

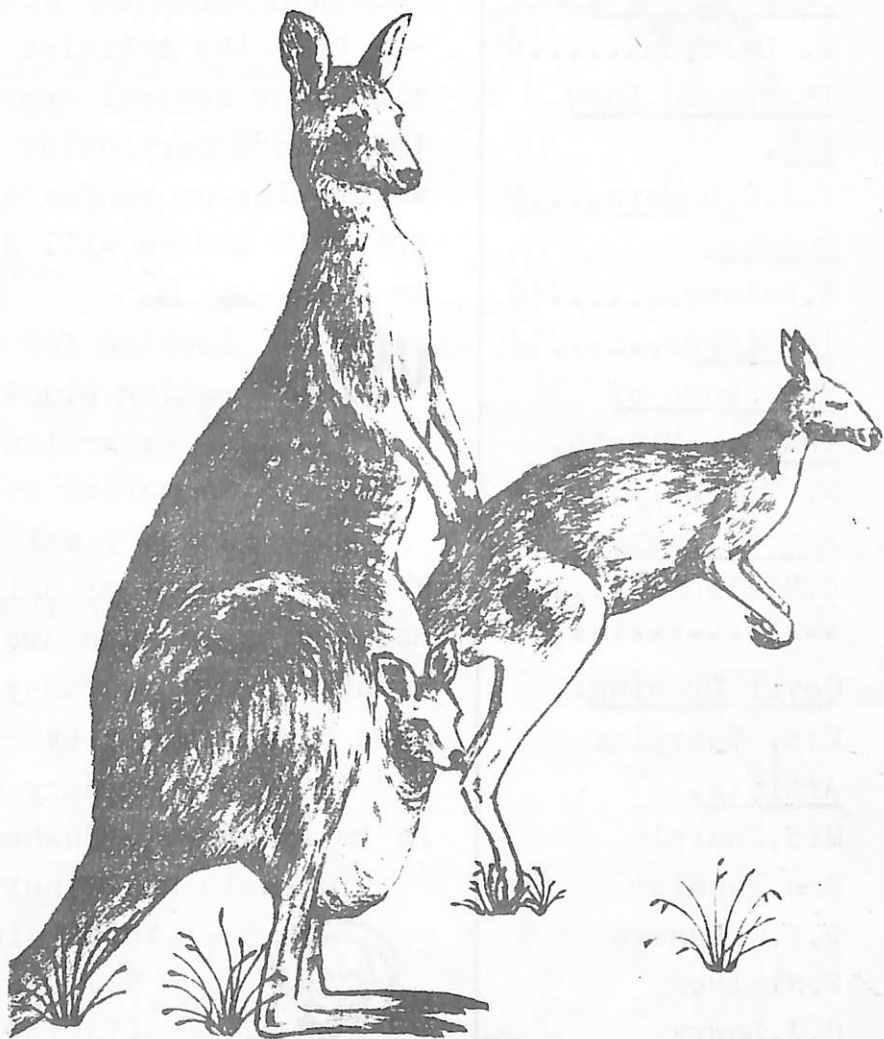
NATURE NOTES

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SAVE OUR KANGAROOS

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Mrs.Sharpin	
Mrs.Hensler	
F.J.C.Rogers	
G.Nielsen	
H.J.Lawry	

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From the Editor....

Dear Girls & Boys,

We have a varied program for you this month - I hope the articles will meet with your general approval. If there is a particular topic you would like us to feature, please write in and we will do our best to help.



Looking for an interesting place to go for an excursion ? The Victorian State Schools' Nursery welcomes

visiting groups of children. The most suitable days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. You may make arrangements by ringing 568 1958. The Nursery entrance is in Arthur St. Hughesdale.

Cheerio until next month.

Yours sincerely,
H.J.Lawry.
(Editor)



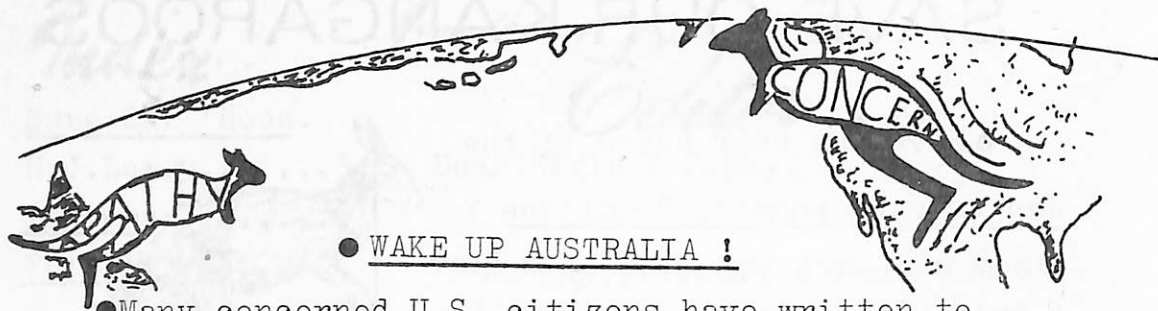
SAVE OUR KANGAROOS

● Have you ever heard of the Kangaroo Protection Committee ? I hadn't until recently, when a copy of their August Newsletter was handed to me. It was full of interesting information, some of which follows.



● A long letter from Girilambone in western N.S.W. comments on the 30,000 kangaroos said to be in the Wentworth District and the writer laments on what will probably be their ultimate fate. Interestingly, after 40 years on their own 56,000 acre property, the number of kangaroos has remained almost at the same level, yet she and her husband have never allowed any shooting on the property. She declares that "it would be an absurdity to say ^{they} rob one mouthful of pasture from our stock...graziers who say they do are the ones who overstock and would always be short of pasture anyway."



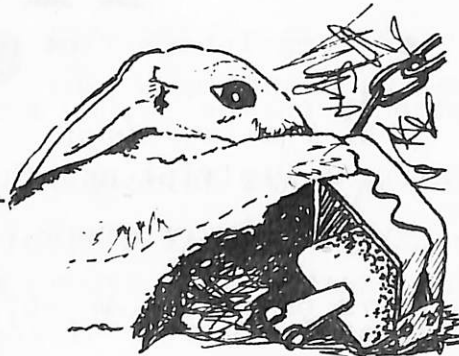


● WAKE UP AUSTRALIA !

● Many concerned U.S. citizens have written to the Secretary of the Interior asking that immediate action be taken to have the kangaroo placed on the Endangered Species list!



● Not on the subject of kangaroos but of interest to all nature lovers, is a leaflet included in the K.P.C'S letter condemning the steel-jawed trap. Many country



readers will be familiar with this instrument used to catch "pest" animals. Did you know that these traps have been banned in Britain after being described there as "diabolical instruments of torture"? The World League for the Protection of Animals, publishers of the leaflet ask: "Is Australia such a backward

country that it cannot follow their example ?" The writer points out that humane substitutes were soon found in Britain, so why shouldn't the same thing happen here ?What do you think readers ? (Ed.)

For those interested in these organizations, their address is: Box 3719, G.P.O. Sydney, N.S.W. 2001.

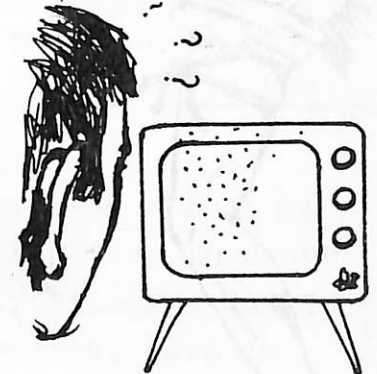
Drop a Line



Editor, 'Nature Notes',
Primary School,
Blackburn Lake,
P.O. Box 30,
NUNAWADING. 3131.

Dear Editor,

In February last year we discovered that there was a huntsman spider living inside our television set. He came out from there sometimes and wandered about the house, but he always went back inside the television. We called him George.



Then one day we noticed little specks on the screen and we couldn't get them off from the outside. Then we realised they were baby huntsmen inside the screen.

screen. George had had about twenty or thirty babies.
(Should we have called her Georgina do you think ?)

Yours sincerely,

Tony Pollock. Laburnum Primary School

Thanks Tony!..... How did you get them out? (Ed)

%%*%*%*%*%*%*%*

THIS 'n THAT



☐ SNAKE BITE...WHAT TO DO!!!

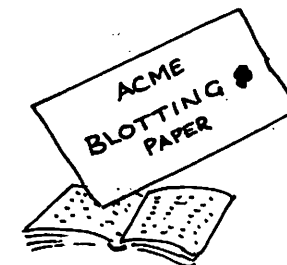
1. Apply a ligature (hanky or tie) Loosen slowly after about thirty minutes for about 30 seconds and every 10 - 15 minutes after that.
2. Wash off any venom on the skin. If no clean liquid available, use spittle.
3. Make an incision through each fang mark to a depth of about a $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch.
4. Suck the blood and venom out. Not if you have a sore mouth though.
5. CONTACT A DOCTOR and describe the snake to him so he can administer the correct anti-venene.

N.B. The tourniquet must always be above the knee or elbow... WHY?.....?

6. Most important....DO NOT RUN OR PANIC. KEEP WARM. Give your patient a warm drink, but NO alcohol.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

☐ Did you know that the man who invented BLOTTING PAPER got the sack for his efforts ? His vat of paper pulp refused to set so it was dumped outside. Later a workman noted that it absorbed drops of rain, so the mill management dried the pulp and sold it to a public which acclaimed it as a splendid innovation. Meanwhile its "inventor" was looking for another job!

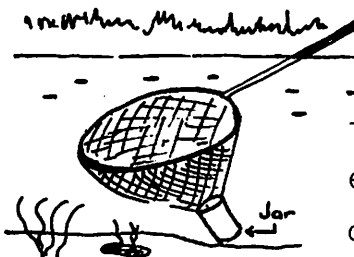
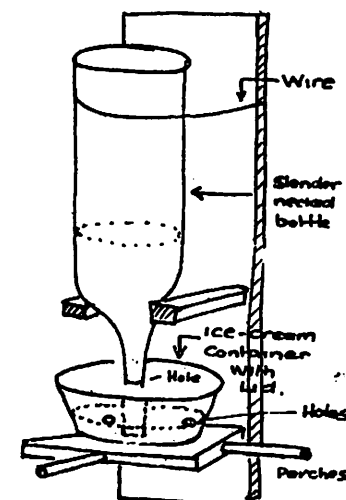


■ ■ ■ ■ ■

☐ Like to know how to attract birds to your garden ? Build a nectar feeder as per diagram and then keep it filled with Bird Nectar

BIRD NECTAR RECIPE.

1 lb. honey, 1 lb. raw sugar, $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints water. Mix together in saucepan over low heat, stirring until all sugar is dissolved. Keep in bottles in the 'fridge. Serve in a ratio of two parts of water to one part of nectar.....Delicious!!!



☐ The diagram opposite shows how to make a plankton net. Have you ever been frustrated when trying to catch tiny pond life ? Build a net like this and the problem is solved.



Things to Look for at School



● GUM TREES were probably named from the gum, or more correctly, kino, which they exude when the tree is damaged. We usually call them eucalypts now. Can you separate them into groups, or do you just call them all "Gum trees"?

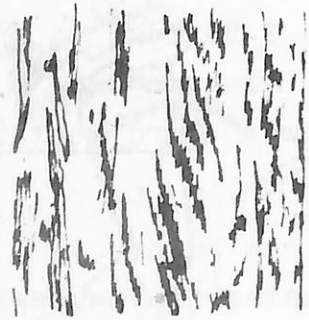
● Eucalyptus radiata
(Common Peppermint)

● Look at the bark of the eucalypt trees.

Gum bark is smooth and is periodically shed in long strips.

● Stringybark is easily recognised because the bark which covers the the trunk and sometimes the branches is thick, loose and fibrous. This bark will peel off in long strips. Please don't pull too much bark off as it spoils the look of the tree and may even be serious enough to kill it.

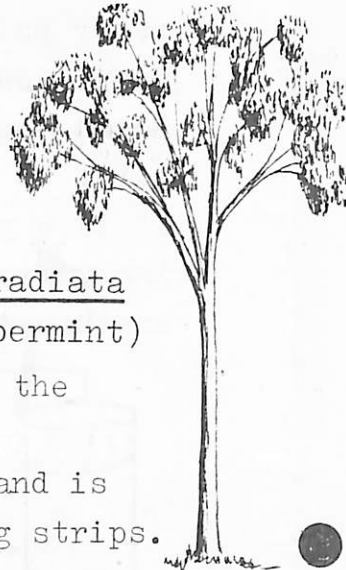
● Box bark is soft and flakes off in small pieces. When you rub the trunk with your hand, these pieces come off.



● Stringybark



● Box



● Ironbark



● Peppermint

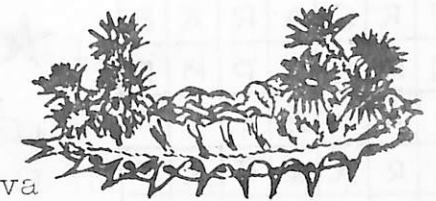
● Ironbark has very hard layers of bark which persist like Stringybark for many years. As the trees grow, the outer layers of bark split and become deeply furrowed.

● Peppermint bark is soft and flaky too, but the mature leaves are usually small and when crushed emit a strong peppermint odour.

● On the eucalypt trees you could find many interesting creatures. Have you found these leaf-eating caterpillars?



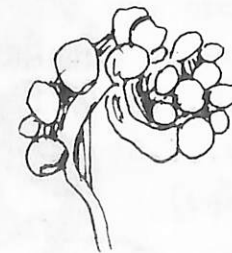
● Gum emperor



● Cup moth larva
or Chinese Junk.

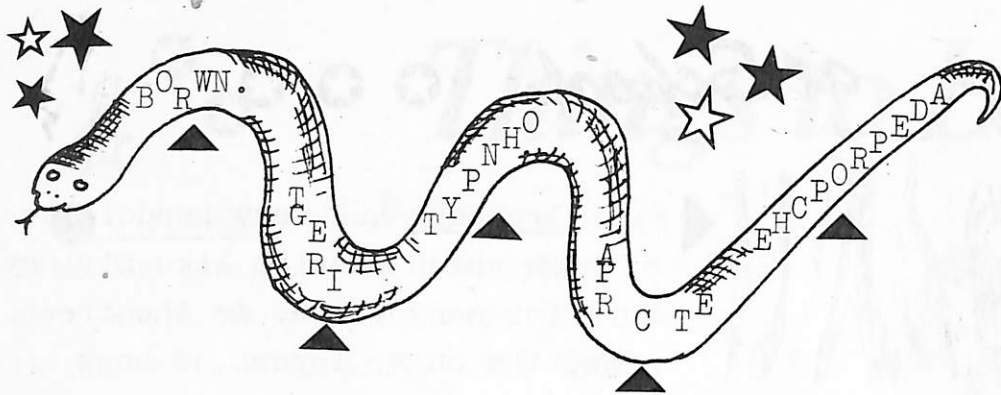


● Stem
Gall



● Leaf
Gall.

● Those odd shapes that you find on the leaves and stems may be galls. Many are caused by insects laying eggs just beneath the outer surface of the plant. When the caterpillar hatches, it starts sucking sap from the plant. Irritated, the plant builds a snug little shelter over the spot.



UNSCRAMBLE THE NAMES OF WELL-KNOWN SNAKES.

(Solution at foot of page 11.)

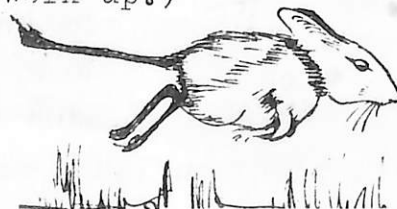


FRUIT PUZZLE



U	R	C	A	R	A	E
N	P	H	E	P	M	P
E	A	W	B	E	U	L
G	R	A	N	R	R	P
R	T	M	A	N	Y	E
A	S	A	O	A	B	L
P	E	N	G	A	P	P

This cute little creature appeared once before in Nature Notes. Can you name him ?



Start with a letter and moving horizontally or vertically (not diagonally..)* to adjacent letters, make the names of fruits

Use each letter only once.

How many can you make ?
*N.B. Go diagonally only *
when frantic.....Ed. (Clue for my friends....Start with "S" and work up.)

PUZZLES

WORD CROCODILE.



A word crocodile is made by starting the end of the next word with the end of the previous word.....eg.

FISH

SHELL

LINER

RAFT

TUGBOAT

This crocodile could be about the sea.

COULD YOU:

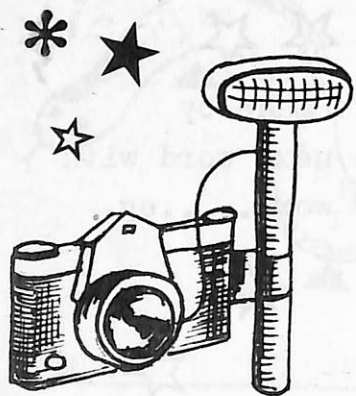
- Make one up about another subject ? eg. birds, marsupials, underground animals?
- Use the last TWO letters of the next word....Fish shell
- Use words of all the same length. (b and c are more difficult but very satisfying)



Mitchell's Hopping Mouse.



Brown, Tiger, Adder, Carpet, Python, Copperhead.



NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETIES.

Of special interest to children in the BLACKBURN * VERMONT * NUNAWADING * MITCHAM AREAS is a letter to hand from the Nunawading Natural History society. The N.N.H.S. is now open to the 10 to 14 years age group in the area. Their interests

include lizards, snakes, rocks, minerals, fossils, birds, animal photos, insects etc. as well as many outdoor activities.

Interested? Phone

DEREK COLE 870 2569 or contact the secretary

JIM JOHNSON - CLARKE, 16 Gissing St.

Blackburn South, 3130.

JOTTINGS

Natural History, Field Naturalists' Clubs, Bird Observer Clubs etc. are a fine way of pursuing your interests among friends who are all interested in the same things you are. These organisations exist all over Australia, so why not make some enquiries in your area?

If no clubs exist.....why not start one?

Has your club done anything interesting lately?

If so, please send a report in to NATURE NOTES - we would like to hear from you.



The Sense of Touch PLANTS

Seeds are scattered in many ways. Can you name some?

Nature helps this scattering by designing seeds which cling to anything that touches them. Prickly seeds cling to the fur of animals. Some of these are pictured opposite. To find some more, go for a walk in dry grass with your socks on!



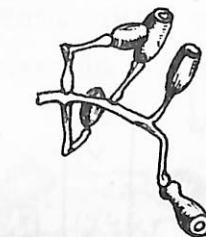
● Burr medic.



▽▽▽▽▽▽ ● Bathurst

◀ Sticky seeds of ● Bidgee Widgee mistletoe cling to the beaks of birds.

△△△△△△



Have a look at some blackberries.

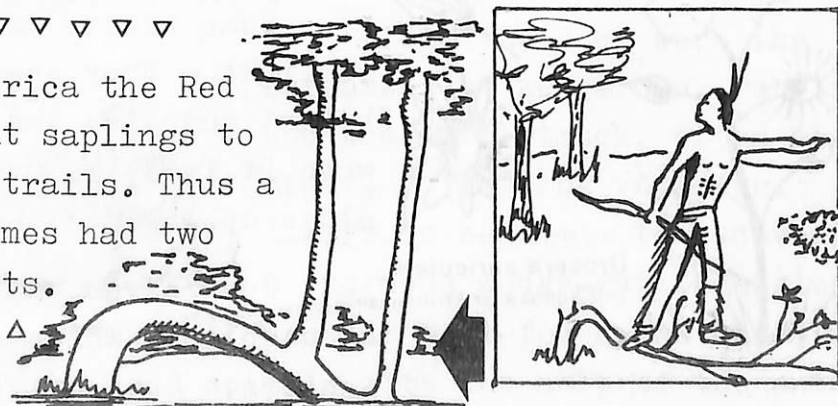
Notice that when a stem touches the ground it is likely to take root? ➡

Do you know any other plants which do this? ▽▽▽▽▽▽▽



In America the Red Indians bent saplings to mark their trails. Thus a tree sometimes had two sets of roots.

△△△△△△



● CLIMBING PLANTS Keep your eyes open for any creepers growing in your area.

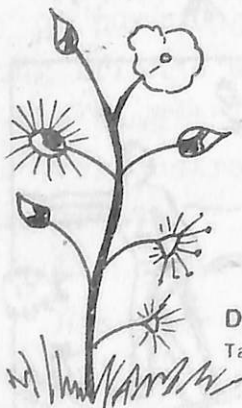
Try to examine closely the means by which they climb. Remember not all are the same.

Some experiments you might like to try:

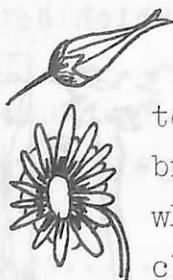
- (1) Will these creepers creep over any surface?
eg. wood? brick? tin? glass?
- (2) What kind of obstacles can they overcome?
(I have one growing through a fly-wire screen!)
- (3) How fast does the creeper move?

▽ ▽ ▽ ▽ ▽ ▽

● BEANS. Climbing beans make an interesting study. Set up a small area in your classroom, then keep notes of your bean's progress up the stake.

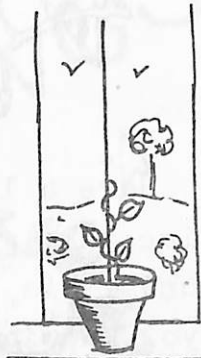
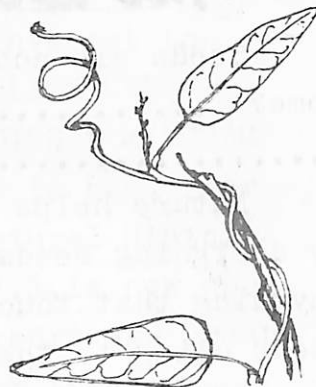


Drosera auriculata
Tall Sundew or Errieneilam

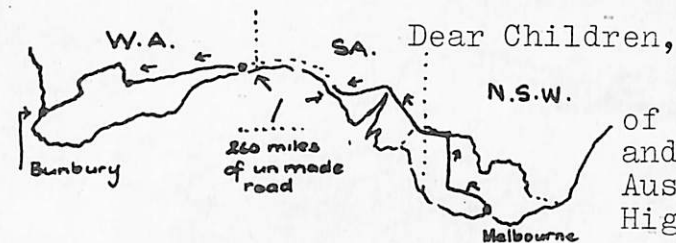


△ △ △ △ △ △
Some plants are sensitive to light - they open out in bright sunshine and close when it is dull. Other plants close up when touched.

See if you can find out about plants which can trap insects.



ACROSS AUSTRALIA



This is an account of our journey by car and caravan across Australia along the Eyre Highway, a journey which enables the traveller to see many aspects of our land - primary industries, geographical features, aboriginals, and of course much of our plant and animal life. The above map shows the route we took. Next month a more detailed map may be included, which I hope will be of interest to you. Now, on with the journey!

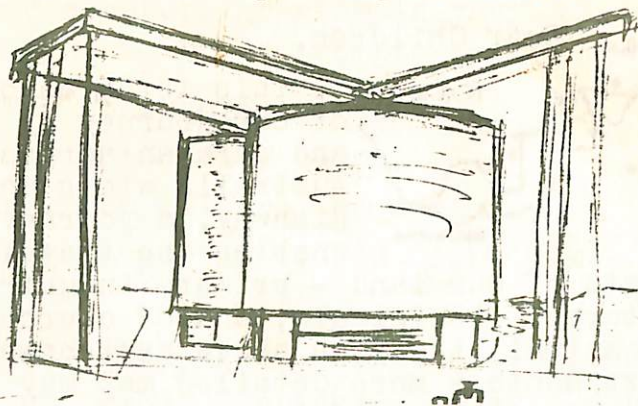


Fifty miles west of Ceduna, S.A. a grim sign warned us 'Last reliable water for 770 miles west'. No longer was the land cultivated and the road suddenly became an unmade surface of large and small stones and dust. Rusted car wrecks and torn tyres warned drivers to drive carefully here.



Along the road were the carcasses of kangaroos, rabbits and wombats, struck, often at night, by passing vehicles. Always on hand were the scavengers - enormous wedge-tailed eagles and fat well-fed crows which dispose of the dead animals with the help of the ants.

We came upon a group of aboriginals from the Yalata aboriginal mission. They were offering boomerangs and artifacts for sale to passing motorists.



Because of the extremely arid nature of the country, large water tanks under roofing have been provided at intervals along the track for emergency use. Unfortunately senseless vandals have rendered some of them useless.

For twenty miles we crossed the Nullabor Plain. Nullabor is Latin for "NO TREES". Here the road is almost straight and flat, the scrub is sparse and there is not a tree in sight for as far as the eye can see.

At the border, we rejoined the bitumen and our teeth ceased their jangling - but we knew the country-side would be similar for still another 300 miles.

Next month I will tell you about Wave Rock, W.A.'s famed wildflowers, and more.

Yours sincerely,

G. Nielsen.