

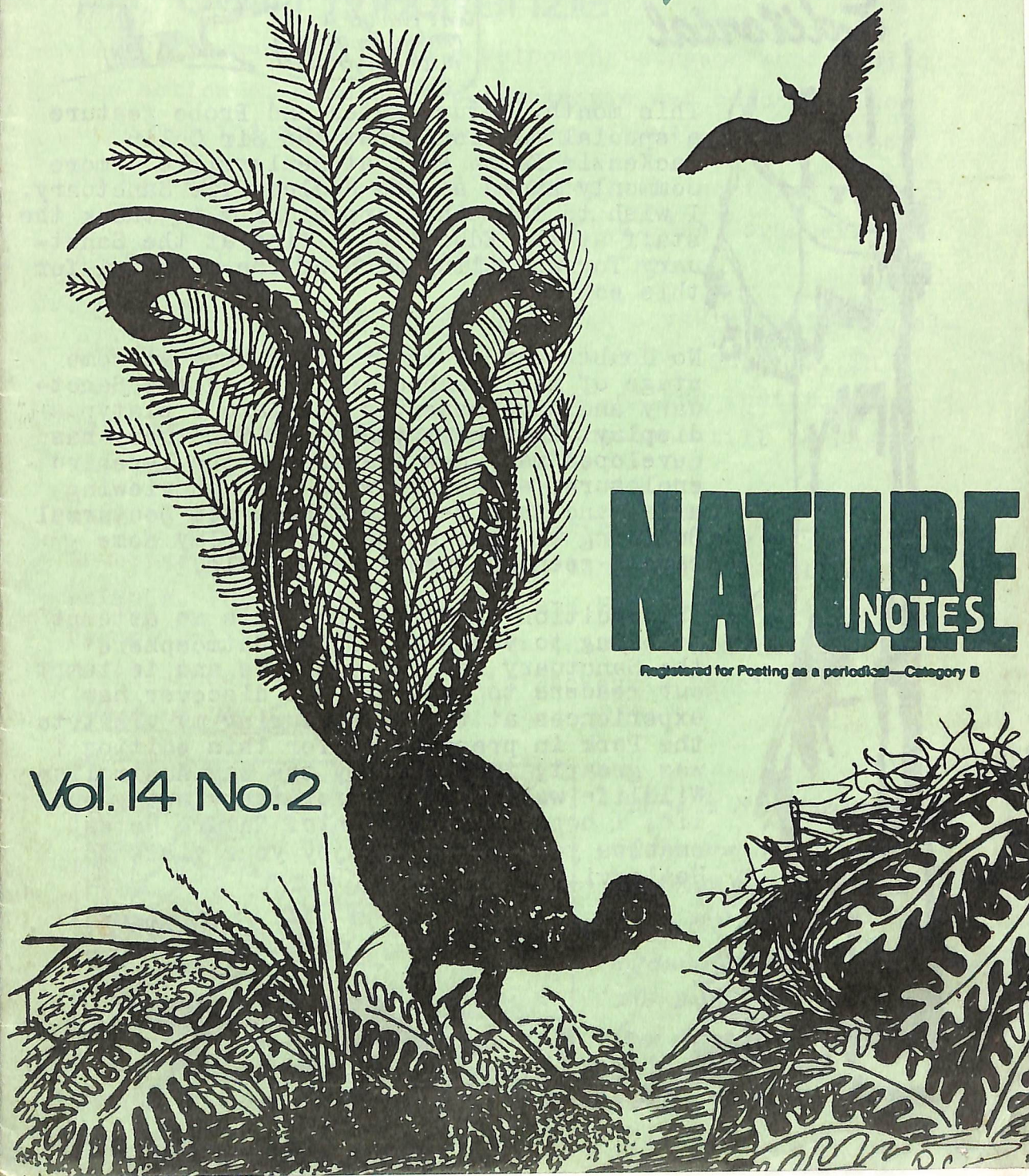
*Healesville Sanctuary Edition*



# NATURE NOTES

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Vol.14 No.2





# Editorial

What about me!  
I'm famous and I  
don't even get a  
mention. I'm going  
to tell Mr. Dyer about  
this.



This month, Nature Notes and Probe feature a special edition about the Sir Colin MacKenzie Fauna Park at Healesville - more commonly known as the Healesville Sanctuary. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the staff at the Education Office at the Sanctuary for compiling much of the material for this edition.

No doubt many of our readers have at some stage of their schooling visited the Sanctuary and have observed the famous platypus display. In recent years the Sanctuary has developed many new features - the lyrebird enclosure, and other walk-through viewing areas and this year in June a new Nocturnal Building will be opened to display some rarely seen nocturnal marsupials.

This edition of Nature Notes is an attempt to bring to you some of the 'atmosphere' the Sanctuary has for visitors and to tempt our readers to re-visit and discover new experiences at the Park. During my visit to the Park in preparation for this edition I was greatly impressed by the way Australian Wildlife was presented for the viewing public. I hope this edition of Nature Notes enables you to fully enjoy your visit to Healesville.

*B. L. Archibald.*  
Editor.



## Sir Colin MacKenzie

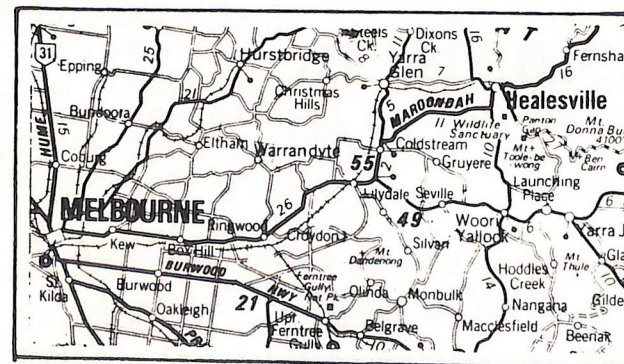
Dr. Colin MacKenzie was a Melbourne surgeon who studied the action of muscles. Dr. Mackenzie was concerned to help men injured during World War 1 and polio victims.

He was granted the use of 78 acres - 30 hectares of land at Healesville which had been part of the Coranderrk Aboriginal Settlement of the Yarra Tribe.

Dr. MacKenzie collected and studied a variety of Australian animals until 1928 when he moved to Canberra. In Canberra he was the first Director of the Institute of Anatomy and some of his collections can still be seen at the Institute.

When he left Healesville, Dr. MacKenzie suggested that the Government should take over the land and his collection of animals. Fortunately they did and Healesville Sanctuary began. Dr. MacKenzie was later knighted and the Sanctuary became known as the Sir Colin MacKenzie Sanctuary.

### Where is the Sanctuary:

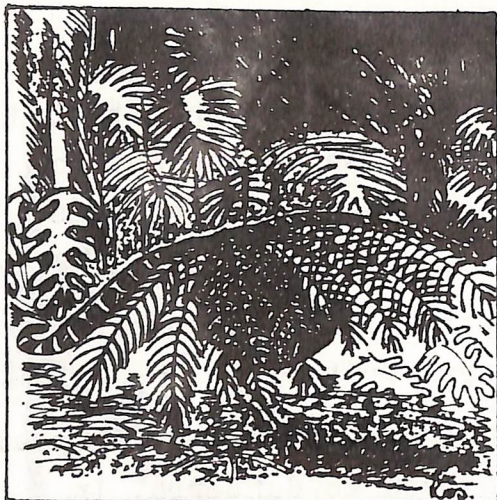


• Healesville is approximately 60 km from Melbourne. Travelling from Melbourne along the Maroondah Highway, turn right at the sign post in the township - from this point it is 5 km to the Sanctuary.

\* Artists this month were: Mrs Wilma Prohasky and Mrs Rosalyn Cassidy.

Nature Notes. April 1977.





## The Lyrebird

Can you copy the call of a kookaburra? That's not too hard. What about a whipbird or a black cockatoo or a thrush? These birds are a little harder but there is one bird which can copy all of these birds and many others as well.

The male lyrebird probably uses all the calls he copies to confuse predators but he

also includes his own call as a message to other lyrebirds both male and female. The message to the other male lyrebird is to stay away from the area "owned" by this particular male. This is similar to the way we put up a fence to show other people which is our bit of land or our paddock. The message to the female is a "love call" and an attempt to show her that he is better than the male next door.

Most of this activity takes place in the late autumn and winter and if you visit the Fauna park around then you may be lucky enough to see the male dancing and hear him singing.

Females have to build the nest, incubate the egg and then feed the chick so they don't have much time to sing but they can copy some sounds as well as the male. Young lyrebirds have been hatched at the Fauna Park three times, but it is a very difficult job to ensure that the young birds survive in captivity.

*THIS 'N THAT - does not appear in this issue of Nature Notes and it isn't because Mr. DeLacca has been given the sack. In fact, he has written an excellent article entitled, "The Wily Goanna", and it will appear in the May issue. Shortage of space in this issue of Nature Notes has prevented the inclusion of the article. Ed.*

*Ringwood East P.S.*



# News Release

**TIME:** August, 1967. **PLACE:** Healesville Sanctuary. First lyrebird chick born in captivity. Ric and Rac to be named "parents of the year."

## LYREBIRD HAS FIRST CHICK

By JOHN SORELL

**At last it's happened! A lyrebird hatched a chick today at the Healesville Sanctuary.**

**The chick is the first of its kind hatched in captivity, says the sanctuary's director, Mr Vernon Mullett.**

He says that one chick hatched in Sydney in 1927 was a different species—not found in Victoria.

Mr Mullett saw the chick at breakfast time today. And, as he said later: "I wanted to shout for joy!"

The chick's mother, Rac, and father Ric, pranced around their nest all morning.

But the birth has set a problem. The chick eats thousands of white ants a day and could die if it doesn't get enough.

"We're running short of white ants already," Mr Mullett said.

*"The Herald"*

*August - 1967*

*Nature Notes.*

## Lyrebird born at Healesville

Last year's "parents of the year", Ric and Rac of Healesville's wildlife sanctuary, have scooped the title again — a week earlier than expected.

On Saturday the two. The public probably will publicity - shy lyrebirds not see the chick for about produced a brother or two months. The mother can sister (sex, as yet, un- easily hide it in an en- known) for Braid, who, when born at the sanc- closure very like the lyre- tuary last August, was birds' natural habitat. believed to be the only lyrebird bred in captivity.

The speckled chick, 2 oz. at birth, was born pre-

*"The Age"*

*12/8/68.*

### Attention

News of the chick's birth is expected to attract worldwide attention from naturalists and add to the prestige of the sanctuary.

The chick has been temporarily named Jungy, for Sir John Jungwirth, the centre's chairman of the committee of management.

Sir John celebrated his birthday on the day Jungy was born.

Before the arrival of Braid (now as big as his mother), Ric and Roc had failed in two attempts to have a chick.

In 1965, the egg proved infertile; in 1966, the mother is thought to have been scared from her nest by intruders.

Now, after the hullabaloo of having Braid, there is the "possibility it will be an annual event," the sanctuary's assistant director (Mr. Neil Roberts) said yesterday.

Jungy, with his family, is nestled in a wooded, natural 100 ft. by 200 ft. enclosure, with mother showing the usual maternal interest. Ric, typically, "does not show a great deal of interest" in his famous chick.

But not only does Jungy have to contend with his sire's disinterest—food is a problem.

The sanctuary is in urgent need of white ants for the lyrebirds. The supply is low and, said Mr. Roberts, "white ants are one of the best foods we can supply them."

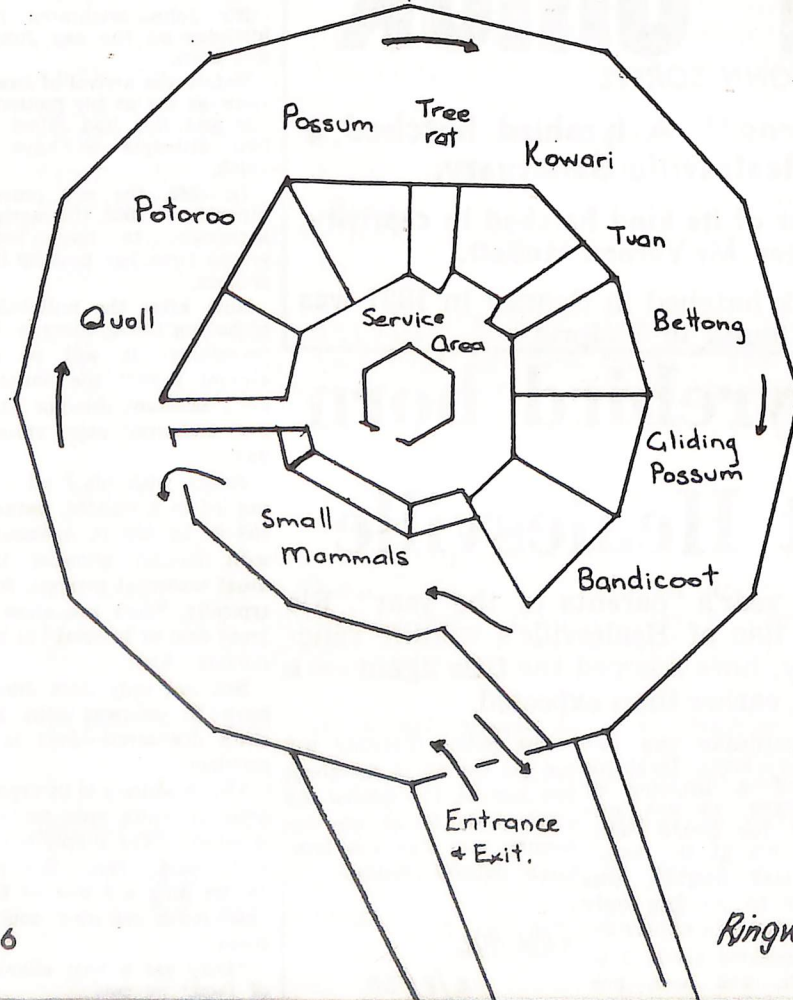
"They eat a vast amount of food," he said.



# The Nocturnal Building.

Have you ever seen a Quoll or a Potoroo or a Bettong? These are small, shy nocturnal animals and so not many people get the chance to see them out in the bush. Nocturnal animals are active at night and sleep during the day. Perhaps you are able to list some other nocturnal creatures of the bush.

A special building will be opened at the Sanctuary in June so that visitors to the Fauna Park will be able to see some of our nocturnal mammals. In the building the normal white lights will be turned off during the day and blue lights turned on to show "moonlight". The animals will think it is night and will be active. At night, the white lights will be turned on and the animals will sleep because they will think that it is day.



Note the unusual shape of the building. It has 12 sides. Do you know the name of this type of geometric shape? Can you draw one making sure that each side of the figure is the same length? Are there any other interesting points to be noted about the design of the building? Perhaps it would be a useful activity to discuss this in a maths lesson in school.

Ringwood East P.S.



instead of a hopping movement. The head and the body are dark brown, while the body is greyish white. Its tail is short and tapered.



birds and lizards. The Quoll in appearance is olive-grey spotted with white with a pale grey undersurface. However, the tail is unspotted and has a white tip. Another color combination of black with white spots with a black tipped tail also occurs.



POTOROO - The Potoroo prefers a habitat of rainforest where they nest beneath debris on the forest floor. They are amongst our rarest marsupial mammals and are members of the Rat Kangaroo Family. They feed at night on insects and roots which they dig up with their fore-claws and snout in a pig-like manner. As the potoroo has hindfeet which are shorter than its head, it moves in a galloping manner

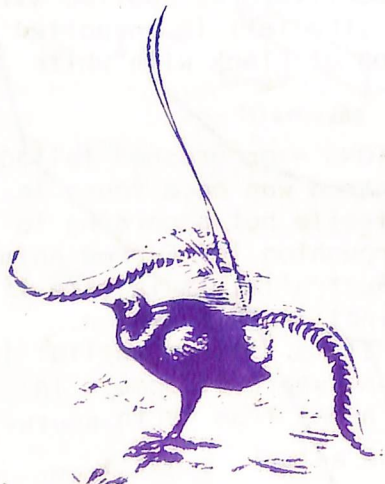
QUOLL - The Quoll or Eastern Native Cat originally was to be found along the East coast of Australia from Armidale through N.S.W. and Victoria to Tasmania and S.A. An epidemic disease in 1901-3 killed off much of the species and it became rare over most of its range. It lives in dry forest areas and shelters in hollow limbs and among rocks. Its diet consists of insects, small rodents and marsupials,

BETTONG - or Brushed-tailed Rat-Kangaroo was once found in S.E. Australia but according to Ellis Troughton in "Furred Animals of Australia", it is rare if not extinct in this region. However it is still plentiful in south W.A. where it occurs in coastal areas from Perth southward. The animal is not a burrower but it makes its grass nest in a hollow.

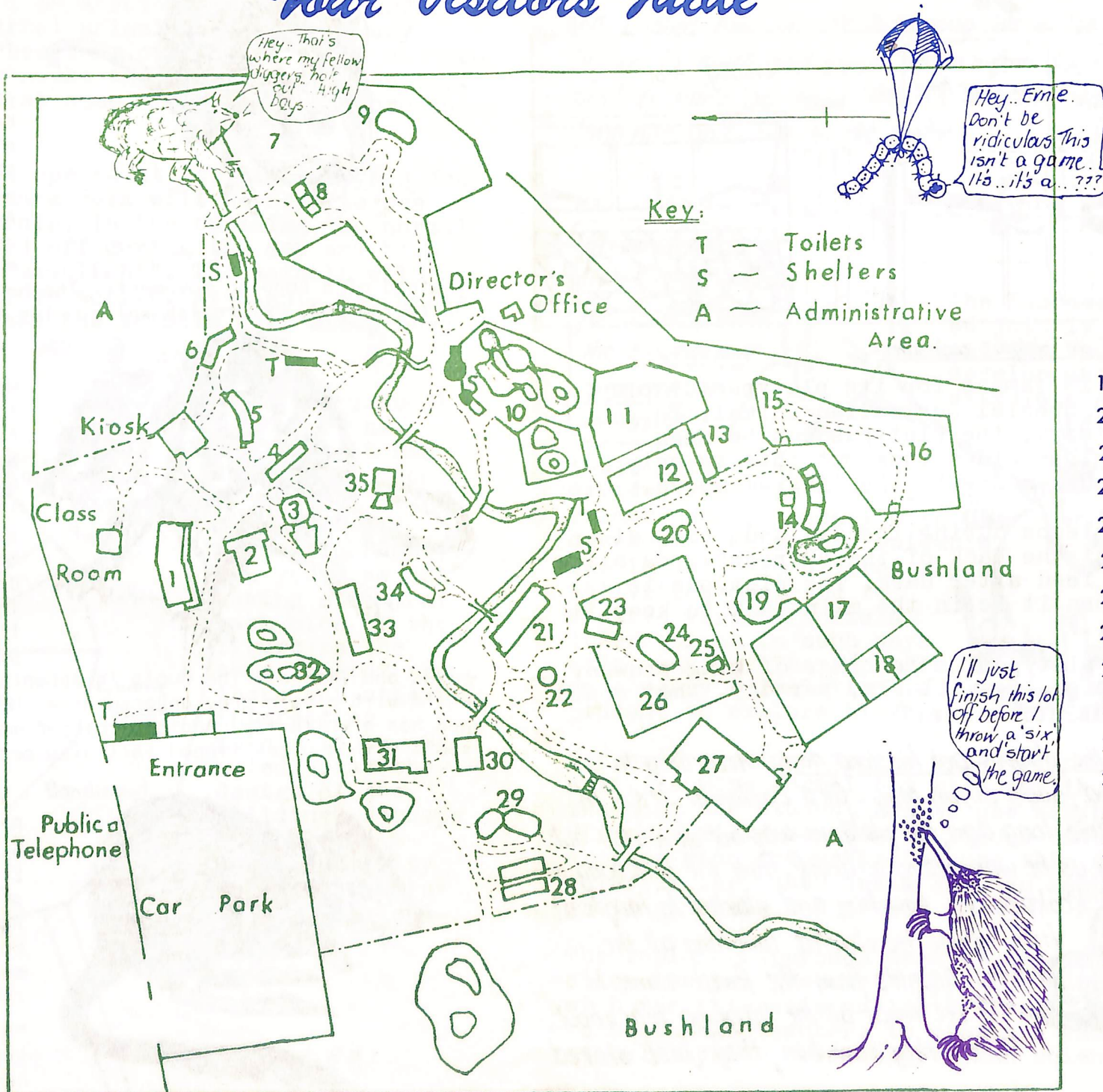


# Your Visitors Guide

- 1 Water Birds
- 2 Pigeons and Doves.
- 3 Information Centre.
- 4 Cockatoos.
- 5 Small Parrots.
- 6 Kookaburras and Magpies.
- 7 Red and Grey Kangaroos.
- 8 Wally's Relations.
- 9 Koalas.
- 10 Ducks and Pelicans
- 11 Agile Wallabies.
- 12 Cape Barren Geese.
- 13 Breeding Aviaries.
- 14 Owls and Frogmouths.
- 15 Brolgas.
- 16 Parma Wallabies.
- 17 Black-tailed Wallabies.
- 18 Cassowaries.



Lyrebird.

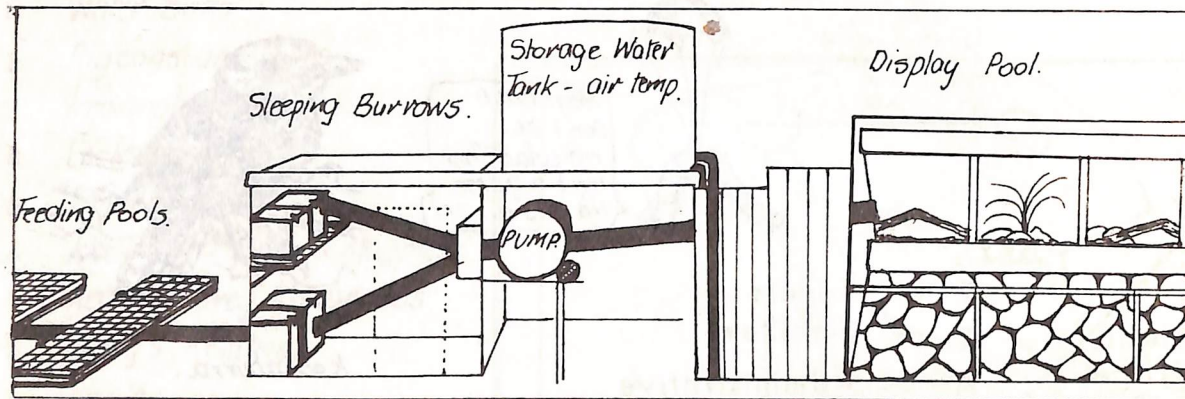


Kookaburra.

- 19 Nocturnal House - 1977
- 20 Echidnas.
- 21 Lyrebirds. (10.30 - 11.30 am)
- 22 Tree Kangaroos.
- 23 Reptile House. (10.30 am - 4.30 pm)
- 24 Goannas.
- 25 Koalas.
- 26 Kangaroo Is. Kangaroos.
- 27 Lyrebirds. (2.00 - 4.30 pm)
- 28 Hawks.
- 29 Brush Turkeys.
- 30 Dingoes.
- 31 Large Parrots.
- 32 Swans.
- 33 Eagles.
- 34 Finches.
- 35 Platypus. (10.30 - 11.30 a.m.)  
(2.00 - 4.30 pm.)



# ~The Platypus~

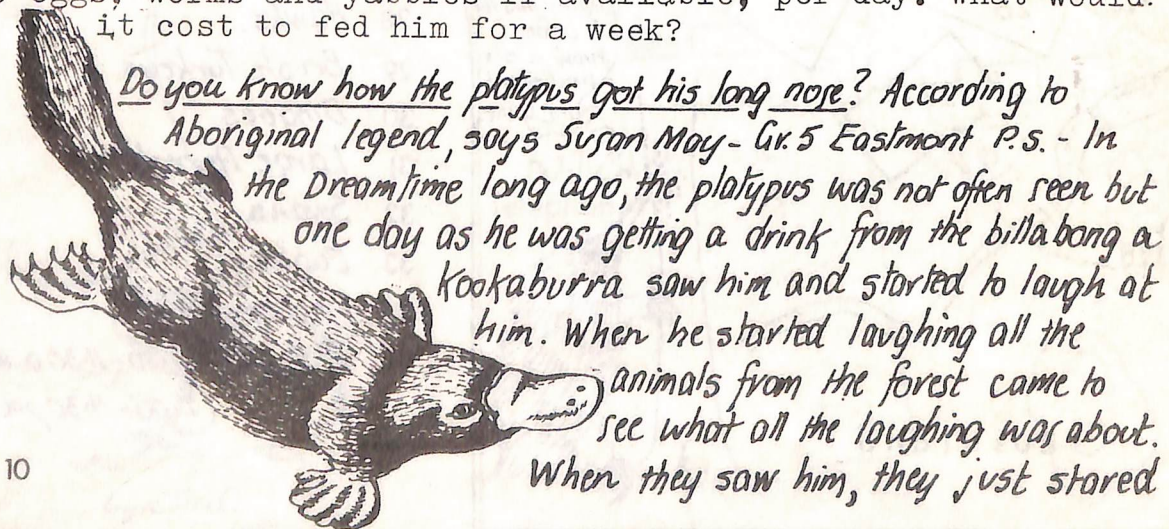


• Side view of the platypus enclosure. •

Healesville Sanctuary is famous for its platypus display. The platypus is a very special Australian animal. Do you know why? At the Sanctuary, the platypus can be seen swimming around in a glass-sided tank but this is only part of his home as you can see in the diagram above.

The platypus usually sleeps during the day and feeds at night. The two pools at the back of the "burrow" area allow it to swim around and feed after dark. The platypus is given a little food when it is in the main tank to keep it active.

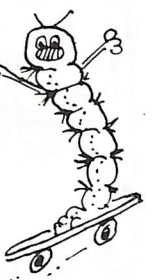
At the Sanctuary, the platypus is fed  $\frac{1}{2}$ kg. of king prawns, 3 eggs, worms and yabbies if available, per day. What would it cost to feed him for a week?



Do you know how the platypus got his long nose? According to Aboriginal legend, says Susan May - Gr. 5 Eastmont P.S. - In the Dreamtime long ago, the platypus was not often seen but one day as he was getting a drink from the billabong a Kookaburra saw him and started to laugh at him. When he started laughing all the animals from the forest came to see what all the laughing was about. When they saw him, they just stared

Then, all of a sudden the Kookaburra flew down from the gum-tree and pushed him into the billabong. When the platypus fell in his nose began to swell and swell. After a few days the swelling didn't go down. That is why he has a long nose and lives in the water.

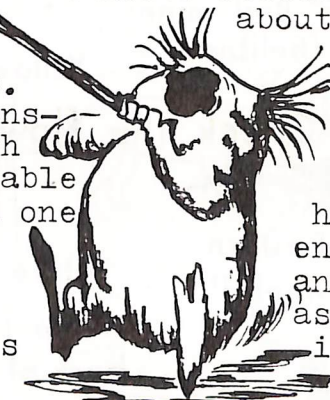
Thanks for your letter Susan. Susan wins this month's book prize.



Here's some IMPORTANT news for teachers about the EDUCATION SERVICE at Healesville.



The Education Service is provided jointly by the Education Dept. and the Fauna Park. The aim is to develop materials and programs to stimulate students to enquire about our native animals and plants and The service is divided into three sections- Infant, Upper Primary and Secondary with developing materials suitable for that level. The infants are offered a one hour session of activities designed to encourage them to observe various animals and to record these observations in such ways as drawing, painting, model-making. The emphasis in this section is on sensory stimulation to encourage the student to explore his/her environment.



Programs provided by the Upper Primary Section are perhaps a little more formal but with particular emphasis on teaching the student how to use his/her senses and observational skills and how to record data. Students and teachers are also encouraged to use this data as a source of material for other areas such as mathematics, creative writing, drama and art.

The topic or approach used is determined by the individual class teacher. We aim to provide a program which fits in with the interests and abilities of each group. We also aim to encourage teachers to view the Fauna Park as a source of stimulation in areas other than science or animal studies.11



Another aspect of the service which is worthy of consideration is to make a series of visits to the Fauna Park. This series may be spread over a term or the whole year and allows a more 'in depth' study of the operation of the Fauna Park, the animals, plants and the natural environment of our bushland. The Education Office can be contacted during school hours by phoning 059 624022.



At the Sanctuary, you will find these birds outside cages. How many can you find of each type?

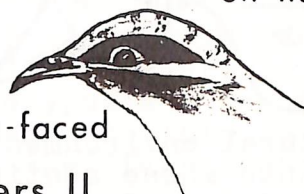
Yellow  
beak



Bell-miner  
(Bellbird)

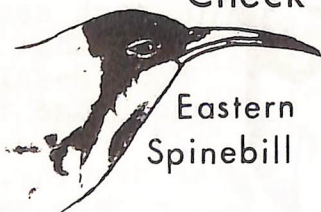
Honeyeaters

Yellow flash  
on head



Yellow-faced

Check the flowers !!

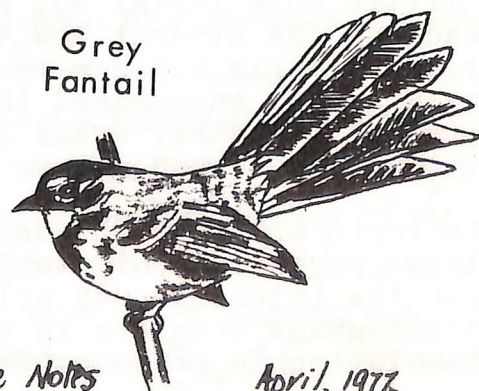


Eastern  
Spinebill

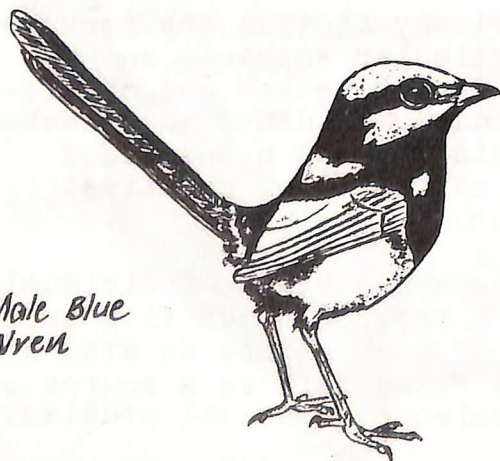
White-naped  
White flash on  
back of head



Grey  
Fantail



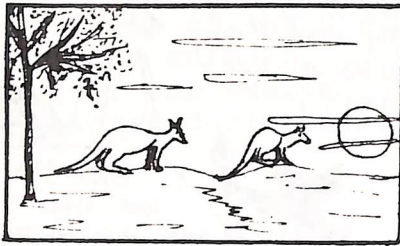
Male Blue  
Wren







## A LEGEND OF THE KANGAROO



There was once a time long ago, when a kangaroo used to run on four legs instead of two.



Then one day a kangaroo noticed some black men dancing and he felt he would like to dance too.



So he ran to the end of the line of blacks and then stood up to try to copy all their actions.



The blacks were angry when they first saw him but he looked so funny they soon began to laugh.



And so they kept him hopping and dancing on two legs for many hours while the women beat time and the men laughed. And



Ever since then the kangaroo has used only two legs when moving about; but now he has learnt to balance with his tail and though he still hops, he certainly doesn't look

## Puzzles

That puzzle last month was a mess! I'll keep this handy just in case I have to use it.



### What Am I?

• The number of dashes = the number of letters. •

1. Native dog. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Second largest living bird. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Furry animal, lives in eucalyptus trees and eats the leaves. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Eats ants and termites, has spines for protection. \_\_\_\_\_
5. White bird, black head, long curved beak. (2 words) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Furry animal with wings and eats fruit. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Bird, a large tail, named after a musical instrument. \_\_\_\_\_
8. A toothless, web-footed animal, feeds in water, lays eggs and lives in a burrow and it isn't Wally. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Bird, lives in a large flock, bright green in the wild, sometimes learns to talk. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Animal with scales, no legs, named after another animal with stripes. \_\_\_\_\_

\* Unscramble these animal names.

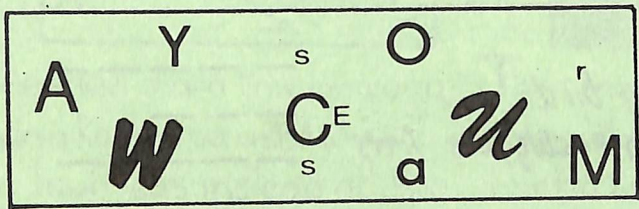
blawlay, oklao, nagnao, ssumpo, psltpavy, oorngaka, obtmaw,



# PUZZLES

Re-arrange the letters in these puzzles to find the names of animals, birds, or reptiles.

1

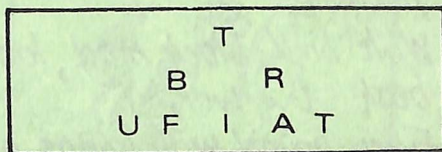


Two Flightless Birds.

Flying Mammal.

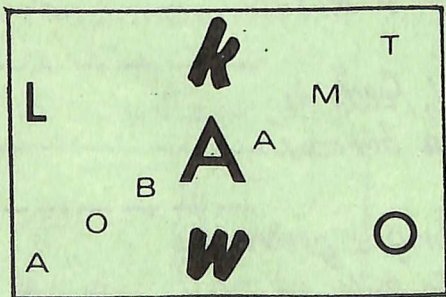
- 2 words

2



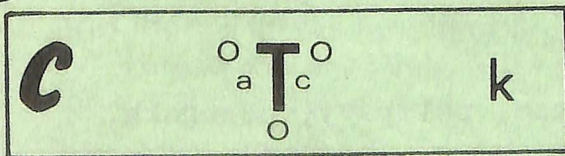
Two  
Marsupials  
without  
tails.

3



5

Bird with a yellow crest.



Three egg-layers..

- 1 mammal, 1 bird, 1 reptile.

4

