

hillsides from heavy rain and floods and provide a habitat for our native birds. They also give us unique and wonderful scenery shared by no other country in the world.

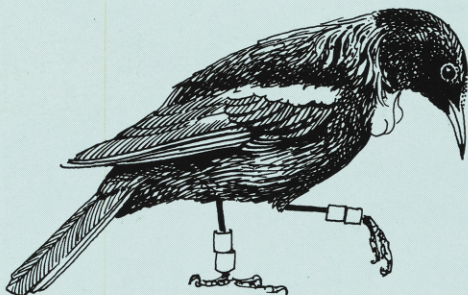
And who would care to live in a world without flowers? They brighten up our homes and cities and make life more pleasant for all of us.

by David Gregorie,
Press officer for Conservation
New Zealand.

Competition Corner

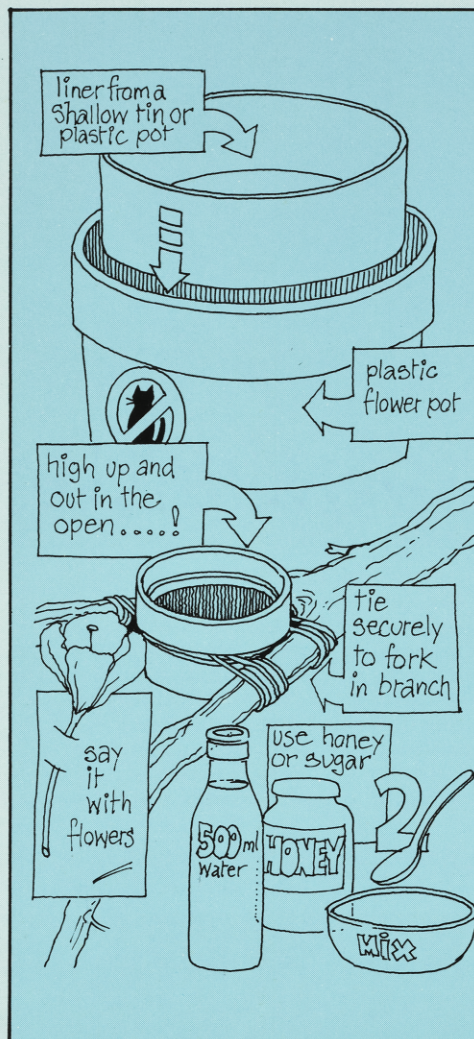
Some tuis may be fooled by an insect that looks like a stick. The tui in Sue Bell's cartoon was fooled by a stick that looked like an insect. Sue could not think of a good name for her foolish tui — can you? There is a \$10 book token prize for the best one.

You can find many different kinds of stick insect in New Zealand. Some of the spiny or knobbly looking ones belong to a group or 'genus' known as *Acanthoxyla*. If you can pronounce that you are a most unusual person. What is so unusual about a male *Acanthoxyla*?



This tui is wearing bands on its legs so that researchers can tell which particular tui it is. There are four different coloured bands and they can be arranged in different orders on both legs. What is the maximum number of individual tuis I can band without repeating myself, if I cannot use more than two bands per leg? (I can of course use less than two.)

Those are a couple of knotty problems. You are not expected to know the answers, unless you are a stick insect expert and a mathematical genius, but



How to make a tui feeder

Half a coconut shell or a plastic flower pot with a shallow tin or plastic tub liner will make a good and easily cleaned feeder. Tie the feeder securely in the fork of a branch, as high as possible so as to be out of the reach of cats. Choose an open position so that the tuis can keep a good lookout for danger while they are feeding. If possible, use a tree that the tuis usually visit. They can also be attracted to a feeder if you surround it with nectar flowers, such as flame, bottle brush or gum, and if you use a red plastic liner. If all else fails, visiting silvereyes will bring the tuis in.

Honey or sugar water is made by mixing 2 tablespoons of honey or sugar with 500mls (1 pint) of water.

Tui-friendly plants to have in your garden could be banksia, waratahs, flowering gums, bottlebrush, Taiwanese cherry, proteas, kowhai, rewarewa, flax and pohutukawa, all for nectar. Totara, kahikatea and *coprosma* will provide fruit.

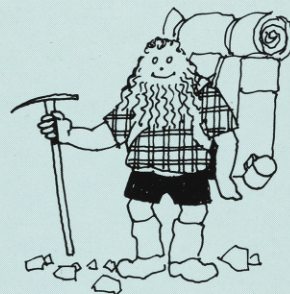
Next time you go to the garden centre, how about bringing back something for the tuis?

you should be able to find them out. Write your answers on a piece of paper with your name and address at the top, and post them in an envelope to: Quest Competition, PO Box 33220, Takapuna, Auckland. We shall start opening the envelopes on Monday 10th June, so make sure they are in by then. The first one opened with both answers right wins a \$20 book token.

Answers and winners in the next edition of Quest.

The Frank Alack Award

Famous mountain guide, world explorer and conservationist Frank Alack is offering an award to junior members (under 17 or at school) for the best description or story about the native



birds found in your garden. You may include illustrations if you wish.

Entries of not more than 500 words should be sent to Quest, to arrive not later than 1st August 1985. (Please keep a copy of your work as we shall not be able to return it.) Remember to include your name, address and age. Prizes will be awarded for the best three entries: A first prize of \$90, a second prize of \$30 and \$10 for third. The winning entry will be published in the magazine.



BY SUE BELL