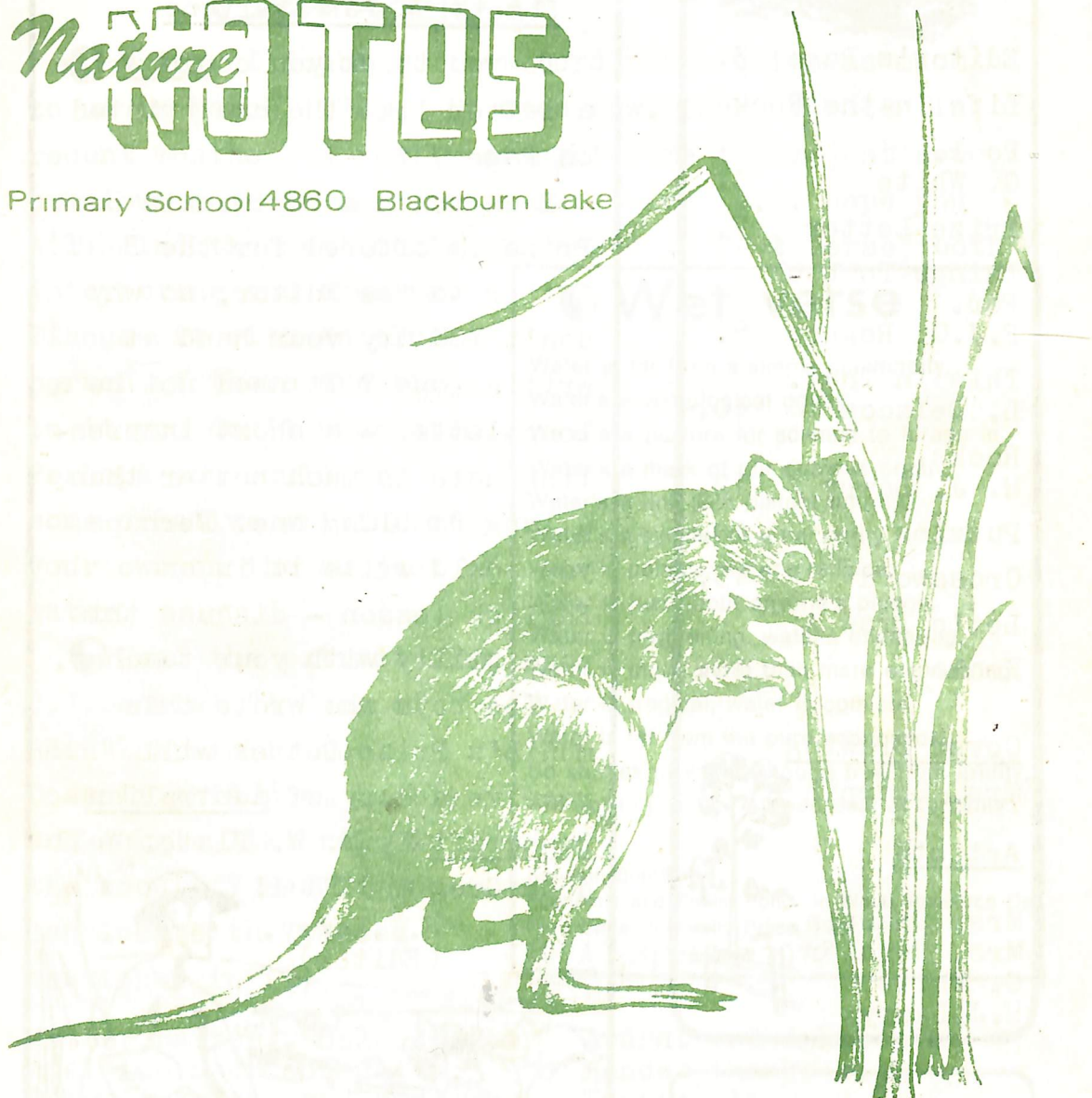


Ringwood Inspectorate

Volume 10

Nature NOTES

Primary School 4860 Blackburn Lake



Rufous Rat-kangaroo

6 Cents

No1

P.O. Box 30

Nunawading, 3131

874 1403

CONTENTS

Editor's Page	3.
Life in the Rock Pool.	
G. White	4.
Prize Letter	7.
Things To Look For.	
F.J.C. Rogers	8.
This 'n That.	
L. Delacca	10.
Rocks.	
H. J. Lawry	12.
Puzzles	14.
Crossword	15.
Let's Draw A	
Koala	16.

Cover Drawing

Mrs. Sharpin

Artists

Mrs. Sharpin.
Mrs. Hensler
G. White
H.J. Lawry



Registered at the
G.P.O. for trans-
mission as a
periodical. Cat. B.

Announcing

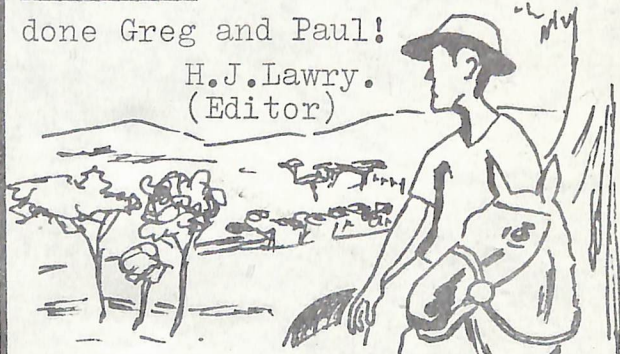
Something For Everyone.

Do you think you could write a letter like the one printed on Page 7 ?

Each month a Periwinkle Book Prize is offered for the Best Letter to the Editor, so why don't YOU try your hand at writing one ? It need not be a long letter - a short interesting note is much better than a long rambling one. Perhaps you could write it in an English lesson - discuss this possibility with your teacher.

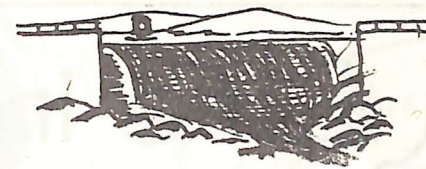
The boys who wrote this month's Prize Letter will receive a copy of Australian Bushcraft by M. W. Plate. Well done Greg and Paul!

H.J. Lawry.
(Editor)



KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL.

From the Editor



Water. I doubt if that word meant quite as much to us in March 1972 as it does now. Lack of water in recent months has really brought home to us just how precious this rather common substance is. I hope you will find the sentiments expressed in "Wet Verse" both interesting and amusing. Discuss it with an older person if there are bits in it you don't understand. Perhaps you could try some creative writing of your own on the subject of water.

Read the extract from C.J. Dennis' "A Song of Rain" carefully too.

Doesn't this poem bubble and gurgle like rain in the spouts ? See if you can locate the places mentioned in it. A Song of Rain

Patter, patter.. Boolcoomatta,
Adelaide and Oodnadatta,
Pepegoona, parched and dry
Laugh beneath a dripping sky.
Riverina's thirsting plain
Knows the benison of rain.

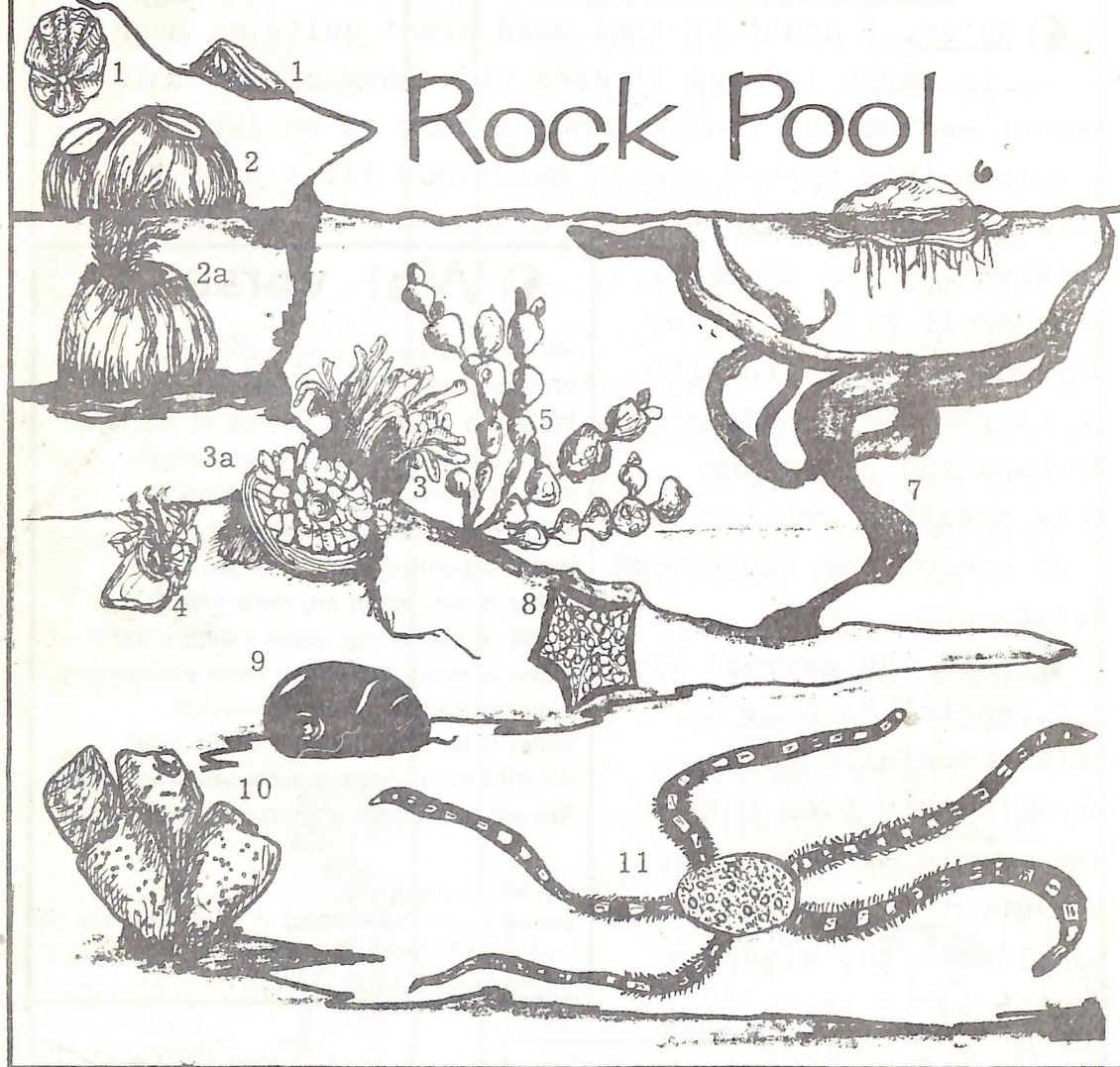
Wet verse

Water is far from a simple commodity,
Water's a sociological oddity,
Water's a pasture for science to forage in.
Water's a mark of our dubious origin,
Water's a link with distant futurity.
Water's a symbol of ritual purity,
Water is politics, water's religion,
Water is just about anyone's pigeon.
Water is frightening, water's endearing,
Water is much more than mere engineering.
Water is tragical, water is comical,
Water is far from the pure economical.
So studies of water, though free from aridity,
Are apt to produce a good deal of turbidity.

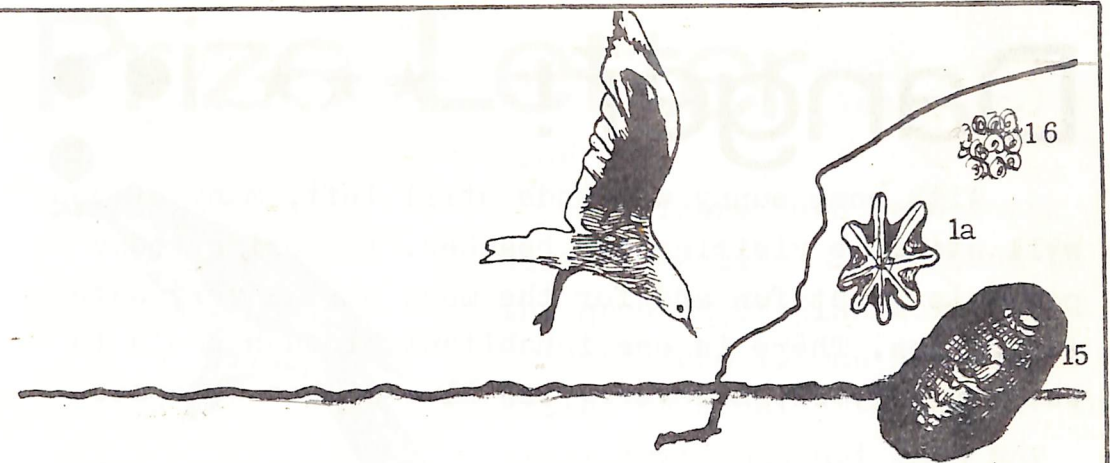
Kenneth Boulding —
Economic and Public Policy in Water Resource Dev
Iowa State University Press, 1956.
AQUA Spring 1972

Ararat and Arkaroola
Render thanks with
Tantanoola
For the blessings they
are gaining,
And it's raining-raining-
raining.

Life in the Rock Pool

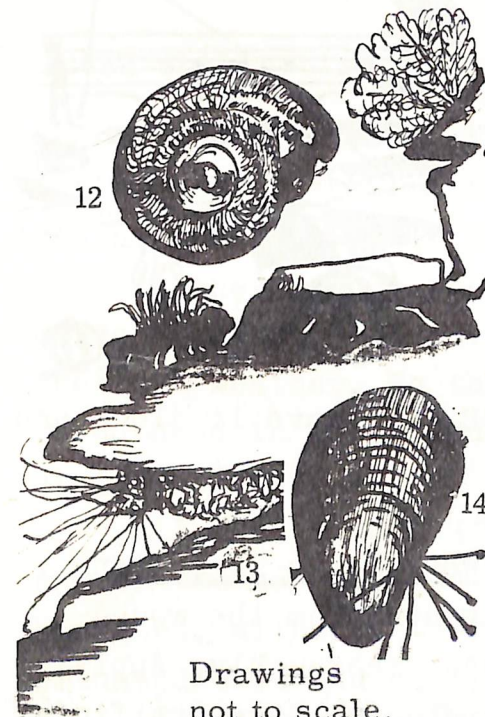


At one time or another, most of you have delved into a rock pool. Did you closely observe the active life in the pool? Most of us, young and old, enjoy peeping into this small world. This guide may intro-



KEY to illustrations

1. Limpets
- 1a. Rayed Limpet
2. Barnacle
- 2a. Barnacle feeding
3. Anemone (a) feeding
4. Worm Shell cluster
5. Neptune's Necklace (seaweed)
6. Verella (By-the-wind Sailor)
7. Bull Kelp
8. Common Starfish
9. Black Nerita
10. Cunjevoi - Sea Squirt
11. Brittle Star
12. Turban Shell
13. Terebella (Tube worm)
14. Mussel
15. Chiton
16. Blue Australwinks



Drawings
not to scale.

duce you to one or two new creatures.
When searching remember these rules:
**Always replace overturned rocks.
**Take no more than two live specimens.
**Wear strong footwear and a shady hat.

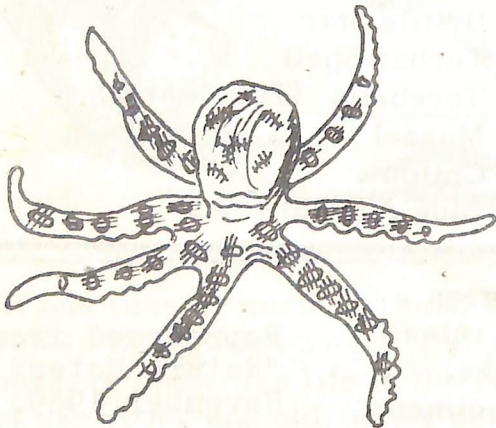
Reproduced from
"Nature Notes"
November 1969.

Danger! ★★●●

With some sunny weekends still left, many of you will still be visiting our beaches. Exploring rocky pools is great fun and for the most part a very safe occupation. There is one inhabitant of such pools to be very wary of, however - the Blue-ringed Octopus.

The poison of this small octopus is very deadly. Often seen in rock pools along the southern coast, the blue rings make this creature easily identifiable. When angered, the dark bands change to a bright blue.

If you see one, DON'T TOUCH IT. Leave it alone and warn others of the danger.



What To Do If Bitten

Suck venom from the wound and wash thoroughly. Apply a tourniquet. Give artificial respiration if the patient finds it hard to breathe. CALL A DOCTOR.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □



Prize Letter (Held over from last year.)

Dear Sir,



Red Wattle-bird

There have been four dead Red Wattle Birds found in the grounds of Blackburn East Primary School. One had been killed by a cat or a dog but the other three did not show any marks of violence. We think it might be that the insects had been on sprayed plants. Then

the Wattle bird would fly down and eat them and after a time the spray from the insects would build up in the bird's body and kill it.

Another of our theories is that the Red Wattle birds found dead in this area, have been killed due to the cold weather. We think this, because they have been found dead in the second term only, when the weather is at its coldest.

All the birds found dead have been at the western end of the school, but we don't know why this has happened, although there are more flowering gums situated this end of the school. It may have been that the cultivated fruit or the blossom that they eat have been sprayed resulting once again in their death.

Yours sincerely,

Gregory Robben and Paul Peake.



Things to Look for Everywhere!



* Is there a she-oak in your neighbourhood? At first glance they look a little bit like pine trees.

If you look at it closely you will see that although it seems to have long leaves, these are really small branches which do the work of leaves.

If you pull on one of these it will break at a "ring". Now look at the ring under a magnifying glass and count the "teeth".

* * * *



* * *

Fruit.

* See if you can find some of these GUM NUTS.



Blue Gum.
Eucalyptus globulus.



Eurabbie.
E. bicostata.



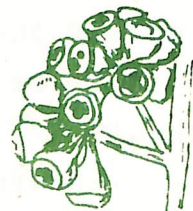
Sugar Gum.
E. cladocalyx.



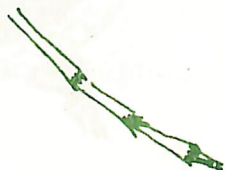
Yellow Gum.
Eucalyptus leucoxylon.



Mountain Ash. Red Flowering Gum.
E. regnans. E. ficifolia.



Seed.



Foliage.



* Of course people recognize the mudlark. It is one of our most useful birds. Watch it. What is it eating? When does it make a call? How can you tell the male from the female bird? In my drawing I have used the usual signs to denote the female or male. A man named Linnaeus used these signs in 1751 to define these terms. He was using signs from the Medieval alchemist and botanist. They meant

♂ for Mars and

♀ for Venus.

* * * * *

* Have a look under some garden rubbish or perhaps an old bag which has been left in a damp spot.

Do you find some small creatures which jump erratically?

These are spring-tails; small, wingless insects.

* * * * *

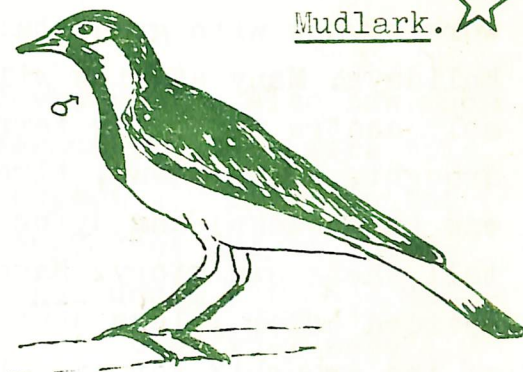
* Do you find any leaf-hoppers on the shrubs and trees these days?

What colour are the ones you have found?

Are they all the same colour?

* * * * *

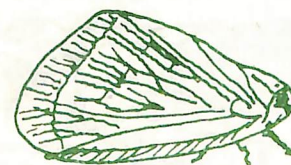
Mudlark.



tail at the ready



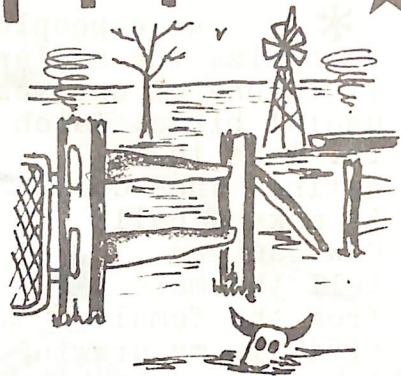
tail sprung



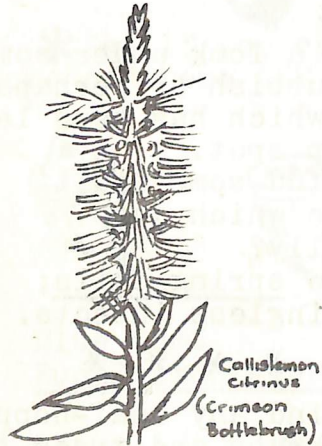
Leaf-hopper.

★ THIS 'N THAT ★

I guess you are all hard at work by now with great tales of holidays. Many stories will probably centre round our terrible drought. Brown lawns, tired gardens (and backs) and dying streams tell their own story. Have you noticed other, less obvious signs

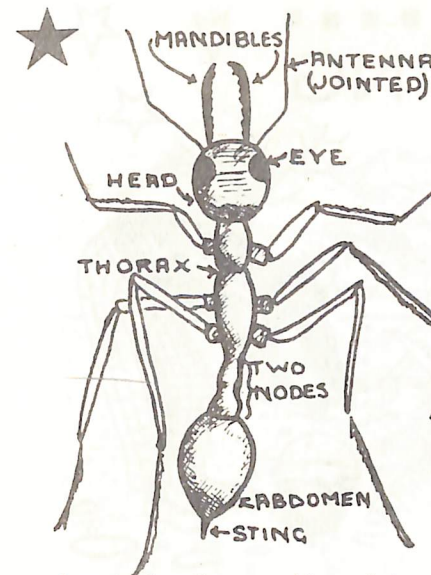
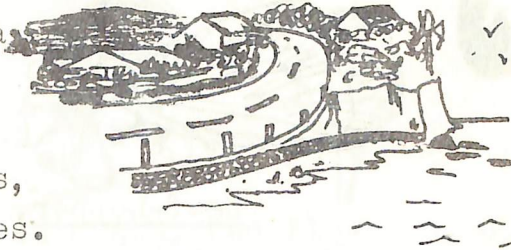


of the drought? For example have you noticed how white our milk and cream have become. In Bendigo, the local butter too, seemed to be a much lighter colour. Can you give a reason for these pale dairy products?



● When driving through Frankston we noticed the flowering gums were brighter shades of red and orange. Flowers seemed to be more numerous too than in normal years. Flowers on other native trees and shrubs, especially callistemons, were bigger and more striking this season. Our

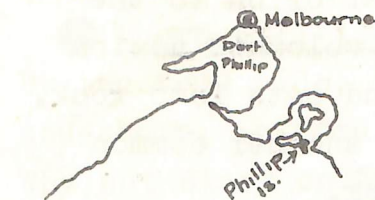
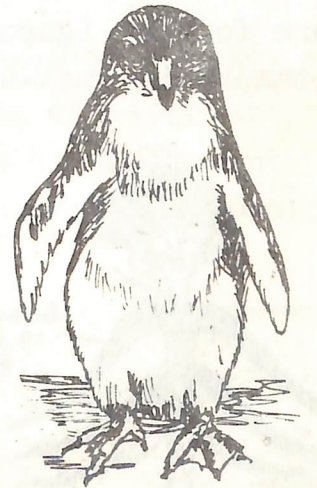
plant life having evolved in a dry land seemed to appreciate the dry conditions much more than its introduced neighbours, much to the delight of the bees.



★ ★ ★
Can you suggest reasons for these facts?

● Did you notice also how much more numerous the ants were this summer, especially close to and in the home? They had to forage further than usual for food and moisture. How busy they were just before the big rain early in February. Ants make a very interesting study both outside and inside the class room.

● Recently at Sorrento we saw an excited crowd on the pier intently watching something in the water. Closer examination proved it to be a lone fairy penguin, putting (so it seemed) a show on for our benefit. What a streamlined swimmer he was, so different from when on land! This decided us to later watch the



nightly summer penguin parade on Phillip Island and were we glad we did!

Next month I will tell you about it. Meanwhile why not take your parents along!

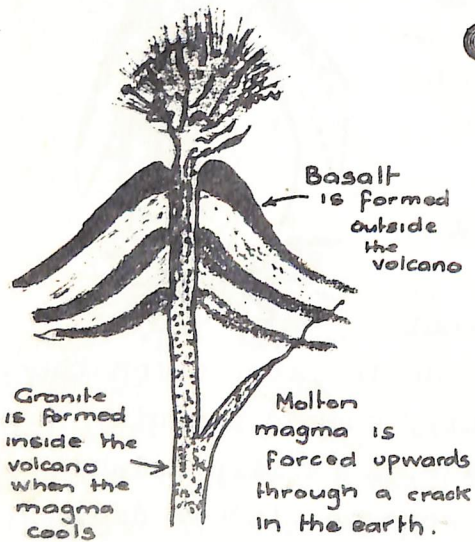
Nature Notes

ROCK COLLECTING

Rock collecting can lead to very interesting fields. It may be a start towards learning Geology (the science and history of the earth) and perhaps a wonderful career. Failing this it may start you off on a very absorbing hobby.



The first thing to learn is that rocks are classed into three groups according to the way they were formed: igneous rocks, sedimentary rocks and metamorphic (met-a-mor-fic) rocks.



● IGNEOUS ROCKS. (eg. basalt - road metal is usually crushed basalt)

These rocks are formed from molten mineral mixtures (magmas) located deep inside the earth. When the magma is brought near or on to the surface by volcanic action it cools and sets into rock. Granite is another common igneous rock.

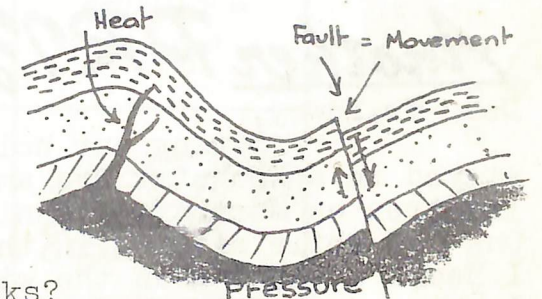
● SEDIMENTARY ROCKS

These are the most common surface rocks and consist of particles of existing rock which have been moved by wind, water or ice to the sea, where they sink to form layers on the bottom. The weight of many layers causes change and the particles become stuck together to form solid rock.

Limestone, shale and sandstone are three examples.



● METAMORPHIC ROCKS These are literally "CHANGED" rocks. The effect of heat, pressure or chemical action on existing rocks can result in a new and different rock. (Just look what heat does to the mixed ingredients of a sponge cake!) Heat and pressure changed what was originally limestone into marble. Shale became slate and sandstone became quartzite.



● Where Will You Find Rocks?

By the road side, in streams, on river banks, on the sea-shore, in road cuttings, excavations and mine dumps: Why not start collecting right away?

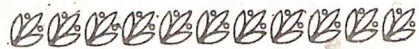


AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL PARKS

\$12-50

Michael Morcombe Landsdowne

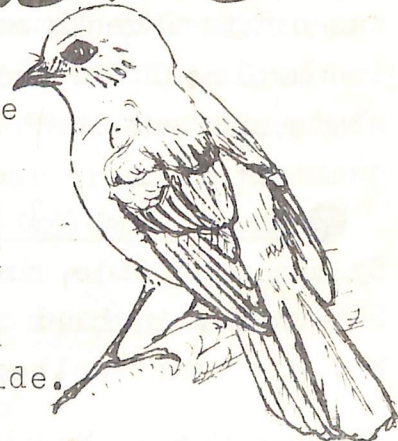
This beautiful book surveys the National Parks of Australia, their location and their many wonderful attractions. Few Australians would realise that this country has so many parks, nature reserves and wild-life sanctuaries. In this work the author gives a comprehensive, delightfully illustrated guide to the nation's parks set within five major regions. Each region has its own unique features and Michael Morcombe has captured the atmosphere of all of them with his skilled photography and entertaining text.



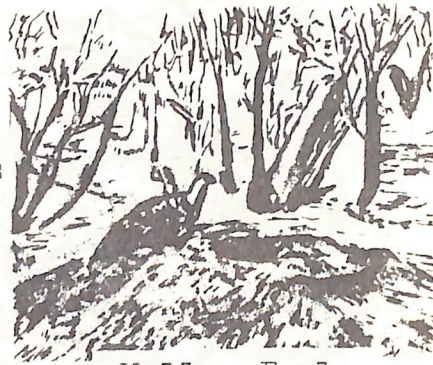
Another PRIZE LETTER

Dear Mr. Lawry,

During our holidays we stayed in a house at Rye amongst the tea-tree on Mornington Peninsular. One day while sitting in the lounge I heard a tapping on the window. On looking around I saw a yellow robin pecking at the glass and then I saw a big moth. The yellow robin had been trying to get at the moth from the outside while the moth was inside.



REVIEW

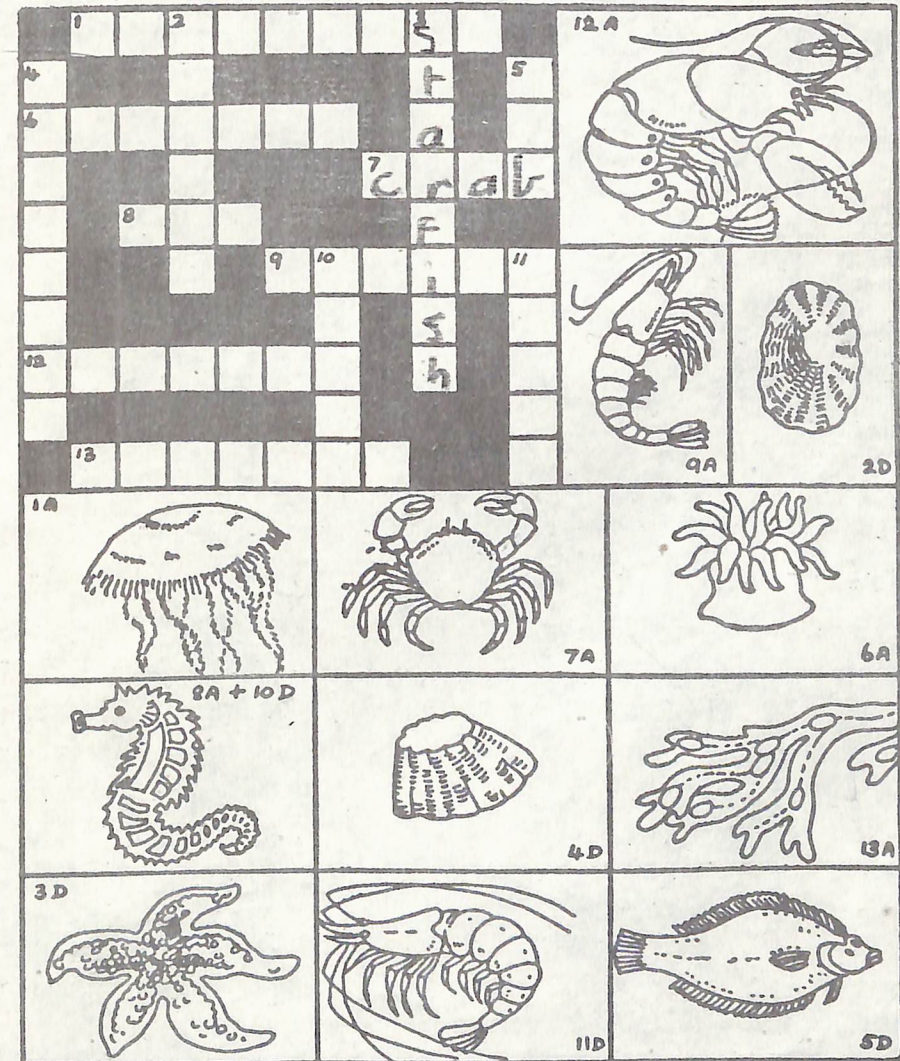


Mallee Fowl
(Wyperfield)

The robin kept this up for about ten minutes, during which time he scuttled back and forth in his efforts to reach the moth while we watched with great interest. At last Dad threw the moth out to the bird, much to his delight.

Susan Delacca. 6W. Blackburn Lake.

(...and the early bird also gets the worm, Susan. As your excellent letter was the only one to hand in time for printing this month you also get a Periwinkle Book Prize. Ed.)



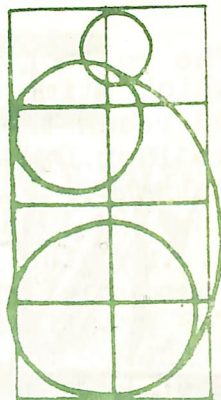
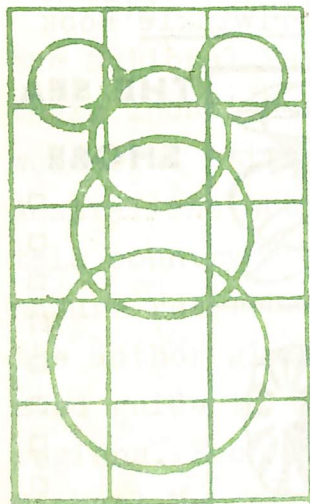
THE SEA SHORE



From
PEAL
PICTURE
CROSSWORDS

Let's Draw a Koala.

The guide will help you to draw a Koala fairly accurately. Have a picture beside you so you can create the texture of its coat. Good drawing!



Taken from:
"DRAWING AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS"
Margo Mahood.
(Whitcombe and Tombs)