

# EUCALYPTS

*As a  
Home*

Dear Girls and Boys,

This issue of Nature Notes introduces you to a wonderful part of our natural landscape. The Eucalypt has a distinct atmosphere which most people learn to love, and to seek by having a pleasant day, or a picnic in the bush.

*Conser-  
vation*

*Products*

It is possible to have the bush atmosphere around your own home by growing some Eucalypts here. In the magazine this month you are given some ideas to help you do this. I hope some of you will become keen students of our Australian plants. This study has taken me to many parts of Australia and introduced me to numerous people who are enthusiastic in helping everyone to know Australian plants and learn to love them as part of this wonderful land we call Australia.

*World  
Traveller*

*In the  
Garden*

F.J.C. ROGERS  
Federal President  
Society for Growing  
Australian Plants.

*Main  
Group*

## Nature Notes

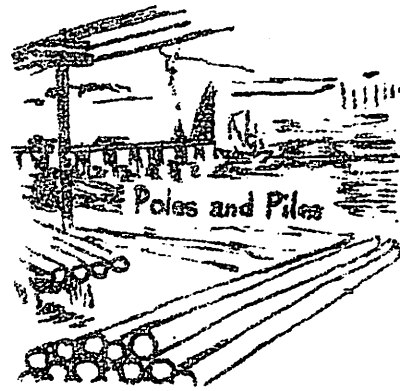
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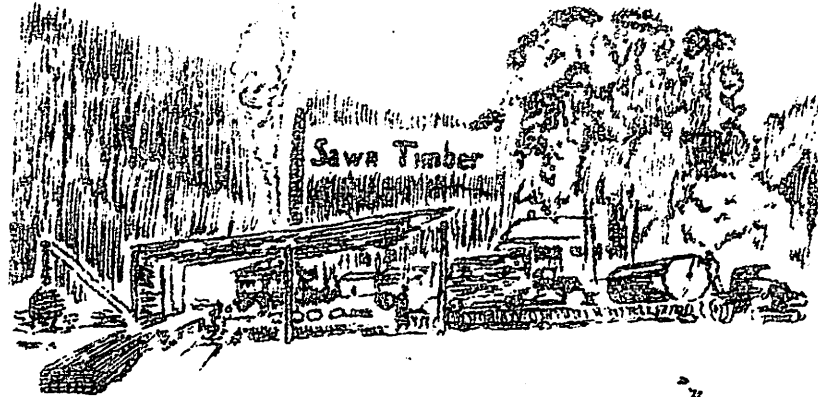
● In Australia the Eucalyptus forests cover almost 95% of the total forest area. There are many species, ranging from giants over 300 feet high (Mountain Ash) to Mallees which grow only to an average height of 20 feet.

These trees are used to make a variety of products which we use today.

Can you find any other products obtained from eucalypts?



# Products of

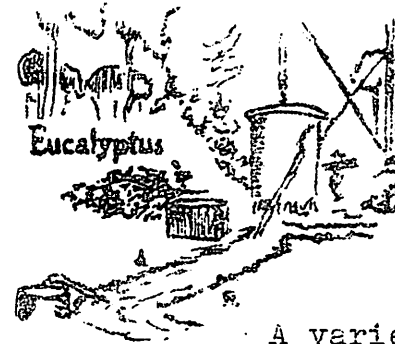


⊕ Several species of eucalypt are used for timber because of their durability and strength. The framework of your house should be constructed from eucalypt hardwoods.

What type of timber is used to make sleepers?

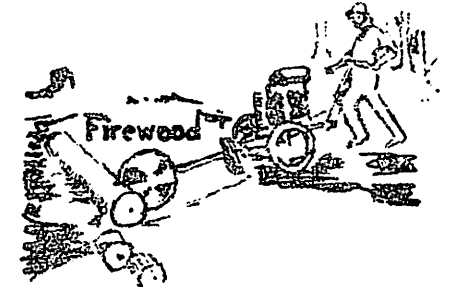


August Nature Notes--2



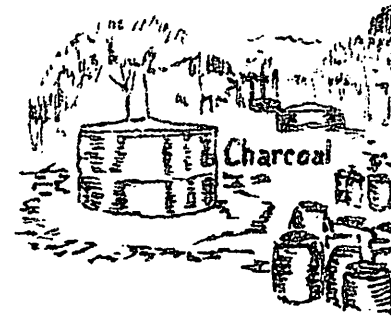
A variety of oils are obtained from eucalypts, the most common being eucalyptus.

The forests provide us with warmth in winter.

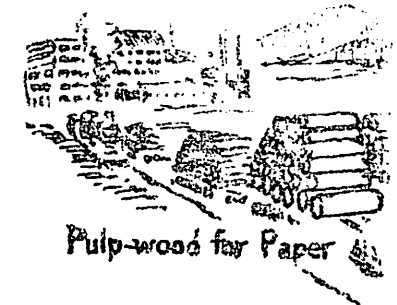


# the Forests .....

Where have you used charcoal?



In 1966 there were almost 10,000 people working in paper making factories.



## FILL THESE SPACES.

When wood chips are broken down to wood fibres, mixed with water and then pressed under high temperatures . . . . . is formed.

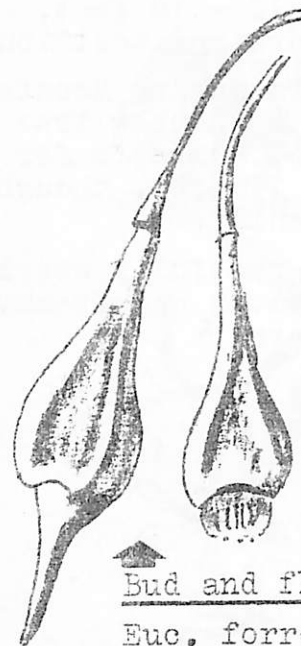
Bees collect . . . . . from the eucalypt flowers and change it to . . . . .

# A Place in the Garden for

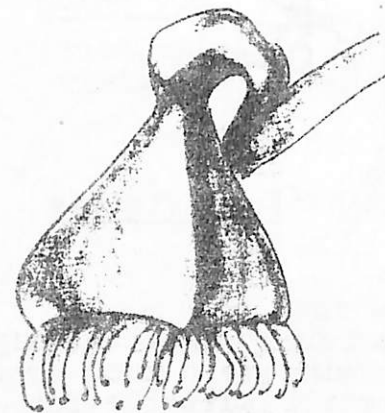
There is no garden in or around Melbourne too small, too damp or too dry, in which you can plant a EUCALYPT, - a "gum tree", - be it a small slender tree with a beautiful trunk amongst lower shrubs or a scrubby growing gum, no bigger than one of the larger shrubs. Before choosing your tree, make sure that it won't interfere with overhead wires, consider the colouring of flowers and leaves, find out about frosts in your district, as some of the West Australian Eucalypts can't withstand frost, especially during their first years. With some protection you might even be able to give these a good start. Should a gum look affected by frost, don't pull it up straight away, only the leaves might blacken and the stem sprout again in spring. Also, some of the W.A. gums, as well as some Paperbarks, when blooming during a cold spell, show very little colour in their flowers; only as the temperature rises the colouring improves and they look their best during a really hot spell.

Here are short notes on some of the smaller gums:  
Euc. macrocarpa (Rose of the West) for dry, warm situations, grey foliage and lovely big red flowers, followed by large gum nuts - 6 - 12 feet.  
Euc. preissiana Mallee type tree with large greeny-grey leaves and showy yellow flowers, followed by bell shaped fruit. - 10 - 15 feet for dry places.  
Euc. caesia One of the most graceful small trees, 12 - 15 feet, often of weeping habit with beautiful pink flowers and silver-frosted pods. The bark peels in very fine horizontal strips, leaving bright green new bark underneath. As this lovely tree is rather brittle, it needs a sheltered, warm spot or has to be well staked.  
Euc. kruseana of similar growth and habit can stand a more damp and sheltered position.  
Euc. crucis small shrubby gum with round buds, clusters of creamy white flowers and grey small foliage.

# Eucalypts - Why not!



Bud and flower  
Euc. forrestiana



Euc. tetraptera

Euc. forrestiana an easy to grow, small, shapely tree with bright red, four winged buds and small yellow flowers. The drooping buds give a chinese lantern effect and similar, but more robust looking is Euc. stoatei with coarser multi-ribbed red buds and yellow flowers, both trees can stand dry and hot situations similar to Euc. tetraptera a shrubby 8 - 10 feet gum with large thick leaves on sparse branches, big bright red four winged buds and crimson flowers.

\* \* \*

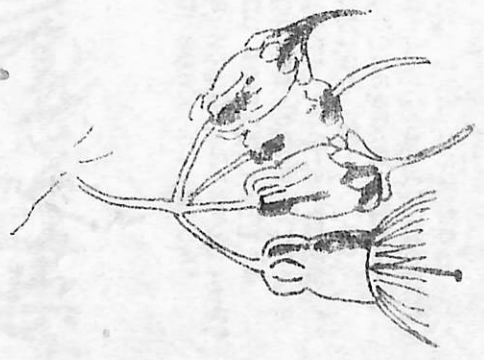


Bud  
Euc. stoatei

Euc. torquata, the Coolgardie Gum often flowers when very small. The buds resemble some exquisite carving and open up to showy pink blooms. The tree is shapely 12 - 18 feet, prefers a warm and drained position.

Euc. coccifera the Tasmanian Mountain Peppermint, is also a shrubby tree with greyish foliage, suitable for cooler places, 10 - 15 feet, though only 4 feet in Tasmania.

Euc. sepulcralis a gracefully weeping tree with slender leaves and creamy white drooping flowers.



Buds and flower  
Euc. torquata

Euc. erythrocorys The Red Cross Gum, so called on account of the brilliant red cross-shaped cap over the bright green buds, that open up to almost square shaped lemon flowers. 15 - 20 feet.

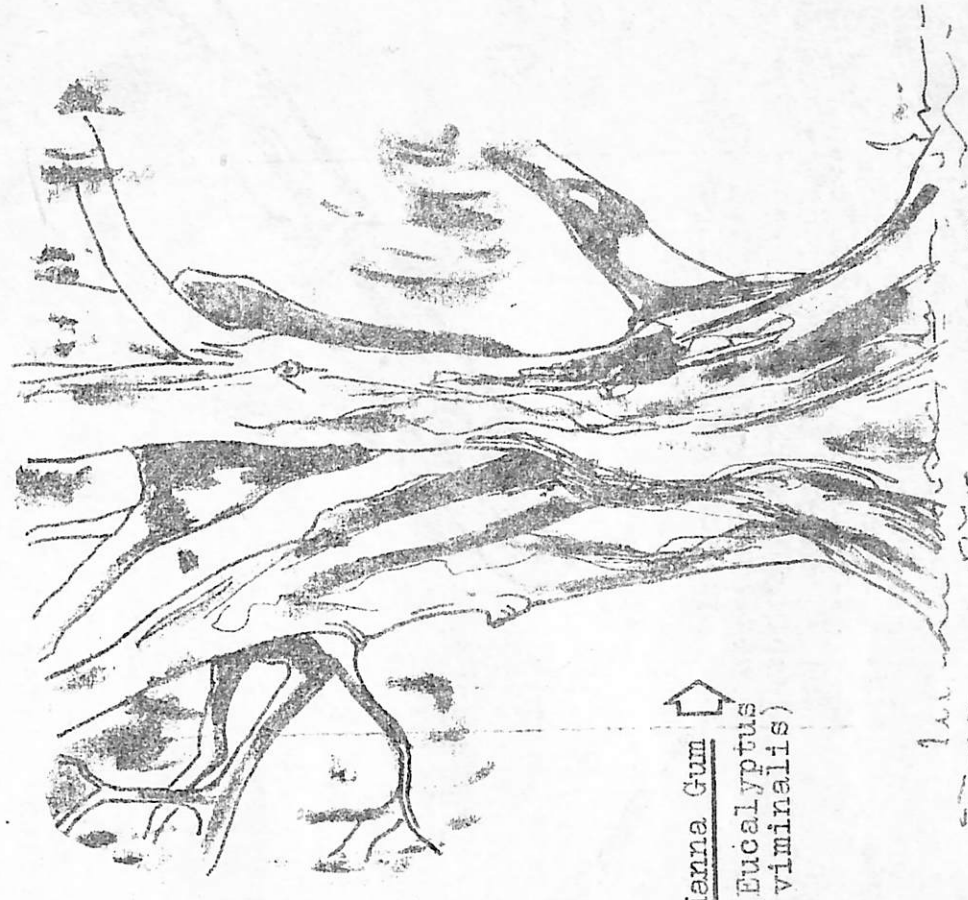
Euc. viridis one of our Victorian Mallees, is a shapely, small tree for a dry place with dark green leaves and clusters of small pure white flowers.

These are just a few of many lovely and beautiful gum trees to choose from, some growing to a much greater height than those mentioned, but still suitable for gardens.



Buds.  
Euc. viridis

# The Tree as a Home...



Manna Gum  
(Eucalyptus viminalis)

I am sure that every boy and girl reading this article could tell me the names of many animals and birds that make their homes in trees. We have all seen koalas drowsing in tall gums, possums scampering in the pepper trees at night, bats darting from tree hollows at dusk and birds building their nests.

\* In this article I want to tell you about other living things that make their homes in trees; animals that perhaps have escaped your notice. For the busy and destructive termite (or white ant as it is incorrectly called) the tree is not only a home but a larder as well. Colonies of up to eight million have been found living in one tree, quietly but voraciously eating away at its heart. In many cases their presence in the tree is not noticed until it is felled and then a large hollow, called a pipe, will be found extending throughout the trunk. It is in this pipe that the nest is built with the wood pulp excreted by termites. Here the termites are snugly housed, protected from the weather and enemies and surrounded by their favourite food.



Pygmy  
Possum

Yellow  
Robin  
at  
Nest



Termite  
Worker  
Queen



Timber  
after  
termites.

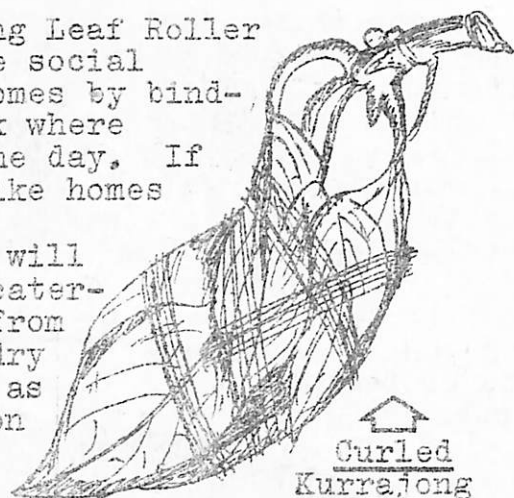


\* The huntsmen shares his bark home with many other small animals. Sometimes you will find several small Marbled Scorpions hiding there with their stinging tails cocked forward over their bodies. Handle these carefully as a sting can be painful. Adult stink bugs in drab coats for camouflage will often over-winter beneath the shelter of bark on trees.

A pile of sawdust and blobs of sticky resin at the foot of an acacia or eucalypt will often tell us that another tree resident is at home. The larvae of the woodmoth, some species of which have a wingspan of five inches, drill holes deep into the trunk and roots of these trees while the larva of the Longicorn beetles may spend up to two to three years burrowing away inside the tree before emerging later as the slim beetle with long antennae that we know so well.

\* If you look under the loose bark of trees like the Murray River Red Gum, you will be sure to find some Huntsmen Spiders as they are commonly called. Most of the huntsmen spiders belong to the genera "Isopeda" which means equal legged but this is not a good name for them for in fact the first pair of legs are longer than the rest. This is why they can scuttle sideways when disturbed, earning the name crab spiders as they do so. It is the female that is most often seen, crouched over her silken egg sac or a clutch of newly hatched spider-lings.

\* The larvae of the Kurrajong Leaf Roller and the Ochrogaster Moths are social insects and build communal homes by binding leaves together with silk where they live in safety during the day. If you open up one of the bag-like homes of the Ochrogaster Moth or Processional Caterpillar you will find a number of very hairy caterpillars, old cast-off skins from previous molts and piles of dry excreta. Be careful though as the hairs can cause irritation to sensitive skins.



Curled  
Kurrajong  
Leaf

White Cockatoo  
on the alert.

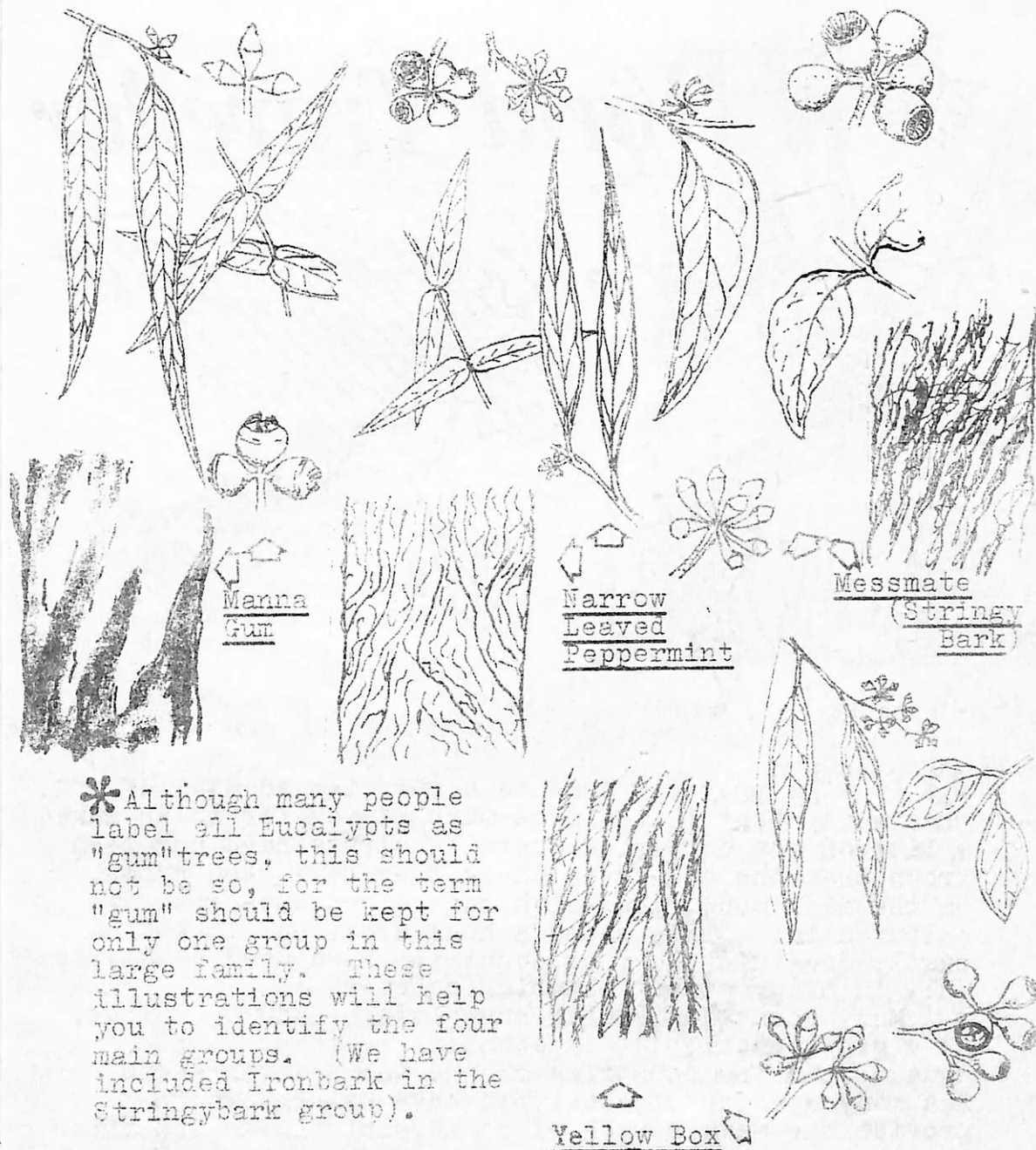


Pupa



In northern Queensland's rain forests a green tree ant builds a similar nest by using thread spun by its own larva to bind leaves together into a home like that of the Leafroller and Ochrogaster Moths. But these are only a few of the many living things that depend on trees for a home and for food. Next time you sit under a shady tree on a warm sunny day, give a thought to the bees, ants, beetles, wasps, grasshoppers, crickets, termites, spiders, scorpions, sawflies, aphids, scale insects, mammals, birds and so many other living things that are sharing the tree with you. \*

August Nature Notes--10



Manna  
Gum

Narrow  
Leaved  
Peppermint

Messmate  
(Stringy  
Bark)

Yellow Box

\* Although many people label all Eucalypts as "gum" trees, this should not be so, for the term "gum" should be kept for only one group in this large family. These illustrations will help you to identify the four main groups. (We have included Ironbark in the Stringybark group).

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A good book "Trees of Victoria" by L.F. Costermans, only 50c.

# *A World Traveller*



★ It will probably come as a surprise to most of you when I say that it would be much easier for me to make a list of the countries where eucalypts have not been grown than the countries where they have been grown. On the map, countries which have grown eucalypts are coloured in. This seems a huge area, but it is partly deceiving as some countries have used eucalypts only in minor street planting schemes.

Many countries, which have little natural forest, have grown eucalypts for economic reasons. In Ecuador and the countries around the Mediterranean Sea many species of eucalypts have been grown to provide the main source of commercial timber and fire wood.



★ In California *Eucalyptus globulus* (The Blue Gum) has been grown to provide valuable windbreaks for citrus orchards.

In Russia eucalypts are used to a great extent for commercial timber, for the production of essential oils, for shade and shelter and for ornament.

To give examples of their adaptability different species have been grown successfully in the heat of the Sahara with a rainfall of less than ten inches a year, in Indonesia where the annual rainfall is over 150 inches, in Russia where the winter temperature is repeatedly as low as 18° F. below freezing, and in Ecuador at heights over 10,000 feet above sea level (higher than Mt. Kosciusko 7316 feet).



This tree is over 100 year old. A *Eucalyptus globulus*, it was grown from the first seed supply introduced into Argentina.

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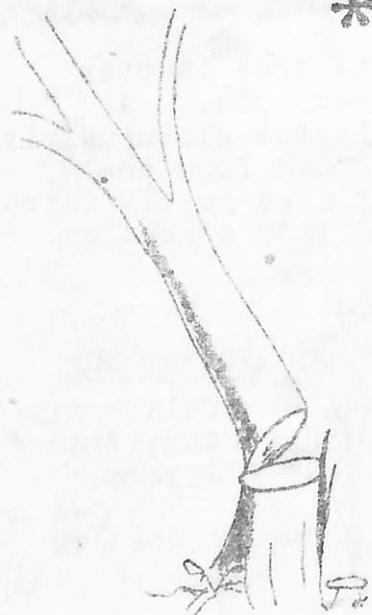
← Lemon-scented Gum  
(Argentina).



← Sugar Gum  
(California and Sth. Africa).

# CONSERVATION!

\* In most parts of Australia, Eucalypts are the major trees of our forest. The word EUCALYPT means well covered. Well covered refers to the buds with their distinctive caps. When thinking of conservation we generally think of conservation of our Natural Resources. Natural resources being natural material considered useful to man and his way of life. Some natural resources are unable to renew themselves such as minerals. When they are used they are gone forever. Others are renewable e.g. forest, which can, when used, be regrown. Conservation of our natural resources is making use of our natural resources in the best possible way for mankind.



\* When we talk about conservation of our forests, we try to decide what is the best way to use our forests. It may be to fell the trees, or at least some of the trees, for timber. It may be to protect the trees as they may be the homes of some rare fauna.



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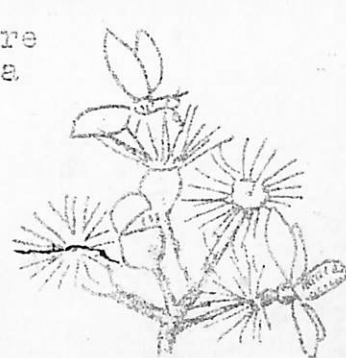
\* It may be that the trees are urgently required to hold the loose soil in place and if cut down, serious erosion could result. Perhaps they are majestic giants which are so attractive that they are best left standing for people to view and admire.

They could be very old trees which have been growing for hundreds of years and have great historic value.

Perhaps they are providing a valuable wind break, which is giving protection to a grain crop and thus aiding the farmer in obtaining a better yield from his land.

Possibly they are valuable honey flora trees and as such are of great assistance to the bee keeper.

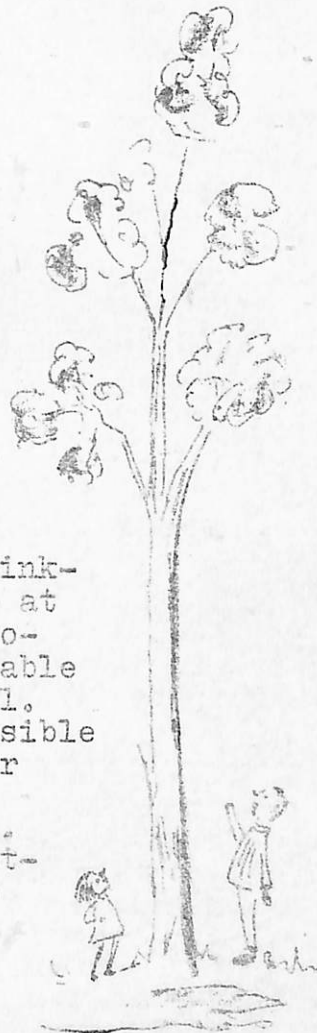
They could be the food trees of koalas and if removed would mean disaster to the koalas in that area.



Possibly they are in a water catchment area and are helping to purify our drinking water, while at the same time protecting the valuable layer of top soil.

It may well be possible to use our forests for some or all of these purposes at the one time.

However girls and boys whatever is done now will affect generations of Australians in years to come.



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# NATURE SHOW

Lower Town Hall, Swanston St. Melbourne

NATURE - NATURE - NATURE

Mon. 26th, Tues. 27th, Wed. 28th August

A MUST for the Holidays - DON'T MISS OUT!

For information and project material on timber and allied products, write to :-

\*Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd.,

368 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, 3000

\*Burnie Board and Timber Pty. Ltd.,

360 Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000

\*Forestry and Timber Bureau,

450 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000

\*Natural Resources Conservation League of Victoria,

Springvale Road, Springvale, 3171

\*Masonite Corporation (Australia) Pty. Ltd.,

Box 75, P.O. Rosebery, N.S.W. 2018.

APOLOGIES We apologise for these errors which crept into the last issue.

1. The floral emblem for the Northern Territory is Sturt's Desert Rose (*Gossypium sturtianum*) and not Sturt's Desert Pea.
2. The heading for the centre page should have been Animal Coverings and not Movement.
3. In the editor's reply on page 13 the greenhood pictured is *Pterostylis parviflora* and not *conchina*.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Tree as a Home

A.J. Stevenson, H.M. Public School  
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Products of the Forest

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Eucalypts in the Garden

Mrs. M. Fisch

Conservation

T.R. Oxlee

As a World Traveller

H. Tobin

Some Characteristics

Mrs. G. Hensler

Editor

L.J. Delacoe

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