

JUVENILE WHALE SUICIDES IN HAMELIN POOL

On July 6 Inspector J. Van Roon, stationed at Shark Bay, investigated the suicide of a porpoise in Hamelin Pool, near the Hamelin Post Office. Apparently, attempts to tow the mammal out to deep water during the previous week had failed, as it kept returning to the beach.

On examination of the carcass, Mr. Van Roon realised that it was not a porpoise, but a small whale. It measured 9 feet long with a girth of 6 feet. The baleen was quite noticeable and there was a small dorsal fin situated on its back about 6 feet from the tip of its head, plus a nectorial fin on each side of its girth.

Mr. J. Bannister, Curator of Mammals, W.A. Museum, is endeavouring to obtain further information on this mammal to establish positive identification.