

Emblem from Tasmanian Department of Tourism.

NATURE



NOTES

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No. 1.

EDITORIAL

Welcome back to Nature Notes for 1980. This year we have gained two new people to the pages of Nature Notes and Probe. Debra Brydon will be the new editor of Probe and I will be producing Nature Notes.



Wally has returned refreshed from his holidays (in Western Australia where he visited his relatives on the Nullabor). He will again be awarding a book each month to the most interesting letter written.

No doubt many of you went holidaying, so enrich our pages by sharing your experiences and knowledge with us.

Some of you may be going on school camps. It will be the first time away from parents for a few of you. Camps are a lot of fun. You can also learn a great deal from any new area. Perhaps you could list the birds you see and hear. See if you can discover any new trees, bushes, flowers and their inhabitants. Remember to look, listen and to conserve our environment.



For the others, watch the gardens, parks and schoolgrounds around your neighborhood. Let Wally know what you have found out.

Happy hunting!

Russell Hall

Editor

P.S. Nature Notes is now sent to Switzerland and England!

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Legend Time...



Once when a small bird died the other creatures asked the crow to explain the Mystery of Death.



So the crow asked if any would agree to die and return to earth to show their new bodies.



And the crow said, "There is no mystery. Death simply takes us from this world to a better one."



Then the others replied, "How can this dead bird go to a new world while his body is here?"



The caterpillars and many other creatures agreed to do this and not eat, nor move, nor open their eyes for many months. Then their bodies became hard and cold like the bodies of the dead.

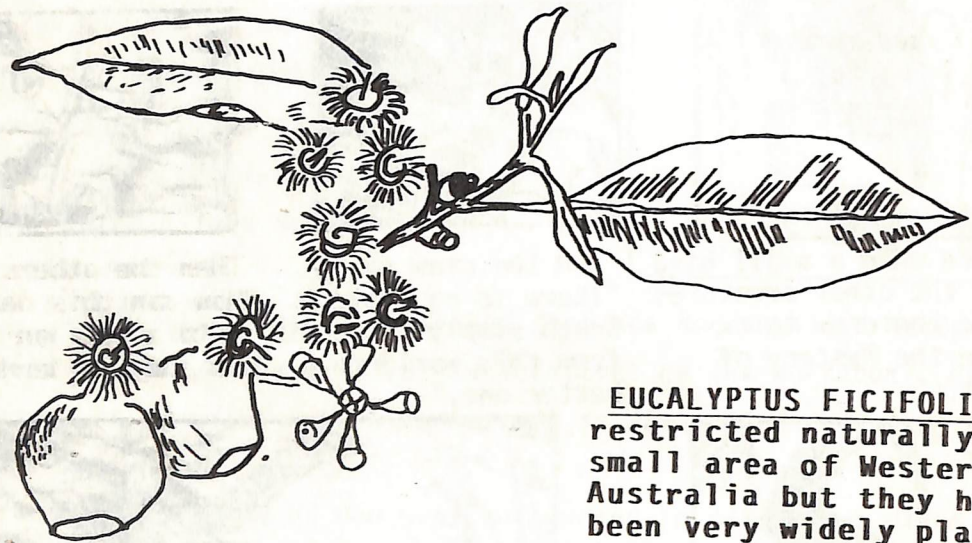


But suddenly, from each old body, sprang winged dragon-flies, moths, and butterflies, radiant with colour and heavenly beauty, bringing to all things a promise of new life and new happiness.

New Life.

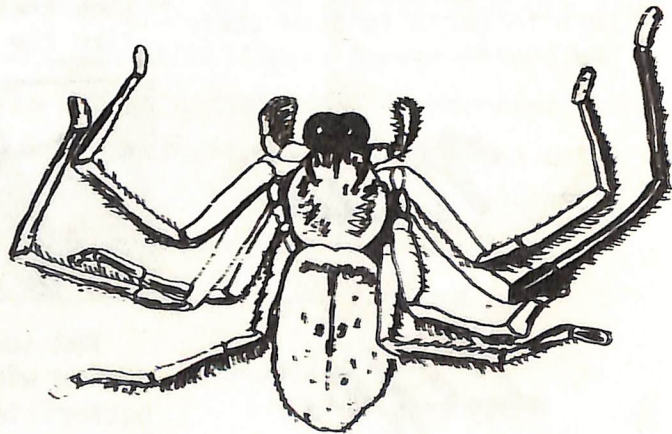
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What to look for in



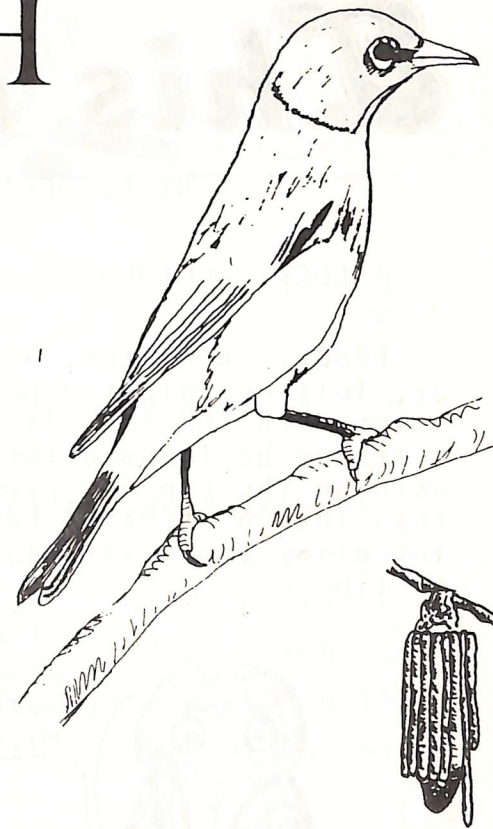
EUCALYPTUS FICIFOLIA: is restricted naturally to a small area of Western Australia but they have been very widely planted in gardens and along roads where their masses of red blossom make an attractive display in February and March.

The **HUNTSMAN** family contains many, many spiders. Some are beneficial to mankind because of the large number of moths, beetles, flies and cockroaches they capture for food. Why do we notice more spiders about this time of the year?

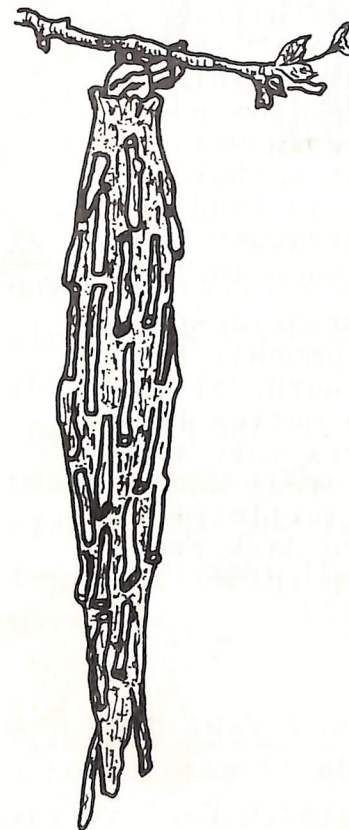


MARCH

SILVER-EYES are often seen throughout the year but are usually common about now as there are abundant insect pests for them to feed on.



SAUNDER'S CASEMOTH



RIBBED CASEMOTH



HEUBER'S CASEMOTH



Lesser Casemoth or Lictor's Casemoth....
A lictor was a Roman officer who carried an axe which was surrounded by rods or sticks. His duty was to help maintain law and order. Don't you think this an apt name?
What color is the caterpillar in the case?

There are many case or bag moths in Australia. Have you found these and others also?

This and That

BY L. DELACCA.

A LUCKY ACCIDENT.

Frederick Walton, a painter, left overnight a pot of paint with the lid off. The next day he found a tough skin on the top. He pressed this into a sheet of canvas inventing the first piece of linoleum.



Take some leaves of *Bursaria spinosa* and boil them for a minute in some water. When cool take to a bright window and look at the surface. Floating on the top is a chemical which turns ultra-violet "light" into visible blue. This information was used during the 1939-45 war to prevent sunburn and to assist in finding airmen survivors who were stranded in the sea.

**** *Bursaria spinosa*** is also commonly known as Blackthorn. It grows about two metres high. Its flowers vary from white to cream and may still be in flower now. Leaves are dark green with sharp spines on the stems.

ARTISTS THIS MONTH....Wilma Prohasky
Debra Brydon
Russell Hall

Page 10..March Edition of Nature Notes.

TRY THIS ONE.

THE OTHER HALF

Did you know that rainbows are formed in a full circle? We cannot see the whole circle because the horizon partly obscures our view. However, if you were in an aircraft flying high above the clouds you might be able to see a full circle rainbow.



'EAR THIS

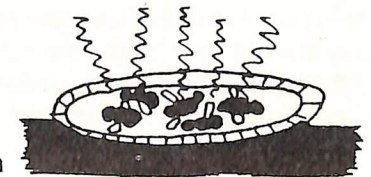
Have you ever held a large sea-shell to your ear to hear the sound of the sea? This, of course, is not the sound you hear. The shell picks up faint sounds inside the ear which are magnified within the shell, producing the "roar" of the sea.



AN UNUSUAL SNACK

Have you ever visited Mt. Bogong, Victoria's highest mountain?

The word "Bogong" comes from an aboriginal word... "bugong" which means "a moth that frequents high places". The aboriginals of this region thought the moth a tasty morsel.



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A PLATE OF
DELICIOUS FRIED BUGONGS?

..AND MORE THAN A SNACK

A house wren is able to feed 500 spiders and caterpillars to its young in one summer afternoon!



VICTORIAN TIGER?

Recently there have been several reported sightings of Tasmanian Tigers in the newspapers.

This is a carnivorous, (meat-eating), animal known as THYLACINE, meaning "pouch". It stands 45 centimetres high at the shoulder and has a body about one metre long. Across its back and the top of its tail, it has sixteen stripes altogether. Its jaws are believed to be able to open to an incredible 150 degrees. Get a protractor (it has degrees marked on it), and draw this angle. What other animals can open their mouths a long way? The tail is stiff. When pressed, it is said that it is able to hop like a kangaroo.

The Tasmanian Tiger or Wolf, once lived on mainland Australia. Perhaps it still does, although there is little or no evidence to support this idea. However, every now and then there is a sighting of a Tasmanian Tiger reported. There have been no confirmed reports of Tasmanian Tigers on mainland Australia that I know of. The last confirmed sighting seems to have been in 1930 (50 years ago!).

With the settlement of Tasmania the Tasmanian Tigers' usual hunting grounds were taken up by the settlers homes and farms. As a result the Tasmanian Tigers began eating the farmers' lambs and chickens. The farmers shot or

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poisoned them for these attacks.

In 1888 a bounty (reward), was declared and a payment of one pound (equal to \$2), was made for each Tasmanian Tiger killed.

Between 1888 and 1909 bounties were paid on two thousand, one hundred and eighty-four Tasmanian Tigers!

By 1919 they were scarce. Searches for specimens became more intense because zoos would pay highly for them.

NOT UNTIL 1938 were they given total protection! This was eight years after the last confirmed sighting of a Tas. Tiger! Clearly a case of shutting the gate after the horse had bolted.

Let's hope that the Tasmanian Tiger (shown on this centre sheet and on the cover of Nature Notes; Tasmania's emblem) is not yet extinct, and is surviving in some remote area of Tasmania.

What should be done if one werediscovered tomorrow?

What is on your state's coat of arms? WHY?

What is the symbol of your state's flora (plants and flowers) ?

Do you know of any other flowers or animals which are in danger? Should they be saved? What should be done?

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How well do you know your wildflowers?



Here are the names....so see if you can match them.

Kangaroo Grass. Grevillea. Everlasting. Pea Flower.

Eucalyptus. Fuchsia Heath. Tea-tree. Banksia.

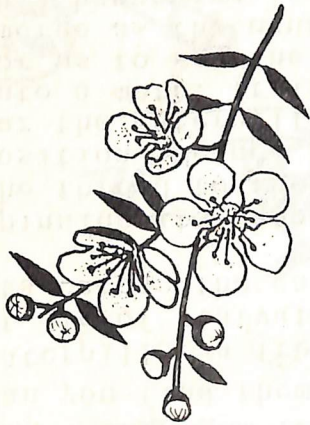
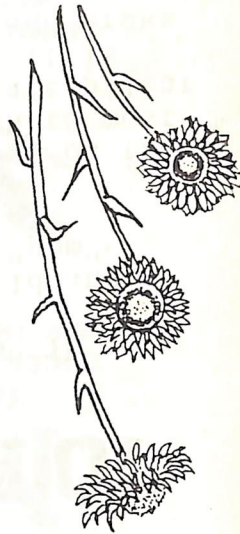
Fringed Violet. Correa.



If you look in magazines you may be
able to collect pictures of some
wildflowers.

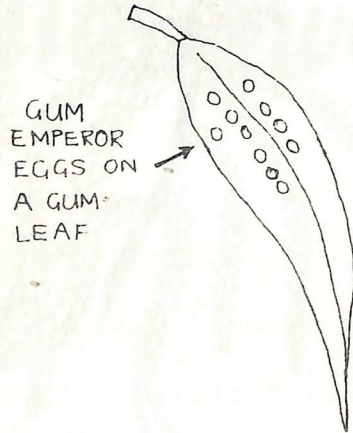
Sort them into groups and paste them in a scrap book.

"Nature Notes"...March...1980.



Gum Emperor

Note that the word "gum" is placed first because this moth belongs to the "Emperor" moths which occur throughout the world and this is the Emperor Moth which feeds upon the "gum" tree.

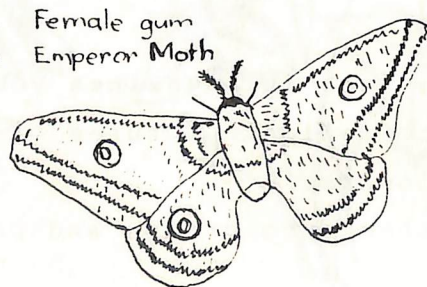


The caterpillar (larva) of this moth is probably well known to most boys and girls. When the caterpillar first hatches from its egg it is nearly black. As it feeds and grows larger it becomes green. Each segment (part) of its body is adorned with beautiful blue and orange to red tuft-like projections.

If we wish to keep the caterpillars for observation we need to know what the feed tree is. We sometimes find the caterpillar

on certain gum trees, peppercorn trees or liquid ambers. Can you find them on any others? We need to give the caterpillar a fresh leaf or leaves every day. Don't let it die of starvation. Just before it is ready to spin its cocoon the caterpillar will lose its brightness.

Try to watch the caterpillar spinning its cocoon and note how clever it is at moving the thread to the right position. We now have to wait for the caterpillar to change into a moth. It is unusual for us to see the moth emerge as the usual time for this happening is late afternoon.

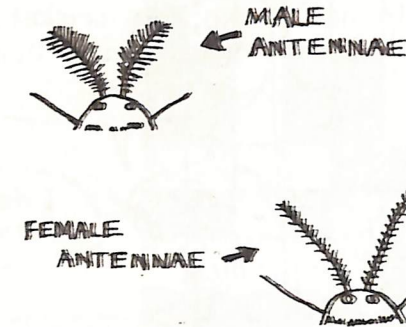


Moth.

The reason for this is probably because the moth is nocturnal and this will minimize the time when the moth may be seen in the daylight and eaten.

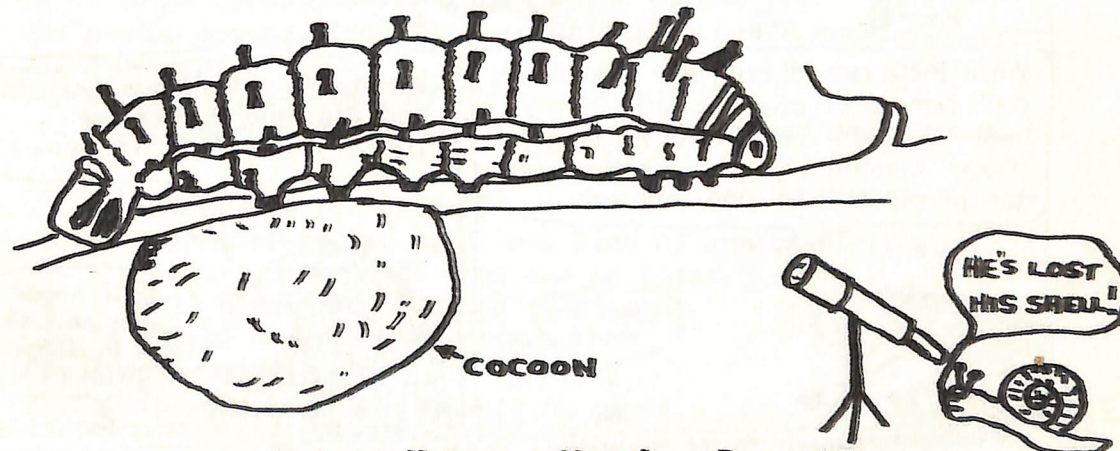
When the moth first emerges its wings are limp and creased and folded. It needs room to spread them so that they can gradually inflate and harden.

The males have beautiful antennae or feelers while the female's are quite narrow. The female moth is much larger in the body.



The female likes to lay her eggs on the feed tree. The eggs are yellowish-white and are laid in rows on the upper surface of the leaf.

In the mountainous country we may find a relative. The common Gum Emperor is bluish-green with a pale lateral stripe. The mountainous species is green with a broad pink lateral stripe.



Wally

AND THE CRICKET

Hm. I wonder what sort of a beast this is? 6 legs — so it must be an insect! 2 wings so it must be a bird!



It digs holes in the ground — so perhaps it's a reptile—or a mini-wombat!



Don't be silly! I'm a cricket!

CRICKET!?

Did you say cricket?

Are you going to the Centenary Cricket Match at Lords?

No, it is cricket! It's a game that you play.

What's that? Is it for crickets?

I don't understand.

*Well, you have two sides — one out in the field and one in. Each person in the side that's in goes out, and when he's out he comes in and the next person goes in until he's out.

Yes, that's why we dig holes — so we can go in and out.

When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out. Sometimes you get people still in and not out.

When both sides have been in and out and in and out — that's the end of the game!

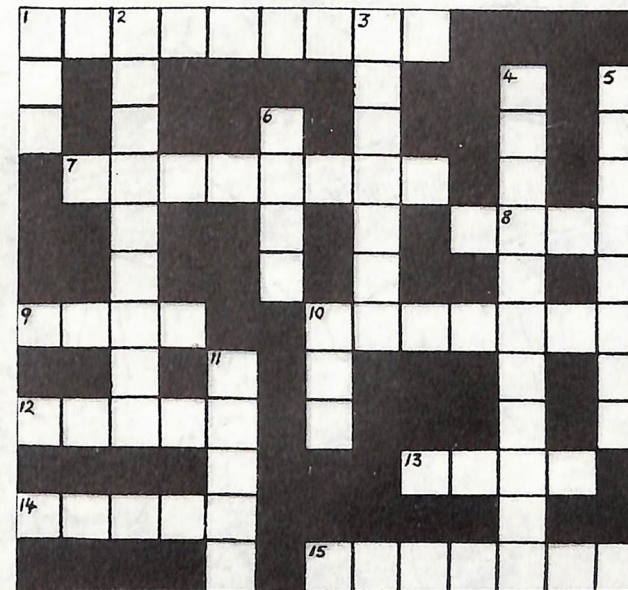
Clear as mud!

It'll never catch on, Wally. Stick to digging holes mate.

*Acknowledgements to the Marylebone Cricket Club.

WHICH ONE?

The pictures on the back page will help you to find the answers to the clues given below.

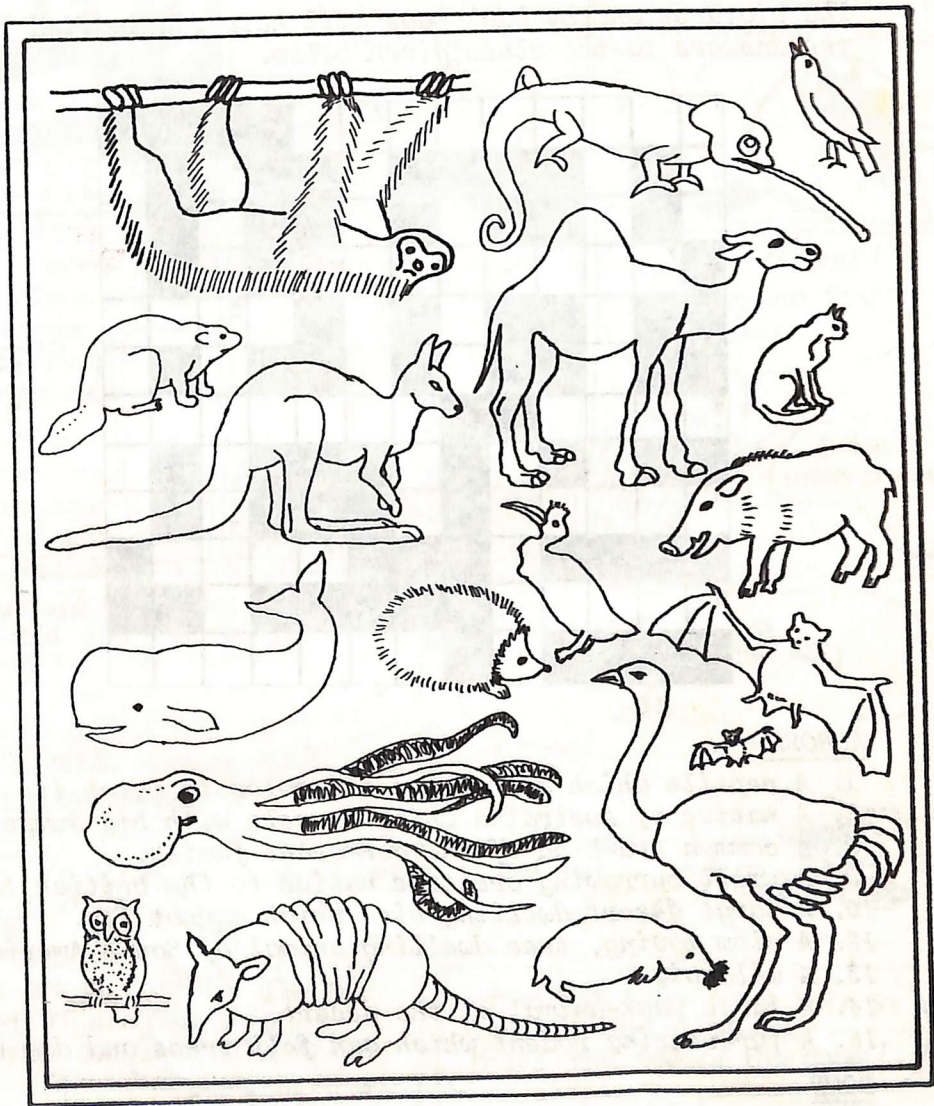


ACROSS

1. A reptile which can change its color to match its surroundings.
7. A native of Australia which travels with big jumps.
8. A common sea-bird of the cormorant family.
9. A small burrowing creature native to the British Isles.
10. A large desert dwelling bird which cannot fly.
12. A slow moving, tree dwelling animal of South America.
13. A wild pig.
14. A large pack-animal of the desert.
15. A fur-bearing rodent which can fell trees and dam streams.

DOWN

1. A feline domestic animal.
2. An animal protected by a bony kind of armour-plating.
3. A creature with eight arms and no legs.
4. A small bird noted for its sweet song.
5. An animal covered with spines.
6. Winged animals which fly by night.
10. Carnivorous bird which hunts by night.
11. A mammal which lives in the sea.



NATURE NOTES,

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