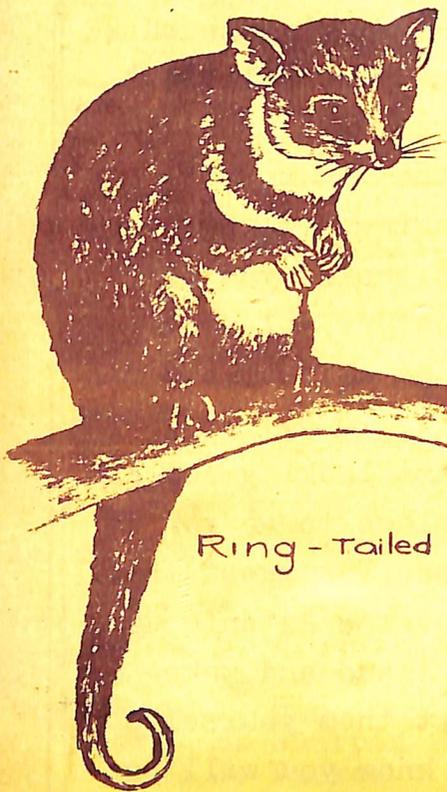


Ringwood Inspectorate

Barrnengen
Volume II.

Nature NOTES

NO. 3



Ring-tailed Possum

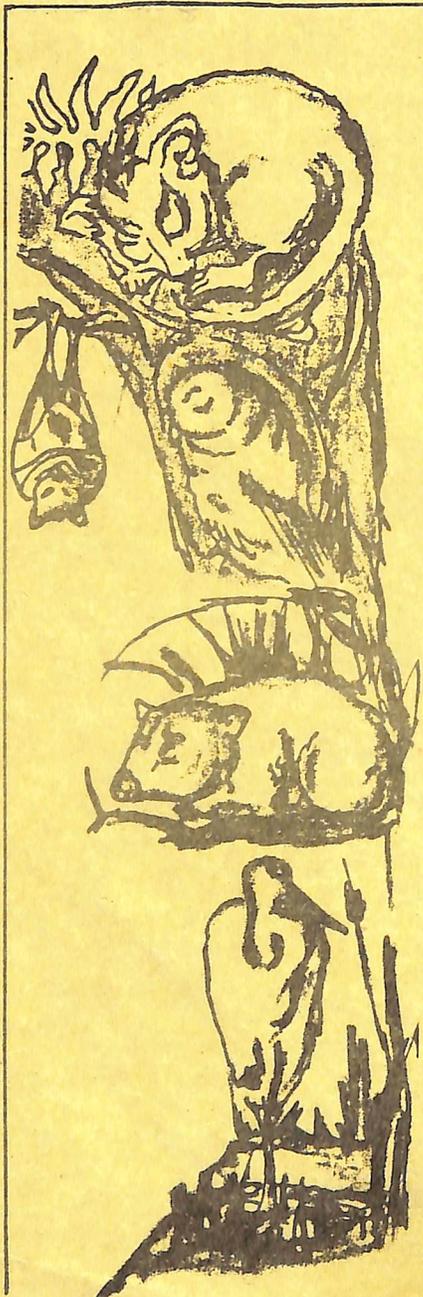


Striped Possum
(New Guinea)

6 Cents

P.O. Box 30, Nunawading, 3131.  878 1403

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A Message For All ..

Dear Girls and Boys,

We have a varied program for you in this issue - I hope you will enjoy the articles as much as I did when I read them in preparing for this magazine. If there are any different topics you would like us to feature, please write in and we will do our best to help.

If you are looking for an interesting place to go for an excursion, then I suggest that you read about the Botanic Gardens in this issue and make plans to visit them yourselves. If you do, I know you will be pleased with what you find there.

Best wishes until next month.

H.J.Lawry.
(Editor/Organizer)

Daydreamers

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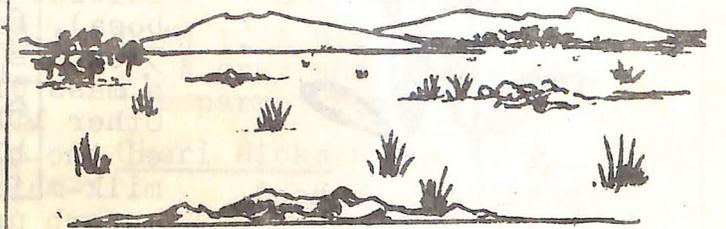
Our Heritage

IN THE

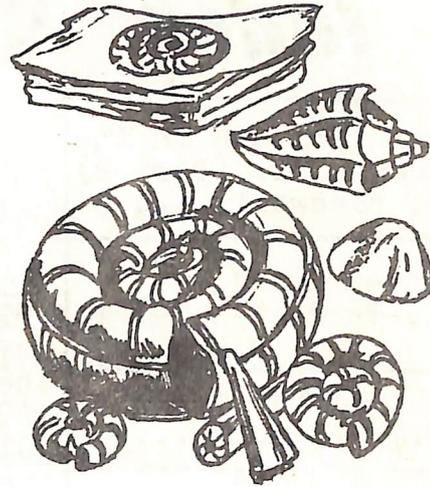
Mountains Pt.2

The next stage of our trip took us west of the Snowy River and into the heart of the mountain country. From Gelantipy we headed for Wulgulmerang, then took the Benambra track through Wombargo Station. Here we were disappointed to find that the Wombargo Syndicate, station owners, were bulldozing acres of natural forest land, to develop a cattle run. This country is precious because it is the home of so many beautiful plants and animals and already the signs of man's interference can be seen in so many areas.

We camped on the upper reaches of the Buchan River at Native Dog Plain. This is a clearing in the forest covered in tussocky grasses, wallaby grass and other native



varieties. The clear, cold waters of the Buchan River meander through the plain, developing here and there into small pools of crystal-clear water. Up there on the roadside we found many pieces of limestone, rich in fossils of corals and sea-creatures. It was hard to imagine the changes in the earth's face, which must have occurred to bring these sea-bed fossils to the mountain-tops of our ancient continent.



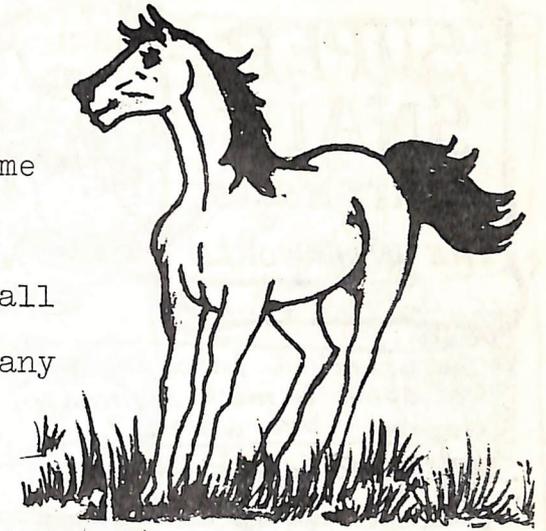
After this, we followed rough, tortuous, 4-wheel drive tracks northwards to the Cobberas beneath the peaks of which lie Nature's Playground. In January, it is Spring up there, The Playground is at the head of the Buchan River and is cleared of the eucalypts but covered with a blaze of spectacular wild flowers, orchids, lilies, grasses, mosses and fungi. Our party's cameras clicked frantically, as film shot through from spool to spool. Here are but some of the many varieties all on display in this wildflower paradise.



Nodding Greenhood

There were huge specimens of the common fringed-lily (*Thysanotus tuberosus*) which is a delightful mauve lily with a hairy fringe around each petal. Contrasting to these, in bright yellow, were Bulbine-lilies (*bulbine bulbosa*), bearing 3 petals and 3 sepals to each flower, with a mass of buds on each stalk. Other lilies we found included the blue-grass lily and milk-maids. The orchids were superb up there, pale green

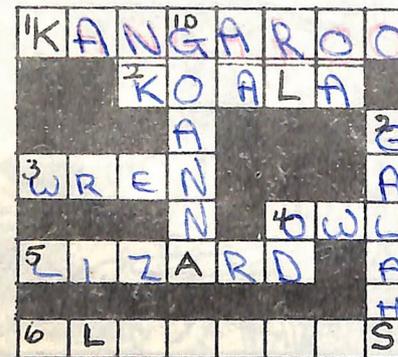
hood orchids were dotted across the plain, white parson's-bans orchids (resembling the white tabs worn by a Presbyterian Minister) came in shades from white to a mauve-pink hue. One pest up there was the bidgee-widgee (*acaepa anserinifolia*), a ball shaped burr bristling with small hooks which stick to any clothing in great clumps.



One fascinating aspect of these plains were the huge mounds of brumby droppings. Some would be over 61 cm. high (2') and spreading up to 4½ m. (ca 15') across. The size and frequency of these mounds made us speculate as to their purpose - territorial markers for different herds of brumbies? Judging by the number we found, I got the impression the brumbies may even outnumber the kangaroos by up to 10 to 1 in that country! Those that we saw were all fat and sleek but were very shy and, unless taken by surprise, were hard to see for more than a few seconds.

(To be continued....)

Crossword



- ACROSS 1. I hop over the grassy plains.
 2. I look a bit like a bear.
 3. I am a black and blue bird.
 4. A night bird. Eats mice.
 5. A reptile. One has a blue tongue.
 6. A strange mixture. (Animal)
- DOWN 1. A big lizard.
 2. A grey and pink member of the parrot family.

Cheri Hicks Grade 6. W.

SUPER SNAIL

MIGHTY MOLLUSC OF THE UNDERWORLD

POW! Super Snail was practising his Karate chops one morning, when a fly brought him a message from the Riddler...

The beautiful Lisa Lacewing was about to meet a dreadful doom — but where?

The Riddler's Riddle

1. Having a perfume.
2. That which gives the earth light and heat.
3. Moisture left as night air cools.

Swiftly solving the riddle, Super Snail zooms to the rescue.



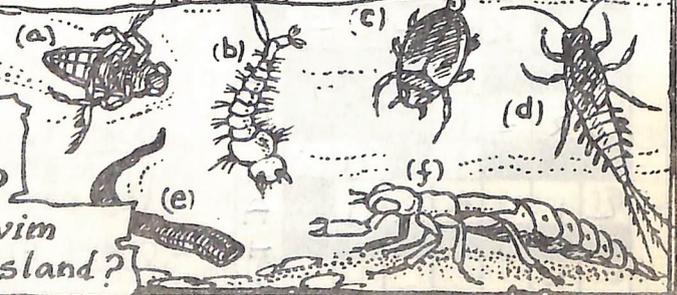
ANSWER → SCENTED SUN DEW

BUT...

The plant grows in damp places.

HELP!

Beneath the water 6 monsters lurk. Can you name them? Will Super Snail swim through them to the island?



ANSWERS : NEXT PAGE.

No, he won't. He's got more sense!

FOILED AGAIN!

TWANG

Sob

Sob

In the nick of time the mighty mollusc rescues the hapless maiden.

SIGH! I'm saved!

(a) Water boatman. (b) Mosquito larva. (c) Water beetle. (d) Mayfly nymph. (e) Leech. (f) Dragon fly larva.

The Monsters ...

Zoom on, Super Snail, to your next assignment.

THE END

Things To Look For in the BOTANIC GARDENS

Over many centuries, Botanic Gardens have grown into places of national importance. It was in these that new plants were tried out to determine their usefulness. The first botanical gardens developed were those established in Italy during the 16th century at Padua and Pisa. Before this time gardens consisted mainly of herbs and medicinal plants.



Brush Box



The Melbourne gardens cover about 88 acres and in them there is much to see. A little of the area is devoted to Australian plants, but most of the gardens display plants from all over the world.

Before you visit the gardens, look at books about plants and learn where they grow in their natural state. There are plants from many parts of the world, some of which are grown for their beauty while others are grown for their economic importance.

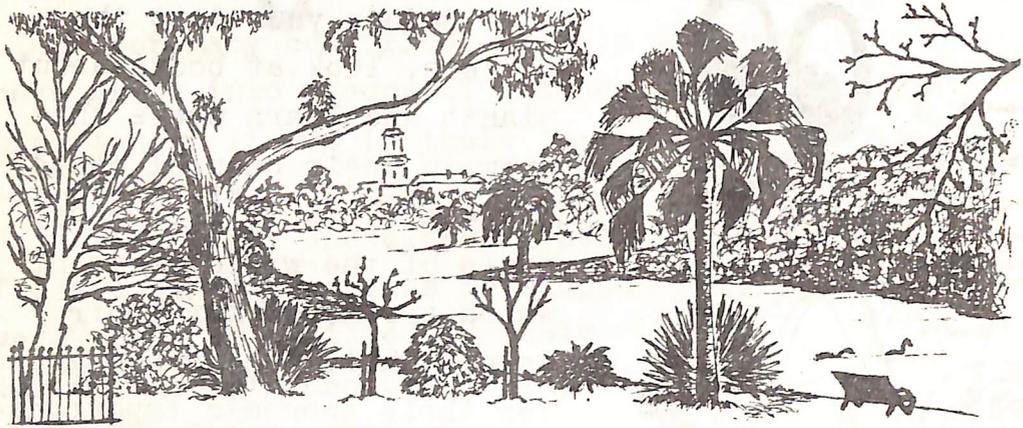
There are many birds in the gardens- many find food in and among the plants while others prefer the ponds. Over 160 species have been recorded.

TREES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

1. In Hopetoun Lawn, a Queensland Box planted by Queen Elizabeth 2 in 1954.
2. A giant cedar from Lebanon.
3. The Bird Catching Tree from Queensland.



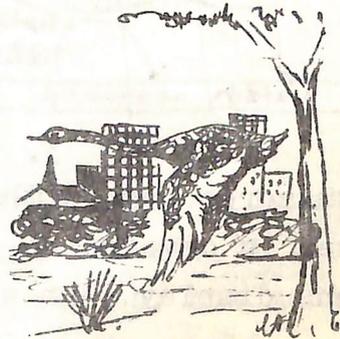
The Most Beautiful



Where, within a very short distance from your school, can you enjoy the beauty of tropical flowers, wander through the jungle trees of Africa and gaze with wonder at the giant palms of the desert? A great author of detective stories (perhaps you can ask your teacher his name) who wrote "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", described the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne as "the most beautiful place I have seen".

To walk through the Botanic Gardens is to escape from all the noise and rush of city life, although it is situated almost in the heart of the bustle of busy St.Kilda Road. For more than a hundred years it has been the delight of millions of people who have, like me, discovered this peaceful haven. I wonder how many of your friends in school have been to our gardens?

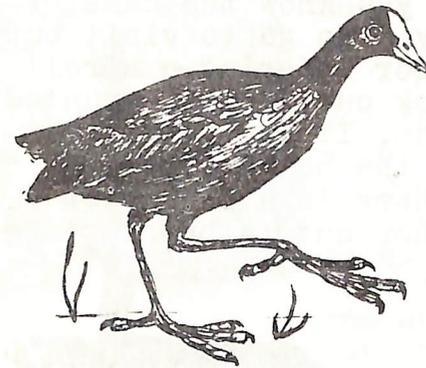
The beauty of the Botanic Gardens can be seen at any time of the year - summer days bring out a rich abundance of color as hydrangeas, flowering gums, jacarandas and gre-



Place In The World

villeas burst forth in full bloom, but autumn is rich in the golden hues of faded leaves on the English elms and oaks. Winter has a special beauty of its own, that must be seen to be appreciated, especially on a bright morning after a shower of rain.

There are 35 hectares of lawns, flower beds, lakes and trees. It would be impossible to follow the paths that take you past all the trees and shrubs (there are 30,000 of them) in one day, or even one month. Perhaps like many people I know, you could find a lifetime of beauty in the gardens. The gardeners who make all this



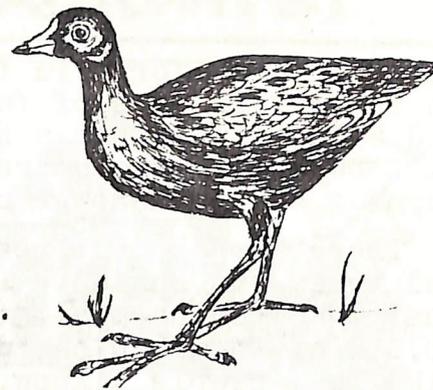
Australian Coot

possible are constantly at work re-arranging flower-beds, planting new shrubs, putting on displays in the glass-houses and doing everything possible to make it the "most beautiful place" on earth. But, perhaps, you are interested in birds rather than trees. Again, these gardens will provide for your interest, for bird life abounds in the quieter areas of the Botanic Gardens. Most of the common birds of our city are there in

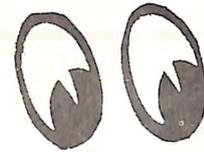
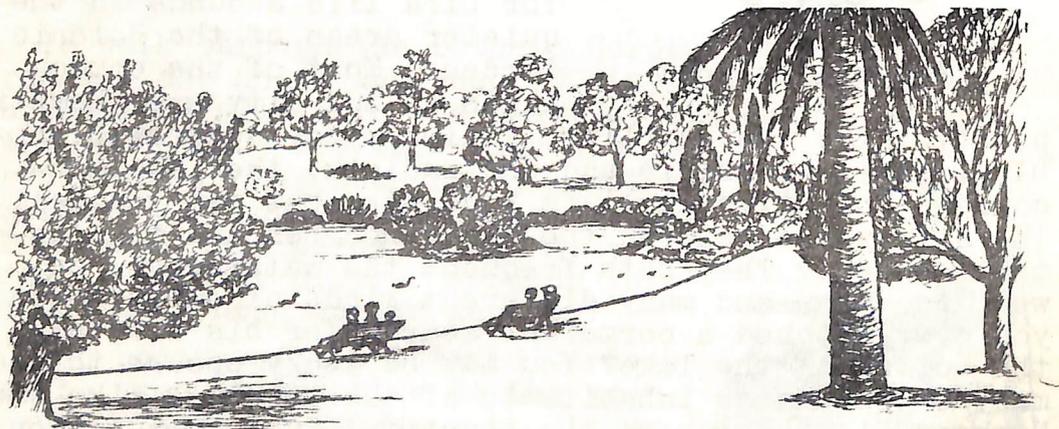
plenty, like the starling, Indian myna, sparrow, black-bird, swallow, magpie and the mudlark; the lakes encourage the silver gull in hundreds, but can you tell the difference between the dusky moorhen and the Australian coot? They both frequent the water-ways, as well as swans and many different kinds of ducks. Have you ever watched a cormorant search for his food at the bottom of the lake? You may be lucky enough to see many of the rarer inhabitants of the gardens, like the Nankeen Night-Heron or the beautiful Superb Blue Wren. I don't know how many different kinds of birds there

are in the gardens, but there are plenty for you to see.

The gardens attract people from every part of the world, and here you can see flowers, shrubs and trees gathered from almost every country on earth. There are many other things worth visiting just close by, such as the Shrine of Remembrance, the Myer Music Bowl and Governor Latrobe's Cottage. The gardens of Government House slope down to the Royal Botanic Gardens, and what better place could the Queen's Representative find to live? Do you know the name of our Governor in Victoria? When you do go to visit our gardens, you may find the Governor enjoying a stroll as well; and don't forget to look out for the mounted policeman who patrols the gardens. If you like a barbecue, you can have a picnic on the banks of the Yarra and, for extra measure, there is a kiosk for ice-cream! Why not ask your mother and father to take you there one day soon.



Dusky Moorhen

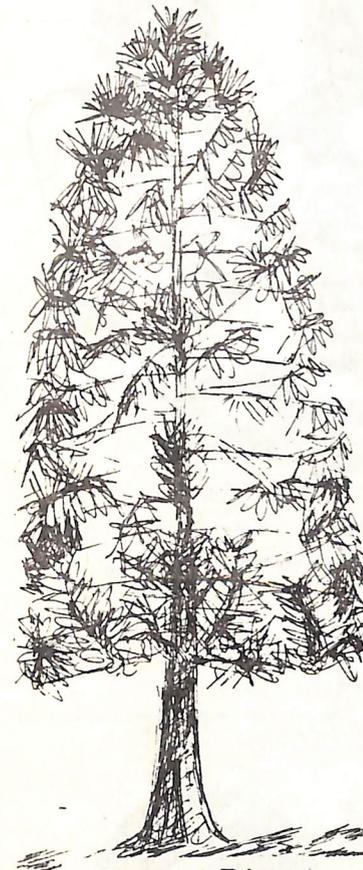


On The Spot!

On Saturday the 2nd of March we were driving along in our car, when we noticed a large green thing on the nature strip. We stopped to look at it more closely and found it was rather like a pineapple without the spikes on top, and yet it was also like a big pine-cone. We thought it may have fallen out of a tree in a garden nearby.

When we arrived home, we looked up a garden book and found that it might be an *Aracaria bidwilli* or Bunya pine. It weighed almost 2,724 kg or about 6 lbs.

On Monday I took it to school and found that that was the right name, also that the tree is a native of Queensland. I found out some other interesting things about these big cones too. The aborigines used to come from all around and get the seeds and eat them. These days the Queensland people have a festival each year and roast the seeds for tourists to eat.



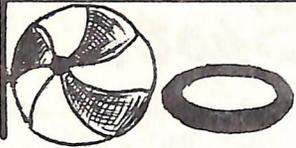
Bunya Pine



We kept the cone in the hope that it would ripen and sure enough, in a few weeks the segments opened, came loose and one day the whole thing fell apart. In some of the segments we found the nuts. They were like large almonds with smooth shells. We cracked one nut and roasted it, then waited till it was cool then ate it. It was yummy!



Joanna Kitching Grade 6.0.



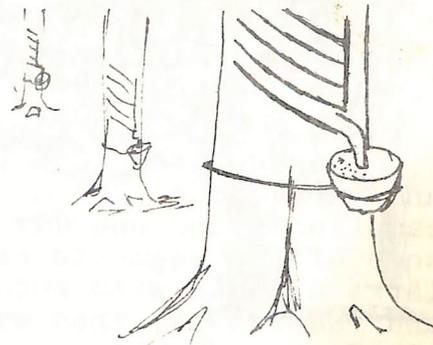
RUBBER



Have you had a puncture in your bicycle tyre lately? How did you repair it? Perhaps you had the assistance of Vulcan, the Roman God of fire! See what you can find out about him in your library.



Rubber goods are necessary in modern life - so much so that some shops sell nothing else but goods made of rubber. Fortunately rubber can be shaped at will so that it can be rolled or squeezed or moulded. Can you find examples of these processes? On a map of the world mark in the countries that produce rubber.

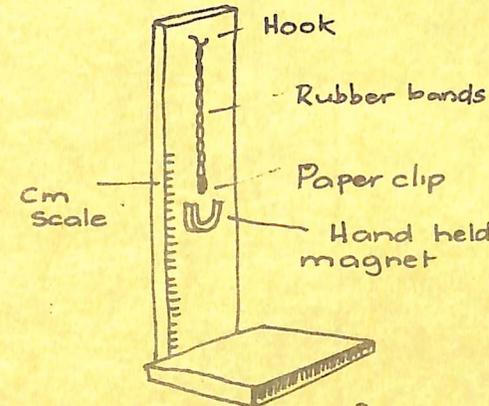


Do you know what we call the property rubber has that makes it possible for it to spring back into its original shape after it has been stretched? Is this found in any other material?

THINGS TO DO

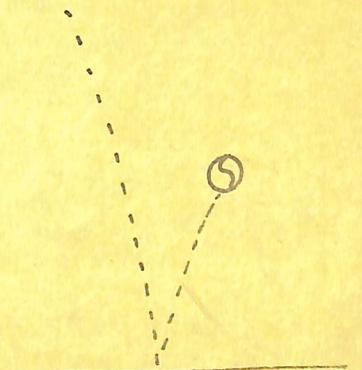
Make a chart showing the uses of rubber under these headings :-

Home Uses Play Uses Industrial Uses Other



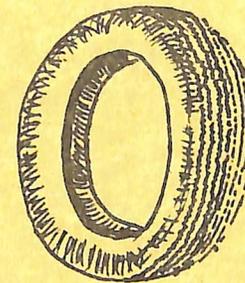
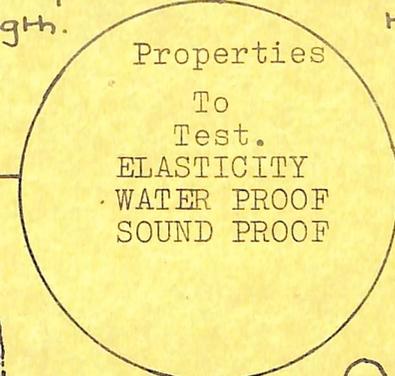
Use magnets of different strength.

Magnet Tester

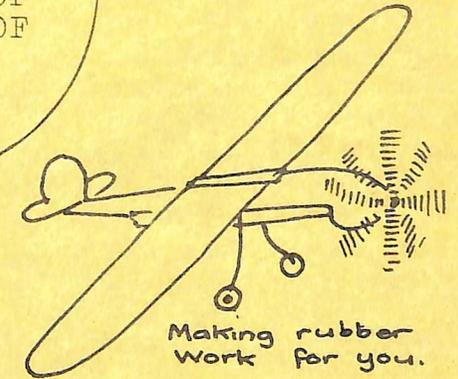


Measure the height the same ball bounces on different surfaces.

Bouncing Test



Tubeless Tyres- How do they work?



Making rubber work for you.

Model Aeroplanes.

F N C V

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria

- has — Monthly General Meetings with specialist speakers on aspects of natural history.
- Excursions to places of natural history interest
 - A large library covering all aspects of natural history, from which members may borrow
 - A monthly magazine, "The Victorian Naturalist", sent free to all members
 - Group activities in fields of special interest.

Membership is open to all persons who wish to further their interest in natural history.

Further information may be obtained from — The Hon. Secretary,
F.N.C.V.,
The National Herbarium,
Birdwood Ave., South
Yarra.

Junior membership of F.N.C.V.

All young persons with an interest in natural history are welcome to join these branches and participate in their activities. The names of the junior branches, and where to obtain more information about them is given below.

- Hawthorn Junior Field Naturalists Club
Secretary — Robin Sandell — 39 Rubens Grove
CANTERBURY. 3129 phone 83 8009
- Montmorency Junior Field Naturalists Club
Secretary — Mrs. J Cookson — 21 Wilson Avenue
MONTMORENCY. phone 431712
- Preston Junior Field Naturalists Club
Secretary — Mrs. E. Tenner — 9 Foch Street
RESERVOIR. 3073 phone 4781284
- Ringwood Junior Field Naturalists Club
Secretary — Miss C.E. Gray — 30 Montvue Street
LILYDALE. 3140 phone 7351233
- Black Rock Junior Field Naturalists Club
Contacts — Mrs. Stevens — phone 984268
and Mrs. Page — phone 993711

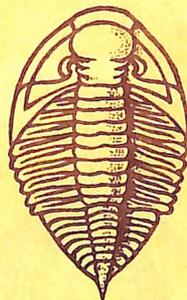


Some *Activities*

BOTANY GROUP



GEOLOGY GROUP



FIELD SURVEY

