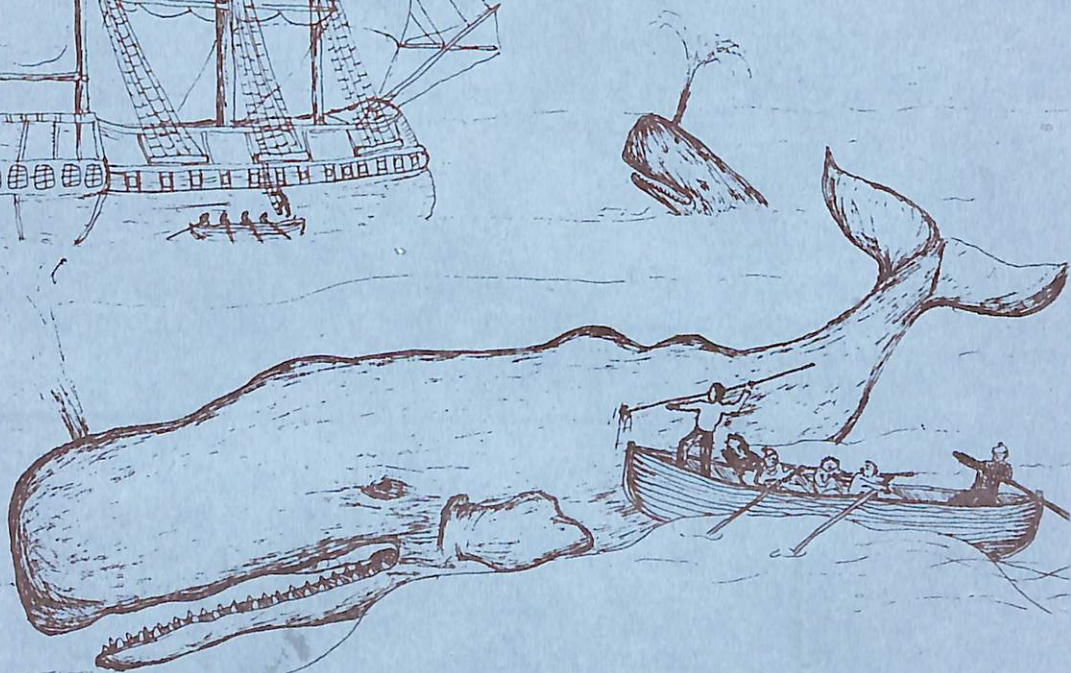
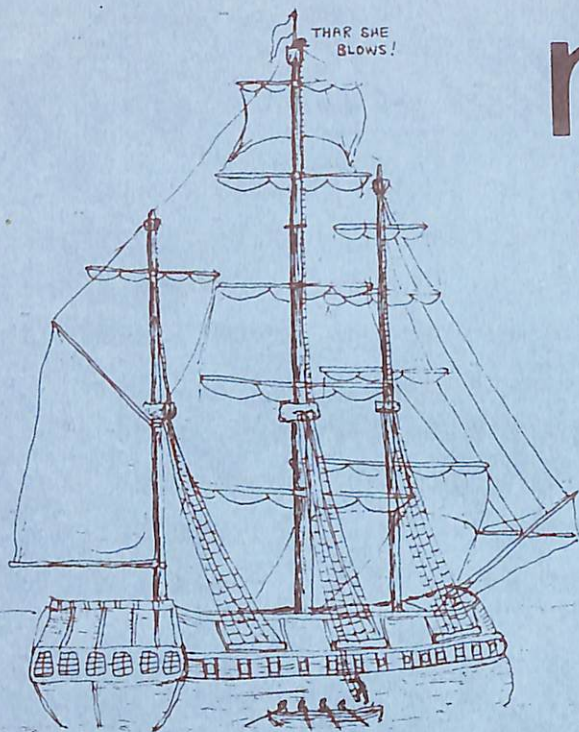


# nature notes

P.O. BOX 28,  
RINGWOOD EAST,  
3135.  
879-1263.

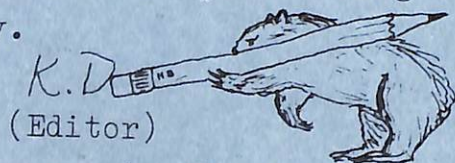


Hunting and harpooning the Sperm Whale.

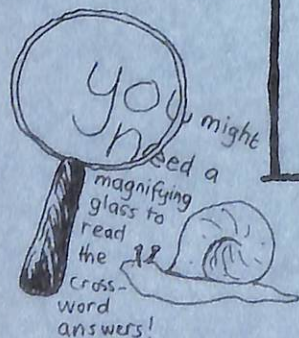
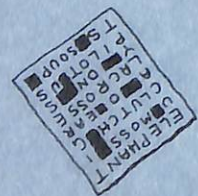


# Editor....

That wombat is in big trouble! He ruined the front cover by climbing into the crow's nest and opening his big mouth. That sure blows his chances of ever appearing on the front page again. I'm sorry people for starting an editorial like this - I hope you enjoy the rest of Nature Notes no.4. Mr. Neville's grade 5/6 at Ringwood East gave me some of their projects on Whales to print, perhaps some other grade would like to do the same? Probe (= Junior Nature Notes) is out this month - please ring us up if you would like to see a copy.



P.S. The answer to the mystery message is hidden in these next two sentences: Judy ate an apple. "Sewrite" sewing machines work best.



Page 2.

Famous Animals....3	Let's Look at Fruit
Mammals(Whales)...4	(cont.)F.J.C.Rogers
On Tour: Whipsticks	.....10
L.Delacca.....6	Letters
The Plant Kingdom:	.....11
a Chart.F.J.C.Rogers	Ass.Ed.
.....8	.....12
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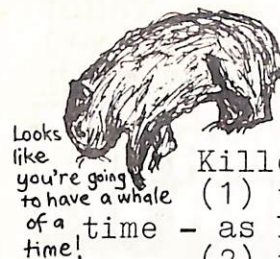
Artists:A. Dunstan  
W.Prohasky

## CONTENTS.

Ringwood East P.S.

## Famous Animals, no.4.

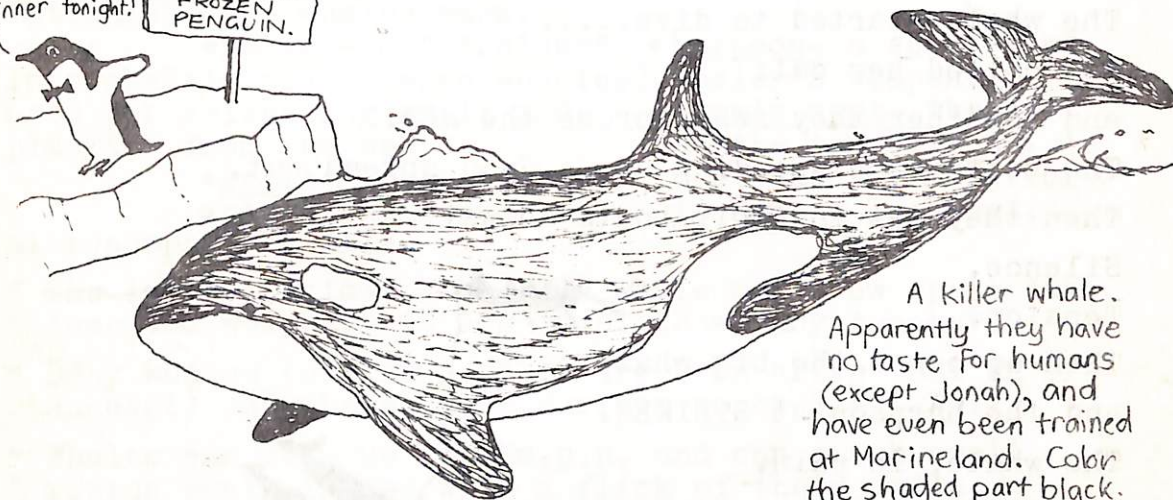
OLD TOM - The Whalers' Friend.



Killer whales are noted for three things:  
(1) their longevity (that means they live a long time - as long as humans),  
(2) their appetite (13 porpoises & 14 seals were found in the stomach of one killer whale, and 32 fully grown seals in the stomach of another!!), and  
(3) their cunning (they have been known to deliberately tip penguins off floating ice to get a quick snack!)

I've been invited out for dinner tonight!

TAKE-AWAY FOOD  
KENTUCKY  
FROZEN  
PENGUIN.



A killer whale. Apparently they have no taste for humans (except Jonah), and have even been trained at Marineland. Color the shaded part black.

Old Tom, the killer whale, was no exception. He was seen off Twofold Bay in N.S.W. most winters between 1843 and 1930, and probably lived to be 90. With his pack of about 40 other killer whales he would round up fin whales (much bigger whales with no teeth) and then swim into Twofold Bay to let the whalers know - by banging his flukes (tail) on the water. The whalers and the killer whales would then help each other dispose of the fin whales (the men getting whale-oil and the killer whales a good feed) - some times by driving them right onto the shore.

Just another TALL story you say? Old Tom, the leader of the pack, had unmistakable scars on his back, and his skeleton can be seen today in the Eden Museum.

"Nature Notes". June '75.

Page 3.



# The Whale Hunt



Swimming early in the morning  
the whale heard a sound far away.

"Thar she blows!"

comes the cry from above.

The men jumped into four boats  
and rowed out to the spot.

The whale started to dive.....

she called her calf

and together they swam across the sea.

The boats came speeding up.....and spread out.

Then they sat in their boats to wait.

Silence.

Tension.

Then up comes the big whale  
and the harpoonist STRIKES.

The whale, in pain,  
dives down,

with her baby following.

She tells her calf to go away and find the other whales.

Without another word

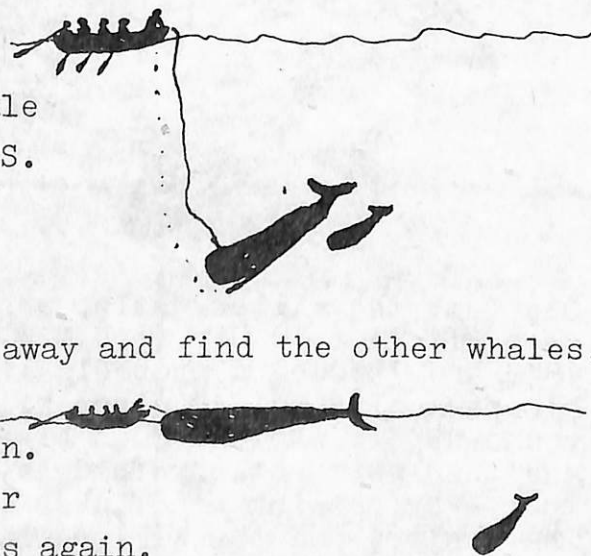
the whale dives down again.

The whale comes up for air

and the harpoonist strikes again.

In a pool of blood

the whale dies.



by Sonia Hay of Grade 6B  
Ringwood East Primary School.

TODAY most scientists group animals by their structure, (that is by how they are built-bones,organs etc.)The first important division is between animals with a 'chord' of hollow bones with nerves inside and those that don't. Those that do are called Chordata and the largest group of Chordata is the Vertebrates. This group includes 3 types of fishes, reptiles, birds, amphibians and MAMMALS.



Mark S. Donaldson from the same grade as Sonia, has written a very good project on whales which includes the following facts and another excellent poem:

New Words: •blubber- layers of fat which keep whales warm.

•baleen- a "strainer" in a whale's mouth (some species) used for collecting krill and plankton from the sea.

•krill- like shrimps.

•plankton- tiny microscopic sea life.

•harpoon- a spear-like whaler's weapon.

•crow's nest- the seat at the top of a ship's mast used by a sailor to keep a look-out.

- \* The largest animal: the blue whale may grow up to 30m long and weigh up to 150 tons! (How many tonnes?)
- \* Baby whales (called a calf) are born alive (not in an egg!) and whales must surface to breath. WHY?
- \* Whales can swim up to 25m.p.h. and can smash small rowing boats in two with a flick of their tails.
- \* Men and killer whales are the whale's only enemies.

Extinction is so close for whales  
As whalers go through winds and hails.  
Lookouts scream:"THAR SHE BLOWS!"  
As the spurting whale-spout shows.  
The whalers chase,  
The whale flees.  
They chase across the choppy seas.  
The harpoon strikes,  
The whale dives deep.  
The whale is now endangering lives.  
But very soon, the whale stops.

He is dead.

**What** makes a mammal a mammal?

- ★ Must have a backbone.
- ★ Must feed its baby on milk.
- ★ Mammals have 4 chambered hearts.
- ★ Skin is covered with hair (sometimes not very much!)

HOW MANY OTHER MAMMALS DO YOU KNOW OF?(4,500!?)



## Our with Nature Notes...

When I was a lad I lived about 25 miles from what seemed to me a mysterious place called The Whipstick. Stories that I heard about it conjured up visions to me of some weird and wonderful forest of very thin and very straight trees. It still remains a very wonderful Sanctuary of native plants and animals - one of the most frequently visited (by naturalists) in Victoria.

\* THE WHIPSTICK.

BENDIGO • *Huntly*

BALLARAT •

MELBOURNE •

Healesville

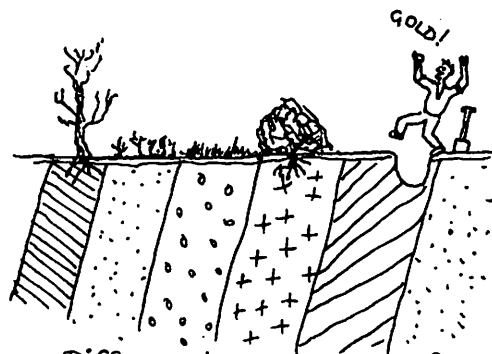
GEELONG •

French Island.

The thickness of the scrub and the scarcity of waterholes daunted all but the brave. However, as gold petered out at Bendigo miners did penetrate and many large nuggets were found.

Geologically, the Whipstick is an area of ancient broken down sandstones, unique because they are laid out flat. So in passing through you cross successive rock strata, each of which has over the ages evolved its own flora. No wonder then that there are over 340 known species of wildflowers within its boundary.

There are two important industries within its area. The leaves of the four species of mallee gum native to this area, produce the world's best eucalyptus oil - famous as a medicine, a liniment, a lolly flavor, a cleansing agent and a magic perfume for luring homesick Aussies back to Australia (and many other uses you might like to find out about).



Different layers (strata) of sandstone.

Ringwood East P.S.

## ON TOUR TO THE WHIPSTICK.

A few years ago, with a group of children on a train tour, we visited a eucalyptus distillery close to the Whipstick and learned some of the secrets of the trade. When you go to this area make sure you include Hartlands Eucalyptus Farm on your itinerary and be sure of a fascinating experience. See if you can discover where else in the world eucalyptus is produced. In what other countries do "gum trees" grow and how did this come about.

TULLAMARINE  
CUSTOMS  
FLIGHT 693-Timbucho



ARE YOU SURE  
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DECLARE SIR?

WHAT DO  
OTHER COUNTRIES  
WANT GUM  
TREES FOR?

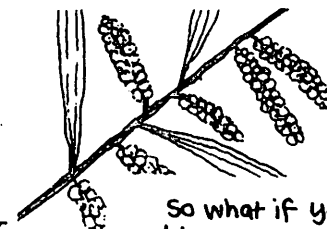
HOW  
DID  
THEY  
GET  
THEM?

various species. The Black Mallee and the Ironbark are their favourites. From what other plants do bees collect nectar?

Among the myriads of wild flowers, from August on, the ridges come ablaze with the dazzling gold of the hakea wattle. The Whipstick even boasts a Mystery Wattle - an acacia that has baffled botanists for years, because never has a seed pod been found, hence its method of reproduction remains a mystery. Another beautiful spring flower is the Boronia - not the scented brown we grow in our gardens but the delicate pink.

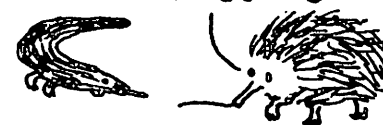
Animals abound in the area. These include the long-tailed black wallaby, kangaroos, echidnas, possums and bandicoots. Watch out when you walk through that you do not step on a Blue Tongue Lizard or the unwary Stumpy Tail. In fact, local farmers sometimes refer to the Whipstick unkindly as "lizard country" which is just as well. If it had contained rich soil it would have been lost long ago.

Don't take my word for it - put it on your touring list for next August holidays.



The Whipstick is  
Wattle  
Country.


So what if your tongue is  
blue - mine's longer.





# THE PLANT KINGDOM.

Can you sort out the plants and seeds you find into these groups?

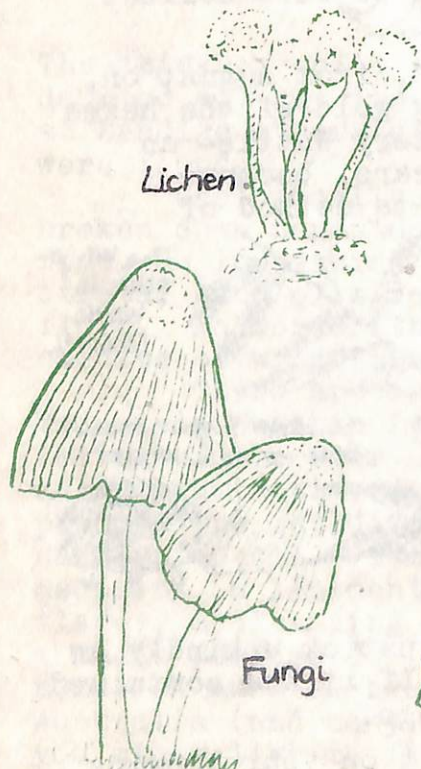


## PLANTS PRODUCING SPORES

(Spores are very small and must survive on food from their environment.)

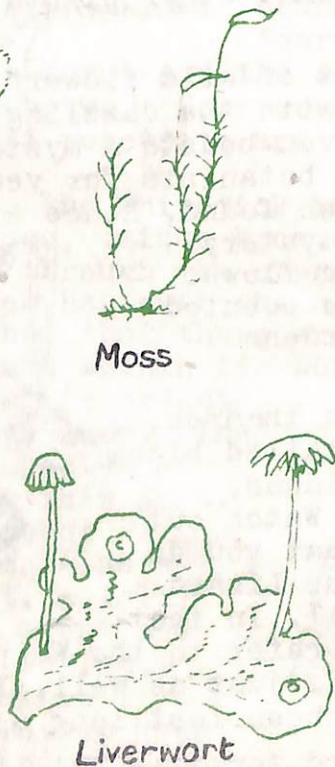
### THALLOPHYTA

(Algae, Fungi, Lichens.)



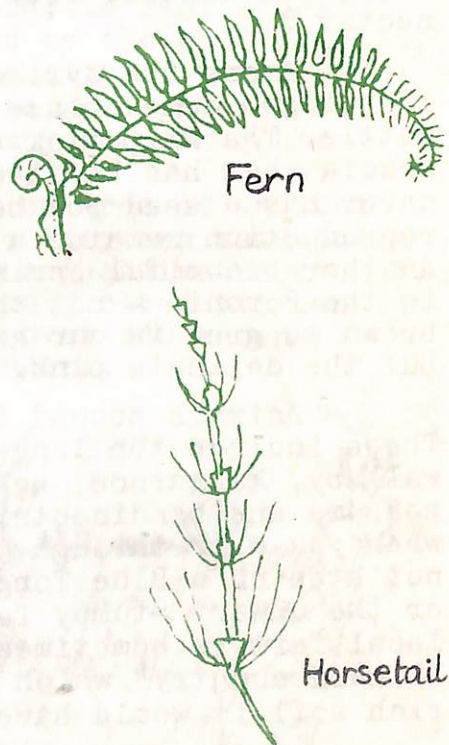
### BRYOPHYTA

(Mosses, Liverworts.)



### PTERIDOPHYTA

(Ferns, Clubmosses, Horsetails etc.)



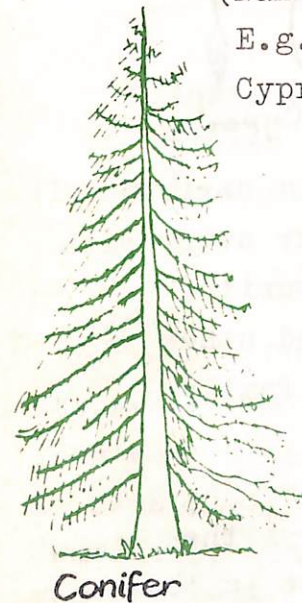
## PLANTS PRODUCING SEEDS

(Seeds have food packed around them which they can live on for a while- like wheat in cotton wool.)

### GYMNOSPERMS

(Naked seeds.

E.g. Pines, Cypress, Cycads etc.)



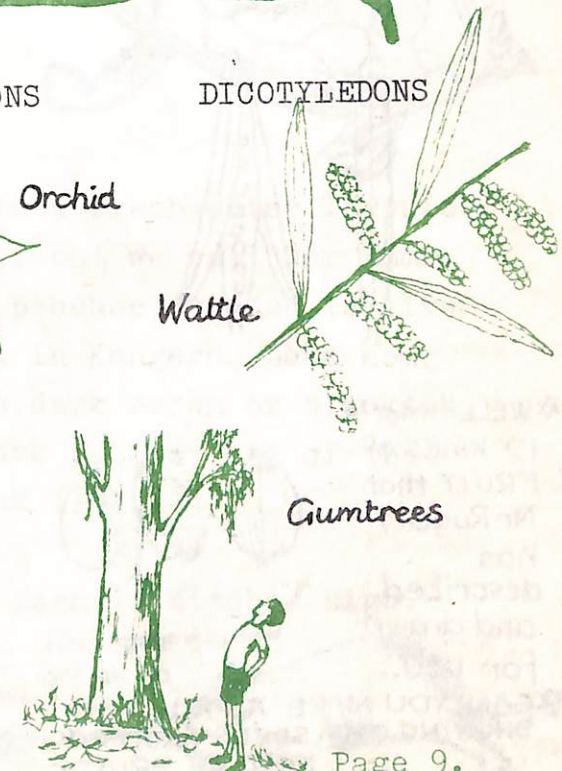
### ANGIOSPERMS

(Seed enclosed in a case.)

#### MONOCOTYLEDONS



#### DICOTYLEDONS





# Let's Look at Fruits..

(CONTINUED FROM  
PAGES 14 & 15 OF  
LAST ISSUE)

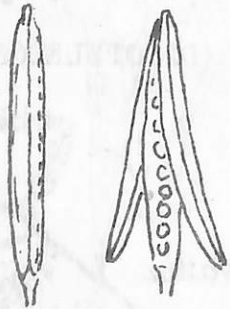
Samara - a hard winged fruit that does not split open to release its seeds. e.g. ash, elm.



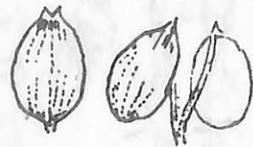
Samara

Silique - a specialized capsule, developed in a bicarpellate ovary in which the two carpels pull away from the central partition at maturity. This is the common type of fruit in the mustard family.

Silique



★WELL - that's 12 kinds of FRUIT that Mr. Rogers has described and drawn for you.

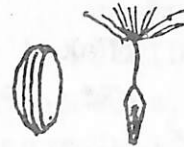


Schizocarp

★CAN YOU MAKE A PROJECT SHOWING THE SEEDS FROM EACH KIND OF FRUIT?

Page 10.

Cypsela - fruit derived from an inferior ovary with one seed at maturity. e.g. daisies and other members of the family Compositae.

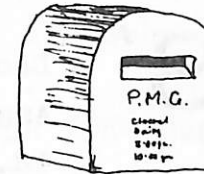


Cypsela

Schizocarp - more than one seed present in the mature fruit, which breaks up into indehiscent, one seeded parts known as nutlets, or cocci.

e.g. carrots, Salvia nasturtium.

Ringwood East P.S.



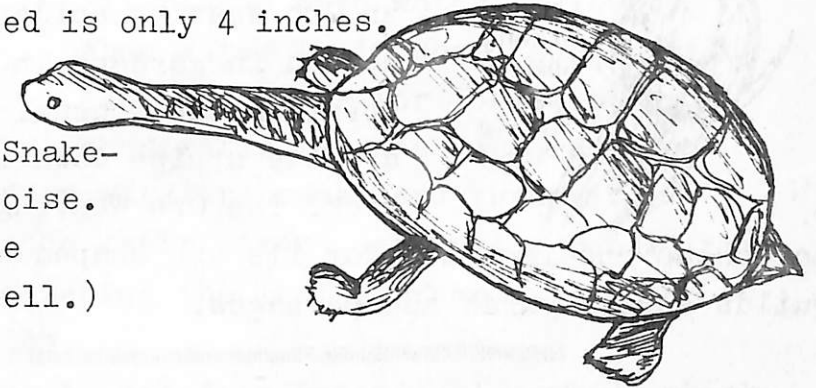
## LETTER BOX

Dear Mr. Dyer,

I hope you are enjoying your job as the new editor. We like your magazine because all of our family love nature. Here is just a little bit of information about our two small tortoises. One of them is an Australian Snake-necked Tortoise, but his real name is Chelodina Longicollis - we call him Fred! They can grow to 6 inches but Fred is only 4 inches.

Australian Snake-necked Tortoise.

(Drawn by Christine Campbell.)



Our other tortoise is a Fresh-water Tortoise. Its real name is Emydura Maquarii but we call her Emma. Fred came from the Murray River because we used to live in Swan Hill, and we caught Emma in Kangaroo Lake near Swan Hill. On top, the shell is dark brown or blackish. The plastron (lower shell) is dark yellow; all of the shields are margined with a black line.

Thanks Christine.  
Your book will be sent to you!  
KD.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Campbell, form 1, Mitcham High.



Because our Mummy Tortoise well!

How come you are all so well behaved?



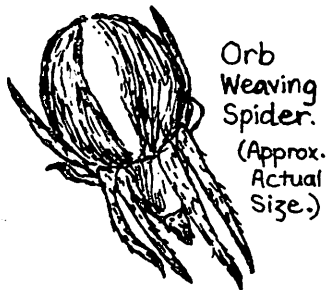
"Nature Notes". June '75.

Page 11.

# ?? 'QUERIES'

Apologies to the National Museum in our last issue. It is the National Museum and not the Science Musuem which identifies insects.

This month Mrs. Blain and her Grade 6 at Ringwood East brought us in a spider which the National Museum received and were able to identify. It was



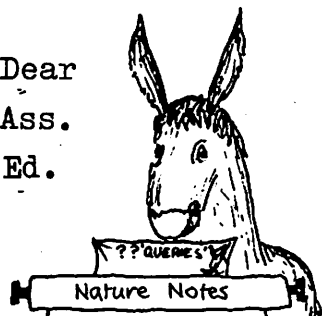
an Orb Weaving spider, very common in gardens in Victoria. This specimen was unusual in that it had a white stripe down its brownish back. The Orb Weaving spider is not

poisonous and is noted for its orb shaped webs which it builds across yards and passages.

In July 1974 we printed an article from Norwood Primary School about their recycling efforts. It's good to hear that they are still collecting glass, steel and aluminium cans. The glass as well as the aluminium cans are sold for recycling at a small profit for school funds. As a community service B.H.P. collect the steel cans which are also recycled. Bins for collecting the cans are situated just inside the school fence. Keep up the good work Norwood.

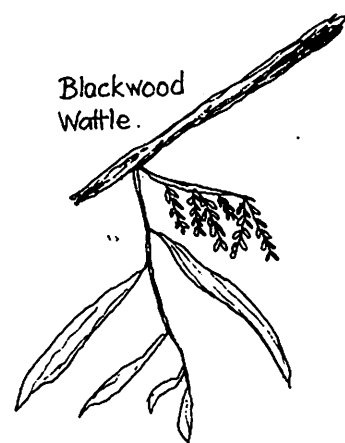
Please write and tell us in what ways your school is helping to fight pollution. Wally says one way is not to

Dear  
Ass.  
Ed.



drop papers in the school yard at lunch or play times.

Peter Edwards from Grade 3/4 at Ringwood East



wanted to know why the branch of wattle he had found had two kinds of leaves on it.

The branch was from a Blackwood Wattle. The reason for the two types of leaves was interesting.

All plants need water to live.

When water is in short supply life can only exist for the plant in a

state of suspension. When water is once more readily available life and growing are once more resumed. Plants have to reduce their water loss in dry conditions. They do this by lessening the leaf surface from which the water evaporates.

This is what has happened to Peter's Blackwood, which must have reduced its leaf surface during the dryer summer monthes, while still retaining the true feathery leaves.

Wally isn't very pleased as Ernie Spike Echidna is trying to get out of "Probe"(that's Juniour Nature Notes) and into "Nature Notes". He thinks that Ernie should stay where he belongs. Ernie says he's much better at most things, especially digging, so he thinks that he should be in both magazines.

Wombats can't dig for nuts!





# WONDEROO

AND CO.

CRIME BUSTERS OF THE  
UNDERGROWTH

TEXT. H. J. LAWRY  
ARTIST. A. DUNSTAN

One day while Wonderoo and Wally Wombat were walking through the bush Wally as usual almost puts his foot in it ...

Watch out Wally! you almost stood on Bertha Bandicoot

Good Grief!

Help!

So thats a bandicoot, Would you tell me about them please Wonderoo?



The bandicoot is a harmless little creature with a bad reputation for digging up plants.

But really it is a flesh eating animal which lives on insects, worms, grubs and so on ...

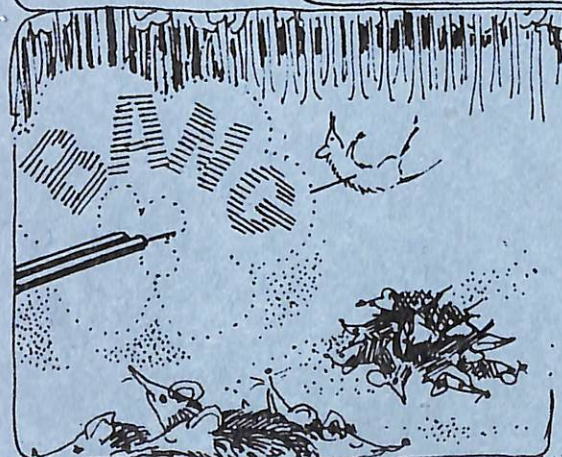


so you see Wally - the long nosed bandicoot is a marsupial just like us and looks a bit like a large rat

Long-nosed bandicoot...



A rat indeed!!



In the early days thousands were killed for their skins - Now the lucky things are protected by the law I just wish kangaroos were too!

I wish snails were too!!



Another interesting thing about the bandicoot is that its pouch opens backwards so as to stop any dirt entering it while the mother scratches for food

How embarrassing!!



So you wombats aren't the only digging marsupials Wally...



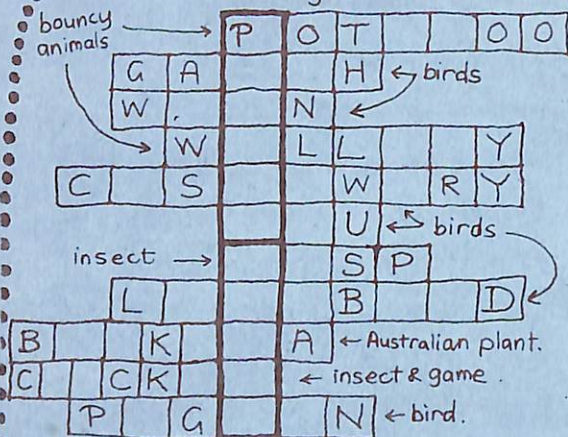
Big Deal!!! but very interesting thanks Wonderoo...





# Puzzles

Get the message?



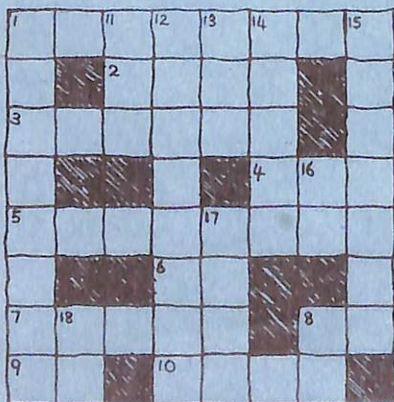
Remember - we give a book prize for every letter we print!

Q: What's green and hairy and goes up and down?

A: A gooseberry in a lift.

↓ DOWN :

1. A native evergreen tree.
8. Antonym for down.
11. A flightless Australian bird.
12. "Like a small kangaroo." (Plural).  
(See page 10 of last month's Nature Notes.)
13. Abbreviation for Higher School Certificate.



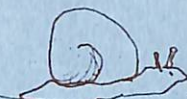
→ ACROSS :

1. An ----- never forgets!
2. A bryophyta starting with m. (see page 8).
3. The hen laid a c ----- of eggs.
4. See is to eye, what  
Hear is to -----.
5. A strange ball game like hockey.
6. Antonym for 'off'.
7. Aeroplane driver.
8. Antonym for 'them'.
9. Abbreviation for Training School.
10. 'So' and 'up' mixed together make  
a tasty broth.

Hey Wally! Why  
is a teacher like  
a Nature Notes  
Puzzle Page?



Because they're hard  
to work out?



No!

Because they  
both use cross  
words!



You'll have  
to hunt for the  
answers  
again.

A few clues to  
help you!  
Antonym means  
opposite!

