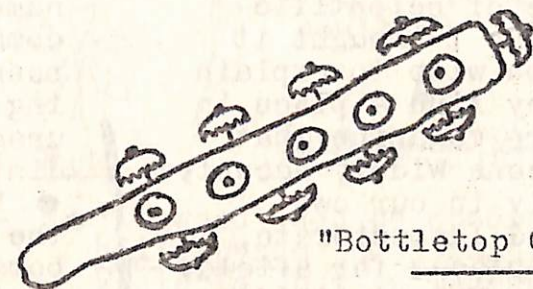
try and think up your own type of instrument.....



Straw

Water
in
glass

How will this make sound?



"Bottletop Ophone"



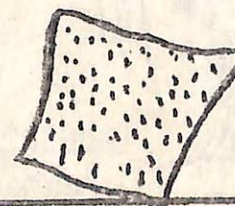
Bamboo

How can you produce
sound with
a light
globe?



Masonite

Glasspaper

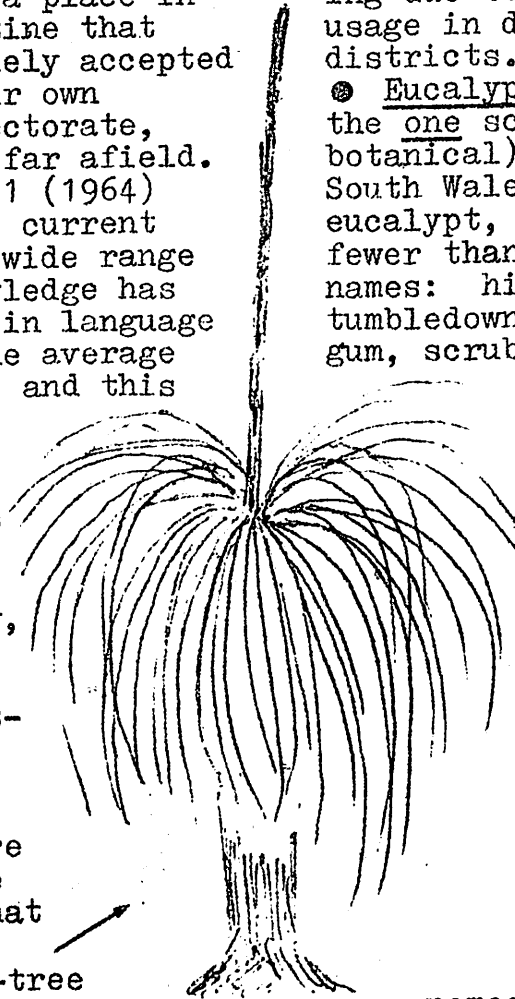


The Case for Scientific Names

● Late last year I heard a teacher claim that 'Nature Notes' was unsuitable for third and fourth grade children because of the use of scientific names, so I thought it would be wise to explain why they find a place in a nature magazine that has become widely accepted not only in our own Ringwood Inspectorate, but in places far afield.

● Since Vol. 1 (1964) through to the current issue, a very wide range of nature knowledge has been covered, in language suitable to the average primary pupil, and this material should still be to hand if, wisely, copies have been placed in the school library, for ready reference and pleasure browsing. Common or popular names may be used when there is no possible doubt as to what is meant.

Austral Grass-tree
Xanthorrhoea australis

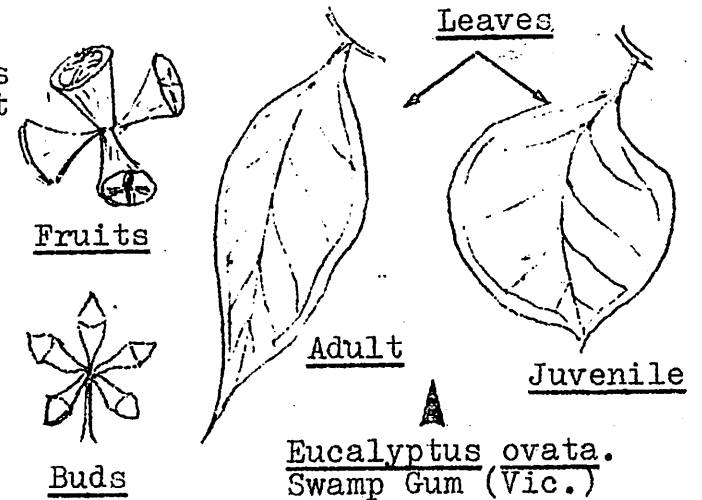


● When many kinds of the same sort of thing had to be described, the scientific names have been used as well as the common names, or on their own if common names have not been given or are confusing due to different usage in different districts.

● Eucalyptus dealbata is the one scientific (or botanical) name of a New South Wales species of eucalypt, which has no fewer than 14 common names: hill red gum, tumbledown gum, ridge gum, scrub gum, silver gum, crossed gum, smoky gum, stunted gum, hill gum leather-jack, leather jacket, tumble-down box, mountain box, mountain gum and blue-leaf gum! What confusion! For one thing, the 'box' and 'gum' groups of eucalypts should be kept quite distinct, so some of these bushmen's

names are quite wrong.

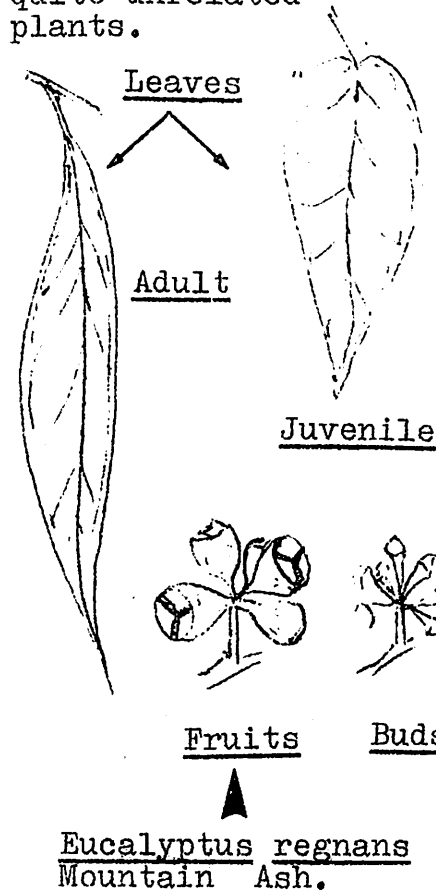
● 'Grass trees' in Victoria are species of Xanthorrhoea, but Tasmania's 'grass trees' are Richea dracophylla, tall plants in the heath family (ours are in the lily family). 'Boobyalla' is Myoporum viscosum in Victoria, but Acacia sophorae (like our coast wattle) in Tasmania, quite unrelated plants.



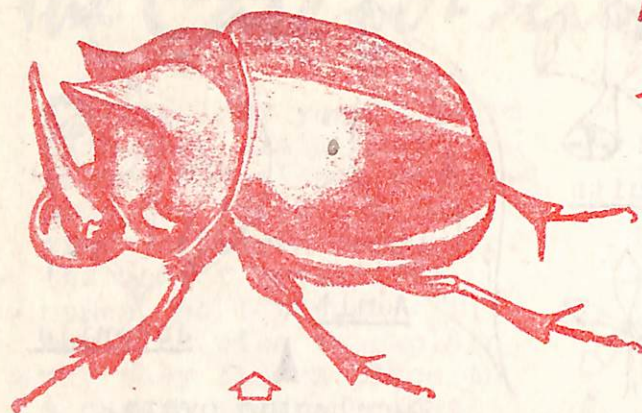
● 'Dogwood' can be species of Helichrysum and Cassinia in Victoria, but in Tasmania it is Pomaderris apetala, and the same common name is used for at least 20 different kinds of plants in other States of Australia, U.S.A., etc. 'Mountain ash' in Victoria is Eucalyptus regnans (tallest in Australia, up to 300 feet in the Cumberland Valley beyond Marysville, and, in the world, second in height to the giant sequoias of California), but Britain's 'mountain ash' is the rowan-tree (Sorbus aucuparia) of the rose family! E. regnans is called 'swamp gum' in Tasmania, but our 'swamp gum' is E. ovata. Hundreds of examples of misleading common names could be given, but space will not permit.

● I hope you are now beginning to see that, when we wish to be accurate, we should give the scientific name as well as the common name known in the area in which we live.

To be continued. April '70.



Things to Look for April.



Burying Beetle
Rhinosceros Beetle

● Girls and boys often call this a rhinosceros beetle which isn't a bad name for it, but rhinosceros beetle is also used for a brown beetle from Queensland. These beetles are often found burrowing under pads of cow manure.

There are many grass-hoppers around but have you found one which has its wings like a gum leaf? ◇



Katydid.



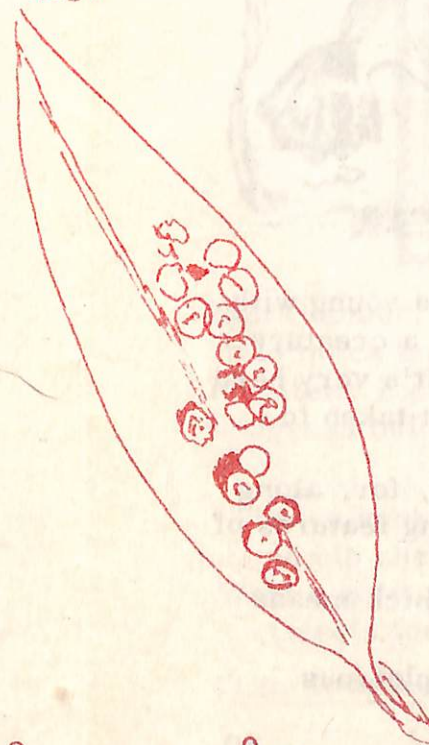
Amanita muscaria
Fly agaric

● Have you found this large fungi? It has a fiery red cap with white flecks over it, making it very eye-catching, but a very poisonous species and should not be eaten. It has been introduced into Victoria and is now found growing under pine trees, birches, chest-nuts and some other introduced trees.



● Egg capsule of common grey praying mantis.

● In the middle of this sticky mass of bubbles is a small bug.



Spittle bug.

● Little white tents on green leaves are the homes of a sap-sucking insect called lerp.

April.

● Have you found a twin-ing mass of stems with sticky globular fruits? This is possibly one of the dodder laurel (Cossytha). Notice the suckers on the stem. This is a parasitic climber.



dodder laurel



● Basket Fungi may take various shapes - round, elongated etc. Where did you find yours? Did you watch it burst out and expand?

April '70.

THERE'S A STORY IN A STAMP

PLATYPUS



This stamp was issued on 1st September, 1938. Its colour is sepia.



A creature that lays eggs like a bird, yet feeds its young with milk; a creature with a "duck's bill" yet cannot fly; a creature with webbed feet, yet it burrows in the ground ... It's very hard to believe! And when the skin of a platypus was first taken to England people thought it was a fake!

To the scientist, the platypus is a "missing-link", for, along with the echidna, it is the only living mammal showing features of a reptile.

Its scientific name is Ornithorhynchus anatinus which means "Bird's-beak-animal, like-a-duck".

** Visit the Healesville Sanctuary to see the live platypus.



1st June, 1932
(Red Brown)



2nd August, 1938
(Brown)



29th October, 1928 ..
.. to mark the 4th Australian
Philatelic Exhibition and
Congress held in Melbourne.

'Tis the kookaburra calls
In his cheery way;
What a bold and blithesome laugh
Greets the new-born day!

(The Kookaburra: S. Smith)

KOOKABURRA



*** Write a short poem or
story about the kookaburra.
Send it to the Editor .. he will
print it in a future issue.



F U N G I

★ After the first autumn rains and while the earth is still warm we are likely to discover "mushrooms and toadstools". How many can you find? Don't forget to look closely at them. Some close relations are only visible under a powerful microscope, but the ones I shall mention will be those you should easily see.

I have placed the ones I find into two groups.

● Ascomycetes or Sac-spore fungi.

● Basidiomycetes or club-spore

These Basidiomycetes may be divided into two further groups.

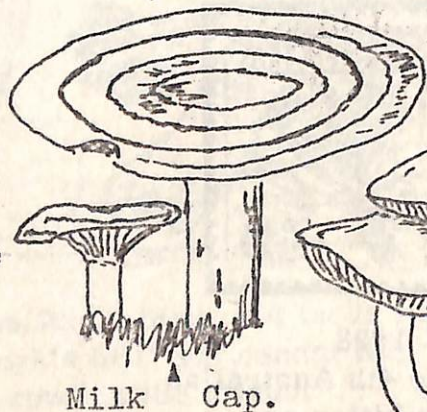
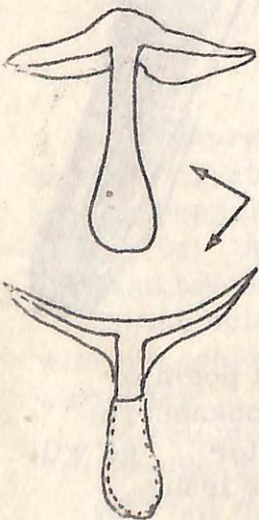
● Hymenomycetes or Cap Fungi

Cup Fungi



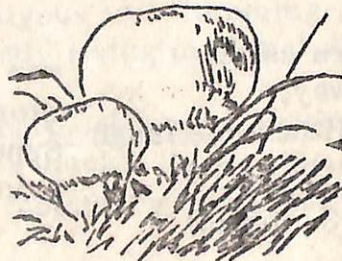
■ Have you cut your fungi through the cap and down the stalk? Look where the gills join the stem.

Is there a sheath or volva on the stalk?



Milk Cap.

and

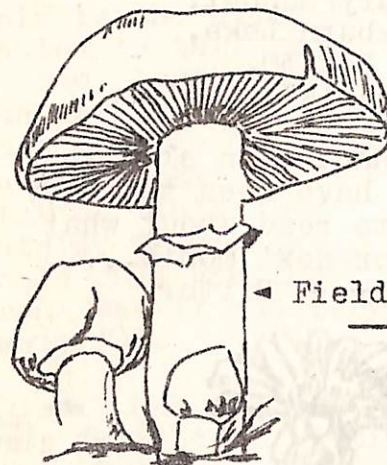


● Gasteromycetes or Puff Balls.

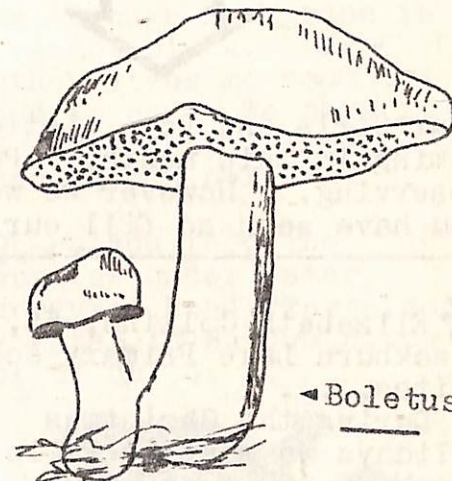
■ The Hymenomycetes, or Cap-Fungi may be also placed in two groups:-

● those with gills (Agaricaceae or Agarics)

● those with large pores or tubes instead of gills.



Field Mushroom



Boletus

■ When we look at these we can see if the stem is in the centre of the cap or not.



■ What colour are the spores of your fungi? To take a spore print join pieces of black and white paper together, take the stem out and place the fungi equally over both pieces.



Books to help you,
Victorian Mushrooms and
Toadstools, The Observer's
Book of Common Fungi -
Wakefield. . Mushrooms and
Toadstools in Colour -
Hvass, Blandford.

Drop a Line



Editor, 'Nature Notes',
Primary School,
Blackburn Lake,
P.O. Box 30,
NUNAWADING. 3131.

Dear Girls and Boys, Letters again have been slow in coming in this month. Perhaps you have been too busy observing. However we would like to read about what you have seen so fill our mailbag for next month.....
Editor.

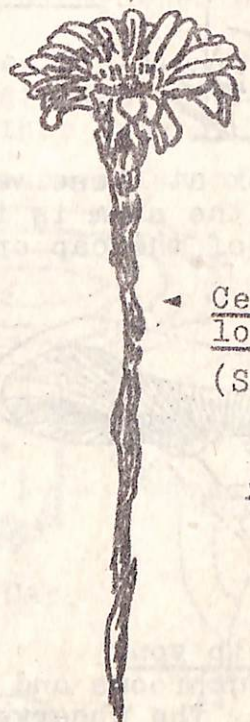
* Elizabeth Collins, 5S,
Blackburn Lake Primary School
writes.....

During the Christmas holidays we went to Falls Creek, 5,000 feet above sea level. Going there we saw many tobacco farms. We saw snow daisies, trigger plants and Nigel caught some tiny frogs.

One day we went for a drive to the top of the mountain and learnt to walk in clouds! Around about every 5th corner there was a tank of water for putting out bushfires. Coming back we went to Beechworth and I saw the Ned Kelly Museum and Powder Magazine.

ED. Our Alpine regions are beautiful no matter what the season. We found them glorious in colour too in late autumn. You will

Nature Notes



◀ Celmisia
longifolia
(Silver Snow
Daisy).

**

*

discover more about this area in the Periwinkle "Australian Alpine Life" by John Child. It's in the library too. ☺ ☺

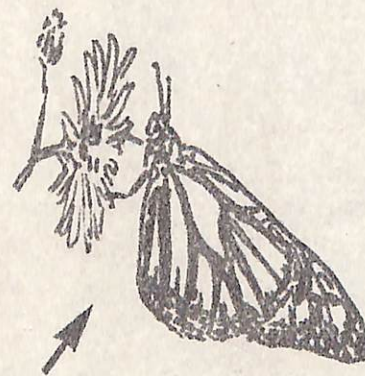
..14

* From Ferntree Gully,
Grace Couchman, Age 7,
writes.....

I like nature because it is very lovely and this is the story I wanted to tell you.

See, last night I was getting in to bed when a black and white Wanderer came and started fluttering outside my window. I could only see the front but it was very beautiful.

ED. Thank you for your delightful little story Grace. Did your Wanderer look like this? Do you know its other name? Did you notice any orange or red in its colours?



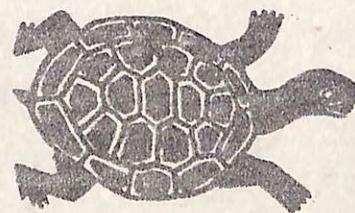
Wanderer
Butterfly.
(Another view)

15..

Murray Cox 3C, Blackburn Lake writes.....

* A year ago I found a tortoise which is about 9½ inches long. I found it when I was walking through the grass in a vacant block. My mother gives me meat to feed it on. We have it in a big container so that it can swim.

ED. Do you feed the tortoise under water Murray? Read "Tortoises as Pets" in Nature Notes Vol 5, no. 4.



Debra McCurdy 5S, Blackburn Lake writes.....

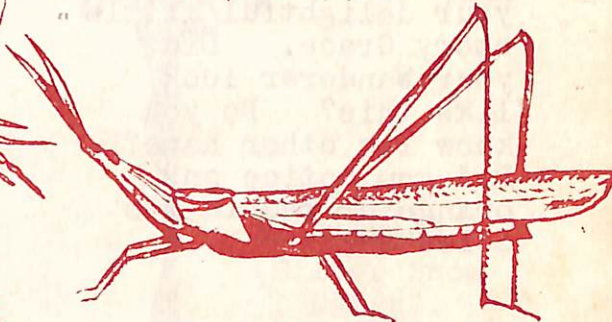
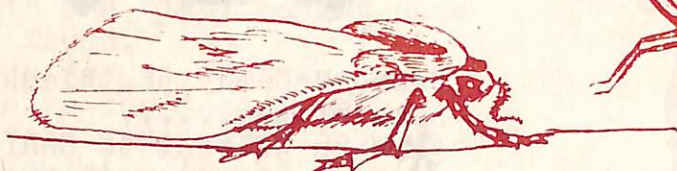
* When we went to Charlton on a wheat farm we came across a fox's den in the middle of the wheat. You could see where they had rolled around in the wheat.

You could also see rabbits skins in the hollow of a big tree. I guess the foxes had a good feed.

ED. Find out Debbie how these animals first came to our shores.

April '70.

QUICK QUIZ



ALL THESE CREATURES HAVE BEEN FOUND AT BLACKBURN LAKE THIS YEAR.
SEE IF YOU CAN MATCH THEM WITH THEIR NAMES.

LACEWING; CUP MOTH LARVA; GUM EMPEROR LARVA;
LEAF ROLLING SPIDER'S HOME; CENTIPEDE; WATTLE GOAT MOTH;
BIRD DROPPING or DEATH'S HEAD SPIDER; LONG-HEADED GRASSHOPPER.

NATURE NOTES COMMITTEE

Mr. F. J. C. Rogers

....

S.S. Lilydale

Mr. G. White

....

S.S. Bayswater South

Mr. L. J. Delacca (Editor)

....

S.S. Blackburn Lake

Next Issue Will Be At Depots on Wednesday May 6th.