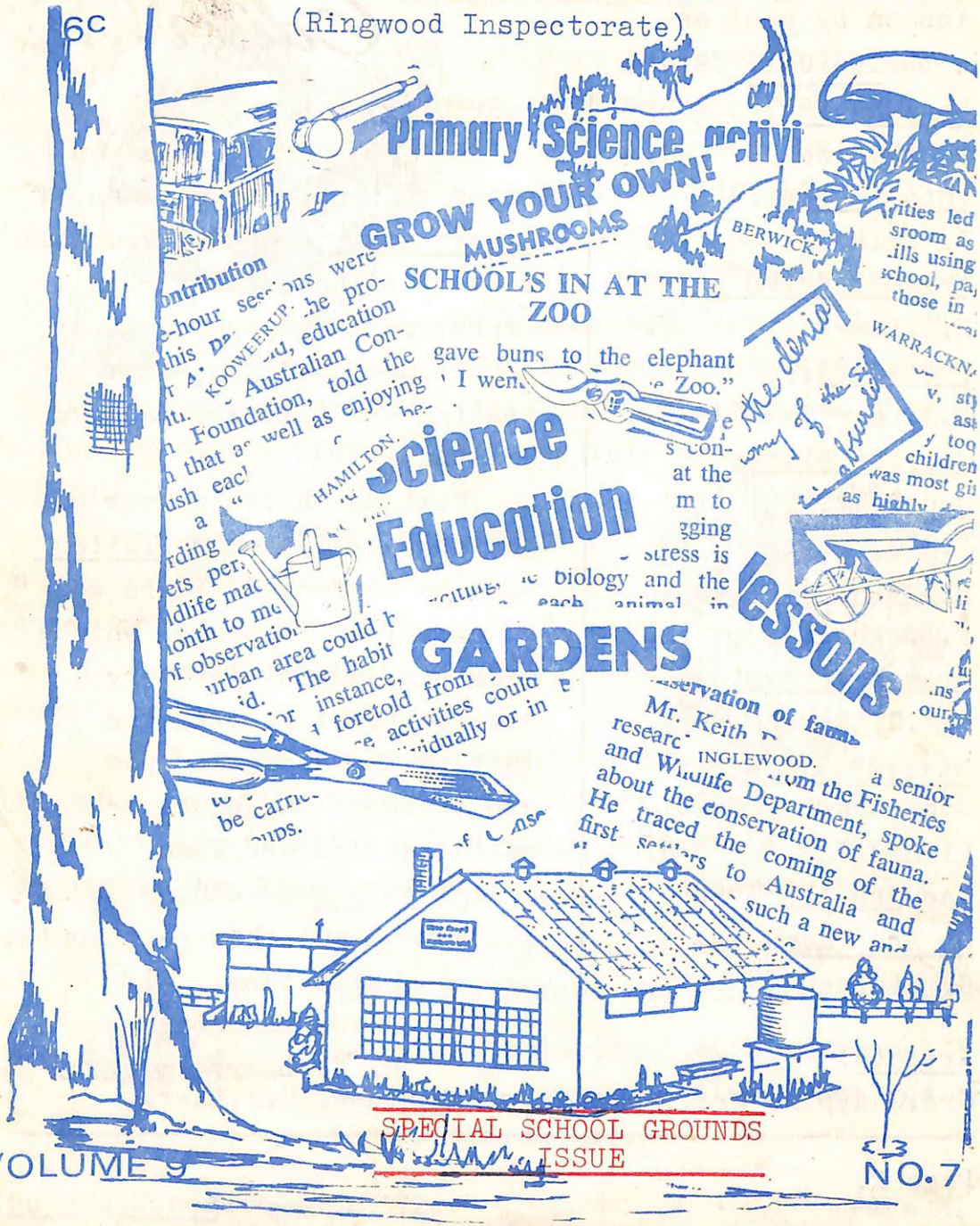
NATURE NOTES

6c

(Ringwood Inspectorate)



VOLUME 9 NO. 7

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From the Editor....

Dear Girls & Boys,

I hope you enjoy this special edition of Nature Notes, and that you will be able to make some improvements to your home or school surroundings, after reading the articles we have printed.

Next month the winner of the competition on pollution will be announced. There was an excellent response, which made the judges' job very difficult. It is pleasing that so many young people are aware of the problem of pollution and are keen enough to say something about it. More about that next month.

Until then,

Yours sincerely,

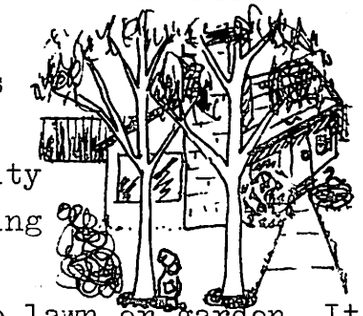
H. J. Lawry (Editor)

LANDSCAPING

YOUR GARDEN

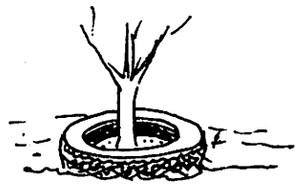
Have you ever noticed how sometimes a garden can look just right or just wrong?

With the just right garden, everything seems to fit into place. The garden, buildings and fences all seem to fit into the picture. When this happens, we use the word "unity" to express the union of many different features into a harmonious whole.



Have you noticed how sometimes a garden seems just wrong? In many cases this is caused by lack of unity and is brought about in the following ways:

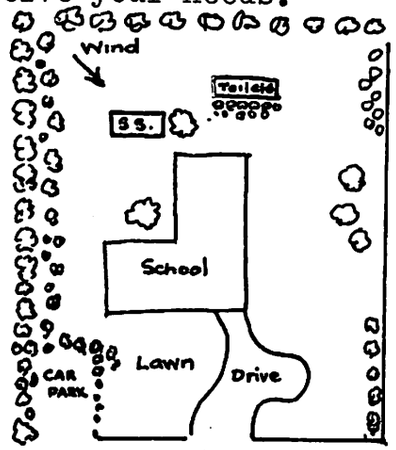
1. Straight lines dividing the lawn or garden. It is much more attractive to use curves rather than straight lines. After all Nature's patterns are rarely straight. Her lines are curved, gentle and flow freely.



2. A rockery or similar structure may be so placed that unity is lost.

3. Garden beds edged with unnatural materials - concrete slabs, bottles tyres, boards etc.

The "just right" garden should not only appear beautiful but at the same time, serve your needs.



Before you commence to make your garden, draw a simple plan showing where all the things you would like in it are going to be placed. Then decide on the types of trees or shrubs you would like to plant. Here are some types of gardens which might be of interest to you.

1. Native Garden. In this type of garden the setting is generally informal. Trees and shrubs are planted closer together than in formal gardens so the garden resembles natural bush. These settings attract bird life to the neighbourhood making it more joyous and intersting

2. Exotic Garden. Here the beds are formal; they may be curved or formed in straight lines. Rhododendrons azaleas and camellias are some of the popular plants used. Although they produce beautiful flowers, they require more care and attention than native plants.

3. Pebble Gardens. These have become very popular as they require very little attention and if designed skilfully, can look very attractive. As this type of garden changes very little from season to season, I think one would eventually tire of it.

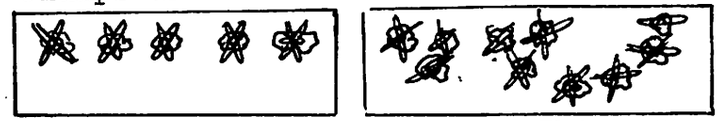
Some Garden Hints:

1. Natives are best purchased small as they are cheaper and produce stronger root systems than advanced types.

2. Don't plant large trees too close to buildings. Fallen leaves block up gutters. Deciduous trees shade windows in summer and allow winter sunlight to filter through.

3. Before you plant a tree or shrub, find out its name, whether it is hardy or not and how high it will eventually grow.

4. Don't plant trees in straight lines. Clumps are more interesting.



5. Don't be frightened of making mistakes. This often stops people from tackling landscape work, but nature has the power to make the "wrong" plant look right in time.

Finally, thought should be given by the planner to some special feature to be prominent in the garden: a selected area of wattles, flowering gums or ferns for example. Look around your school and see what area can be developed into something special which will be peculiar to your very own school, and it alone.

OOCOOOOO

THIS 'n THAT

● It would be hard to imagine a school without books. You know books have been with us for a long long time. About 3000 B.C. the Egyptians wrote on scrolls made from the papyrus plant - the first "books". Can you see from where our word paper came? Scrolls became widely used. Clay tablets were also used until someone thought of making parchment from sheep skins. Later still the Arabs introduced a kind of paper and in the mid 15th.century Gutenberg revolutionised the world of books with his printing press.

● Something to do. Make a project on books. You could have chapters on paper, ink, the press and so on..... .....What about it?

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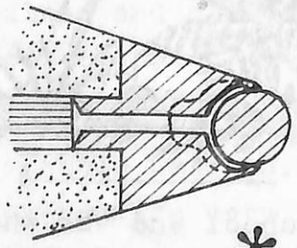


● You might have thought the familiar "biro "was a fairly recent invention as I did. Not so; it was first patented about sixty years ago but only became widely used during World War 2 when airmen asked for a pen that would not leak during sudden changes of altitude as the fountain pen did. The "biro" was an

GOES TO SCHOOL

instant success. Special ink was used to produce a clean continuous line without breaks or blots. Can you discover why it was more successful at high altitudes and why it did not leak?

* ☆ * * * *

● Most schoolgrounds have a "tarred" section set aside for certain games. Most of us probably take this for granted,(unless we land hard on it) but have you ever thought about its composition and where it comes from? Most of these tarred surfaces contain asphalt, a by-product of the petroleum industry.

* * * *

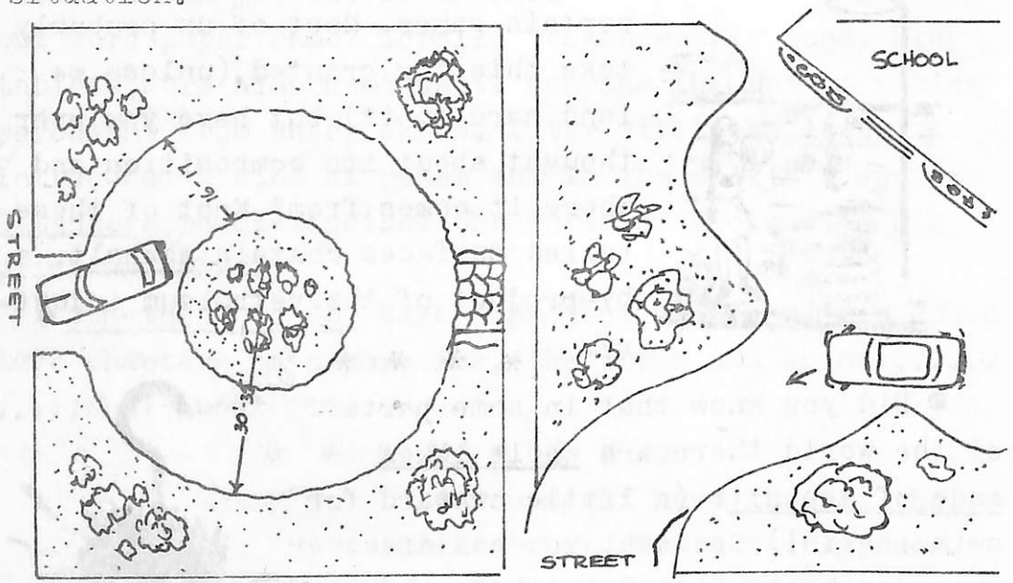
● Did you know that in some parts of the world there are whole lakes made of asphalt? (a little awkward for swimming in!) See what you can discover about asphalt. For what other purposes is it used? If you find a small piece, try melting it down but only with a grown-up's help please. Remember where it came from and the danger of fire?

Perhaps the oil companies can supply you with information. Their address? Try the Pink Pages.

WHY NOT DRIVE IN

Sometimes it is possible to arrange the school or home drive-way so that cars may drive right up to the front door. This is very handy, especially in wet weather!

Below are some suggested lay-outs which might help you plan something suitable for your particular situation.



It is a wise idea to run a car over the proposed drive first to make sure that the track you have chosen is the easiest.

A thick layer of gravel or lilydale topping makes a fine natural surface.

Can your driveway be improved? Discuss this with your teachers, they just might be interested.

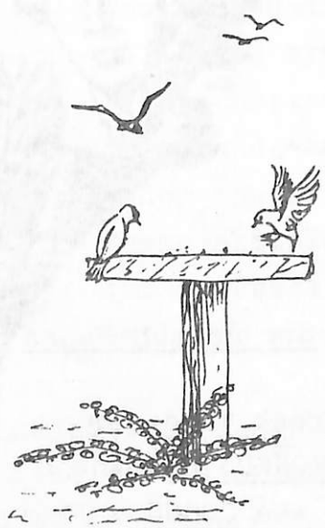
CROSS WORD

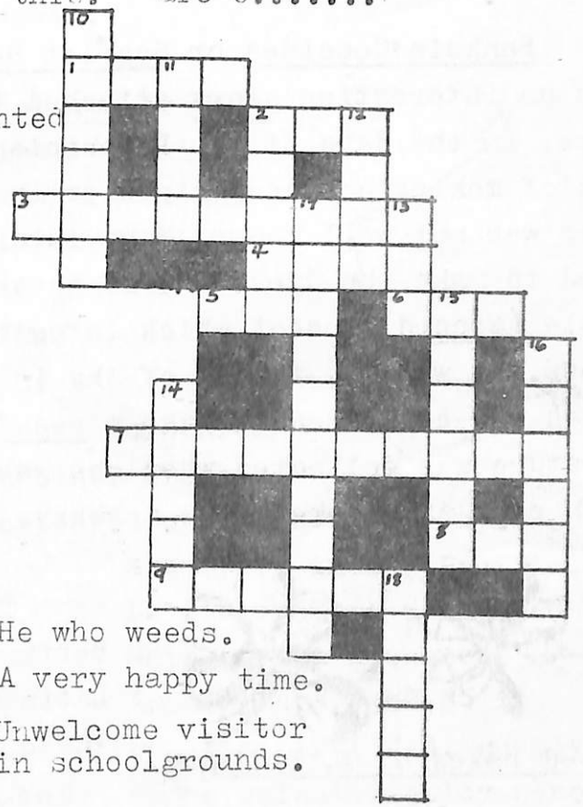
Across.

1. Common insect to most school-grounds.
2. Every school should have at least a few..... trees.
3. Attracts birds.
4. Colour of a Butcherbird.
5. Sheltered side.
6. Noise you might make if you met 18. down.
7. A nature walk in the school ground might be this. (P-------LE)
8. Point of compass.
9. Plenty should be planted in all schoolgrounds.

Down.

10. Common schoolground bird.
11. Sometimes found in gardens...Like a frog
2. For measuring rain.
12. Type of cricket.
13. Used for seeing.
14. They give shelter and shade.
15. Birds like berries that are e.....





16. He who weeds.
17. A very happy time.
18. Unwelcome visitor in schoolgrounds.

STORIES THAT THE PLANTS CAN TELL

Banksias were named in honour of Sir Joseph Banks who came to Australia, or as Captain Cook then called it in 1770, New South Wales. Banks was very interested in Australia and helped our land in many ways during its early days. There are about 59 species of Banksia.

Eucalyptus obliqua or Messmate.

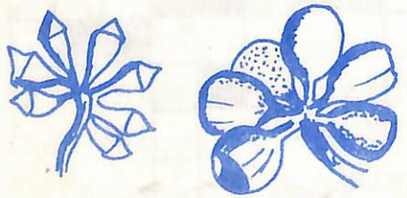
This was the first eucalypt to be scientifically described. It was collected in Tasmania on Cook's third voyage and returned to Kew in England where it was examined and named by a Frenchman L'Heritier. Notice that the sides of the leaf do not join opposite one another, hence the name :"MISS-MATE" or messmate.

Banksia Coccinea or Scarlet Banksia. has an interesting story attached to its name. In the days of the Phoenicians the art of making coloured cloth, or in makin, dyes was not well known. Many things were used to make the dyes. One of these was a scale (coccid) insect which infested oak-trees. It was the female of the insect which was collected to make a red dye. This creature was collected when she was swollen with eggs and looked like a berry.

Sir Joseph Banks

Eucalyptus cornuta or Gate.

This tree is naturally limited to Western Australia where it was collected by Billardiere the French botanist on board the "Esperance" and "Recherche". Under the charge of D'Entrecasteaux, these ships were sent to search for La Perouse, another French explorer who disappeared while on a voyage of discovery in the Pacific. La Billardiere collected Gate on the Recherche Archipelago, and so it was the first W.A. eucalypt to be scientifically named.



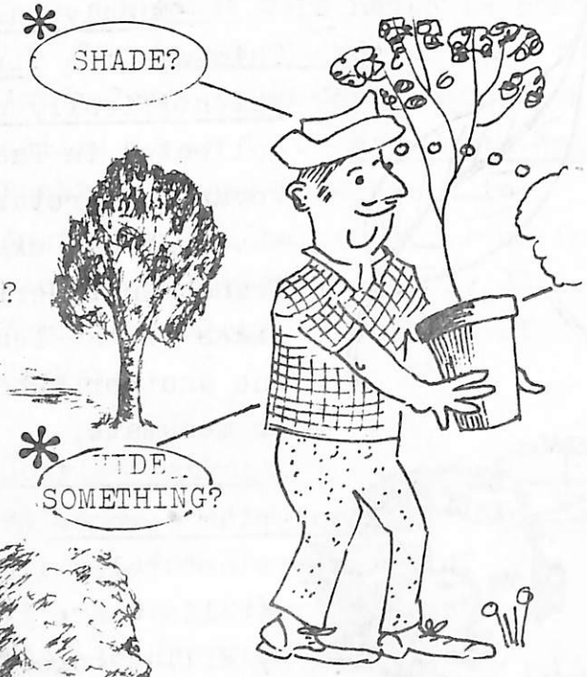
Seed boxes of E. obliqua

The greek word for berry was KOKKUS and the Latin word was COCCUS. From these words we have formed the adjective Coccineus (and like words) which is used to describe a scarlet or crimson colour.

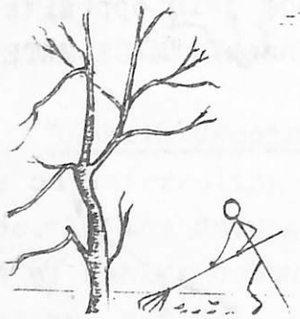
The scientific name for oak tree is Quereus coccifera.

PLANTING A TREE

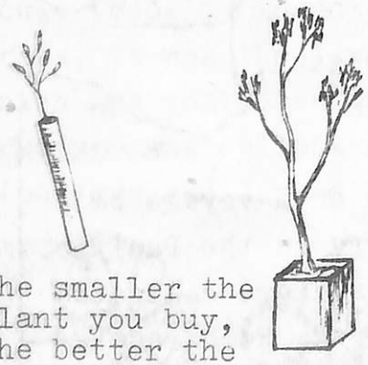
● How Tall A Tree?



● Deciduous or Evergreen?



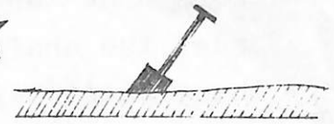
● Buying a Plant.



The smaller the plant you buy, the better the tree will grow in its permanent position.

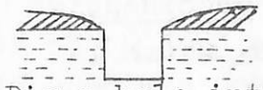
Preparing The Ground

1.

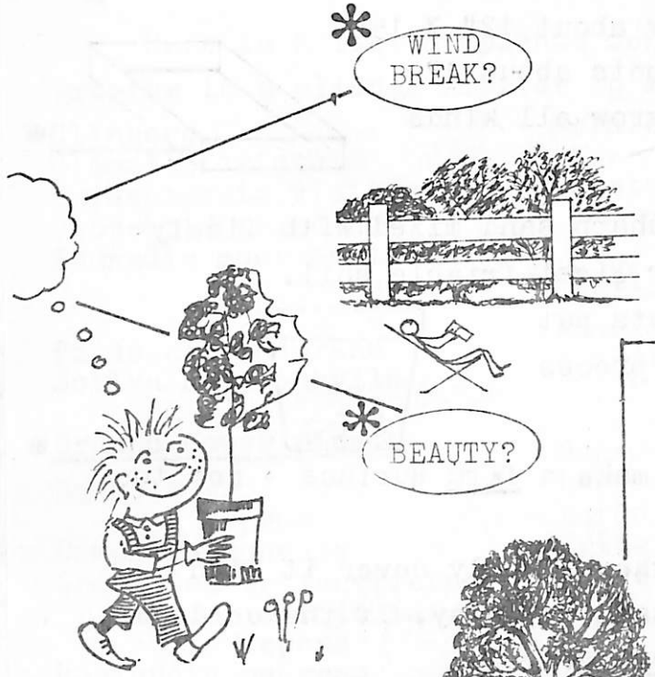


Remove weeds and grass. Break up the soil.

How Deep A Hole?



Dig a hole into well prepared soil slightly deeper than the tube and a spade's width.



2.

Stand tube in centre of hole to test its depth.

Remove plant by unrolling the wood veneer. Carefully stand the tree in the hole, supporting it with one hand, and firming the soil with your fist.

● Watering.

A good soaking once a week rather than a light watering every day.

● After Care.

Keep weeds clear of your tree. Check that the stake is not harming the bark

3.

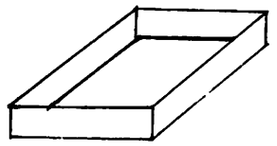
Gently break the "crust" around the neck of the plant.

Fill hole and leave a shallow saucer for water.

Fill saucer with water - several times if the soil is dry. Then fill the saucer with loose soil. Stake your tree if you want it to grow straight.

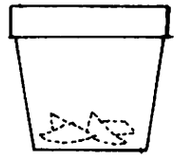
* *GROW YOUR OWN!*

A small wooden box about 12" X 15" and 4" deep or small pots about 4" across can be used to grow all kinds of seed in.



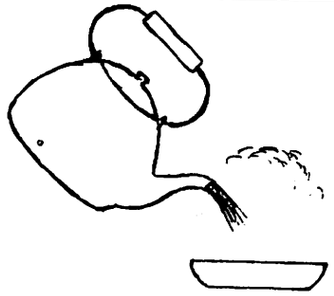
Use a mixture of sharp sand mixed with finely broken up leaf mould or light friable soil.

If using earthenware pots put some broken flower-pot pieces (crocks) in the bottom.



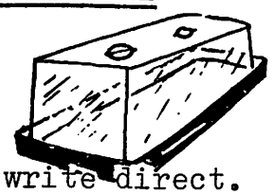
Press the soil to make a <u>firm</u> surface - not too hard.

Sow the seed and then lightly cover it with soil that does not contain any clay. If the seeds are <u>fine</u> use a <u>shallow covering</u>.



If you wish to grow wattles and other pea flowers, you will get more seeds to grow if the seed has had boiling water poured over them and allowed to stand for 12 hours.

The <u>Victorian State Schools' Horticultural Society</u> has a box which will help you grow these seeds. In this frame, pots will last over the weekend without watering. For details ring 568 1958 or write direct.



★★ ★NATIVES ARE NICE ★

Here is a list of plants considered suitable for growing in a climate similar to Melbourne's.

●<u>Climbers</u>

Clematis aristata
Hardenbergia violacea
Hibbertia scandens
Kennedia macrophylla
nigricans
rubicunda
Pandorea pandorana
Sollya heterophylla

●<u>Ground cover plants</u>

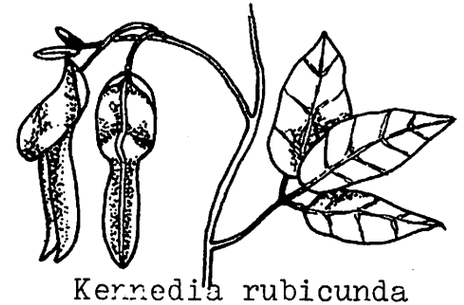
Banksia prostrata
repens
Dampiera cuneata
Grevillea tridentifera
laurifolia
repens
Hemiandra pungens
Kennedia prostrata
Viola hederacea

●<u>Dwarf shrubs</u>

Acacia continua 3'
drewiana 3'
Correa reflexa 3'
pulchella 2'
Crowea exalata 3'
Darwinia citriodora 3'
Epicras impressa 2'
longifolia 3'
Grevillea australis 2'
confertifolia 2'
diminuta 1 - 2'
Hakea erinacea 3'
Hypocalymma angustifolium
Melaleuca pulchella 3'
thymifolia 3'
Prostanthera cuneata 3'
aspalathoides 3'

●<u>Small shrubs</u> 4 - 5'

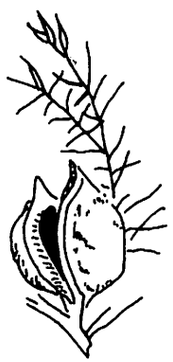
Acacia pulchella 5'
Banksia caleyi 5'
dryandroides 4'
nutans c 4'
Bauera rubioides 4'
Beaufortia sparsa 5'
Boronia elatior 4'
Eriostemon myoporoides 4'
Grevillea alpina 2 - 5'
arenaria 4'
dimorpha 3'
lavandulacea 4 - 5'
punicea 5'
sericea 5'
Hovea elliptica 5'
Lambertia formosa 5'
Prostatthera incisa rosea 5'
Thryptomene paynei 4'



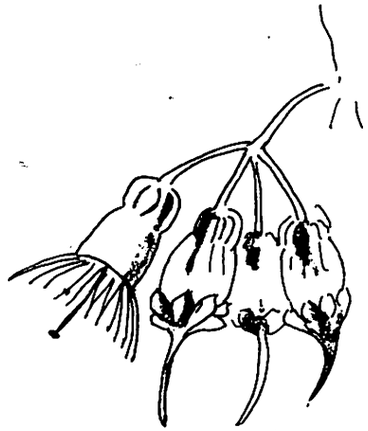
Kennedia rubicunda

•Tall trees and shrubs

Acacia podalyriaefolia	15'
retinodes	15'
Agonis flexuosa	25'
Banksia ericifolia	12'
integrifolia	20'
Callistemon pallidus	12'
Eucalyptus caesia	16'
citriodora	30'
crenulata	25'
forrestiana	12'
leucoxylon rosea	25'
linearis	25'
nicholli	30'
preissiana	12'
scoparia	25'
torquata	15'
Grevillea barklyana	12'
robusta	30'
Hakea laurina	12'
multilineata	14'
petiolaris	12'
Melaleuca armillaris	15'
ericifolia	12'
nesophila	14'
Prostanthera lasianthos	14'



Hakea



Eucalyptus Torquata

•Background shrubs 6 - 10 '

Acacia iteaphylla	8'
Banksia occidentalis	7'
spinulosa	8'
Bauera sessiliflora	6'
Callistemon linearis	6'
Calothamnus quadrifidus	6'
Chamaelaucium uncinatum	8'
Dryandra formosa	7'
Eucalyptus kruseana	6'
Grevillea banksii	6'
buxifolia	6'
longifolia	8'
mucronulata	8'
rosmarinafolia	6'
victoriae	6'
Hakea costata	6'
elliptica	8'
sericea	8'
Kunzea baxteri	8'
ericifolia	8'
Melaleuca hypericifolia	8'
incana	8'
lateritia	6'
radula	8'
Prostanthera nivea	8'
rotundifolia	7'

* THEY'RE ALIKE ..... **
* .... OR ARE THEY?

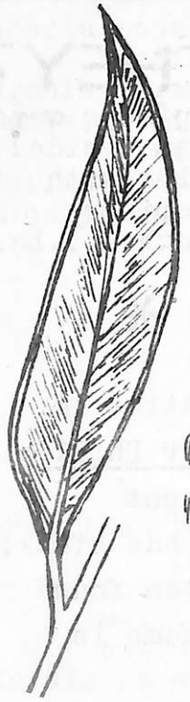
●Last month it was announced that two spiders were to be compared in this issue. However, it was decided that the following article was more in keeping with the theme of this special magazine, so the spider comparison has been held over until next month.....Ed.

* * GUM TREES? *

Eucalypts or "gum trees" are as much native to Australia as the kangaroo and koala. Governor Phillip described eucalypts as "gum trees" when he sent specimens back to England in 1788. The name has stuck, even though the reddish, sappy substance often found on the bark is not gum at all. Its correct name is kino.

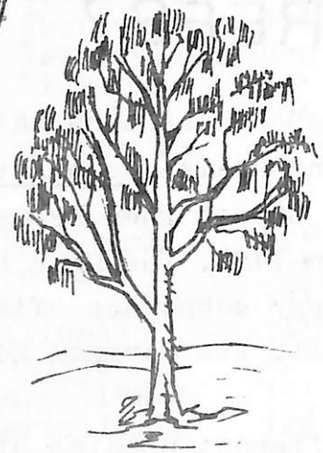
There are about 500 different species of eucalypt ranging in size from dwarf shrubs and mallees,(low rainfall areas) to giant forest trees (high rainfall, coastal mountain ranges) where their height may exceed 60 metres.

The name eucalypt means "well covered" and refers to the cap which covers the flower and is shed when the flower is about to open. Eucalypts may be identified by the familiar aroma in the leaves, a vein running



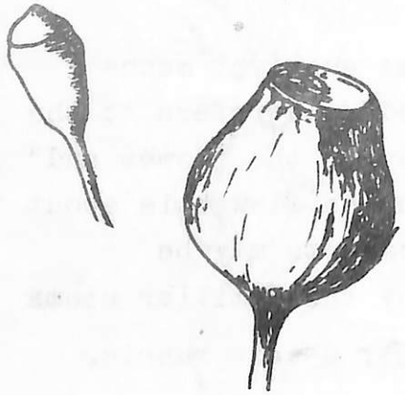
around the leaf parallel to the leaf margin, their woody fruit, and the fact that the leaves hang vertically.

Fully identifying the different species is very difficult. The bark, buds and flowers must be carefully studied. However, we can classify them broadly into these groups:



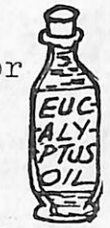
1. Smoothbarks (or gums) - often rough bark at the base with smooth bark higher up that is shed in strips or ribbons annually. Examples: red gums, blue gums, white gums, manna gums and mallees.

2. Roughbarks. Examples: Stringybarks - long stringy fibres.
Ironbarks - hard, corrugated, deep furrows.
Bloodwoods - rough, flaky, cork-like bark.
Boxes -thin bark, fine furrows.
Peppermints - fibrous but less than stringybark.

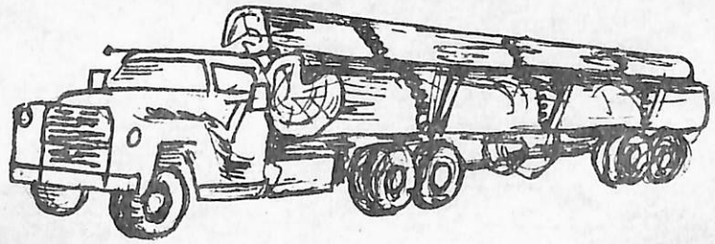


THE USES OF EUCALYPTS ARE MANY.....

- timber for buildings and furniture,
- eucalyptus oil from leaves of some varieties for medicinal purposes,
- flowers provide for quality honey,
- wood pulp for cardboard and paper manufacture,
- barks of certain varieties were used for aboriginal canoes, paintings and carvings and thatching of huts built by early settlers.



See how many eucalypts you can identify in your neighbourhood. You will be amazed at the number of differences.

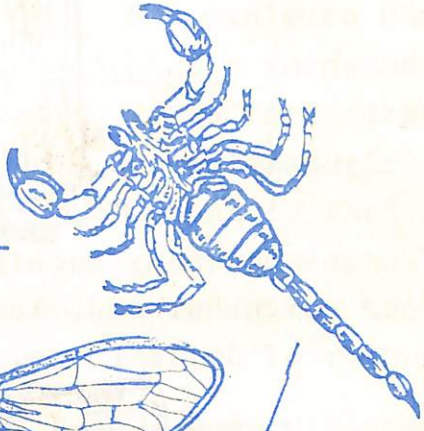


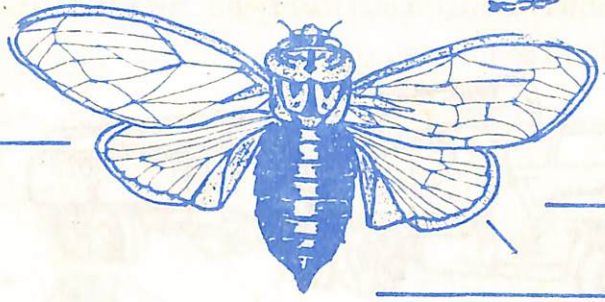
These references will help you:

Australian Eucalypts by Mervyn Millett (Periwinkle)

Trees of the Australian Bush. by Eric Worrell and Lois Sourry. (Angus & Robertson)

QUICK QUIZ





SEE IF YOU CAN MATCH THESE CREATURES WITH THE NAMES BELOW. ONE OF THEM IS DANGEROUS.. WHICH ONE ?

mole cricket, correa, dragon fly, Early Nancy, cicada, scorpion.

Next Issue Will Be At Depots on Wednesday OCTOBER 4th.