

# NATURE NOTES

Ringwood Inspectorate

Volume 9

No. 10



Christmas Bush  
(Victoria)

6 cents

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



Registered at the  
G.P.O. for transmiss-  
ion as a periodical.

Category B.



Dear Girls and Boys,

In the past the end of the year has always come as a surprise to me and it is no less a surprise as I write this editorial to round off volume 9. What an interesting year it has been for me as editor of Nature Notes and what a lot I have learned during the production of these past ten issues.

To those of you who have written to me on many subjects, thank you very much for your most enjoyable letters. Unfortunately it just isn't possible for me to reply personally to them all - much as I would like to - so please accept this message as a personal thanks to YOU if you have written me a letter this year.

As space in this magazine is limited I have not included a best letter - perhaps next year there will be room for two in the first issue.

Best wishes for a happy and safe holiday.

Yours sincerely,

H.J.Lawry.



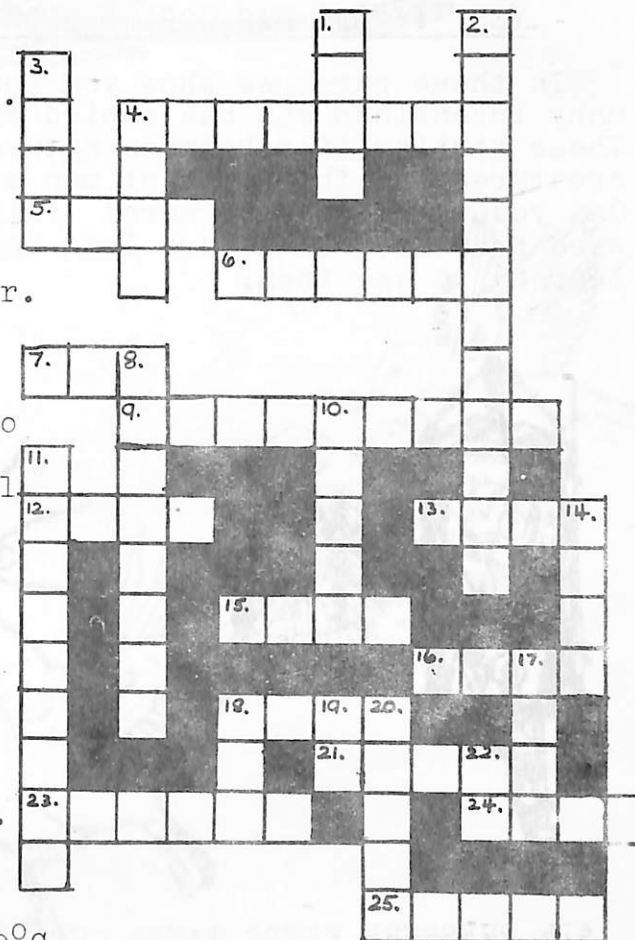
## A Water Crossword

### Down

1. Glide as a stream.
2. Vapour turned to liquid.
3. Unfreeze.
4. Tube used for carrying water.
8. Curved surface of a liquid.
10. Huge span of salt water.
11. Pure water is \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Inland body of water.
17. Water creature.
18. What the sailor went to see.
19. On Guard! (against pollution) - initials.
20. Depends on water for survival.
22. Steam Ship. (abbrev.)

### Across

4. Element in water.
5. Clean with water
6. Other element in water.
7. Farm water supply.
9. Water to vapour.
12. Without water.
13. Water will \_\_\_\_\_ at 100°C.
15. Rainwater supply in the country.
16. Supported by water.
18. Sound made by water in a bucket.
21. Still water can look like
23. Small river.
24. Vessel for travelling on water.
25. Changing with the tide.



● Solution on back page.



# NATURE'S ENGINEERS

## YES ! MAN HAS COPIED FROM NATURE

In these pages we show you some of the many inventions man has copied from nature. These similarities between nature's creatures and the works of man are amazing. Can you think of some more? All of these were practised in nature long before man learned to use them.

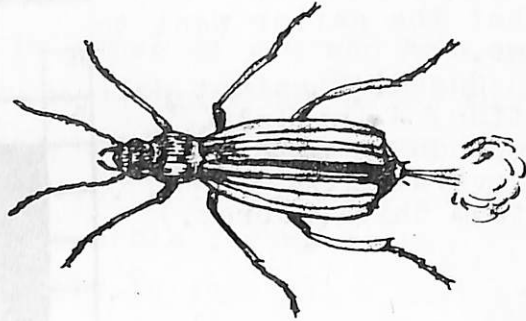


### AIR PRESSURE KEEPS WATER OUT

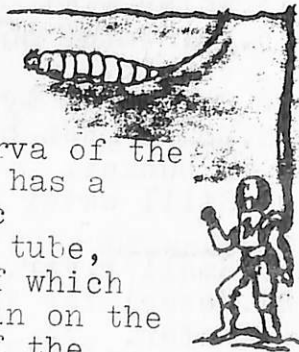
The amazing WATER SPIDER of Britain stores air in a bell-shaped net so it can breathe under water.

Breathing tube  
for a diver

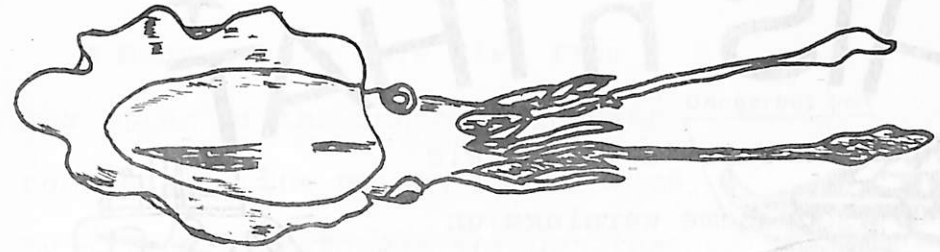
### WARFARE



Bombardier Beetle  
shoots a puff of white  
smoke to frighten  
enemies - poison gas



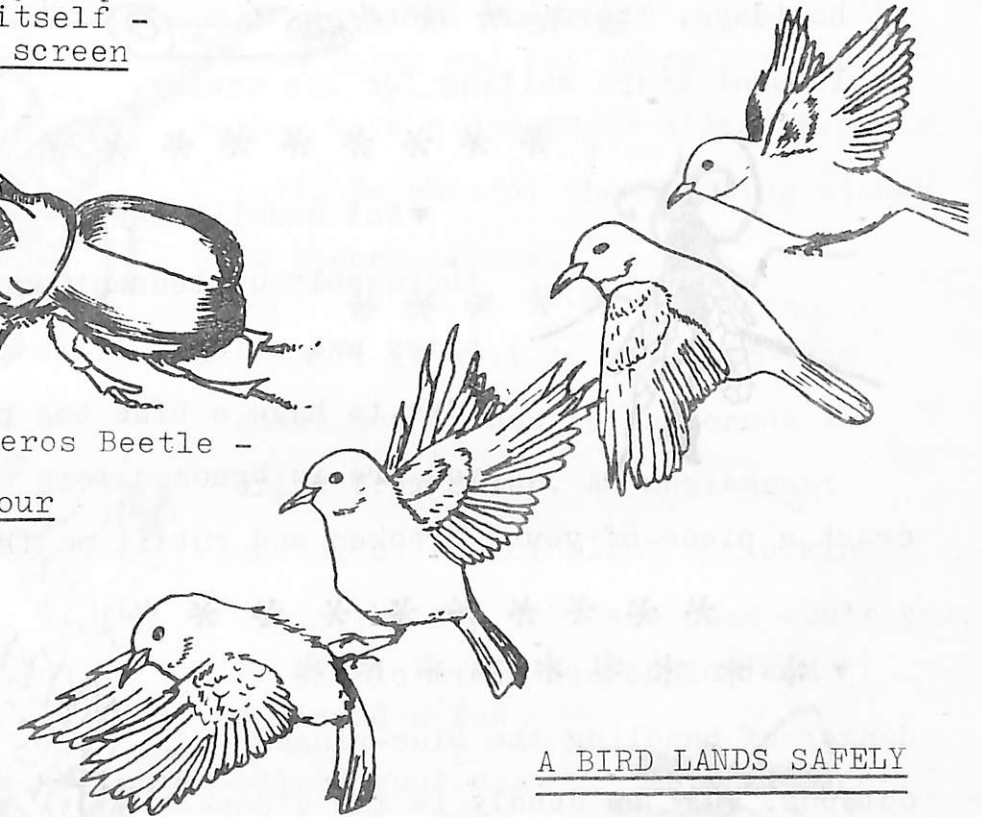
The larva of the  
DRONE FLY has a  
telescopic  
breathing tube,  
the end of which  
must remain on the  
surface of the  
water.



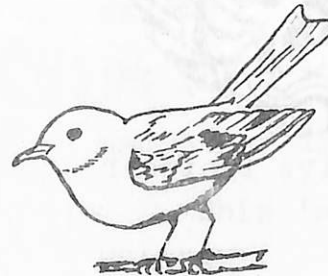
Cuttlefish squirts  
an inky liquid to  
hide itself -  
smoke screen



Rhinoceros Beetle -  
armour



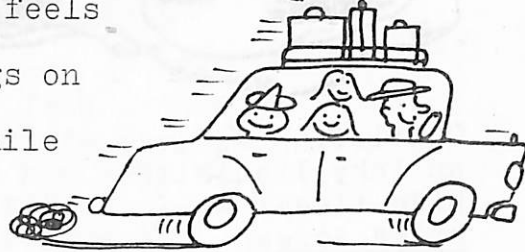
### A BIRD LANDS SAFELY



For hundreds of years man  
watched birds and even copied  
them in an effort to fly. By  
close study of their flight man  
has learnt to put 'heavier-than-  
air' machines into the sky.

# THIS 'n THAT★

▼ This month This 'n That feels it wise to issue some warnings on some dangers you may meet while on holidays. There are some unpleasant traps waiting for the unwary.



\* \* \* \* \*



▼ Not usually dangerous but thoroughly unpleasant are insect bites and stings. It is a good idea to have a blue bag handy. If you are in bracken fern country, crush a piece of young bracken and rub it on the wound.

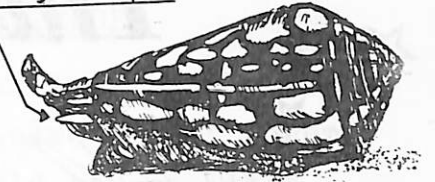
\* \* \* \* \*

▼ Most of us are aware of the danger of handling the blue-ringed octopus. Just as deadly is the stonefish. Take care in northeren waters, because camouflage makes it extremely hard to see. If in its area, wear protective footwear while paddling.



▼ Many people have died from the sting of the innocent looking cone-shell. The poison is injected by a long pink tongue through the narrow end of the shell.

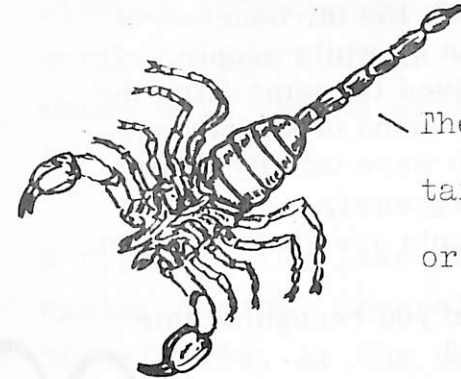
Dangerous port.



★ Cone shell with live animal.

\* \* \* \* \*

▼ Watch out for scorpions too.



They have a dangerous sting in their tail. Be careful when lifting stones or pieces of wood.

\* \* \* \* \*

▼ It is well to remember that sometimes it can be dangerous to drink from a tap. An unpleasant animal or insect might be lurking up in the tap, so take care won't you.

\* \* \* \* \*

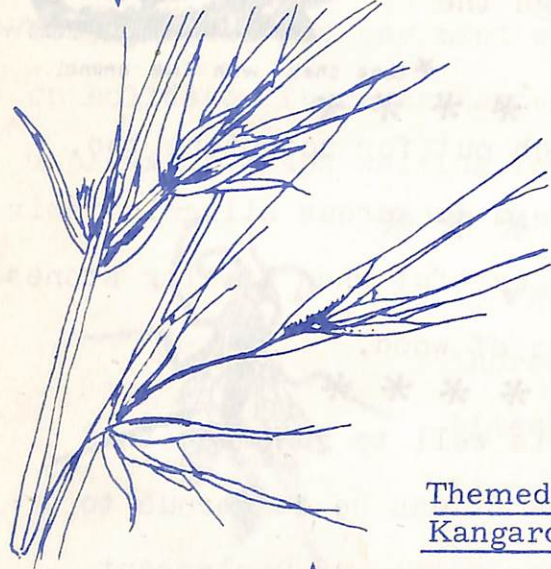
▼ I have only mentioned a few dangers. By using all of your six senses to the fullest (especially the sixth - common sense -) these and other dangers may be avoided.



This 'n That wishes you all A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY!



# Things to Look for At Weekends



★ Kangaroo grass was once very common over much of Australia but it has disappeared with the introduction of farms by white people. It received its name from the large mobs of kangaroos which were usually found feeding on it.

Plants are about two feet high.

Can you recognise this plant?

Themeda australis  
Kangaroo Grass

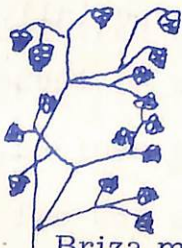


★ Large Quaking Grass, or as it was once called "Shell Grass" is an introduced grass that is wide spread. It crowds out the native grasses and plants and can become a nuisance. "Lesser Quaking Grass" is much smaller in appearance and it too is widespread.

Perennial Rye Grass should be easily found.



Briza maxima  
Large Quaking Grass



Briza minor  
"Shivery Grass"

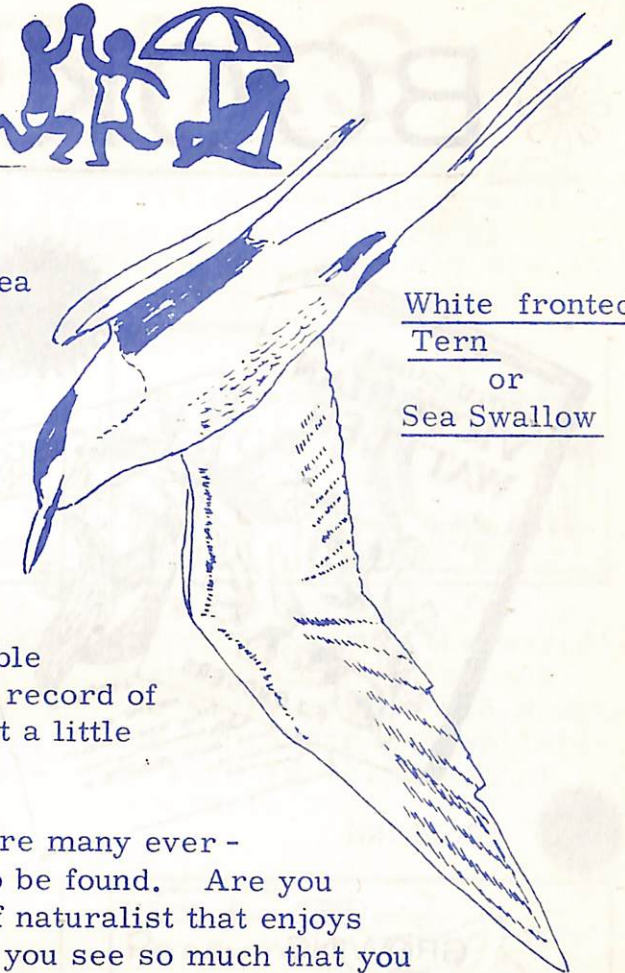
Lolium perenne  
Perennial Rye Grass



★ Some of us will have the opportunity of visiting the sea or salt lakes. We usually recognise the Silver Gull and some of the others.

The white fronted tern or as it is sometimes called "Sea Swallow" is a dainty bird, looking immaculate in its plumage.

Look for it - perhaps you will be lucky enough to be able to sit and watch and keep a record of the birds you see. Find out a little more about them.



White fronted Tern  
or  
Sea Swallow

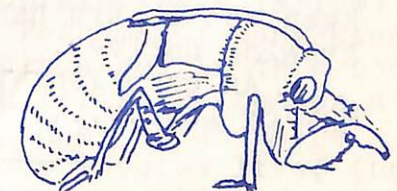


★ There are many ever-lasting to be found. Are you the kind of naturalist that enjoys the plants you see so much that you leave them for others to discover and enjoy? I hope so.

Everlasting



★ Have you found any of the "empty shells" of the cicada? They are really the larval case from which the adult has emerged.



Larval case of cicada





# BOOKS FOR



COLLINS

## GROWING AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS

This is a beautifully illustrated book written in a way that makes the reader keen to try his hand at growing natives.

An excellent book for Mum or Dad.....or for YOU!  
Price \$2-95

F.J.C. Rogers NELSON

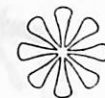
This book will give pupils and teachers an easy reference with beautiful illustrations and clear text on the Victorian Species of Wattles. It fills a long-standing need for an aid to identification of this very large family of trees and shrubs.

Available at all leading booksellers.  
\$1.75.

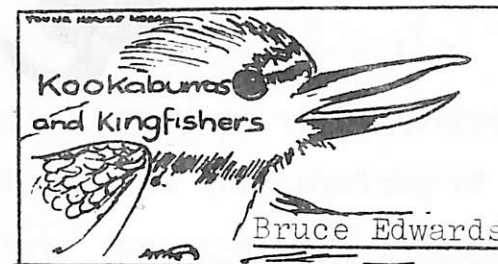
\* \* \* \* \*



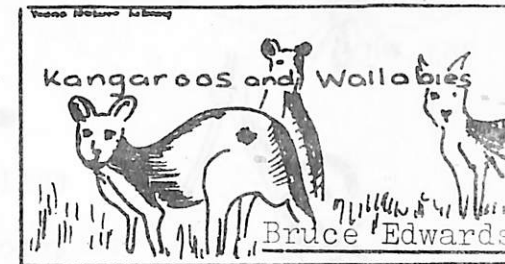
# CHRISTMAS



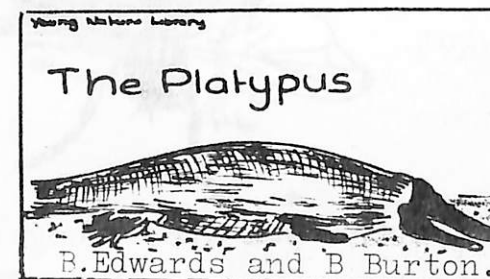
● Landsdowne Press have started a new series: YOUNG NATURE LIBRARY. The first four titles are illustrated below. Each book is particularly suited for school libraries and interested young readers. Not only are they informative: they are visually very pleasing indeed.



● This fascinating book deals not only with Australia's two kookaburras, but with other members of the Kingfisher family. Details, markings, feeding and nesting habits of Australian Kingfishers are discussed.



● The kangaroo family is unique among the world's animals. In this book the story of how and where the kangaroos and wallabies live is told. A most enjoyable book.



● Probably no Australian animal has aroused as much curiosity as the platypus. Here his strange biological make-up, life, activities and habitat are revealed in an absorbing book.  
PRICES: \$1-95 each title



● What interesting marsupials these fellows are. Possums of many kinds are discussed in this book which tells the reader a great deal about where various species live, their differences and life cycle.

# The Sense of Touch

## ANIMALS

● Have you a cat ? If so, have a look at its whiskers. How are they arranged ? They're very important to a cat. Can you say why?.



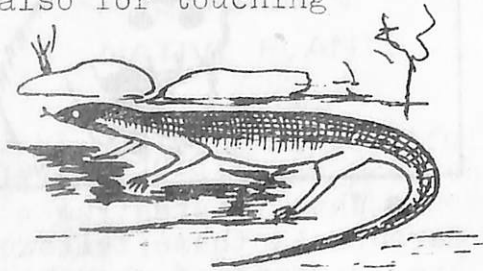
● Monkeys rely on their feet and tails to perform many of their tricks don't they ?

Being able to cling in many places is important to other animals too.

Name some you have seen.



● Lizards not only use their forked tongues for smelling but also for touching



● Have you ever thought about flies walking on the ceiling upside down ?

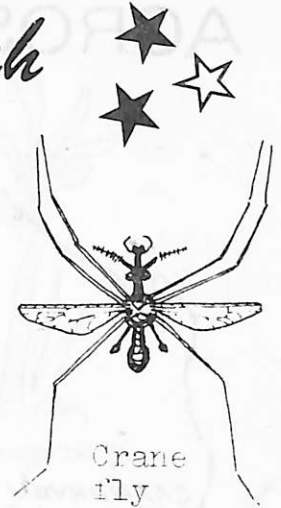


Make a list of all the remarkable things you can think of concerning the way animals use their sense of touch. You will be surprised at how long it will grow.

# The Sense of Touch

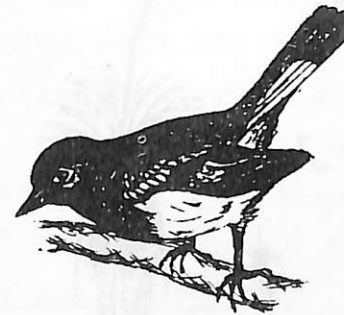
● Have you thought about those flies ?

Insects use their six legs in a way that gives them great steadiness. They generally stand on one set of these legs while moving the other three to another position. Each leg has a pair of claws and sometimes a sticky pad as well.



Crane fly

● Birds too have such a strong sense of touch that they can find worms below the surface of the ground with the tips of their beaks.



● Look up the section on water birds in one of the school's bird books. What is the food some of these birds are after ? How does the sense of touch help them ?

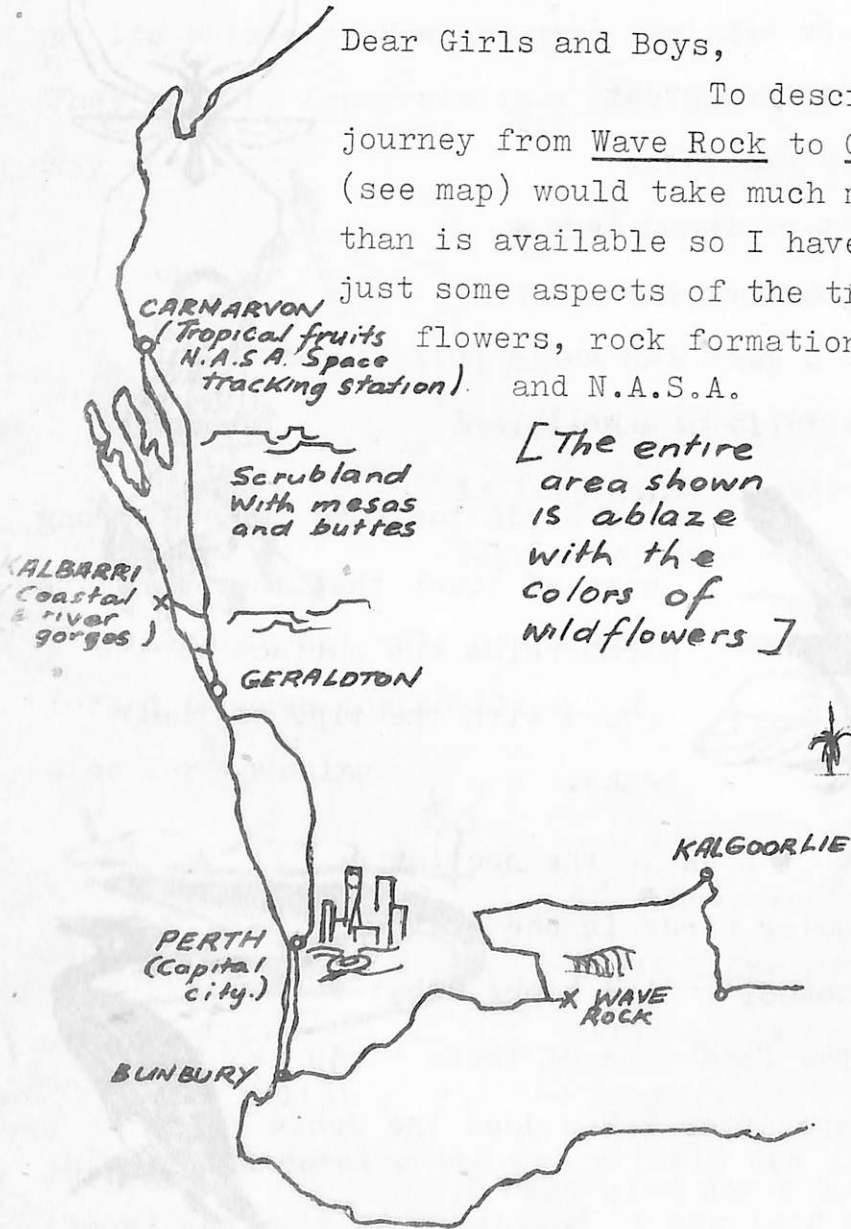


# ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Dear Girls and Boys,

To describe our journey from Wave Rock to Carnarvon (see map) would take much more space than is available so I have chosen just some aspects of the trip: wildflowers, rock formations, reptiles and N.A.S.A.

[The entire area shown is ablaze with the colors of wildflowers]



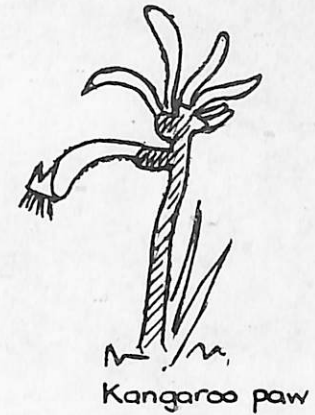
Blackboy

## Wildflowers.

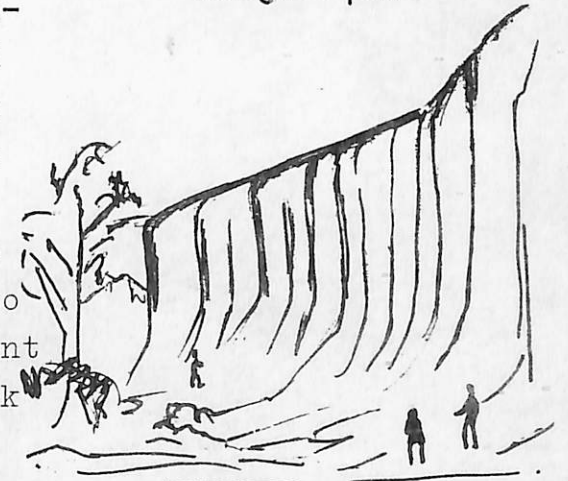
W.A. is noted for its wildflowers in spring. The country-side is ablaze with a rainbow of colors. I have illustrated one of the best known varieties - the Kangaroo Paw.

## Rock Formations.

Wave rock is a formation of solid granite weathered for centuries to its present unique form. Along the ridge at the top a concrete and stone wall has been built to collect water which runs into a catchment dam - an excellent example of man using the work of nature for his own gain.



Kangaroo paw

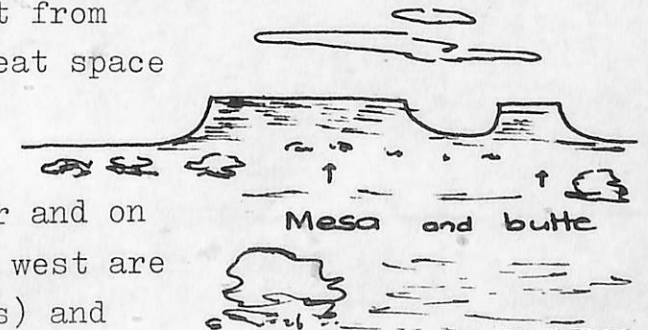


Wave rock

Mesas and Buttes. Between Geraldton and Carnarvon are many good examples. Mesas and buttes result from wind erosion over a great space of time.

## Reptiles

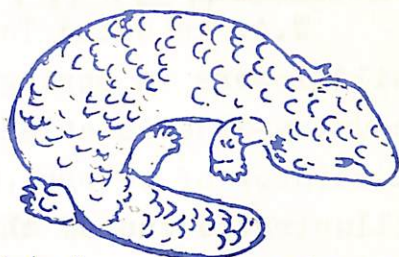
Commonly seen near and on the roads to the north west are bobtail lizards (Skinks) and



Mesa and butte



various types of dragon species. The bobtails are slow moving but the dragons have a smart turn of speed and very long tails. Some dragons have frilled necks which they flare out when challenged. The colour of these lizards depends on the colour of their surroundings and they are usually very well camouflaged.



Bobtail or Shingleback Lizard. (Stumpy tail Vic.)



N.A.S.A. (What does that stand for?)

At Carnarvon is the N.A.S.A space tracking station. It is a joint Australian and American installation. Many huge and remarkable instruments record details such as the heartbeat of the astronauts, shockwaves on the moon, and the precise distance of a satellite from Earth.

Now off to your libraries to find out more about these features,- and a very happy Christmas to you all.

G.L.Nielsen.

#### CROSSWORD SOLUTION.

Down 1. flow 2. condensation 3. thaw 4. hose  
8. meniscus 10. ocean 11. tasteless 14. lake  
17. fish 18. sea 19. O.G. 20. plant 22. S.S.

Across 4. hydrogen 5. wash 6. oxygen 7. dam  
9. evaporate 12. arid 13. boil 15. tank  
16. life 18. slop 21. glass 23. stream 24. ship 25. tidal



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WANTED

..... CHILDREN

TO HELP SAVE LAKE PEDDER

Beautiful Lake Pedder in Tasmania is slowly being drowned by a giant new hydro-electricity scheme, which many important people say could be completed without interfering with Lake Pedder. This lake and its surroundings contain many unique plants and animals which will become extinct when the flood waters cover the whole area.

A brave university student, Chris Tebbut has kept a vigil on the lake shore throughout the long, cold winter months. Several lost hikers have been saved by his efforts. At the same time many insults have been hurled at him by workers on the scheme.

After eight lonely months camped in his tent on the shore, he would welcome letters from girls and boys and Mums and Dads too. Find out more about Lake Pedder and write to Chris and tell him how much you appreciate his efforts to save part of Australia's heritage.

Address your letters to

Chris Tebbut,

"Keeper of the Vigil"

LAKE PEDDER,

Tasmania.



Nature Notes

December '72.

