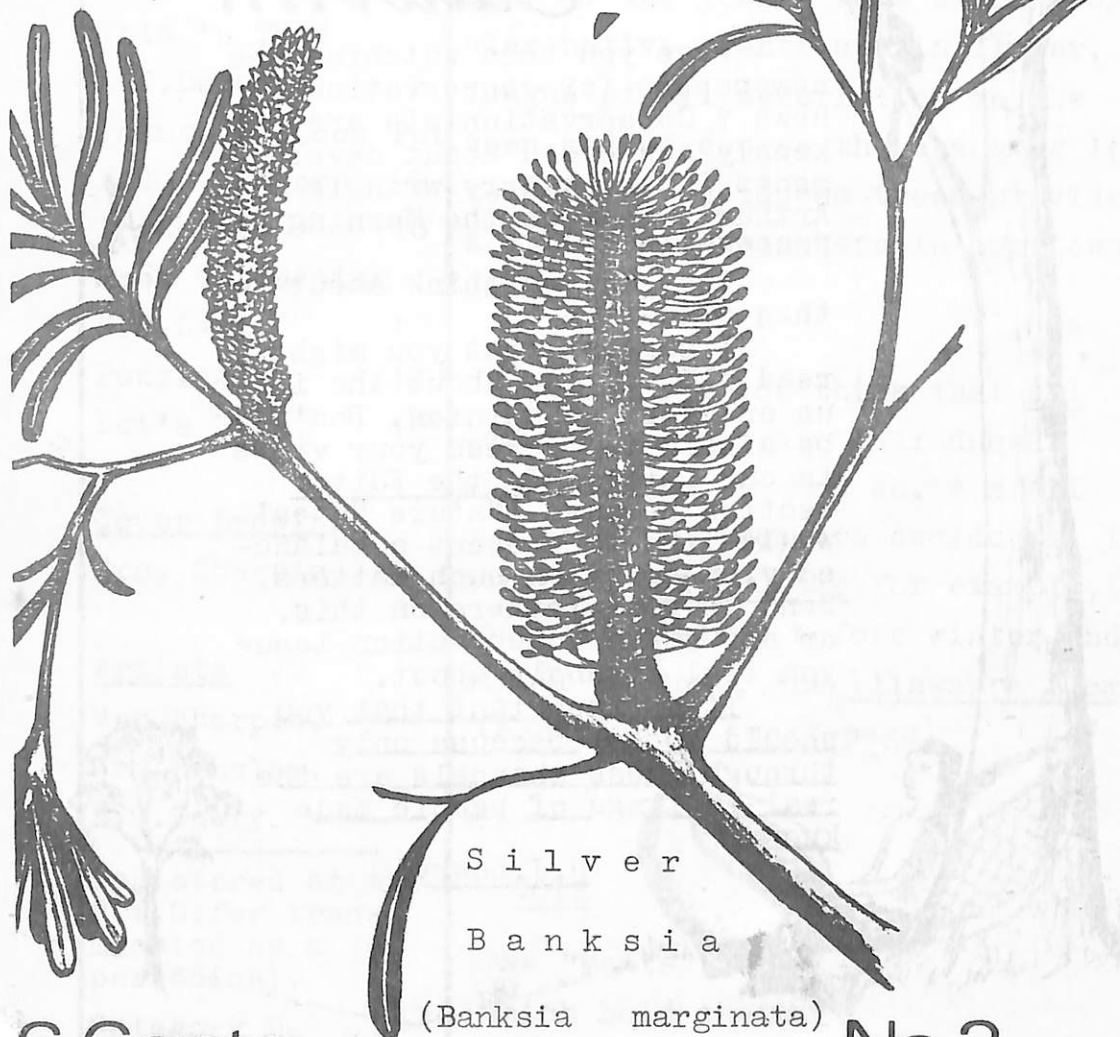


Ringwood Inspectorate

Volume 10

Nature NOTES

Primary School 4860 Blackburn Lake



S i l v e r

B a n k s i a

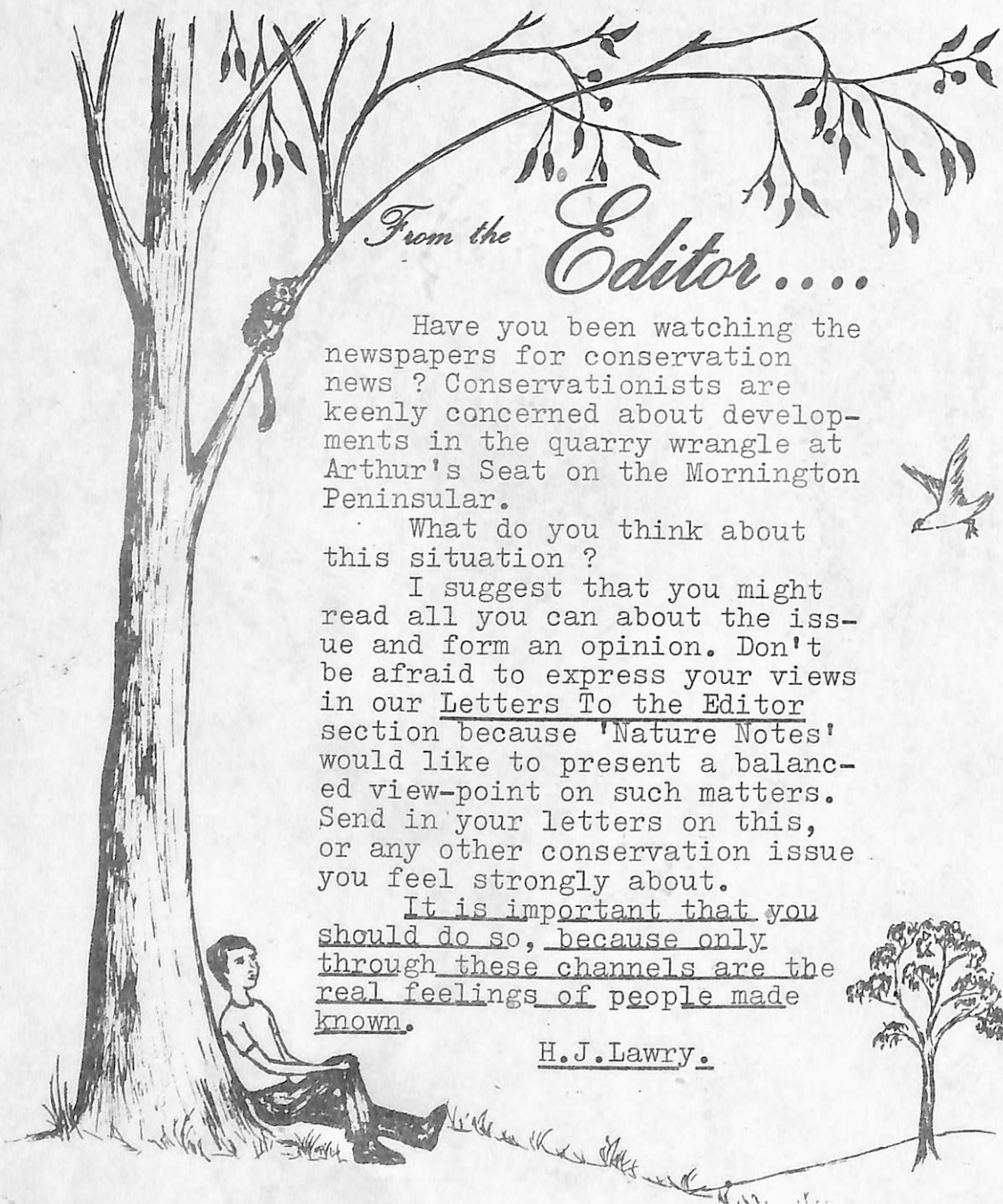
(Banksia marginata)

6 Cents

No 2

P.O. Box 30, Nunawading, 3131.

878 1403



From the Editor.....

Have you been watching the newspapers for conservation news? Conservationists are keenly concerned about developments in the quarry wrangle at Arthur's Seat on the Mornington Peninsular.

What do you think about this situation?

I suggest that you might read all you can about the issue and form an opinion. Don't be afraid to express your views in our Letters To the Editor section because 'Nature Notes' would like to present a balanced view-point on such matters. Send in your letters on this, or any other conservation issue you feel strongly about.

It is important that you should do so, because only through these channels are the real feelings of people made known.

H.J.Lawry.

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Cover Drawing

Mrs. Sharpin

Artists

Mrs.Sharpin.

Mrs Hensler.

H.J.Lawry

Registered at the G.P.O.for transmission as a periodical.

Category B.

Calling All Scientists! ☆ ☆ ☆

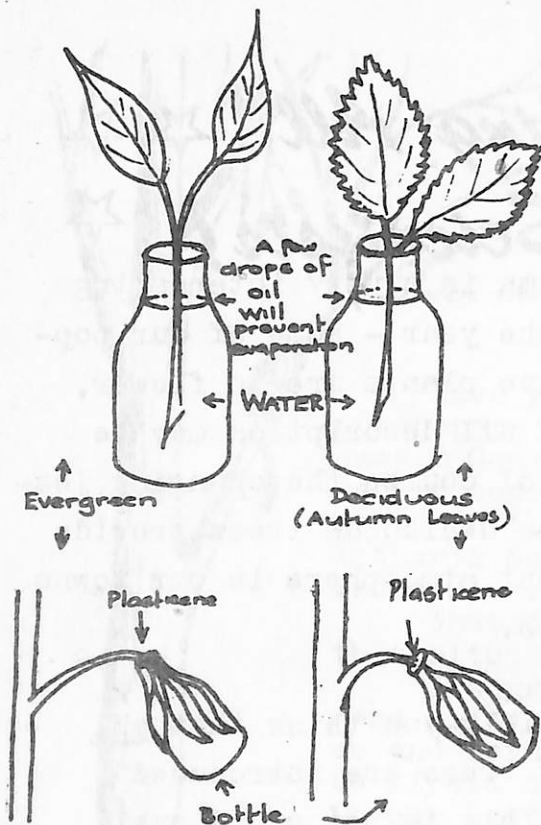
Autumn is a very interesting time of the year - some of our popular native plants are in flower, fungus of all description may be seen and of course the changing leaves of the deciduous trees provide a different atmosphere in our towns and cities.

Possibly you think that all deciduous trees are introduced species. This is not so. A small number of natives are deciduous. The northern White Cedar for example, loses its leaves before winter, and, closer to home, the Illawarra Flame (continued next page)

NOTE

The "boats" Which hold the seed of the Flame tree are much bigger than the Kurrajong pods





Tree loses its leaves in summer just before its mass of red, bell-like flowers appear.

Most likely there is an introduced deciduous tree near you somewhere. Try the experiments on the left and observe carefully what happens in each.

Can you explain the results which occur?

Note. You might need a box or prop to rest the bottle on if it is large and heavy.

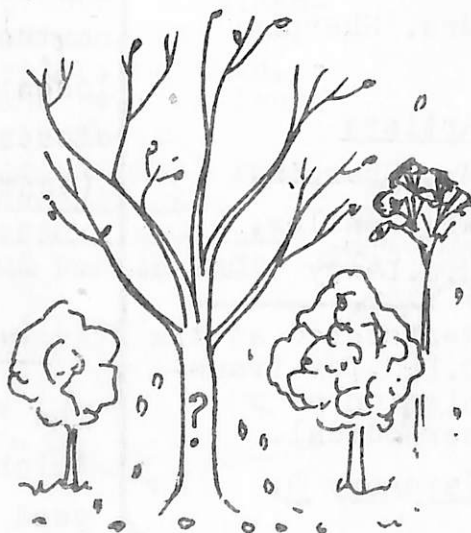
Some questions to answer:

Why do the leaves of deciduous trees change colour before falling?

Do the leaves which fall from evergreens change colour before falling?

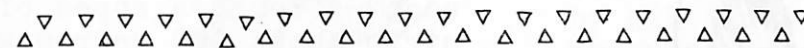
Why do deciduous trees lose their leaves in autumn?

Are there any other explanations for some trees



losing their leaves? Think about the Flame Tree and Magnolia for example.

If you find some interesting results, or would like to ask questions on any of these issues, write in to Nature Notes and your letter will be given speedy attention.



Prize Letter



From Tally Ho Boys' Village :

One day my teacher told the boys in our form to go out into the garden and find some insects. I was looking at the ant nest for a while. Then I looked in a leaf and I found a strange looking spider. It was the first spider like this I have seen. I took it inside to our library and got the book called the Book of Australian Spiders. Then I looked up the index and found it was called the Golden Garden Spider. The colours were gold, brown, white, grey and black. It was quite harmless.

Manfred Schilling.



Thank you Manfred for such a nicely written letter. A Periwinkle Book Prize will arrive for you soon. (Ed.)

THIS 'N THAT

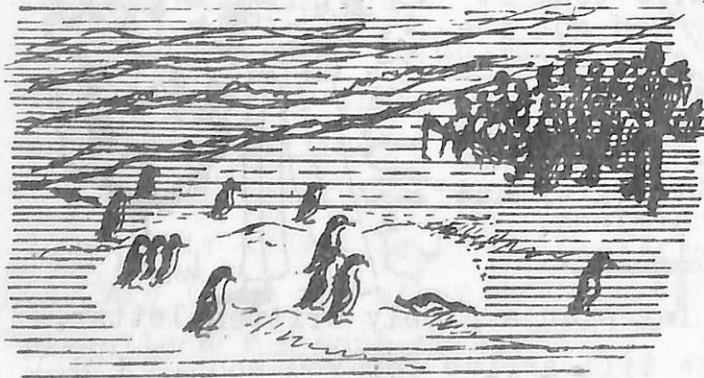


● Last month I promised to tell you about the penguin parade on Phillip Island. On arrival at the beach we found a roped off strip about 100 metres wide leading to the dunes. Hundreds of people waited expectantly as Penguin No.1 arrived right on time at 9 pm. He was followed soon after by a dozen strutting mates, which scuttled back to the safety of the water as a

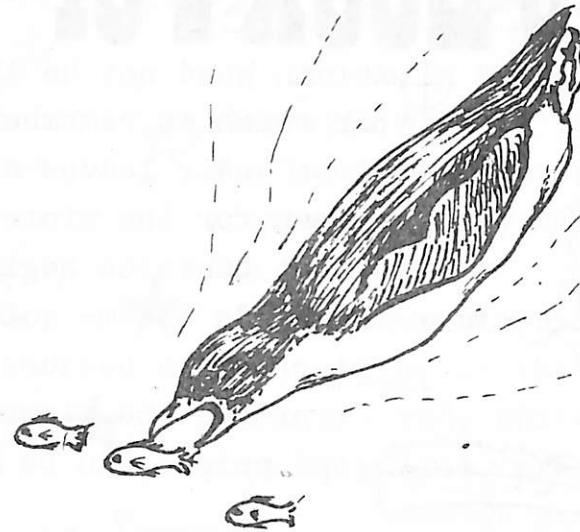
bright spotlight caught them in its beam. What comical figures they cut as they repeated this performance several times! Eventually, instinct overcame fear and up they climbed to their burrows. Soon some hundreds of penguins had rejoined their chicks waiting to be fed.

● Can you discover how they actually feed their young?

● Did you know that penguins belong entirely to the Southern Hemisphere? Although there are about 18 species only the Fairy Penguin breeds in Australia. This breeding



takes place not only on Philip Island but also on other islands strung out for 3000 miles along our southern coastline. Breeding commences as late winter merges into spring and the last of the chicks put out to sea in February.



● Much has been said in recent times about pollution, of which one of the worst forms is that caused by oil slicks. Many penguins become trapped in oil, usually with fatal results. The oil seems to prevent them from submerging which means they must starve.

If you find an oil covered penguin you are permitted to try to restore him to health, but he must be returned to the sea when he is fit and well again. Penguins are fully protected birds.

● To remove the oil, try rubbing sand into the feathers. Perhaps you could obtain some Fuller's Earth from the chemist, as this is even better. Washing with a mild detergent, then drying and keeping him until the return of his natural oil may also be successful. Try to feed the bird with fresh pilchards or whitebait. You will have to push the food down his throat so it would be wise to wear gloves. That beak can give a powerful nip. The Fisheries and Wildlife Department will give you any other advice you may need, if you care to ring them up.

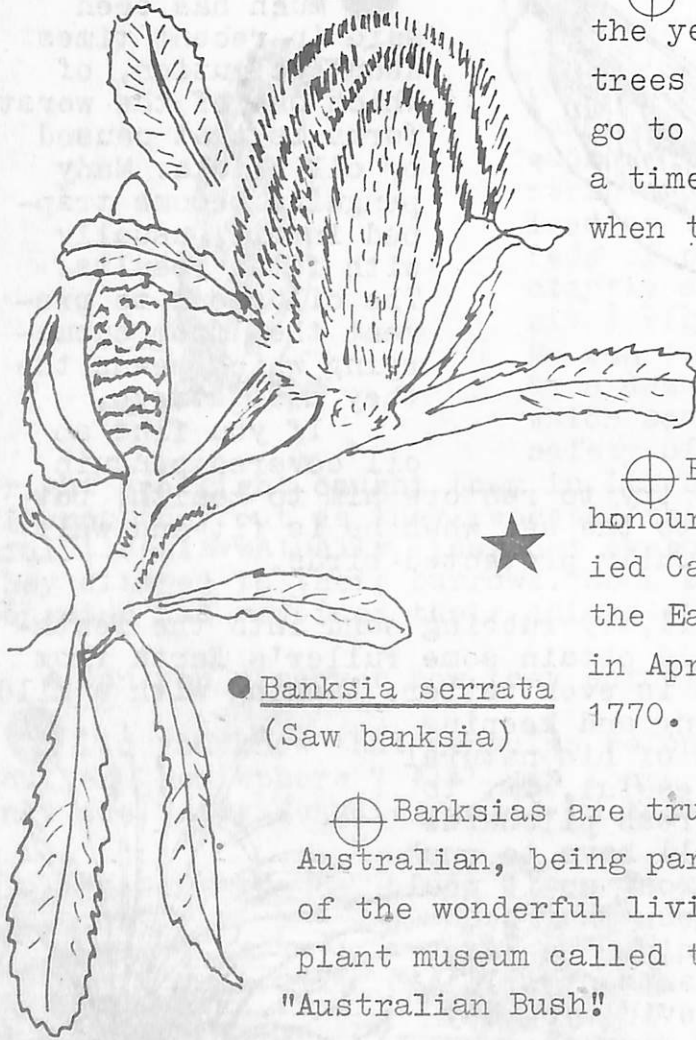
● Now, let's see what else you can discover about penguins. Why not start with a visit to the Penguin Parade? This will set you off on an exciting trail of discovery. Good luck!



Things To Look For—

in

BANKSIAS ○○



● Banksia serrata
(Saw banksia)

⊕ Banksias are truly Australian, being part of the wonderful living plant museum called the "Australian Bush!"

The flowers are easily recognised because they are massed together and form a long dense spike. When the flower dies it is followed by knobby seedpods.

⊕ Autumn need not be the time of the year which we remember because the trees lose their leaves and nature goes to sleep for the winter. To me it is a time when Banksias begin to flower, when the birds become quieter and easier to see because they are visiting the flowers for food and nature can be interesting.

★ ⊕ Banksias were named to honour Joseph Banks who accompanied Captain Cook when he discovered the East Coast of New South Wales. in April 1770.



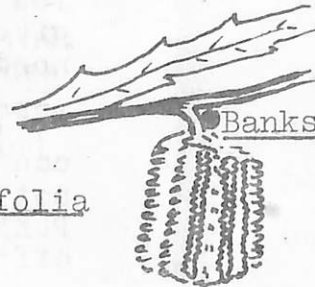
● Banksia integrifolia
(Coast Banksia)

⊕ It is in Western Australia that we find the largest number and greatest variety among the banksias.

★ We have almost every colour in the flowers - red, white, purple, yellow, green, orange and black.



★ ● Banksia prostrata tall trees to small prostrate plants which creep along the ground and have their flowers almost it seems growing out of the ground itself. Some banksias even have their flowers hanging upside down.



● Banksia caleyi Banksias suitable for Melbourne gardens ● Banksia ericifolia ('Heath banksia') include B. serrata, spinulosa, marginate and ericifolia.



● Banksia prionotes
(Orange Banksia)



⊕ The kinds of banksias vary from

FROM HERE ★ AND THERE

● There have been some very interesting letters in my mail this month so I decided to print a few of them for you to enjoy. Unfortunately, they cannot all be printed and thanks go to David Jackson, Zoe Scott and Paul Peake for their letters which were read and enjoyed very much. Now let us see what those readers whose letters were printed have to say.

From Vermont:

★ A few weeks ago, when we visited Mt. Martha we were out in a boat and we saw two fins swim around our boat. At first we thought they were sharks but when they jumped out of the water we could see they were dolphins. They were around us for a little while and they swam out to sea.



On the same day we went to the Rosebud pier and we saw a seal called "Sammy". We were told that he had been there for several weeks. We fed him on some fish and he jumped up and clapped his fins to us. We were also told that sharks had bitten him and I hope he is still all right. That made a very interesting day for us.

Beverley Bishop.

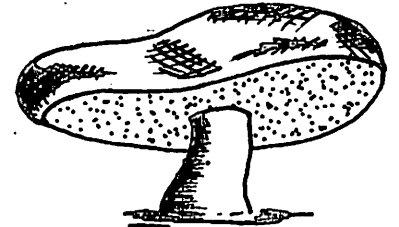
Also from Vermont:

★ Earlier this year a girl in our grade brought a Boletus Toadstool to school. It weighed just under 5 kg. This started most of the grade doing projects on fungi.

We found that many of our so called poisonous toadstools are edible when cooked. But it always pays to be safe, so you should eat only fungi that you know are edible.

We also found that Victoria's 120 types of fungi can be split into two main groups, sac spore fungi and club spore fungi. The boletus belongs to the sac spore group. If you look closely at it you can see the spores.....

Victor Jones Gr. 6c.



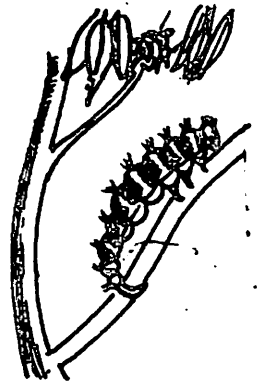
From Yarra Valley School.

★ On Monday we went down to the bush and our class found a caterpillar which was black with white stripes. We thought it was a Wanderer, but a Wanderer eats milk weed and this caterpillar was at the foot of a silver-leafed stringy bark and seemed to be digging a hole. When we came back to school we looked in the book but it was not a Wanderer.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Wilson Grade 3.

● Thank you Simon for a very neat and interesting letter. Mr. Rogers suggests that your caterpillar may have been of the saw-fly variety so perhaps you could follow this up with some research of your own. (Ed)

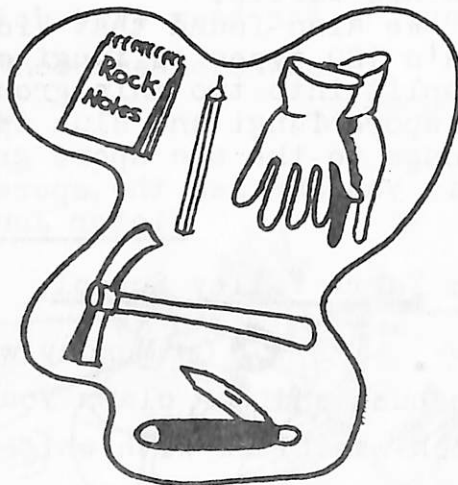


ROCK COLLECTING

Last month we discussed the three main rock groups - IGNEOUS, SEDIMENTARY, and METAMORPHIC. Did you find some samples? I hope your interest in rocks has been aroused - if so, here are some suggestions for making a collection.

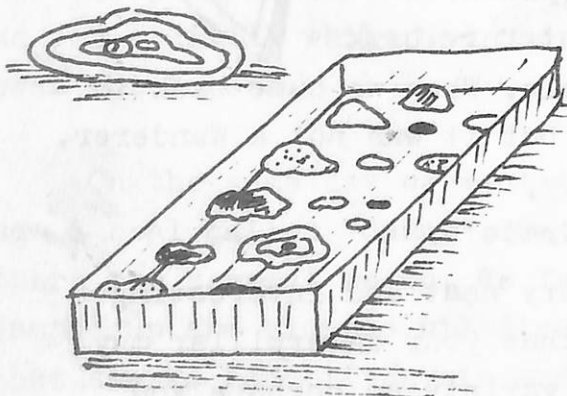
Essential Equipment.

* Note-book, pencil, geologist's pick, strong gloves, a pocket-knife and of course, a bag to keep your specimens in. Keep them small, otherwise you'll be carrying a lot of unnecessary weight!



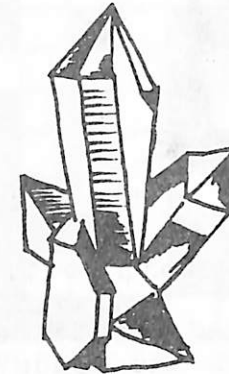
Arranging Your Collection.

* There are many ways of doing this. Probably the most efficient way is to number each rock and keep a record book with the name of the rock entered against the number. Stick on labels are good, but a paint spot (numbered) is better. Old shirt boxes make excellent display cases.



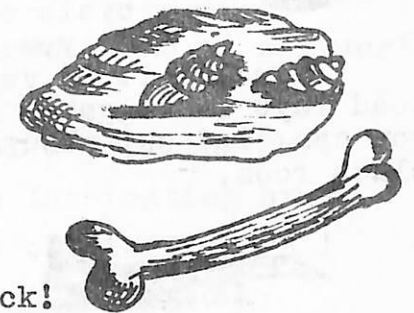
* Identifying specimens is sometimes a problem. However, if you can obtain a few books from the library, their coloured plates are often a big help. If you know another collector, or can visit a museum or Rock Shop, then the problem is not so great.

FOSSILS.



* Sometimes, if you are very lucky, you might find the remains or even just the outline of former plant or animal life buried in the rock. These are called fossils and can tell us a

great deal about life which existed in ancient times. For example the fact that dinosaurs once roamed the earth is known because their fossilised bones have been found in many places. I remember going on a very successful fossil hunting expedition in the Casterton district a few years ago. We discovered all sorts of shells, bones and teeth. Have a search among the rocks near your home.... who knows WHAT you might discover.

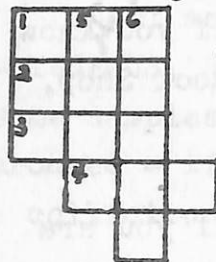


Happy collecting and Good Luck!

Something to do.

* Write to an Oil Company and ask for information about how geologists help in the search for oil.

PUZZLES



Across

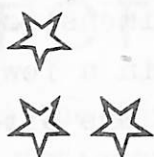
1. A long time
2. Explosive.
3. To live you must
4. Years in a decade.

Down

1. Past tense of eat.
5. Insect.
6. Animal.



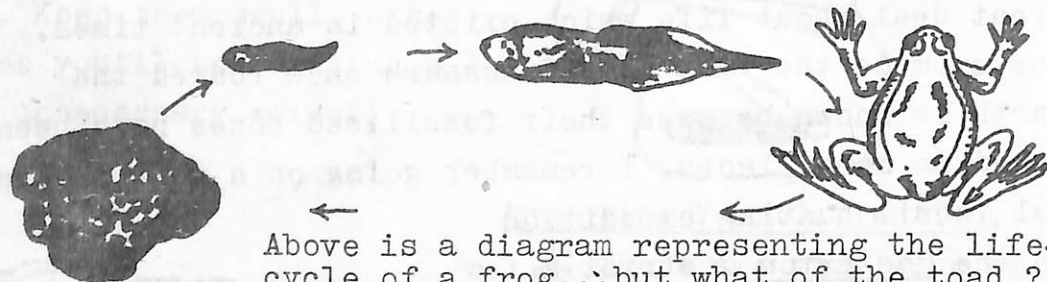
MINI PUZZLE



What is the name of this plant?

Bottle-tree

● Have you ever wondered about the similarities between frogs and toads?



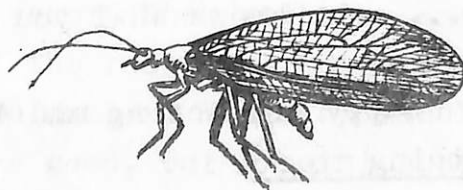
Above is a diagram representing the life-cycle of a frog...but what of the toad? Do you know what its life-cycle is?

Actually it is very similar to a frogs except the toad lays its eggs in a string of jelly. See what else you can find out about toads. Try breeding some in your class room.



● What do you call this aeroplane?

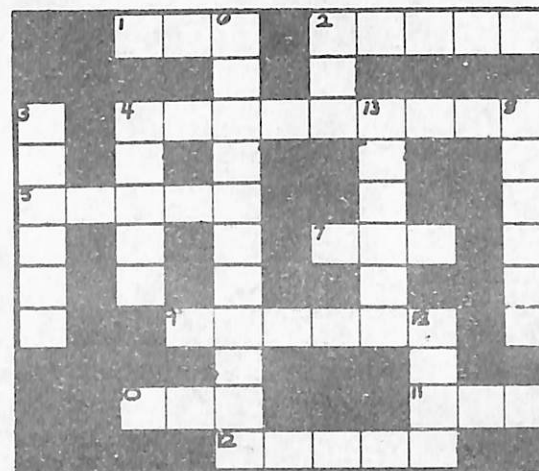
Concorde



● Can you name this creature?


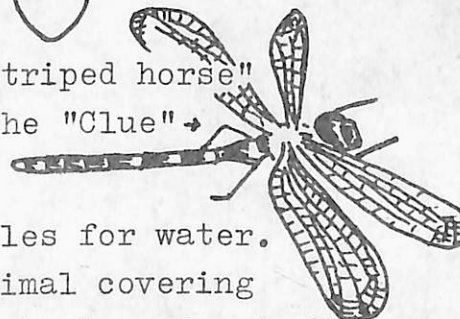
Lace-wing

Crossword



CLUES (Slightly out of order !)

ACROSS.

1. 
2. "Striped horse"
4. The "Clue" → 
5. Holes for water.
7. Animal covering
9. Eight legged animal.
10. Honey maker.
11. Mischievous being.
12. Some times called a crow.

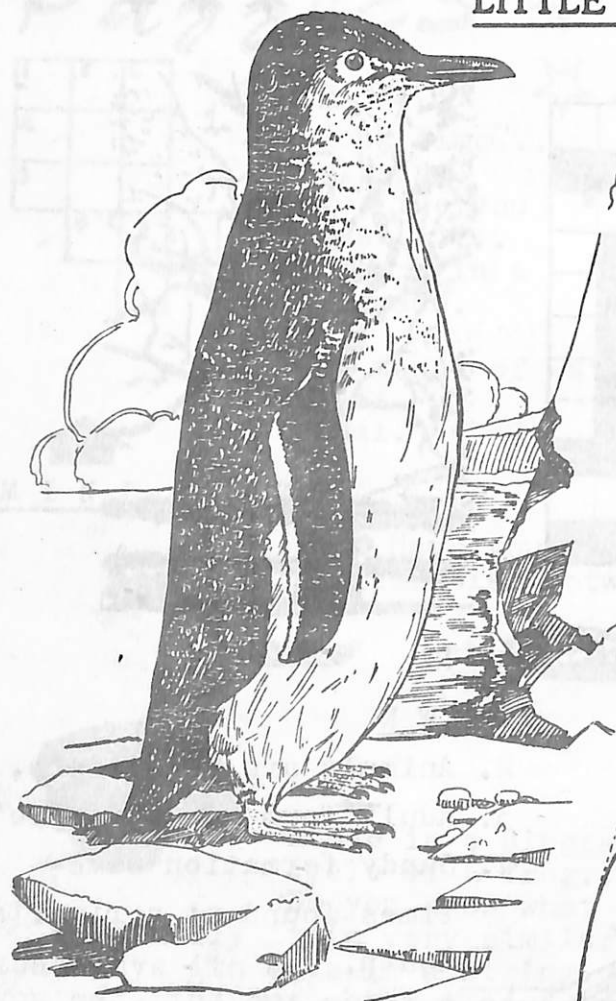
DOWN

2. Animals are kept there.
3. Adult form of "spitfire"
4. Sandy formation some-times found at a river's mouth.
12. Falls from the sky.
13. A fascinating study.
8. Watch his nippers !
6. A long jumper.

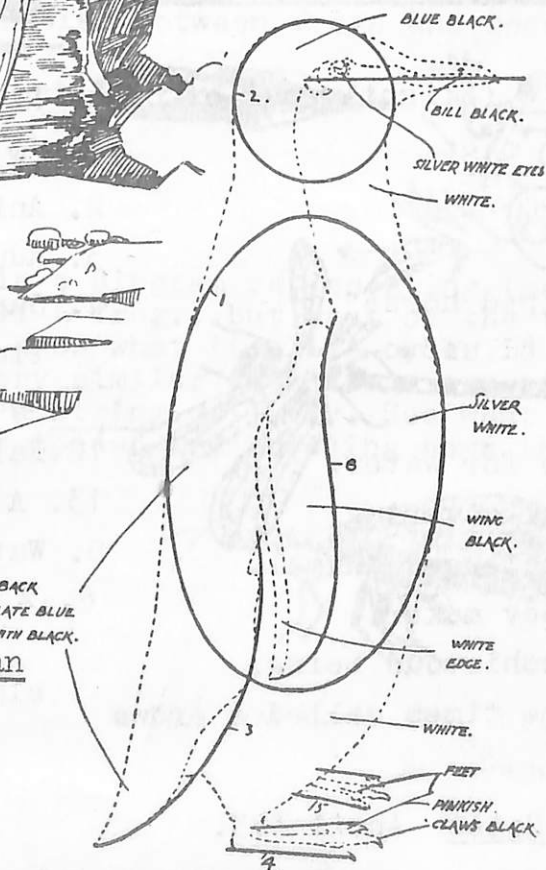


Let's Draw a

LITTLE PENGUIN



LENGTH 18 INCHES
FISH



Reproduced from
Sketches of Australian
Birds . Book One.
The Gould League of
Victoria.