

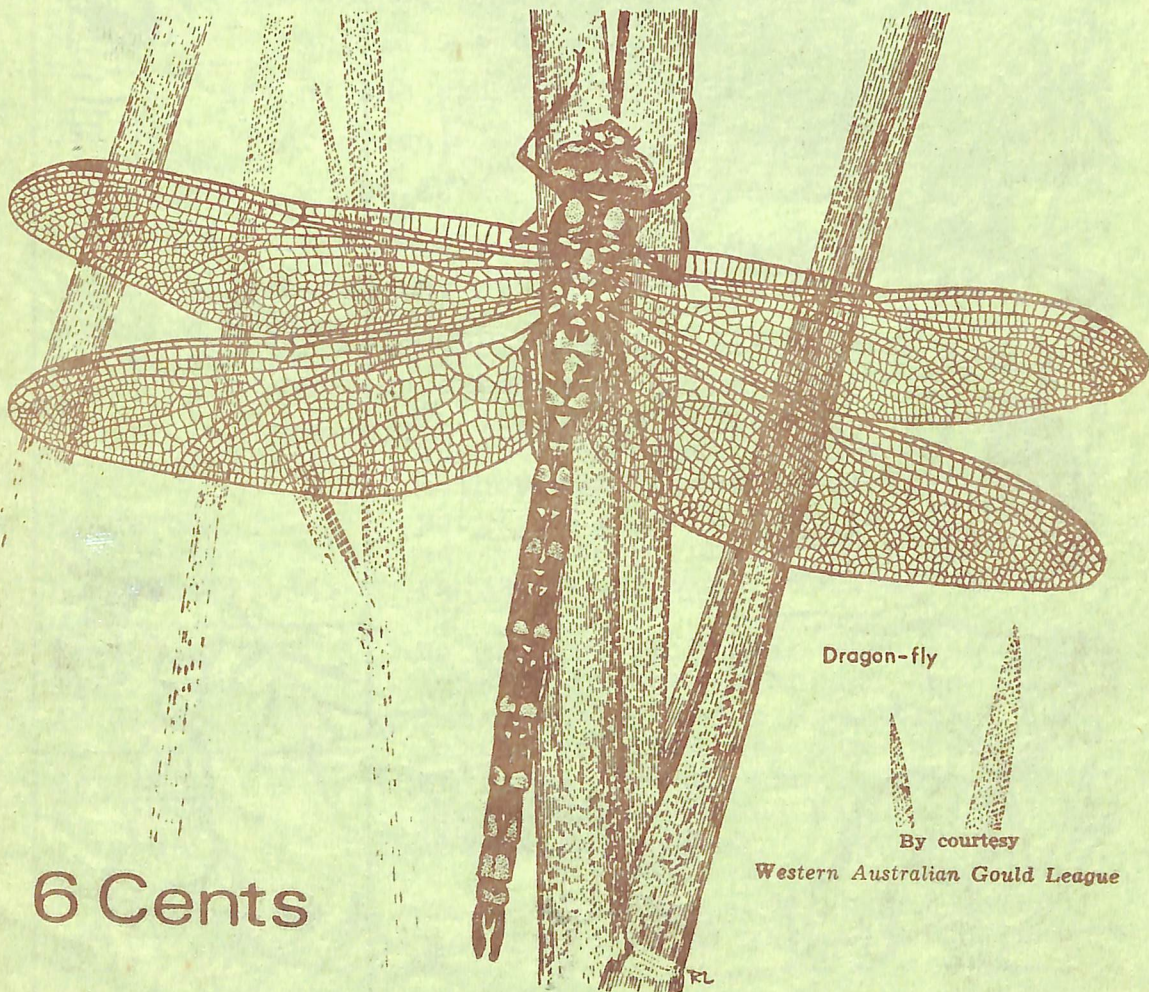
Ringwood Inspectorate

Volume II.

Nature NOTES

No. 9.

P O Box 28 Ringwood East 879 1263



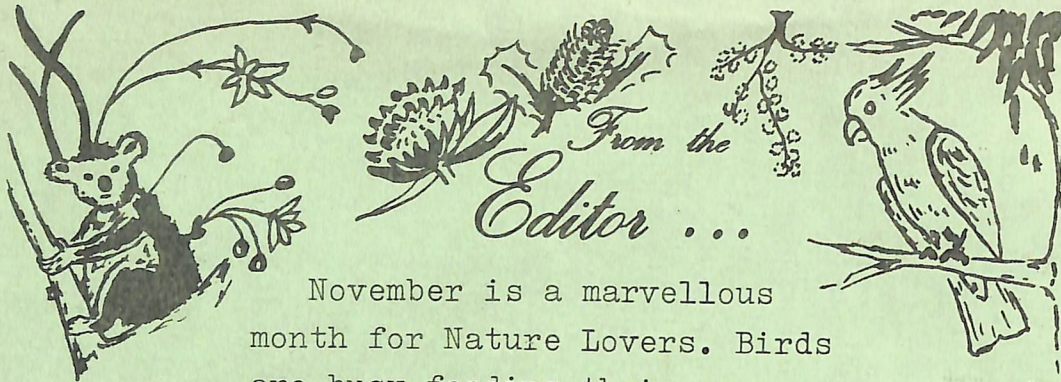
Dragon-fly

By courtesy

Western Australian Gould League

6 Cents

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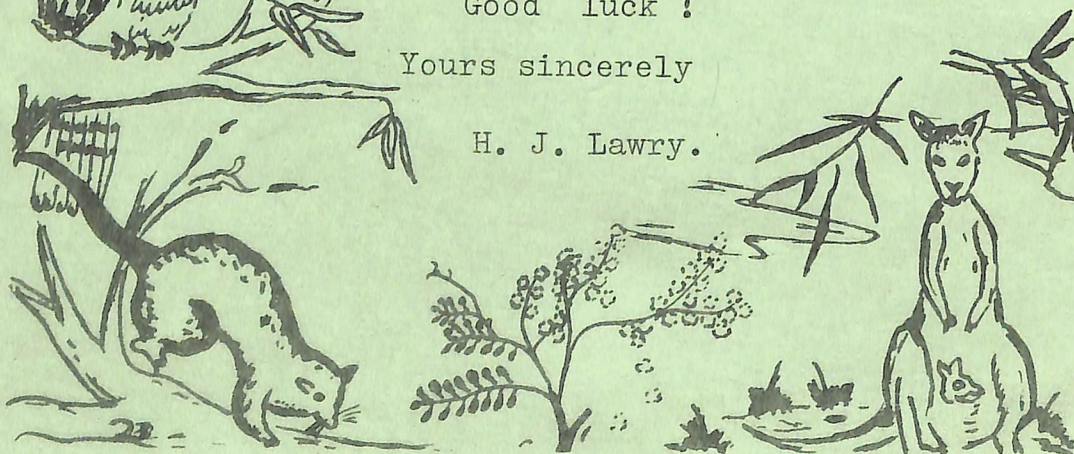
*From the
Editor ...*

November is a marvellous month for Nature Lovers. Birds are busy feeding their young, wildflowers are in bloom and all sorts of insects are visiting flowers in our gardens and in the bush. Why don't you organise a day out with your class to observe things for yourselves. Here are some things you could look for: young birds being fed; differences in plumage between young and old birds; different insects and plants.

Good luck !

Yours sincerely

H. J. Lawry.



Index

Wommie the
Wombat.
J. Hansen....3.

Letter Box...5.

On the Spot.
W. Sharpin...6.

How Animals
Move About.
H. J. Lawry..8.

The 4.32 to the
Big Smoke.
Sun News
Pictorial...10.

The Bluff at
Burleigh Heads.
C. Newland..11.

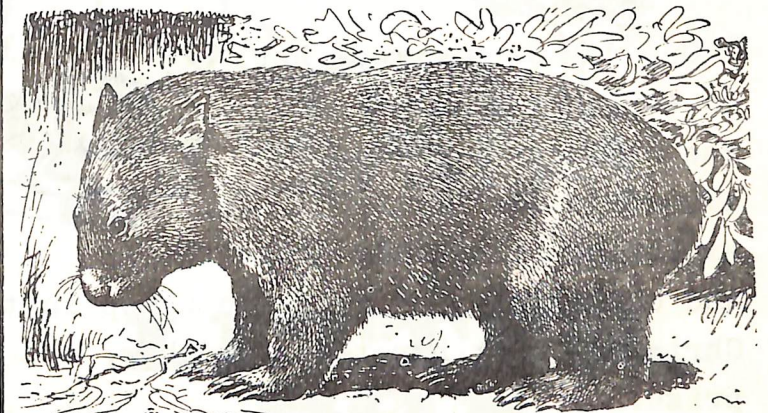
Native Plants.
M. Hook.....12.

Wonderoo.
A. Dunstan.
H.J. Lawry..14.

Puzzles.
H.J. Lawry.
A. Gibson...16.

Artists.
M. Sharpin.
S. Morris.
C. Robertson.
W. Prohasky
S. Willsmore.
H.J. Lawry.

WOMMIE the WOMBAT



Have you ever had a wombat as a pet?

We did until about two monthes ago. Wommie was first found when her mother was killed by a car. The people who found her fed her with an eyedropper until she was old enough to care for herself.

We were given Wommie when she was just over 1 year old and she immediately became a wonderful family pet. One day our three children dressed her up in a nightie plus sunglasses and hat, and put her into a doll's bed.

She could also enjoy being nursed and loved to be given a bath like

a baby. The only time she would bite was when she was stirred up like a playful pup. On these occasions she would chase us to give us playful nips.

One day Jennie took her to Warrandyte School and the children were really amused to see her exploring in all the lockers and cupboards, and going to sleep in the bookcase. Christine took her to a pet show, and Wommie won first prize.

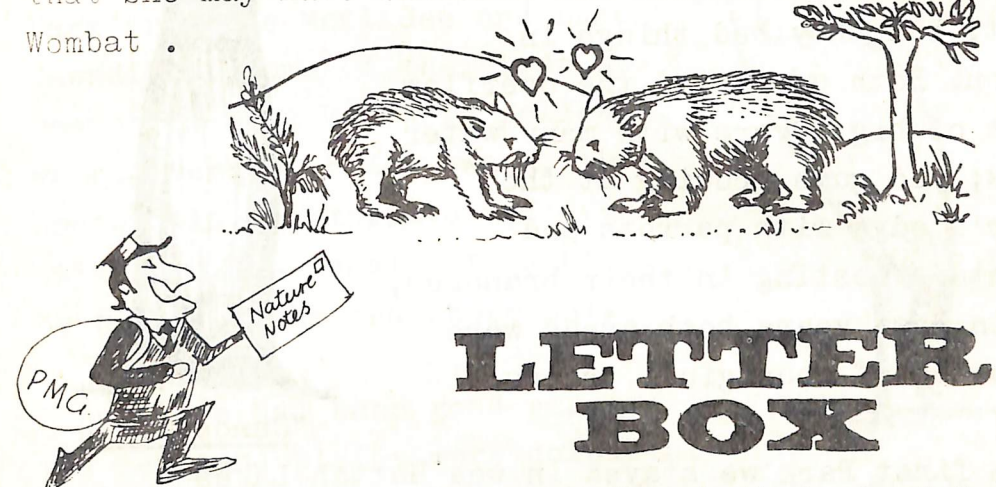
Peter used to tease Wommie at times. He would wrestle with her and use her as a step to climb to the cupboards, but Wommie didn't seem to mind.

The only food Wommie ate was grass and "Dog Chow". She was very handy in the garden as she only ate the weeds. Unfortunately wombats can be quite destructive. Like rats, their teeth are always growing, so they have to gnaw to wear their teeth down. Some of our doors were chewed when Wommie wanted to come inside, so we had to lock her away at night in the cubby house which had a concrete floor, brick walls and



iron nailed behind the door.

When 2 years old, Wommie became too heavy for any of our children to carry. Then one night, after her tea and usual wander, Wommie never returned. We think that she may have wandered off looking for Wallie Wombat.



LETTER BOX

The following letter is from Elizabeth Newland, Grade 3 Greenhills Primary School.

In the September holidays we went to Queensland. At Currumbin Bird Sanctuary there are lorikeets, peacocks & peahens, guinea-fowls, ducks, pigeons, guinea-pigs and kangaroos.

Visitors may feed the lorikeets with plates of bread and honey. Each day they eat about 68 loaves of bread and 138 pounds of honey. I had my photo taken with the birds on a plate, on my arms and head.

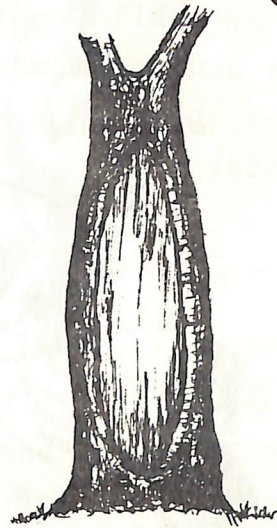
If you bring bread you can feed the kangaroos and sometimes their joeys. It is fun to visit this place.

Nature Notes Nov. '74



ON THE SPOT.

In the September holidays my family and I camped in two National Parks. These Parks were 200 miles apart, but they had things in common. Both contained the overflow lakes of big rivers with many water birds; red gums growing at the water's edge with parrots and cockatoos nesting in their branches, and in past years both areas were the homes of aboriginal tribes.



"Canoe" Tree

The first Park we stayed in was Hattah Lakes National Park in north-eastern Victoria. This is "mallee" country and the lakes are filled by the Murray River. It was at Hattah that we saw a "canoe" tree, a red gum with bark removed by the aborigines for a canoe.

Then we went to Kinchega National Park in N.S.W., 70 miles east of Broken Hill. This has been a Park only since 1967. For a hundred years before that it was part of a sheep station of more than two million acres. One can still visit the old woolshed built when Kinchega was running 143,000 sheep. The early explorers

Mitchell and Sturt were the first white men in the area. Later came Bourke and Wills and we camped on the Darling River near where it was crossed by their expedition.

The two largest lakes in the Park are Lake Menindee and Lake Cawndilla. Some of the birds we saw on these lakes were pelicans, egrets, herons, black swans, ibis, spoonbills, cormorants and even silver gulls--usually thought to be birds of the sea shore only.



Great White Egret

As there had been good rains, the red sand plains were colourful with wildflowers growing among the bluebush. On these plains we saw red kangaroos, emus, foxes and bearded dragon and shingleback lizards lying in the sun.

Also in the park are remains of aboriginal middens, camp grounds and burial grounds.

Hattah and Kinchega are both aboriginal names. Kinchega is said to mean "a source of water".

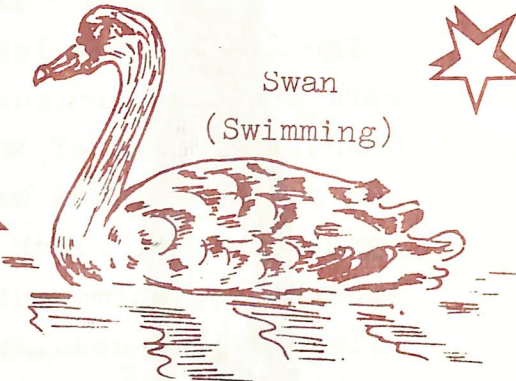
Warwick Sharpin.
Grade 5B. Blackburn Lake P.S.

HOW ANIMALS MOVE ABOUT

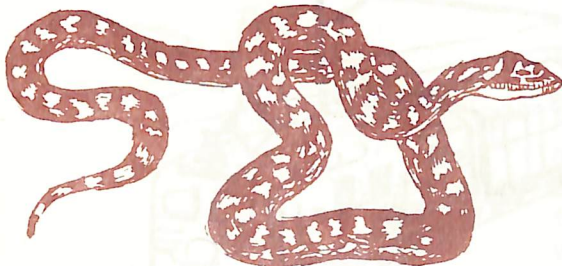
Have you ever thought about this ? Scattered across these pages are various ways animals move, see if you can add to the list.



Frog
(Jumping)



Swan
(Swimming)



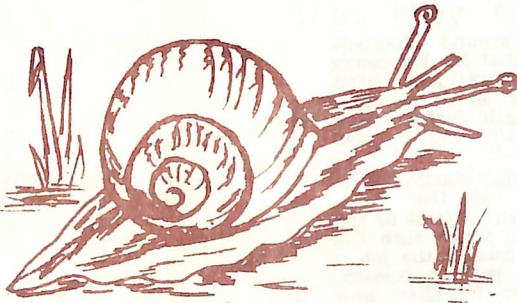
Snake
(Wriggling)



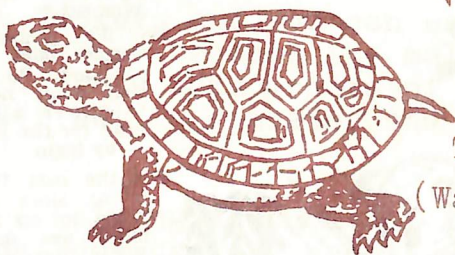
Koala
(Climbing)



Bat
(Flying)



Snail
(Sliding)



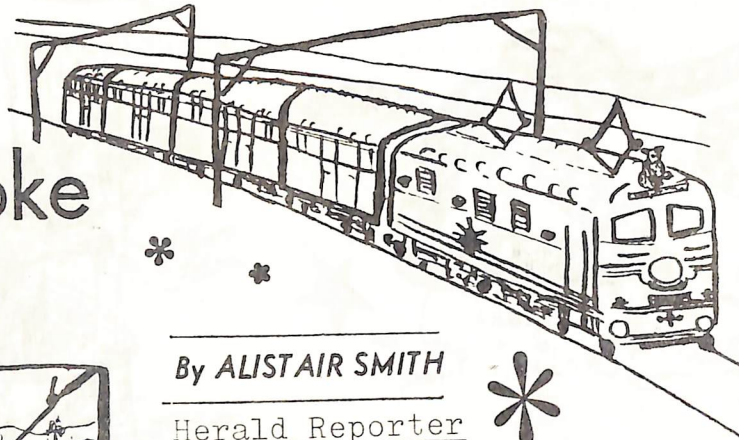
Turtle
(Walking)

Climbing.	Sliding.	Jumping.	Flying.	Wriggling.	Swimming.	Walking.



Wally caught the 4.32 to

the * big smoke



By ALISTAIR SMITH

Herald Reporter

Out at Lilydale, there's a big, old man possum they call "Wally the Wombat".

That's right. A possum called "Wally the Wombat".

So it's probably little wonder that Wally is confused. So confused that today he decided to give it all up and head for the Big Smoke — by train.

For the past 12 months or so, since his usual home in an old toilet block was demolished, Wally has enjoyed a peaceful existence at Lilydale railway station.

Of a morning, he could be seen cavorting around the nearby sports oval.

As first light appeared, he would scuttle back homewards, up a couple of guy ropes, and settle down for the day in the roof of the refreshment room.

But, this morning, he decided to break routine. And, somehow or other, he ended up on the roof of the 4.32 a.m. train to Flinders St.

It was around Mooroolbark that his big beady eyes were first seen staring in a window, peering in just to check how the driver was going.

Then he dashed the length of the train, along the outside of the roof to make sure the guard was on the job.

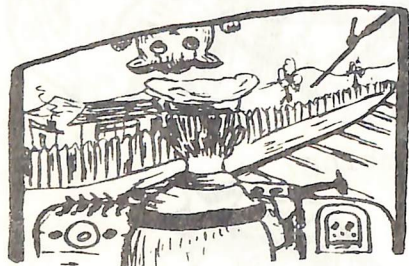
Being a railway possum, you see, he knew how things should work.

But, being a country possum, he didn't like the look of Flinders St. — just like many an early morning traveller.

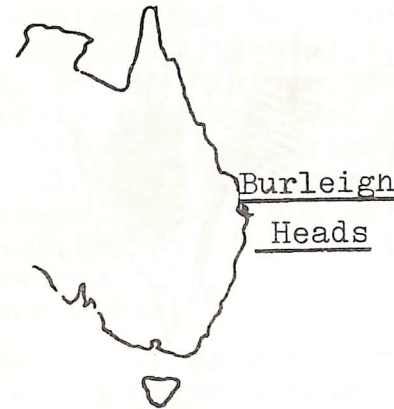
So he stayed put and went back home again, sensible fellow.

At Lilydale, the train was shunted into a quiet siding and Wally was persuaded to get off. Otherwise at 7.42, he would have been off again.

Assistant stationmaster Bittner reported all clear. "When last seen, he was heading in an upwards direction in a peppercorn tree."



The Bluff at BURLEIGH HEADS



During the September holidays we went to Queensland. The bluff at Burleigh Heads has been left in its natural state. Here approximately 82 wallabies and 110 turkeys are fed twice daily by the Ranger. He feeds them wheat, bread and salad vegetables, he also fills up their water bowls at three feeding places. The wallabies are Red Legged Wallabies which stand 22-26" high. These wallabies that have been tagged

become quite tame and with patience can be fed by hand. Blue tags are used for males and red for females. During the day they eat kangaroo grass and other grass that they find.

The turkeys are Brush Turkeys and you can easily distinguish males from females because the males have a yellow "wattle". The turkeys make mounds of leaf and twig which may be 7-12 feet in diameter and 3 feet high.

One night when we were walking down one of the many tracks we saw an echidna looking for insects. Luckily he was against some grass and couldn't move, so we could touch his bristly spines.

Catherine Newland Grade 5. Greenhills PS



*"wattle"—
See if you can find out what is the wattle on a turkey. Do other birds have wattles?

Native Plants

THE NEED FOR PRESERVATION.

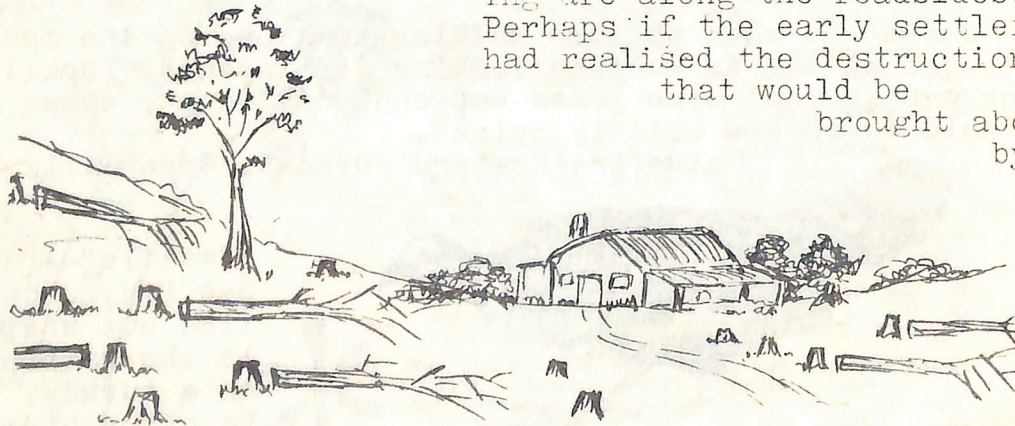
Do you live in the country, or in a city suburb, or in a block of flats? Have you ever looked around you and noticed the trees growing in your area? Are they European trees such as elms, oaks, willows, or are they our own Australian trees, such as eucalypts (gums) or acacias (wattles)?



Bottle-
brush.

Australia was settled by Europeans less than two hundred years ago, and during that time many millions of acres of bushland has been cleared, often without reason, and now much of that cleared land is lying waste. Perhaps it is overgrown with introduced blackberry or thistle. Or what is worse still, perhaps it is eroded by deep gullies, with much of the top soil washed away for ever.

Next time you go for a drive in the country look around you, and you will notice vast areas with hardly a tree; often the only trees remaining are along the roadsides. Perhaps if the early settlers had realised the destruction that would be brought about by

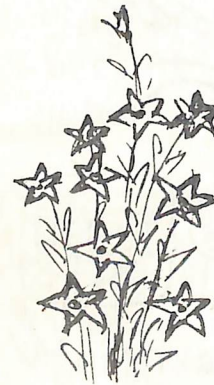


Good country devastated by bad farming.

droughts, fires, rabbits and overstocking they would not have cleared so much of the land. If pockets of natural bushland had been left, for example in the valleys, and on the mountains, these areas would have provided a cross-section of all areas; they would have preserved native trees, shrubs and wildflowers, and they would have provided sanctuaries for native animals and birds.

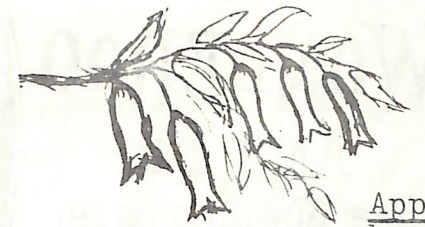
As it is, several species of native animals have already become extinct. In the early days some animals were ruthlessly hunted. Did you know

that in 1924
2,000,000
koala skins were sold?

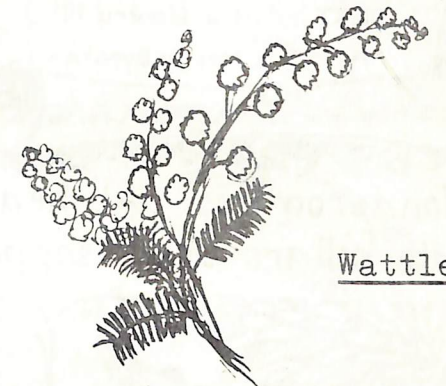


Bluebell.

How can we help to preserve what we have left? First of all we can help by learning about our country, its animal and plant life. We can read, observe, talk to our parents and friends, and encourage them to be interested too. The "Little Desert" was saved from becoming farmland because so many people helped the government to see how valuable it was as a sanctuary. How can you help?



Apple-
berry.



Wattle.



Flannel.

One way that you can help is by growing your own native garden. Even one native tree is better than none at all.

Wonderoo AND CO.

CRIME BUSTERS OF THE
UNDERGROWTH

TEXT... H.J. Lawry

ARTIST... Mrs A. Dunstan

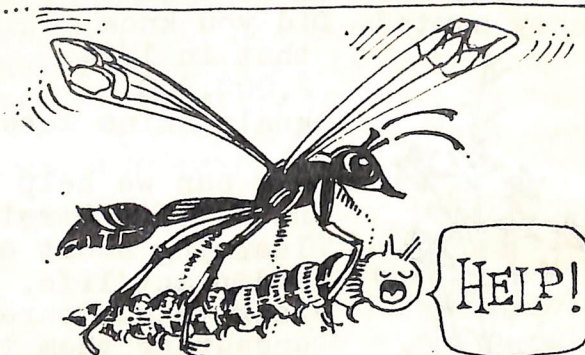
zlip zliz
n znizz !!

Very well
Casper
I'll look
into it!

Wonderoo has just heard a complaint that caterpillars are disappearing by the dozen...

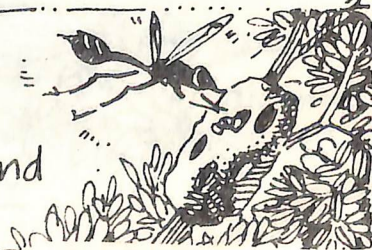


Hiding in the scrub near a caterpillar infested tree Wonderoo sees what is happening...



Mrs Mud Dauber is taking them away, she can carry many times her own weight

Wonderoo follows her and sees her make trip after trip bringing home caterpillars and sealing them up in her nest

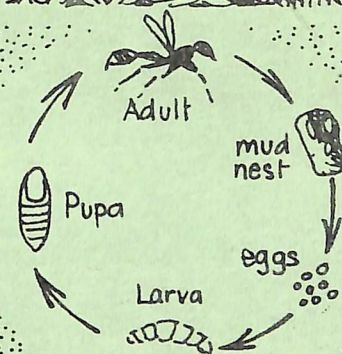


Wonderoo approaches and tells her of the complaints...

But this is the way we wasps survive, I'm just collecting food you know.

Oh! tell me more

Mrs Wasp explains the life cycle of the wasps and how the caterpillars stay fresh until they become food for the larva when it hatches out...



So you see Wonderoo it's all part of Nature's plan...

AWK!

I must be off that bird is after me !!

And that's part of Nature's plan too! But how will I explain this to the poor caterpillars?*

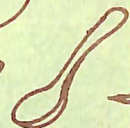
I'm glad that is your job and not mine, Wonderoo!...Ed.

PUZZLES

by
"JAMES"

RIDDLE MEE REE

My first is in beam,
But not in
My second is in cup,
But not in
My third is in honey,
As well as in
My fourth is in river,
And also in
My fifth is in pod,
But not in
My sixth is in ring,
But not in
My seventh is in train,
And also in track
My whole is an animal
With a spiny



by
Ann



What did the
farmer put on
the pig's sore
nose?



Let me think of course!

SEE IF YOU CAN UNSCRAMBLE THESE
JUMBLED ANIMALS' NAMES

HARD

blawlay
nagnao
pslt pavy
mawtbo

EASY

okiao
ssumpo
oorn gaka

ECHIDNA

