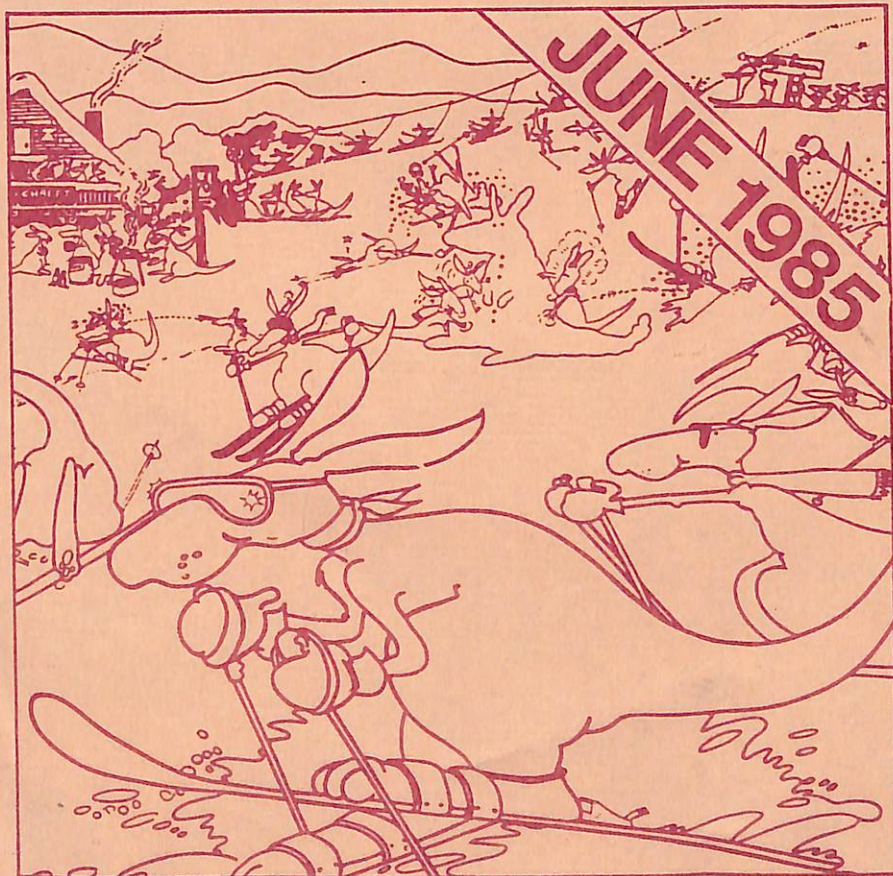


NATURE NOTES



VOL.22

NO.4.

Survival kit for **WINTER**



umbrella
raincoat
snowman

scarf and hat
hot soup
gumboots

gloves
warm clothes
hankies

foods

- make a winter lunch e.g. soup & hot rolls
- which fruits and foods are available in the shops and markets during winter only, which are available all year around?
- look at glass house foods, warmer areas of Australia.

animal life

- look at your pets and see how they prepare for winter
- study which animals hibernate
- what do the birds do during winter?

vocabulary

- make a chart of winter words and adjectives describing winter happenings

winter poem

Tramp, tramp, tramping
through the rain.
Splash, splash, splashing
through the puddles once again

All the splishing and splashing,
and slooshing, and sloshing,
outside in the rain today.

Tramp, tramp, tramping
through the mud,
squelch, squelch, squelching
through the slush.

All the sliding and slipping
and oozing and dripping
outside in the weather today.

wind trail

- Move to different points in the schoolground and note which things are affected by the wind.
- Use adjectives to describe each, e.g. litter, trees, washing, blinds, grass, leaves, paper, tumbling, rippling, cascading, billowing etc.

clothing

- look at winter fabrics, winter clothing, where the fabric and dyes originate e.g. wool - sheep goloshes - latex from rubber trees

music

- Songs - Jack Frost
"Come This Way Last Night"
- create winter music

winter game

Where is the ice ?

An ice cube is placed in a tiny plastic bag, and secretly passed around a circle of players, while music is played or sung. When the music stops a player in the centre of the circle, tries to guess who has the ice cube. If he guesses correctly, the one holding it goes to the centre, and becomes "it".

- Think of as many words as possible with 'ICE' in it.

weather

- identify different aspects of weather
- different variations around our country
- effect of weather on environment e.g. farms, crops, animals, birdlife
- list colours of winter weather

collections

of winter things, keep a "feelie bag" in which children put their hands and identify the contents.

plant life

- winter wattles, orchids & heaths
- study trees which have lost their leaves
- look at winter months in Wildflower Diary by Waddell
- look at difference between deciduous and evergreen trees, collect samples
- plant some bulbs in the classroom.

art activities

- use a fallen twig to paint with
- make a collage of clouds with newspaper
- a winter frieze of people with umbrellas
- cut out patterns of snowflakes
- do some knitting or weaving
- make a paper mache snowman
- try painting with water colors only
- make a winter alphabet



Nature Notes acknowledges the Gould League of Vic. for these activities.
THANKYOU.

Life
in
a

PUDDLE.



If you look into a small puddle you may only find mud. Larger puddles which can last for many weeks will probably have thousands of animals swimming around in it. The puddle does not need to be as big as a dam to have this many animals because most of them are very small.

To find these animals you will need a white dish or plastic container. Find a large puddle. It will need to be a few weeks old and in a grassy area. REMEMBER Mum will not like you playing near drains or gutters. Dip the container gently into the puddle making sure you don't stir up the mud. You only need a centimetre of water in the bottom. Hold your dish very still. Watch for little tiny dots whirling around in the water.

THESE ARE YOUR PUDDLE ANIMALS !!!!!

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND SOME OF THESE ANIMALS
A magnifying glass will be useful here !



mosquito pupa larva
These wriggle to the surface for air.



tadpole



water strider
Runs on water.



A white speck.
water flea



seed shrimp



Looks like a black speck.
The lecherous leech has returned!!!!



If there is a pond near by (better go with an adult) you will find many more animals.

You may like to make your own dip net using a coat hanger and a pair of panty hose.

When the ponds and puddles dry up all the animals die. But, before they die, they lay many eggs which will lie in the earth and hatch when the puddle fills up next time.

YOUR TEACHER MAY BE ABLE TO GET A COPY OF "FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES" BY RALPH MILLER FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. (Gould League of Victoria.)

WALLY

Wally Wombat finds out which of his animal friends go into hibernation each winter.

"It says here that bats and snakes and blue-tongue lizards go to sleep for the winter."



Hmm... that's very interesting!

"I've learned that reptiles, like snakes and lizards, rely greatly on the warmth from the environment. Internally reptiles differ from birds and animals. This has a big influence on their behavior and capabilities."



"I bet that there's a couple under those rocks!"

going to the shade, or rock crevice when they become too hot"



LEARNS

"These bats look nice and comfortable. Not many insects left to eat in winter."



ABOUT

"They spend a lot of time basking in the sun, until they get warm..."

"Hello Ernie, I'm glad you called. I wonder what the word TORPOR means?"



"Just a minute Wally, I'll look it up in the book....
TORPOR MEANS BEING IN A SLEEPY SLUGGISH STATE"



"See Wally, I roll myself into a ball, it's not a true hibernation I just go into a torpid state for several weeks each winter."



"I become torpid too."



"really I'm a Pygmy Possum... and I'm as small as a rat."



"The tiny Burramy is found on the high plains near Mt Hotham in Victoria."

"The Fat-tailed Dunnart can become torpid. They often huddle together in communal nests to conserve energy by sharing body heat."



AND

TORPOR

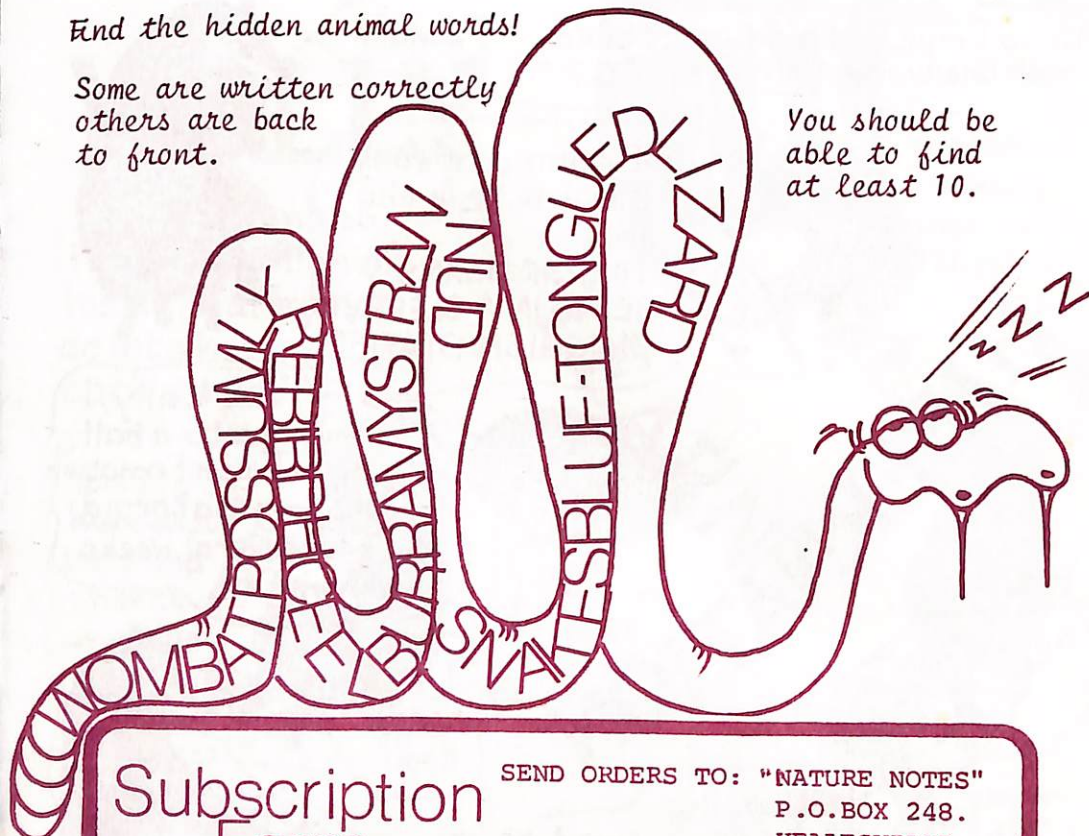
Oh well, now I'll try getting into a torpid state for this year's winter!



Find the hidden animal words!

Some are written correctly
others are back
to front.

You should be
able to find
at least 10.



Subscription Form

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

Phone: 059 62 3422

NAME: _____

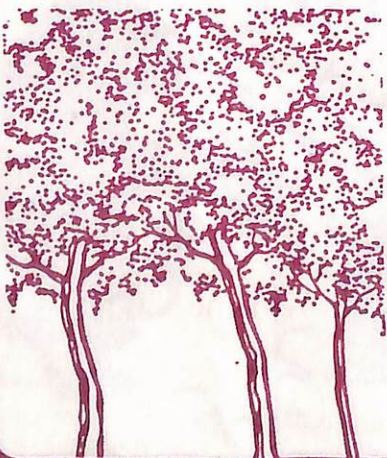
POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

I WISH TO ORDER:

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

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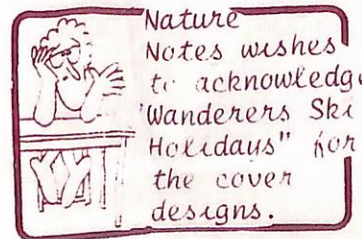


IN THIS PUZZLE

is the name
of an animal that
was thought to be extinct
but was later found by a naturalist.
It was living beneath the snow.

- ☐ 1st letter in BAT.
- ☐ 2nd letter in QUOLL.
- ☐ 3rd letter in LYREBIRD.
- ☐ 4th letter in CURRAWONG.
- ☐ 5th letter in TASMANIAN DEVIL.
- ☐ 6th letter in POSSUM.
- ☐ 7th letter in WATER PYTHON.
- ☐ 8th letter in REPTILES.

Write the animals name here →



Nature
Notes wishes
to acknowledge
'Wanderers Ski
Holidays' for
the cover
designs.

Turn to the next page to read
about this interesting animal. →

Colour this page...



HERE IS A GUIDE

Brown fur.

Light brown stomach.

Black eyes.

Dark grey around the eyes.

THE TALE OF ...

Burramys

THE MOUNTAIN PYGMY POSSUM.

Many Australian animals were **extinct** before the first ships arrived from England. We know about these extinct animals as their bones were discovered in the earth. These bones are called **fossils**. One set of fossils found last century was of a mouse size possum. It was called **burramys** and was thought to be extinct.

In 1966 two skiers staying in a hut in the cold wintery snow of Mt. Hotham found they had company. Sharing the hut was a fluffy little animal just larger than a mouse. It didn't look like a mouse, although it had brown fur. Darker fur on the face made it appear as if it had two black eyes. The tail was long and skinny but it could grip and curl around objects.

The skiers didn't know what they had found so they showed it to the experts who recognised the animal as Burramys (a type of **pygmy possum**). They were very excited at the discovery and even sent telegrams to their mates overseas. It just goes to show that anyone going to a little trouble in finding out more can help in a great discovery.

In winter the cheeky Pygmy Possums sometimes visit ski lodges but mostly they live between the layer of snow and the earth. It isn't as cold down there as it is on the top of the snow. It sounds like someone living in an igloo! These little possums only live in the Victorian and N.S.W. alps where snow falls every year. It is not surprising that Burramys, the Mountain Pygmy Possum, took so long to discover.

Perhaps you could find out what they eat and how they get **FOOD** when under the snow layer.

by Bob Winter

WELCOME TO THE AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE CLUB GENERAL INFORMATION



WELCOME TO OUR CLUB

The Australian Wildlife Club is a new club which has been formed by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and World Wildlife Fund Australia.

The purpose of the Australian Wildlife Club is to bring together young people who are concerned with making this Earth a better place to live. Being an Australian Wildlife Club member means caring for the environment by doing something to conserve it and the plants and animals which live on this Earth.



OUR CLUB LOGO...

The 'numbat' featured in the Australian Wildlife Club logo is one of Australia's endangered native animals. If the right steps are not taken to conserve the natural environment of the numbat, it may become extinct.

By helping to care for the world we share, we can protect animals such as the numbat and make sure they are not lost forever!

THE AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE CODE:

It is important to care for the world we share. As an Australian Wildlife Club member you will receive your Certificate of Membership and Receipt which you should sign as acknowledgement that you will follow the Australian Wildlife Club code by:

- Learning to care for our environment;
- Working to conserve our

endangered plants and animals;

- Helping to conserve the native habitats of plants and animals;
- Not littering our environment;
- Recycling waste products;
- Studying nature near your home;
- Telling others about the importance of caring for the world we share.



The clearing of forestland could lead to the Numbat becoming extinct.

Photo: H & J Beste

THE NUMBAT

The numbat is only found in the south-west of Western Australia where it lives in wandoo eucalypt woodland. The numbat is a marsupial and like kangaroos, koalas and wombats, it suckles its young inside a pouch. Numbats breed once a year and the young are born between early January and late March. These young numbats feed independently of the mother by October but do not leave the mother's care until November or December.

The numbat has a long, mobile and sticky tongue which it uses to obtain termite food. Its dependence on termites restricts the numbat to areas where these are abundant.

Since European settlement of Australia, populations of the numbat have declined as a result of changes to their environment through fire, agriculture and predation by foxes. WWF Australia is currently sponsoring a project to help ensure that the numbat is conserved for future generations.

INFORMATION KIT THE AWC

In your Australian Wildlife Club (AWC) Information Kit you will find:

- Your personal Certificate of Membership & Receipt (Don't forget to sign your Certificate-of Membership)
- An AWC badge
- An AWC sticker
- An AWC poster
- Your first copy of the Club Newsletter and an Earth Watch Programme TV Storyboard

The Australian Wildlife Club's Information Kit.



ABOUT THE AWC CLUB NEWSLETTER

The Australian Wildlife Club Newsletter is a quarterly newsletter for club members. It is written by environmental advisors and club members — that's where you come in! We would like you to contribute to the Australian Wildlife Club Newsletter by sending us short articles (no more than one page of writing) on topics which you think would

be of interest to other Club members! Here are a few topics you might like to write about:

- Interesting animals you have observed;
- Worthwhile environmental activities you may know about, e.g., council tree planting, cleaning up rivers, special projects in your local area to save wildlife;

- Environmental problems you have observed, e.g., pollution, litter, energy wasting.

- A local Earth Watch station.
- A local Earth Project.

If you have an article for the Newsletter, send it to:

The Editor
Australian Wildlife Club
GPO Box 528
SYDNEY, NSW 2001

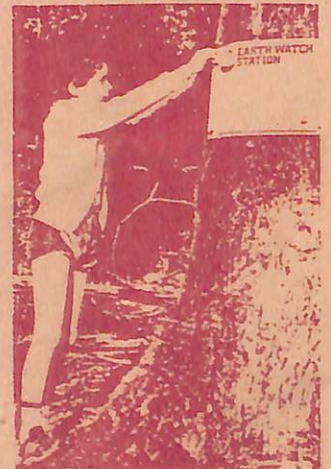
EARTH WATCH STATION

An Earth Watch Station is a special place in your neighbourhood which you and your friends would like to care for and protect. It is a place which you think is important

and should be preserved. If you are interested in setting up an Earth Watch Station, write to us and we'll send you an Earth Watch Station Kit.



"Removing rubbish like tin cans and paper is one of the first steps to setting up an Earth Watch Station," say Mathew and Peter Brown from Turramurra, Sydney.



The Earth Watch Station sign spells out the objectives on the project — one of the many activities that members of the Australian Wildlife Club can get involved in.



"AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE CLUB" AWC AWARDS

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Yes, I would like to become a member of the new Australian Wildlife Club for one year. I understand this will cost \$5.00 per year and I will receive an Australian Wildlife Kit comprising:

- A Certificate of Membership
- An Australian Wildlife Club Badge
- An Australian Wildlife Club Sticker
- An Australian Wildlife Club Poster
- An Australian Wildlife Club Newsletter (quarterly)
- An Earth Watch Programme T.V. Script/Storyboard

Please find enclosed a cheque or money order made payable to "World Wildlife Fund Australia" for \$5.00 being payment of my membership to the Australian Wildlife Club.

SURNAME.....

CHRISTIAN NAMES.....

I WAS AN EARTH WATCH CLUB MEMBER: YES OR NO.....

MY EARTH WATCH CLUB NUMBER WAS.....

ADDRESS.....

POSTCODE.....

DATE OF BIRTH: / /19 SEX.....

SCHOOL.....

CLASS.....

ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS.....

GENERAL INTERESTS.....

RETURN TO:
AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE CLUB
GPO BOX 528
SYDNEY, NSW 2001

Winners of our special Australian Wildlife Award may spend a day in a National Park with a ranger. On this occasion it was Sonny McNamara's lucky day! He spent the day with National Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger Bob Crombie helping to study the effects of pollution in the Hacking River, Royal National Park, N.S.W.



The Australian Wildlife Club will be presenting awards to Club members who have been outstanding in carrying out their Earth Care activities. There will be two major awards given — the Australian Wildlife Club Member of the Month and our special Australian Wildlife Award. Winners of these Awards will be featured in each of our quarterly Club newsletters. There will also be a special Award for the Australian Wildlife Club Member of the Year!

HOW YOU CAN HELP...

Become an active member of the AWC by sending in articles for the Club's Newsletter or news items for the Bulletin. Establish an Earth Watch Station or encourage your friends to become members of the Australian Wildlife Club.

If a friend would like to become a member of our Club, cut out the coupon and give it to them. Your friend will need to fill in the details and forward a cheque or postal order for \$5.00 as a membership subscription to the AWC.

Or you may wish to enrol a friend as a member of the Australian Wildlife Club as a birthday or christmas gift. Send the application coupon together with payment to:
Australian Wildlife Club
GPO Box 528
SYDNEY, NSW 2001

Healesville Sanctuary Education Service
P.O. BOX 248 HEALESVILLE 3777 PH. (059) 62 3422

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