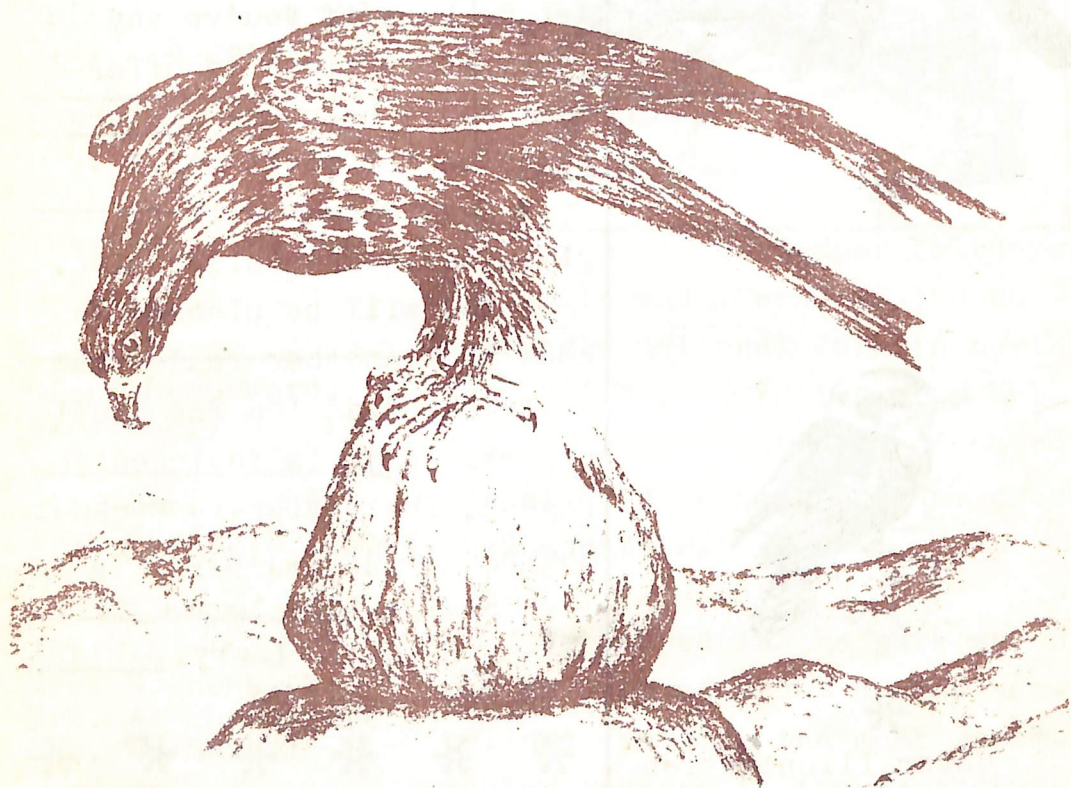


Ringwood Inspectorate

Volume 10

Nature NOTES

No 9



6 Cents

P.O. Box 30, Nunawading, 3131.

878 1403



Noisy
Friar
Bird



Cover illustration
by Mrs. M. Sharpin.

From the Editor....



Dear Readers,

This month you will notice some differences in the lay-out of our magazine. I hope you will like them. Please write in and let me know if you've any other suggestions to offer that would help make Nature Notes better won't you?

Your suggestions will be given serious consideration.

You will be pleased to know that another reader has contributed an 'On The Spot' report, which is featured on Page 3. The writer is Michael Sharpin of Blackburn, Vic.

Best wishes to you all.

H. J. Lawry.



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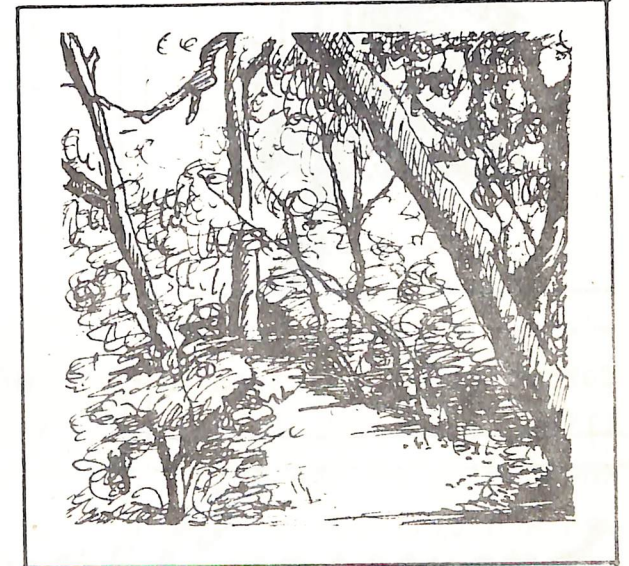
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Your Garden.
W. A. Gould League

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On The Spot!

Michael Sharpin.
Grade 6.



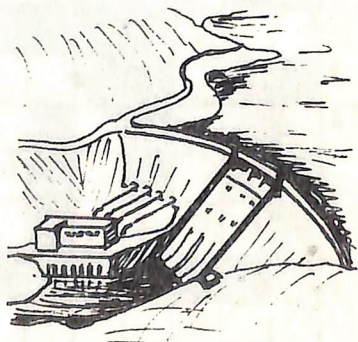
Over the September holidays my family and I went to the Warrumbungle National Park in northern N.S.W., 650 miles from Melbourne. Warrumbungle is an aboriginal word meaning broken, crooked mountain.

We camped in the park which has an area of about 40,000 acres, and contains the most spectacular scenery in the Warrumbungle Ranges. These ranges are vol

Do you remember the famous story in the Grade 6 Reader of the three Duff children who were lost in the bush near Mt. Arapiles in Western Victoria? We visited there recently and were sorry to see that one of last year's bush-fires had caused much destruction to plant and animal life. However, regeneration was taking place. This is one of the marvels of our unique flora - the ability to survive fire and drought.

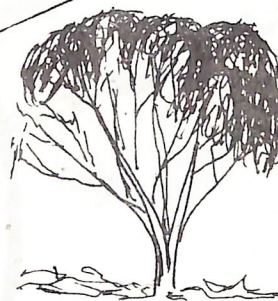


Did you know that the Grampian Range is an important water catchment-area for the Wimmera-Mallee irrigation scheme? One of the storages we saw was Lake Bellfield. See if you can discover the names of the other five. There are over 6,500 miles of channels which fill dams and storages over the 11,000 square mile network which



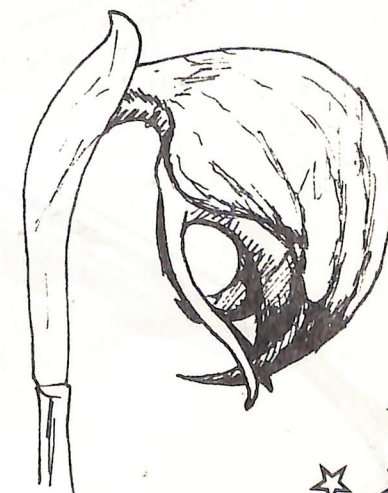
serves nearly 100,000 people in this rich area.

Many years ago the settlers removed most of the trees and shrubs in the Mallee area. Later, when the

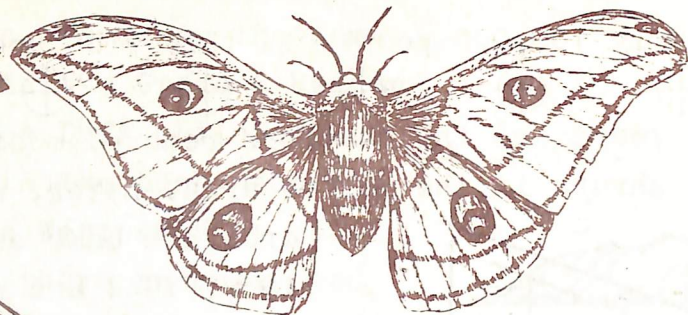


droughts came such as in 1938, 1944 and more recently, 1967-8, there were many severe dust-storms. At one time the red dust could be seen over the Tasman Sea half way to New Zealand. Why did this soil blow away? What can we do to stop this terrible loss?

Once I found it difficult to believe that orchids could grow in a desert, until a visit to the Little Desert showed me that multitudes of greenhoods, tiger orchids, (cowslips) waxlips pink fairies and even an occasional delicate spider orchid could be found there. Perhaps the little Desert could be better named Little Eden.



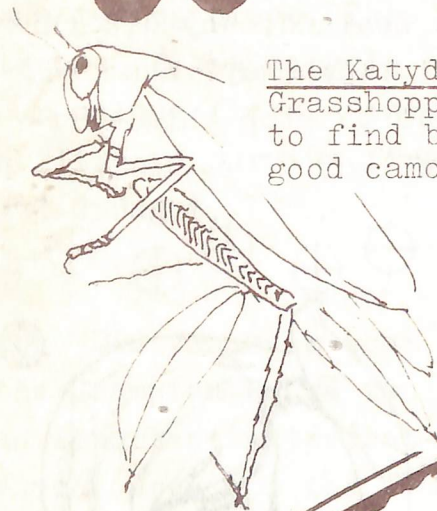
Next month I will tell you more about the Grampians.



Gum Emperor Moth.



Keep an eye open for
Gum Emperor Caterpillars.
See if you can be the
first in your grade to
see one.



The Katydid or Gum-leaf
Grasshopper is often hard
to find because of his
good camouflage.



Watch out for the sting
of the Bulldog ant.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR in NOVEMBER



HAWK MOTH

In the early
evenings you may find
these fairly large brown and yellow
moths sucking nectar from flowers.
Note the long sucking proboscis. How
is it carried when not in use?



TRIGGER
PLANTS

Try to pull
the trigger by touch-
ing the nectary with
a pin head. The trig-
ger action is illust-
rated.

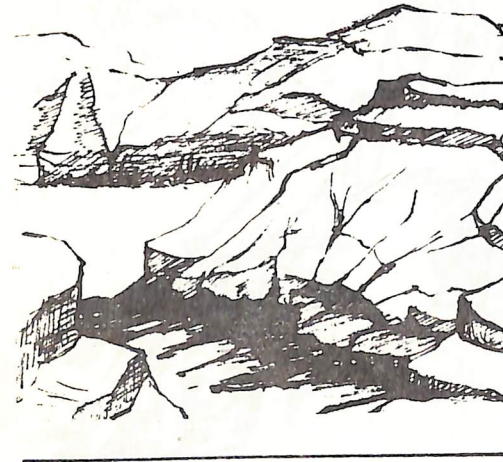
DO YOU KNOW?....

⊗ that some wattle seeds lie in the ground for years ? Often it is only when a bush-fire passes over the country that the hard seed case opens. Then the roots go down in to the soil, and very soon a shoot will appear above the ground.

Within a few years the tree may develop into a fine bush with golden flowers.



⊗ that a small possum called the Sugar Glider can fly although it has no wings? Sugar Gliders launch themselves and fly from tree to tree during the night. They have a membrane between the front and back leg on both sides which helps make them into perfect gliders.



⊗ that some "wild" flowers have been made "tame" and that their seeds may be bought to grow in your own garden? Some of these are:

The Rotnest Island Daisy.

The Golden Strawberry.

The Brown Boronia.

Can you think of some others ?



⊗ that in inland North West Australia there are fossils of shells to be seen in the steep sides of the gorges that the river rivers have cut for themselves when they flooded in the wet season ? This shows that inland Australia was once under the sea and that long ago a great upheaval raised the level of the land above the sea.

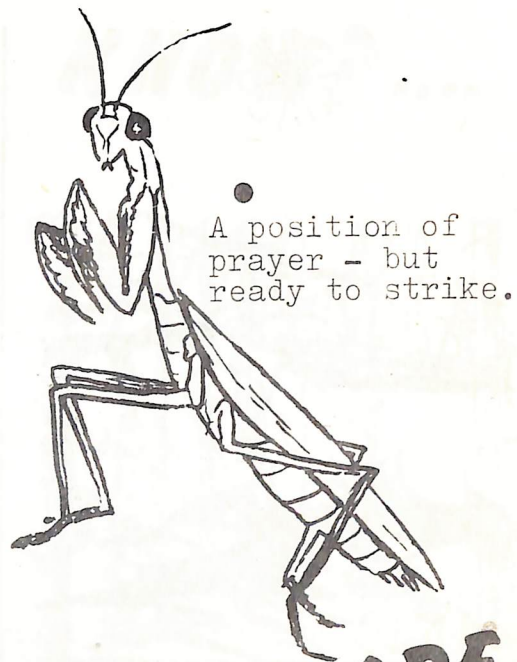


Brown boronia

Two insect orders often confused are the MANTIDS, commonly called the praying mantids because of their praying pose - really they are preying - (check in your dictionary) and the PHASMIDS or stick insects. They are somewhat alike in appearance and both are wonderfully camouflaged, the phasmids for protection and the mantids for attack as well as protection.

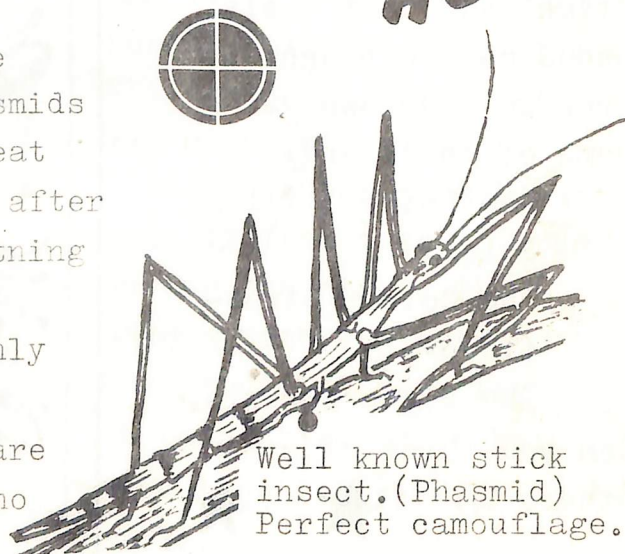
One main difference between mantids and phasmids is their diet. Mantids eat flies and other insects after trapping them with lightning speed with their deadly front legs. They walk only on the two rear pairs.

Phasmids, however, are plant feeders and have no



A position of prayer - but ready to strike.

THEY ARE ALIKE



Well known stick insect. (Phasmid) Perfect camouflage.



Deadly grip of mantis.

OR ARE THEY?



Try to find out more about these interesting insects from books or even better by finding and studying them yourselves.

Something to do:

Find out these things:

- Are the females larger than the males in each order?
- Which female eats her male?
- Do they have wings?
- What is a nymph?
- Do mantids help man?

See if you can hatch some nymphs from an egg case.

Nature Notes. November '73.

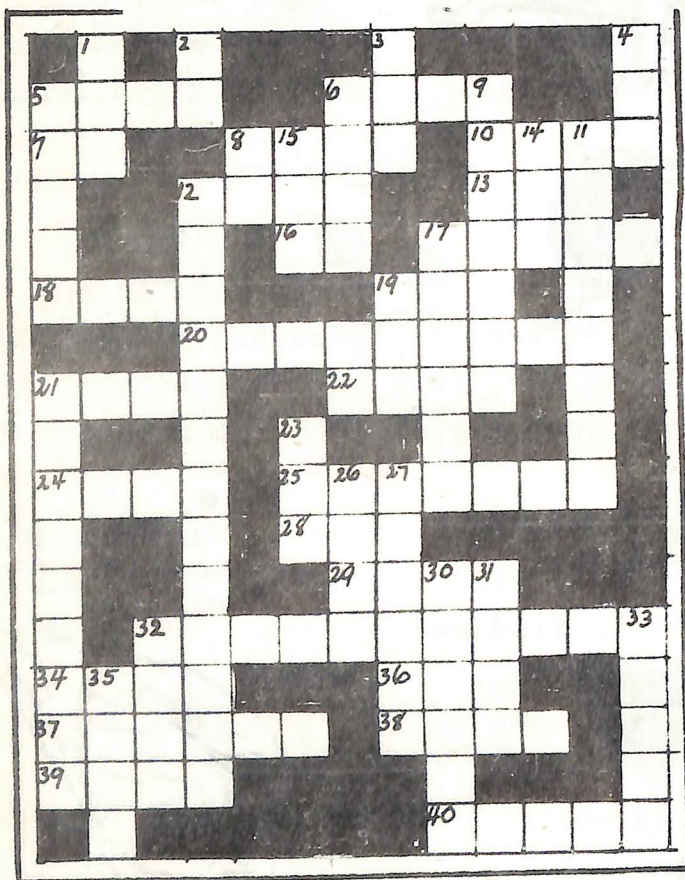
grasping front legs. most are long, thin and straight in appearance - just like twigs. Their colour varies between light green and grey-brown.

Mantids lay their eggs in egg cases fastened to trees and bushes but phasmids lay their eggs one at a time, simply dropping them to the earth.

Mantid nymphs emerging from egg case.



A Giant Crossword



Peregrine Falcon.

● This month I have made up a giant crossword. I hope that it will give you a great deal of pleasure. Some of the numbers are out of order, but that shouldn't make any difference to the result. Good puzzling! Ed.

Clues

DOWN

1. Edible root.
2. Opposite of she.
3. cabin.
4. Period of time.
5. "Ship of the desert."
6. Law.
9. Go back.
8. District Attorney (Initials)
15. Edge.
14. 1 plus 1 =
11. This month.
12. Riverboat.
17. Sticky sweet.
19. Colouring agent.
21. Japanese emblem.
23. Unidentified Flying Object. (Initials)
26. Smell.
27. Uncover
30. Machine.
31. Part of a house.
32. National Aeronautics and Space Administ'n.
33. Rest.
35. Duelling sword.

SOLUTION

Down
1. Yam, 2. he, 3. log, 4. era, 5. camel, 6. rule, 9. retreat, 8. D.A., 15. rim, 14. two, 11. November, 12. paddle steamer, 17. toffee, 19. dye, 21. Rising Sun, 23. U.F.O., 26. odour, 27. reveal, 30. engine, 31. room, 32. NASA, 33. spell, 35. epee.
Across
5. cage, 6. roar, 7. a.m., 8. drug, 10. Etna, 12. pail, 13. two, 16. me, 17. trove, 18. lead, 19. doe, 20. dairy farm, 21. tail, 22. left, 24. sags, 25. forever, 28. ode, 29. over.

ACROSS

5. To keep in captivity.
6. Sound of a lion.
8. Take on doctor's advice only.
7. Morning sign.
10. Famous volcano.
12. Bucket.
13. 1 plus 1 =
16. Give it to ...
17. Word which often is used in connection with 'treasure'
18. Metal
19. Female deer.
20. Farm producing milk.
21. Long piece of metal.
22. Opposite of right.
24. Bends in the middle.
25. A very long time.
28. Poem.
29. There are eight bowls in one.



BIRD TABLES FOR YOUR GARDEN



Like to attract some birds to your garden ? Here are some ideas that might help you. Reproduced from the W.A. Gould League's Gould Leaguer Vol. 21, No.1 1971.