



# nature notes

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## IMPORTANT BUDGET SPEECH.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in order to combat inflation we are pleased to announce that NATURE NOTES - 7c, and PROBE - 3c, will NOT GO UP IN PRICE for 1976. However those schools that have their magazines posted will unfortunately have to pay higher postage rates through "circumstances beyond our control" (as they say on the telly.) We will let you know these higher postage rates for next year shortly, but in the meantime you might like to do something for us.

WHY NOT MAKE NATURE NOTES and PROBE "OPTIONAL EXTRAS" ON YOUR SCHOOL'S BOOKLISTS FOR NEXT YEAR?

This not only helps us with bulk orders, but also means that you know how many children want the magazines without having to do a special count!



### FAMOUS ANIMAL BOOKS.

For your Library, or for a great present.

"The Animals' Who's Who."  
(A Marshall Cavendish Golden Hands book.)

"Making Friends With Animals."  
(By Eric Worrell, an Angus & Robertson book.)

Just as well I'm going to win the race. If you put a wombat on the front cover, people would stop buying Nature Notes!



### AND NOW A VERY UNIMPORTANT NOTICE.

In order to put an end to their arguing and fighting, it has been decided that Ernie and Wally shall have a digging race. The winner gets their photo on the front cover.

Printed in  
RINGWOOD INSPECTORATE.

## Famous Animals, no.6.

### MOLLY - THE MARVELLOUS MUSICAL MOLLUSC.

Wonderoo (on page 6) is about a murdering mollusc (a type of shellfish), our famous animal this month is a musical mollusc - a whistling oyster! The year is 1840, the place Drury Lane in London. Mr. Pearkes, the owner of a sea-food shop, was opening a newly delivered cask of shellfish when he heard a curious high-pitched whistling noise. After tracking down the noise to a rather ordinary looking oyster, a surprised Mr. Pearkes put it on display in his shop. Soon half of London was visiting his shop to see Molly, and circus managers and theatre proprietors were offering large amounts of money for her. But Mr. Pearkes wasn't selling - with so many visitors his business was booming. The newspapers printed drawings of 'The Phenomenal Bivalve' and one man suggested that Molly had lost her true love and only whistled to keep up appearances. Of course the real reason for Molly's musical talent was that as she 'breathed' in water, a whistling effect was made because of a small hole in her shell.

Molly became 'all the rage' in London.



"Nature Notes". Sept. '75.

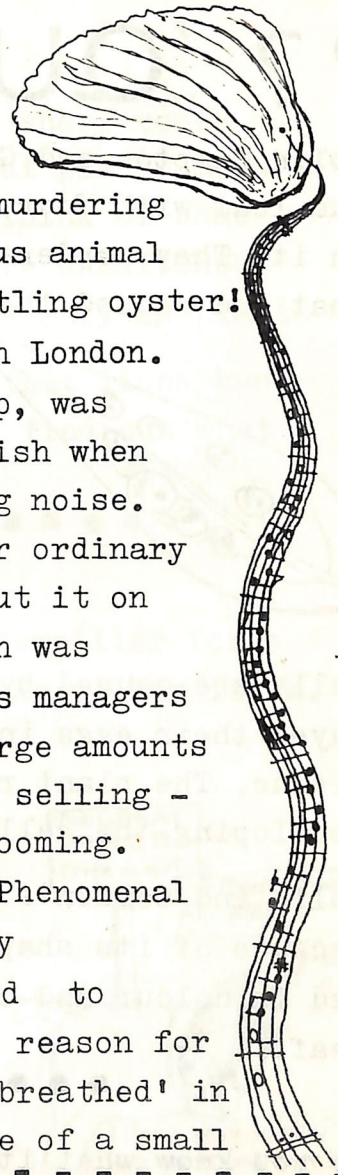
I haven't said go yet!

THE GREAT RACE  
Ernie vs. Wally

If I lose - well this is only a practice, - right!?

Wrong!

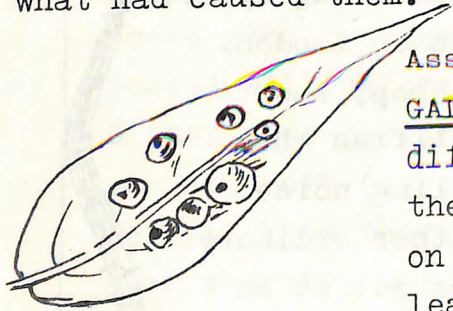
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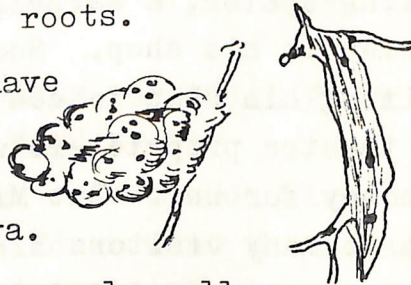
# ?? 'QUERIES'

Colin Campton and Gordon Fra er found a gum leaf with four hard greenish lumps on it. They wondered what they were and what had caused them.



Ass. Ed. found out that they were GALLS. A plant can have several different kinds of galls an it at the same time and they can appear on any part of the plant - stem, leaves, buds or roots.

Galls are caused by insects which have layed their eggs inside the plant tissue. The plant responds by developing the gall around the larva.

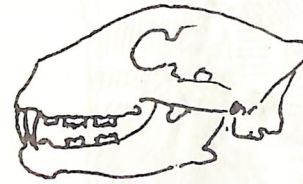
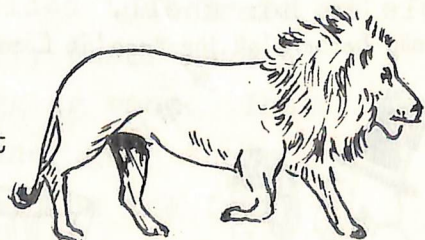


Colin and Gordon's gall is called an apple gall , because of its shape. Sometimes these galls are bright red in colour and can look like a tiny apple on the leaf.



Do you know what it means when an animal is called CARNIVOROUS ?

Lions are carnivorous animals and Peter Garbett wrote to tell us about them. They are called carnivorous because they are meat eaters. Lions eat zebra and antelope and because they have to chew



Skull of a lion showing sharp tearing teeth and flat grinding teeth.

tough meat they need sharp teeth. Animals which only eat plants have flat teeth. Can you think of some more animals which are CARNIVOROUS and others which live only on plants ?

Peter also tells us that lions hunt in "prides". Can you find out what this means ?



Can you help answer this query ?

Martin Kahsnitz from Greenhills has a caterpillar for a pet but he can't find out what kind of caterpillar it is.

It has bright yellow bands on a dull green body and four horns on its head. When tapped on the back it will thrust its head back and use its horns for protection. Martin touched the two middle and longest horns and found that they had no poison or pain inflictor in them. Between the horns there are two small black things. This caterpillar makes the web for its cocoon through its mouth.

Martin calls his caterpillar Slippy.



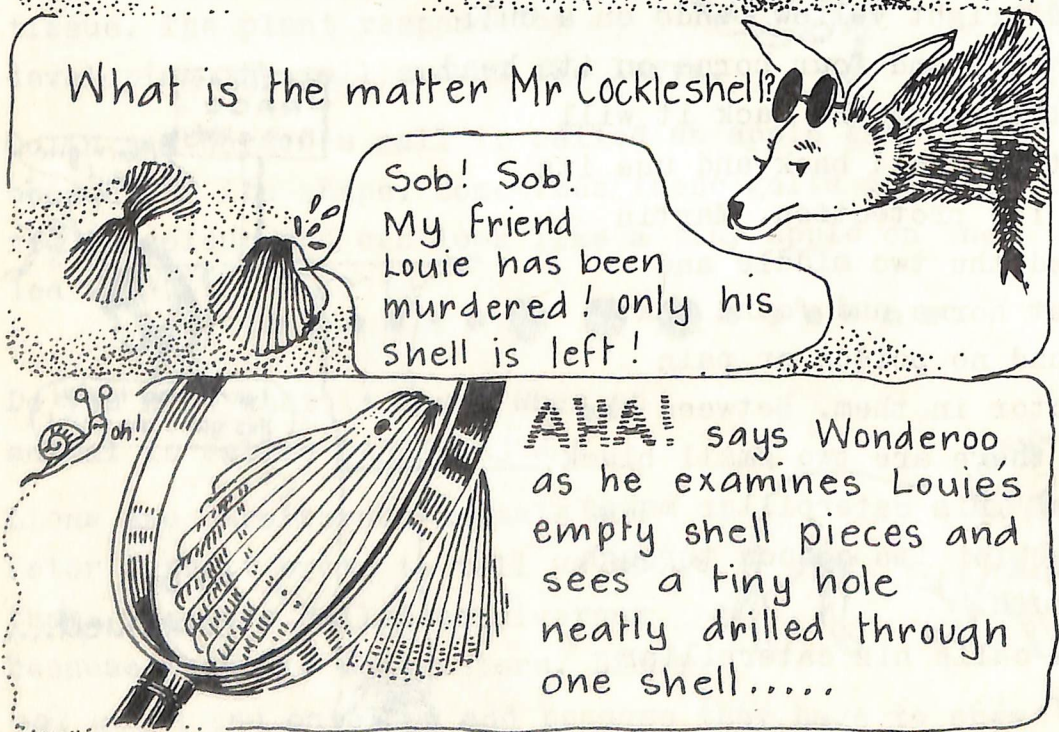
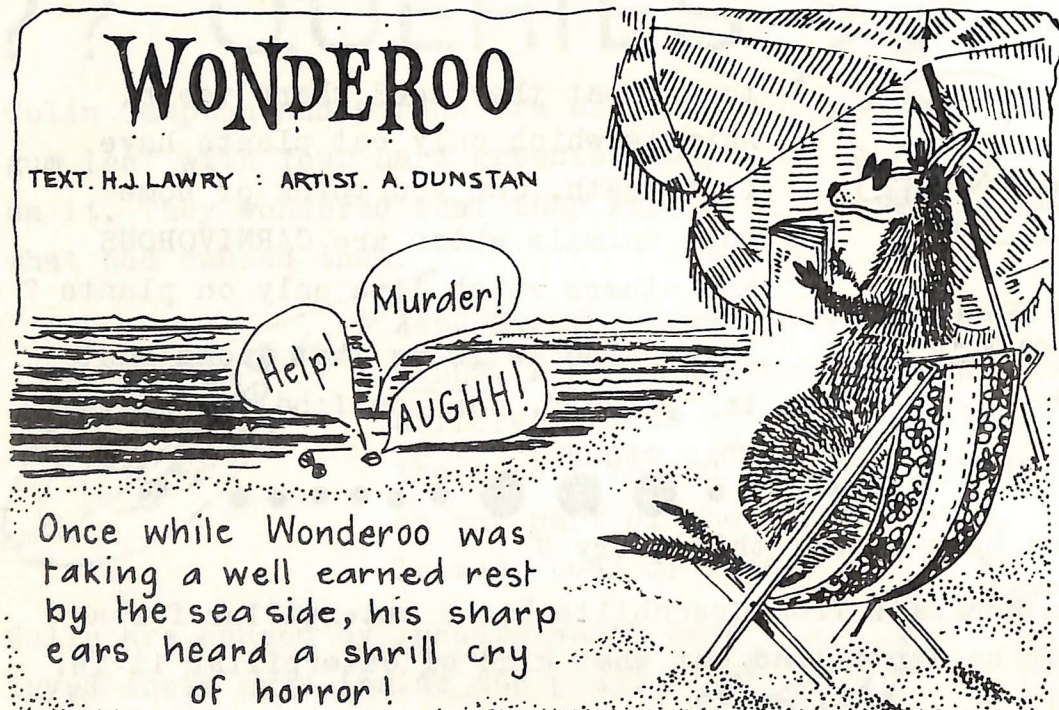
to be continued....

A 1. mink. 2. wombat. 3. possum(s). 4. weasel. 5. monkey or donkey. 6. ewe.



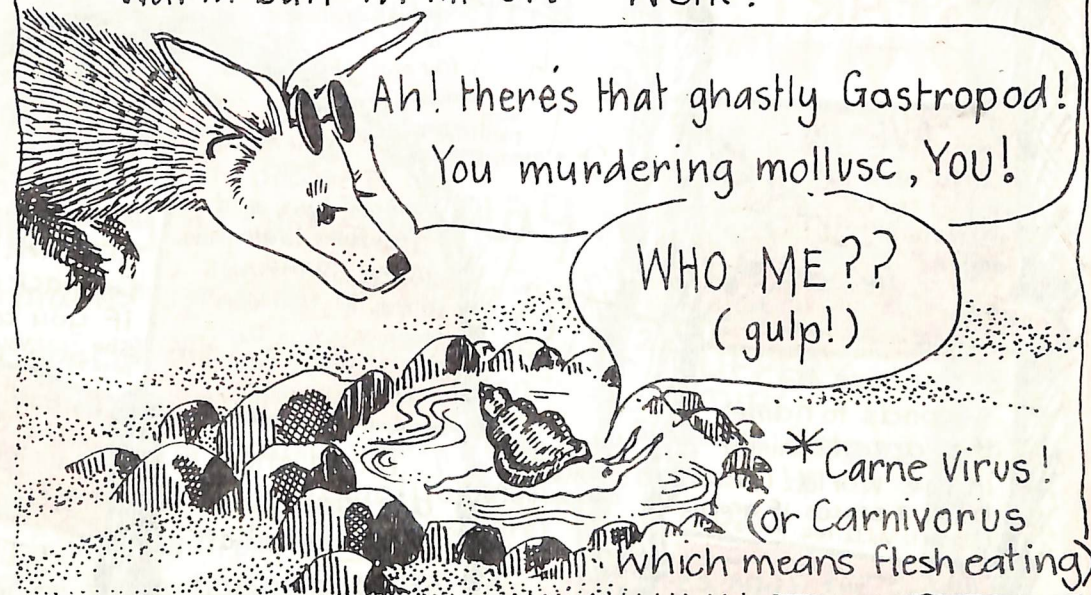
# Wonderoo

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

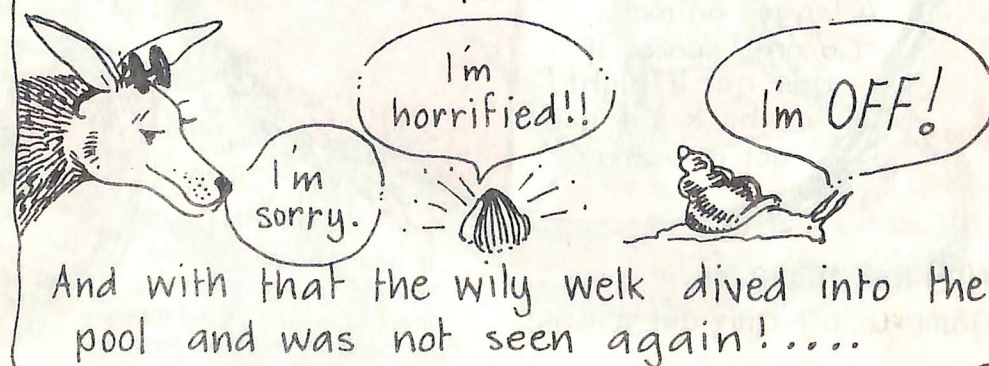


ANSWERS - Set B: 1. foal or goat. 2. horse. 3. dog. 4. kid. 5. goat. 6. hare. 7. seal. 8. calf. NOW MAKE UP SOME MORE AND SEND THEM TO US!

Looking into a nearby rock pool, Wonderoo soon finds the culprit basking in the warm sun ... Mr C.V\* Welk!



Wonderoo explains to Mr Cockleshell that the snail-like welk bores a hole in shells of his kind and destroys the muscle which holds the shell firmly closed - then the hungry welk eats the unfortunate shell fish!





1 **START**  
▼▼▼

2 **CAVE-IN!**  
Go to "cave-in" for 2 turns then start again!

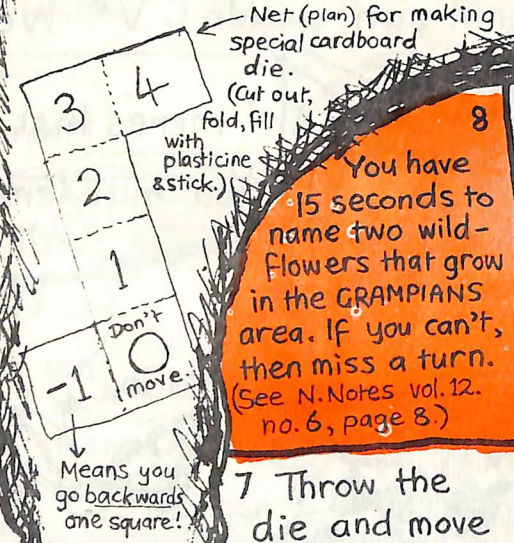
3 You have 10 seconds to name the largest animal in the world! Go back 2 spaces if wrong! (See N.N. Vol. 12, no. 4, page 5)

4 Go on 3 spaces if you can name 3 different kinds of Australian trees! 30 seconds only!

5 You have 20 seconds to name 4 fur-covered, 4 legged animals. Go on 2 spaces if you get it right! Go back 1 if you get it wrong!

Why not make your own game using quiz questions?

WAIT HERE TO START



6 You have 15 seconds to name two wild-flowers that grow in the GRAMPians area. If you can't, then miss a turn. (See N. Notes vol. 12, no. 6, page 8)

7 Throw the die and move 3 times what it says!

8 Get sidetracked. Miss 3 turns.

9 You have 20 seconds to name 3 Australian birds that nest on the ground. Go back 2 spaces if you can't! (See N.N. Vol. 12, no. 5, page 7)

10 Spell the name of the capital city of Victoria - you have 10 seconds. Back 2 spaces if wrong.

11 **STRIKE ROCK!**  
Miss a turn.

12 **REST SQUARE**

13 5 seconds to answer:  $6 \times 9 = ?$   
Back 2 spaces if wrong.

14 **SOFT DIRT**  
Go ahead 4 spaces!

15 **CAVE-IN**  
Miss 2 turns.

16 **THE WINNER**  
Say the 12 times table off by heart in less than 1 minute! Go back 3 spaces if you can't!

17 **SLIPPERY DIP!**  
Slip back 5 spaces because of MUD!

18 You have 30 seconds to name 3 AUSTRALIAN MARSUPIALS. If you can't then go back to the start of the bends!

19 5 seconds to answer  $7 \times 8 = ?$   
Back a space if wrong.

20 **REST SQUARE**

21 **DEAD END**  
Miss 2 turns.

# the GREAT digging RACE...

## What you need to play..

- A marker for each person.
- A special die (i.e. one dice) that you can make easily - using a small block or a cubic rubber, or by cutting it out of cardboard, folding it and filling it with plasticine (see picture). Write these numbers on it:  
-1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4.
- A timer (Someone can count if you haven't got an egg timer, watch or clock.)
- Brains (or this year's Nature Notes to look up!)

I wonder who'll win?

**IMPORTANT**  
If you land on the same square as someone else when you are going through "the bends", then go back to square number 12!

Here we go again!



# Let's Look at FERNS AND FERN ALLIES by F.J.C. Rogers.

These plants have stems, leaves and true roots. They reproduce by means of spores (see Nature Notes Volume 12 nos.4, page 8&9, and 5, page 10.)

## CLUB MOSSES (Class Lycopodiada.)

In Australia we have a number of species of Lycopodium and one species of Phyloglossum.



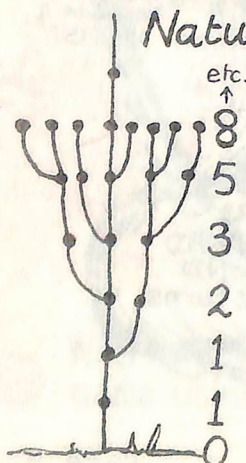
Lycopodium Club Moss



Selaginella

SELAGINELLA differ from the club mosses in that they have a branched stem. We may find the Swamp Selaginella (Selaginella uliginosa) or the introduced plant, which is common in glass-houses or ferneries.

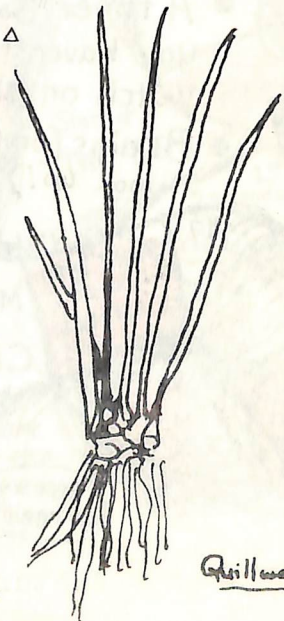
## MATHS in Nature..



QUILLWORTS (Isoetes) are small plants usually found in shallow water and the mud around swamps.

An Italian priest called Fibonacci discovered this number pattern:

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, ...  
It is found in nature too - in the way sneezeworts and milkworts grow (see picture) and in the way rabbits breed.



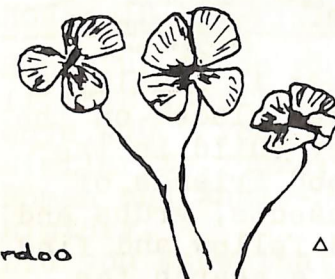
Quillworts

In the FORK FERN group we have two plants: Skeleton Fork Fern (Psilotum nudum) which grows on faces of rocky outcrops around Australia.

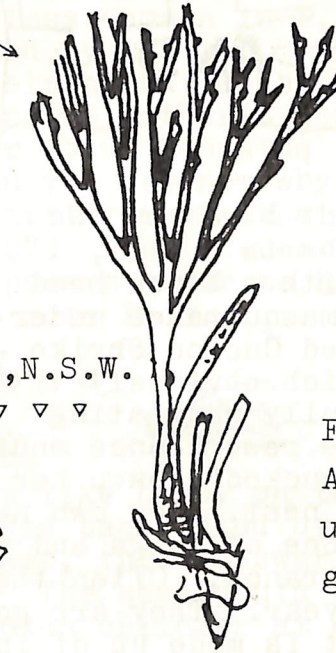
E.g. Mt. Arapiles

(see last N.N.)

and the Warrumbungles, N.S.W.



Nardoo



Fork Fern (Tmesipteris) About 4 species, which usually inhabit fern gullies etc.

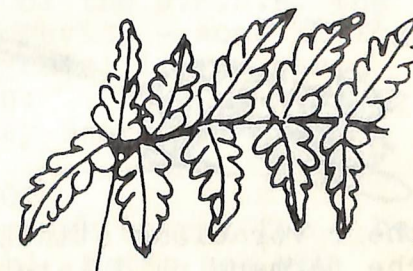
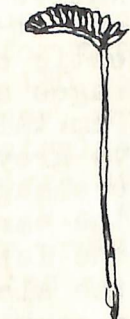
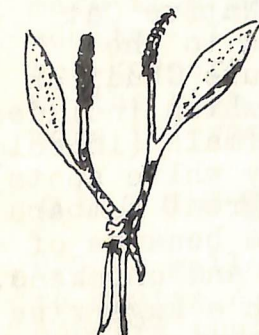
Azolla and Nardoo are sometimes called Water Ferns.

The main group of Pteridophytes are called Ferns. They usually like to grow in areas which have shade, moisture and often humidity. A few ferns are able to grow in drier areas.

Austral Adder's Tongue.

Comb Fern.

Bat's Wing Fern.

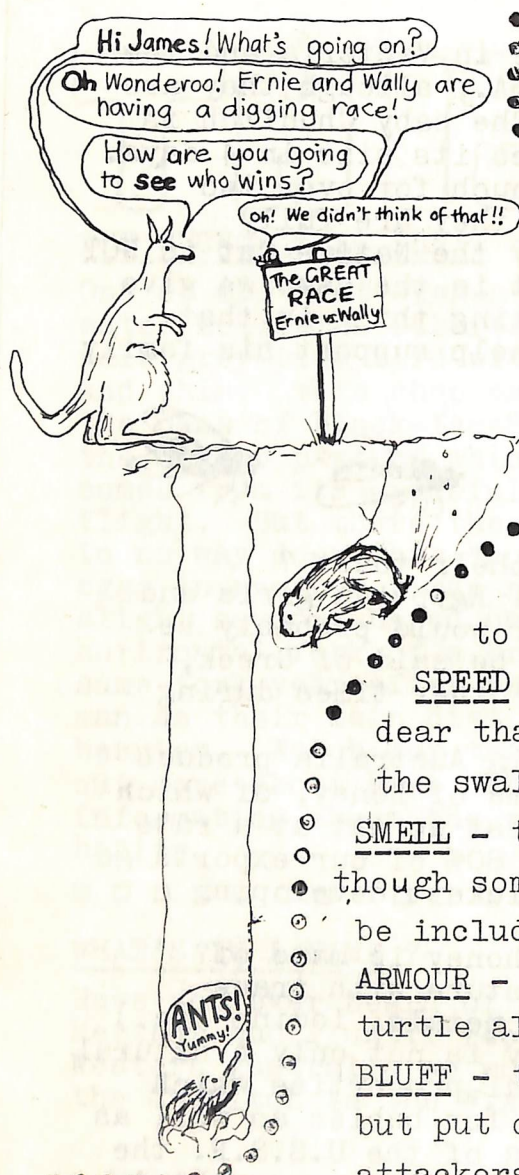


We will take a closer look at more Victorian FERNS in a future issue.









# ANIMAL DEFENCE.

One of the most interesting things about animals is the way in which they protect themselves. We thought hard about this at Nature Notes and came up with 7 different ways that animals defend themselves - can you think of more ????????

CAMOUFLAGE - from the stick insect to the ink-squirting squid.

SPEED - from the African antelopes and deer that can usually outrun the lions, to the swallows and some insects (flies?)

SMELL - the skunk is the most well known, though some people would say that pigs should be included here. Are there any others?

ARMOUR - the armadillo, spiny anteater and turtle all fit in here.

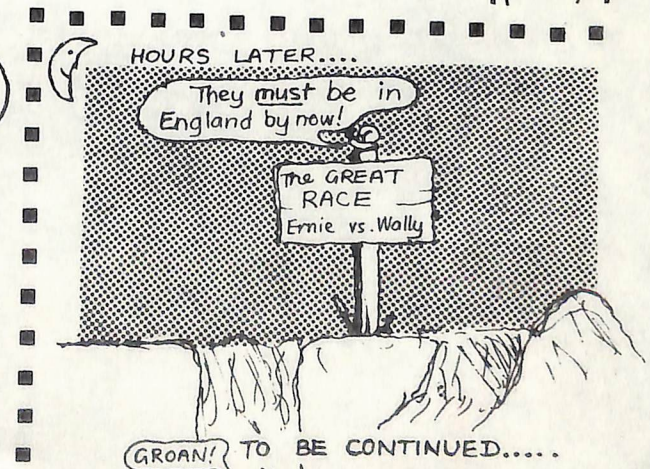
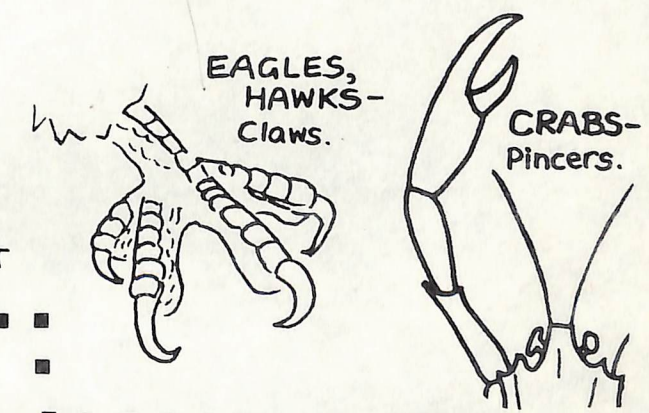
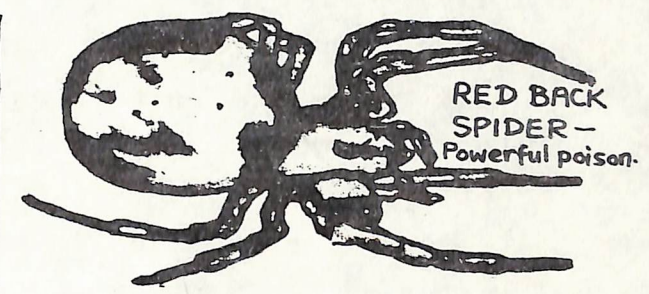
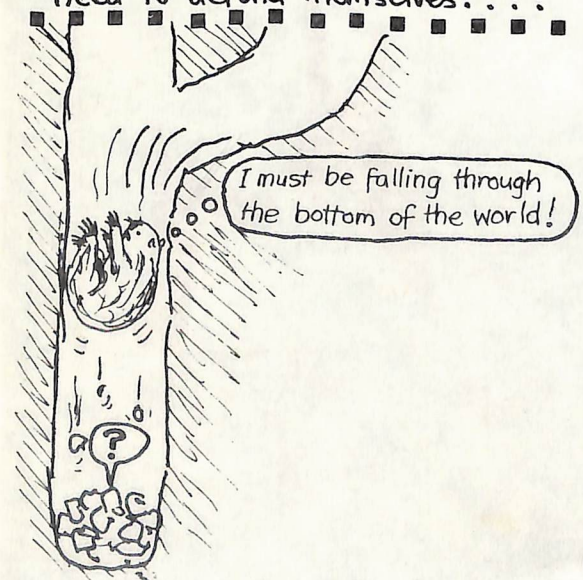
BLUFF - this means animals that are harmless but put on a show in order to scare away attackers. The frill-necked lizard is a good example.

HOME (OR FORT) - these animals are different to those in the armour group because they don't grow their own armour but borrow protection from somewhere else. For example the hermit crab borrows empty shells to hide in, most monkeys use trees as a refuge.

Perhaps the most common way for animals to defend is to **ATTACK!** Did you know that there are animals that defend/attack using **ELECTRICITY** and **CHEMICAL WARFARE!**? (I suppose if you call man an animal then you did know that! That 'animal' also uses gunpowder and nuclear war.) Here are some of the "attackers" and their methods:

<b>POISON</b> (and paralyzing chemicals) <i>Red-back spiders</i>	
<b>JAWS</b> <i>Sharks</i>	<b>CLAWS &amp; PAWS</b> <i>Grizzly bears</i>
<b>STRENGTH</b> <i>Elephants</i> <i>Pythons</i>	<b>TAILS</b> <i>Whales</i>

Fill in this ↑ table (or make a bigger one). \$64 QUESTION: Are there any animals that DON'T need to defend themselves???





A Grade 2 worked out these puzzles with the help of their teacher. They were supposed to be for Probe but we thought that they were hard enough for Nature Notes! Of course Wally has run off with the answers and hidden them again.

The answer to each one is an animal:

E.g. 1 letter + what we hear with. (b+ear = bear)

A 1. 1 letter + what you would find in a pen.

2. 3 letters + what you need for cricket.

3. 3 letters + what you do in maths.

4. 1 letter + what you may use when painting.

5. 3 letters + what you use to unlock the door.

6. 1 letter + you and I together.

Change one letter in:

E.g. What you may find in an orange. (p*ig* = pig)

B 1. What you may score in a game.

2. What we live in.

3. What we might do in the garden.

4. What we put on the rubbish tin.

5. What we wear on a cold day.

6. What you pay the bus driver.

7. What you sit on.

8. One out of two equal parts.

Why did the farmer plough his fields with a steamroller?



Because he wanted to grow rolled oats and mashed potatoes!

## Shadow Plays..... an idea worth trying!

Projector

Sheet

Audience



actors, shapes,  
cellophane paper etc.

