

Barnenger

Ringwood Inspectorate

Volume II.

Nature NOTES

No. 4



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And Up Hops A Rare
Wallaby.
Courtesy The Sun.

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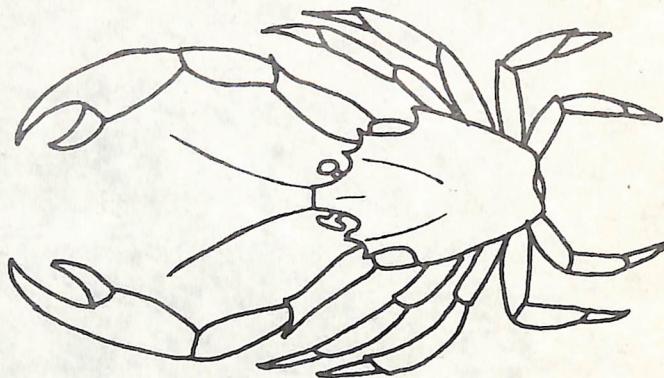
Other drawings
from the files of

"Nature Notes".

ON GUARD!

HOW ANIMALS

PROTECT THEMSELVES

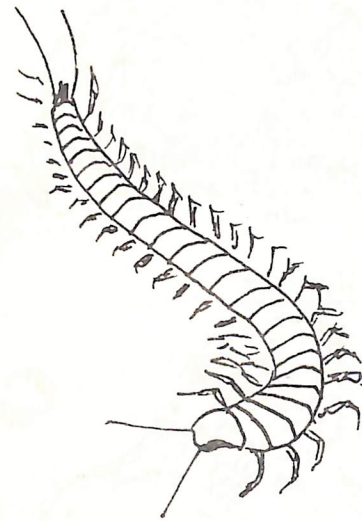


The crab uses powerful pincers to crush and grind its prey. What other crustacean also does this ?

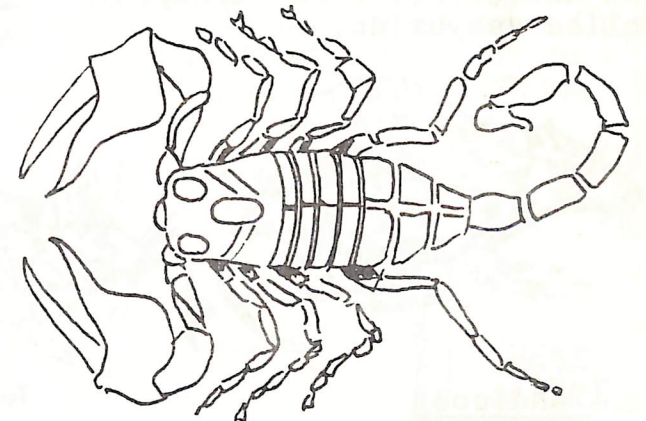


Spiders secrete various poisons. In Australia, bites from the Sydney Funnel Web and the Jockey Spider (Red Back) can prove fatal to humans if left unattended.

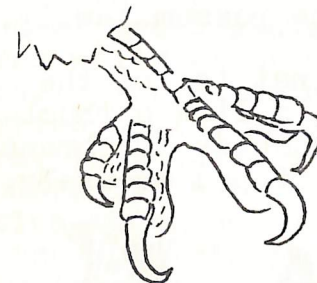
The Praying Mantis, seizes its victims in its long arms which have pincers lined with rows of points. After marriage, the female eats her husband.



Scorpions have pincers to to catch prey (insects and spiders) and poison from a gland at the tip of the tail to immobilize it.



The centipede, which is so common in our gardens, (and so helpful too) has a poison gland in the tail with which it can inflict a painful but not fatal sting.



Birds of prey seize their victims with long sharp talons grooved just like claws. What prevents the claws from fastening too deeply on the perch ? Find the names of some birds of prey. What do the words NOCTURNAL and DIURNAL mean ?

Can you name other methods used by various members of the animal and insect world to protect themselves ?

There are many more !



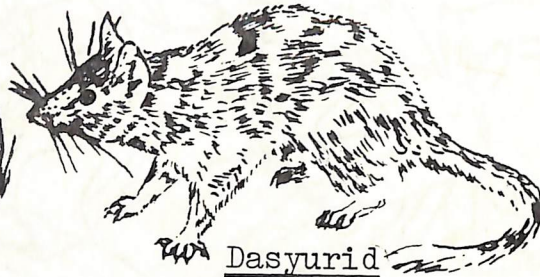
The pouched mammals or marsupials in Australia are divided into five families. These are the kangaroo, possums, wombats, bandicoots and the carnivorous marsupials called dasyurids.



Wombat



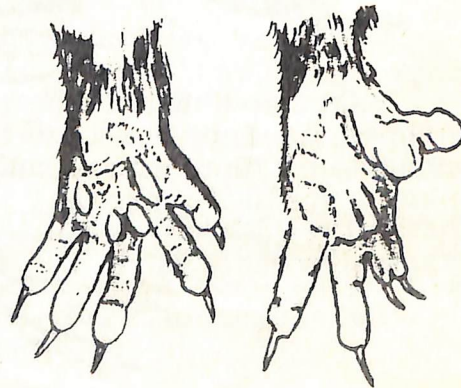
Bandicoot



Dasyurid

Possums are tree dwellers and all are harmless. Their size ranges from mouse-like insect and nectar eaters to the large gliders which are part of the possum family.

The first toe of the hind-foot is like a thumb and this enables the branches to be gripped securely.



POSSUMS

Many possums have a prehensile tail - one that can be wrapped around for added security. Often they may swing by their tail until a branch can be caught with their fore paws, or they are able to climb up their own tail if they are unfortunate enough to slip off a bough.



Eastern
or
Common Ringtail.

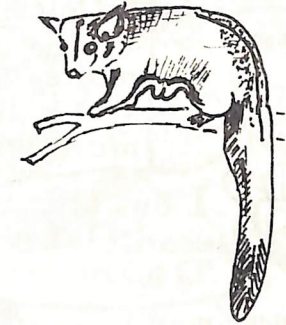
It is up to two and a half feet long (body and tail) while the fur may be a light-grey to chestnut, and is usually white underneath. The tip of the tail is naked of fur on the under side too.

The nest of a ring-tail possum is made of twigs, leaves bark of trees and sometimes ferns while grass also may be used. The material is carried aloft, to a suitable fork, in a twist of the tail.

Usually there are two babies which spend some time in the mother's pouch. When they leave the pouch they are carried about on the mother's back while they cling with claws and teeth to her fur.

The ring-tail possum feeds upon various eucalypts, leaves and bush fruits, which includes the mistletoe.

Perhaps our best-known possum is the Eastern or Common Ringtail. This possum is found down the east side of Australia from Queensland to South Australia. It lives in forest and woodland; is at home in a park (if there is food), or even around a suburban home if there is food here too.



Sugar
Glider

One of our interesting possums is Leadbeater's possum. This possum had not been seen for over 50 years when it was rediscovered in the bush near Marysville.



Leadbeater's
Possum

SUPER SNAIL

MIGHTY MOLLUSC
of
THE UNDERWORLD

Super Snail was watching television one afternoon when there was a startling interruption ...

Unless the governments of the world agree to make me Supreme Ruler, I will set loose my monsters to devastate the Earth ...

I am the Dreadful Doctor Doom ...

SIGH!
Another power-mad professor!

Super Snail zooms to deal with the situation.

Suffering Snail shells!
GIANT INSECTS

DO something, Mighty Mollusc, or we'll have to agree to Doctor Doom's dreadful demands.

Super Snail ponders deeply. Suddenly, he reaches a decision. Swiftly zooming to the doctor's hide-out, he faces the marching monsters and their maniacal master.

I defy you and your monsters. They're nothing but illusions.

SUPER SNAIL!

Curses! My invention which emits hypnotic waves causes people to see these illusions -

But it is useless if they refuse to believe in them

The monster insects fade away before Super Snail's eyes

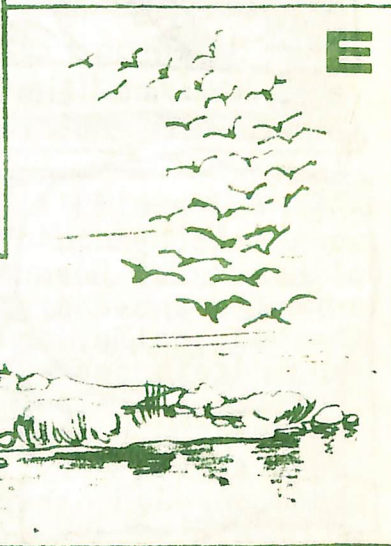
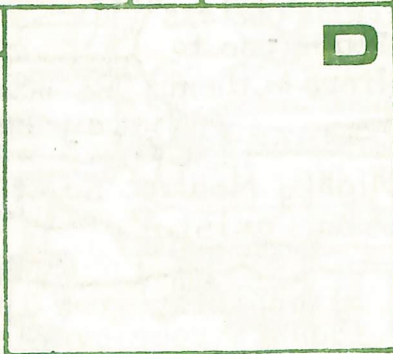
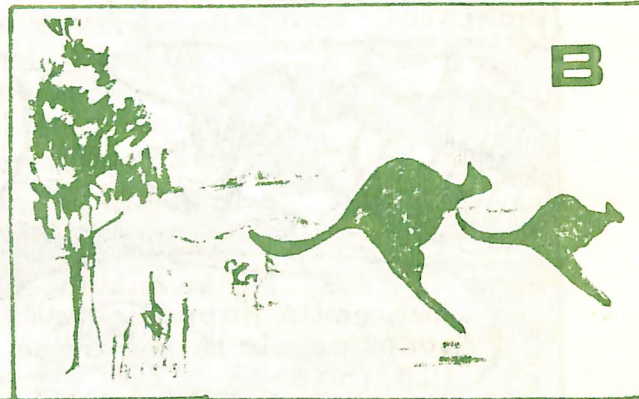
But how was the Mighty Mollusc so certain the gigantic insects did not really exist?

Why couldn't a caterpillar grow into a lumbering voracious beast; or locusts roar over-head like fighter-planes? ... Because insects breathe differently from animals. Instead of lungs, tubes conduct air directly to the body cells, and this system works only for very short distances - tubes more than an inch long become inefficient. Also, insects have no inside bones to support their organs. Instead they have an outer shell. If insects grew very large their internal organs would press on each other and would not work properly.

.... THE END

2,000 A.D. ?

OUR WORLD TODAY

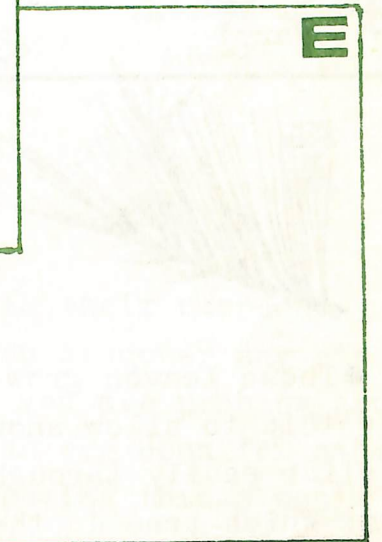
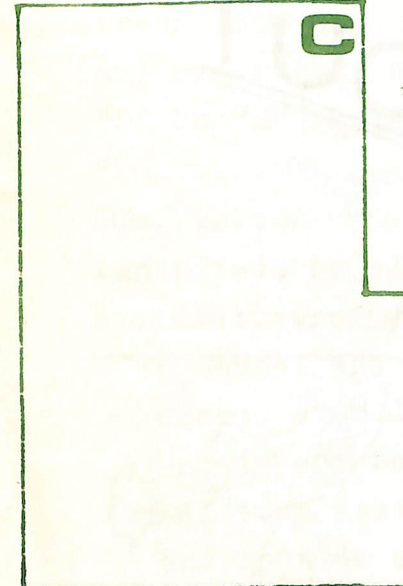
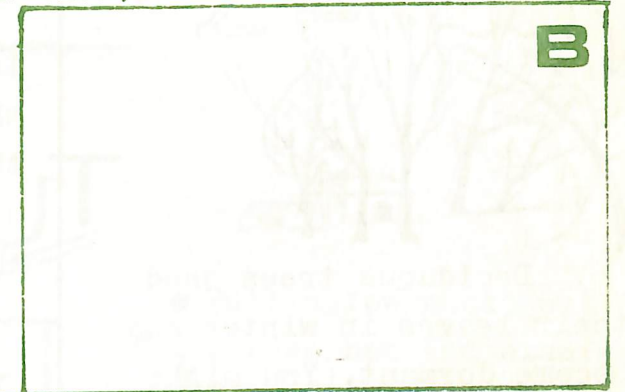


This is not a happy game to play.

Here are two sets of spaces; some have illustrations. Your task is to fill the spaces with appropriate drawings.

OUR WORLD AFTER 2000 AD

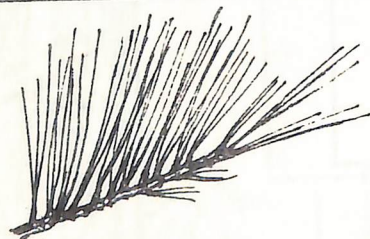
If we do not look after our World, it will look like this.



● Examine the trees near your school or home and see if you can find out whether they are evergreen or deciduous



Deciduous trees shed their leaves in winter and become dormant. (You might like to look up that interesting word in your dictionary)



● These leaves grow like this to allow snow to slide easily through them. Which tree do they belong to?



● Evergreen trees lose only a few of their leaves throughout the year. Their leaves are tough, shiny and thick-skinned....Why?



OUT

● While we are thinking about leaves: did you know the leaves of the cacti have become spikes, and the green fleshy stems have learnt to do the work of the leaves?

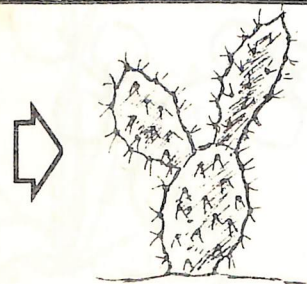
● What is the work of a leaf on a plant? See if you can find out, then write in to Nature Notes with your findings. You might win a book prize !



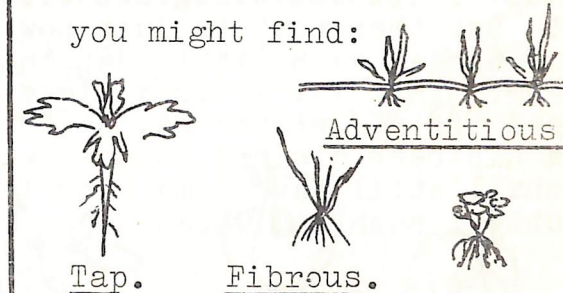
ABOUT

AND

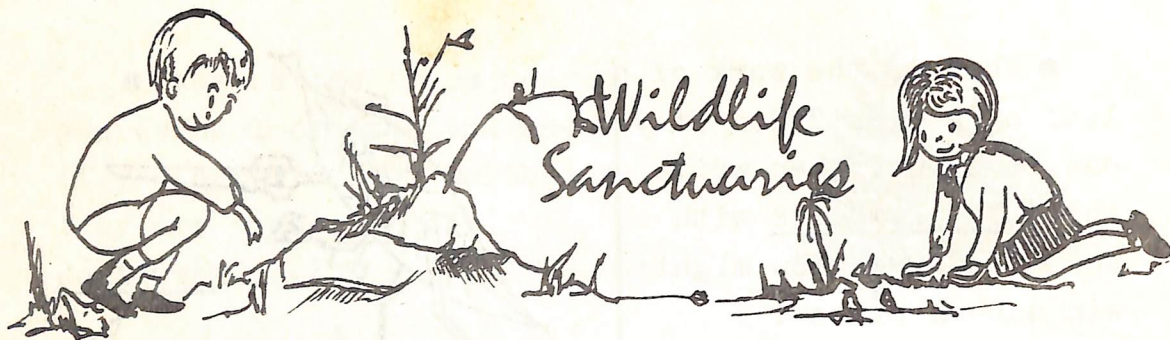
● Separate these trees into deciduous and evergreen. Write "D" or "E" in the space.
Pine..... Poplar...
Gum..... wattle...
Apricot.. Maple....
Banksia.. Bottlebrush..



● Pull a few weeds out of a garden bed and examine the roots. Here are a few you might find:

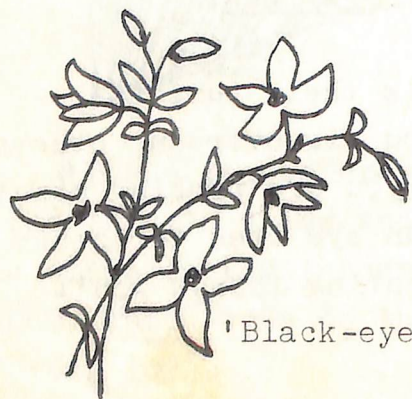


What is their purpose? Can you discover any others? While you are probing about, keep an eye open for other interesting things won't you !

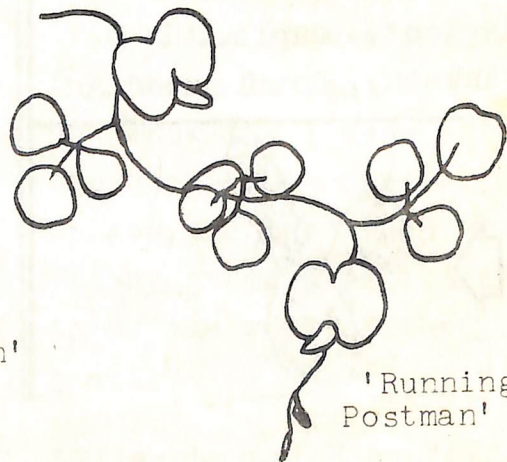


Whilst driving in the country, have you ever noticed a little enclosure displaying a sign "Wildflower Sanctuary"? Perhaps you may have even inspected one and have been surprised to find very little difference between what was in the sanctuary and the surrounding bush. Or maybe you are fortunate enough to have a Wildflower Sanctuary in your schoolground.

I once spoke to a group of children about their school sanctuary. One little girl commented, "It's alright I suppose, but you can't see many of the flowers because it is all overgrown with bush". How right she was! But then that is just how it is supposed to look. For you see, each little sanctuary is actually a small museum. That is, it is a piece of natural bushland fenced off and protected, so that when the surrounding area has been cleared to make way for suburbs or farmland we shall still have something left to remind us of the beautiful bushland which once flourished here.



'Black-eyed Susan'



'Running Postman'

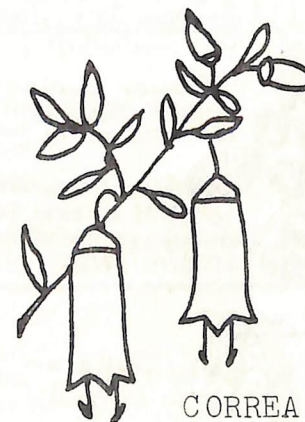
The establishment of the sanctuaries has been encouraged by the Native Plants Preservation Society who have naturally selected areas with a large variety of wildflowers. Of course these plants won't be growing in rows like a garden bed, but they will be there just the same. Some flowering now, some later in the year. Some are quite noticeable, whilst others will be hiding away under dense growth or subtly blending into the background.

Quite often I have been asked, "Why do we want to save this bit of bush, and what good does it do?" Here are some very good reasons for preserving our bushland:-

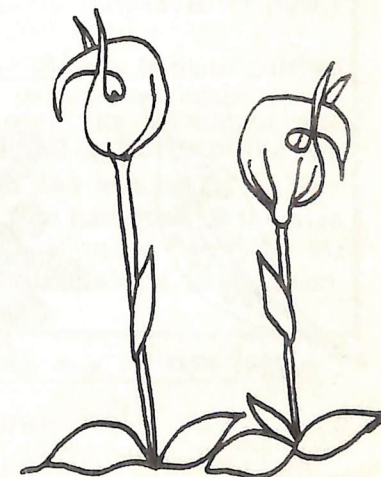
- (1) Over three quarters of our plants are found only in Australia and nowhere else in the world. Therefore they are of special interest and value to us and if not protected now they will be lost for good.
- (2) Just as we keep a small historic cottage to remind us of our pioneering days, so we should keep a small piece of bush to remind us of the beautiful plants which our forefathers were so fortunate to live amongst.
- (3) The native sanctuaries attract native birds.
- (4) Tourists are attracted to this country to view our unusual flora and fauna. But of course there won't be any fauna for them to see if we don't look after the flora. Do you know why?



BLUE
PINCUSHION



CORREA



NODDING GREENHOOD

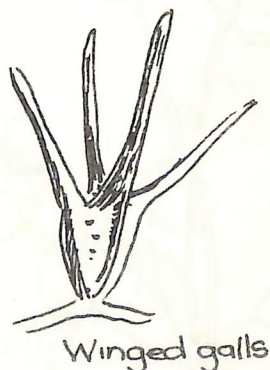


LETTER BOX

On Tuesday the 12th of March Grades 5 and 6 went to Blackburn Lake for an excursion. As we were going for a walk around the lake we saw many leaves that had been curled by leaf curling spiders. As soon as Mr. Delacca opened one of the leaves, a little spider scurried out and fell to the ground. Another leaf was curled and held by such a strong web, that it was difficult to open, so we put it back in the bush.

Galls were on some of the trees around the lake. Galls are caused by insects getting into the stems. They may be found in all sorts of odd shapes and sizes. We saw some bell birds which make an unusual sound.

Leanne Bishop.
Greenhills Primary school.



... AND UP HOPS A RARE WALLABY

BRISBANE. — One of Australia's rarest and most attractive animals — the bridled nail-tailed wallaby — has been found in central Queensland.

The find, after 37 years' apparent extinction, was one of the most exciting during comprehensive fauna surveys by the Primary Industries Department.

Zoologists found the animal during a survey in the Emerald district.

The last recorded sighting of the wallaby was in 1937.

The last collected specimen was at Manilla (NSW) in 1924

and at the Dawson River (Qld.) in 1929.

The wallaby is distinguished by a pale yellow bridle marking over the shoulders and small nail on the tip of the tail.

The find was by Dr G. Gordon, who had gone to the area after a sighting report by Mr D. Chalacombe, a fencing contractor.

The Sun, Thurs., April 25, 1974—Page 7*

* What an exciting piece of news this was. Here's hoping some more of our "lost" birds and animals will hop up again one day.

H.J. Lawry
(Editor)



What a cone!

Karl Hansen, of Ringwood, is proud of the pine cone he found near his home.

The size of the pod can be gauged by the normal sized cone held by Karl.

Photo by courtesy

RINGWOOD-CROYDON MAIL

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