

NATURE NOTES

1970

AUG

RUBBISH RALIA!



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PRIZELETTER

This month we have two "firsts" in our prizeletter section - the first poem to win a prize and Barbara Sharp of Mirrabooka wins her second Periwinkle, the first to do so. Barbara wins "Wild Flowers of South-East Australia", - a beautiful Periwinkle by Jutta Hosell, - a welcome addition to any library.

Pollution! Pollution! Pollution!
If only we knew the solution.
Its seen everyday,
In the bush and the bay,
We need a complete revolution!

Motor fumes fill the air all around,
Cans and papers cover the ground,
The Yarra's a tip
For rubbish spilt by a ship
Piles up on the beach in a mound.

If each of us took great care
Not to leave rubbish anywhere;
If factories cut down
On smoke black, grey and brown
We'd have cleaner country and air.



Dear Girls and Boys,

I hope you like our special issue and as you read it, become more aware of the message we bring and really do something about it.

Recently the boys at Box Hill High in their Walkathon to Captain Cook's Cottage collected about two large truck loads of rubbish. Included in this amount were - 250 newspapers, 1000 paper cartons, 4000 other paper products, 400 beer cans, 80 soft drink cans, 20 other cans, 80 plastic units, 60 bottles of various kinds.

From their splendid effort they presented a cheque for \$866.75 to K.A.B.C. Longerenong College also had a clean-up campaign on the Western Highway near Horsham. They covered just 12 miles of highway and picked up 15,000 cans, 6,000 bottles, 40,000 cigarette packets, 20,000 other items of rubbish. Perhaps this clean-up idea could catch on.

What sort of people are we? Why do we litter our greatest asset? Do we do this on our own front lawns and nature strips? What changes us when we get on to public property? The cost of cleaning up our litter is estimated to be \$30 million per year. Add to this the cost of bushfires and accidents, caused in most cases by litter bugs. Imagine the extra schools equipment etc that this unnecessary wastage could buy. Perhaps we could end our education crisis, and keep our country beautiful, as it was meant to be.

This month we give you with Nature Notes, through the courtesy of Mr. Gordon Cooper of the K.A.B.C, a plastic litter bag for you to use in your car or home and a car sticker with the K.A.B.C. symbol on it for your car window.

You know pollution affects everyone, not just the fellow you saw drop that paper on the nature strip or toss that can from his car. We can all play our part, especially girls and boys, for by your example in looking for the bin for your ice-cream paper etc, surely we can get the parents and teeners to feel just a little ashamed and aware enough to do the same thing. Make your slogan "DON'T DROP IT - BIN IT".

N.B. K.A.B.C =

L.J.Delacca, Editor.

"Keep Australia Beautiful Council" (See p. 15)

SERENDIP

● About 40 miles west of Melbourne is a large unusual farm. This farm is concerned with the Research and Management of wildlife, particularly on farmland. Wildlife research includes studies on kangaroos, rarer marsupials, birds, ducks, quail etc. Wildlife management includes pond management for water fowl (growth of cover plants, nesting plants, pond weeds, levee banks etc.)



Magpie Goose

● This farm which is near Lara is called "Serendip". It is controlled by the Fisheries and Wildlife Department. Serendip means "something of great value accidentally found when looking for something else".



Potoroo

● At about the centre of the station is a 60 acre lake. This provides food and refuge for wild ducks and similar birds. Because there were not sufficient trees around this lake, artificial nesting boxes were erected. I hope that more Australian trees are planted so that the ducks will be able to find their own nesting sites. As ducks also nest in tussocks it was necessary for the wardens to find a means of keeping the sheep from spoiling the immediate surrounds of the lake.



Chestnut Teal.

● Normally the ducks do not build nests where they are likely to be disturbed, or if they do build, the nests are often deserted, because of disturbance, before the young hatch.

● Serendip discovers practical details of how the farms may encourage the return of some of our animals, and support numbers of these useful creatures. Numerous little habitat niches could be developed on a well managed farm and then it may be possible for people to see again those creatures which were once common in Victoria in the early years of settlement.

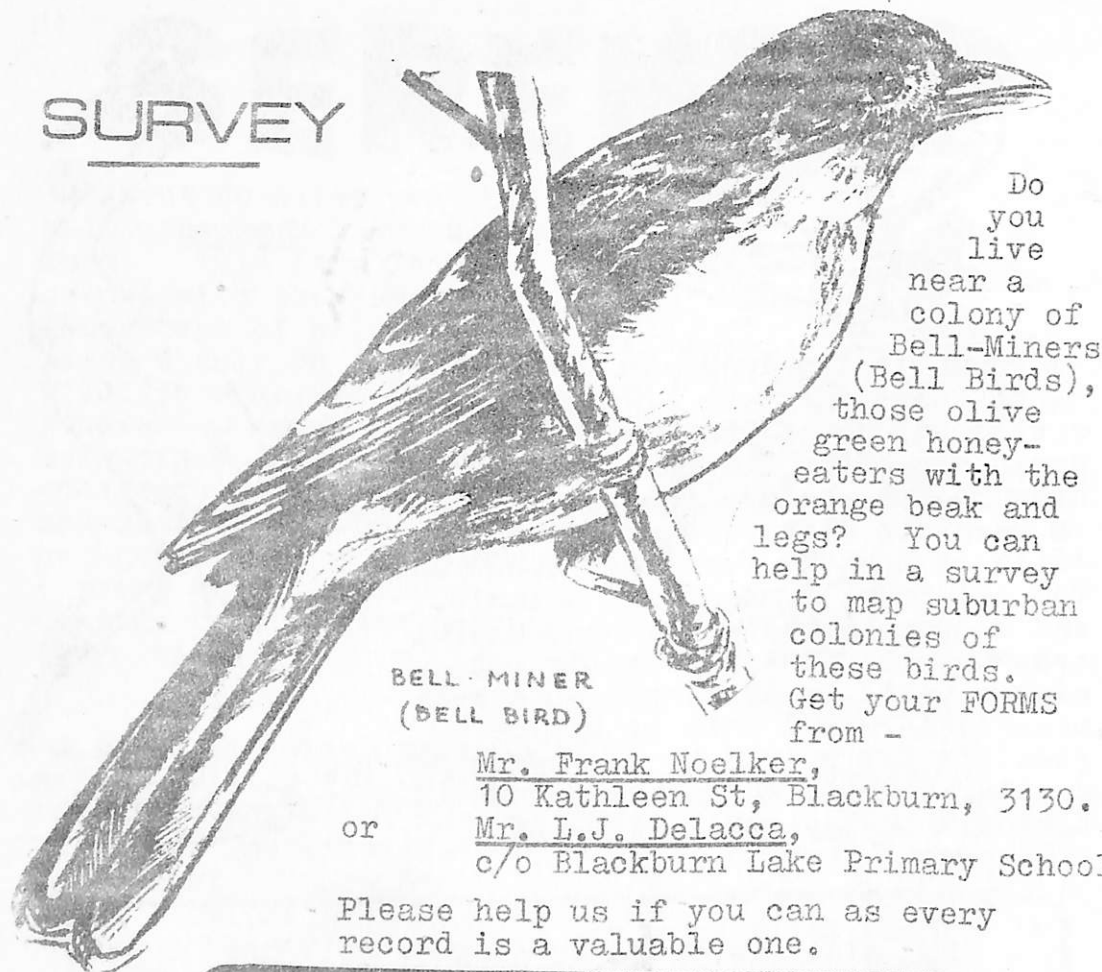


Brolga

You will see these at Serendip, Cape Barren Goose; Teal; Mountain Duck; Brolga; Magpie Goose; Bustard; Black Duck; Wood Duck; Potoroo.

● There are some Sundays during the year when it is possible to visit Serendip to see for yourself the work that is being done. Why don't you find out when the next open day is a take Mum and Dad along to see? Information and dates of open days can be obtained from Fisheries and Wildlife Dept. Melbourne.

SURVEY



Do
you
live
near a
colony of
Bell-Miners
(Bell Birds),
those olive
green honey-
eaters with the
orange beak and
legs? You can
help in a survey
to map suburban
colonies of
these birds.
Get your FORMS
from -

BELL-MINER
(BELL BIRD)

Mr. Frank Noelker,
10 Kathleen St, Blackburn, 3130.
or
Mr. L.J. Delacca,
c/o Blackburn Lake Primary School.

Please help us if you can as every
record is a valuable one.

NATURE SHOW

and display of Australian Native
Flowers.

Monday 14th September
Tuesday 15th September
Wednesday 16th September
Lower Melbourne Town Hall

10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Admission. Adults 30c.
Child. 10c.

Man is laying waste the earth and yet the earth still
issues her challenge. It is still in our power to over-
come the destructive cycles we have set in motion.
But first we must seek understanding . . . of Nature's
balance of soil-type, vegetation, climate, insects
and man.

— Elyne Mitchell
Soil and Civilization

Caring for our World:

WILL OUR WORLD BE A FIT PLACE IN WHICH TO
LIVE IN THE YEAR 2000 A.D.?

*** In 1925, this was written:

"The man with the gun is another source of destruction. The
cheap motor car and motor boat have rendered easily accessible
the fastnesses where the wild creatures were once safe.
The internal combustion engine gives the wild animal no chance.
The "sport" with the gun destroys too often for the sake of killing.
He kills alike the rabbit and the fox and also the harmless mar-
supial and the useful insectivorous birds. If he would keep to
vermin we might admire him, but he cannot refrain from seeing
what his gun can do."

This was a criticism against the motor car. Today, we
have another case against the car . . . what is it?

Many other factors are spoiling the land on which we live.
Without any effort you could name at least twenty of them. But,
do you do anything to prevent these harmful effects? Think
about it! Will you play your part in keeping our world a safe
place in which to live?

Play the "game" on the next two pages. Send your results
or opinions to the Editor.

2,000 A.D. ?

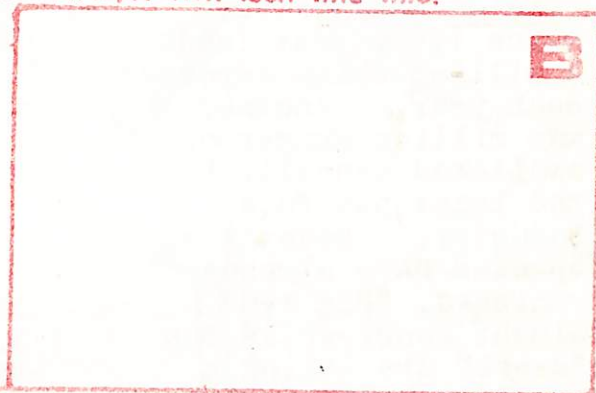
OUR WORLD TODAY



OUR WORLD AFTER 2000 AD

This is not a happy game to play. Here are two sets of spaces; some have illustrations. Your task is to fill the spaces with appropriate drawings.

If we do not look after our World, it will look like this.



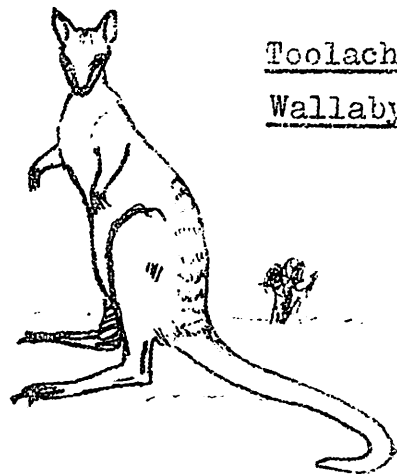
GOING, GOING, Gone-----

Recently in a daily newspaper I noticed these very disturbing figures - "an estimated six million kangaroos slaughtered and sent to foreign meat markets since 1958. At least a million skins exported each year. Another two million kangaroos swallowed annually by the local pet food industry. Several species have already vanished, "big red" almost gone, while the "greys" are taking a terrific battering".

Can we not do something in this our 200th anniversary year to save our national emblem?

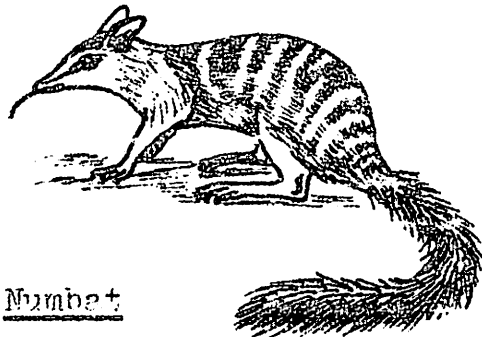
Many of our other unique fauna have been brought to the point of extinction.

Numbat - we won't see this fellow in the wild state again in south-eastern Australia. Bush-fires and the introduced fox have seen to that. One species of Numbat may still be found in South West Australia.



Toolache
Wallaby

The Toolache Wallaby has been described as the most beautiful of all the kangaroo family but unfortunately we'll never see one for they became extinct over 40 years ago. At the present rate of destruction and sluggish action by governments the same fate is rapidly over-



Numbat

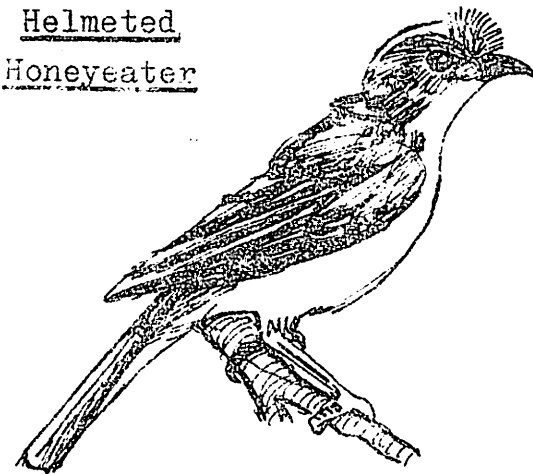
taking other members of the kangaroo family - and for what? - pets, toys and fur coats. What a price to pay!

You won't have far to go to find the habitat of this exclusive Victorian bird, but you may have to search very hard to find him, for his numbers are believed to be down to just a few hundred, probably even less. The Helmeted Honey-eater is found at Yellingbo, just off the road to Warburton on the Woori Yallock Creek, but will he be found there much longer?

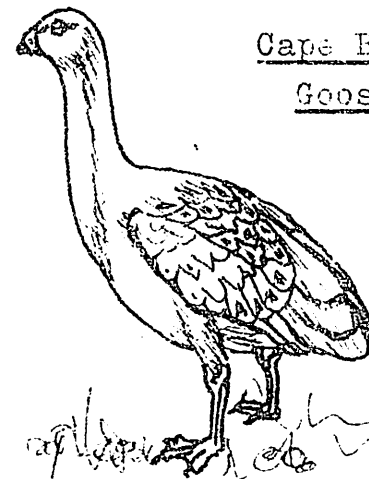
Thanks to man and fire this seems rather doubtful, as his restricted habitat confines him to dense shrubbery along the margins of creeks and streams. Only by a concerted effort by all Victorians will this rare and beautiful honeyeater be saved.

If you visit Serendip (see Mr. Roger's articles on Page 4-5) you will see this most unusual and quite uncommon goose. Cape Barren Geese are mainly found on islands in Bass Strait. If you see any while travelling through Southern Victoria, let the Fisheries and Wildlife Department know for they are keen to know of its movements, but be sure it is the right bird first.

Helmeted
Honeyeater



Cape Barren
Goose



These are only a few of our many animals that are either extinct or in danger. Can you discover the names of others?

Remember it's up to everyone to preserve them for posterity and help to keep Australia Beautiful.

Plants in Danger

► If you have lived in a district for a few years you will have noticed that the countryside, or the landscape if you like, has changed. Most times this is a change caused by the removal of plants. The tall trees which have taken tens of years and in some cases hundreds of years to grow have been cut down or destroyed. Perhaps you feel it doesn't matter but have you thought of the uses of plants and what the world would be like if they were removed. Many people enjoy the bush and they wish to live in amongst it but usually they clear their block of land and before long the people around about have also cleared their blocks of land and then the area is like any cleared suburban area.

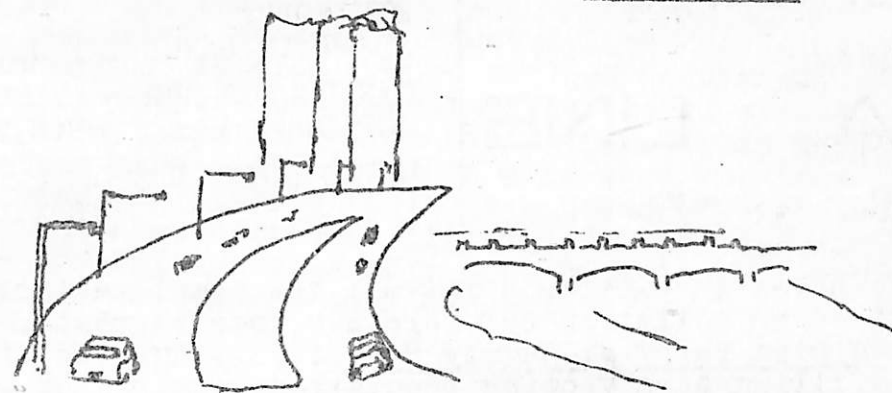
►► Once upon a time there were no roads, no farms and no white people in Victoria. When farms were planned it was usual to leave wide areas for roads so that stock could be easily driven along them.

►► With a little forethought these could have remained sanctuaries for animals - or are you one of the people who think that there is no place in Victoria for our birds and our possums, our kangaroos etc. Have you read any of the book "Silent Spring" by Rachael Carson. Perhaps your teacher would read it to you.

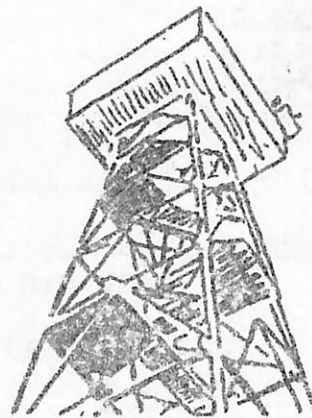
►► Before plants disappear because of the making of new roads, I think that there should be some authority to say "It won't matter if these plants disappear because there are plenty in areas A and B", or "these are rare plants and should be retained". This will keep plants for man to use, because as man's knowledge increases so does his ability to use plants to save his life.



► Our plants are in danger from Road Making



► Bush Fires



► Rubbish dumpers, home builders and pine plantations are also a danger to our native plants.

►► Many introduced plants threaten Australian plants with extinction. Blackberries very quickly form a thicket in which little else will grow. Capeweed soon smothers the plants around it and introduced grasses usually are too vigorous

for the smaller plants.

►► Some Victorian plants have disappeared and others are believed to be close to extinction. These are some - Acacia enterocarpa, Acacia havilandii, Pultenaea patellifolia, Eucalyptus crenulata, Choristemon humilis, Eucalyptus neglecta, Eucalyptus alpina.

Look for them in such books in the Library as Victorian Year Book 1962, Plants of Victoria in Colour, J.H. Willis.



Blackberry

DROP

A LINE



CONTENTS

SERENDIP.
PLANT IN DANGER. F.J.C.Rogers
CARING FOR OUR
WORLD. R.G.White
GOING GOING GONE.
L.J.Delacca

We haven't space to print all the complete letters we received on pollution but here are some extracts.
From Miriam Perry of Surrey Hills..... Rubbish tips are fast filling as a growing population gets rid of waste food stuffs, old clothing, tin cans and glass bottles. Australia is a growing land of litter bugs. Some of Australia's most beautiful beaches, parks, scenic reserves and picnic areas are having their beauty destroyed through the actions of thoughtless, selfish people. Glass bottles, tin cans, waste food stuffs and papers are festooned about these areas and as a result our great land is fast losing its reputation for beauty of natural surroundings and becoming instead one huge rubbish tip.

Josine Meijer also of Surrey Hills writes.... Man's greatest problem in modern times is pollution. Pollution can be found in many forms - the foulness of our air for instance is caused by cars letting out carbon monoxide, factories pouring out their filthy wastes, the burning of garbage and industries expelling thousands of gallons of detergent and other liquids.

Land pollution is something different again. People throw their dirty, sticky papers on the footpath and make a great mess. Recently the boys from Box Hill High School collected rubbish along the 12 miles between their school and the Treasury Gardens and dumped it in front of Captain Cook's Cottage. They put it there to demonstrate just how serious is the problem of litter in our community.

Vicki Balabanski and Jane Brownrigg of Blackburn Lake write
Lately while walking by Dandenong Creek we noticed large pools of oil floating down with the current. We also saw some foamy white suds which we think would have come from Nature Notes

people cleaning their cars. As we continued walking we spotted some slimy old soft drink cans that had been washed up. On leaving the creek and striding up a nearby bush track we kept a careful look-out for any more rubbish. We didn't have to look very hard. There were old newspapers and magazines scattered around. Some of them dated back into early 1968. This showed that people hadn't attempted to pick them up since then, thus giving the place a neglected, couldn't care-less look. Yes what a problem litter is? How can we educate our elders for surely most of this letter came from people old enough to know better.
ED. More pollution letters next month.

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL



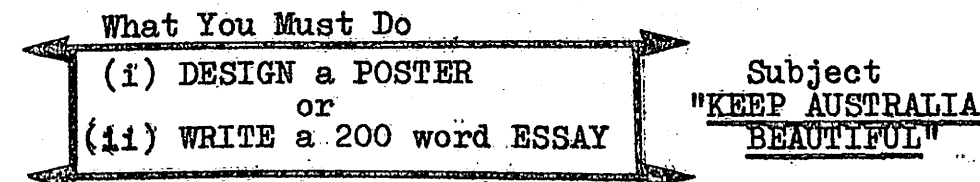
COMPETITION

● Big Prizes To Be Won. ●

COMPETITION ●

Brown Gouge Ltd. in conjunction with K.A.B.C. announce exciting contest for children 6 to 14 years.

★ PRIZES \$160.00 worth of glorious books on Australia.



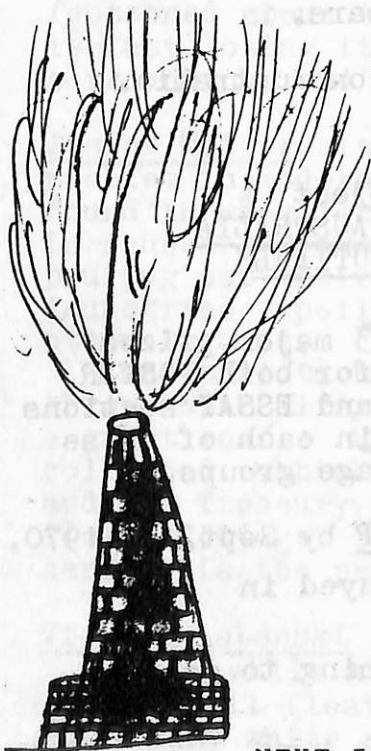
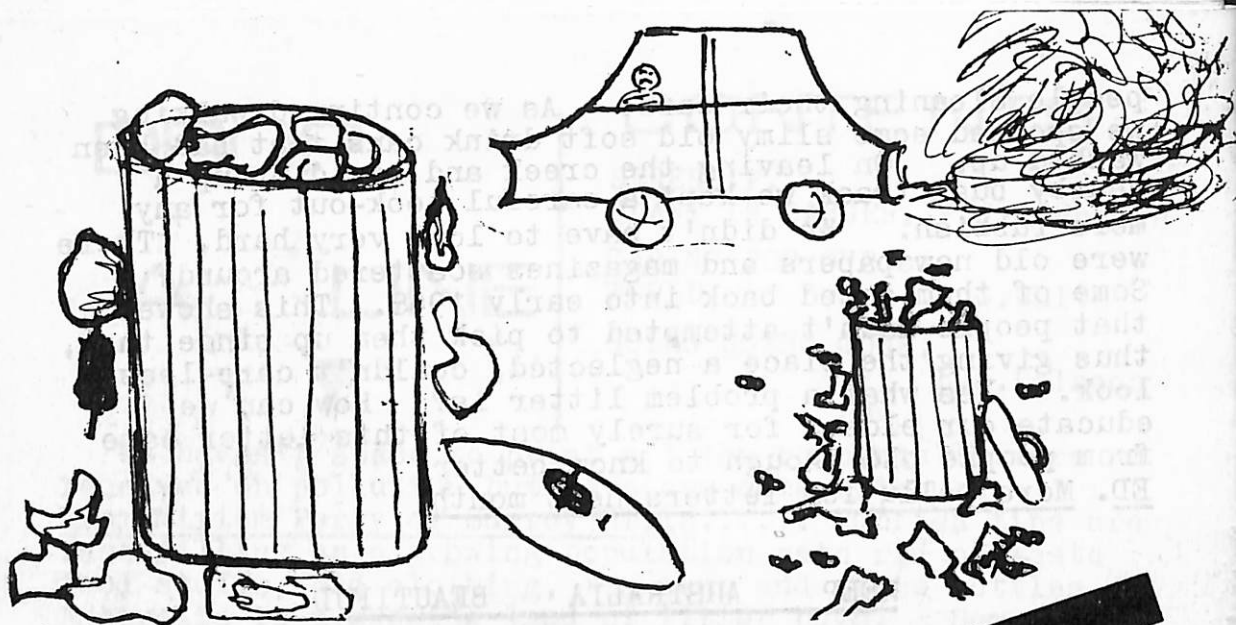
★ PRIZES

6 - 8 years	10 - 12 years	3 major prizes for both POSTER and ESSAY sections in each of these age groups.
8 - 10 years	12 - 14 years	

plus 40 consolation prizes.

★ ENTRIES - to your local BROWN GOUGE SHOP by Sept. 9, 1970.
WINNERS - announced in the SUN and displayed in Brown Gouge depots.

★ So be in it Nature Notes readers - something to do in the holidays and you may win a prize.

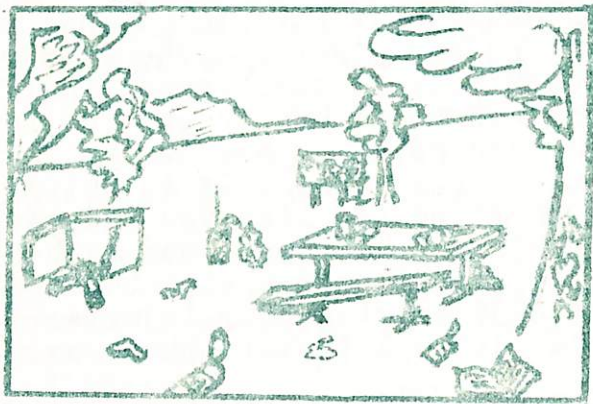


DON'T AUST

NATURE NOTES — P1

NEXT ISSUE AT DEPOTS BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th

Pollution ION POLLUTION



This or This?

★ Hardly a day goes by without meeting this word "POLLUTION" in our daily papers or our favourite TV channel. What does it mean? Why all this sudden interest?

According to my dictionary "pollution" means "the destruction of the purity or sanctity of something"; "the making of something pure into something foul or filthy".

Pollution has in the last decade or so become one of the greatest, most urgent problems facing mankind. This problem is just as acute in the highly developed countries as in the underdeveloped. We find pollution on the air, pollution of the water and pollution of the land.

Some time ago I asked for your thoughts on this problem and in this supplement and in our "Drop a Line" section we publish the feelings of some girls and boys from Surrey Hills and Blackburn Lake Primary Schools.

What about some thoughts on possible solutions from other schools? Hope to hear from you.

L.J. Delacca.

POLLUTION LETTERS

From Heather Saltmarsh of Surrey Hills.

★ Pollution is everywhere, we can't escape it. It is caused by the carelessness of all human beings. Our "friend" the litter bug causes our streets, towns, rivers and states to look like one big pigsty. The litter dropped at the M.C.G. each year at the "grand final" costs thousands of dollars that we could use to pay for new roads and schools, thus much of the money we pay in taxes just goes towards cleaning up a mess. It is not just the football crowds but ordinary people like you and me. This litter problem is so great that Melbourne may even have a mouse plague as a result. In summer on the beaches broken bottles are left on the sand causing many injuries.

One who cleans up the edible litter is the sea-gull.

WATER Some of our lakes have been badly polluted. Studley Park Lake was once a large and beautiful lake swarming with fish, but because of yacht races there, the small amount of fungi that grew, the lake had to be destroyed. In doing so all the fish were killed. Edwards Lake was another good example. It was once a clean fresh lake. Many children from the school nearby went swimming and fishing there but now it is just a filthy pool full of oil slicks and other waste products from the factory closeby, once again killing all the fish. The shore line is scattered with beer cans, waste paper and other litter.

AIR One would think you could go into the country and forget all about the pollution problem but it is a completely different story. Close to the cattle fields, factories are shooting up like rockets. The fresh green grass is being covered with layers of soot making it unbearable for edible grazing ground. In the U.S.A. motor vehicles pour out one hundred million tons of Deadly Carbon Monoxide each year. Factories pour out twenty-eight million tons of chemicals smoke and poisonous fumes.

What are the possible effects of this on the earth? Could it be that it is having a glass house effect on the

world, with a layer of thick smog forming in the atmosphere and encircling the earth? This would allow the sun's heat in but not out, causing the ice-caps to melt making the seas rise up to 300 feet higher than their present level flooding great areas of what is now dry land. Melbourne would be inundated.

Impossible? Many of the world's leading scientists do not think so. What do you think?

* * * * *

Helen Carter of Surrey Hills writes.....

★ Pollution is caused mainly by the emission into the atmosphere, water and land of waste materials from human-beings, animals and industries. Man made wastes come mainly from motor vehicles, factories, furnaces, burning of household garbage, dust and house fires.

Much of the damage is caused by human-beings whom we call "litter bugs". Everybody in the world would have dropped a paper sooner or later in their lives. Every year more people are born and more litter is dropped. The forests in the bush and country sides are becoming more filthy from people. In summer the beaches are covered with icy-pole sticks, cans, bottles and pieces of brown and white paper.

On Thursday the 4th of June, a group of 31 children went to visit Edwards Lake at Reservoir and found instead of a clear clean lake, thousands of dying and dead fish on the surface of the murky, foggy polluted water, gasping for air. Oil slicks, cans and bottles dotted the whole of Edwards Lake. Many residents of Reservoir lined the banks searching for dying fish. When they were asked what they were doing, some answered, they were taking them back to their houses in buckets of water and putting them into their fish ponds,, while others said they were just trying to save the dying fish.

Soot, which makes up part of pollution, will stick to anything it touches. In London it is said that the damage caused by it is several million dollars each year, the cost to clean smoke stains and soot smudges from clothes, curtains and furniture.

* * * * *

Veronica Stanesco of Blackburn Lake writes....

★Pollution is a world wide problem. If something isn't done about it soon, it could be chaos for all. Man is the main one to blame for it. Ever since he made the first fire, the pollution rate has grown. Over in America, people are dying earlier than their usual age and we can blame pollution as a probable cause. How can we stop this poisonous thing? Many people have thought about this problem, but haven't yet come up with a complete answer. If people had only given more thought before building the factories and smoke stacks. In twenty years time, our main fuel source may be some sort of radio-active material. I heard on the news where three men on a raft sailing across the Atlantic Ocean saw cans, broken bottles and huge oil slicks, all thousands of miles from land. When oil tankers are out at sea, people throw their waste material overboard. Many rivers are so polluted that the only living thing left is algae. This is a terrible thing and something should be done before it's too late. Some factories pour out tons of waste substances into rivers, lakes or creeks nearby, changing it into a dead river. Some people try to overcome this problem but it is still increasing. There is a law against people throwing litter out of the window of a car. If they are caught doing this, they may be fined up to \$200 and jailed for one month. Insecticides and sprays are helping to pollute the countryside. Bushfires cause tremendous destruction to our native plants and animals. I often wonder if man is really trying to stop it. After all man started this pollution and in so doing now it seems he is causing his self-destruction.

* * * * *

Joanna Balabanski of Blackburn Lake writes....

★In Brenda Street we used to have a creek. But recently someone has been putting oil into it and it has become a murky sewer. It is also beginning to smell. Visitors to our street used to marvel and say how lucky we were in having a creek, but no more of these sort of comments come now. This is another example of water pollution. If this goes on there will be no natural resources for the fish and other water life.

Continued Page 14.