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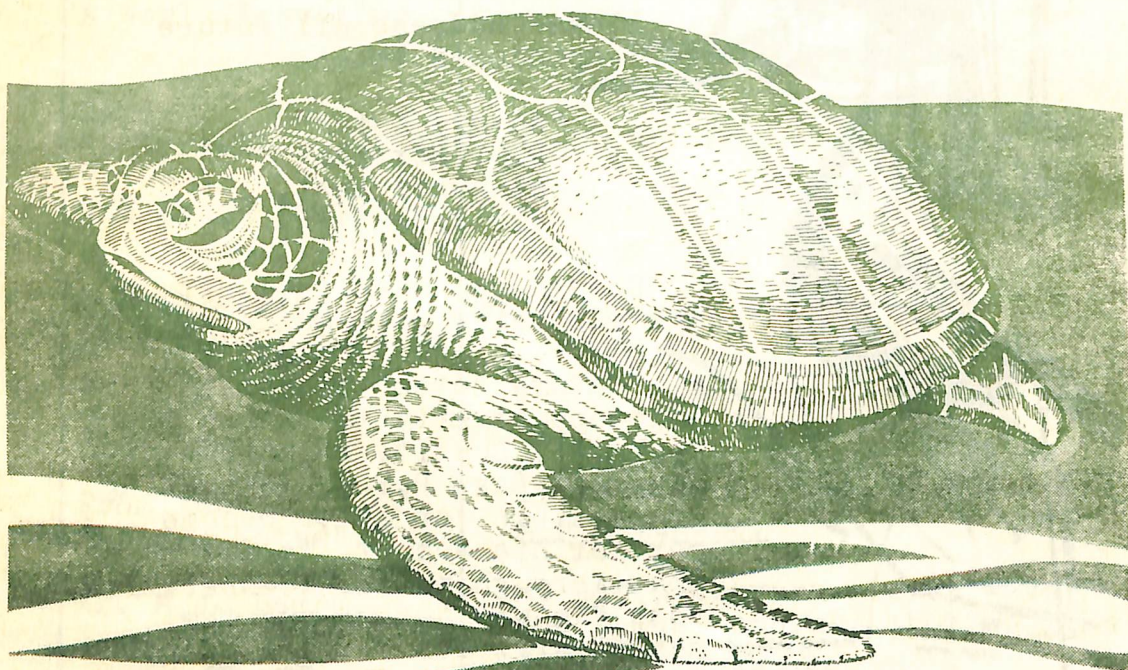
Ringwood Inspectorate

Volume II.

Nature NOTES

No. 6

P O Box 28 Ringwood East 879 1263



6 Cents

A Green Turtle

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From the
Editor ...

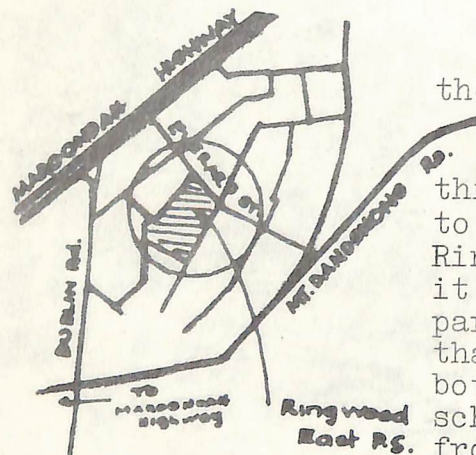
We Have Moved!

All "Nature Notes" readers will be interested to learn that our office is now located at Ringwood East P.S., Everard St., Ringwood East.

Please address all future correspondence to:

"Nature Notes",
P.O. Box 28,
Ringwood East,
Victoria 3135.

Should you wish to visit us the map below will guide you.



"Nature Notes" wishes to take this opportunity to extend thanks to Mr. I. Loutit, Principal of Ringwood East P.S., for making it possible for us to become part of his school. We are sure that through mutual co-operation, both "Nature Notes" and the school will derive much benefit from the association.

H.J. Lawry
Editor.

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From the files of
"Nature Notes".

Mr. H.J. Lawry.



OUR FURRED DAWN VISITOR

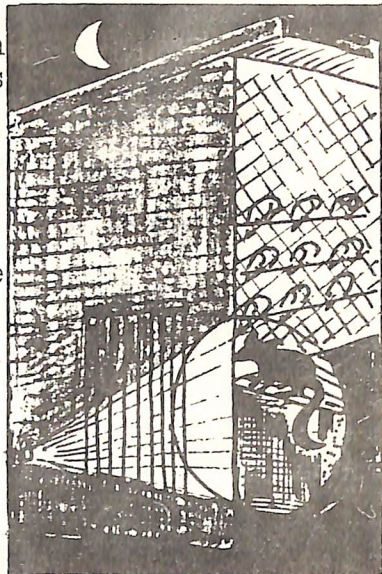


Somewhere about our house lives a long-legged rat --- a phascogale.

He has some very clever ways, and I must confess that we like him.

Three years ago, a zoology student came to our place for Sunday lunch; she had three

baby phascogales, donated to Monash by a Shepparton poultry farmer. Lots of people send native animals so that the students can study our wild-life. Judy was feeding the baby rats every three hours with warm milk from a bottle. One of these escaped. We spent a long time trying to recover him, but he was under the house in the very low section and although we could see him, we couldn't reach him. Judy came the following weekend with a special trap, but we had no luck.



Since then we've had two visits, inside the house. He is very beautiful, like a long-legged large rat. Both times we've tried to catch him but with no luck. At times I hear a scuffling in the roof, and I suspect it is our furred friend.

One Saturday morning we heard a crunching, munching noise so we tiptoed out, and there he was. What a chase we had, but he went through the Wonder-Heat vent, and escaped under the house.

We look forward to another visit from our friend the phascogale.

* * * * *

Your "rat" is probably the Black-tailed Phascogale which is found from Southern Queensland to South-Western Australia.

Readers might like to look him up in Furred Animals of Australia by Ellis Troughton, the source of our first picture. It is not suprising that this specimen was donated by a poultry farmer, because phascogales have a bad reputation for killing poultry of all descriptions.....Editor.

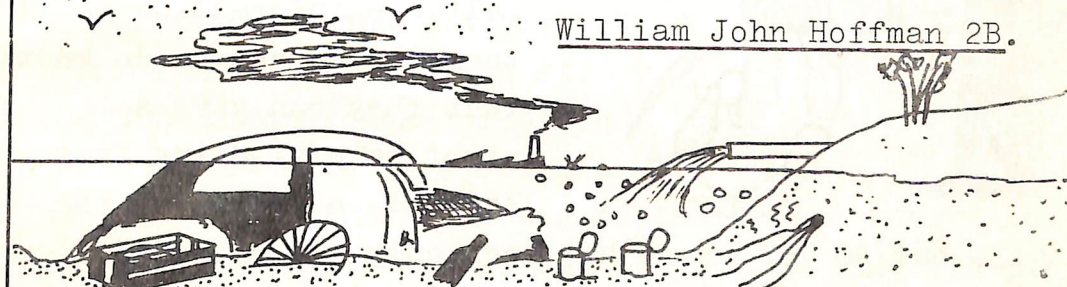
PRIZE LETTER

This month we have two prize letters, both of which have been written by children in Grade 2B at Blackburn Lake Primary School.

POLLUTION

I will be very happy by the time better cars are made so that the exhaust would not kill animals. But the way cars are now they are killing animals. Also another way to stop pollution is to stop dropping things in the water. So I hope whoever reads this will not pollute the world.

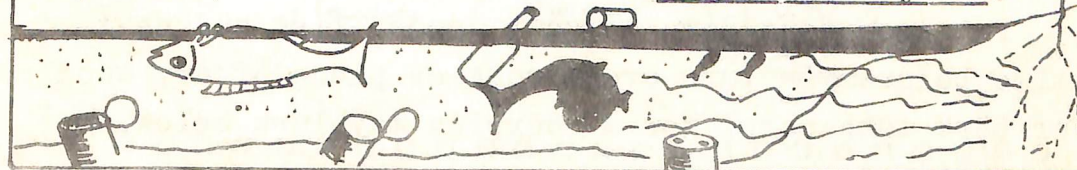
William John Hoffman 2B.



I wont stand pollution. It makes fish die, ducks die and it makes trees shed their leaves. And it makes Melbourne look disgusting.

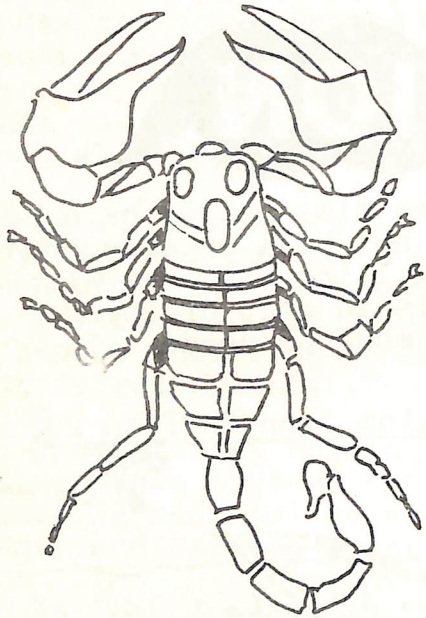
If grownups thought about it as much as I do we would have a much better world.

Andrew Reilly 2B.



THIS 'n THAT

This morning while working in the garden I turned over a large sheet of iron and underneath I was suprised to see a scorpion with claws (pedipalpi).



outstretched and arched tail. This fellow was quite small, being about $1\frac{1}{4}$ " long (3cm.) but they can grow much larger- up to 3" for the Large Brown. Probably because they are not very common, reliable information on them is scarce. We do know that they can give a might painful sting from the poison glands in the

tail, but so far there has been only one recorded death from scorpion bite.

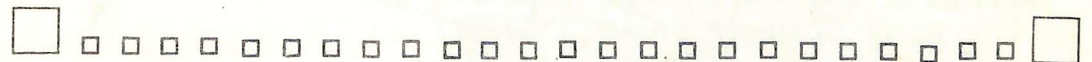
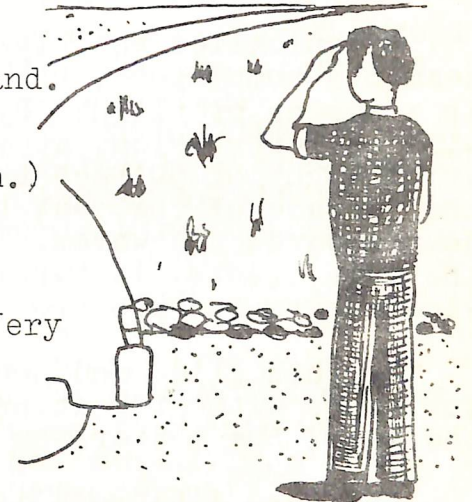
Scorpions belong to the trachnida family, another branch of which are the spiders. The female scorpion produces live young which moult several times before reaching maturity.

Put scorpions down on your danger list and next time before you turn over a rock or piece of dry wood or bark take care, for a scorpion may lurk below.

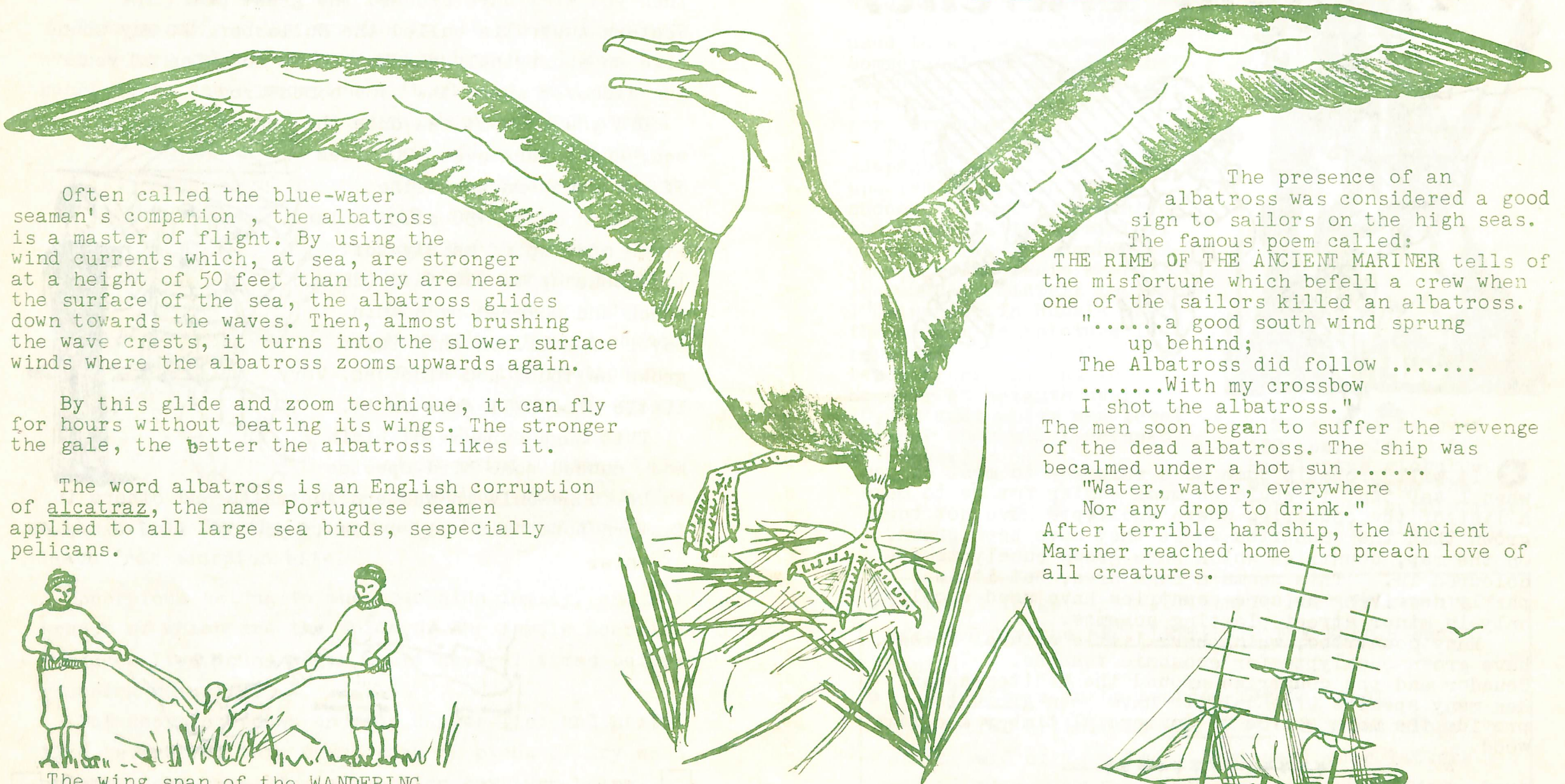
Hands up those who have travelled on the Trans Continental Railway or the Eyre Highway. If you have then you will have crossed the great plain in Western Australia called the Nullarbor. It may sound like an aboriginal name but it is not. See if you can discover where the name comes from.

Did you know it was once the bed of an ancient sea, and covers over 600 miles of our southern coastline extending up to 150 miles inland. It is made up of mainly soft limestone up to 900 feet (280m.) thick and covered by a thin layer of soil. On this layer grows saltbush and bluebush. Very little else will grow on it.

This huge expanse of plain has caused some bird species to be found only in Western Australia and others in Eastern Australia only . See if you can find examples of this.



A GLOBAL WANDERER — THE ALBATROSS



Often called the blue-water seaman's companion, the albatross is a master of flight. By using the wind currents which, at sea, are stronger at a height of 50 feet than they are near the surface of the sea, the albatross glides down towards the waves. Then, almost brushing the wave crests, it turns into the slower surface winds where the albatross zooms upwards again.

By this glide and zoom technique, it can fly for hours without beating its wings. The stronger the gale, the better the albatross likes it.

The word albatross is an English corruption of alcatraz, the name Portuguese seamen applied to all large sea birds, especially pelicans.

The presence of an albatross was considered a good sign to sailors on the high seas. The famous poem called: THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER tells of the misfortune which befell a crew when one of the sailors killed an albatross.

".....a good south wind sprung up behind;
The Albatross did follow
.....With my crossbow
I shot the albatross."

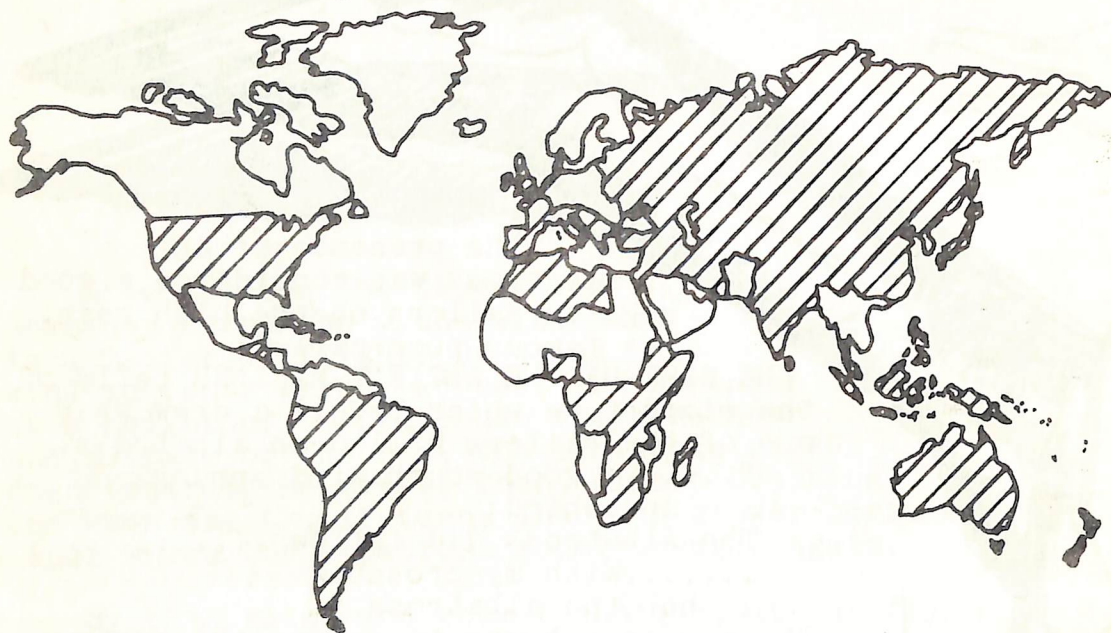
The men soon began to suffer the revenge of the dead albatross. The ship was becalmed under a hot sun

"Water, water, everywhere
Nor any drop to drink."

After terrible hardship, the Ancient Mariner reached home to preach love of all creatures.

The wing span of the WANDERING ALBATROSS may measure almost eleven feet.

✈️ A World Traveller



★ It will probably come as a surprise to most of you when I say that it would be much easier for me to make a list of the countries where eucalypts have not been grown than the countries where they have been grown. On the map, countries which have grown eucalypts are coloured in. This seems a huge area, but it is partly deceiving as some countries have used eucalypts only in minor street planting schemes.

Many countries, which have little natural forest, have grown eucalypts for economic reasons. In Ecuador and the countries around the Mediterranean Sea many species of eucalypts have been grown to provide the main source of commercial timber and fire wood.

★ In California *Eucalyptus globulus* (The Blue Gum) has been grown to provide valuable windbreaks for citrus orchards.

In Russia eucalypts are used to a great extent for commercial timber, for the production of essential oils, for shade and shelter and for ornament.

To give examples of their adaptability different species have been grown successfully in the heat of the Sahara with a rainfall of less than ten inches a year, in Indonesia where the annual rainfall is over 150 inches, in Russia where the winter temperature is repeatedly as low as 18°F. below freezing, and in Ecuador at heights over 10,000 feet above sea level (higher than Mt. Kosciusko 7316 feet).

* * *

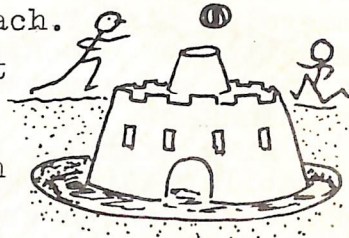


↑ This tree is over 100 year old. A *Eucalyptus globulus*, it was grown from the first seed supply introduced into Argentina.

- 1. Don't forget that Periwinkle Book Prizes are offered for the BEST LETTER TO THE EDITOR each month.
- 2. A PRIZE is to be awarded for the most thoughtful article on ANT LIONS Entries close at the end of Term Two . Just send your letters to the Editor of Nature Notes, P.O.Box 28 R'wd. East,

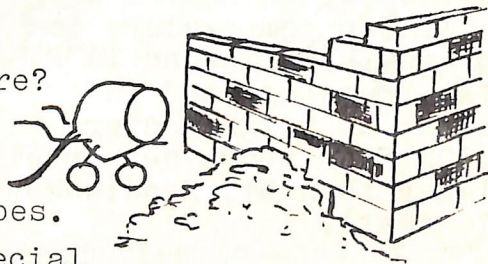
* * * SAND * * *

Young children enjoy playing in sandpits and making sand-castles down at the beach. Sandy beaches are certainly a great attraction to young and old alike. However, man has been clever enough to invent ways of using sand to do work for him. Here are some suggestions for you so that you might have an interesting time studying such a simple thing as SAND.



- Where can you find sand?
How do you think it got there?

- What color is sand?
Try to collect different types.
Why do bricklayers use a special sand?



- Talk to your father about making concrete. Make some sample batches of concrete varying the amount of sand you use.

Design a strength tester for your samples.

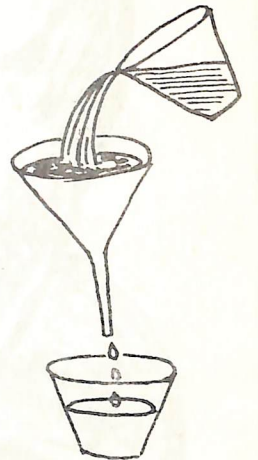
- What is the difference between concrete and mortar?

- Sand clocks are fun to watch.
Try to make one as an egg timer.

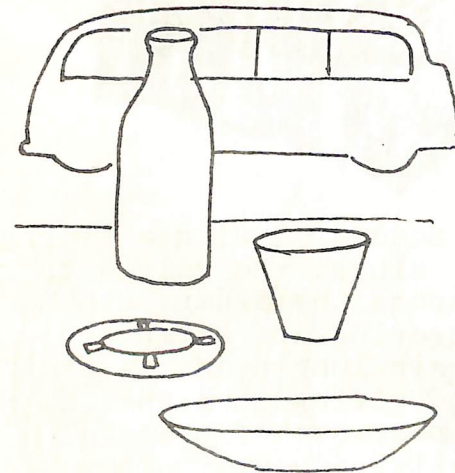
- Sandpaper can be used for smoothing wood. Collect some different sandpapers. Do you think that you could make your own?

- Have you seen and heard a sanding machine smoothing floors in a new house? The abrasive pad is very strong.

- Dirty water can be filtered using sand. Work with a partner on this activity.

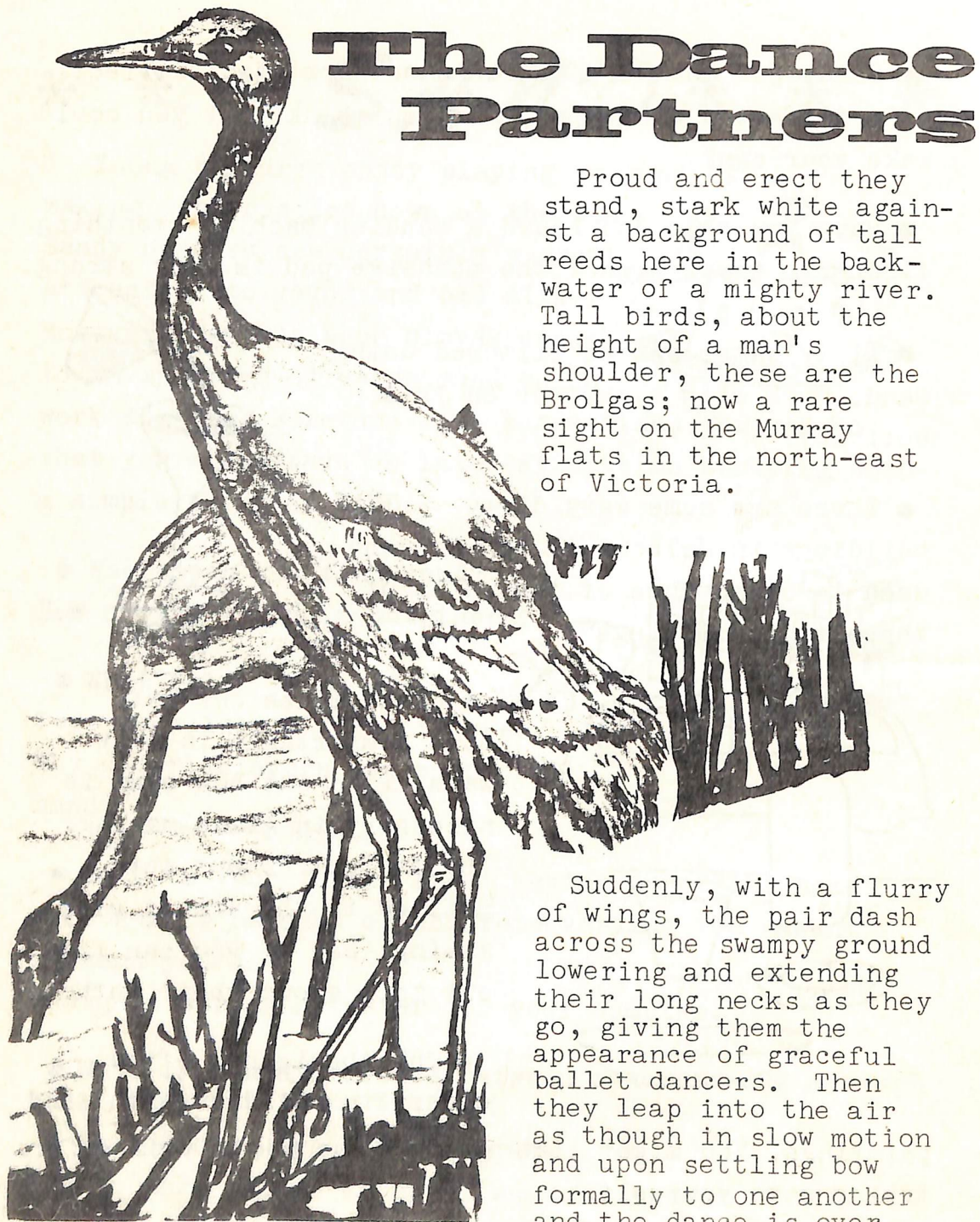


- There are some very dirty buildings in Melbourne. How is sand used to clean some of the walls of these tall buildings?



- Glass makes our life more comfortable in many ways. Find out how sand is necessary in glass making. The Ancient Romans were skilled in the art of glass making. See if you can find out more about their methods.

- The Aborigines often entertain children with sand paintings. You might like to find out about them before trying some yourself.



The Dance Partners

Proud and erect they stand, stark white against a background of tall reeds here in the back-water of a mighty river. Tall birds, about the height of a man's shoulder, these are the Brolgas; now a rare sight on the Murray flats in the north-east of Victoria.

Suddenly, with a flurry of wings, the pair dash across the swampy ground lowering and extending their long necks as they go, giving them the appearance of graceful ballet dancers. Then they leap into the air as though in slow motion and upon settling bow formally to one another and the dance is over.

Have you ever seen these beautiful birds dancing ?

Where else might they be seen in Victoria ?

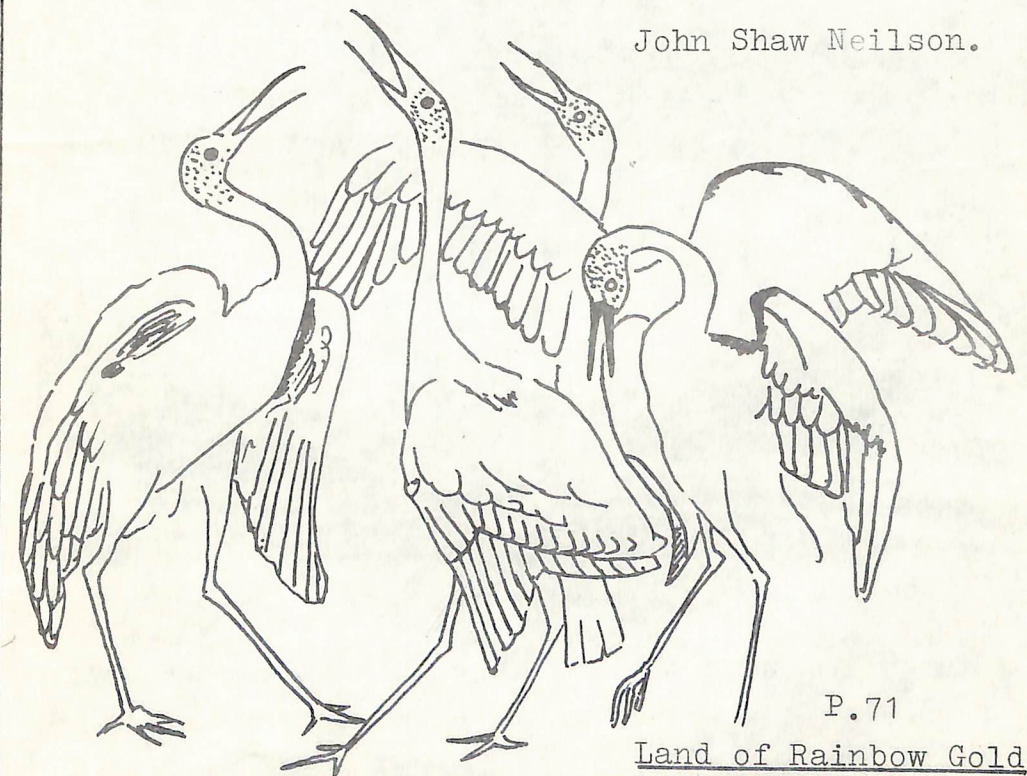
Below is a poem about them . Read it carefully.

Which line describes their dance ?

Native Companions Dancing

On the blue plains in wintry days
These stately birds move in the dance.
Keen eyes have they, and quaint old ways
On the blue plains in wintry days.
The Wind, their unseen Piper, plays,
They strut, salute, retreat, advance;
On the blue plains, in wintry days,
These stately birds move in the dance.

John Shaw Neilson.



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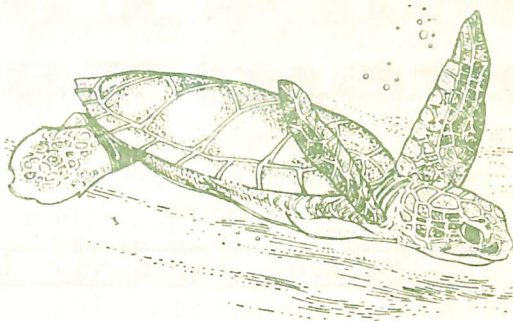
Land of Rainbow Gold

2-day turtle ride to safety

MANILA, Sun., AAP. — A woman rode a giant turtle for two days after being shipwrecked.

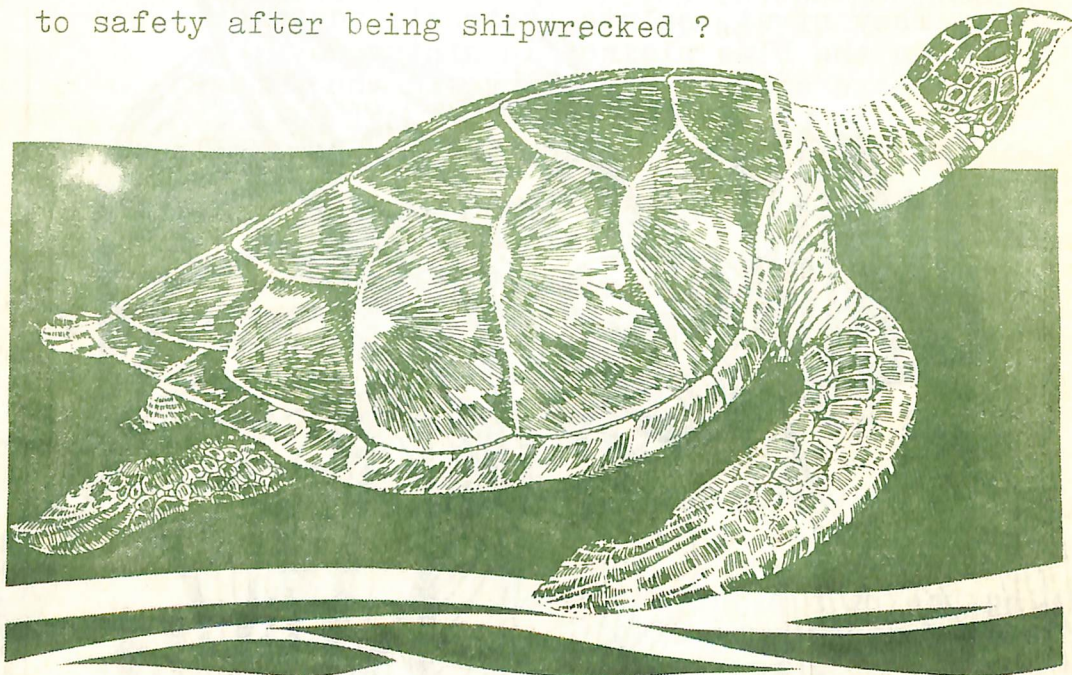
The woman, Mrs Candelaria Villanueva, 52, was on board the passenger ship Aloha, when it sank off Zamboanga Del Norte, 600 miles south of Manila, on June 2.

A Philippines Navy report said yesterday that Mrs Villanueva rode the turtle until she was rescued by a passing ship.



The Sun, Monday, June 24, 1974

Did you read about the lady who "rode" a turtle to safety after being shipwrecked?



A Hawksbill Turtle

After her rescue the turtle circled the area twice as if to reassure itself that the woman was in good hands, then swam away.