

Ringwood Inspectorate

Volume 10

Nature NOTES

No 7.



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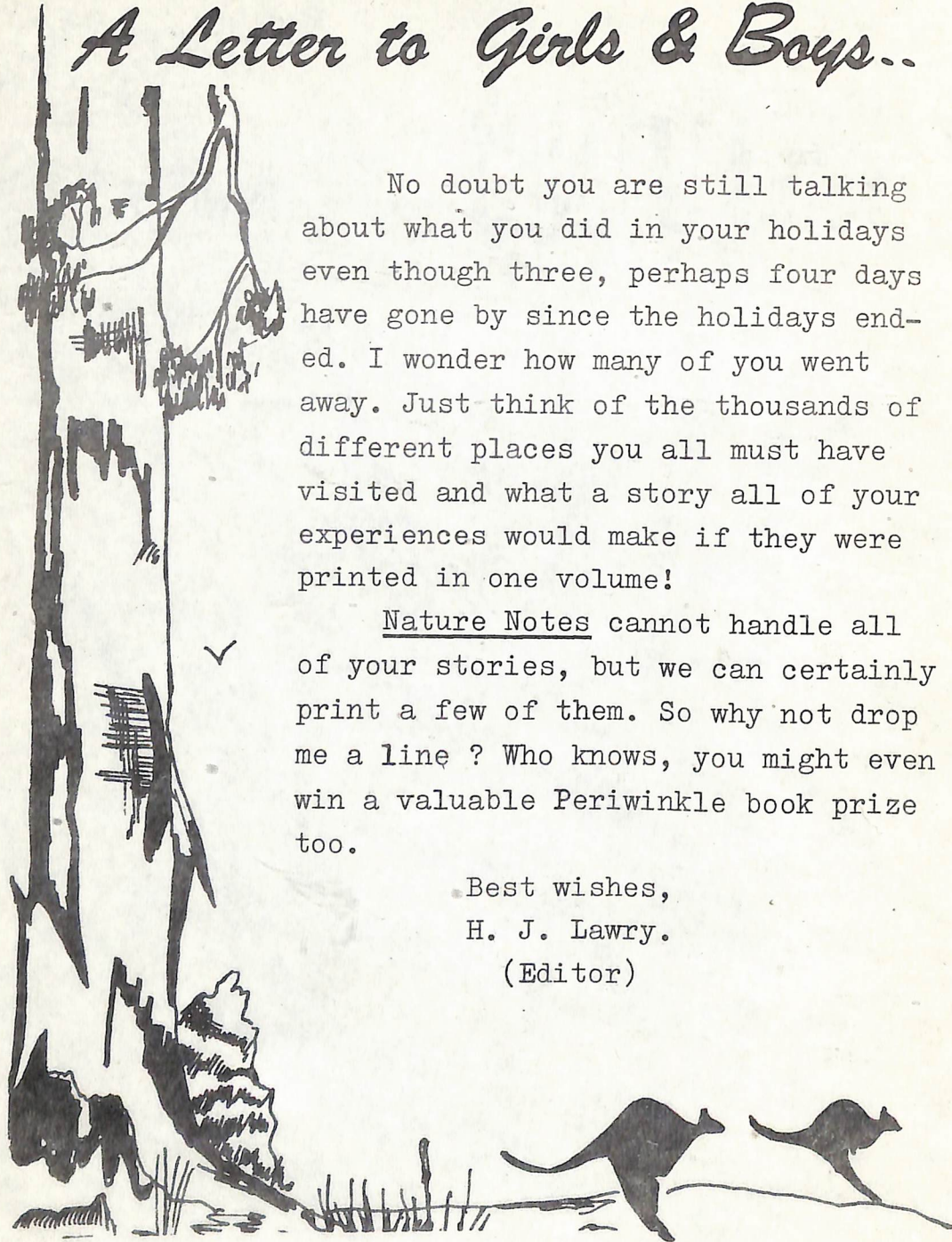
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A Letter to Girls & Boys..

No doubt you are still talking about what you did in your holidays even though three, perhaps four days have gone by since the holidays ended. I wonder how many of you went away. Just think of the thousands of different places you all must have visited and what a story all of your experiences would make if they were printed in one volume!

Nature Notes cannot handle all of your stories, but we can certainly print a few of them. So why not drop me a line? Who knows, you might even win a valuable Periwinkle book prize too.

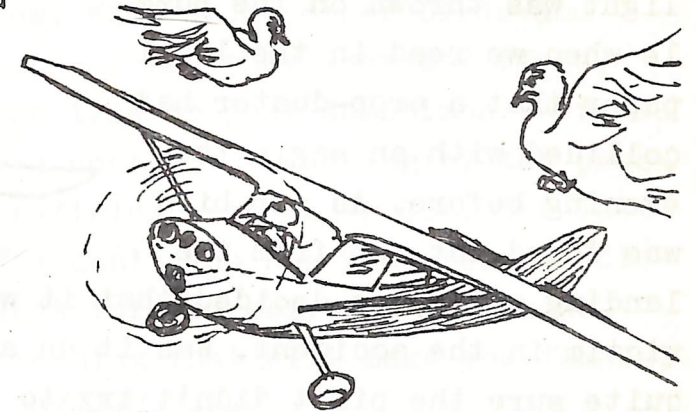
Best wishes,
H. J. Lawry.
(Editor)



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Mrs. M. Sharpin.	
Artists	
Mrs. Hensler.	
Mrs. Shoobridge.	
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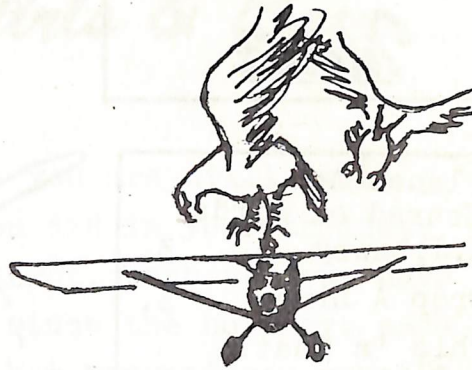
PLANES ARE SCARED OF BIRDS



Low flying aircraft generally cause human beings to duck or at least get out of the way. Cows, horses and dogs also react to the sight and sound of an aeroplane coming in low, but what about birds? As far as I can see, they are rather bored by the whole thing. In fact I've often wondered whether aeroplanes frighten birds at all, no matter where they meet them.

A few years ago, a girl I know found a dead wedge-tailed eagle lying in the middle of a paddock. When we examined it, we could find no obvious reason why

it had died, in fact it looked a very healthy bird. Some light was thrown on the puzzle when we read in the local paper that a crop-duster had collided with an eagle the evening before. As our bird was found not far from the landing strip, we decided that it was most likely the victim in the accident. Was it an accident though? I'm quite sure the pilot didn't try to run the bird down, but could the bird have tried to run the plane down? We wondered about this at the time, but were unable to find out the truth.



Since then, I have learned that war-time pilots training in Tiger Moths found that eagles easily avoided them even when a collision seemed inevitable. Whilst stories of actual attacks by Wedged-tailed eagles have not yet reached me, I am sure that they must occur if eagles round the world are any example.

Scotland's Golden eagles have been known to attack low flying planes and I remember reading once, that an old-time passenger plane flying in the Far East, was "shot down" by two eagles. One put an engine

out of action, while the other, diving from a great height, went straight through a wing !

So much for eagles. What about other birds and their reactions to planes ? Are they scared ? If so, are they scared all the time or just sometimes ? Or has familiarity simply bred contempt ? Judging by the problems faced by some air-fields with sea-gulls, the latter may be the case. Why don't you see what you can discover about this subject for yourselves ? Who knows, you might discover something that will make you famous!

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Drop a Line



Editor, 'Nature Notes',
Primary School,
Blackburn Lake,
P.O. Box 30,
NUNAWADING. 3131.



This month we have a story sent in by a very young reader. He is Mark Carter from Southwood Primary School. Mark is in Grade Two.

"Bees are builders. Bees collect nectar from some flowers and they make it into honey. They collect pollen from flowers and they carry it in little baskets on their legs. They make bee bread."

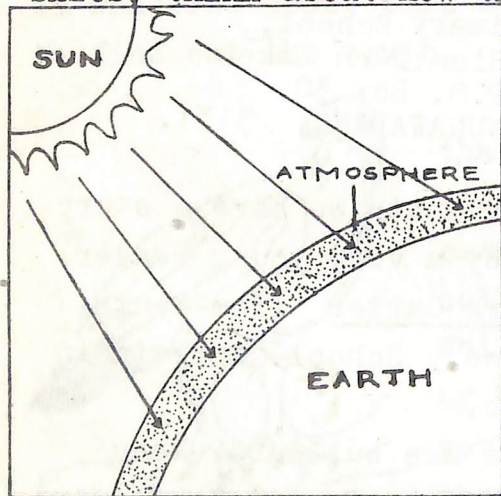
Well done Mark !

THIS 'N THAT

Did you know that there is a plant which grows on the western prairies of America which is called the 'compass plant'? This is because its leaves grow from the base and always face north.

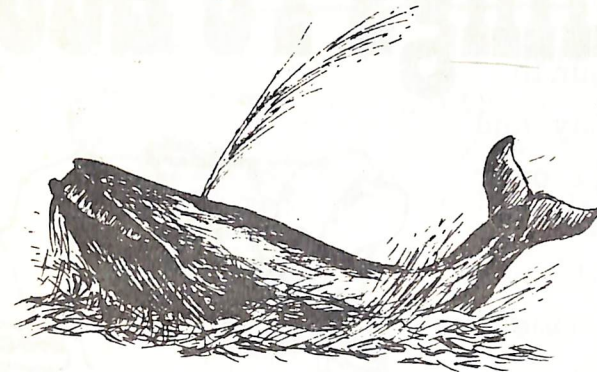


● Australia is world famous for its blue skies. Have you ever wondered why the sky is blue or rather seems to be blue? The sky looks blue because the dust in the air absorbs the light waves that form the colours of sunlight, but allow the blue rays to pass through. So next time you admire our beautiful blue skies, think about how this comes about.



● Most people have a dread of bats but did you know how useful they are to mankind? They destroy enormous quantities of insects which they are reputed to catch at the rate of about 600 per hour. This would work out to about 5000 for a night's work. If we multiply this by the thousands of bats that fly at night, we can realise that the bat is a friend indeed.

When we think of large animals we probably think of the dinosaurs of the past as being the largest. However we are wrong, for the world's largest animal is still with us, though only just. This animal is the blue whale which grows to over 100 feet in length. Tragically, this majestic animal, along with most other whales, is being hunted to the point of extinction. The 'Friends of the Earth' are a group of people



who are trying desperately to stop this slaughter. Most countries have agreed to stop the killing, but Russia and Japan are two that have not heeded the warnings. It is thought that unless the killing is stopped completely very soon, this magnificent creature will no longer grace our oceans.

● Have you ever wondered about how much our bodies are worth? It would not be possible to assess the value of a living person body, mind and soul. However, if we look at the purely material things of our body, their total value would not amount to much.

Two famous British Scientists once said, that for a human body, all that is needed is a ten gallon drum of water, plus enough fat for seven bars of soap, carbon for 9000 lead pencils, phosphorous for 2000 match heads, iron for one nail, lime sufficient to white-wash a chicken coop and small amounts of magnesium and sulphur - in all a few dollars worth!

It is the arrangement of the atoms that go to make up these materials, plus the mysterious mind or personality, that gives our body its priceless value.

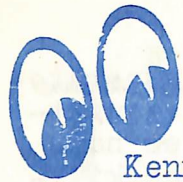
Something to think about.

Nature Notes

Sept. '73.



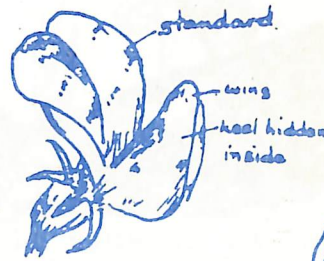
HOW MUCH AM
I WORTH?



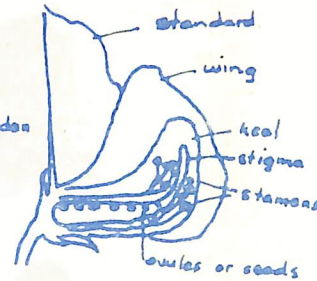
Things To Look For— Kennedias



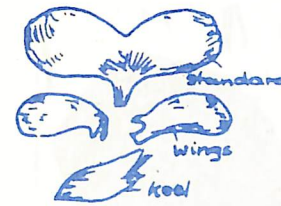
Kennedia prostrata sounds like a very hard name to say and remember, but botanists all over the world know what is meant when this name is used. This name is called the 'scientific name.' There are many common names given to this plant - Love Lies Bleeding, Granny's Bonnet, Running Postman - or have you a name of your own for it?



pea flower



Diagrammatical Cross-section



⊕ Names are given to various parts of the flower so that we may know what others are talking about. The STANDARD may be called vexillum, the WINGS the aloc and the KEEL the carina.

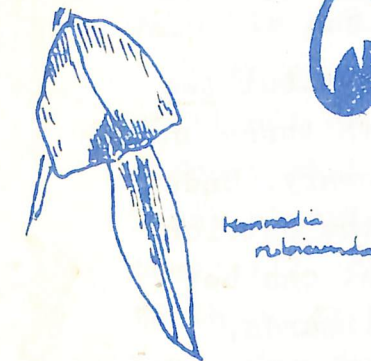
⊕ The shape of the pea flowers suggested to Linnaeus, the shape of a butterfly, so he used the Latin word Papilio, meaning a butterfly to form the family name PAPILIONACEAE.

⊕ While all of the flowers may have 10 stamens, they do not all look like the ones in the drawing of Kennedia rubicunda.

⊕ The seeds form in a pod which twists and explodes when ripe. This twisting helps scatter the seeds some distance from the parent plant. and so makes it possible for the new plant to grow where it is not in too much competition with other plants.

⊕ The scientific name Kennedia was first given by Ventenat, a French botanist at the time of the French Revolution. He named the family after Lewis Kennedy, who was a nurseryman at Hammersmith near London in England.

⊕ There are thirteen species of Kennedia found throughout Australia with most species being found in Western Australia. It is likely that you will find some of these plants growing in school, home or public gardens. We find Running Postman throughout Victoria and all states. There are two forms in Western Australia, one is much larger in leaf and flower than the other.



Kennedia rubicunda



stamens of Kennedia rubicunda

THEY'RE ALIKE **

* OR ARE THEY?

Large birds which cannot fly. This description fits all the above three. Emus and cassowaries are native to Australia, whereas the ostrich is an African bird.

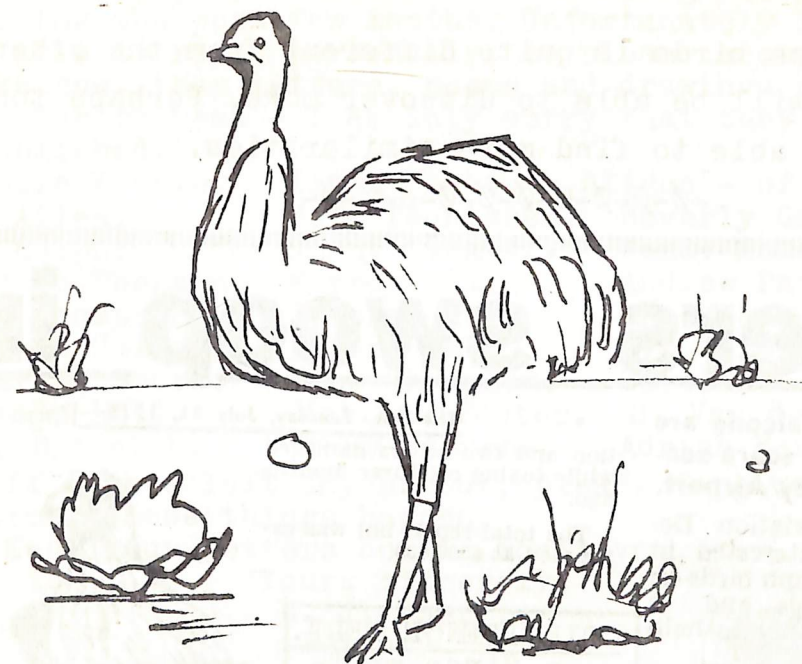
The cassowary lives in sub-tropical rain forests of northern Australia. It has powerful legs and feet and a horny helmet to help it force a way through the



The Cassowary

undergrowth. Though timid, the male can be fierce when protecting his chicks. These birds feed on berries, seed and wild fruits.

Ostriches have but two toes compared with three on the emu and cassowary. Under wild conditions the ostrich eats anything that can be eaten - snakes, lizards, birds, insects and vegetation. To aid digestion, it also swallows pebbles and



The Emu - Thirty M.P.H. Speedster!

stones. The ostrich can run about twice as fast as the emu when in danger. In South Africa and elsewhere, ostriches are farmed. Their beautiful feathers are valuable and are clipped just before moulting.

An emu may be up to six feet in height but is still not as large as an ostrich. Emus often graze in company with kangaroos and may be found on flat scrublands almost right across Australia. Curious birds, they will often run up to investigate objects strange to them. At top speed they may run at 30 miles per hour. The female is known for her fighting ability, delivering fierce fast blows with her beak.

The above points are just a few of the ways each

each of these birds is quite different from the other. I hope you will be able to discover more. Perhaps too, you will be able to find more similarities.

-ø-ø-ø-ø-ø-ø-ø-ø-ø-

Killers swoop in

SYDNEY.—Falcons are to be used to scare sea-gulls at Sydney Airport.

The Civil Aviation Department is interested in using the 185 mph birds on regular patrols and is seeking a falconer to help in a trial.

Falcons, among the world's deadliest birds of prey, have long been used to clear birds from runways in many countries including Scotland and Canada.

But their success has been mainly at smaller airports, and Sydney Airport, with 600 plane movements a day, may be too busy.

The main seagull problem at Sydney Airport is along the 3000 ft. section of the north-south runway which protrudes into Botany Bay.

Seagulls flying to and from their roosting ground on a nearby beach cross the runway at about 200 ft. and risk hitting planes.

Collisions dropped from 49 in 1969 to 19 last year after nearby garbage tips were closed.

The most serious of 15 collisions so far this year involved a Qantas jumbo jet, which had one engine put out of ac-

tion and two others damaged while taking off three months ago.

The total repair bill was estimated at \$500,000.

COINCIDENCE DEPT.

Since writing the article on page 3, I came across this item in the Sun News-Pictorial. I have reprinted it for your interest.
.....Ed.



The Sun, Tuesday, July 31, 1973—Page 3 *

These people have been kind enough to write to me during the past few months. Unfortunately I haven't been able to reply personally, so please accept my thanks now. Your letters, poems and drawings have been very nice to read - I am only sorry that they cannot all be published.

Michelle Keable.	Linda Hibbs.	Alison - of Balwyn.
Ruth Allen.	Mark Teunissen.	Beverly Gartside.
Tony Ralph.	Jenny Slagter.	Wendy Koker.
David Mc.Pherson.	Murray Cox.	Andrew Paton.
Janet Thompson.	Stephen Ray.	Anne Coakley.
Caroline Calleja.	Robert Bak.	Eva Turewicz.
Katharine Short.	Jane Thompson.	Caroline Izett.
Michelle Hill.	Melinda Foster.	C. Van de Velde.
Heidi Dittrich.	Jenny Stevens.	Adrian Harvey.

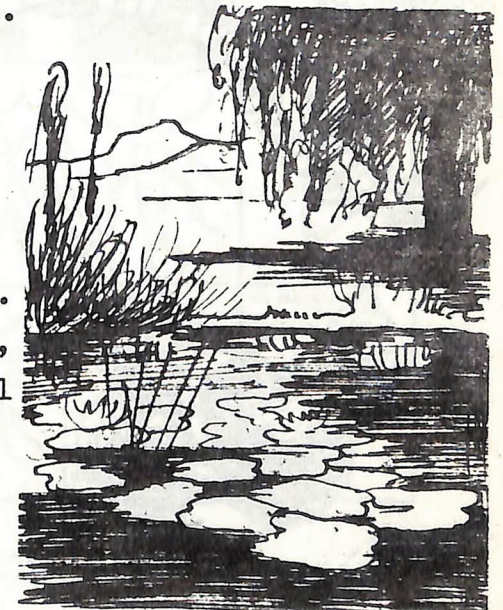
If I have left anyone out, please forgive me but sometimes these things happen.

Keep your letters coming won't you.

Yours sincerely,
H. J. Lawry.
(Editor)

DUSK AT THE POND

The pond is still,
Little sound, little noise,
Except a frog which croaks
Being awakened from his sleep.
The sun glitters on the water,
The dribbling of the waterfall
Makes hardly any sound-
Just drip, drip, drip.
You can hear the buzzing of
insects
In the setting sun.
Dark creeps over.
Night gradually comes.



Julienne Allerton
6.W. Blackburn Lake

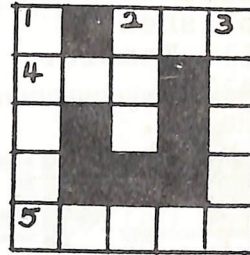
PUZZLES PAGE

Across

2. Extra Sensory Perception.
(initials)
4. Stop a person speaking.
6. Annoy slightly.

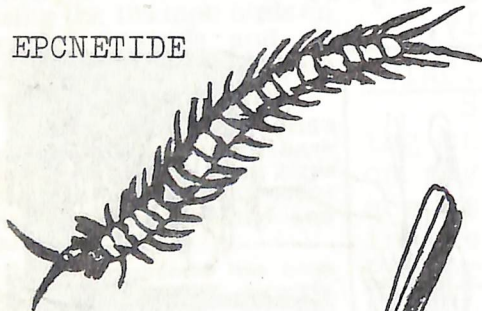
Down

1. Baby eagle.
2. Which came first - this or the chicken?
3. Feather.



JUMBLLED NAMES

EPCNETIDE



UGM PMEORE TMOH

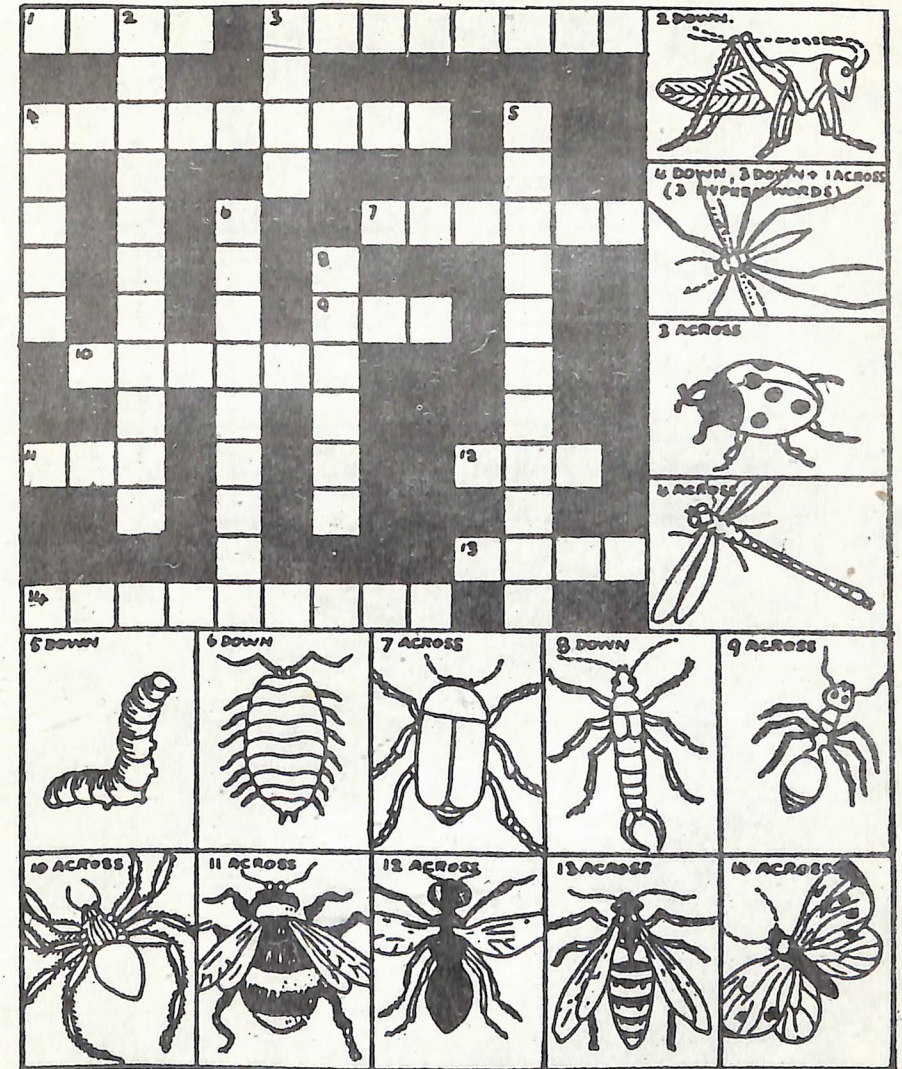


LEBU WNRE



WOBRN KWAH

INSECTS

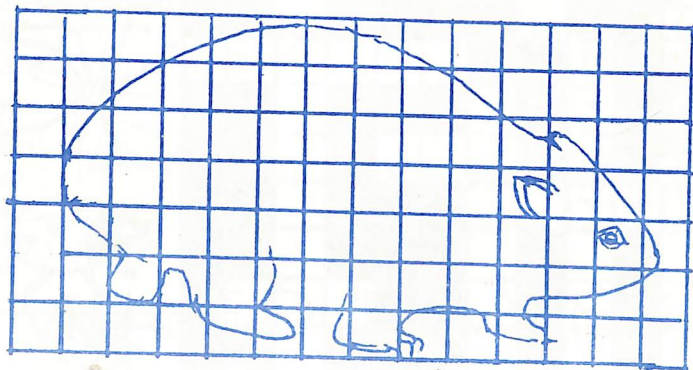


From Peal Picture Crosswords

Pealpress, Glasgow

Across: 1. legs; 3. ladybird; 4. dragonfly; 7. beetle; 9. ant; 10. spider;
11. bee; 12. fly; 13. wasp; 14. butterfly.
Down: 2. grasshopper; 3. long; 4. daddy; 5. caterpillar; 6. woodlouse;
8. earwig.

Let's Draw a Wombat



**SOCIETY FOR GROWING
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS/VICTORIA**

Annual Show

CAMBERWELL CIVIC CENTRE

September 23, 24, 25.