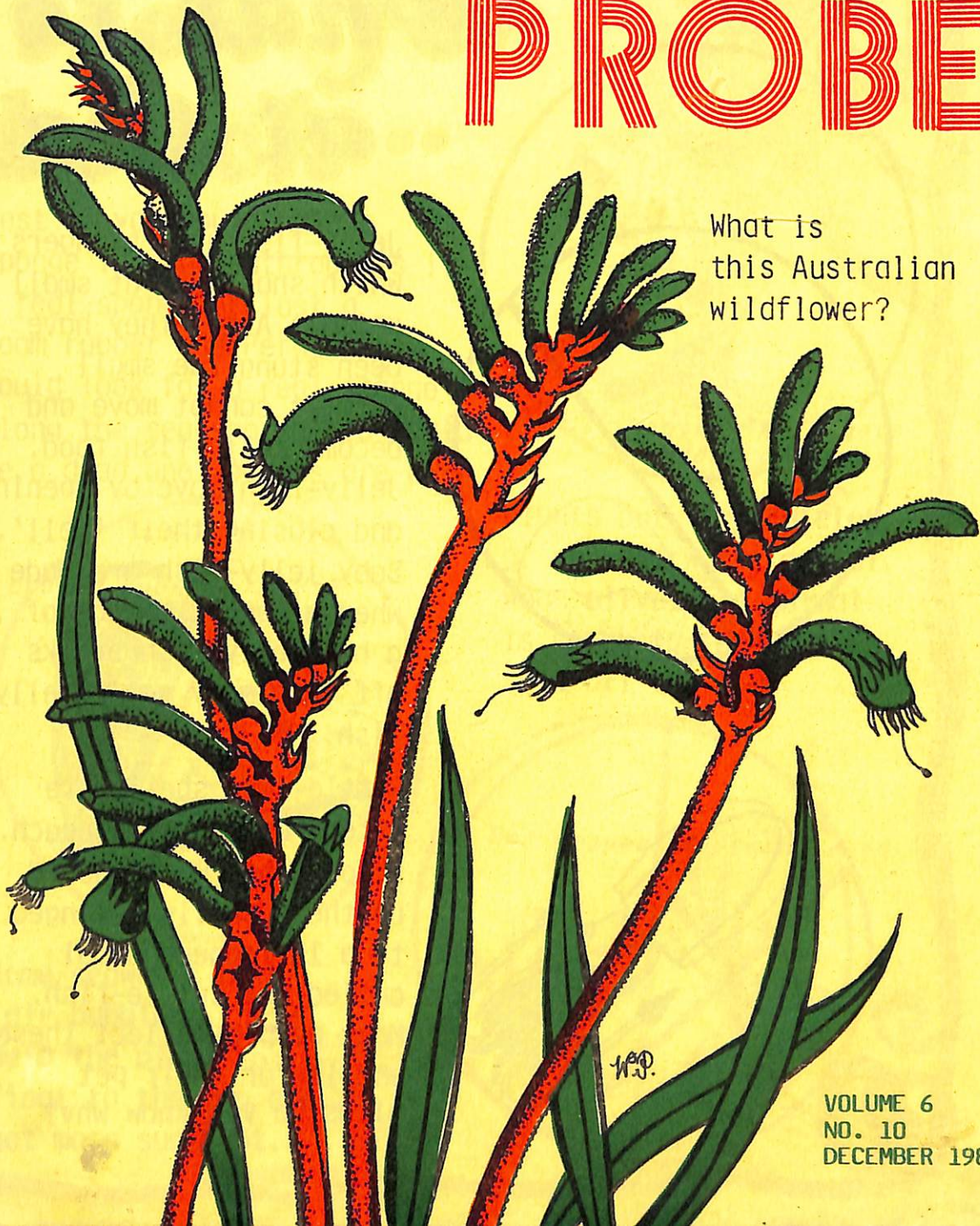


PROBE: A RINGWOOD INSPECTORATE PUBLICATION

PROBE

What is
this Australian
wildflower?



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What to at the

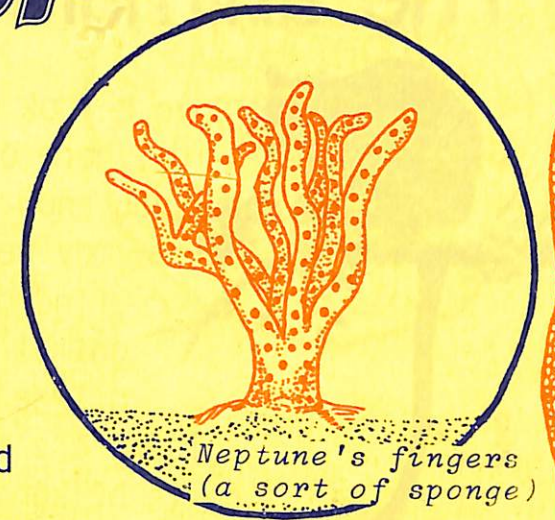
Jelly-fish have stingers which shoot out at small animals. After they have been stung, the small animals cannot move and become jelly-fish food. Jelly-fish move by opening and closing their 'bell'. Baby jelly-fish are made when a special piece of a big jelly-fish breaks off into many small jelly-fish.

Cuttle-fish shells are often found on the beach. Before they were washed up, these shells belonged to a 10 legged animal called the Cuttle-fish. Many people collect these shells for their pet birds. Do you know why?

look for beach...

BY D. BRYDON

Most of you would have a sponge in your bathroom. Is it a real sponge or just a foam rubber one? Perhaps you could look for a real sponge along the sea shore. This would be a dead one. Sponges are not



plants but the skeleton of an underwater animal. When alive, this animal is stuck to the same spot all the time.

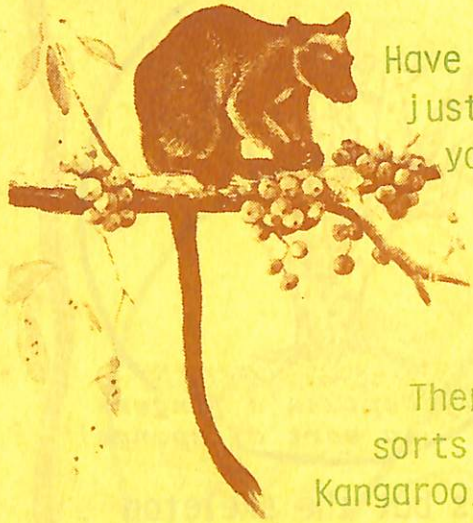


Some seaweeds have 'air bubbles'. These help the plant to float to the top and get more sunlight.



by D.Brydon

The animals on our coins~ ~the Kangaroo



Have a look at the animal just here on the left. Do you know what it is? You may be surprised to find out that this animal is a kangaroo—a Tree kangaroo.

There are many different sorts of kangaroo—the Red Kangaroo, the Wallaroo and the Great Grey Kangaroo are just a few.

Many people get kangaroos mixed up with wallabies because they look almost the same. Wallabies are really only smaller kangaroos. When kangaroos are born, they are only two and a half centimetres long. Is this longer or shorter than your little finger? After it is born, the baby kangaroo slowly climbs to its mother's pouch where it keeps growing for about 8 months. After that, the baby leaves the pouch for short times, coming back to drink.

What is the proper name for a baby kangaroo?



Some people may think kangaroos are lucky because they don't really sleep. They have to watch out all the time for their enemies, dingoes, wedge-tailed eagles

and shooters. Kangaroos rest for most of the day under shady trees (if they can find them). In the late afternoon, they begin to feed. Like the kanga, there are many animals who move around mainly at night. Can you think of any?

Most of you know how a kangaroo moves. Did you know that one hop can be up to three and a half metres long. Can you hop or jump this far?

Sometimes Red Kangaroos fight each other as you can see in the picture on the right.

Unlike dingoes, kangaroos are not hunters. Grass is their main food. Because cows and sheep also eat grass, cow and sheep farmers do not like kangaroos.



Artists: W. Prohasky
A. Sandford

THE STORY OF MY LIFE

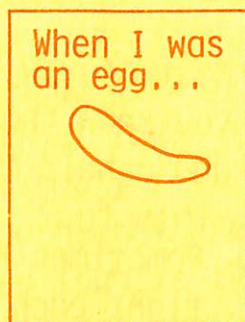
by Phill. Thee Fly

Drawings: Thanks to THE FLY by B. Benson

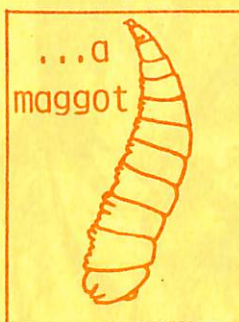
One warm spring day, three weeks ago, my life began. Mum was flying around the neighborhood tip when she found a delicious looking piece of rubbish. In it she laid hundreds of small white eggs. One of them was me.

In a bit less than two days, I crawled out of my tiny egg and began to feed on the rubbish I was living in. Mmmm... mum sure knew what maggots like me want for dinner.

My brothers and sisters looked just like me. None of us had eyes or legs. We were glad when, after a few days we turned into pupae. As pupae, we all had a new oval



When I was an egg...

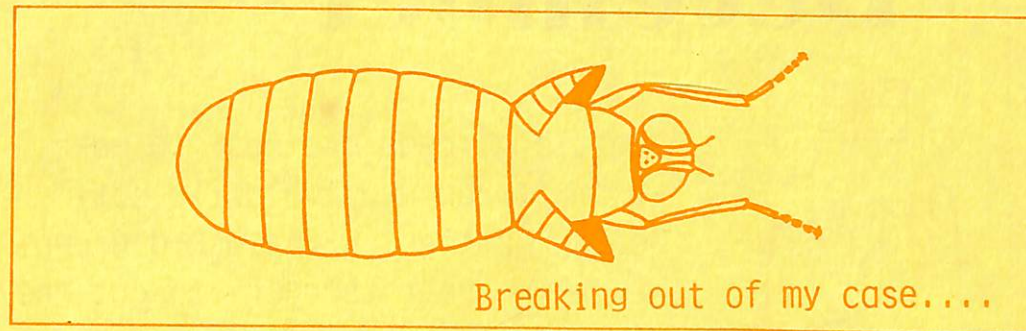


...a maggot

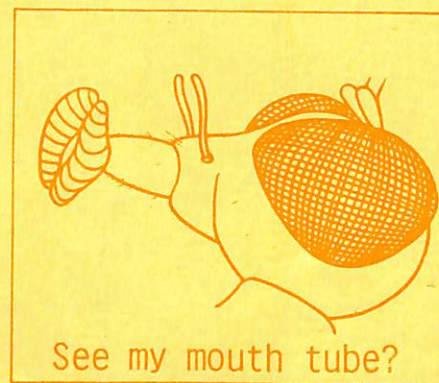


...a pupa

shape with hard brown skin. One day, the end of my pupa suddenly broke open. I felt strange and different.



Breaking out of my case....



See my mouth tube?

For the first time in my life I could see everything around me. At my side, I could see a crumpled pair of wings. For a few hours my legs were weak and couldn't hold me up. Then I grew stronger and

my wings straightened out. At last I was a real fly. My mum would be proud of me-if I ever met her. After breaking out, I was hungry. It was easy to spit on the food, make it juicy and then suck it up my mouth tube. First I tried a bit of cow manure. Then I found a piece of cake someone had left uncovered. What a pity that person owned a fly swat!



My hairy legs pick up dust and dirt.

by D. Brydon

What to do in December...



Bottle gardens are easy to make from 'throw away' plastic soft drink bottles. First, ask a grown-up (like your teacher) to cut the soft drink bottle in half with a 'Stanley' knife. Pull and twist the clear

plastic part out of the black plastic 'bowl' part. Fill the 'bowl' with sandy dirt or potting mix.

Break off the end pieces of plants which grow well from cuttings-begonias, wandering jew, aluminium plant or ivy are just a few. Instead, you could plant flower seeds or herbs in the soil.

