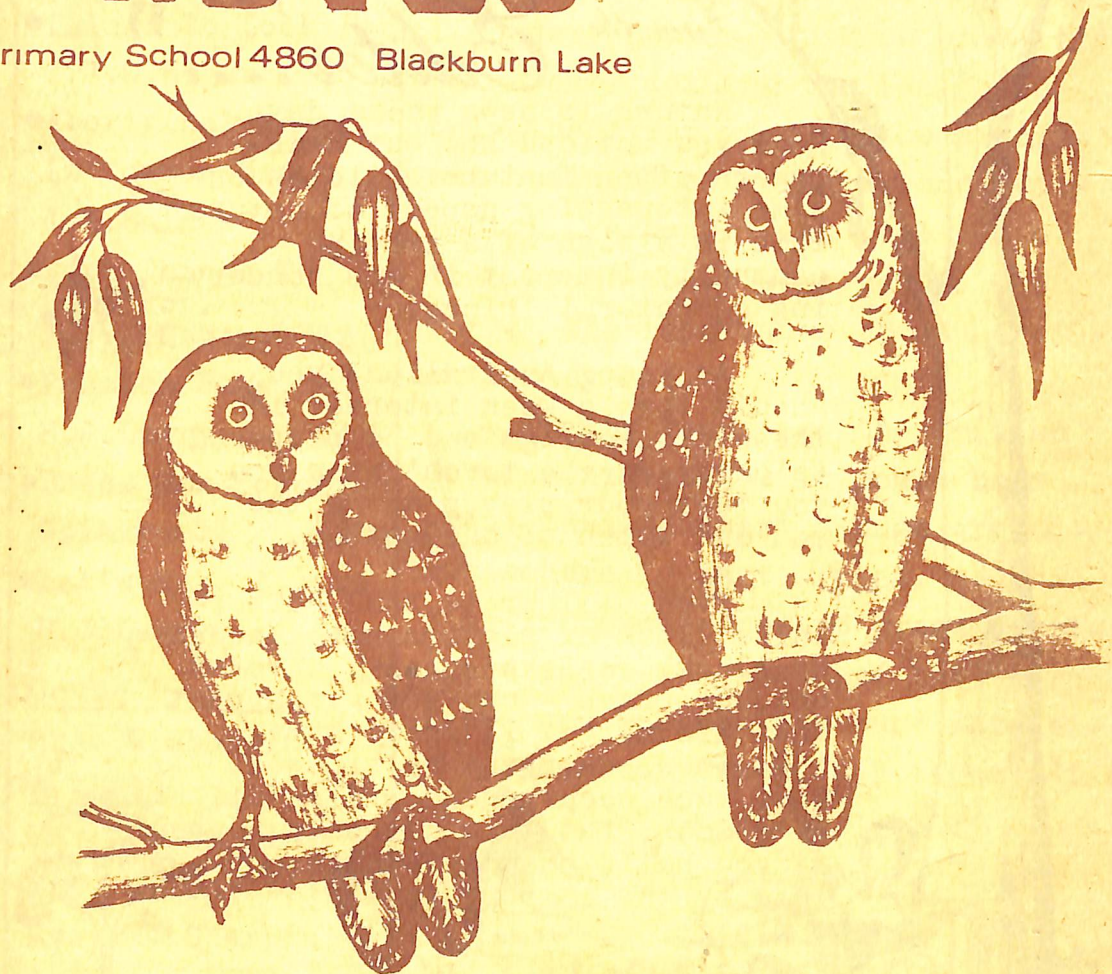


Ringwood Inspectorate

Volume 10

Nature NOTES

Primary School 4860 Blackburn Lake



6 Cents

P.O. Box 30, Nunawading. 3131.

No 3

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From the Editor.....

Nature is news these days. Have you noticed how our newspapers often feature articles on some interesting aspect of nature? This is a sign of a growing community interest in the conserving of natural things.

As young Australians you should take a keen interest in these proceedings and be prepared to 'carry on the torch' when you take your places among the men and women of our nation.

Even as I write this editorial, a flock of plovers have landed on Blackburn Lake's newly covered cricket pitch - can you guess what they are up to? It is my hope that when you reach my ripe old age, such occurrences will still be common, but this can only happen if you build on the foundations laid by the conservationists of the past.

H.J.Lawry.

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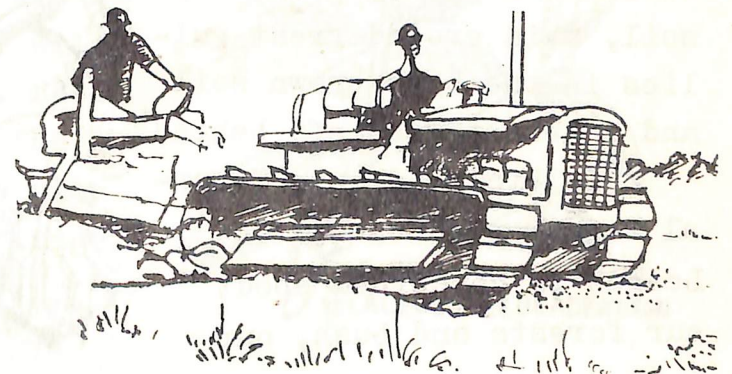
Mrs. M. Sharpin

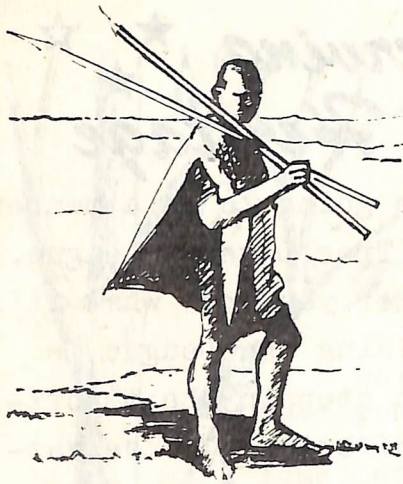
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CATEGORY B

Conserving ★ ★ A Heritage ★

So you're going to be a member of the Junior Tree Lovers' League. I wonder whether you know what it's all about? Joining the League is only the first step in the important business of being a conservationist. Perhaps I can tell you a true story about some people who forgot the importance of conserving what they had.

Twenty years ago the British Government thought it would be a great idea to start a huge ground-nut scheme in East Africa. At the time tribesmen used to graze cattle there under the shade of the thorn trees and baobabs. The land was neither lush nor green, but it wasn't a

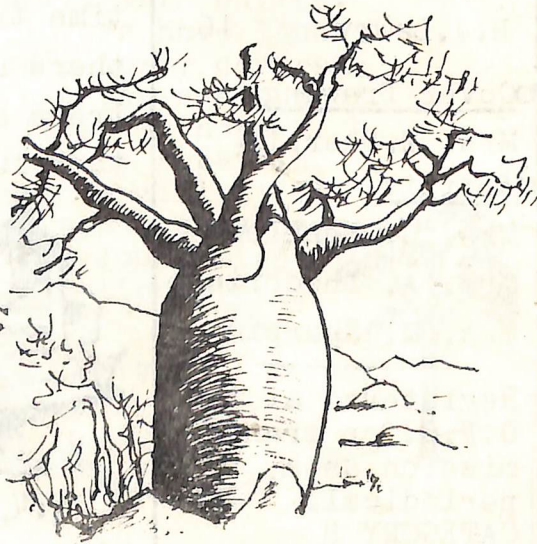




African tribesman.

desert. Then in 1946 everything changed. Trees were torn from their roots and the sparse grazing was ploughed in acre by acre, mile by mile. The tribesmen wondered what would happen to their cattle, but the government promised enough food the ground nuts. (peanuts) Kongwa would be one of the world's biggest producers of peanut oil and peanuts. After

the harvest the cattle would have the lush green leaves too. Then a terrible thing happened. The rains failed. No peanuts would grow and there wasn't enough seed left for future. The scheme was a \$50,000,000 failure. Worse still, the trees had gone and now there was no shade, no water and no grass. You can guess what that district looked like after that! Dust storms stripped off the top-soil, rain eroded great gullies in the bare brown soil and a desert was left behind.

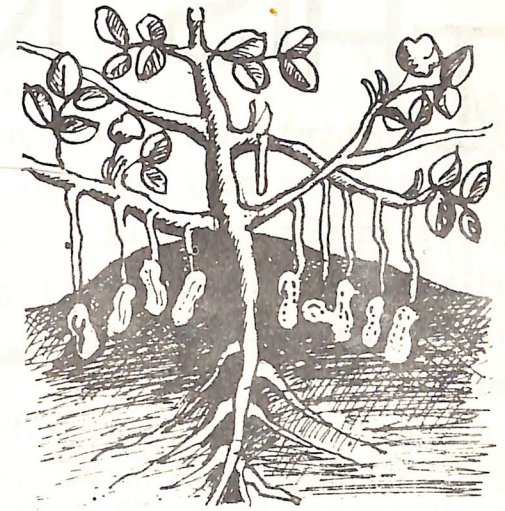


In Victoria, the Natural Resources Conservation League is concerned about our forests and bush, our

waterways and our land. So far, nearly six million native trees have gone from the nursery in Springvale. Children have planted about 200,000 of these all in the hope that this country will stay beautiful, shaded, green and healthy. Last year you may have helped to do this. This year at Blackburn Lake P.S. more than 300 children are

going to help in this project. In a few weeks time your trees will arrive in a small polythene tube ready for planting. If you plant it carefully and care for it, you will be doing your special part in conserving our natural heritage.

If you have any queries or problems, write to the Natural Resources Conservation League P.O. Box 104. Springvale 3172. They will give you good advice. Best wishes to you all in the part you are going to play in Conserving Our Heritage.



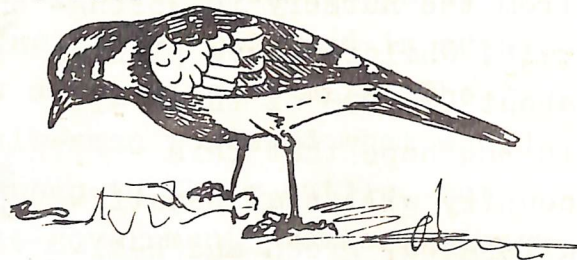
Peanut Plant



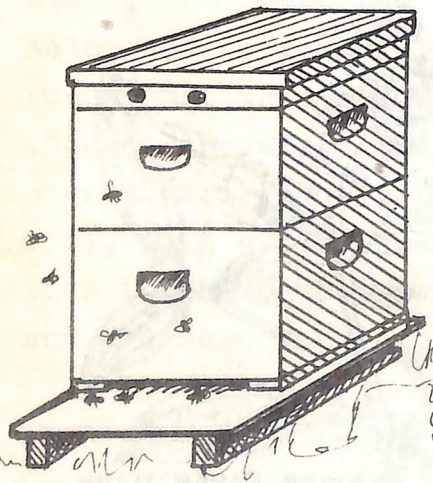
RIVER PAPER BARK
LEALEUCA LEUCADENDRON

THIS 'N THAT

★ One bird that I have noticed noticed to be very active lately is the friendly Mudlark. This no doubt due to the "muddier" weather lately. Mudlarks are one species of bird which seems to be able to live in close harmony with man even in suburbia. With the possible exception of the ibis, there is probably no other bird that Australian farmers owe so much. It is the Mudlark which feeds on the pond snail, the host of the deadly liver fluke, the great destroyer of our flocks. Try to find out the whole story - it is a most unusual one.



★ Last month I mentioned the flowering gums at Frankston. Did you know that of all the plants the eucalypts yield more honey per acre than any other? In a good blossom season as we have just had, the nectar flows may be so heavy that it is possible to take off 400 lbs (nearly 180K.g) from just one hive. Our best honey tree is the Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*)

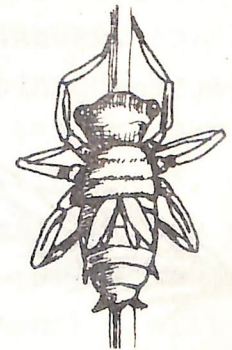


★ Strange to say, *E. melliodora* although yielding vast quantities of nectar, is so light on for pollen, the bees would starve if they were to depend on this tree alone for protein food. Try to discover what other trees provide us with honey.



★ No doubt you have often watched the graceful flight of the dragon-fly. Did you know that they were one of the oldest species of insect still inhabiting the earth. Fossilized remains of their ancestors have been found dating back over 200,000 years. Although the wingspan of our present day insect may vary between 2 and 16 cm their ancient counterparts reached to over 90 cm from tip to tip of their wings!

★ Next time you are near a pond or creek watch out for all stages of this dazzling creature and watch also for the empty cases from which the adults have emerged. They will probably be attached to a plant or stump which is actually in the creek, so this is a good place to start.



Things To Look For—

★ The plants we know as Grevilleas received the name from Robert Brown when he delivered a lecture to the Linnean Society in London, on 23 rd. January 1809. Before that, some of these plants had been described as Embothrium. Brown selected the name to honour Charles Greville who was vice-president of the Royal Society of England.



Grevillea alpina

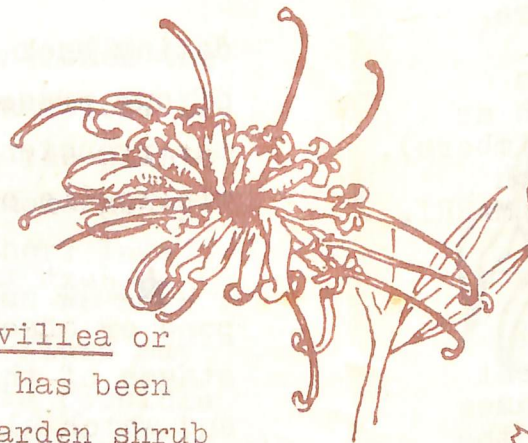
★ One of the common names for Grevillea is Spider Flower. Here is a drawing of Red Spider Flower—a plant for the garden from N.S.W. and Queensland. Its botanical name is *Grevillea punicea*.



G. rosmarinifolia leaves.

★ In Victoria we have about twenty-five species of Grevillea. They are found over a large area. Grevillea alpina was discovered by Major Mitchell on Mt. William in 1836, but it is not confined to the Grampians, being widespread throughout the gold-fields - Stawell, Maryborough, Bendigo, Rushworth etc.

★ Rosemary Grevillea or *G. rosmarinifolia* has been well known as a garden shrub for years. So too has Silky Oak (*G. robusta*) been known as a decorative tree for many years.



Grevillea Robusta

IN Grevilleas

During this summer the Silky Oaks were very beautiful. Perhaps this was because it was so hot and dry.

★ If we look at the leaves drawn to illustrate these two plants we may wonder why they are both called Grevillea. One plant has narrow leaves while the other has large leaves which are divided. It is not the leaves which tell us that the plants are similar but the flowers.



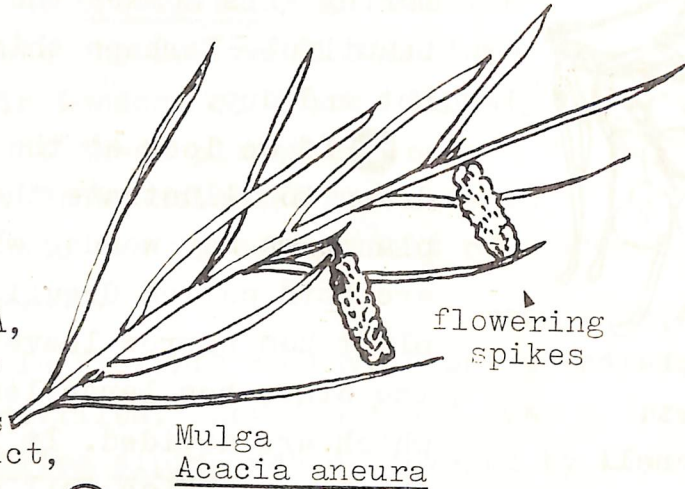
G. barklayana
leaves



★ If it can be done, look at the leaves of the Grevillea barklayana and you will see how impossible it is to tell our Australian plants by their leaves. We cannot draw one leaf and say that is a Grevillea leaf, or a Wattle leaf. Perhaps you can look around and find Grevilleas and draw their leaves. Next month I will tell you a little more about these native plants.

Aboriginal Names in

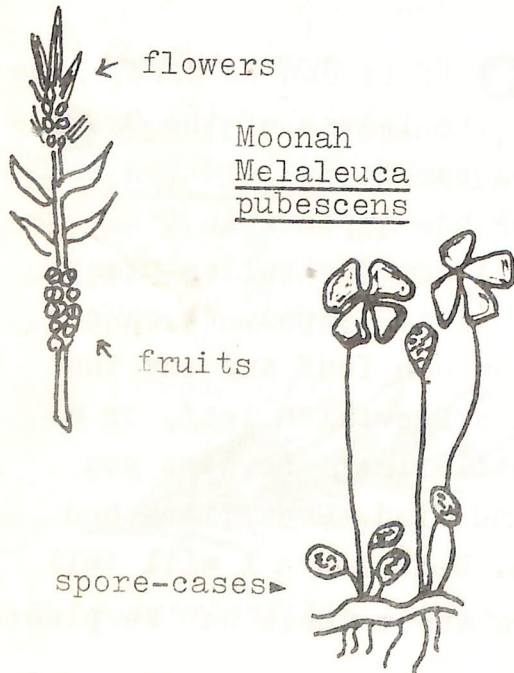
When city folk say 'up in the mulga' they mean 'in the outback country'. Mulga wood souvenirs are made from the MULGA, a kind of inland wattle tree, (Acacia aneura). Other acacias known by aboriginal names are WIRILDA, COOBA, BRIGALOW, NEALIE, WALLOWA and many more. Cootamundra Wattle takes its name from the district, 'cootamundra' meaning low-lying place.



Mulga
Acacia aneura

Many of our gum trees or eucalypts, too, retain names given them by the dark-skinned people whose ancestors came to Australia more than 30,000 years ago. Some of the W. Aust. ones are well-known here, such as JARRAH and KARRI (good timbers), but others have names much used in W.A. like TUART, MARRI, ILLYARRIE, YATE, WANDOO, GUNGURRU, MORT, MARLOCK and many more. MOTTLECAH (Eucalyptus megastigma) is a small tree with the largest gum-nut of all. This name is preferred to 'Rose of the West' or 'Desert Gum'.

Nardoo
Marsilia drummondii



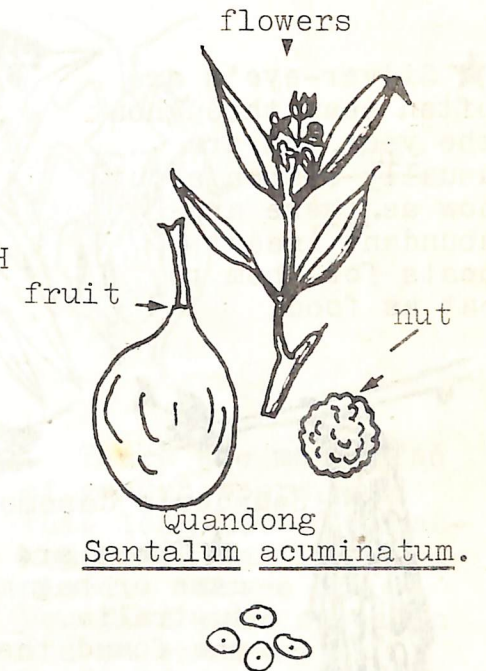
Moonah
Melaleuca pubescens

Common Use

MALLEE was an aboriginal name for several kinds of stunted eucalypts that have given their name to Victoria's dry north western region. An aboriginal name for Mahogany Gum is BANGALAY, Victorian Blue-gum is EURABBIE, and the COOLIBAH of 'Waltzing Matilda' is Eucalyptus microtheca. 'Flour' from the spore-cases of NARDOO, a kind of fern (Marsilia) was not nourishing enough to save Burke and Wills from dying of starvation. 'Wild cherry' trees (Exocarpos) are called BALLART. A She-oak (Casuarina) is BELAR. N.S.W.'s floral emblem is the WARATAH.



Wonga-Wonga Vine
Pandorea pandorana



Quandong
Santalum acuminatum

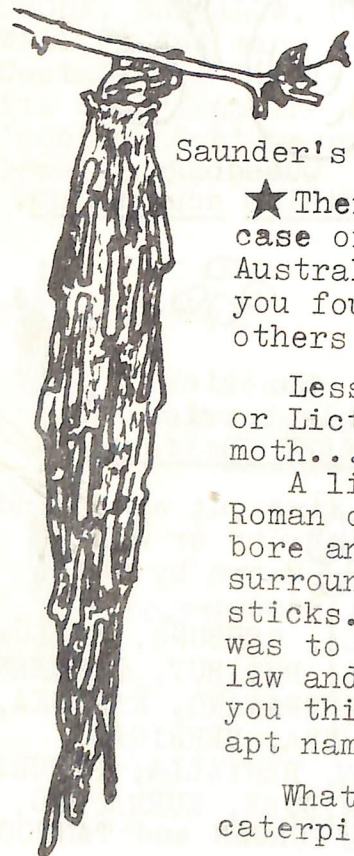
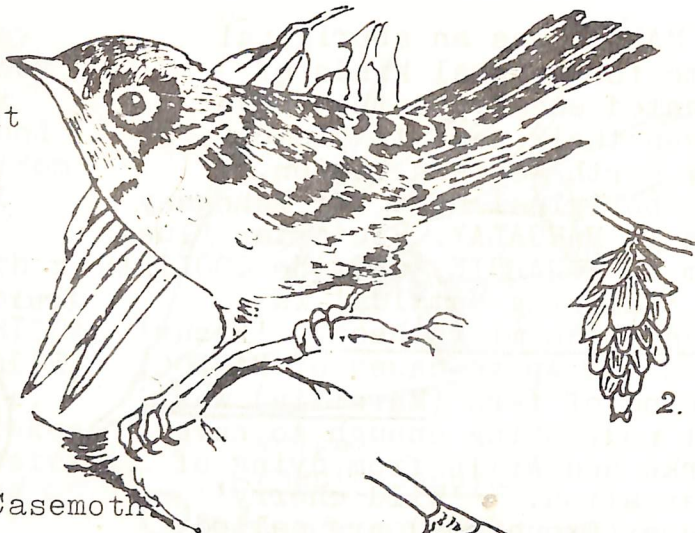
Muntries
Edible berries of
Kunzea pomifera

Try to find out what kinds of trees, shrubs or wild-flowers are known by these aboriginal names:-

BOOBIALLA, GEEBUNG, WALLUM, QUANDONG, BUT BUT, CARBEEN, GYMEA, BURRAWANG, KANOOKA, BUNYA BUNYA, BERRIGAN, KARRALLA, BANYALLA, PITURI, BIDGEE-WIDGEE, KURRAJONG, MOONAH, BURGAN and TANTOON.

More Things To

★ Silver-eye's are often seen throughout the year but are usually common about now as there are abundant insect pests for them to eat as food.



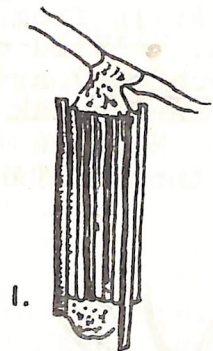
Saunders' Casemoth

★ There are many case or bag moths in Australia. Have you found these and others also?

Lesser Case-moth or Lictor's Case-moth.....

A lictor was a Roman officer who bore an axe which was surrounded by rods or sticks. His duty was to help maintain law and order. Don't you think this an apt name?

What color is the caterpillar in the case?



1.

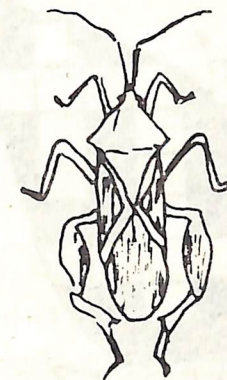


2.

1. Lictor Casemoth.
2. Heubner's Casemoth.
3. Ribbed Casemoth.

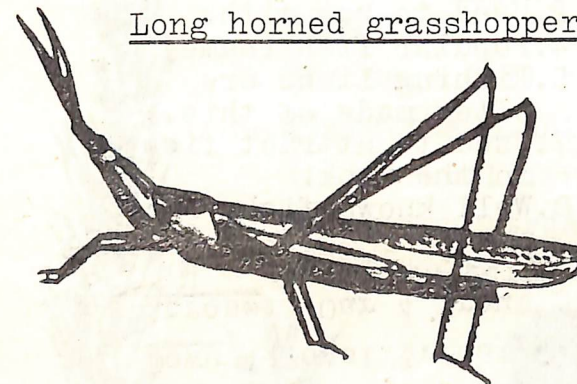
Look For

Do you still find the Crusader Bug on plants in your garden? This is a large brown insect with a light cross on its back. They live by sucking the sap from plants, and can do great harm if in large numbers. What do you notice when you handle one?



Crusader Bug.

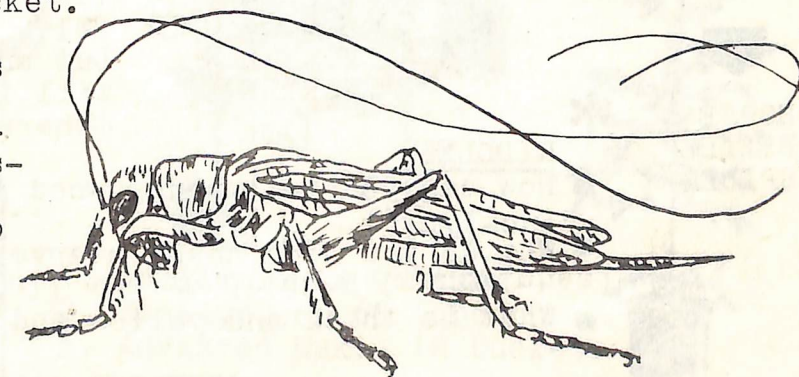
Long horned grasshopper



There are many kind of grasshoppers, and this long-horned grasshopper is easily recognised. Where did you find your specimen and on what was it feeding?

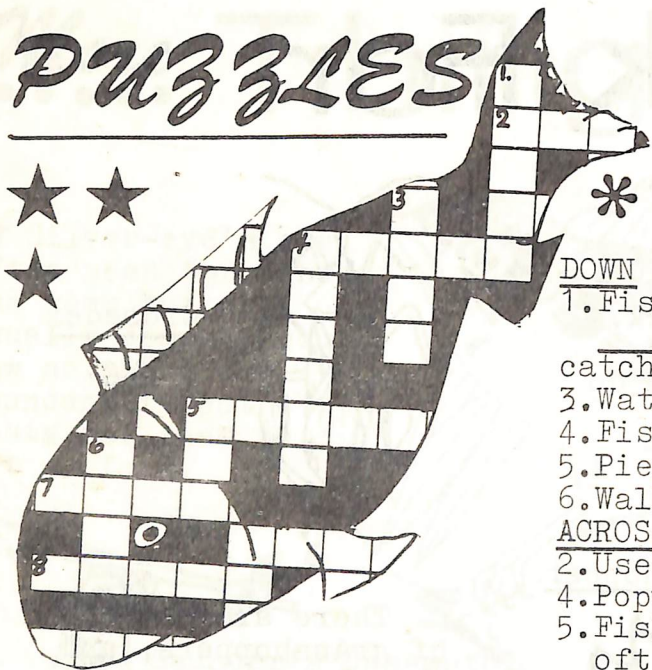
The Paragryllacris is sometimes called Tree Cricket. It may be found indoors at times but it is quite harmless. However if carelessly handled it may give a sharp bite as a means of escape.

Paragryllacris or Tree Cricket



PUZZLES

PAGE



* Crossword *

DOWN

1. Fishermen sometimes _____ about their catches.
3. Water-craft.
4. Fishing gear.
5. Piece of equipment.
6. Walk in water.

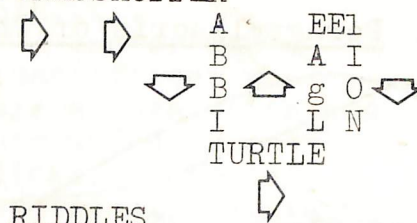
ACROSS

2. Used to row with.
4. Popular fish (name)
5. Fishing lines are often made of this.
7. Used to attract fish to the hook.
8. Well known fish.

SOLUTION



WORD CHAINS: GRASSHOPPER



HORSE
BEETLE
SPIDER



RIDDLES

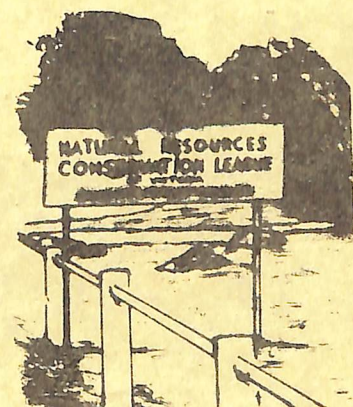
- How can you tell a dog wood tree from a eucalypt? *Ans. By its bark.*
- Why do you need never starve in the desert? *Ans. Because of all the sandwiches (sandwiches)*
- What is thick and yellow and deadly? *Ans. Shark infested custard.*

Ans. Shark infested custard.

TREES FOR TOMORROW

Here are some simple guidelines for planting and maintaining a tree.

1. Dig a hole to the spade's depth and width.
2. Thoroughly soak your tree.
3. Break up any lumps in the loose soil.
4. If the soil is very dry, fill the hole with water.
5. Let the water drain into the soil.
6. If you have some blood and bone, Hortico No.1 or Magamp fertilizer, place some in the hole as directed.
7. Put some soil on the fertilizer.
8. Place the plant in the hole and fill in the soil firmly
9. Water your tree adequately.
10. Mulching helps conserve moisture.



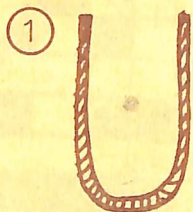
1. Callitris in 9" tube.
2. Eucalypt on 6" tube.
3. Advanced Hakea in bucket.

C. Bakewell.

Let's Make a . . .

REQUIREMENTS ROBIN RED BREAST

- Several black currajong pods.
- Pipe Cleaners.
- Cotton Wool
- Red dye, ink or red paint.
- White Paint.

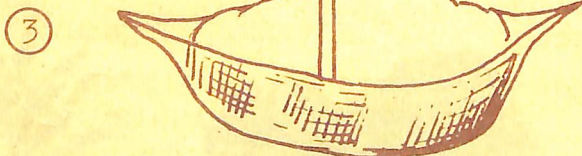


Bend a pipe cleaner like this.



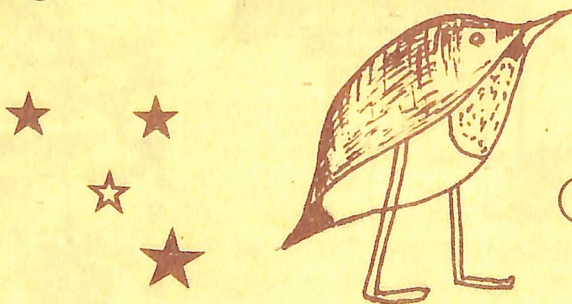
Put it in a cleaned out pod.

Watch out for prickles!



Stuff a large piece of cotton wool into the hollow.

(4) Paint the breast red and the beak white.



(5) Here is the finished bird.

