

VOL.13,NO. 2.

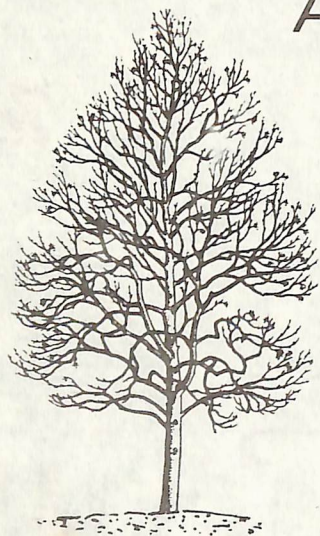
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NATURE NOTES

P.O. BOX 28,
RINGWOOD EAST,
3135.
879-1263.

RINGWOOD INSPECTORATE



Autumn - and many trees are dropping their leaves for yet another winter. Try making leaf prints using leaves and carbon paper, stamp pads or paint and rollers. They say that no two snowflakes are the same - I wonder if you could find two identical leaves?

We at Nature Notes are sort of pleased to say that we've had so many orders this year that we've run out of Vol.13.no.1.-twice!

GREAT drawings by {W.Prohasky
{A.Dunstan
& PHOTOS by
F.J.C.Rogers,
D.R.Dyer &
L.Stewart.



GARDENER'S PLOT

ARE YOU A VEGETABLE FREAK???

Well it is about time you became one!
Just think of all the money you could save by planting these seeds NOW. (April)

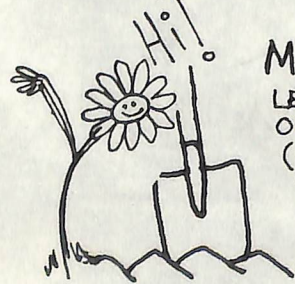
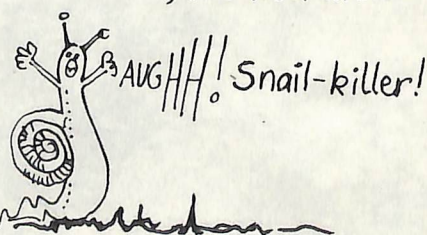
Parsley, Parsnip, Peas,
Radishes, Spinach,
Turnips & Swedes.

PLANT SEEDS IN ROWS
IN YOUR GARDEN - THIN
OUT THE PLANTS AS
THEY GROW.

Lettuce & Cabbage →

TRY PLANTING THESE IN AN
OUTDOOR SEED BED AND
TRANSPLANT THEM, WHEN THEY
GROW, INTO YOUR GARDEN.

Mushrooms → VERY TRICKY.
LET US KNOW IF YOU WORK
OUT HOW TO GROW THEM!
(A GOOD EXPERIMENT TO TRY)



DONKEYS

the dreamers..



One of man's best friends down through the ages has been the Donkey. Patient, loyal, intelligent and very willing to carry heavy loads, the Donkey has been used by people of all nations all over the world. The Donkey is particularly suitable for dry, rocky and mountainous country. The Donkey is very wise in the path it chooses to tread, being careful not to go on bridges that won't carry its weight or where snakes are likely to be. This ability to think for itself has given the Donkey the reputation amongst some less intelligent and more impatient humans, of being stubborn. However, despite our unkind comments, the Donkey loves the company of humans - and particularly children.

The most famous donkey-ride happened nearly 2,000 years ago when Jesus of Nazareth rode a donkey into Jerusalem to the cheers and palm-waving of the crowd. Can you find out about other famous occasions when donkeys were used? Perhaps you have heard the story of Simpson and his donkey?

SOMETHING FOR YOU TO DO :

If you were to do a project on Donkeys then these words would be useful -
Jack = male donkey. Jenny = female donkey.
Roan, Piebald, Skewbald = just some of the many colors that donkeys come in.

Also, donkeys have been crossed with horses and zebras, with whom they are very closely related. This results in mules, hinnies and zeedonks. These animals cannot have babies themselves but they too have proved most useful to man. The mountain mules of North and South America were very important in opening up those countries.



Care of the Pet Donkey

by Ann Walker

DONKEYS are relatively easy and economical to keep, providing that a few important points are remembered.

The donkey is a native of hot, dry, arid regions. It can, and does, thrive in semi-desert, or even desert conditions under which horses would find survival difficult.

Donkeys do not need, or like, lush green clover pasture. In fact, a few donkeys are actually allergic to clover which causes a form of eczema in them. Donkeys prefer coarse, rough herbage and, in fact, must have a certain amount of roughage in their diet. In some ways they are more akin to goats than horses in their eating habits and will browse rather than graze. They are inveterate nibblers of hedges, trees — and gates! They like brambles, blackberries and rose prunings.

This does not mean that the donkey needs no grazing; to keep healthy donkeys need adequate scope of roughish pasture. An acre or so of poor bush type country is ideal.

Donkeys are fastidious. They must have access to really clean drinking water and hate getting their dainty hooves muddy. They must have adequate shelter from wind and rain. The coat of the donkey does not "lie" in the same way as that of the horse and does not appear to shed water as well. In the absence of really good natural shelter in the form of hedges and trees some sort of shed must be erected to which the donkey has access at all times.

Salt licks should always be available and hay provided when the pasture is short. A mixture of bran, carrots and apples makes a good supplementary feed.

Donkeys should be treated for worms, as for horses, twice yearly, and for lice in the spring and autumn.

Donkeys are affectionate and gregarious and need company — particularly human company! Do not expect a donkey to keep happy and fit in a paddock on its own miles from anywhere.



Interested?

* Anne Walker writes a regular donkey column in "Rider" magazine — available at Newsagents.

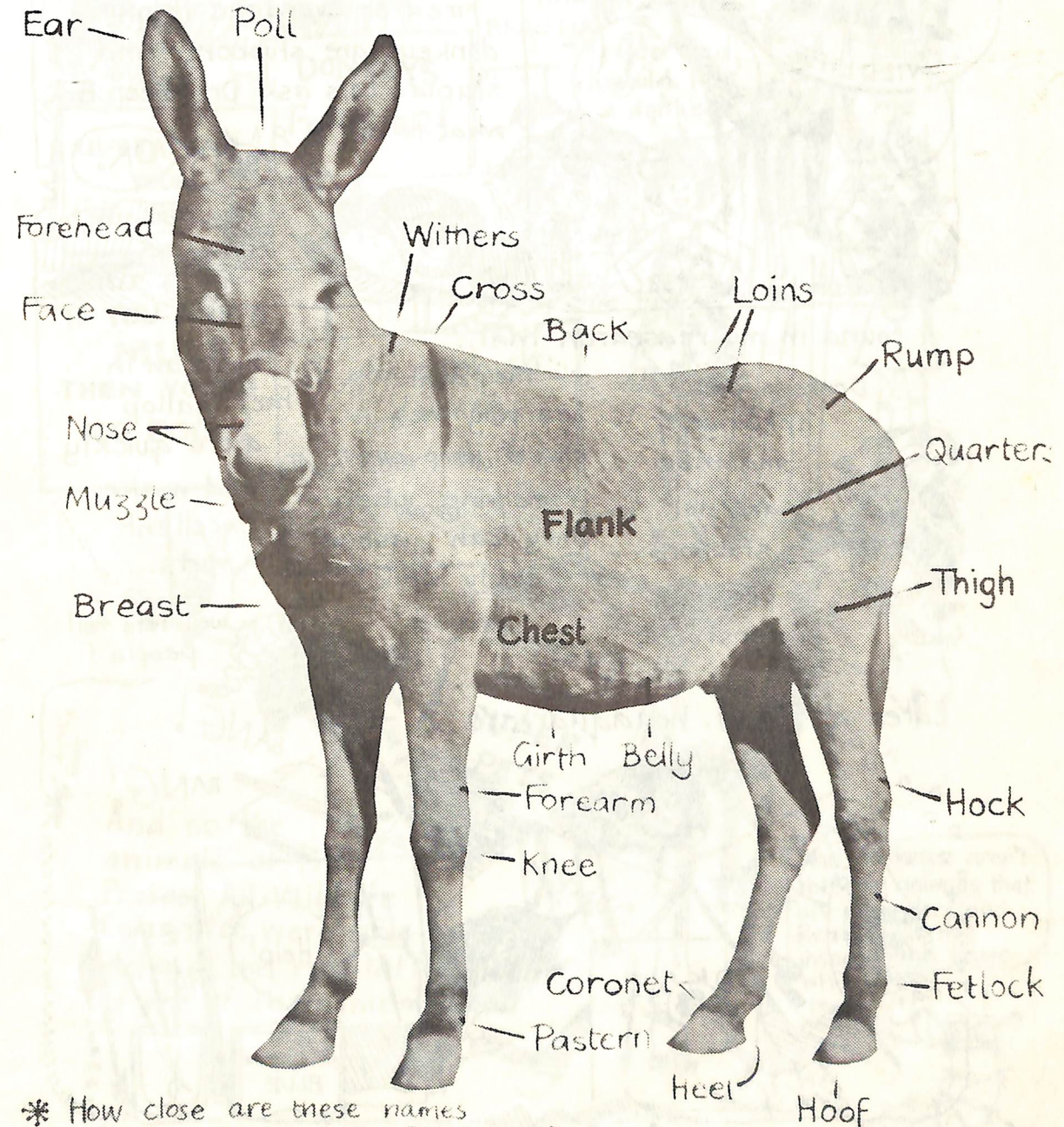
* You could write for information or to buy the magazine "Donkey Digest" to the Federal Honorary Secretary of the Australian Donkey Breed Society:

Mrs. Jean Lingard,
Limberlost Lodge Donkey Stud,
Little Yarra Road,
Three Bridges, Vic., 3797.

* You could go and see the donkeys at your local show or at the Victorian Championship Show on Palm Sunday (April 11th) at the Lilydale Showgrounds.

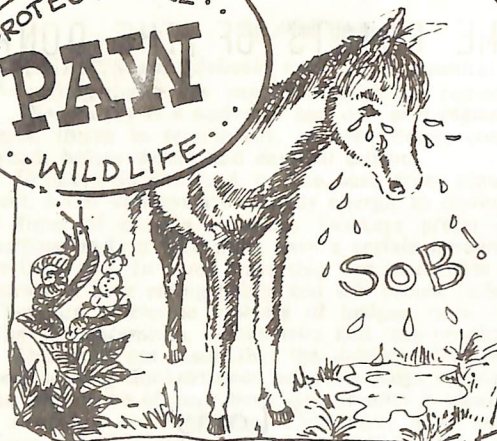
Visitors welcome!

SOME POINTS OF THE DONKEY.



* How close are these names to the points of a horse? What differences are there?

PROTECT ALL
PAW
WILDLIFE



How can we help? He is tired of everyone thinking donkeys are stubborn and stupid! Lets ask Dr. Sheep B.A. what to do!



I found in my reasearch that...

Donkeys are intelligent and they are not stubborn if properly understood,

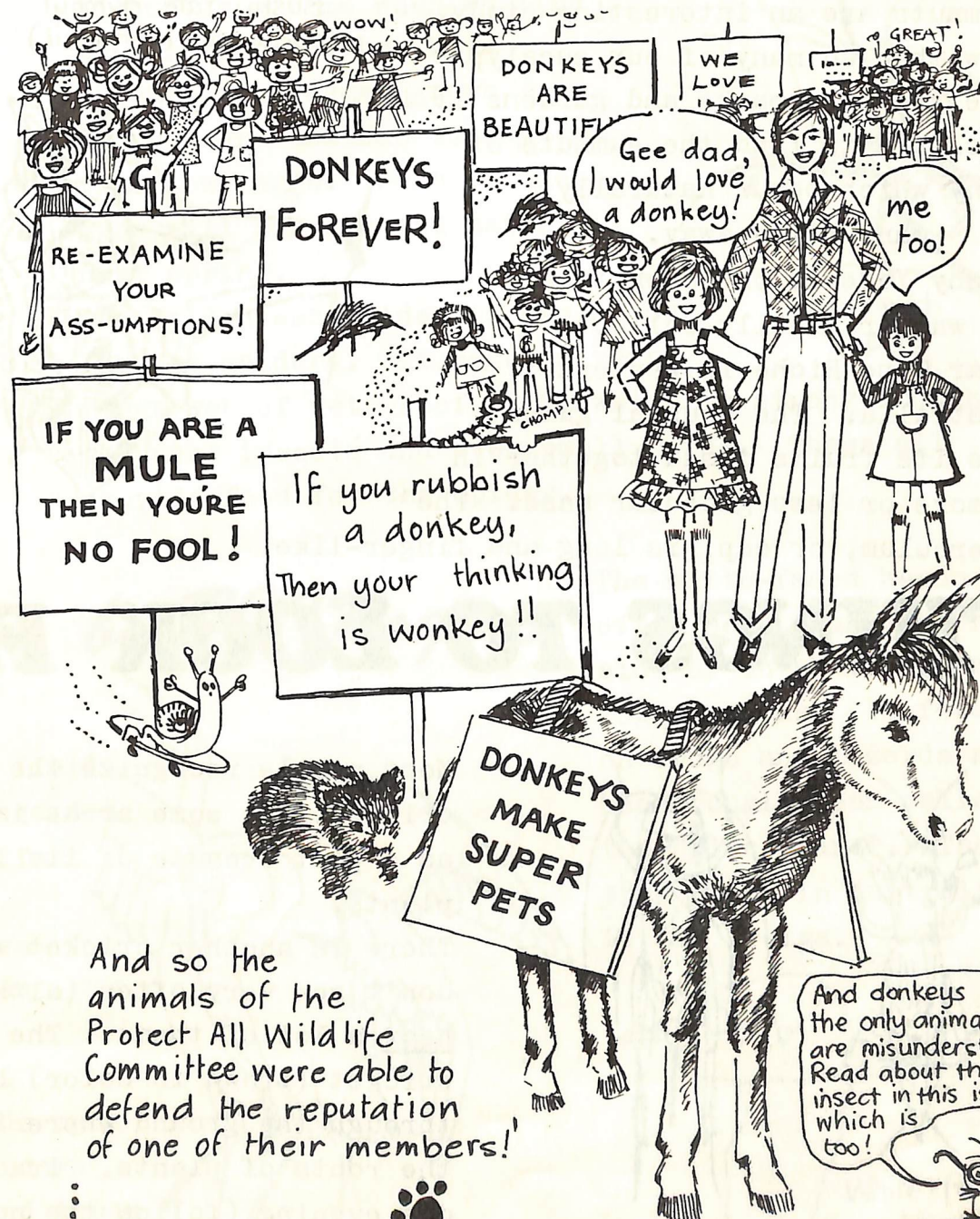
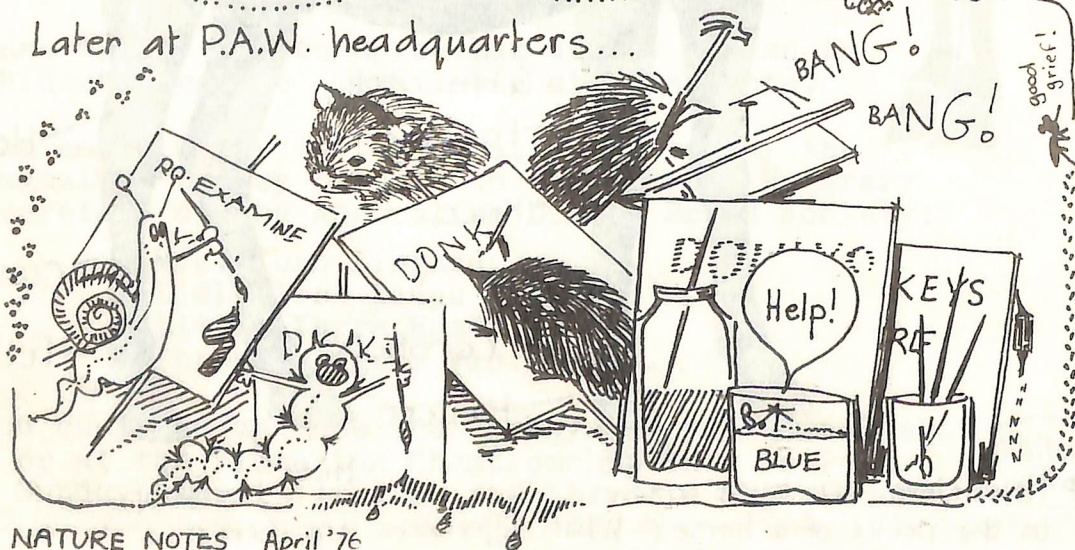


— they don't see why they should jump over something when they can just as easily walk around!

They can in fact gallop quite quickly and make excellent pets...

well lets tell people!

Later at P.A.W. headquarters...



And so the animals of the Protect All Wildlife Committee were able to defend the reputation of one of their members!



And donkeys aren't the only animals that are misunderstood. Read about the insect in this issue which is too!

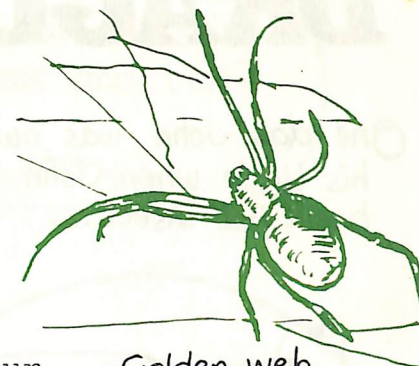
Gumnuts are an interesting study. Now that so many of our eucalypts are grown in parks and gardens it is possible to find the gumnuts of many which occur naturally many miles away.

Bushy Yate gumnut.
(*Eucalyptus lehmannii*.)



Bushy Yate is one such tree. It was originally collected near Cape Riche in Western Australia. The unusual gumnut has its fruits fused together in a more or less globular mass. The operculum, or cap, is long and finger-like.

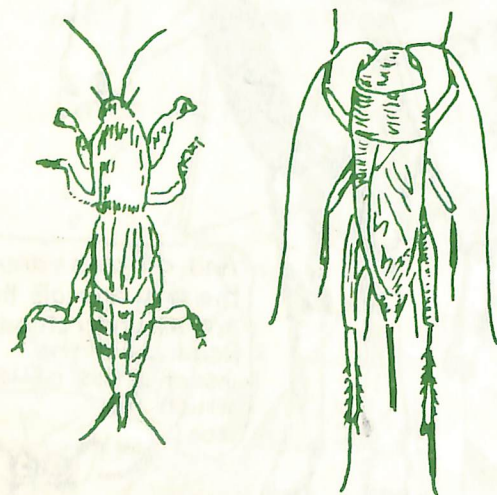
Autumn is a time when we find many spiders. They have hatched from eggs, grown, and now are anxious to lay their own eggs. Some of these eggs will survive and hatch next spring.



Golden web Spider.

The Golden-web spider is one of our largest spiders. It makes a very large web of metres of silk, which is strong enough to snare insects and even small birds. These all provide food for the spider.

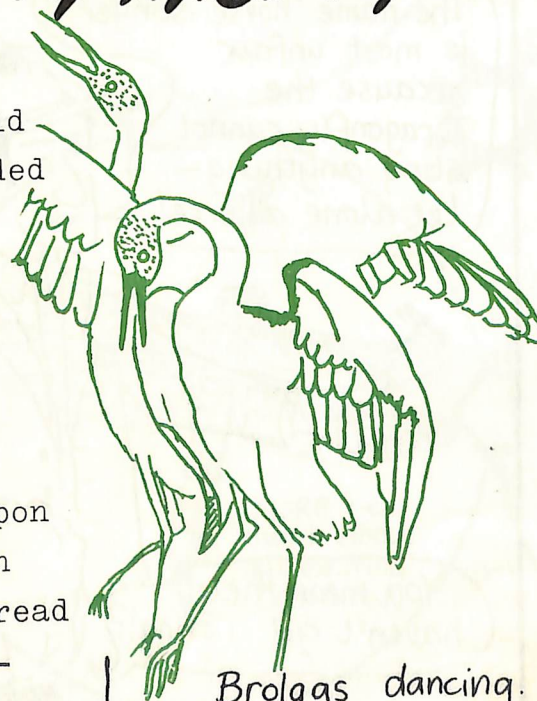
THINGS TO LOOK FOR by F.J.C. Rogers.



Mole Cricket.
8 April.

Field Cricket.

Most people recognize the black field cricket. In some areas it is regarded as a pest because of its liking for plants. There is another cricket which we don't see very often (although we hear a lot of them). The mole cricket (brown in color) burrows through the ground where it feeds upon the roots of plants. Track one down one evening (follow the noise and tread softly) and examine the front legs - they're made just right for digging.



Brolgas dancing.

The white-faced heron is often seen along the road-side or on shallow, water-logged areas. It feeds on frogs and lizards and has wrongly been called the "Blue Crane". The true crane in Australia is the Brolga.



White-faced Heron.
April. 9

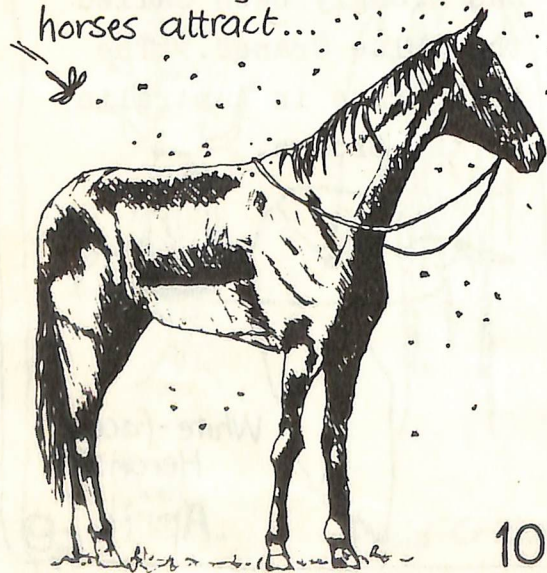
DRAGONFLIES

By H.J. Lawry

One day John was out with his Uncle when John saw a beautiful insect....



Uncle Joe goes on to explain that the only reason these insects are often seen near horses is because they eat the flies that horses attract...



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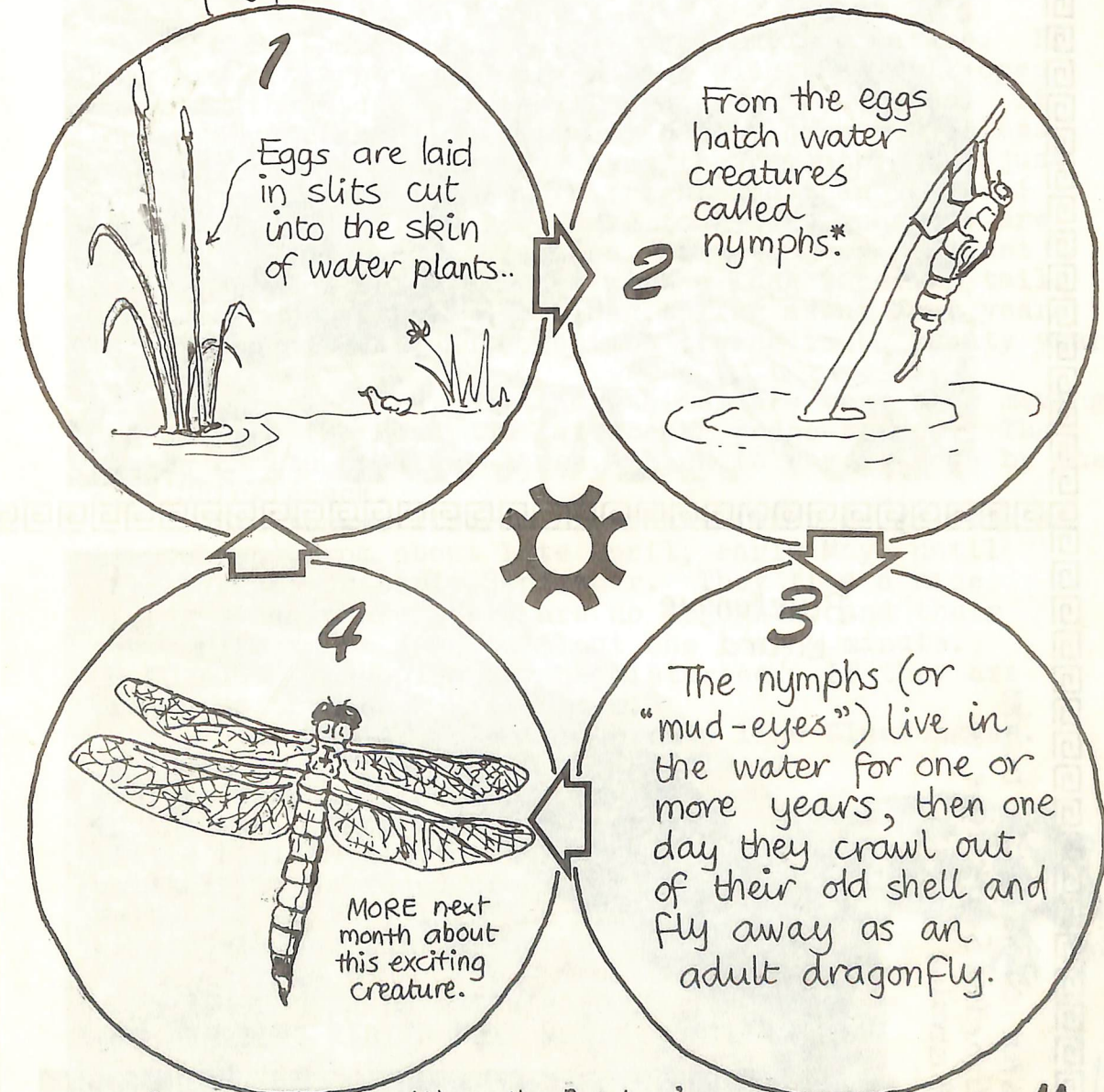
Actually John, its proper name is the "Dragonfly" - although it is neither dragon nor fly!



The name "horse-stinger" is most unfair because the Dragonfly cannot sting anything - let alone a horse!



That's right. They have no sting. They are a harmless and very beneficial insect. This is their life story....



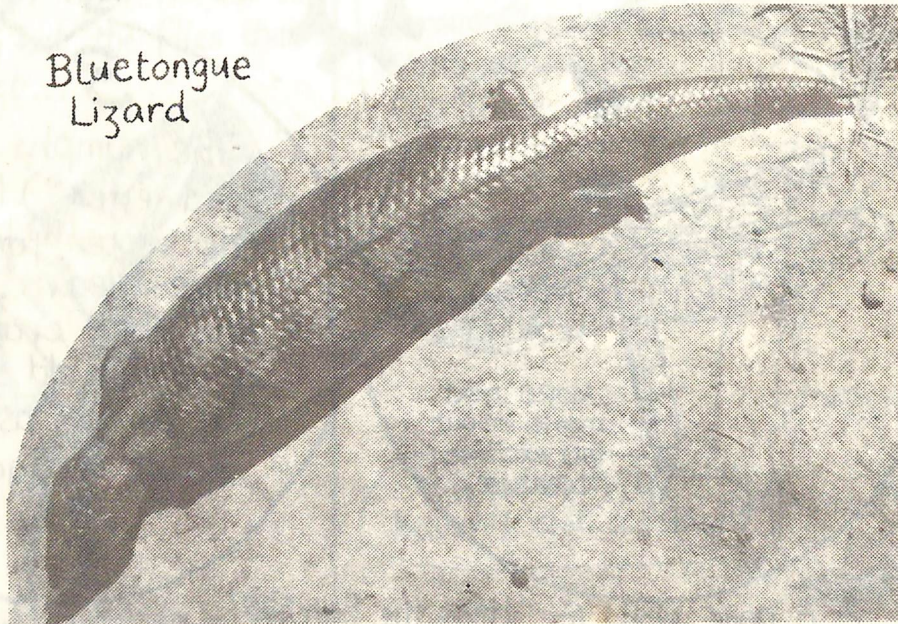
* A good word for 'Hang the Butcher' - no vowels in it!

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Shingleback Lizard ("Stumpytails")



Bluetongue Lizard



(What other Reptiles besides Lizards & Snakes live in Australia?)

LIZARDS. *by W. Prohasky.*

There are many types of lizards. The ones I will be writing about are Bluetongue lizards (*Tiliqua scincoides*) and Shingleback lizards (*Tiliqua rugosa*), which we call Stumpytails because of their short, stumpy tail.

All lizards are really very timid by nature. If they are disturbed suddenly in the bush they will open their mouths wide, put their tongues out and hiss. It looks very frightening but they cannot harm you unless you were to put your finger near their mouth. But just remember - they will be more frightened than you are!

Lizards, of course, have four legs, so they are not to be confused with snakes. Bluetongues are fast moving, plump, shiny-skinned with a long tapering tail. They grow up to about 45cm long, taking about four years to reach adulthood and sometimes living to be twenty years old.

Shinglebacks, or Stumpytails, are very slow moving and docile, the head and tail being wedge-shaped. The scales on its back are large, which is why it goes by the name Shingleback.

Bluetongue lizards hibernate (that is go into a deep sleep) from about late April, early May, until late August, or early September. They find a nice hiding place where there are no draughts, and their heart-beat drops down to about one beat a minute. ON NO ACCOUNT should they be disturbed. If they are picked up the shock kills them.

Stumpytails do not hibernate like Bluetongues. If there is a fine day in the middle of winter, they will come out and sit in the sun. They will even eat a little bit. Stumpytails are unlikely to be found around Melbourne as they like the warmer weather further north.



Blue tongue.

MORE ABOUT LIZARDS & THEIR FOOD AND BREEDING HABITS NEXT MONTH.

ed
CHOMP
CHOMP



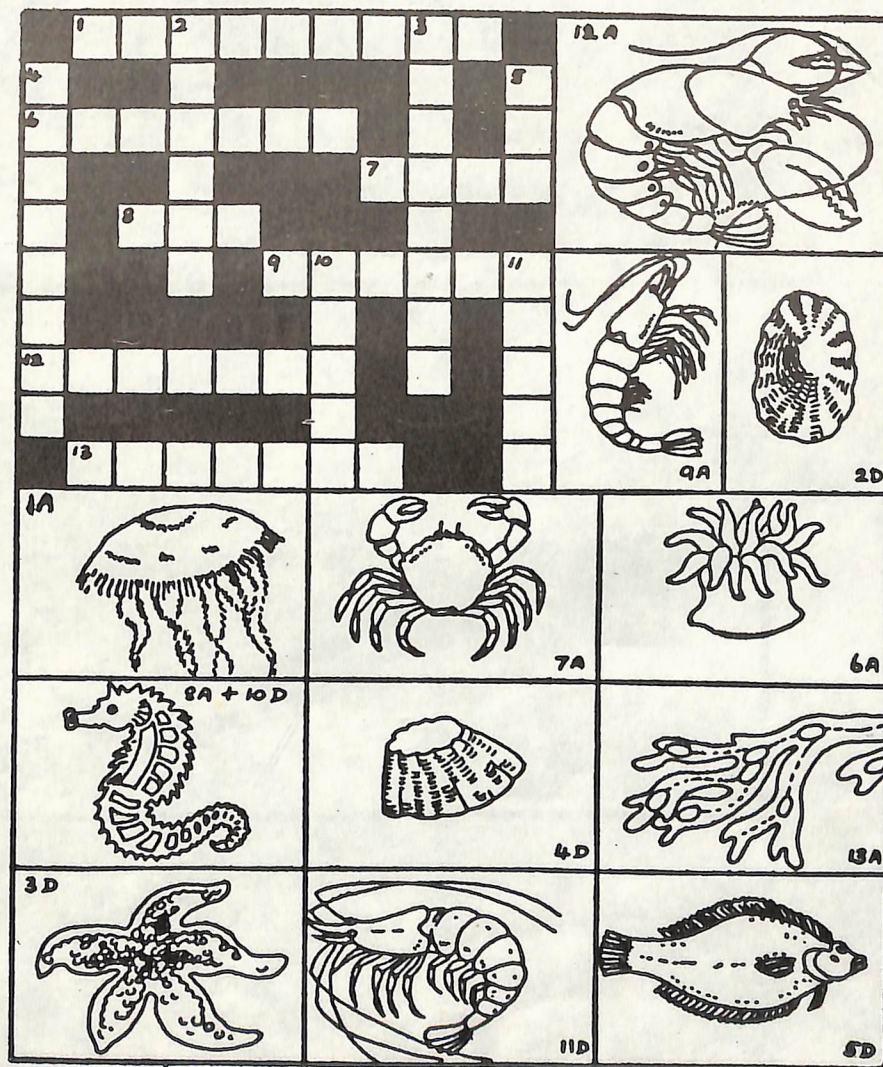
Letters

When my family and I went to Phillip Island for a day trip we visited a place called the Nobbies. We were walking down a path and we discovered a penguin hidden in a crack between the rocks.

From
Suzanne.
Metcalf

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DEWESS SHEDAIRS SAPE CHAPSIN RUNTIPS BAGBACES YELRAP5



THE SEA SHORE

From
PEAL
PICTURE
CROSSWORDS

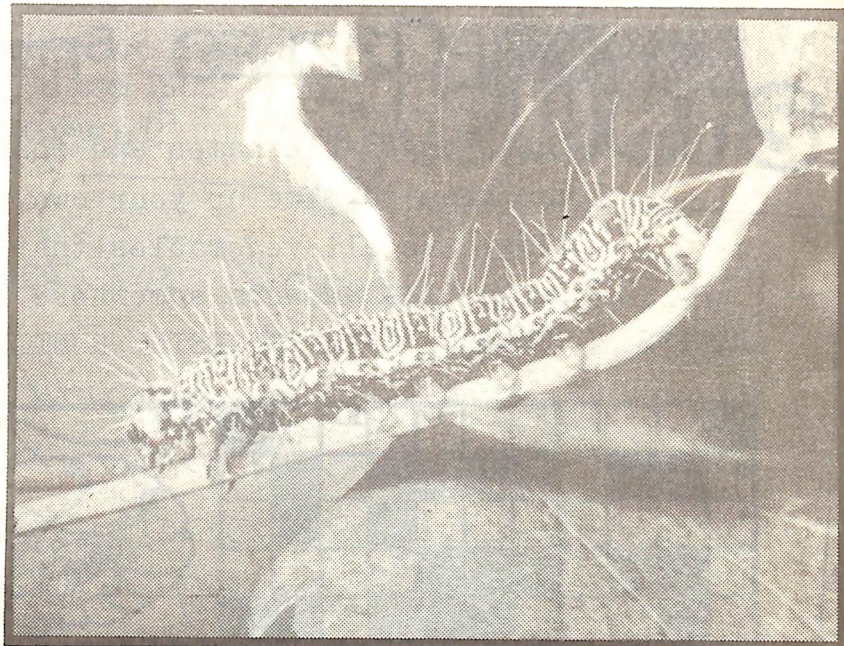
Nature Notes

Answers in your Encyclopaedia!

Wriggles & Co.



I'd like you to meet
a few friends of
mine. This is
Bacchus - he's
from the Grape-
vine Moth
caterpillar family.
(Dig those whiskers!)

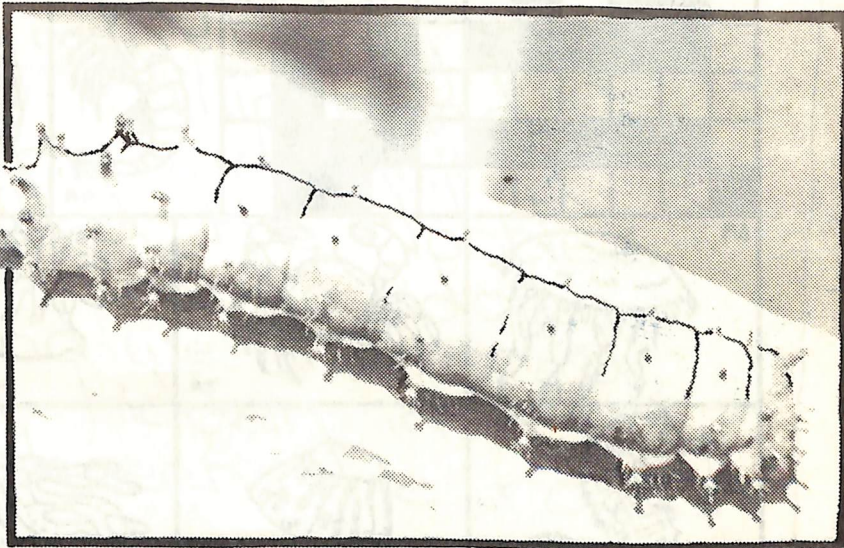


This
is Euca,
she's
pretty...

(pretty fat that is!)

and a gum
Emperor Moth
caterpillar.

Bacchus likes
vine leaves and
Euca loves gum
Leaves, BUT.....



did you know
...that most of us -
when we've become moths or butter-
flies - live on nectar, although
some of us don't eat anything!
We just lay our eggs & kick the bucket!



I just can't
wait till
I can
fly!