

INSECTS AND SPIDERS

There is such an infinite variety of these, not just in Lillifield but everywhere, that you couldn't even photograph a minute number in a lifetime. We aren't always aware of the variety around us and getting photos of these is a real challenge for everyone. Go for the challenge, folk! Even identifying them is a challenge!

There are varieties of scorpions, millipedes, centipedes, slaters, wasps, bees, moths, dragonflies, grasshoppers, cicadas, cockroaches, beetles, ants, fleas, flies, mosquitoes, butterflies and a hundred more - all happily living with us here, waiting for the camera fanatic to capture their image! Here, a only a small number...

HUNTSMEN SPIDERS

Big fellows, these can be up to 10cm across the legs. Usually found outside under loose bark and amongst rocks and stones. However, they DO come into homes but only to hunt for small creatures for food, not to eat the children! They are very fast runners when on the move and can actually scuttle sideways.

You may have noticed little white "parcels", white papery disc sacs, around either outside or somewhere in your house. These are the egg sacs and the female stays with them until the little spiders hatch - check out the ceilings if you suddenly develop an itch and there are no mosies around! Could be teeny little spider hatchlings on the move. An amazing sight to see the movement of these large number of little critters.



MALLOTUS HARLEQUIN BUG

Only about 20mm big, this bug is one of the 25 species of Jewel Bugs of Australia and is only found in SE Qld and Northern NSW - so is special to our area. Sometimes called the Parent Bug because females guard their clutch of eggs and young nymphs from predators for a number of weeks - one of the insect world's most interesting bugs in this regard.

They are very specific in their habitat (dry rainforest) and food source, sucking the sap of *Mallotus* trees (the Kamalas),

as well as *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Hoop Pines). Plenty of both species in Lillifield!

During winter, large numbers of adults cluster together and may remain inactive for two to three months.



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