

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



Actually, I think
I should be on
the \$50 note!

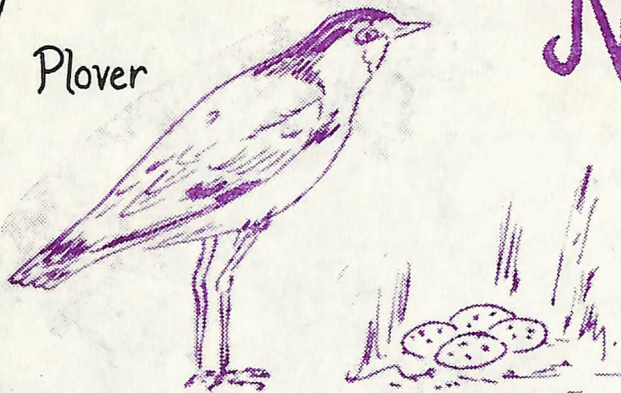


**nature
notes**
vol.12.no.10.

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Nests

Plover



"There's no place like home," but for the Plover there must be plenty of places to choose from. This bird lays its camouflaged eggs in a slight depression on the ground. Enemies are side-tracked by "the broken wing act."

The Kookaburra (and owls and parrots) are slightly more choosy but just as lazy.

They prefer a hollow tree for the protection of their eggs.

But there aren't enough hollow trees for everyone, so....



Kookaburra

birds like the Pigeon make simple nests in the forks of trees. It's really just a platform with "two sticks across and a little bit of moss."

Pigeon



Thrush

Blackbirds, magpies, crows and thrushes make use of basin shaped nests in stumps or forks of trees. This helps to keep the eggs warm and stops the young falling out of the nest!

Even better is the suspended nest of the spinebills and other honey-eaters. Even when the branches swing the eggs don't fall out.



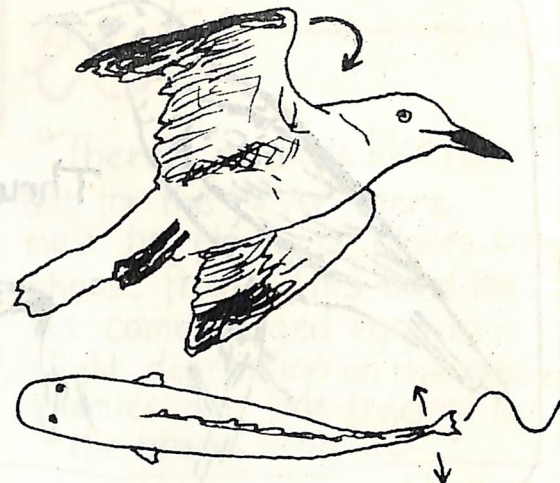
Eastern Spinebill



Warbler

The Reed Warbler has an even deeper nest - designed for gale force winds? (Or perhaps it's a Christmas stocking!?)

Did you know that both birds and bats fly by way of a "rowing" movement? Their fore-arms make forward and downward strokes. However, fish swim by a "sculling" movement of their tails, which make a figure of eight movement by bending from side to side.



THIS 'N' THAT. BY MR. L. DELACCA.

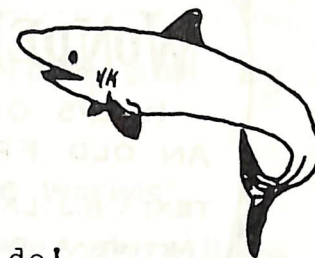
FISHY STORIES



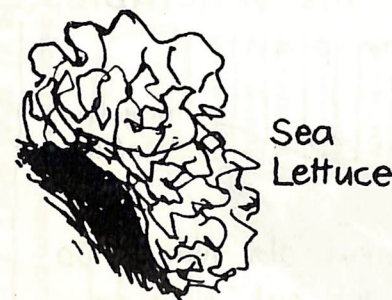
Well we have had some rain lately, but at least it hasn't been raining fish as it did in 1933, when many fish fell during a heavy rainstorm on the port of Cristobal, in the Panama Canal Zone. Reports of this happening have also come from Canada and other areas of the world, while history has recorded that on many occasions fish have rained down after being sucked out of the sea by a whirlwind or water spout!

Talking about fish, quite often we are asked if a shark is a fish. The answer is yes. A shark is a simple, primitive fish, which, instead of having a bony skeleton, has a skeleton of cartilage (gristle). Its hide is tough

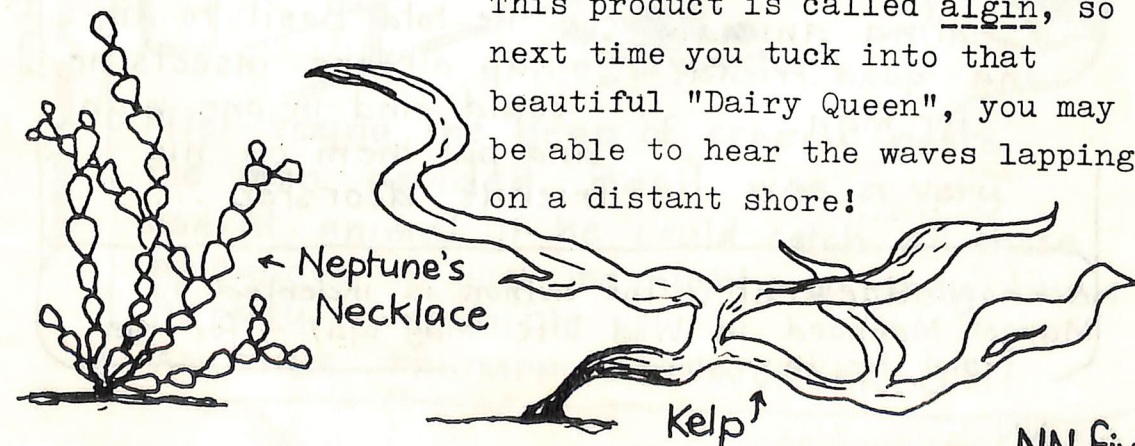
...with small, round, tooth-like scales all over it. Look-out if you get too close to it - even just the action of that skin brushing past you is enough to make a mess of our soft bodies, not to mention what the jaws and teeth can do!



There's something fishy about this ice-cream!



Sea Lettuce



It's Not Just Seaweed....

No doubt on your visits to the beach you will have come across large areas of common old seaweed. What you may not realise is that in certain places, seaweed is used for cattle food, as a fertilizer and even as a food for some of the peoples of Asia. Who's next for a plateful of nice fresh seaweed? Some seaweeds are used in making iodine, while a by-product is used in foods such as ice-cream, cheese, jams, paper, ink and cosmetics. This product is called algin, so next time you tuck into that beautiful "Dairy Queen", you may be able to hear the waves lapping on a distant shore!

WONDEROO

HELPS OUT
AN OLD FRIEND

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

SHOO! SKAT!



Good
Heavens
Basil!
what ever
is happening
here?

SOB! oh Wonderoo
I'm so sad - I used to
be a pet in that house
but now my human
friend thinks I am
eating his vegetables
and plants!

Poor Basil.
We must show
his friend
that bandicoots
are insect
eating animals
and good friends
for man.

So kind old Wonderoo
thought out a plan...
He told Basil to dig
up all the insects he
could find in one night
and put them on his
friend's doorstep ...

zoom!  I'm getting
out of here!

Acknowledgement: the author is indebted to
Margot Manhood in Wild Life May 1947 - for the
... plot for this story

Basil dug and dug all night long and by
morning he had caught -



6 wire worms
8 looper caterpillars
20 millipedes
14 potato weevils
and 2 red spiders
- all of them
pests in the
garden!

YUK!

GOOD
GRIEF!



After seeing the heap of creepy pests
the man decided Basil was a very
useful animal if he could catch all those
nuisances in just one night - so they lived
happily ever after ...

ANOTHER TRIUMPH FOR WONDEROO!!!

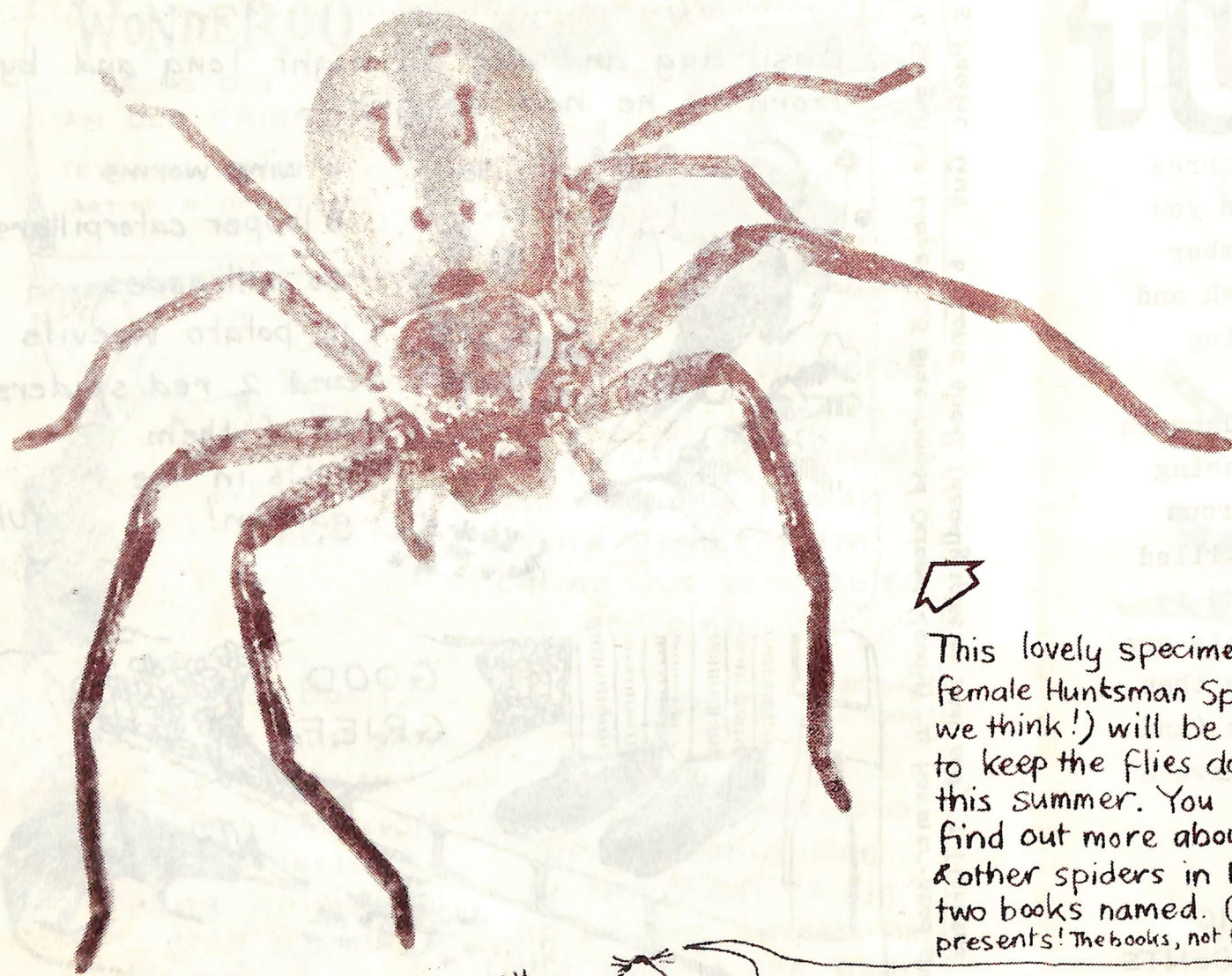


Photo: by D.R. Dyer,
enlarged to about
twice the spider's
actual size.



This lovely specimen (a female Huntsman Spider – we think!) will be helping to keep the flies down this summer. You can find out more about it & other spiders in the two books named. (Good presents! The books, not the spiders!)

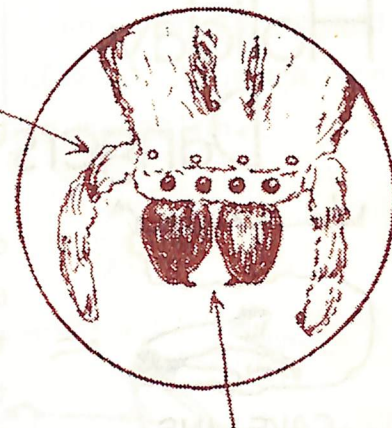


Hey Hairy Legs!

Stop looking at me like that
with your 8 beady eyes!

- Australian Spiders in Color (Reed) by Ramon Mascord.
- The Periwinkle book of Aust. Spiders.

A close-up sketch showing the eight eyes of the Huntsman (You can just see them in the photo too.) Spiders probably can't see very far however, as they rely on their sense of touch. Web-spinning spiders can tell how big the insect caught in their web is, simply by keeping their 'foot' on the web. If their catch is bigger than they are (like a wasp), the spider will stay in his curled up leaf!



The pinchers through which the poison is injected. Huntsmen spiders don't have enough poison to kill humans – but they can nip a bit!

The ones to keep away from!



The Sydney Funnel
Web Spider
(The deadliest in Aust.
& perhaps the World.)



The female Red
Back Spider

Holiday Dangers

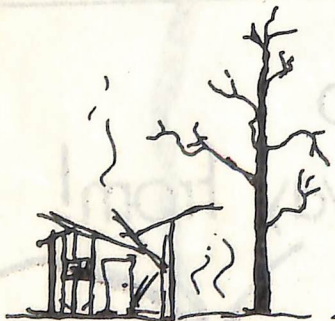
LOOK-OUT



CAVE-INS!



DROWNINGS



FIRES



ten NN

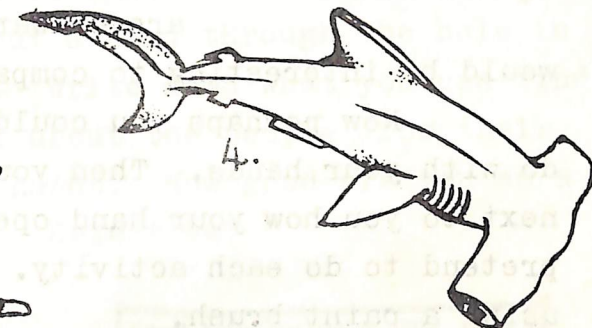
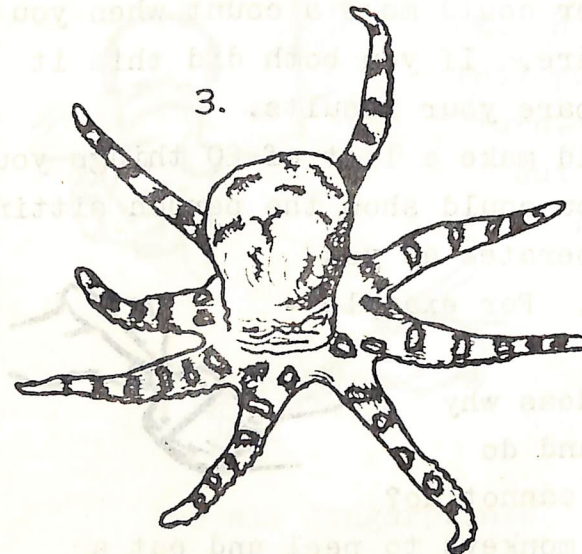
On the page opposite are three deadly creatures of the sea which you should be careful of. Also remember the Portugese Man of War jellyfish and the Stonefish if you are travelling interstate for your holidays.

However, don't let these dangers put you off swimming because crossing roads is still a much more dangerous thing to do. More children are killed by cars than sharks each year, and it seems that back-yard swimming pools are more dangerous for young children than the beach! So make sure that you (and your little brother and sister) have a safe and happy holiday.

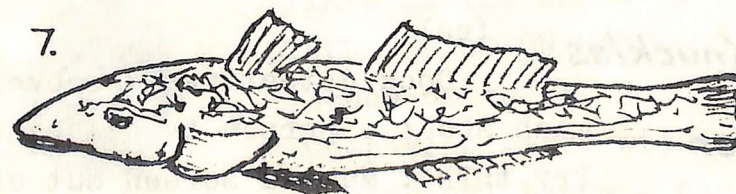
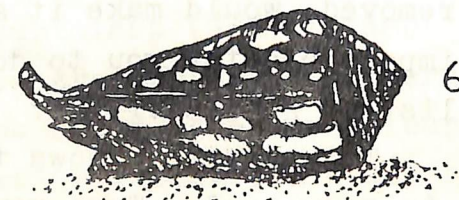
KEEP ON THE LOOK - OUT !



TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS



NOT DRAWN TO SCALE.



NN eleven

Name these creatures of the sea and put a red circle around the THREE KILLERS. Answers are hidden in this magazine.

The Nature of Things..

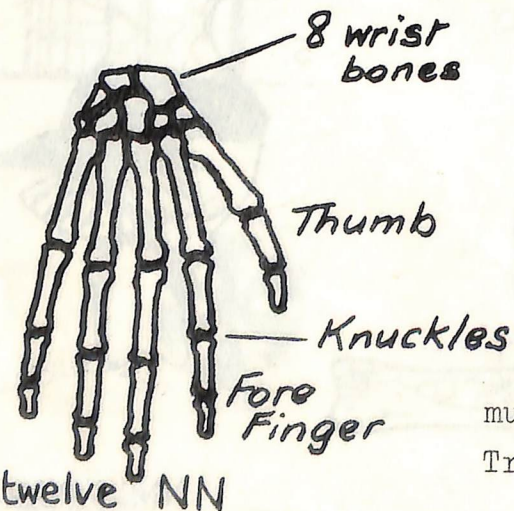


How many different activities do you think your hands would perform in one minute? Perhaps your neighbor could make a count when you are unaware. If you both did this it would be interesting to compare your results.

Now perhaps you could make a list of 20 things you do with your hands. Then you could show the person sitting next to you how your hand operates as you pretend to do each activity. For example - using a paint brush.

Can you give some ideas why our hands are able to make and do things that other creatures cannot do?

(Or, how is it possible for monkeys to peel and eat a banana using only one hand?) What part of your hand, if removed, would make it almost impossible for you to do your list of 20 activities?



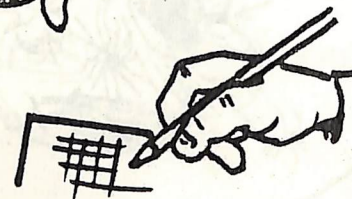
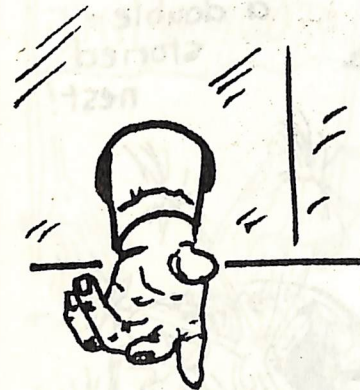
This drawing shows the bones in your hand. Turn your hand over and see how many you can feel.

Good detectives discover much about a person by his hands. Try this : Make a screen out of



THE HAND

BY MR.G.NIELSEN.



cardboard or cloth with a hole just large enough to put a hand through, and so you can't see the owner of the hand. Have a number of people (adults too) put a hand through the hole in turn. Write down what you can find out about the people from their hands. How good are you as a detective?

HAND	AGE	SEX	WORK	SKIN TONE	OTHER
1	9	M	SCHOOL	FAIR	...
2	40	F	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...
6	...	...	...	...	...

Are all fingerprints different? Take a clear fingerprint of each person in your class (use a stamp pad). Are there any patterns?

If you could make some clear prints on an overhead projector screen you would have some examples to compare more easily. How do the police use fingerprints at the scene of a crime?

OTHER TOPICS ON HANDS TO EXPLORE :

- * Sense of touch.
- * Comparing hands with claws, paws & nippers.
- * Mechanical hands - can you make one?



NN thirteen

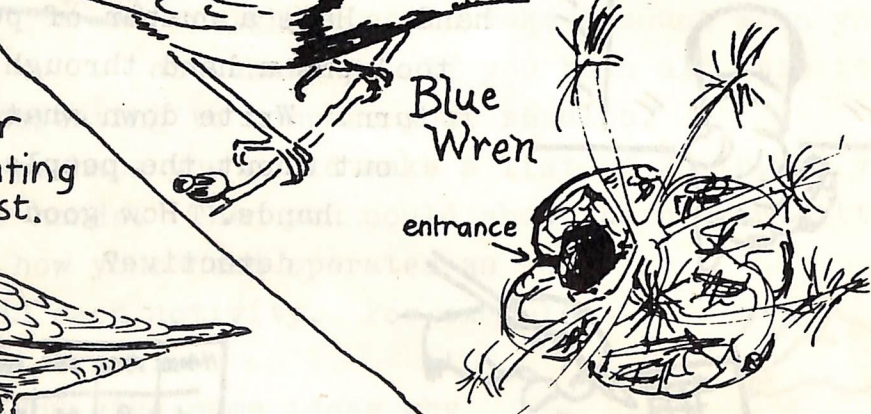
Nests.... continued

What next
can these
birds do
but build a
houseboat!
The Sandpiper
builds a floating
nest.



Sandpiper

The next step in nest building is
to put a roof on and get shelter
from the rain! That's just what
the Blue Wren does - whilst the
Yellow-tailed Tit actually builds
a double-
storied nest!



The ultimate
nest is
that of the
Cuckoo?
Find out all
about it....

STOP PRESS: Noel Babic brought a sick Magpie into our
office today. It couldn't fly, seemed to
have lost its balance and walked around
with an open mouth. We believe it may have
eaten snails killed by snail pellets.
Please write and tell us if you have seen
any Magpies in the same condition.

Look at the
back page to see
how you should
get rid of snails!



Fourteen NN



State in Australia! (Vermont P.S. ordered the most!)

- * OUR READERS (i.e. You!)
- * THE LADIES of Ringwood East Primary School Mothers' Club who collate, fold, pack, post and deliver Nature Notes & Probe and who help with the drawing and printing too!
- * THE DEPOT SCHOOLS (for their patience with schools slow to pick up their magazines!)
- * OUR BIGGEST CUSTOMERS - mainly schools in the Ringwood area, although NN now goes to every State in Australia! (Vermont P.S. ordered the most!)
- * MR. LOUITT, Principal of Ringwood East P.S. and a great help to us.
- * OUR COMMITTEE, especially.....

Mr. F. J. C. Rogers has been writing for Nature Notes and on the Committee for the whole of its existence - 12 years in fact! He has now been appointed Principal of Horsham West Primary School and will be leaving the Committee to take up that appointment in 1976. Fortunately he will still be writing for us - particularly as our "plants expert", a field in which he is well known having written two excellent books: GROWING AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS (Nelson) and A FIELD GUIDE TO VICTORIAN WATTLES.

We wish to take this chance to sincerely thank Mr. Rogers for his tremendous contribution!



NN Fifteen

HERE'S some really stirring news.

All these years at our place we have been laying down pellets for snails, when we should have been eating them.

The Hortico people slipped a booklet into our letterbox and it contained these remarkable lines by Leo Schofield.

"Did you know that the big brown snails are a delicacy to eat? Put your captive snails — a dozen makes a tasty snack — into a clean box or bucket with a couple of good lettuce leaves. Replace the lettuce as it gets eaten out.

"A couple of days of this diet ensures that your snail snack has eaten only healthful food. Then starve them for another two days, cleaning out their box regularly.

"At the end of the starvation period, fill a saucepan with water, add a tablespoon of your favorite herbs and bring to the boil. When the water has hit 100 degrees C, drop your snails in. Fifteen minutes later, they're ready to eat."

You'll hear more about this. APITS is now snail hunting. Stand by for a stomach-shaking snail report next week.

This Stick Insect was found by Mrs. Morris, of Ringwood East, in Queensland. It is 30cm long! Can anyone beat that record?



EEK! I'm getting out of here!



From 'A Place in the Sun', Sun News Pictorial.

2 MYSTERY OBJECTS
(Answers written backwards)

2 OF EDWARD LEAR'S
NONSENSE PLANTS

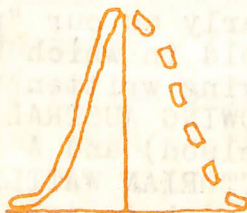
DRATSUC

DETSEFNI

KRAHS



!EDALB
ROZAR A
REVO GNI OG
MROW



Armchairia
comfortablis



Manypeeplia
upsidownia



RINGWOOD INSPECTORATE