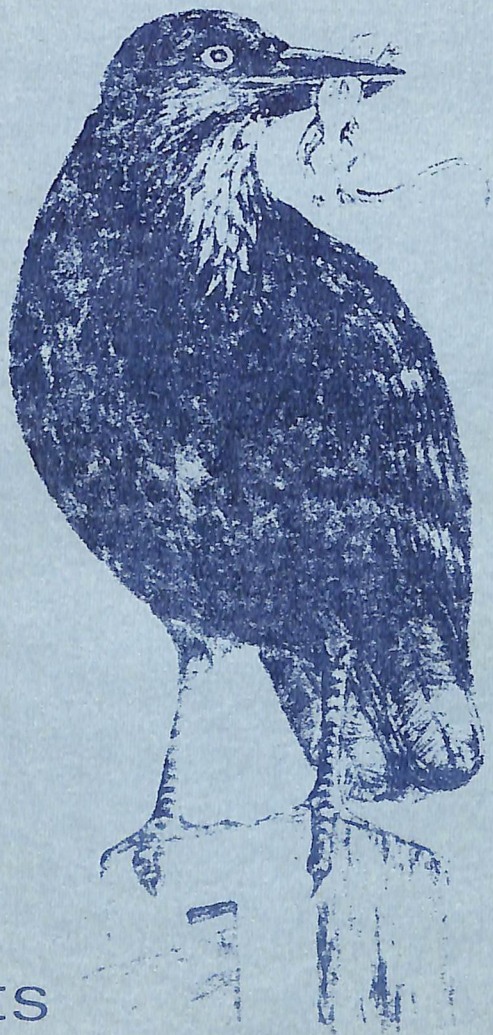


Ringwood Inspectorate

Volume II.

# Nature NOTES

No. 5



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From the  
Editor ...



#### Some sad news.....

"Nature Notes" is moving from Blackburn Lake Primary School because the recent revision of Inspectorates has resulted in the school being placed out of the Ringwood Inspectorate. As this is a Ringwood Inspectorate publication, it is necessary for us to move to a school located in our own area. I know all readers will join me in expressing sincere thanks to the Blackburn Lake School Committee and Mothers' Club for all the help they have given "Nature Notes" during the past 6 years. It will be quite a sad parting for all concerned.

Where are we going? Mr. N. Pruden our District Inspector has found a new home for us at Ringwood East Primary School, and it is hoped that our next magazine will be produced there. We look forward to a long and happy association with the teachers and parents of Ringwood East.

#### Some good news.....

I am very pleased to announce that Mrs. A. Gibson has been appointed Assistant Editor of "Nature Notes". After we get over the problems involved with moving, I hope Mrs. Gibson will be able to make some interesting contributions. Meanwhile we all wish her a hearty welcome and best wishes for success in her work.

Until next month

H. J. Lawry (Editor)

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#### Artists

##### Cover

Mrs. M. Sharpin

##### Other drawings:

Mrs. M. Sharpin.  
Mrs. G. Hensler.  
Mrs. S. Turner.  
Mr. H.J. Lawry.

# SO STOP TALKING AND DO SOMETHING



Sometimes children wonder if it is worthwhile trying to help adults, because no matter how seriously they feel about a thing, it's difficult to find a way of proving they are sincere.

The children at Norwood Primary School found a way. When a Junior Keep Australia Beautiful Council was formed, they discussed its aims and suggested activities to spread the message, and a few of these were carried out, but they weren't really satisfying, so we contacted our City Engineer for suggestions. He didn't laugh it off by any means - he visited the school and told us, among other things, how difficult and expensive the disposal of





garbage has become. Glass for instance, is not bio-degradable, nor are cans.

So we began re-cycling glass. Our first collection -30 bins- took a while to collect but now we fill them in about two monthes. Mr. Bell from A.C.I. also visited the children and told them how much the glass is needed; how much more seriously could the children's offer be taken? They simply had to know they were making a worthwhile

contribution to the community.

Aluminium cans came next. Every can which saw a Norwood child passing cringed into the grass but most of them were collected. The Blind Association knows just what to do with them, and it isn't tossing them into the gutters.

Meanwhile, Ringwood's tip was now at Wonga Park, and we thought of all the steel cans which were helping to fill it too rapidly. We contacted Mr. Miller of the Steel Can Group. Was there anything we could do? There certainly was, and now our recycling depot includes steel cans, aluminium cans, and glass.

There's plenty of work to be done, but what's the use in believing in a cause if you aren't prepared to work for it? We asked for a way of showing that children can help, and we got it.

We know now that if you care enough to take advice, stop talking, and do something, you will be taken very seriously indeed by the people who matter.

B. Paine on behalf of Norwood Primary School Junior  
Keep Australia Beautiful Council



When you read "SuperSnail, [P.P. 6-7] You will meet a fierce creature which preys on ants. A Periwinkle book prize is offered for the Best Letter to the Editor explaining exactly how it does this

## LITTER AND POLLUTION

by David Price 6S



Pollution, Pollution, it's here and there  
Pollution, Pollution, it's everywhere,  
It's not the only thing around.  
There's Litter Litter on the ground.  
Scattered here, scattered there  
It's as bad as Pollution. It's everywhere.  
Thrown out of cars on the road  
Those people should be turned into toads.  
Pick it up before it's too late  
Please - we don't want to wait.

(Sung to the tune of "John Brown's Body")



.....



by Tracey Hardstaff 3P

Don't rubbish Australia, please  
Don't ruin our native trees.  
If someone drops a paper  
Tell them to stop that caper  
Use the rubbish bins supplied  
Then everyone will know we tried.





# SUPER SNAIL

MIGHTY MOLLUSC  
of  
THE UNDERWORLD

One of Super Snail's most dangerous assignments begins when he is asked to investigate the strange disappearances of Worker Ants ...

WELCOME TO  
ANTHILL  
ATION 12,074

The Ant Queen tells him that Ants sent out to forage for food have vanished without a trace. Super Snail suggests that a Worker Ant is sent out into the danger-area and he will follow ...

YES, YOU!

Don't worry, little chap. When whatever-it-is gets you, I promise to rescue you.

tremble  
tremble

Get moving, then, my brave lad. Out into the wilderness.

If you get back, I'll give you a nice medal.

Boo

Good idea, Mighty Mollusc. Now, I want one volunteer

YOU!

ME?  
Who me?  
Not me?

Super Snail slinks from rock to rock, following the hapless worker...

SUDDENLY

A  
A  
A  
A  
H

The Mighty Mollusc zooms to where the unfortunate Ant has disappeared...

He sees a dreadful sight

GOTCHA!

It is an Ant-Lion, a larva which hides in a pit it has made and when an ant falls in, grabs it and eats it. (See note on page 5...Ed)

GRRRR

SUPER SNAIL  
LEAPS DOWN TO THE  
RESCUE!

LATER..

Here is the culprit, your majesty

Many thanks  
Super Snail.  
And here is  
your medal,  
my lad!

and Super Snail keeps the Ant Lion as an unusual pet!

He watches it become a little ball-like pupa, its case made of silk and grains of sand, then one day it emerges as an adult Ant-Lion.

So he opens the cage and lets it go.



# AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SUITABLE FOR YOUR GARDEN



Buds and flower

Euc. torquata

- Euc. erythrocorys The Red Cross Gum, so called on account of the brilliant red cross-shaped cap over the bright green buds, that open up to almost square shaped lemon flowers. 15 - 20 feet.

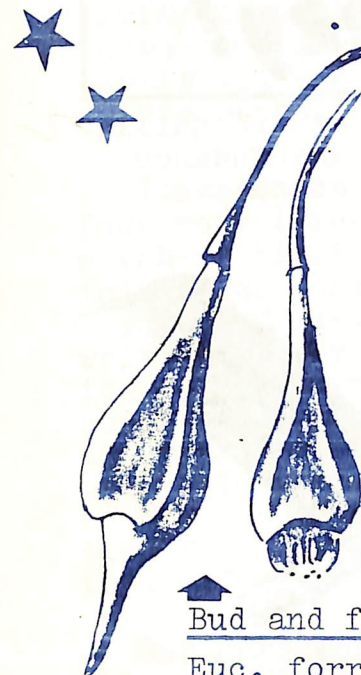
- Euc. viridis one of our Victorian Mallees, is a shapely, small tree for a dry place with dark green leaves and clusters of small pure white flowers.



Buds.

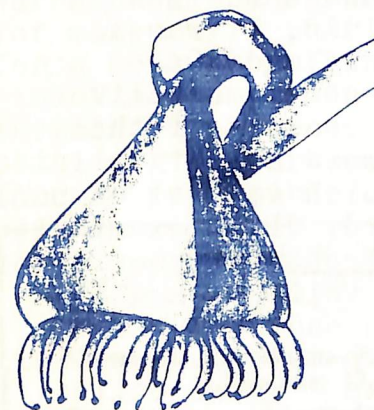
Euc. viridis

These are just a few of many lovely and beautiful gum trees to choose from, some growing to a much greater height than those mentioned, but still suitable for gardens.



Bud and flower

Euc. forrestiana



Euc. tetraptera

- Euc. forrestiana an easy to grow, small, shapely tree with bright red, four winged buds and small yellow flowers. The drooping buds give a chinese lantern effect and similar, but more robust looking is
- Euc. stoatei with coarser multi-ribbed red buds and yellow flowers, both trees can stand dry and hot situations similar to
- Euc. tetraptera a shrubby 8 - 10 feet gum with large thick leaves on sparse branches, big bright red four winged buds and crimson flowers.



Bud

Euc. stoatei



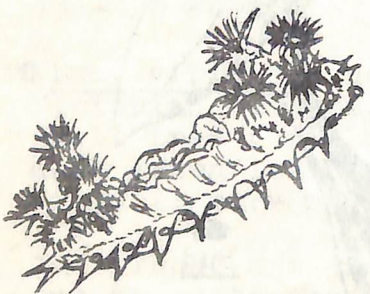
# Big, Black and Cheeky!

I guess we are rather lucky over here at Greenhills because living in an area where there is an abundance of trees we find there is a good variety of native birds.

Our most frequent visitors are a pair of large ravens - many people call them crows, but there is a difference. See if you can find out what it is.\* These ravens have become fairly tame and feed on the crusts and so on from lunchtimes.



Growing up on a farm I learned to despise the raven for his attacks on helpless lambs and drought-stricken sheep. I looked on him as a cruel heartless bird until one morning I awakened to a tremendous noise in the nearby bushland. It was as though all the birds had gone suddenly mad. On reaching the nearest trees I found them to be alive with ravens - or crows as I then called them. They were almost oblivious of my presence which is most unusual for this wary bird. Close examination showed that the trees had been almost denuded of their foliage, and I learned that this had been caused by a plague of cup-moth caterpillars or "Chinese Junks" as we called them. No prizes for guessing what the ravens were after. They did an



• Cup moth larva or Chinese Junk.

\*See "Crows or Ravens"? Page 12.

excellent job and in a few days the caterpillars had been wiped out, and I learned a new respect for this big black bird - one that has learned to profit from living alongside Man. This true story illustrates of course another chapter in "the balance of nature". See if you can discover other ways in which nature seeks to achieve a balance of her forces.

Just recently our ravens were joined by three or four more large black birds which at first glance I took to be also "crows" - until I saw them fly. A patch of white on the wing soon identified them as pied currawongs a visitor from the mountains where they breed. In autumn they descend to the suburban areas where they frequent parks, gardens, tips and of course, schoolgrounds. Pied Currawong.



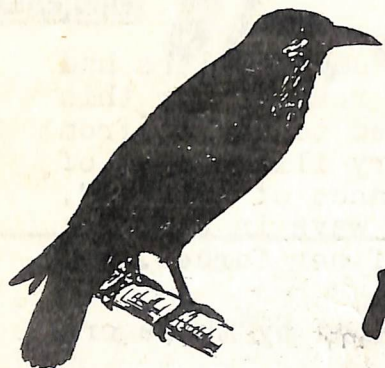
Our currawong visitors have now grown to eight and all are quite tame. I remember during a visit to the Warrumbungle Ranges a few years ago being followed for miles by a pair of currawongs. When we stopped for a meal they flew close and eventually took biscuits from my daughters hand, which of course thrilled us no end. Watch for this cheeky fellow when picnicing or barbecuing outdoors. Perhaps he will come to your table.

## SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD (Page 14).

Across: 1. chameleon; 7. kangaroo; 8. shag; 9. mole; 10. ostrich; 12. sloth; 13. boar; 14. camel; 15. beaver.

Down: 1. cat; 2. armadillo; 3. octopus; 4. nightingale; 5. hedgehog; 6. bats; 10. owl; 11. whale.



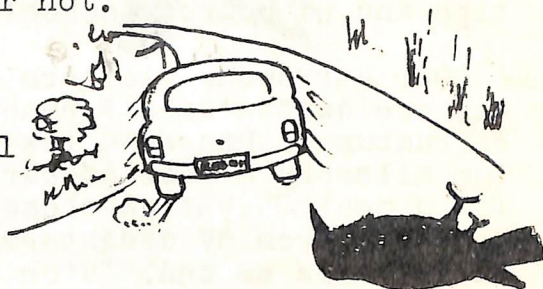


## CROWS or RAVENS?



The bird that you call a crow is probably a raven, although it would be very difficult to prove this unless you could actually hold the bird and examine it carefully. You see the only really obvious physical difference between the two is that beneath the outer black feathers, the crow has snow-white body feathers while the raven has grey. If you have ever tried to sneak up close to one of these birds, you will understand why I suggest that you will actually have to hold the bird to prove whether it is a crow or not.

The only ravens I have been able to examine closely have been road accident victims and these are not all that easy to find. As Mr. Delacca pointed out in "Big, Black and Cheeky", they are very wily birds.



As there are very few crows found in Victoria, most of those big black birds we see are ravens. For the most part, crows are found in Northern Australia, Western Australia and northern South Australia, while ravens (slightly bigger birds) are found from Rockhampton and south to Victoria and South East Australia. Of course there are some areas where both birds are found. Try to find out more about this interesting topic - what about Tasmania; do they have crows or ravens in that state?

There is another physical difference that I have not mentioned: can you discover what it is?

Our Australian Aborigines had a story which they say explains why the crow is a black bird, a story which ties in nicely with the white body feathers difference noted above. If you would like to read it, this yarn can be in the old Victorian Grade Four Reader on page 87 (1940 edition). Ask your teacher or librarian for a copy. The picture below has been taken from the reader in question - can you guess what the hawk and the crow are doing?

Should you be able to discover anything else of interest about crows and ravens, be sure to write in and share your discovery with us all won't you. The editor of 'Nature Notes' would welcome your letters.



CURLEW

COWLER  
REWCUL  
WERLUC  
LERCUW

## JUMBLLED NAMES

Below are the names of some well-known Australian Birds. Can you "unscramble" them?

BARRAOKBOKU *COOKA BARRA* ORCW *CROW*

FESKNGIHRI *Kingfisher* LCUEWR

NVREA *Raven* ALBROG *BROUGA*

OKOCOTAOC *Cockatoo* HLGAA *GALAH*



LEBU WNRE

BLUE WREN Page 13.



## WHICH CREATURE?

The pictures on the opposite page will help you to find the solutions to the clues given below.



### ACROSS

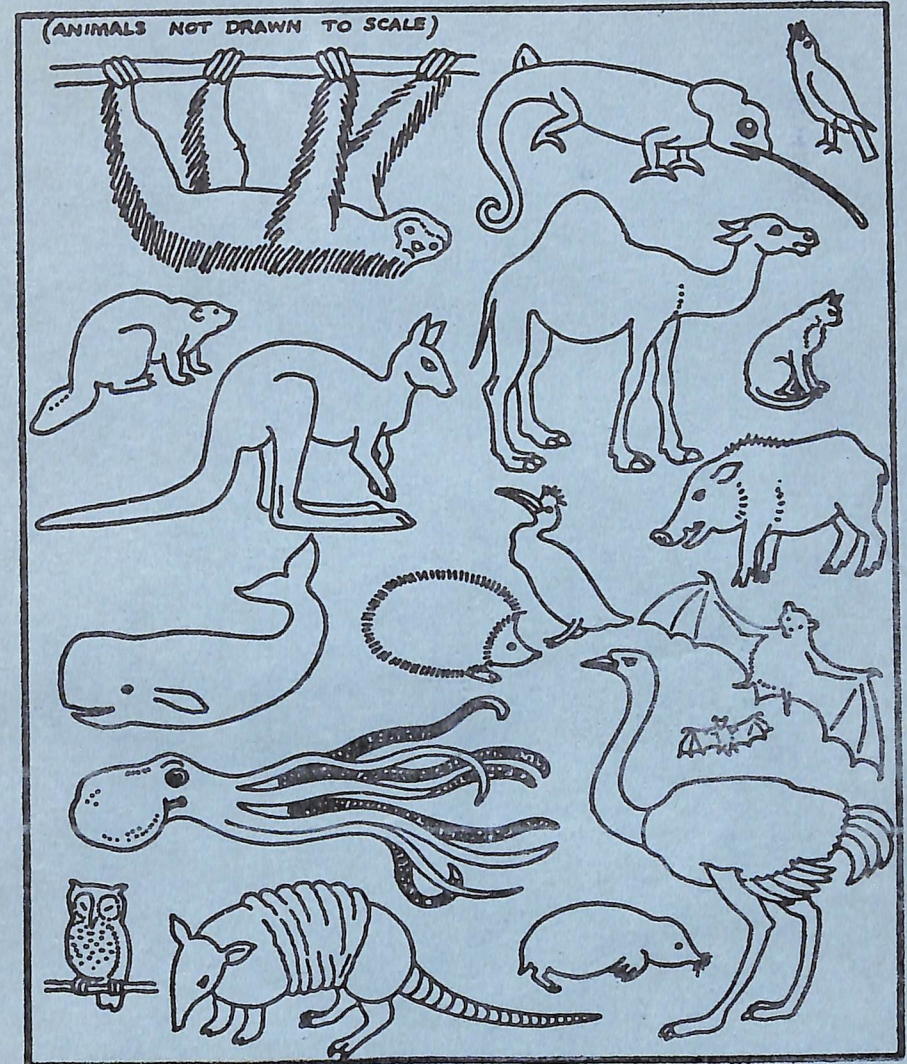
1. A reptile which can change its colour to match its surroundings.
7. A native of Australia which travels with big jumps.
8. A common sea-bird of the cormorant family.
9. A small burrowing creature native to the British Isles.
10. A large desert-dwelling bird which cannot fly.
12. A slow-moving, tree-dwelling animal of South America.
13. A wild pig.
14. A large pack-animal of the desert.
15. A fur-bearing rodent which can fell trees and dam streams.

### DOWN

1. A feline domestic animal.
2. An animal protected by a bony kind of armour-plating.
3. A creature with eight arms and no legs.
4. A small bird noted for its sweet song.
5. An animal covered with spines.
6. Winged animals which fly by night.
10. Carnivorous bird which hunts at night.
11. A mammal which lives in the sea.

HEGHE

Clues to puzzle on opposite page



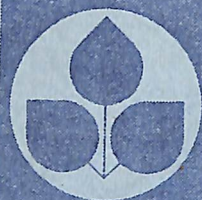
Taken from

Peal's Picture Crosswords. Page 78

Solution:

Page 11.





Australian Conservation Foundation

# newsletter

206 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne, Vic. 3002

## Application for Membership



To: The Director,  
Australian Conservation Foundation,  
206 Clarendon Street,  
East Melbourne, Vic. 3002 (Tel. 419 3366)

(Surname)

(Other Names)

(Mr, Mrs, Miss)

(Address)

Postcode

I would like to join the Australian Conservation Foundation, and agree to be bound by its Constitution and Rules. I enclose (tick appropriate square):

- ☐ \$5, being my first year's subscription as an Ordinary Member.
- ☐ \$3, being voluntary levy for special publications.
- ☐ \$2.50, being first year's subscription as an Associate or Junior Member.
- ☐ \$200, being a donation entitling me to election as a Life Member.
- ☐ \$5, being first year's subscription as a Member Body, to be represented by:

(name of representative)

who will have voting rights.

(Signed)

(Date)

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"Nature Notes" readers might like to purchase some back issues of the above A.C.F. publications. They are available at prices listed from the A.C.F.