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KALORI



Nov. '69

Society

Conservation

Wildlife

Lower Blue Mountains

CONSERVE, PRESERVE, INVESTIGATE, EDUCATE.

Kalori is published monthly by and for the members of the Lower Blue Mountains Wildlife Conservation Society.

The aims of the Society are, briefly, to:-

1. Educate the members and the community to the cultural values of nature.
2. Work for the reservation of areas of natural environment for the refuge and breeding of indigenous flora and fauna.
3. Carry out research into the distribution, population and species of flora and fauna in the Blue Mountains.

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Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the Springwood Fire Station, commencing 8.00 pm.

PRESERVING AND STORING INSECTS

Having caught and despatched your insect (as per Kalori June 68), the question is now "what to do with it?" As most insects are rather fragile, this appears to be quite a problem, but provided a few simple rules are followed, it is relatively easy to set and mount your specimen, and to store it almost indefinitely.

The materials required are as follows :-

1. Setting boards.
2. Stainless steel entomological pins (No. 5 and No. 3).
3. Common Pins.
4. Cellophane or Greaseproof paper.
5. Entomological forceps or tweezers.
6. White card for labels.
7. Strong, light boxes for storing, preferably pest-proof and glass-topped.
8. Relaxing bottle.
9. Small glass tubes, pill bottles etc., with 75% alcohol solution for soft-bodied insects.
10. Flaked naphthalene.
11. Chlorocresol.

Any of the above materials that are not available in your home are readily obtainable from Entomological Supplies, 14 Chisholm Street, Greenwich, Sydney.

Setting boards can be bought, but can also be made quite easily by anyone with a few tools. Materials for a board suitable for medium-sized insects are :-

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 piece of 3/16 ply | 12" x 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| 2 pieces of pine, maplect | 12" x 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 11/16 |
| Sheet cork | 12" x 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 3/16 |

The two pieces of pine are glued to the base of 3/16 ply, with their outer edges flush with the sides of the base. This leaves a groove between them of $\frac{1}{4}$ " in which a strip of cork is glued. Two strips of cork are then glued to the pine, and strips of good quality white paper are glued to the cork. (See diagram). The size of board and groove is varied for larger or smaller insects.

RELAXING:

It is essential to have the specimen thoroughly relaxed before attempting the pinning and setting operation. This, of course, does not apply to soft-bodied insects, such as silverfish, plant lice, larvae of butterflies, moths, beetles and wasps etc. These are placed directly into 75% alcohol, which acts both as a killing agent and preservative.

The insect is removed from the killing jar and placed in a relaxing jar, which is simply a wide-mouthed jar, plastic lunch-box etc. with a tightly fitting lid into which has been placed some damp sand or dampened absorbent paper, with a pinch of chlorochresol to prevent mould forming.

The specimen should be placed on a small platform such as a tin lid, so that it does not come into direct contact with the wet surface. The length of time necessary in the jar will vary, but is usually 24 to 48 hours; the insect is ready for pinning when the legs, wings etc. will move freely when tested with the forceps or point of a needle.

PINNING:

The method of pinning varies with the insect. Dragon flies, flies, wasps, mantids, butterflies, moths and many others are pinned through the thorax. Beetles are pinned through the upper part of the right wing cover and bugs through the scutellum. (See illustration). Very tiny beetles, flies, wasps etc. too small to be pinned direct are first glued to a piece of white card or pinned with tiny pins to a piece of polyporous pith (the stuff used to

make kiddies kick-boards) which is then pinned through one end with the larger pin. (See illustration).

The wings of beetles, bugs and other insects with hard wingcases are not usually spread; this makes their setting a simple matter of passing the pin neatly through the body, making sure it is vertical, and arranging the legs and antennae neatly. The specimen should be allowed to dry out thoroughly (two to three weeks) before placing in the storing case.

SETTING:

For butterflies, moths, dragonflies etc., the pin is passed through the centre of the thorax, keeping it at right angles to the body to within $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the head of the pin. It is then pinned in the exact centre of the groove in the setting board, making sure the pin is vertical and that the point is pushed right through the cork to the base. The insect is then slid down the pin until the wings just rest on the surface of the board.

Commencing with one set of wings, a strip of cellophane or greaseproof paper, slightly narrower than half the width of the board, it is then placed in position over the wings and pinned near the top of the board with two pins. By holding the lower edge of the paper and varying the tension, the wings are moved into position by inserting a pin or needle, held in the forceps, behind one of the strong veins, close to the body. The wings should be arranged so that the hind margin of the forewing is at right-angles to the body. The hindwing is then drawn forward till its front edge is covered by the hind margin of the forewing. The paper is then pinned down by 7 or 8 common pins placed close to the margins of the wings. (See diagram).

Repeat this process with the other pair of wings, arrange the antennae neatly and your insect, after a two or three week drying period (away from spiders, ants, cockroaches etc.) is ready for the specimen case.

STORAGE OR SPECIMEN CASES:

Specimen cases are stout vermin-proof boxes, preferably with a glass top, into which a sheet of 3/16" cork, covered with white paper, has been glued. Napthalene or crushed moth balls should be added to discourage pests, and a sprinkle of chlorochresol to prevent mould.

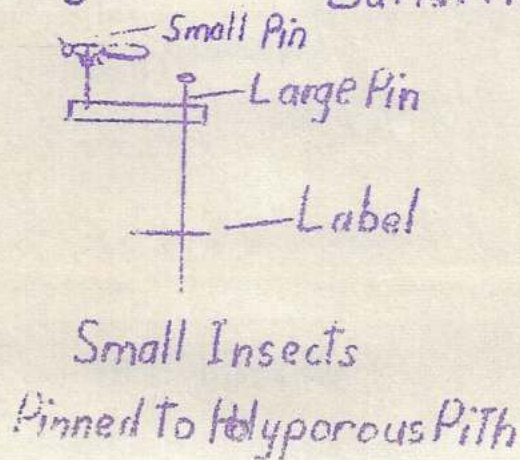
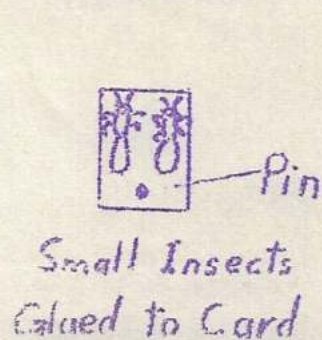
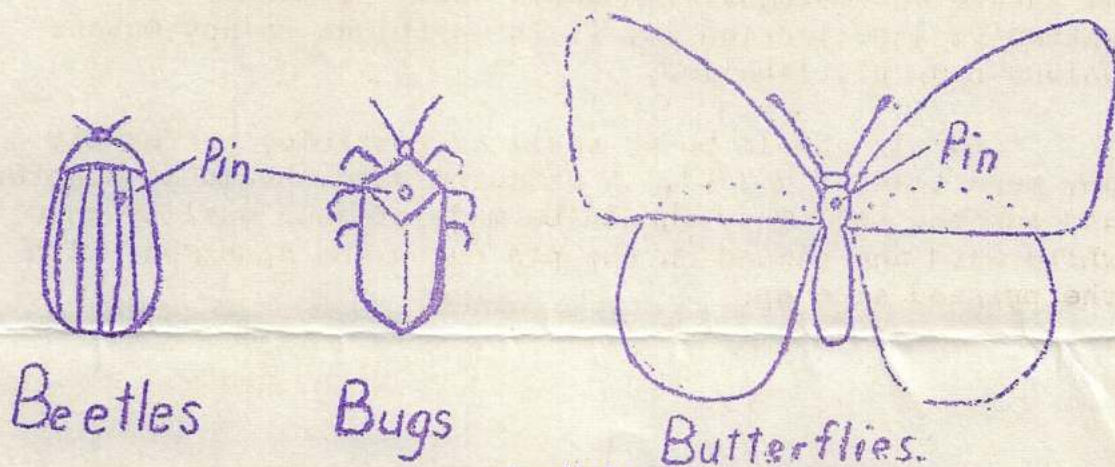
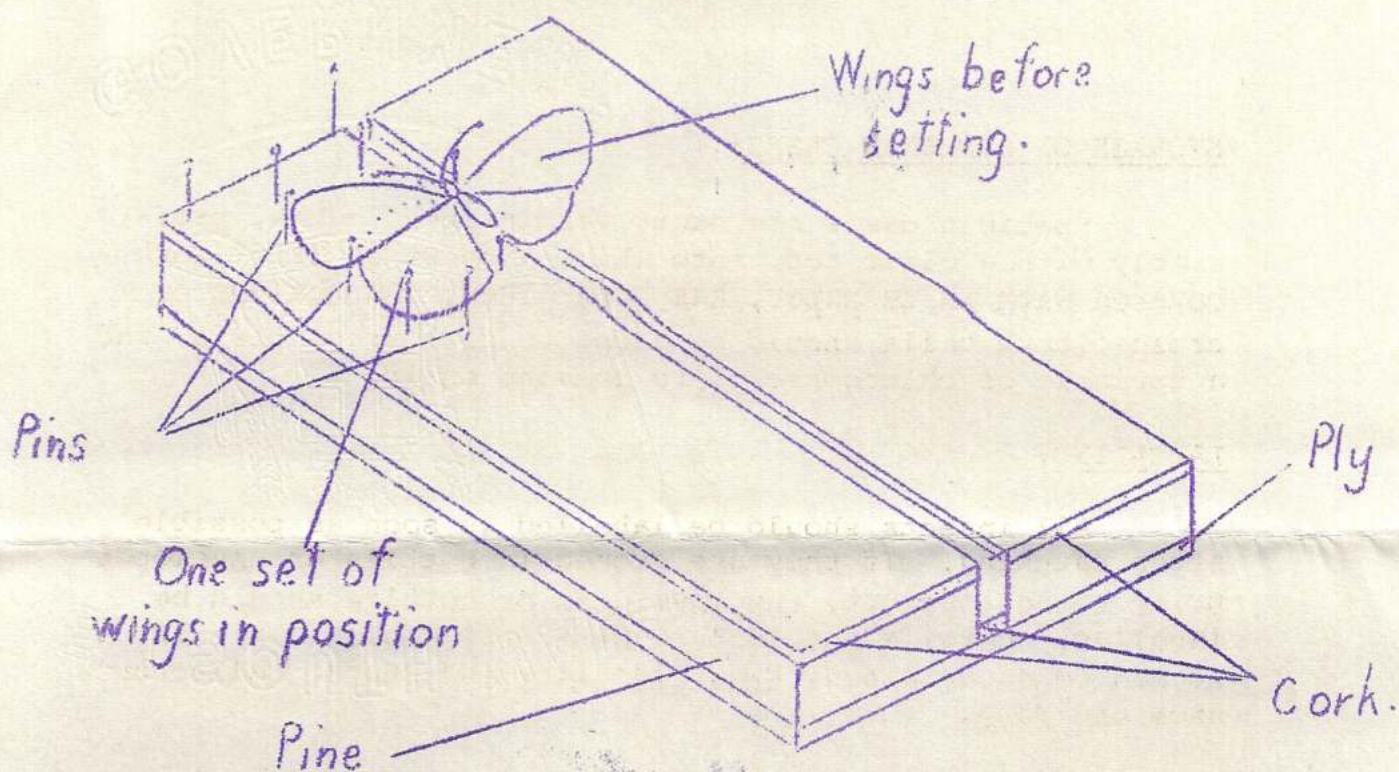
LABELLING:

All insects should be labelled as soon as possible after catching. If they are stored in bottles or envelopes prior to setting out, the envelopes or bottles should be labelled. Details should be - Name - if known, Sex - if it can be ascertained, Exact locality and State, Collector's name and date.

This information is essential if the specimen is to have any value at all, either to the original collector or to future entomologists, museums etc. No matter how extensive a collection is, it is worthless to any museum unless properly labelled.

Labels should be as small as possible, preferably not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{8}$ ". A standard size should be adopted and adhered to. They should be made of good quality thin white card and placed on the pin below the specimen, with the printed side up.

S.K. KING



THE TRUE RELIGION

by Judith Wright

To be sung to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation".

"The industry's a clean one,"
The Pious Miner said.
"No fumes, no smell, no garbage;
Just a clean sweep instead.
We'll take your useless wastelands,
Fit only now for ducks;
trade no-cost roads and powerlines
for fifty million bucks.

"For aeons they've existed
and never earned a cent,
but now we have the know-how
to use them as God meant.
Come all ye pious miners,
with dozer and with dredge;
we'll tidy up the country,
we promise and we pledge.

"You Extreme Nature-lover,
we cannot understand
your Substitute Religion
that's built upon the sand.
Ours is the True Religion.
Our glorious Company
will bring you all the blessings
of our technology.

"Your reverence for Nature
is obviously fake.
It never made a dollar,
while look at what we make!
The Good Works to our credit
stand as the angels bright
and show that Heaven chose us
to prove the Miner's Right.

The Extreme Nature-lover
stood weeping on the sands
watching the Last of Dollars
torn from the Last of Lands.
"Come, dry those tears," they told him.
"Why mourn the simpler creatures
The Economic Landscape
has more attractive features."

The no-cost roads, the Powerlines,
the Parks for Recreation
spread far and wide their glories
to benefit the nation.
The rows of casuarinas
that whimpered as they grew
proved that the great RZDA
respected nature, too.

The Economic Landscape
lay bare, eroded, still, while every
Mines Department
exclaimed "Tis Heaven's will!"
The view of poets packing
and artists taking wing
increased their satisfaction.
"Gone - and a damn good thing!"

"This is the You Beaut Country,
so quality-controlled,
with not a dune or forest
that can't be bought or sold.
Their substitute religion
(sincere, we hardly doubt)
was primitive, though blissful.
We're better off without."

So to the True Religion
each acre was converted,
and every bird or poet
departed or deported,
while safe at last for progress
and great RZDA
and drained of every dollar
the happy landscape lay.

"Twas not the land they wept for.
They loved not our society;
they worshipped false divinities.
Ours is the truer piety.
So join our congregation;
Australia is our pigeon.
Raise high the hymn to Camm and Sim:
' "The Buck's the True Religion." "

Judith Wright's poem was prompted by a recent article in The Australian written by Mr. Leo Butler, Developments Manager of the Rutile and Zircon Development Association. Mr. Butler made a strong case for his industry, pointing out its economic benefits and claiming that restoration work on mined-out areas was very successful.

PRESIDENTS REPORT = 1969

This may be the shortest report in history.

Over the last twelve months the Society has made no progress whatsoever, and the blame can be laid at the feet of "Them" and "They". Most society members, be it Service Club, Historical Society or any such, all have definite ideas as to what should be done and the activities that should be carried out. Unfortunately all the "thems" and "theys" who should have organised things this year were occupied in other spheres.

During the year we did eventually get a scheme of botanical assessment under way in which physical counts of plant growth are being undertaken. The results of these investigations should provide a base for future botanical studies in the area.

Not so far off the ground is a plan to make a study and count of the smaller animals in the bush. To date we have determined the field and location of operations, have the blessing of the National Park Trust, and are awaiting the issue of a license and traps from the Wild Life Service.

One field of activity which involved quite a lot of work and thought and considerable debate, was a 'Fire Policy', a rather nebulous document which in the long run depended on too many other organisations and bodies to actively implement.

Through extra-curricular effort the lower mountains may soon be graced with a tree preservation order. This may give us the opportunity to save a few trees in our fastly urbanising community.

I would like to thank all the officers of the Society for their work and effort during the year, all those who submitted articles to Kalori, and all those members who through individual efforts have carried on Natural History investigations and those who have carried the word of Conservation through to other Public bodies.

In the coming year I would like to see more members actively engaged in Natural History projects. A community of effort would be both rewarding and instructive as well as gaining valuable information and details which, when combined as one, gives a clearer picture. To be of value there would need to be a system of co-ordination; this needs some thought and I think that this idea could be brought forward as soon as possible.

I feel that the Society has settled down and has shaken into place a solid foundation of members. With co-operation among members and some initiative and imagination we would make the Society a telling force in the community and create a worthwhile atmosphere for us to live in.

Lin Paish.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

During the year eleven meetings were held, attended by an average of twelve members. There are now 38 members including Life, Associate and Junior Members. I would like to add my thanks to those of the President to all who helped in any way during the past year, and express the hope that active involvement increases during the coming year.

George Croghan.

Stop Press! Next meeting on November 13th. is the Annual General. Subscriptions are now due.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Treasurer,
Mrs. D. Dark,
"Nimaloola",
Russell Ave.,
Valley Heights. 2777.

Enclosed please find the sum of \$ to cover one years membership*

Name in full.....

Address in full.....

Occupation.....

* Individuals \$2.00 annually or \$20.00 Life.
Associates \$1.00 annually - subscription to Kalori.
Junior 30 cents annually.
Family \$3.00 annually.