

NATURE

NOTES

5B



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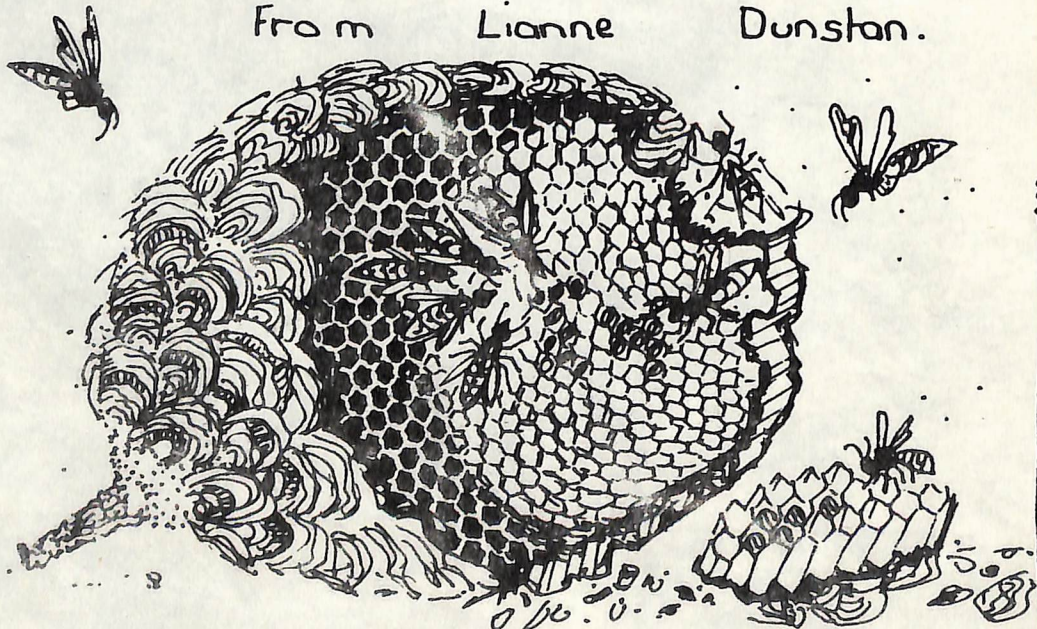
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Welcome to Nature Notes for 1976! Already we have two prize-winning letters for this issue - so keep on writing to us and sending questions, suggestions, projects, news, black-ink sketches, complaints etc.

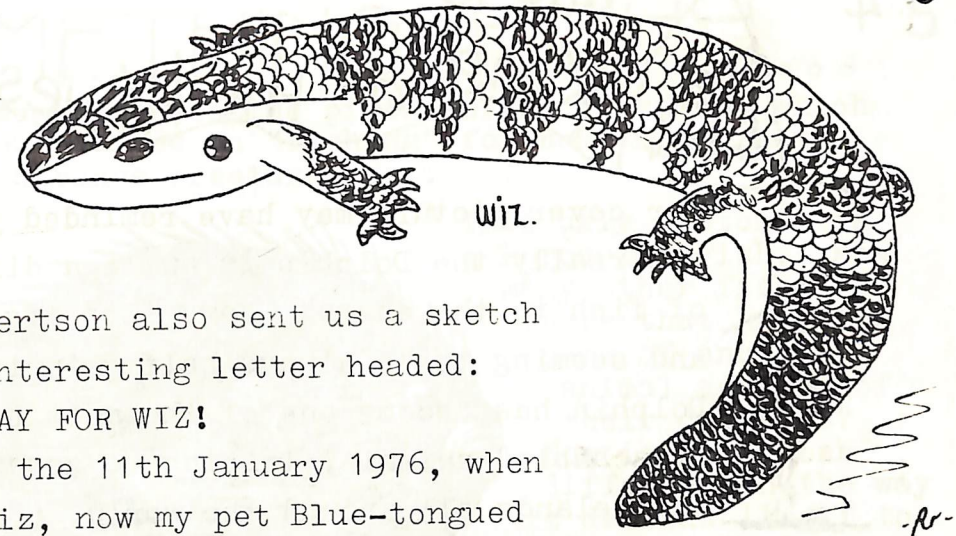
To Nature Notes.

Today my dad went to get his golf clubs and what a surprise! Inside the bag he found a nest of paper wasps. The nest was round and was covered with fine pieces of wood pulp which looked like petals. On the top was a neat stalk.

From Lianne Dunstan.



Watch for our article on how to look after Lizards - coming Soon!



Robert Robertson also sent us a sketch with his interesting letter headed:

MAKE WAY FOR WIZ!

It was the 11th January 1976, when we found Wiz, now my pet Blue-tongued lizard. Mum, my younger brother Stuart, and I were grubbing out thistles and blackberries for my Nanna and Grandad who live at Gippsland Lakes around the hill which leads down to the lake. I was up to my last thistle and was hacking it to pieces when I saw what looked like a lizard's tail poking out of the long grass. I wasn't so sure so I called Mum. She poked it with her spade and it started to run away. Mum blocked him with a fast right hander with her spade while I closed in on him, caught him, and took him up to the house where we were staying.

Wiz used to weigh 0.45 kilograms and measure 33cm. He now measures 35cm and weighs 0.53kg. Wiz now lives in a lavish-style home with 3 meals a day complete with water. His diet is meat, chocolate cake, vegetables, small bones, ants, ants' eggs, tuna, bread, apple, lambs' fry and leftovers. Wiz has been eating out of my hand since 1/2/76. I will soon be letting him go in the garden.

Robert Robertson, 6B.

King of the Waves?



Our cover picture may have reminded you of "Jaws", but really the Dolphin is quite a different kettle of fish to the shark. Very intelligent, playful and seeming to be always half grinning, the Dolphin has become one of the most popular and "teachable" animals, leaping to great heights in Marinelands all around the world. (Sadly, it has been reported that some countries are teaching Dolphins to act as 'living torpedoes' - carrying high explosives into enemy ships!)

Dolphins are known to scare off sharks and even batter them to death by "nose-butting" them. When it comes to humans however, the Dolphin is as gentle as a lamb. There have been cases where drowning humans have been rescued by a Dolphin pushing them to the surface and onto dry land. This is because the instinctive first act of the mother Dolphin after she has given birth to her baby is to push it to the surface so that it can breathe, and apparently the struggling gasps of a drowning man must prompt the same reaction from the parent Dolphin!

HELP!

NOTE: Dolphins are sometimes called Porpoises. They are similar, but Porpoises have a rounder head, shorter snout & don't live in the Southern Hemisphere.

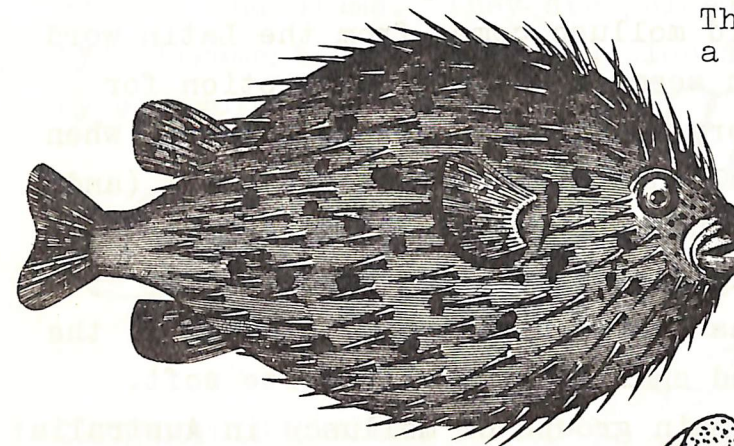


1. PIKE 2. SALMON 3. PERCH 4. BREAM 5. CARP 6. FLATHEAD

DOE + COW + PIG = DOG!
COW + MAN + RAT = CAT!

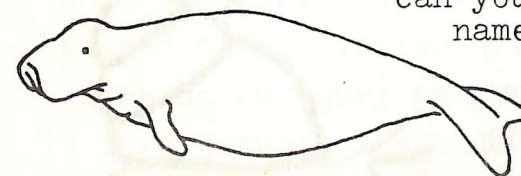
SOMETHING FISHY... 5

Here are some interesting pictures and questions which might get you started on "fishing" for some more facts about these strange creatures.....



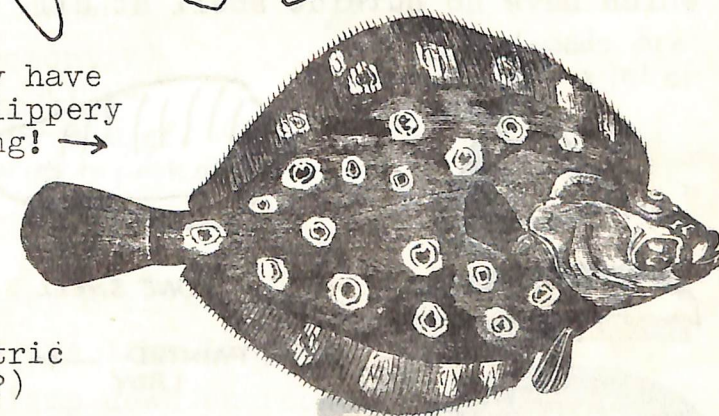
This ugly customer is a Porcupine Fish. How many other fish are there that have the name of another animal as part of their own name? How is this fish different in the way it defends itself to the fish below?

This mammal of the sea is a Dugong or a Sea Cow. How many other mammals of the sea can you name?

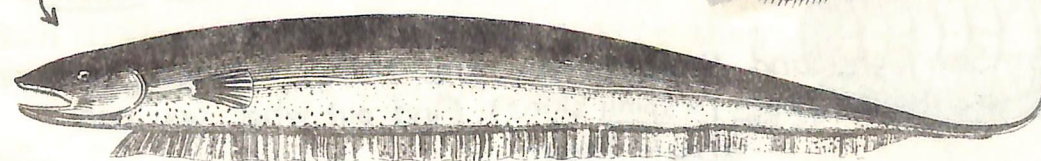


Because of the way the Dugong sits up, sailors used to think it was a mermaid. As you can see, they were in for a big shock as they got closer!

Perhaps some of you may have trodden on this next slippery customer whilst swimming! → Why does the Flounder have both eyes on the same side of the head?



Luckily, Electric Eels aren't common. Where do they get their electric power from? (Batteries!?)



Molluscs

A large number of the animals you find at the beach are Molluscs. The word mollusc comes from the Latin word meaning "soft" - which seems a strange description for shells! There is a very good reason for it however, when you think of the animal that lives inside the shell (and not all molluscs have shells anyway!) Compared with animals which have bony skeletons (like mammals) or insects and crustaceans (which have 'armour plating'), the molluscs like slugs and snails are really quite soft.

There are four main groups of molluscs in Australia: UNIVALVES (= one shell) or GASTROPODS (= 'stomach foot')

These are the one-shelled molluscs, like limpets, garden & sea snails, cowries and cone shells; and the molluscs such as land & sea slugs which have no outside shell at all.

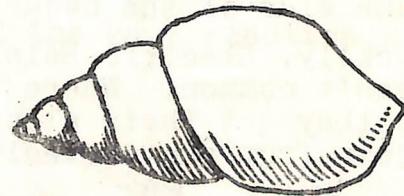
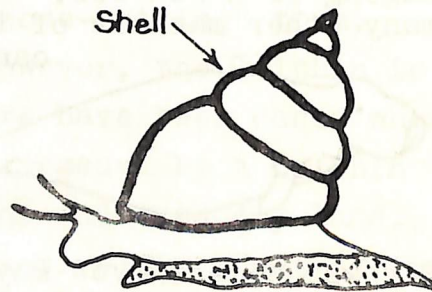


TOP SHELL



CONE SHELL

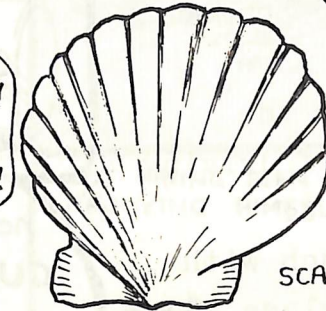
PAINTED
LADY →



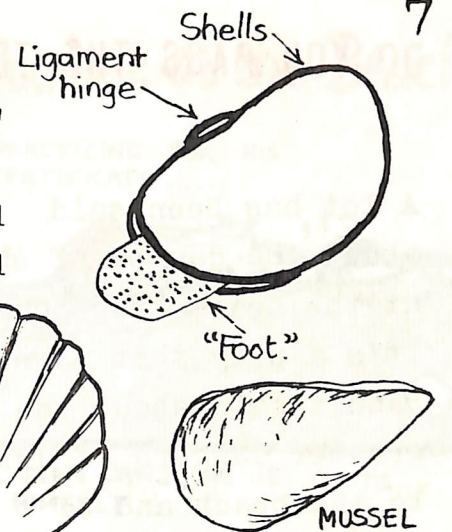
NB: Starfish and Sea Urchins are NOT Molluscs, but are ECHINODERMS (= spiny skins). Find out what you can about them.

BIVALVES (= two shells)

This group includes all the "purse" shells, like mussels, scallops, oysters and clams. They are joined by a ligament and opened and closed by a muscle inside.



SCALLOP

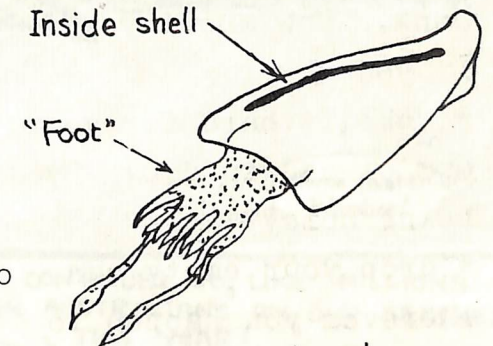


CEPHALOPODS (= 'head footed')

These creatures have no external shells but hard "beaks" and/or inside shells. For example, the "bones" of cuttlefish are very common on our surf beaches. Also in this group are squids and octopuses (or is it octopii?)



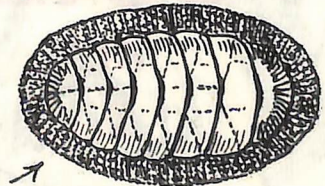
Cuttlefish "shell"
(good for Budgies
& Canaries to peck at!)



Cephalopods are propelled by a jet of water.

CHITONS

Covered and protected by 8 interlocking shells, these animals are like limpets in their ability to clamp down on rocks when disturbed. Don't try and lift them when they do - you'll only break them.



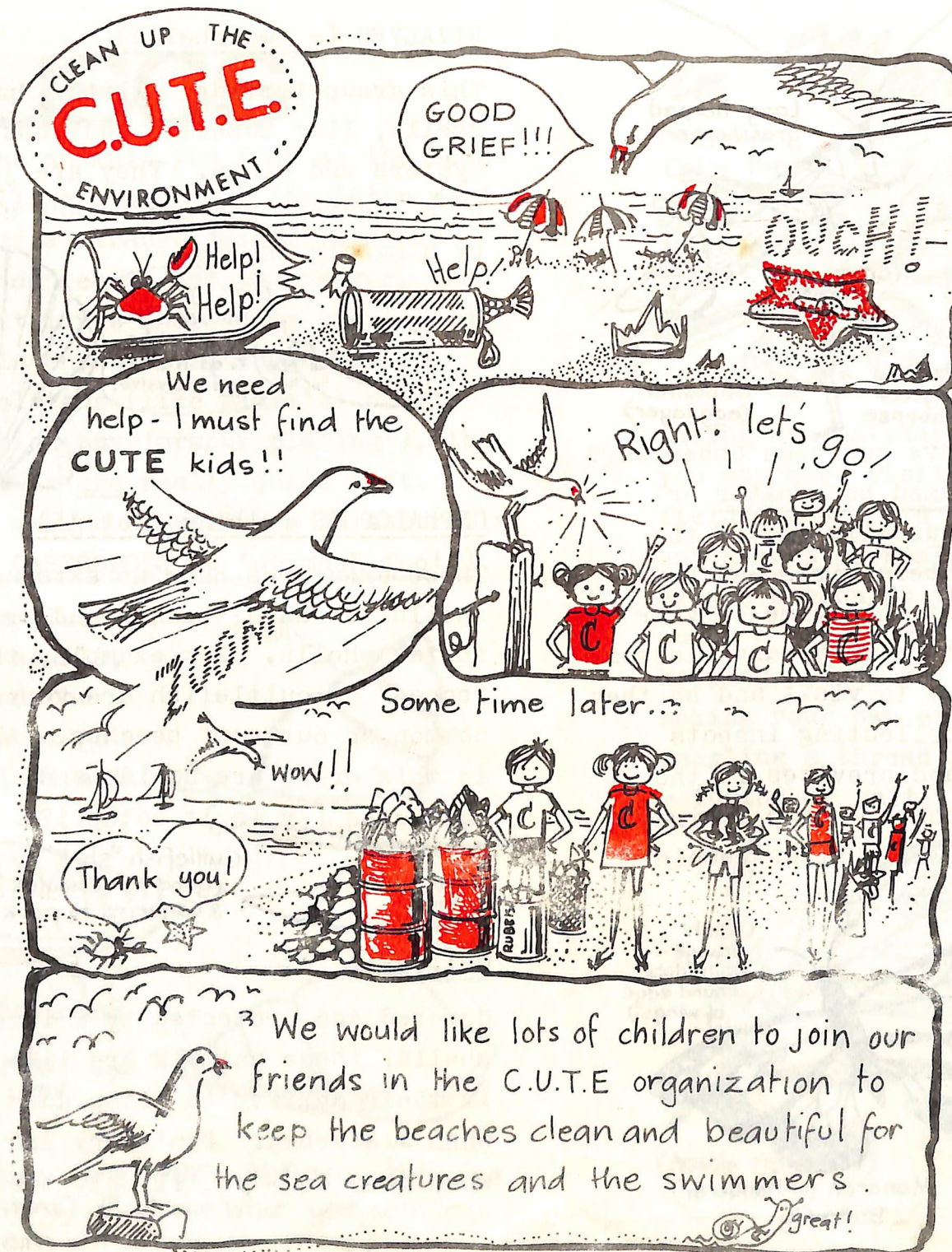
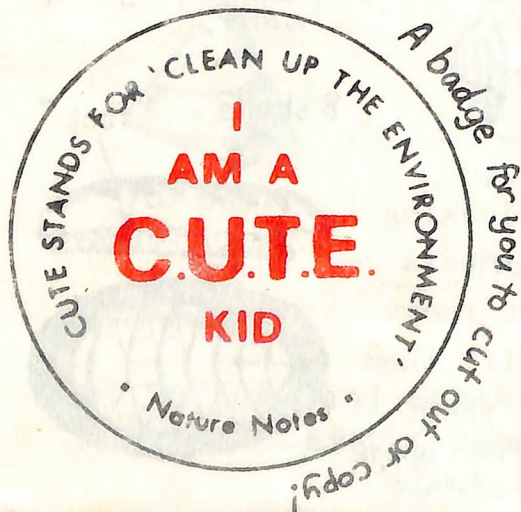
From above →

DO YOU PASS THE TEST?

A lot has been said about the danger of sharks at the beach this summer. It's a pity that more wasn't said about the greater dangers of driving to the beach and of polluting the beach with rubbish, broken glass and cans. How about you?

Do you -
* make it hard for your mum or dad to drive by being noisy?

* drop your empty can wherever you happen to finish it?

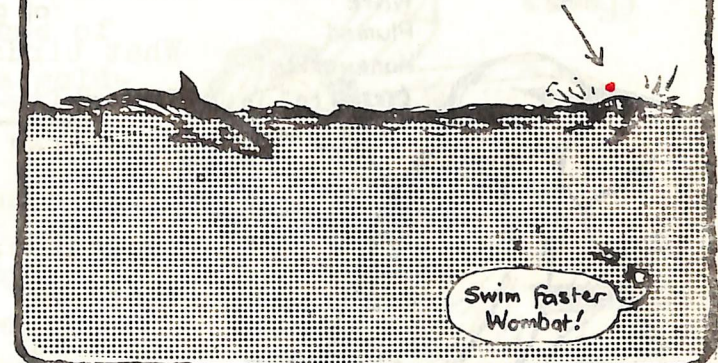


Wally Wombat at the Beach?

WALLY IS PRACTICING FOR HIS SURVIVAL CERTIFICATE



NOT HAVING SEEN 'JAWS', HE IS QUITE ENJOYING HIMSELF



AND HE CONTINUES TO, LIKE MILLIONS OF OTHER AUSTRALIANS ON OUR BEACHES THIS YEAR!

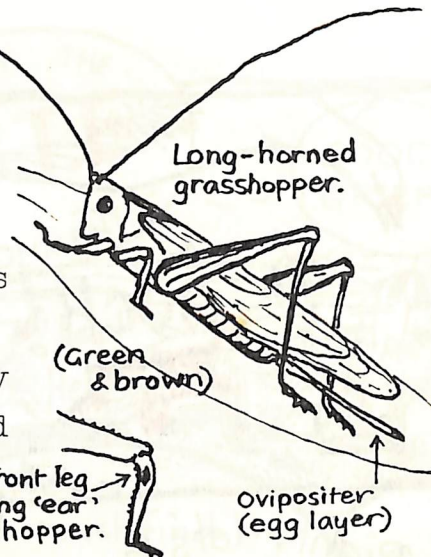


YUK! WOMBAT!



What to Look for

The Gum-leaf Grasshopper is not only found in Australia but also occurs in America, where it is known by the less descriptive name of Katydid. Can you find out what it eats? It is probably best to observe it for a few hours and then release it where you found it.



What birds have you been observing? The white-plumed honeyeater or "Greenie" is usually one of the first honeyeaters girls and boys recognise. At this time of year there may not be very many blossom trees for them to visit and so they may be seen collecting insects from cracks and crevices in the bark and branches. Keep a bird list and see which birds remain with you all the year.

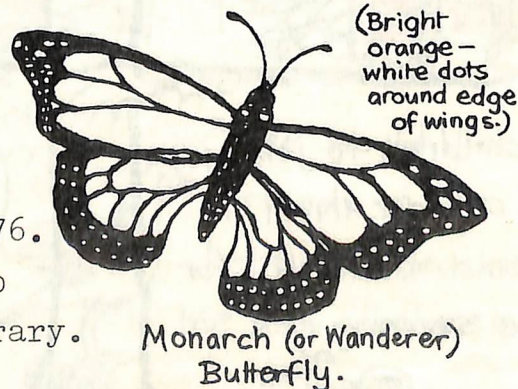
Monarch Butterfly :

Have you seen this butterfly? Please do not try to catch it.

One was seen at Horsham on 5/2/76.

When did you see yours? Look up

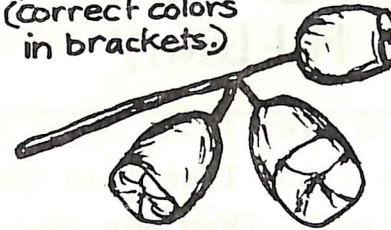
further information in your Library.



Monarch (or Wanderer) Butterfly.

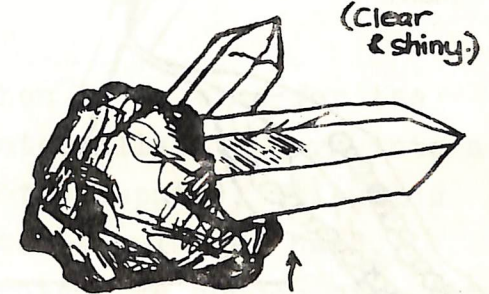
in March, by F.J.C. Rogers.

Color these pictures in. (Correct colors in brackets.)



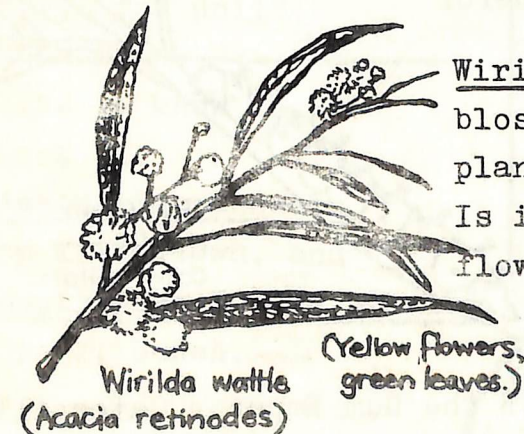
Eucalyptus forrestiana is quite attractive with its large red squared gum-nuts. Perhaps you can find other eucalypts which have the gum-nut as the "showy" part whilst others have "showy" flowers.

During the holidays some of you may have visited a gold-fields area. Did you find any quartz crystals? They aren't common so they make quite a 'treasure' worth keeping. (Have you ever tried making your own crystals by dangling a thread in a saturated solution of salt?)



(A perfect double ended crystal like this weighing 5½ tons was found in Brazil!)

Salt crystals forming. (NaCl)



Wirilda wattle (Acacia retinodes)

Wirilda wattle may now be found in blossom. Keep a watch on these plants to see when they do flower. Is it possible to see wattles flowering all year round?

NAUGHTY NATURE NOTES!

Mistake, page 14.

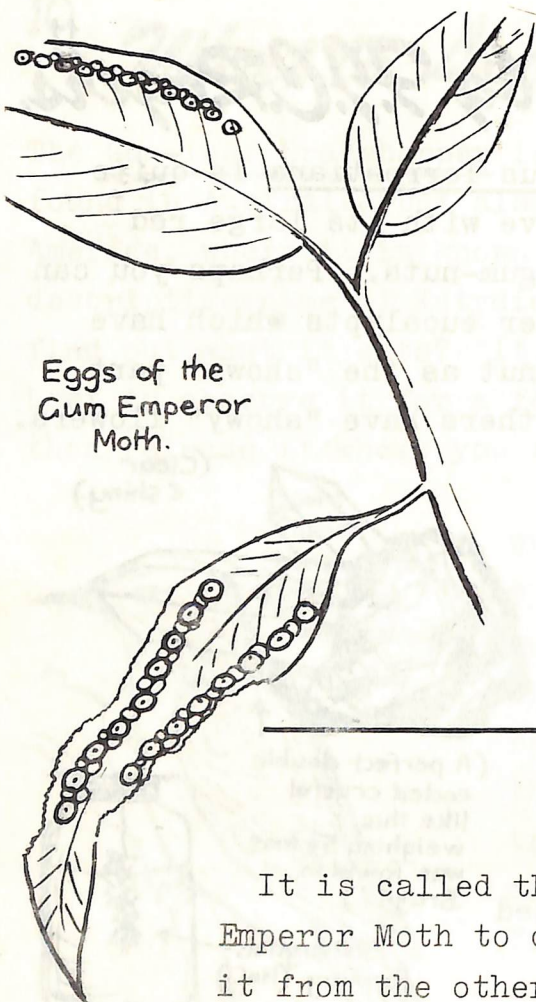
Write pumpkin 50 times!

pumpkin, pumpkin

The Gum EMPEROR MOTH

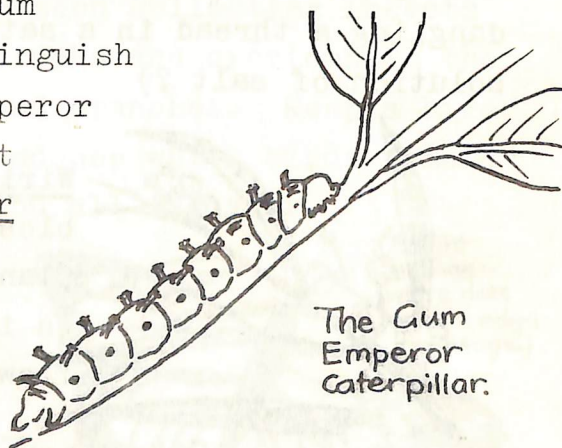
By H J Lawry

Have you ever found eggs laid in lines like this on a gum leaf? They are the eggs of the Gum Emperor Moth.



Eggs of the
Gum Emperor
Moth.

It is called the Gum Emperor Moth to distinguish it from the other Emperor Moths. It should not be called the Emperor Gum Moth as there is really no species of moth known purely as "Gum" moths.



The Gum
Emperor
Caterpillar.

Here is a picture of the Gum Emperor Caterpillar. He has a green body and colorful 'horns'.

There are usually two broods of caterpillar each year - one in the Spring and one in Autumn.

THE SECOND BROOD IS
APPEARING NOW (March).
WATCH OUT FOR THEM!



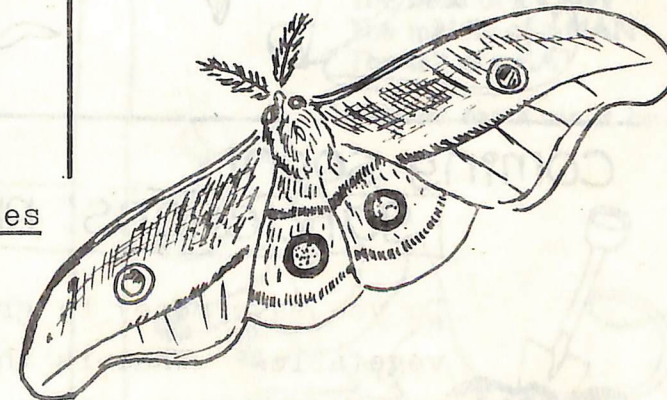
Removed from the cocoon the pupa looks something like this. Did you know that the word "pupa" is Latin for doll?

Like to know more?
Look up:
Australian Insects
by K. M^CKeown, and
Australian Nature Studies
by Dr. Leach.



When it is time for the caterpillar to turn into a moth (pupate), it builds itself a large, hard, protective cocoon like the one in the picture above.

When Winter is over this beautiful adult moth emerges and the cycle begins again.

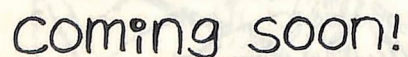


1. PIKE 2. SALMON 3. PERCH 4. BREEM 5. CARP 6. FLATHEAD

DOE + COW + PIG = DOG!
COW + MAN + RAT = CAT!

14

Not Molluscs at all:

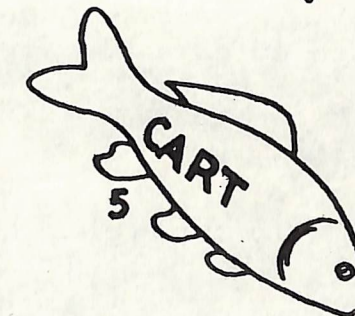
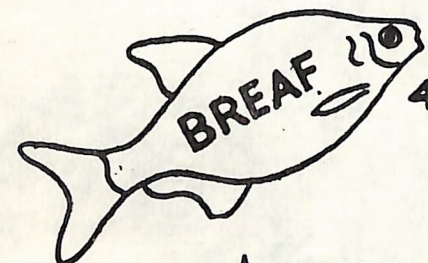
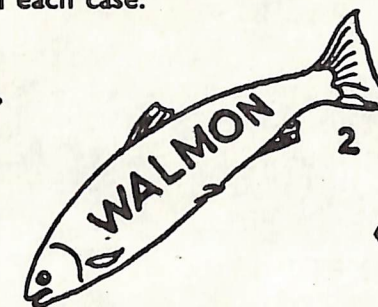
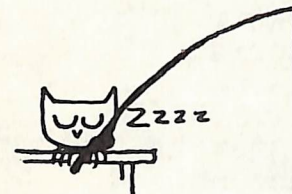


gardeners' plot

each month in
Nature Notes!

Do you save money by growing your own vegetables? What is the weight of your biggest pumkin? WATCH FOR THIS PLOT in N.N!

A simple line drawing of a fish, possibly a trout or salmon, facing left. The word "BIKE" is written in bold, capital letters along its side. The fish has a small eye, a smiling mouth, and visible fins.

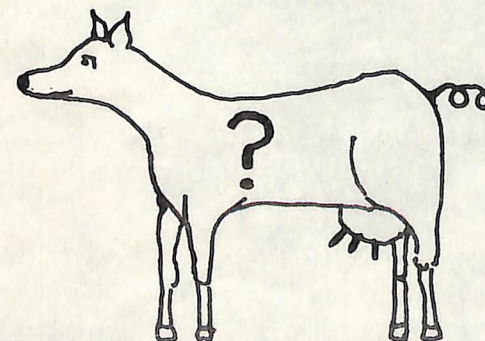


Answers to puzzles are hidden somewhere in this magazine!

WHAT AM I?

Solve the clues and you have the answer.

The head of a doe,
The middle of a cow,
The tail of a pig.



The head of a COW
The middle of a MAN
The tail of a RAT

What on earth can it be?



What sort of animal is the Penguin?

Penguins are birds. They have feathers and lay eggs.

Where do Penguins live?

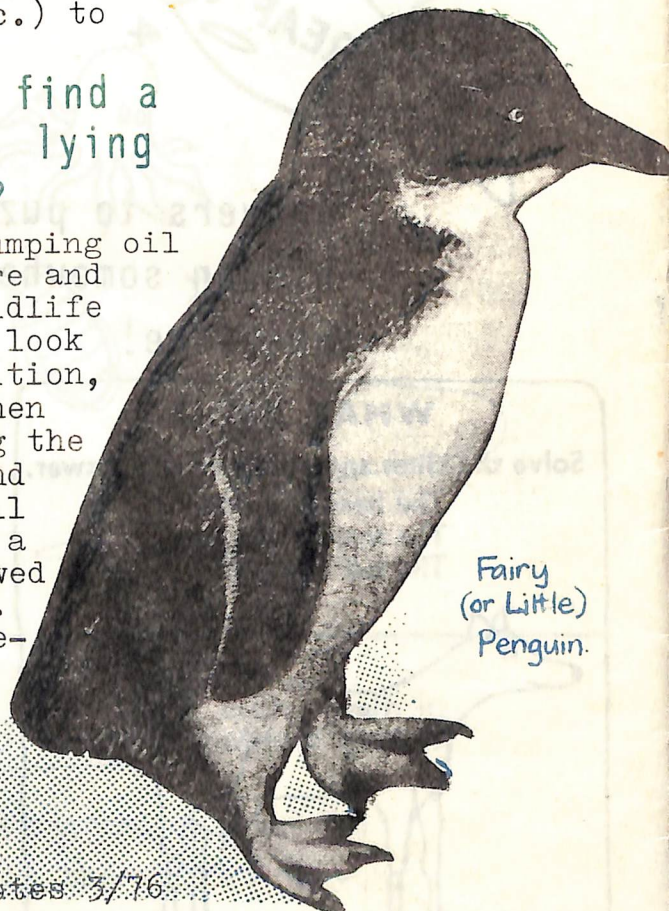
Penguins are found only in the Southern Hemisphere. The only ones that breed in Australia are the Fairy Penguins which nest around the coast (south of latitude 30 s.) A well known spot to see the Fairy Penguins return to their nests after a day's fishing to feed their chicks, is Summerland Beach at Phillip Island, Victoria.

What do Fairy Penguins eat?

Fairy Penguins are very fast underwater swimmers which enables them to catch small fish and crustaceans. Even the young chicks can swim quite well once they put to sea - one is known to have taken 39 days to swim from Phillip Is.(Vic.) to Kangaroo Is.(S.A.)!

What do you do if you find a Penguin covered in oil lying helpless on the beach?

Unfortunately, with ships dumping oil at sea this is happening more and more. The Fisheries and Wildlife Department allows people to look after penguins in this condition, but they must be released when they are able to swim. (Ring the Department for advice.) Sand rubbed into the feathers will absorb some of the oil, and a wash with a mild soap followed by a good rub-down may help. Feed the bird on fresh white-bait - pushed well down the throat. Hopefully, if we treat these little visitors to our coastline well, they will keep on waddling up our beaches to nest.



Fairy
(or Little)
Penguin.