



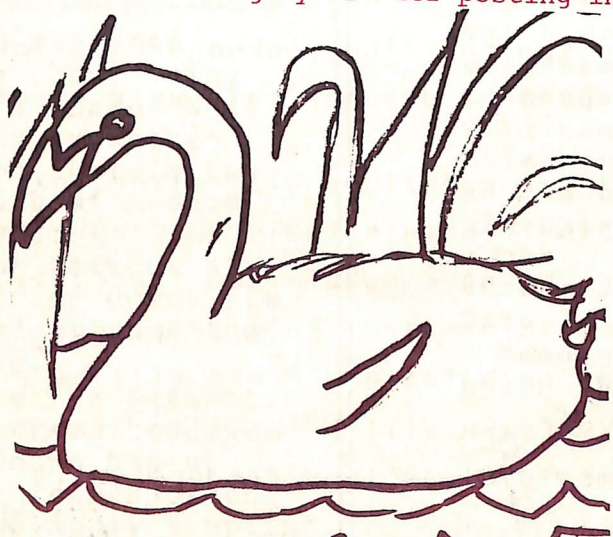
MANDY SELLERS.

NATURE NOTES



STEVEN McEVOY.

Registered as Category "B" for posting in Australia.



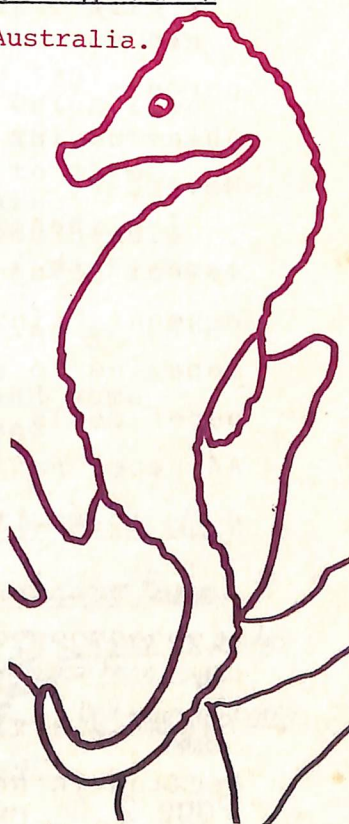
ELISSA WALSH.

VOL. 17
NO. 9

LA.



EN DEXTER.



JANET HILL.

Editorial

I must commence this editorial by correcting a mistake which appeared in last month's issue. In Daniel's letter it stated that the platypus has a pouch and is a marsupial, of course this is not true. The platypus is a monotreme; do you know what this means? Can you name another famous animal which is a member of this elite group?

All the crew at Nature Notes liked the entries to our cover competition so much we have decided to feature some more of them on this month's cover. Thanks to the boys and girls of Ringwood East Primary School, grade 4F of Lilydale West Primary School, Janet Hill and Helen Dexter. I hope I haven't left anyone out.

In our centre page there is a good spot to get your parents to take you one fine week-end day. You should be able to pick a perfect day for this walk sometime in November.

The shape of our magazines will alter next year due to not being able to obtain foolscap paper from the Government Printer. We have subsidized the costs of the magazine to a certain extent this year, due to increased paper costs. Nature Notes and Probe will be printed on A4 paper next year. We will be able to keep our prices down to the same level as they are presently.

Editor,
Russell Hall.

????????????????? QUESTION TIME ??????????????????

Starting next month there will be a question and answer section in Nature Notes. We will try to answer all your questions; so start writing!

THIS 'N' THAT

Did you know that the man who invented BLOTTING PAPER got the sack for his efforts? His vat of paper pulp refused to set so it was dumped outside. Later a workman noted that it absorbed drops of rain, so the mill management dried the pulp and sold it to the public, which acclaimed it as a splendid innovation. Meanwhile its inventor was looking for another job!

Have you ever had nightmares about being bitten by a snake? Well seeing this is snake-bite season, here's the latest and best method of treatment:

1. Keep the patient at rest and lying down. It's very important that they do not move.
2. Reassure the patient.
3. Wrap a crepe bandage over the wound and up the entire length of the bitten limb. Apply a splint.
4. Leave the bandage on.
5. Watch for failure of breathing and apply mouth to mouth resuscitation if necessary.

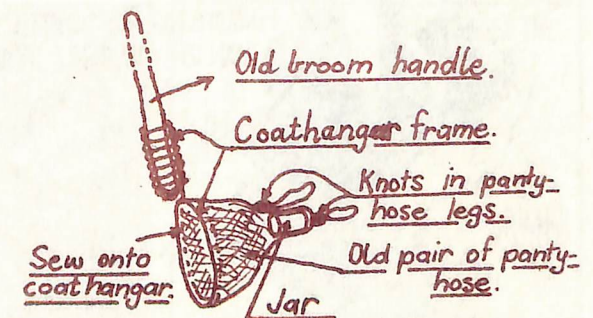
SOME VERY IMPORTANT

DON'TS!!!!

DON'T put on a tourniquet to arteries.
DON'T wipe or wash the wound. (The type of snake can be determined from the poison on top of the skin.) Don't try to kill the snake, you might get bitten.

The diagram below shows how you can make a plankton net. This is really handy if you wish to study the fascinating world of pond life. With a plankton net you can catch many tiny creatures which live in ponds. Things you will need to make this net are:

- an old broom handle
- old pair of panty-hose
- a jar
- strong string or thin wire
- a needle and some nylon thread

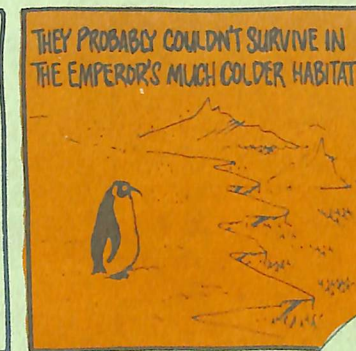
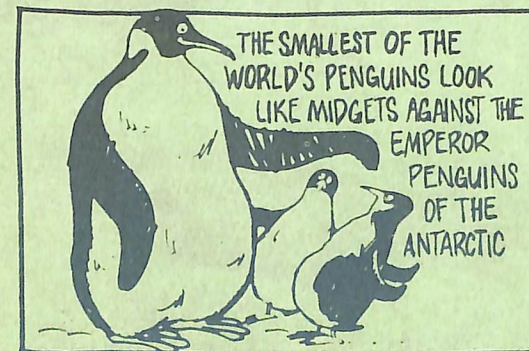
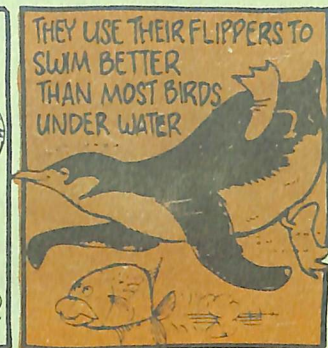
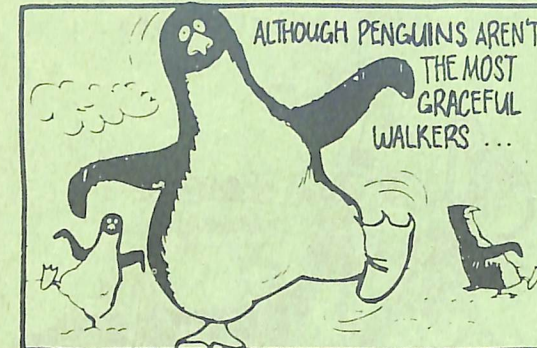
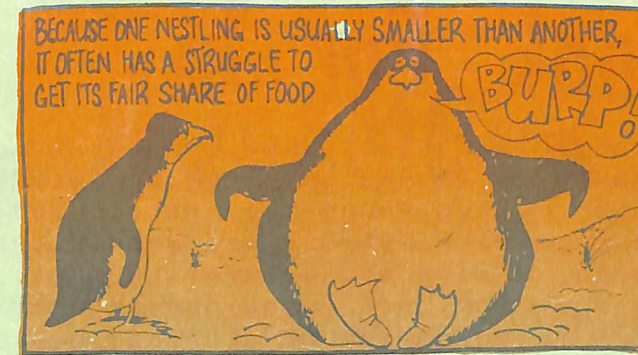
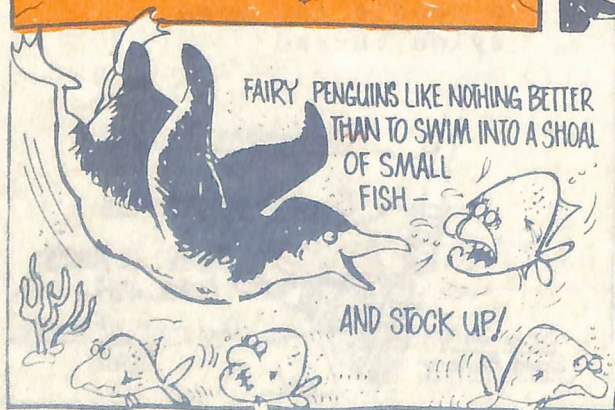
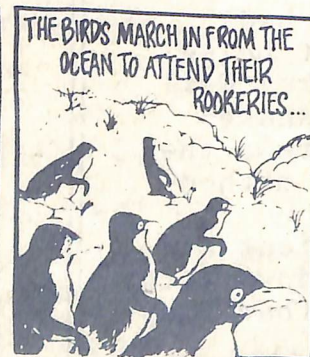


Fairy Penguin.

(Taken from
the Herald

The fairy penguin is the smallest of all the penguins in the world. All penguins live south of the equator. However, only the emperor penguin and the adelle penguin live on the Antarctic sub-continent it self.

The fairy penguin, like all other penguins cannot fly. The wings, however help it while it is in the water. How do you suppose they are useful? He is an excellent swimmer and finds it easy to catch small fish. These are partly digested and this is then brought up and fed to the baby when the penguin returns from its "fishing trip" each day. The penguin parade is world famous and well worth the visit. Adults and children love to see them waddle up the beach to their nests.



What To Look For In

The praying mantis is common in our gardens. Their camouflage and special adaptations make them the most efficient predators in the insect world. This includes the ability to be able to turn its head without moving its body. It also has interlocking spines on its front legs which enable it to hold its prey fast. Huge compound eyes give it excellent vision.

The praying mantis is so named because of the way it resembles a man praying when it is lying in wait for its prey.

The praying mantis is not very fussy about what its diet includes just about any insect. The female will even eat the male if he is not careful.

We often see the egg capsule; it is regularly seen attached to fences or tree trunks. This is nut-shaped, hard and a creamy yellow color usually.

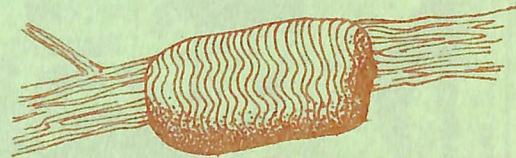
The young mantis moults several times before it becomes an adult. Its last moult reveals its newly acquired wings.

These insects make a fascinating object of study and

are easily kept as pets and relishes any type of insect. When young they particularly like aphids, and when older flies are a favorite meal. They are voracious eaters, which is good for us, because they help rid us of unwanted insect pests.



PRAYING
MANTIS.



EGG CASE.

HEDGE WATTLE (acacia armata) This wattle, which is found over most of Victoria, is a dense spreading shrub that grows between 2-4 metres high. Flowers are deep bright-yellow and grow on stalks longer than the sharp pointed leaves. It flowers from August to November.

NOVEMBER



HEDGE WATTLE (ACACIA ARMATA) - p. 64 "WILD-FLOWER DIARY" W. WADDELL.

Imperial White Butterfly

The male Imperial White Butterfly is pure white on the upper side but when you see the underside of the wings you can see a brilliant coloring of red and black. The female is just a greenish-white with black markings.

Have you found the crysalis and been able to watch the Imperial Butterfly emerge? The caterpillars feed on mistletoe. Where would they probably find this?



Don't Pull The Trigger!

Grass trigger plant may be found with its grass-like leaves and full flower spike. The flowers have

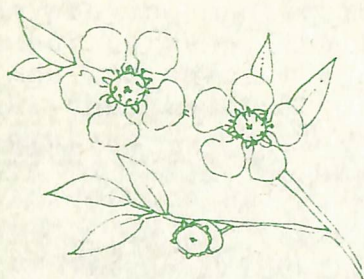
a special mechanism which springs up as shown in the drawing when a small insect lands on the

flower. You can 'spring' the trigger if you use a piece of grass. Don't spring them all, though, because the plant uses this means to get pollen so that the seeds will become fertile. What does this mean?

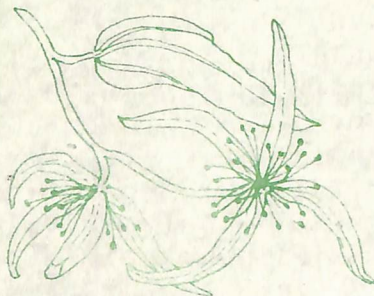


BUSHRANGERS BAY.

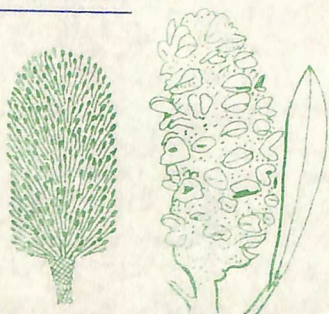
By R. Hall
Artist: W. Prohasky



COASTAL TEA-TREE.



SMALL LEAVED
CLEMATIS.



COASTAL BANKSIA.

With Spring well and truly upon us it is a good time to take the family on a walk. Hopefully the weather will be not too hot, nor too cold.

A family walk which seems to contain everything from plant and bird life, to rugged and spectacular scenery, is the Bushrangers Bay walk at Cape Schanck. (Dogs are not permitted on the track. All plants, animals, soils and other features are protected.)

Bushrangers Bay was probably named after two convicts, Bradley and Connor, who in 1853, commandeered a ship in Tasmania and ordered the captain to sail them to the mainland. They landed at the mouth of Main Creek. Later at Kilmore they were captured, taken and tried and hanged.

It would be a good idea to take a pair of binoculars, and a drink. When first setting out along the walking track keep an eye open for birds in the thickly timbered area. Just after reach-

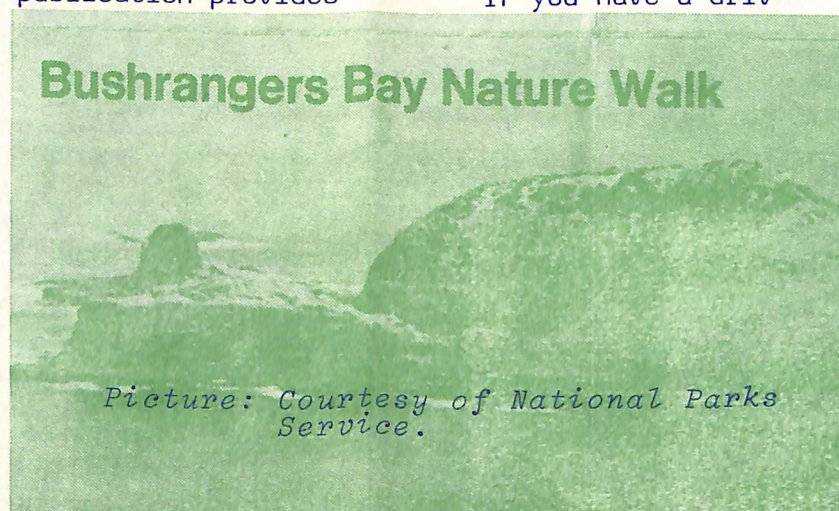
ing the open grassland there is a shelter in which you should find pamphlets which describe various points of interest to the visitor, as you progress along the coast. This excellent publication provides

heard yapping as they feed.

Some flora to look for includes coast tea-tree, coastal beard-heath and moonah. These are well illustrated on the walk sheet.

If you have a driv-

Bushrangers Bay Nature Walk



Picture: Courtesy of National Parks Service.

geological points of note, local history of the coast, as well as relevant information concerning the flora and fauna found in the area. In the banksia thicket you may see the little raven, the grey fantail, the yellow robin, the superb blue wren or perhaps the little wattle bird. Along part of the coast Fairy Penguins can be

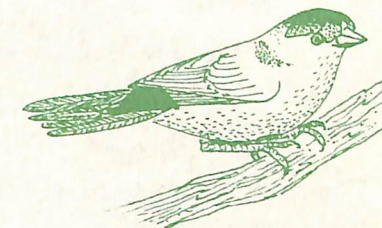
er to pick you up you could walk to the Main Creek and then follow it to the Rosebud- Flinders Rd. It was in one of the open areas where we spotted a black-shouldered kite.

A shorter walk to the actual cape is very popular, particularly with the younger ones. Walking through the scrub to

the cape you may be fortunate enough to see the red-browed firetail finch.

This little fellow has an olive-green back rump and just above it is crimson, dark brown tail, most of the upper body grey except above the eye which is crimson and it has a yellow strip on its shoulder. The top and underneath of the beak is black while the sides are red. Growing in this area is clematis glycinoides, a vigorous climber which has creamy-yellow flowers. Tanton tea-tree is here too. A shrub to a small tree size, its flowers are white.

Stairs have been used to carry visitors down to the cape area. The fragile nature of this area in respect to soil erosion is clearly seen right throughout this part. Care should be taken to ensure that no further damage is caused by tourists visiting this rugged and beautiful spot.



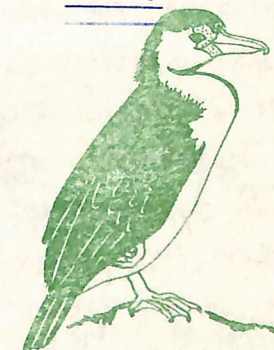
RED-BROWED FIRETAIL

FINCH.



BLACK SHOULDERED

KITE.



PIED CORMORANT.

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Eucalyptus leucorhylon v. rosea



A Yellow Gum

These birds drop in for things on wings. One of these is the shield bug. It likes to hide under bark while it sucks seeping gum.

There are also other small animals which live under the bark. These are ants and beetles.

This is a yellow gum but it is also a city, a street, a general store, a house, a pantry. It has a large population. In one afternoon you can meet the willie wagtail, swallow, topknot pigeon and white plumed honeyeater.



The Shield Bug.

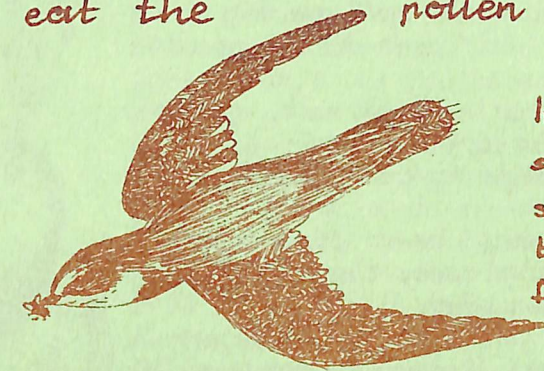
STORE

BY F. LITTLE

The branches and the leaves are also the homes and feeding places of still more creatures. As the beautiful blossoms begin to open, many little flies and other insects come to suck the nectar and to eat the pollen grains.

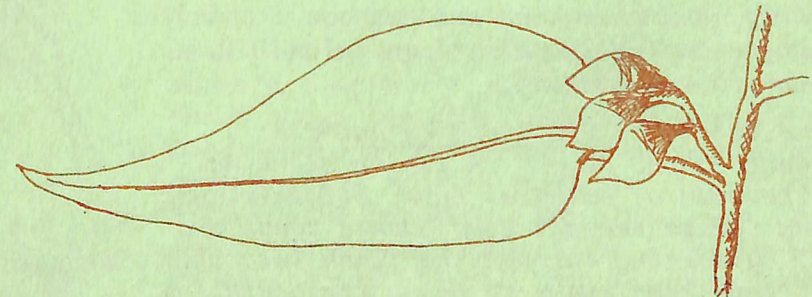


and to eat the



In flies the swallow to swallow the flies!

As the blossoms fade, the nuts ripen. This is time for parrots and pigeons to help themselves.



The Dispersal

Have you ever wondered how different varieties of trees have grown in the places you see them in the bush and how they came to be there? Quite often such trees are many kilometres from any similar types. To survive a plant must scatter its seeds far and wide or at least provide for a steady extension of area.

There are four main methods of seed dispersal.

(1) Seeds scattered by the wind:

(a) Those having hairy structures, for example willows, dandelion, thistle, bulrush to name a few. The seeds fall from the 'thistle-down'. This type need to reach the soil quickly rather than travel significant distances. Can you suggest why?

(b) Those having 'wings'...pine, ash, sycamore, elm maple, Hakea and sheoke.

(c) Those that become bulky and light such as capeweed.

(d) Those that have small seeds, for example orchids. The seed boxes open, the seeds fall out and are then blown away.

(e) Those that 'rock about'...and seeds are dropped out of the pot. Examples here are, the well known carnation, larkspur; or out of pores such as the poppy.

(f) Those that have flattened seeds, for example wallflower.

(g) Those that are carried on parts of plants that separate from the rest. These blow for kilometres. Examples here are grasses.. spinifex of beaches, and 'roly-polies' on inland plains of Australia and America.

(2) Some seeds are scattered by animals:

Some seeds can be caught on fur or clothing as in the case of Bathurst Burr, bidgee-widgee and some 'grass seeds'. Some hooked seeds and fruits, by working through the flesh into the animal, have been known to cause its death. Hooks of this nature are often 'highly perfect'. They serve to hook on to an animal and also



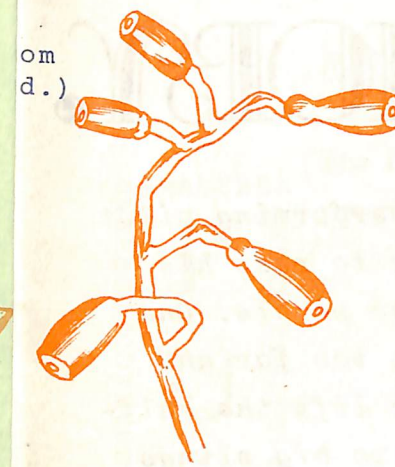
Hakea.



Squirting
Cucumber.



Dandelion.



Mistletoe.



Burr-medick.



Bathurst Burr. Coconut.



Bidgee-widgee.

Of Seeds.

-B.L.Archibald.

to catch in other objects and dislodge the seed so that it reaches the soil. Edible fruits eaten by animals...here the seeds are protected by a hard stone such as the plum. Thus the seeds are protected from chewing and the action of digestion. In much the same way and obviously for similar reasons, some seeds are protected by a core. That's O.K. of course unless the particular animal particularly likes to gnaw on the core such as humans sometimes do!

Some seeds are not easily damaged by teeth as in the case of grapes and some slippery seeds as in the case of orange seeds escape from between the teeth.

Some birds, (the feathered variety) digest and destroy seeds; others do not injure them. Sticky seeds, common in most gardens such as pittosporum, are particularly approached by birds. Some of these seeds are wiped off the bill and then germinate in the ground. Mistletoe is often spread in this manner by the attractive Mistletoe bird in Australia and by the Missel Thrush in Europe.

Other types of seeds are scattered by wandering animals when they stand on them and in doing so squeeze out the liquid mass which contains the seeds. Examples of this can be found in the gooseberry-melons in Australia and the 'squirting cucumber'.

Man himself contributes much in spreading troublesome plants. Weed seeds are present as impurities with farm or garden seeds. The plants take advantage of man's cultivation and ripen their seeds about the same time as the grain ripens. Seeds can also be spread when lodged in straw and material used in packing other goods.

It is worth investigating other ways in which seeds are spread. We have by no means covered all in this brief article. For insyance, what is the effect of water in carting seeds along? How does the effect of 'explosion' disperse seeds? Let's know what you find out?

FAMOUS MOBY.

MOBY- THE SUNBURNT WHALE.

Marineland in Floida, U.S.A. has a performing pilot whale called Moby. Between shows Moby likes to rest his "chin" on the edge of his tank and watch the people. One day in 1962 Moby leaned over the edge a bit too far and fell out of his tank! It took twenty men to lift the half-tonne whale back into his pool by putting two big slings around him. The doctors reported that Moby was alright except for a few scratches and a mild case of sunburn!

Why do whales and dolphins seem to like coming to the surface so often?

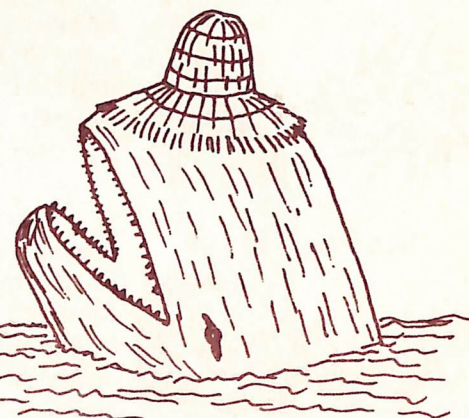
Is a whale a fish?

Whales washed up on beaches often die, why?

What is the difference between a dolphins tail and that of a fish-'s?

Where do whales and dolpins breathe from? Moby wears a sun hat now!
Whales, dolpins and porpoises have a special method of navigating. Do you know what this is?

Pilot whales have the same type of shaped head to the killer whale- a bulging forehead. Both are easily tamed in captivity. A male pilot whale grows to about 8 metres and females to about 6 metres. There is a pilot whale in Marineland on the Gold Coast, in Queensland. Perhaps if you go to Queensland on your holidays, you may be fortunate enough to see a pilot whale in action.



WORD CROCODILE.

A word crocodile is made by starting the beginning of the next word with the ending of the previous word.....For example:

FISH

SHELL

LINER

RAFT

TUGBOAT

TIGER SHARK

KELP.....etc.

This crocodile could be about the sea.

COULD YOU:

(a) Make one up about another subject?

eg. birds, animals, flowers, cars, names of towns in your state?

(b) Use the last TWO letters each time possible, to begin the next word...OPAL

ALEXANDRITE

TETRAHEDRITE...

(c) Use words all of the same length.

eg. CLAW

WAVE

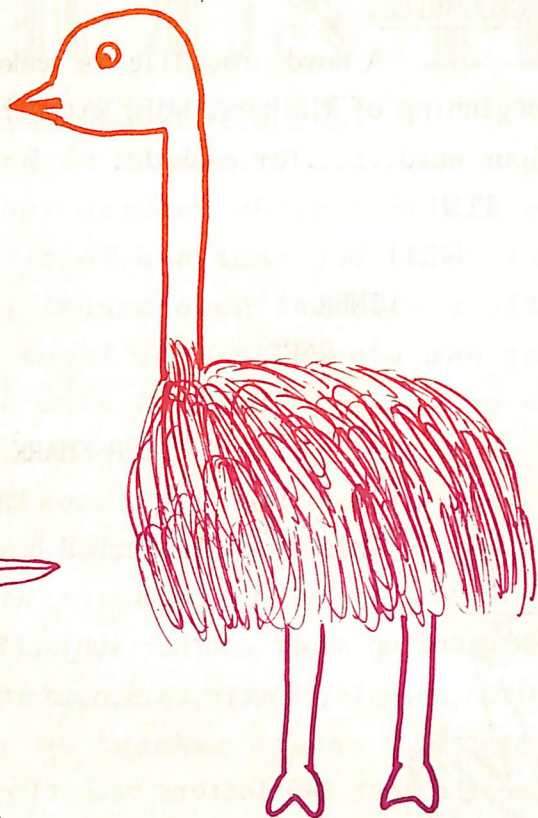
EELS...

(b and c are more difficult but very satisfying.)

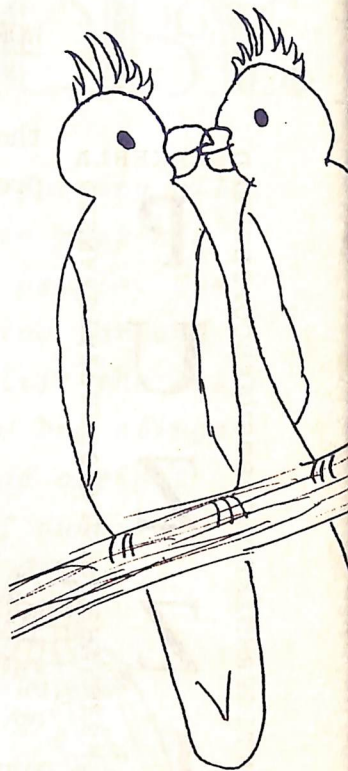
Unjumble the names of well known snakes. Answers hidden on this page



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3135.



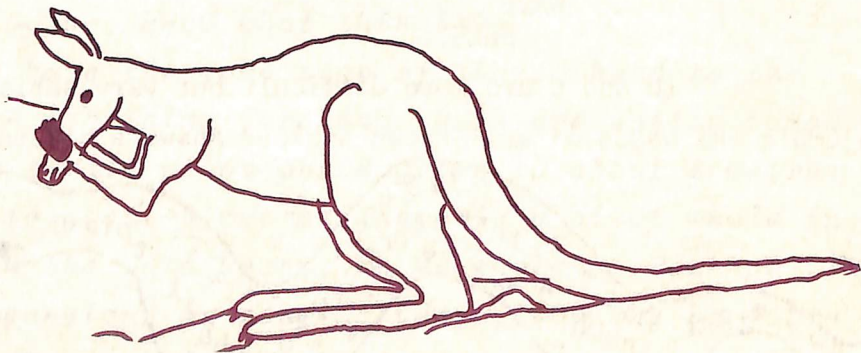
S. ELLIS



RICKY LA MORTICE



WAYNE
WILDES.



HELEN PORTLOCK.