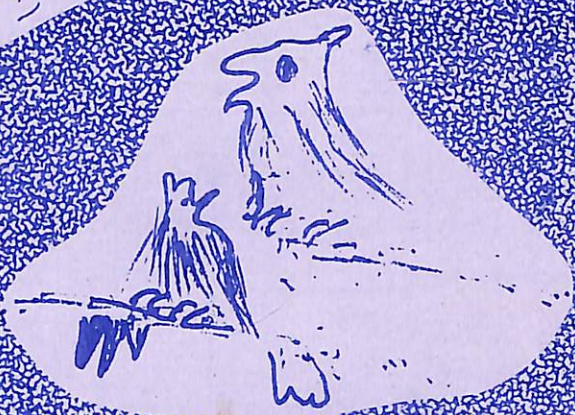
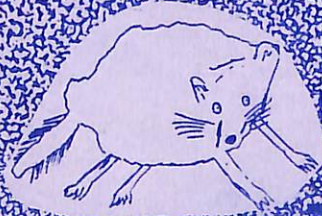


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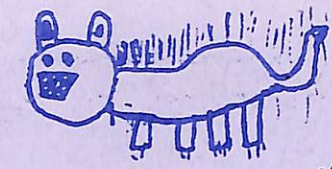


# Picture note



JULY 1983





# EDITORS PAGE

HI.

The environment is all around you and conservationists are people who want to protect the environment. This months edition of Nature Notes and Probe asks how you feel about the damage to our environment and what you think we should do about it.

We look at some of Australias endangered animals (including Dinosaurs which are already extinct.) We also include information about a childrens conservationists club.

Can you recognise the endangered animals on our front covers? These were drawn by the grade one children at Waldau Primary School in Doncaster.

JANICE PRESS  
EDITOR



WHAT TO LOOK FOR AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, *the meaning of some of these words before you start !!!!*

## DISCOVERER'S DIARY

Why don't you start you own diary for your favourite place?



JUNE  
JULY

**BEACH:** Gannets diving off-shore; Black Cormorants in large flocks.  
**BUSH:** Coral fungus on moss; first nodding greenhoods and rooting shank toadstools.  
**GARDENS:** Woolly Bear caterpillars; Yellow tipped Pardalotes arriving from Tasmania

**BUSH:** Tall greenhoods; Early Nancy in flower; Earth star fungus.  
**GARDENS:** First flowers on Cootamundra wattles  
**FARMS:** Plovers lay eggs; herons flocking.



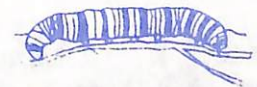
**BEACH:** Dog-fish egg-cases; cuttlefish egg-masses and prion seabirds wash up after storms.  
**BUSH:** Boletus toadstools in wet litter; Billy-buttons and Box Mistletoe in flower.  
**GARDENS:** Blackbirds feeding on pittosporum berries.



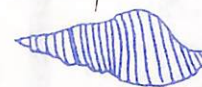
**BUSH:** Flame fungus, inky-caps, purple cortinar. Long-leaved Wattle in flower.  
**GARDENS:** Painted Acacia moth larvae; hardenbergia and Jonquils flowering.  
**FARMS:** First lambs, many logs.



**BEACH:** Albatrosses close to coast.  
**BUSH:** First calls of fantailed cuckoo; helmet orchids in flower; Brush-tail Possums have young in pouch.  
**FARMS:** Jacky winters return; Basket fungus on clay patches; Magpies collect nest materials.



**BUSH:** Golden Wattles and Prickly Moses flowering.  
**GARDEN:** Cherry-trees in blossom, casemoth caterpillars, earthworms cross paths after rains.  
**CREEKS & LAKES:** Ducks migrating; frog chorus.



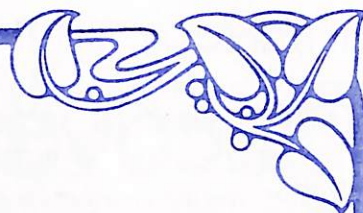
**BEACH:** Squids washing up; gulls move to nesting islands; Whistling eagles scavenge along coast.  
**BUSH:** Bowerbirds moving about; Maroonhood orchids.  
**FARMS:** New cones on pine trees, little ravens flocking Magpies attack as chicks hatch.



**BUSH:** Black Cockatoos seek new feeding grounds. Scrub Wrens building nests; honey-eaters visit newly-flowering eucalypts. Pink amanita fungus on moss.  
**GARDENS:** Snowflakes in flower, male blackbirds singing.

From the Gould League's Nature Diary





# CONSERVATION

What does this mean ?

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How many words can you make from the word  
conservation.

Write your list below.

## WHY ARE OUR NATIVE PLANTS & ANIMALS

### UNIQUE ?

Australia and Papua-  
New Guinea have been cut off from the rest of  
the world for millions of years. Plants and  
animals have had a long time to evolve in their  
own way.

Aboriginals probably arrived here about  
30-40,000 years ago. They hunted animals for  
food and clothing and ate the plants but they  
only took what they needed.


White man, and his animals, arrived only 200  
years ago and that is when conservation  
problems really began.

Can you name three Australian animals and  
draw one ?

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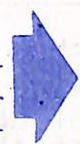


Can you name three Australian plants and  
draw one ?

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## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ANIMALS ?

There are not as many native species of  
animals in Australia now as there were when  
the first settlers arrived.

What happened to them ?

1. CLEARING AWAY THE BUSH.  
Why did men chop down trees and clear away  
the bush ?

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2. TIMBER GATHERING  
Many trees are being cut down in order to  
provide wood for building, furniture making  
and paper making. How many animals do you  
know that live in trees ?

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Are there any animals that can only live in gum trees ? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. BUSH FIRES

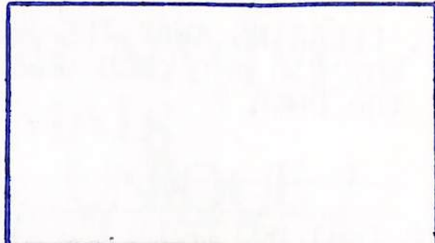
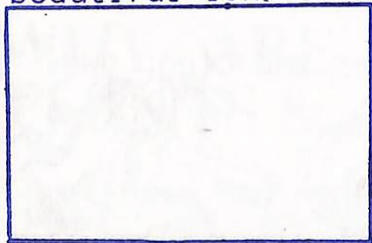
Many thousands of hectares of bush are destroyed each year by fire. Animals are then left without food or homes. How do bush fires start ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 4. HUNTING

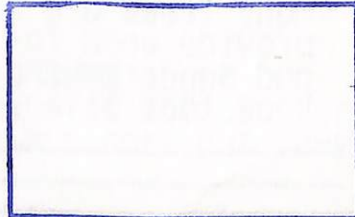
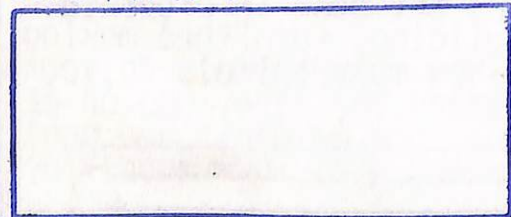
Many animals were shot for their feathers, skins or meat. Sometimes it is necessary to control the numbers of animals by shooting but only if we can be sure that their numbers will build up again.

Draw a mammal that has soft fur, lives in a burrow, has a sensitive bill and was once hunted for its fur.

Draw a bird that was once hunted for its beautiful long tail feathers.



Draw two sea mammals that are still hunted in some parts of the world.



### 5. FERAL ANIMALS

These animals were once tame but now live in the bush without human contact. They compete with native animals for food and home sites and the meat eaters also prey on the smaller native animals.

Can you unscramble these feral animals ?

fxo _____	tibrba _____	rede _____
lemca _____	tac _____	osher _____
ogd _____	tago _____	yondek _____
lubaffo _____	gip _____	parc _____

### 6. GOOD THINGS

Some native animals have actually increased in number due to the activities of man. Clearing, farming and roadside grass verges have provided more food for some species.

**DRAW** THE FOLLOWING :

*A sea bird  
often found  
on rubbish  
tips.*

*A black and white  
bird that finds  
grubs in city  
lawns.*

*A large marsupial  
that lives in the  
dry country and  
loves the grass  
that farmers grow  
for sheep.*

*A marsupial that  
lives in the roofs  
of houses.*



Thankyou Healesville  
Education Service!!



# Wally interviews Hatty...



"Hello Hatty, I'm told that you are a very special bird here in Victoria."

"Well, yes I am. I'm one of the rarest birds in the world"

"I'm called the Helmeted Honeyeater and I also happen to be Victoria's State fauna emblem."

"I'm an attractive bird, olive brown mainly. My cheeks, throat, ear-tufts, crown, forehead and nape of my neck are all bright yellow."

"My underparts are grey with a yellowish tinge"

"Well Wally, I'm about 21cm long. I live on nectar, mainly from gum trees, leaf scale, berries and insects. I lay 2 pale pink eggs marked with red."



"Tell me Hatty, how big are you and what food do you eat. Also what do your eggs look like, and how many do you lay?"



"Now Hatty, where do you live in Victoria? I believe you are an endangered species."

"I believe the State Government has spent a lot of money over a period of 5 years to help preserve helmeted honeyeaters."

"That's right Wally, and the Bird Observers' Club is doing all it can to help us to survive. At weekends members do survey work from a small research centre in the area."

"We live in small colonies in the Yellingbo district about 45 km east of Melbourne."

"Once we inhabited huge areas of south Gippsland, also the great Strzelecki Ranges, Gembrook, Healesville and the surrounding districts."

"We are rarely found far from 3 short creeks. First Sheepstation Creek and Cockatoo Creek which both flow into Woori Yallock Creek - then Woori Yallock joins the Yarra River."

What do you think we could do to stop them from becoming extinct?



colour us in.

## The Helmeted

## Honeyeater.



# HABITAT

JANE WILKINSON

H is for Habitat

— its destruction must stop.

Do you remember this part of the Survival A.B.C.? You might also remember that habitat means the place where something lives and in that place the right food and shelter must be found.

Man also needs a living place. Usually such a place would be called his neighborhood, suburb or on a larger scale — town or city. Man's living place can also be called his 'habitat'.

However there is a difference between the habitat of man and the habitats of other living things.

**MAN MAKES HIS OWN HABITAT** — He changes things to suit himself, something other living things cannot do. Whether he lives on a farm, in a small country town or perhaps a big city, man has made some sort of change. Sometimes the change that he brings about is small but other times it is a big change.

What does he change?

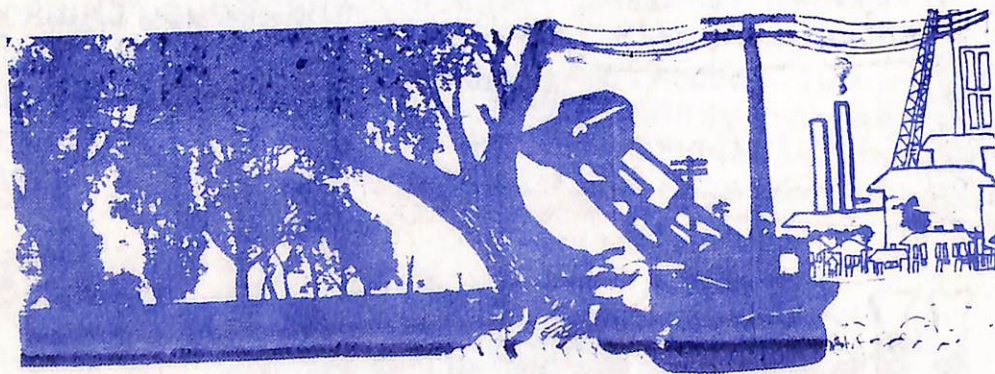
**MAN CHANGES THE HABITATS OF OTHER CREATURES SO THAT HE CAN MAKE HIS OWN HABITAT.**

Unfortunately this changing often means terrible destruction.



Man has not always been a destroyer of other creatures' habitats. For thousands of years he was able to live with the rest of nature in a happy harmony. Early man had a very simple life with few needs. He was able to get what he wanted without destroying everything in his path.

The Australian Aborigines were an example of this simple style of life. They lived in Australia for thousands of years and changed the land little, if any.



## MAN v NATURE:

### An Uneven Match

They took from the land only enough to feed and shelter themselves — they were not greedy. They knew how important it was to conserve the land and its creatures.

It was only when the first white man arrived in Australia nearly two hundred years ago that things started to change a great deal. At first the change was fairly slow — after all, in those days forests had to be cleared by axe, the logs carted by horse and dray — a long hard job for the early settlers.

However one thing helped man to speed up change and so destroy things more quickly than ever before. It was the invention of machinery. With machinery to help, it became much easier to clear huge areas of bushland and forest, fill in swamps and dam rivers, build roads, farms and towns.

While man was busy making his own habitat he didn't worry about other living things. Every time an area of bush was cleared many other creatures lost their living place. This meant that they had to move further away from man the destroyer and his growing habitat. However it wasn't long before man's habitat caught up to them and the animals were pushed further away. If they could not find the right sort of habitat in another place then they died out altogether.

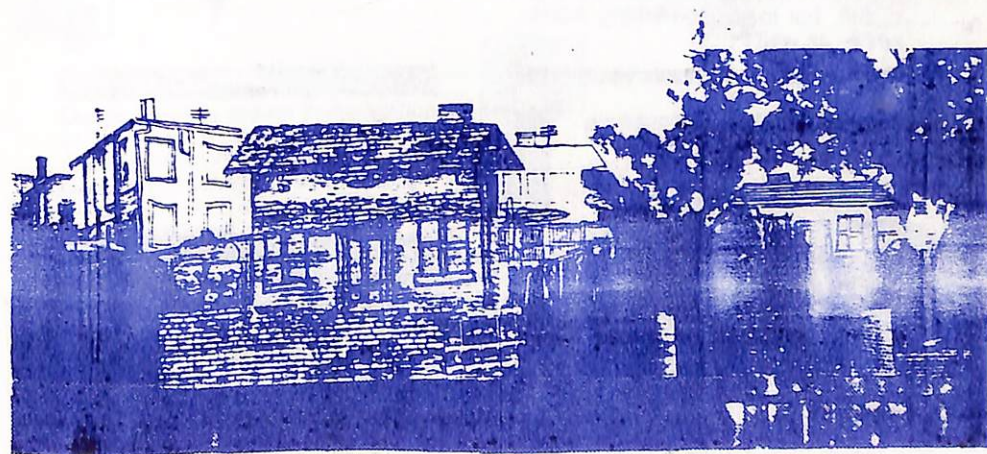
Now in our cities and towns only the very hardy have survived. Can you imagine that there were once koalas, kangaroos, emus and many other creatures living in the area we now call Melbourne? Perhaps where your house or flat is there were once huge gum-trees in which possums and many beautiful birds found food and shelter.

Modern man, with his 'better than ever' machinery, has been the worst destroyer of all. Growing numbers of people mean spreading cities, more farms, more mining and so more habitat destruction.

Perhaps the early settlers did not realise the harm they were causing to the land and its many creatures. Certainly man had to make his own habitat and he will have to keep doing so. He has to live somewhere just like every other living thing. He will always need his farms, towns, cities, industries and mining. However, he has to stop somewhere. He cannot keep on selfishly destroying as he has done in the past 50 years or so and is doing right now.

If he wants to have the beauty of living things around him —

**MAN MUST LEARN TO SHARE  
THE LIVING SPACE.**



Thankyou SURVIVAL '74  
for this article.



# Quest<sup>®</sup>

The Australian Conservation Foundation's

If you

- are under 15
- enjoy the fun of discovery
- like the bush and Australia's unique wildlife
- want to do something worthwhile

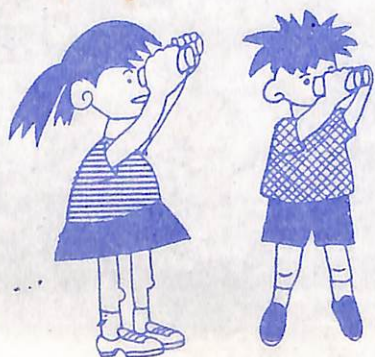
## Join the QUEST club

There are loads of young people who really care about their environment and would like to make it better. Who enjoy learning about animals and plants and getting out into the bush.

So we've started a special club for you.

It's called "Quest" and its members are called "Questers".

It's a new way not only to have a lot of fun, but to do something worthwhile as well.



2

### Who can join?

To be a Quester is easy. Anyone who is under 15 can join providing they want to:

- learn more about their environment
- take an active part in conservation
- care for animals and their homes

3

### What do Questers do?

Questers like having a good time. They often go walking, bug spotting or rock pool watching. They get together with other Questers to hold a Club barbecue, or to go on a bushwalk or camp. They also work to make their community a better place to live, by planting trees or removing rubbish.

And most importantly of all, Questers carry out Quest Surveys.

4

### What are Quest Surveys?

Quest Surveys are an investigation of your local environment. You receive instructions and special materials. You watch your environment and tell us what you can see. The information you send will be used by museums, hospitals and researchers to help us learn more about wildlife and the environment.

As a Quester you can take part in Quest projects, surveys and other activities on your own, or with your family. Or you could join with other local Questers to form a local Quest Club.

5

### What do you get when you join?

- A Quest handbook full of useful information: how to conduct a survey — finding and identifying native birds, plants and animals — advice on planning a walk, camp, or some other Quest activity — survival hints.
- An identification card
- A Quest badge
- Six copies a year of the Quest Newsletter with up-to-date information about the environment, stories of what other Questers have been doing, and lots of ideas for great Quest activities you can do.



6

### How do you join?

Write to this address for a Membership Form.

ACF QUEST CLUB,  
672B Glenferrie Road,  
Hawthorn, Vic. 3122.

Quest is a youth club sponsored by the Australian Conservation Foundation.

The Foundation is a national non-profit organisation working to promote conservation practice and principle



# Antarctica : Wilderness At Risk

## ANTARCTIC ACTION GROUP POSTER COMPETITION

'The Antarctic. A harsh land of ice-encased mountains, of the flightless penguins and hardy pelagic birds, of seals and whales.'  
'Antarctica is a region where human presence has been minimal.'  
'Antarctica has escaped the fate of other continents until modern technology made its penetration possible.'  
'Drilling on the land alone for oil and minerals will surely and irreversibly change the character of Antarctica.'  
'The great, wild beauty of Antarctica will be corrupted by pollution.'

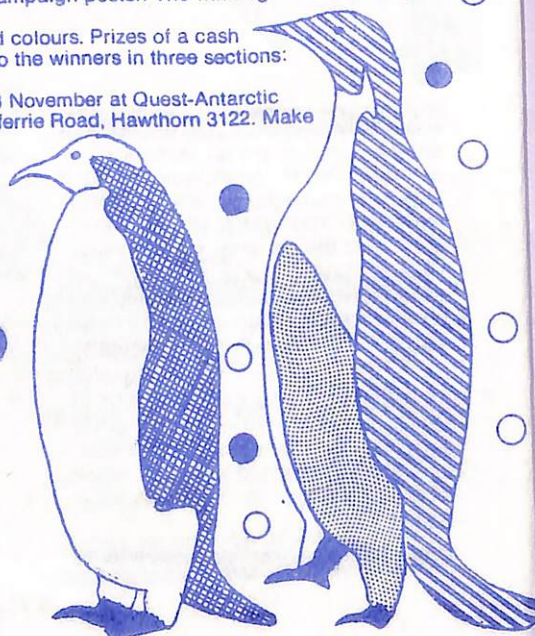
Eliot Porter  
'Let's Save Antarctica'  
by James N. Barnes

The ACF's working group on Antarctic Conservation is holding a competition for the design of an Antarctic Campaign Poster.  
Antarctica is the only continent still in its natural state. The Action Group wants Antarctica to become the first World Conservation Park.

1984 is the 25th anniversary of the Antarctica Treaty. To celebrate, the Antarctic Action Group is looking for a new campaign poster. The winning design may also be used as a T-shirt emblem.

The poster can be designed in any size and colours. Prizes of a cash voucher for art materials are being awarded to the winners in three sections: under 12, under 17 and open.

Entries must be received by Wednesday, 28 November at Quest-Antarctic Action Group Poster Competition, 672B Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn 3122. Make sure to attach your name, age and address.



## Here is a list of endangered animals

Some of the letters have  
been written in code.

Here is the key

S +  
A #  
E &  
I @  
O %  
U \$  
R !  
T ¢  
B \*

Write the endangered animal below.

- 1 N \$ M \* # ¢
- 2 \* # W ☹ \* # W ☹ F ! % G
- 3 D \$ G % N G
- 4 L & # D ☹ \* & # ¢ & ! + ☹ P % + + \$ M
- 5 & # + ¢ & ! N ☹ \* # ! ! & D ☹ \* # N D @ C % % ¢
- 6 W & + ¢ & ! ☹ \* L # C K ☹ + ¢ ! @ P & D ☹ + N # K &
- 7 G ! & # ¢ & ! ☹ \* @ L \* Y
- 8 N % ! ¢ H & ! N ☹ H # @ ! Y ☹ N % + & D ☹ W % M \* # ¢
- 9 G ! % \$ N D ☹ P # ! ! % ¢
- 10 G ! & & N ☹ ¢ \$ ! ¢ L &

☹ Indicates a word space!

Can you explain why each of the above  
animals are endangered ?



NATURE IN THE NEWS!

# A tunnel of love for the pygmy possums

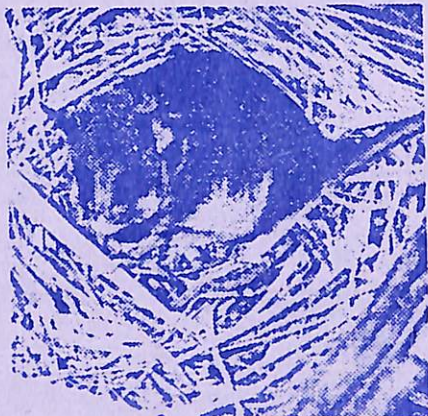
Look up last months edition to find more information on the Burramys or Pygmy Possum.

**THE course of true love for Victoria's pygmy possums will finally run true ... all because of a tunnel.**

The community of 1500 of the world's only alpine mammals at Mt Higginbotham has a huge problem — the males are separated from the females by a road.

But the sexes will be able to get together after a \$34,000 rock-lined possum tunnel and corridor is built.

A researcher from the Fisheries and Wildlife Division, Mr Ian Marsergh, said the skiing industry at Mt Hotham had caused problems for the only known marsu-



**By BELINDA PARSONS**

pial that hibernates and it was in danger of extinction.

The plans for the tunnel and corridor were launched yesterday at Victor and will be funded by the World Wildlife Fund, the Australian National Parks and Wildlife, the Fisheries and Wildlife Division in Victoria and the Alpine Resorts Commission.

Mr Marsergh said the road, which went through the female breeding area, had made it difficult and dangerous for the possums to mate.

"The breeding population had been going downhill and to make

sure the breeding population remains healthy they need more mobility," he said.

Mr Marsergh said the male and female possums lived strictly segregated lives and mated only once each year.

"The animals are failing to breed properly because the females can't get to the males."

Mr Marsergh said the mammal's breeding habits were a little more complex but the numbers were dangerously low.

He said half the mammals didn't survive to breed the next year and the mountain pygmy possum was one of 40 threatened species in Australia.

From the SUN newspaper.

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