

A black and white photograph of a koala clinging to a tree branch, positioned on the left side of the cover. The koala is looking towards the camera.

nature notes

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RINGWOOD INSPECTORATE

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Editorial...

* FRONT COVER:

"Where have all the leaves gone for goodness sake?"
A koala on Phillip Island (Vic.) - obviously barking up the wrong tree.

STOP PRESS! The next Nature Notes (August) will be a special edition on the Grampians - a beautiful and rugged range of mountains in Western Victoria. Perhaps if your family or school is going to the Grampians soon, you might like to order some extra copies of the August Nature Notes. YOU CAN STILL BUY these past SPECIAL EDITIONS of Nature Notes - just ring us up and let us know how many you want!

PUT WALLY WOMBAT ON THE FRONT COVER! AS!



Hm! That's pretty cheap! I must buy some...

NATIONAL PARKS. (Vic.) 5c each; 30 or more, 3c each!
ABORIGINES. As above.
SCHOOL GROUNDS ISSUE. As above.
BLACKBURN LAKE. (Excursion book) As above.
AVAGO * Teacher's Manual. 30c. each.

DID YOU KNOW that you can also buy any other old copies of Nature Notes for only 3c a copy?! Why not see if you can collect a complete set? Thanks to those people who keep writing to us - we're getting more and more letters every day. K. Dyer (EDITOR).

contents and credits...

3 Famous Animals no. 5.	8-9 A Bay in the Balance.	12-13 Ass. Ed. Letters.	Artists: Mrs. Dunstan.
4-5 Animal Kingdom.	10-11 Let's Look at Fungi.	14-15 Wonderoo. Mr. J. Lawry. Mrs. A. Dunstan.	Mrs. Robertson. Mrs. Grunwald.
6-7 This 'n' That. Mr. L. Delacca.	Mr. F. J. C. Rogers.	16 Puzzles.	Photos: Mr. D. R. Dyer.

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Famous Animals, no. 5.

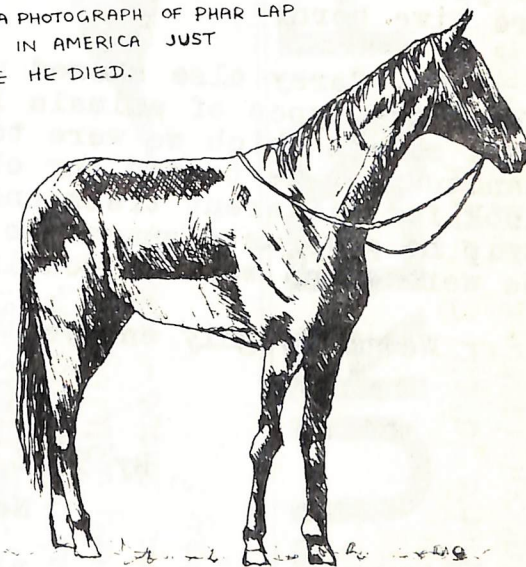


PHAR LAP * The Phenomenal Racing Machine.

Perhaps they should have changed his name to "Pharst Lap", because Phar Lap won 36 of the 50 races he entered. Bred in New Zealand, the huge and powerful chestnut gelding ran all but one of his races in Australia. He soon became a national favorite and big things were expected of him when, having won a record amount of money (£66,000 = \$?), he was sent to America.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH OF PHAR LAP
TAKEN IN AMERICA JUST
BEFORE HE DIED.

Sure enough, Phar Lap won his first race in America at half-pace, and it was decided to enter him in some more big races after a well-earned rest. But then disaster struck. Phar Lap was turned out to rest in a paddock that had been sprayed with an arsenical weed killer and he died within hours. It is still a mystery how such a thing could have happened.



Phar Lap has become a living legend in Australia - and is usually the first thing visitors want to see when they go to the Melbourne Museum - where his body now stands.

"Nature Notes" July '75.

Page 3.

Page 2.

How about this for a beautifully typed, prize-winning letter!
It's right on our topic of sorting animals too....

OUR VISIT TO SIR COLIN MCKENZIE'S SANCTUARY.

On Monday, 26th of March, the grade 6's went to Sir Colin McKenzie Sanctuary. When we arrived, we went to the Education Centre and there we met Mr. Carey. He talked about oviporous, or egg-laying animals, marsupial or pouched animals, and placental or animals whose children are live born.

Mr. Carey also showed us some interesting films about the types of animals listed above. He gave us some work sheets which we were to do during the tour of the Sanctuary. He tested our observation by getting us to look for different trees and animals. At the end of the trip he gave us a summary of our day at the Sanctuary. We were given work to continue with at school.

We thoroughly enjoyed the trip!

By 5 of the girls of 6F from:
Norwood Primary School 4736 -

Dianne Stuart,
Cathryn Jones,
Lisa Veale,
Angela O'Neill,
Yvonne Smith.

PS. (Ed.) Sounds like a very worthwhile day doesn't it?
The Education Officers of Healesville Sanctuary and the Melbourne Zoo (& the Planetarium!) are well worth contacting Teachers - but book in well in advance!

ANIMALS - Vertebrates (animals with back bones and nervous systems)			
Hagfishes & Lampreys	Bony Fishes	Reptiles	Aves (birds)
Fishes with gills & fins		Amphibians	Mammals
about 18,000 species of fishes (Not counting the ones in the deepest oceans that haven't been discovered yet!)		2,500 Species of Amphibians.	4,500 Species of Mammals.
		6,000 Species of Reptiles.	8,590 Species of Birds.

handy words

for describing animals:

HERBIVOROUS ... eats plants (herbs).

INSECTIVOROUS ... eats insects.

CARNIVOROUS ... eats flesh (meat).

MARSUPIAL ... mammal with a pouch.

PLACENTAL MAMMAL ... young born alive.

OVIPAROUS ... lays eggs.

Patsy Platypus - the freakiest

living animal around, can be described very well by 3 of the big words above - which ones are they?

Try sorting Australian animals into these 3 groups.

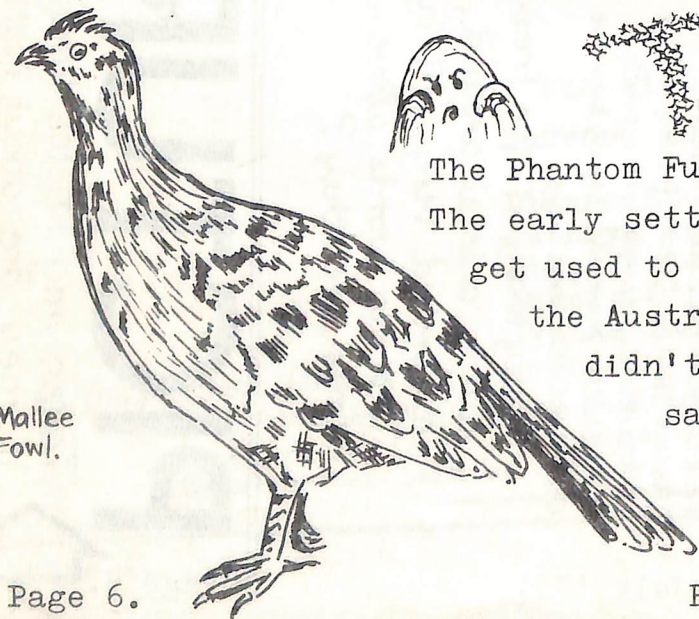
As the letter on page 4 says, there are mammals whose young are born alive and mammals whose young stay in pouches until they grow up a bit. Can you think of any mammals that lay eggs?



PICTURES PLEASE

Taken any Photos lately? Send your black and white prints to us if they are about Nature and Science - and maybe you'll win a great book prize! Lead pencil or indian ink sketches are invited too - winning pictures will be printed.

Bellbird.



5. 100

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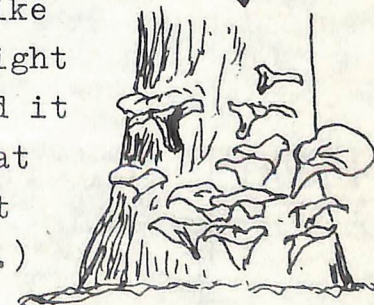
sider
ng
y
led Hairy
 Huntsman.
anchelas")



MUE , a

I just knew there was something from outside!

The glowing 'ghost fungus'
growing at the foot of a tree.

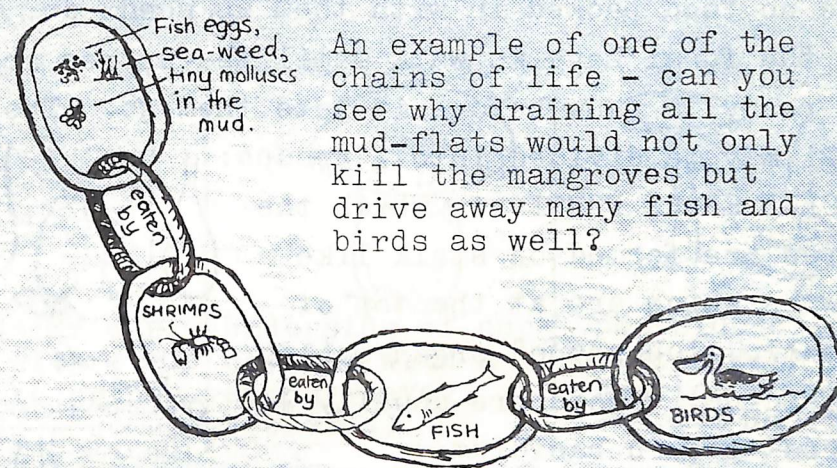


Page 7.

A Bay in the Balance...

Hopefully you will have seen the film on Westernport Bay called "A Bay in the Balance" on ABC-TV recently. If you missed it then write to the ABC and ask them to show it again during school time. You might also be able to arrange with a local Secondary School to see their video-taped copy of it!

"A Bay in the Balance" is a film of the only large-scale scientific study ever done in the world of a bay BEFORE it has become polluted. Scientists are hoping to find out if the bay can become a deep-water port without spoiling the "chains of natural life" that exist in the bay and on the islands.



An example of one of the chains of life - can you see why draining all the mud-flats would not only kill the mangroves but drive away many fish and birds as well?

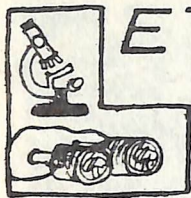
Water-birds on the beach at Rhyll, Phillip Island. What sort of birds are they? (Look up your Gould League book.) Why do they have different beaks? What do they feed on?

PROJECT IDEAS * draw a map of Westernport Bay & Islands & show the different types of plants, animals & birds to be found.

* write to the Primary Schools at Cowes or Perseverance (French Island.)

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have scientific studies like the one in Westernport carried out in other places too! Even if they achieved nothing it would be nice to have the films and photographs of places like the Victorian Alps before all the trees are chopped down!

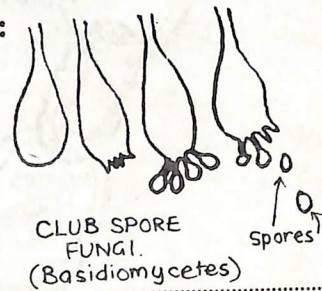
"Nature Notes". July '75.



LET'S LOOK AT *Fungi*.

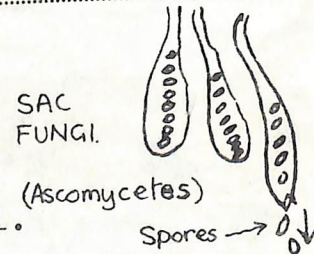
The group of plants called Fungi reproduce by means of spores, which are like seeds except that they have no food packed in with them as seeds do. That is why the fungi have to wait until the spores are ripe and ready to grow before it lets them go. The higher fungi may be divided into 2 groups:

1. CLUB SPORE FUNGI: in which the spores are formed on stalk like growths which are at the top of a small, club-shaped organ called a basidium. There are usually 4 spores to each basidium.



CLUB SPORE FUNGI.
(Basidiomycetes)

2. SAC FUNGI: in which the spores are formed inside long cells and are pressed out when ripe. There are generally 8 spores in each cell.



SAC FUNGI.

(Ascomycetes)

The Club Spore Fungi (Basidiomycetes) are separated into the:

(a) CAP FUNGI
(Hymenomycetes)



Toadstool.

and (b) PUFF BALLS
(Gasteromycetes)



Earth Star.

Ringwood East P.S.

Let's look more closely at....

CAP FUNGI : Of course most people know of mushrooms and toadstools, but it can be very tricky to tell which ones can be eaten and which ones can't - so if in doubt, DON'T EAT IT!

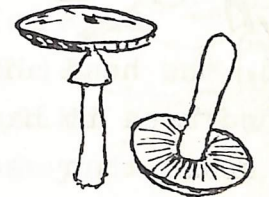
The stem may be in the middle, as in:



Underside of cap covered with tooth-like spines.
(Hydnum)



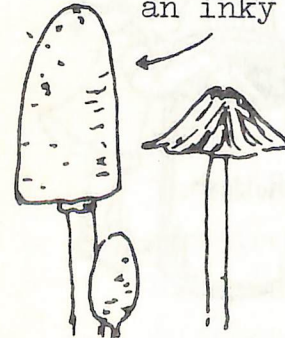
Underside of cap covered with a spongy layer.
(Boletus)



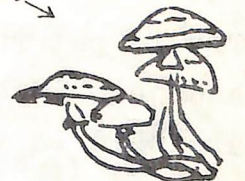
Underside of cap covered with gills.
(Agarics.)
* Mushrooms are in this group...but careful...

The stem on some cap fungi is horizontal, or it may be hard and woody and last more than a year. Again, some stems have a ring or collar around them - why would they be called "Parasol Mushrooms?" What is the season for mushrooming? Why is it possible to buy mushrooms all year round?

A fungus changes to an inky mass.



Toadstools growing in groups.



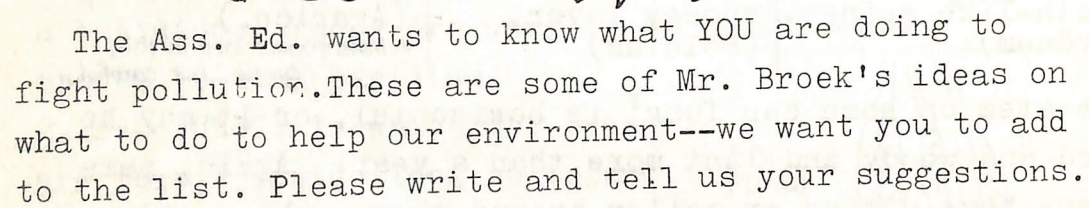
Parasol Mushroom.

* Have you ever visited a mushroom farm - or tried growing them for yourself?

"Nature Notes". July '75.



behind the head and red above the eye. Common in the Ringwood area it has a shrill peevish cry and is more often heard than seen . Have you heard or seen one in your area ?



- * Join a local nature club and try to get your parents to join also.
- * Buy a wildlife magazine so you know what's happening-good and bad.
- * Try to put rubbish in correct places and join in clean-a-thons when they are held in your area.
- * Let your local nature club know if you notice any large patch of introduced weeds in local parklands.

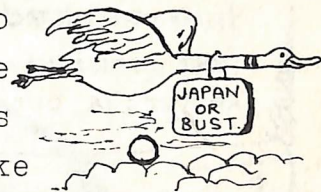


What else can you do?

[illegible]

Mrs. Leone's grade want to know -" What happens to squirrels, possums etc.in winter ?"

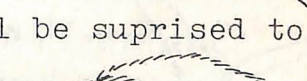
In countries where the winter is cold, animals have had to find ways of surviving the cold and lack of food. Some are able to migrate to warmer places. Most are not. Many of these hibernate. This means that they go into a sleeplike state. If they stayed active they would need a large amounts of food to keep their body temperature up. As food is scarce this sleeplike state solves the problem. Some animals, like hedgehogs, wake every day or so but others go for longer periods living on the fat stored by their bodies during the autumn.



My Cousin Harry Hedgehog always was a lazy-bones — so is that wombat!



Another interesting question is "Do bears hibernate?". Perhaps you will be suprised to learn that bears sleep, not hibernate, during the winter. Their body temperature does not drop as it does with hibernating animals. They just curl up and sleep away the cold, rain and snow. Sounds like a



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

HA HA Max Magpie explains
because his friend Giggles
Kookaburra can't stop laughing
long enough to explain!

...There is a strange male magpie and kookaburra in our territory. We can hear them Wonderoo, but we can't find them to chase them out. Will you help us please?

Hmmm - I
know you birds
don't like territory
invaders so I'll
see what I can do
for you - just wait
here until I come
back ...

Wonderoo
bounces off
into the
deep bush...

Soon he hears a
kookaburra laughing and
a magpie carolling, then a
black bird whistling and
many more birds as well!

Peeping through the bushes Wonderoo sees (and hears) the cause of the whole problem. That wonderful mimic the Lyre bird is putting on a performance

Racing back to Max and Giggles, he explains who the mystery kookaburra and magpie is...

That's a relief
Wonderoo! Tell
us more about this
amazing bird.

Certainly; But not today -
How about next month?



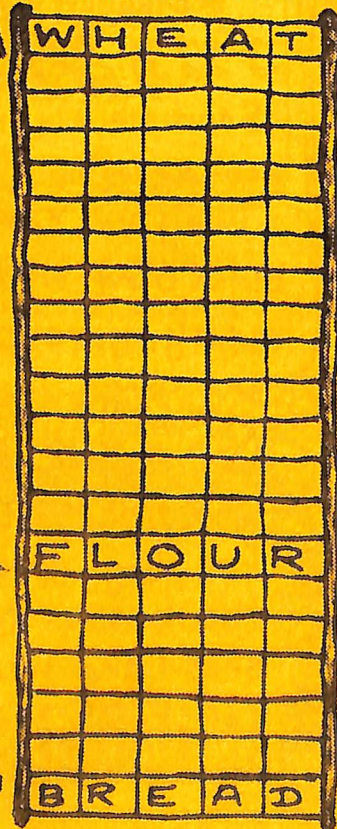
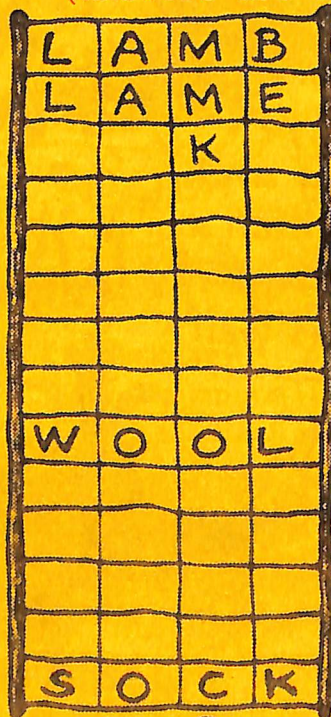
Word Ladders



Get from one word to the next
in the spaces provided by only
changing ONE letter at a time.

You MUST MAKE A WORD each time!

(Answers are hidden in N.N. somewhere.)



Professor Brane-Storm's

(Puffin Books)
Breakfast Talk.

F.U.N.E.X?

S.V.F.X.

F.U.N.E.M?

S.V.F.M.

M.N.X.4.2. please!

Funny how it starts raining every time we try to light a fire!

...I Have Fun.

Q.What kinds of animals can jump higher than a house?

A. All kinds. Houses can't jump!

