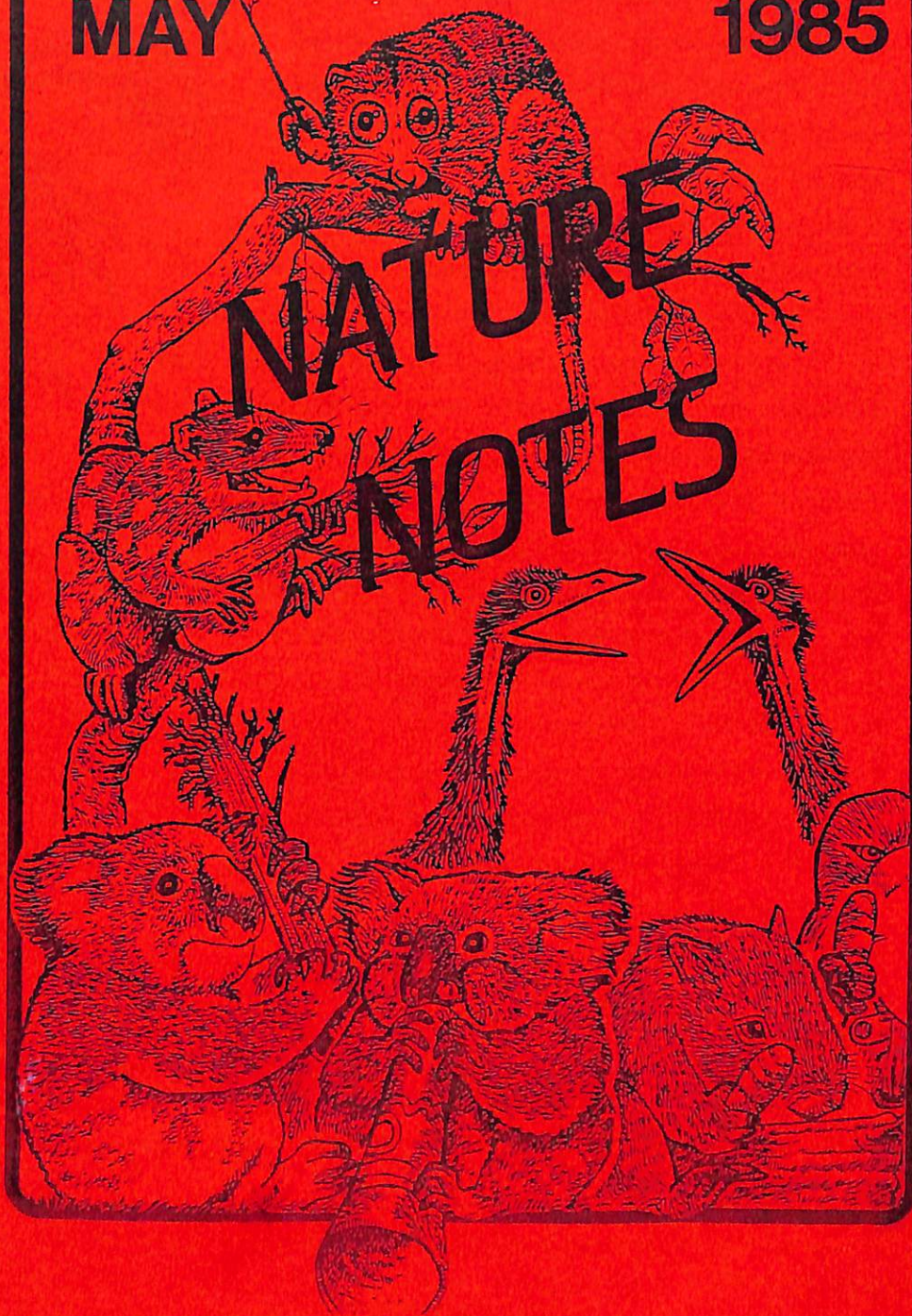


Vol. 22
MAY

No. 3.
1985

NATURE NOTES



Editor's Notes



World Forestry Day is an annual event to increase people's awareness of the value of forests. Victoria celebrated World Forestry Day on March 21st. This months edition of Nature Notes and Probe is a follow-up to that day and concentrates on the value of trees and importance of forests.

During the 150 years of European settlement in Victoria, we have changed the way we use our forests. At first, forests were exploited to meet the needs of a young and growing community with no thought for the future. Today they are managed to supply more than just wood. Forests provide homes for our unique native plants and animals, giving us clean water and providing opportunities for a wide range of recreational activities. As a result of careful management, Victoria has retained more than seven million hectares of forests. Forests and their products are essential for our well-being and by increasing our awareness of this importance we can conserve these resources.

LIST WAYS OF SAVING OUR FORESTS.

This year a farm tree - planting program began in the Western District of Victoria. It is hoped that the trees will stop soil erosion and provide shelter for the sheep.

If we could think of other ways of reusing paper we could have a positive impact on the wastage of trees.

How many different ways could a milk carton be used??

Try out some of these ideas!!

Find out how many hectares of forest are used in one issue of the **Age** newspaper.

JANICE PRESS

EDITOR

and the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands

Look around at home or school to find things that come from trees.

How Do We Use Trees?

What happens when the trees and other plants are removed ???
let's experiment...

- Find a place in your school ground or at home that has plenty of grass.
- Mark out two 30cm. squares.
- Get permission to carefully remove the grass from one area (lets pretend it was eaten by rabbits or kangaroos.)
- Pour a litre of water into the centre of each square.
- Describe what happens on the following table.



grass soil

What happened to the water as it was poured ??????		
What did the square look like after the water was poured ?????		

- Now put the grass back and gently water it so that the wind and rain will not cause more

EROSION!

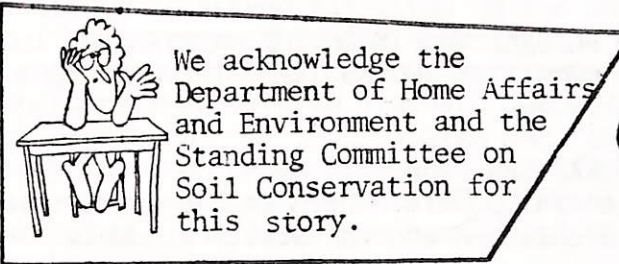
Let's Look Around

for examples of erosion at school, home or out in the country.

Describe what happened to the soil.

Think of some reasons why the erosion has happened.

What could be done to stop the erosion ?



NOW READ THE STORY OF

'Willfull Water'



Hi! I am Willful Water, Willie for short. Everything you see in nature, the trees, grasses, crops and pastures depend on me. I fall down from the sky, a terrible drop, but the plants catch and cushion my fall. They help me gently soak into the soil. If the plants are all gone, or the trees torn up, I am dashed to the ground with a terrible splash!

This breaks up the soil, and then I get carried away!

There are lots of Willies like me and when there are no plants or trees to save us, we just end up wrecking everything. When we crash onto unprotected soil we move more than a fleet of bulldozers. (But we would rather make the flowers grow.)

Have you interviewed a ranger?

WE DID AT THE HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY.

WE ASKED HELEN RUSSELL WHO IS ON THE MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE (WORKS TEAM) THE QUESTIONS WE LISTED FOR YOU.

THIS IS WHAT SHE SAID.....

1. WHO USES THE PARK?

The general public, which includes tourists, school children and university students.

2. HOW DO THEY USE IT?

Tourists use the park as a sight-seeing and picnic spot. It is also used for educational purposes by the education service and scientific studies by universities.

3. HOW LARGE IS THE PARK?

Approximately 30 hectares which includes the Coranderrk Reserve (not open to the public).

4. OUTLINE A TYPICAL DAY

" I don't have a set routine - each day takes on a different format. One morning a week I pick up supplies - chickens or fish for animal food. Mondays and Fridays are the "Gum Runs" where we collect gum leaves for the Koalas. We are permitted to take leaves from the road side or under power lines. Several times a week we send carcasses to Melbourne to the Veterinary Research Institute for autopsies. The results are sent back to the Sanctuary.

" We clear the land for new exhibits and then landscape the area. I am also involved with general maintenance, cleaning, gardening, landscaping, maintaining exhibits, clearing fire breaks etc. "

5. IS THE AREA USED FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN PEOPLES ENJOYMENT ?

Yes. There are gum plantations on Coranderrk Reserve that are going to be established as a continual source of food for Koalas. Eventually 10 acres will be planted as a constant supply.

The area is also used for scientific studies and for school children to use with the Education Service.

The plant nursery is used to propagate native plants. It is intended that the bushland around the park should be the same as that of the local environment.

6. DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH FIRE, WEATHER OR VANDALISM?

My team must attend all fires in the park. The maintenance staff are responsible for starting the water pump and opening the gates to allow fire trucks to attend. The keepers at the Sanctuary must help to evacuate people from the park and turn sprinklers on.

Heavy rain can cause problems where flooding occurs - bridges wash away, sand can be carried to areas where it must be cleared. Vandalism - children have been known to swing from trees and break branches.

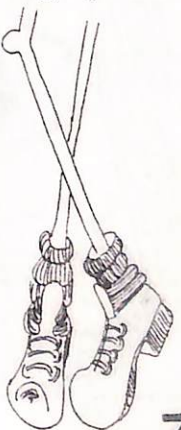
7. DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE ANIMALS ?

Sometimes we have had problems with possums and kangaroos eating plants before they are established. We must choose plants carefully for exhibits. The parrots ate every plant in their aviary. We found a solution by planting prickly varieties. The dingoes exhibit was also a problem as they would dig up the roots of the plants.

8. DO SCHOOLS USE THE AREA AND ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO HELP SCHOOL CHILDREN ?

Schools use the area extensively due to the education service here but we would also be available if called upon.

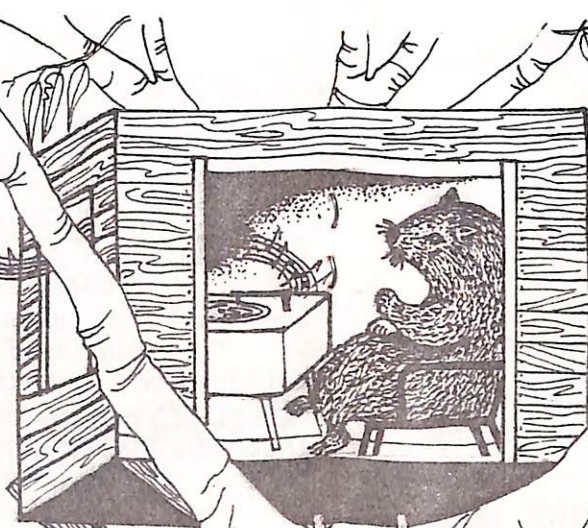
THANKYOU HELEN FOR GIVING UP SOME OF YOUR VALUABLE TIME.





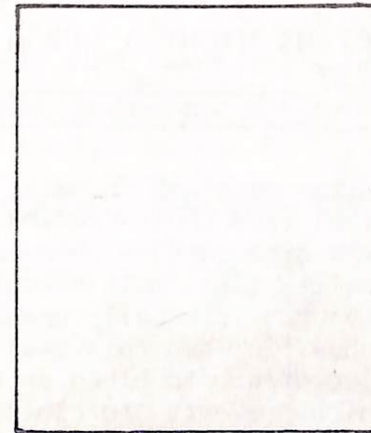
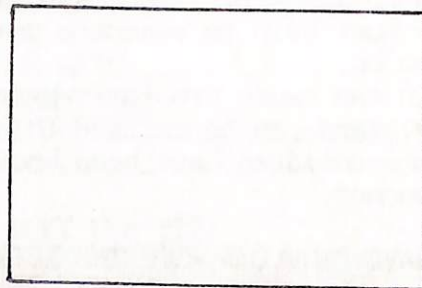
TREES AND

By W. Prohasky.



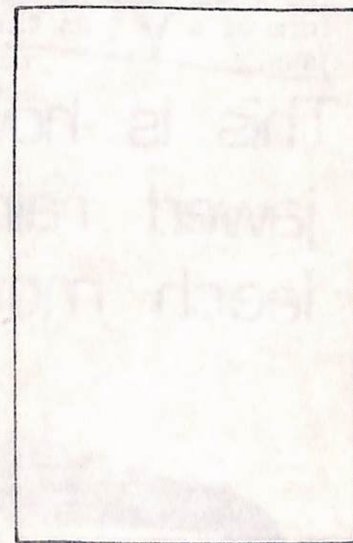
In what other ways could trees be used in your leisure time?

Draw your ideas in these spaces.



YOUR LEISURE TIME

When you have drawn your pictures, colour in the page.



LEECHES

Leeches belong to the earthworm family. Their short, black, muscular bodies have a sucker at each end. A leech can detect light and shape - can smell and has a good sense of touch which includes detecting vibrations in the ground or in the water. It can also detect temperature changes which is useful when searching for warm-blooded victims.

WHAT WARM - BLOODED VICTIMS MIGHT A LEECH FIND IN THE WET RAIN FORESTS ???? _____

Some leeches are parasites on other animals, depending for food on blood meals sucked from their victims. Leeches hang on to their victims skin with suckers then cut the skin with their tiny jaws. These are like small circular saws and act so delicately that the victim is usually unaware of the operation. Once the leech has finished this meal it releases its hold but the wound will continue to bleed as the leech has injected a substance which prevents the clotting of blood. The wound left in the victim's skin is usually shaped in the form of a Y, as this is the pattern of the three toothed jaws.

This is how the
jawed rainforest
leech moves



HERE IS SOME ADVICE IF YOU ARE VISITING WET FORESTS OR
RAINFORESTS.....

1

On well travelled tracks there is little chance of picking up a leech, particularly if you do not stand still on wetter sections of the path.

2

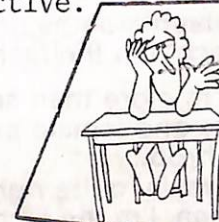
Common laundry soap lathered and allowed to dry on the skin prevents attack.

3

Wear fine-weave nylon socks over thick woollen ones to prevent the leech from reaching the skin.

4

Eucalyptus oil and commercial preparations are also effective.

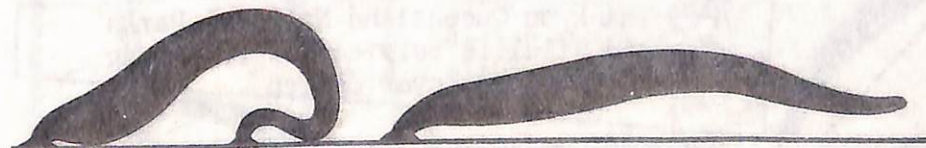


Nature Notes acknowledges "Rainforests Of Australia" by Vincent Serventy and Robert Raymond. Published by Summit Books. Thankyou for this information.

The leech takes hold with the rear sucker, reaches out with the rest of the body and takes hold with the front sucker.

It then lets go at the rear and shortens the body to bring both suckers close together.

Then the whole process is repeated.



leech song

I'm just crawling along the rainforest floor
Any likely leg I will not ignore
I'm after your blood, so you'd better watch out
'Cos once I start sucking I don't muck about
I'm the leech, I'm the leech, I'm the lech lech lecherous leech!

I'm black and I'm long with three sharp teeth
Sure get around although I have no feet
I live under leaves on the forest floor
A feed may last me eighteen months or more
I'm the leech, I'm the leech, I'm the lech lech lecherous leech!

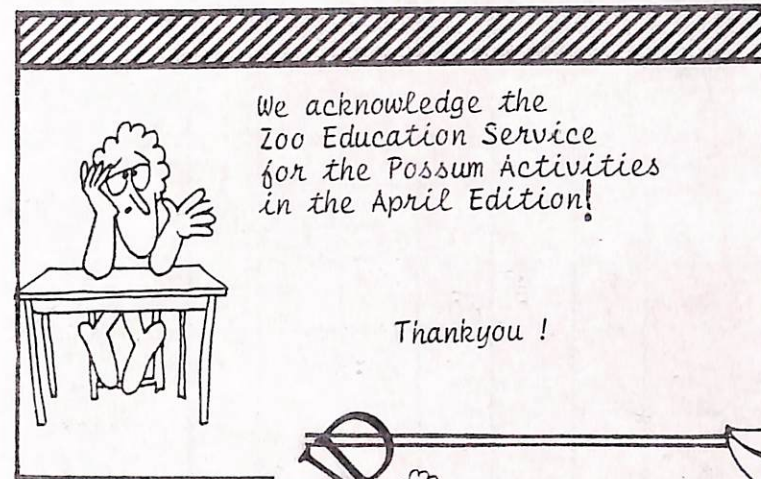
I'm more than strange, I'm more than smart
You see I have both male and female parts
They call me an hermaphrodite
Now that's not rude it's really quite right
I'm the leech, I'm the leech, I'm the lech lech lecherous leech!

Now some of you may think I'm bad
But you don't know, the problems I've had
I have a vital role to play
A bird ate my mate the other day
I'm the leech, I'm the leech, I'm the lech lech lecherous leech!

So next time you're on a forest walk
And you see a leech, please don't balk
Please have respect for my own race
In this natural world I have a place
I'm the leech, I'm the leech, I'm the lech lech lecherous leech!



Thankyou Queensland National Parks
and Wildlife Service for this song
and for our cover design.



We acknowledge the
Zoo Education Service
for the Possum Activities
in the April Edition!

Thankyou !



Thankyou Allen Baird
School Forestry Officer
Maroondah Region
for your contributions
to this months edition.

Subscription Form

SEND ORDERS TO: "NATURE NOTES"
P.O.BOX 248.
HEALESVILLE.
3777

Phone: 059 62 3422

NAME: _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

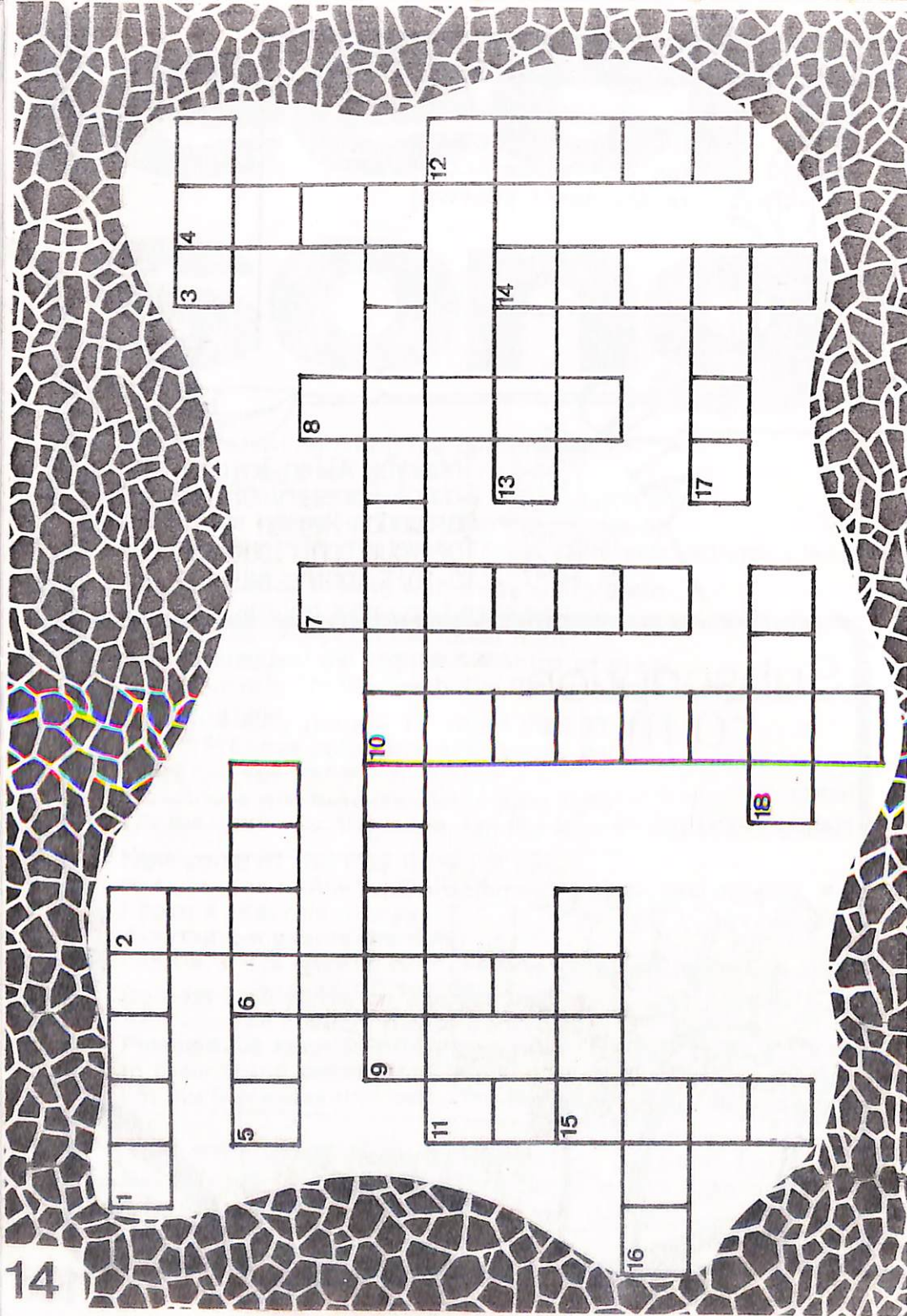


I WISH TO ORDER:

☐ subscriptions of Nature
Notes for grades 4,5 & 6 at
\$3.00 for 10 issues.

☐ subscriptions of Nature
Probe for grades 2 & 3 at
\$2.00 for 10 issues.

DISCOUNT FOR ORDERS OVER 50 !!
Nature Notes \$2.60 for 10 issues.
Nature Probe \$1.60 for 10 issues.



ACROSS

1. Wombats like to chew on this part of a tree.
3. A large bird that rests under the shade of a tree.
5. A black and white bird that builds its nest in a tree.
9. A nocturnal animal that pretends to be part of a tree during the day.
13. An animal that glides from tree to tree (a sugar-)
15. A caterpillar is often found eating a -----
16. A bird that often sleeps in a hollow.
17. A bird uses this part of his body to help it to fly to a branch of a tree.
18. Insects often hide under this part of a tree.



Around the tree



2. Some gliders enjoy eating this part off a tree.
4. A night winged insect that often hides under the bark during the day.
6. This reptile climbs trees to reach/eat eggs and baby birds.
7. This ground nocturnal animal enjoys eating roots and other parts of a tree.
8. This animal eats only eucalyptus leaves.
10. This animal hangs upside down to sleep and enjoys eating fruit.
11. Part of a tree where possums often sleep.
12. Goanna claw marks can often be found on this part of a tree.
14. A dog like animal that often rests under a tree during the hot part of a day.

DOWN

TEACHERS ~ An Un-Nature Trail

Place 20 small objects not natural to the school forest (e.g. a pen, a rubber band, a confectionary wrapper, a can, an orange) amongst the vegetation along a section of track in the school forest.

The objects you choose should be placed at various levels, e.g. ground, eye, above eye level. Objects may be placed subtly e.g. rubber band in overhanging branches.

Send students along the trail in pairs at about 1 minute intervals to observe and note as many of the things as possible that are out of place. Send the groups back along the trail if necessary.

Use this activity as an exercise in observation skills or as an introduction to management activities to rid the school forest of unnatural objects like litter and weeds.

FROM ~ "OUTDOOR EDUCATION ACTIVITIES AND GAMES R-7"
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.



CHILDREN

What did your school
do for

arbor week?

Write and Draw what happened.

Healesville Sanctuary Education Service
P.O. Box 248 Healesville 3777 PH. 059 62 3422

*Nature Notes is a Maitland Region Publication.
Collected and Packaged at Ringwood East Primary School.*