

PROBE

VOLUME 6: NO. 6 AUGUST 1980



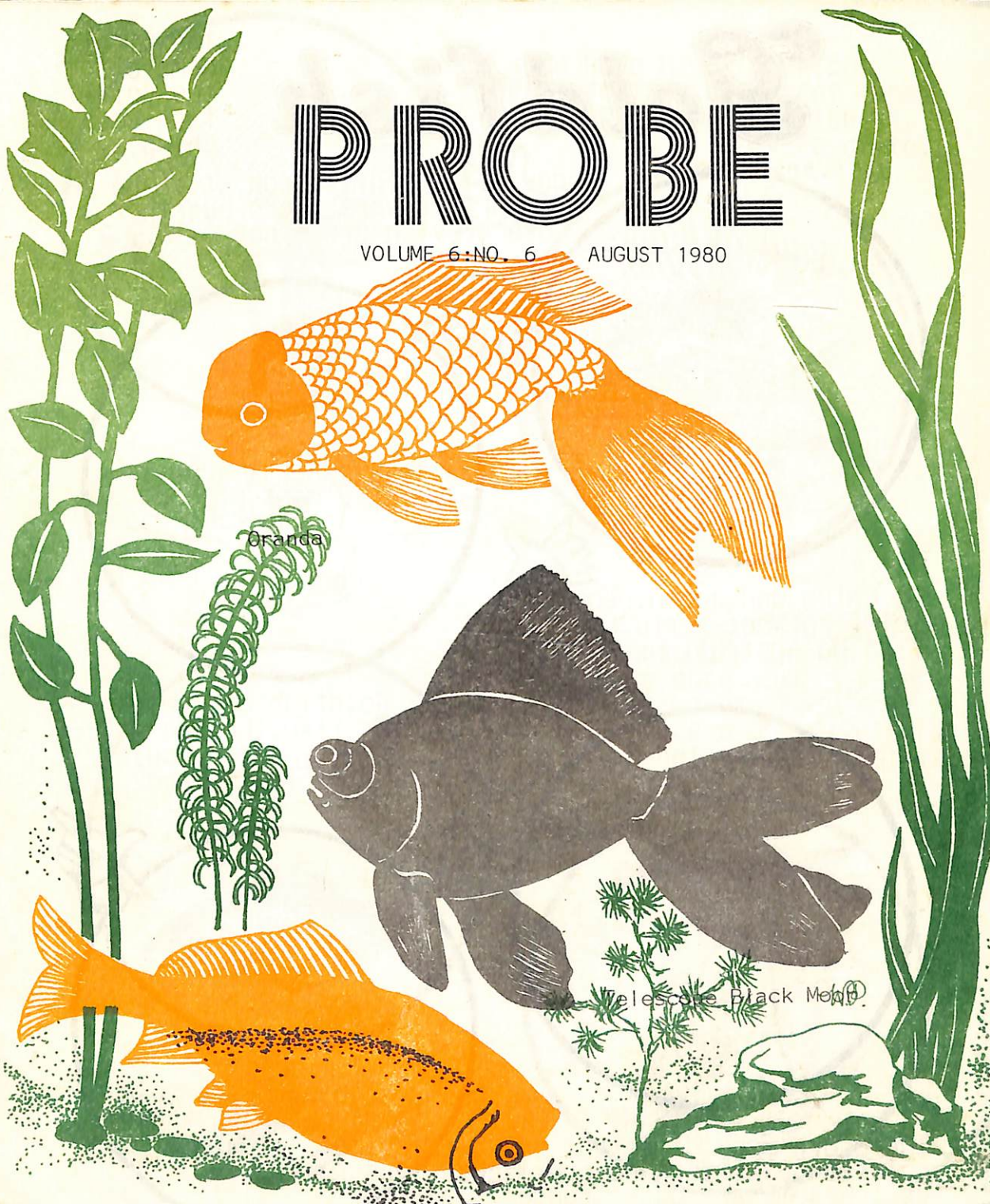
Oranda



Telescope Black Moor



Nishiki Koi



Goldfish

by D. Brydon

The first home of the goldfish was China...

Today, wild goldfish can still be found in rivers there but they are greyish-green, not gold....



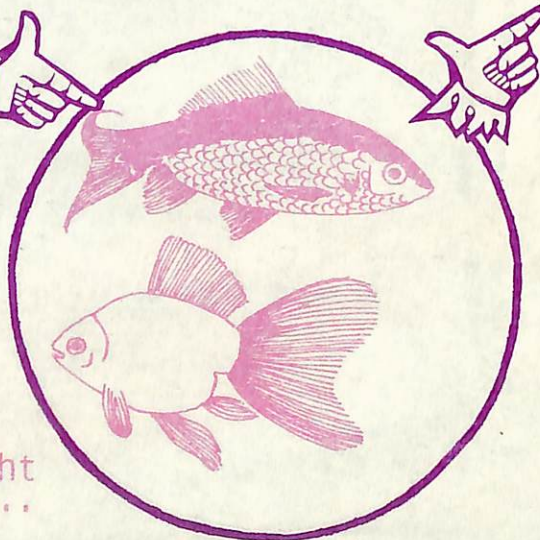
In China and Japan, people eat goldfish. What sorts of fish do Australians eat?



Goldfish are cold water fish. They do not live in salty water. Could they live in the sea?



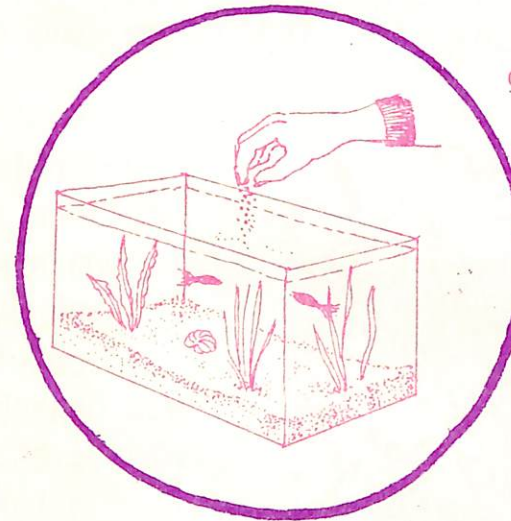
There are many different colored goldfish. Some are light yellow, some are dark orange....



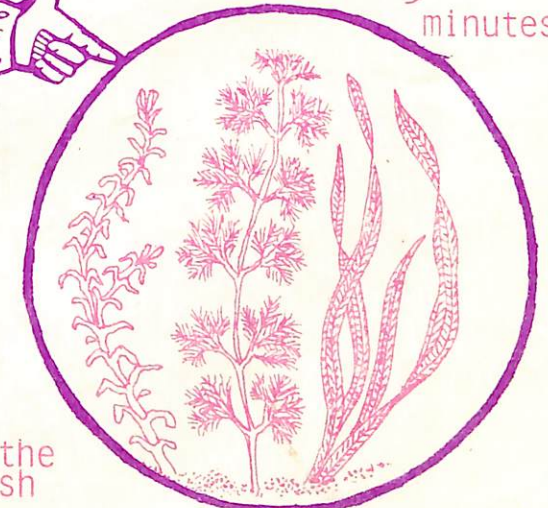
...and some have black markings. There are many different types also. The Veiled goldfish is my favorite...



Today, many freshwater fish die because people pollute rivers with poisons. When their food dies, so do the fish.....



More goldfish can live in a rectangle shaped aquarium because more air can get into the water. Feed them only once a day. Give them only what they can eat in 5 minutes.



To stay alive, goldfish need plants growing in their aquarium. Water snails help the goldfish by eating the rubbish in the water.

Artist: Wilma Prohasky

The animals on our coins • • • *the Lyrebird*

The 10 cent piece

By D. Brydon

The male lyrebird, with its beautiful fan of green and blue feathers, is found only in Australia. Many years ago, shooters were allowed to kill lyrebirds and sell their feathers. People used the feathers to make their houses, hats and clothes look prettier. Do you think the shooters and their customers were right to do this? Why?

Today it is against the law to harm or kill lyrebirds. Many people today want to make sure that uncommon animals like the lyrebird do not disappear altogether from the Australian bush.

Female lyrebirds look quite different to male lyrebirds. They are smaller and their feathers are greyish-brown.

A mother lyrebird feeding her baby



PHOTO: Thanks to WILDLIFE HERITAGE

Sherbrooke Forest, just out of Melbourne, is a place where you might see tame ones.

Now the shooters have been stopped, the lyrebird has new problems. Many of them are killed by foxes and cats. These cats (called feral cats) have been bought to the bush by people who are sick of feeding and looking after them.

Mother lyrebirds lay only one egg. About the size of a hen's egg, it is grey with purple blotches.



Can you remember the names of the animals on the 1c., 2c. and 5c. coins?



Lyrebirds have strong clawed feet which they use to rake through the leaf litter on the ground. Worms and insects are good lyrebird food. Often a Pilot bird follows the lyrebird around, eating scraps.

In early autumn, the male lyrebird begins to sing and show his beautiful feathers. This means that he is looking for female lyrebirds to become mothers.

Are you a male or a female?

SAVAGE PLANTS

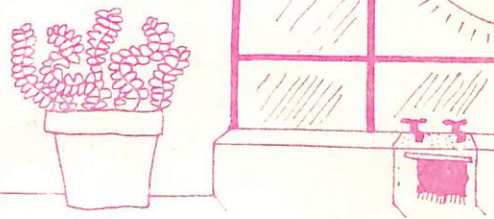
Perhaps if some of our tiny Australian insects could dream as we do, they would have nightmares about some of Australia's SAVAGE PLANTS....

I wonder if any of you have ever dreamt of being trapped by a savage and hungry monster....



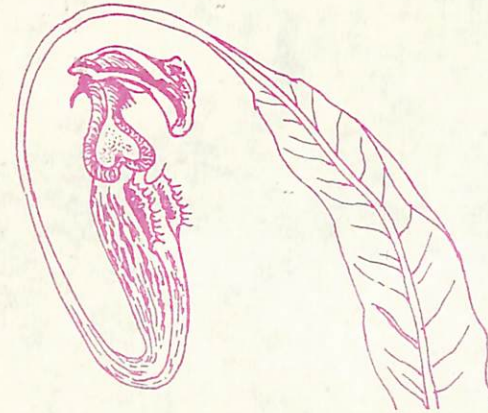
Yummy

Most green plants make their own food from the rays of the sun which shine onto their leaves. Find out what happens to a plant kept in the dark for a week.

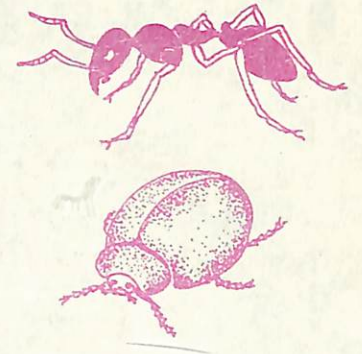


Those of you who are growing plants in your classroom will know what things most plants need to stay alive. What are they?

Unlike most plants, the Albany Pitcher Plant traps and eats insects and other small animals...

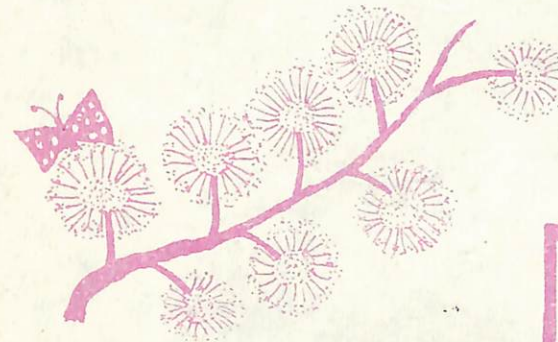


The leaves of the Albany Pitcher Plant look like small colourful jugs. Each 'jug' has a lid which keeps out the rain. The lid is always partly open.



Ants, flies, beetles and snails crawling around the plant slide down the smooth sides of the pitcher or 'jug' and drown in the juice at the bottom. Then the Pitcher plant eats them up.

How do some animals trap their food?



Insects should also be careful about Australia's 55 different Sundew plants.

The leaves of Sundews are covered with a glue-like juice which traps insects and turns them into a delicious meal.



Sometimes mother frogs lay their eggs by mistake in the juice at the bottom of a Pitcher....these become just another meal for the plant.

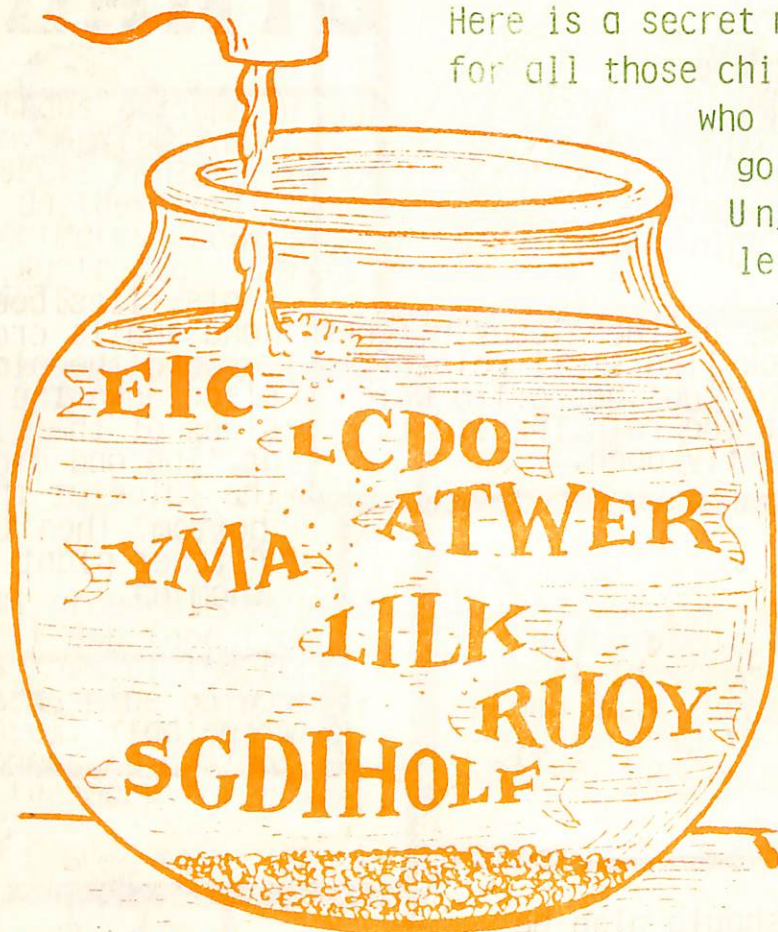
BY D. BRYDON



Puzzle Page

Here is a secret message
for all those children

who keep pet
goldfish.
Unjumble the
letters of
the words
in the
bowl to
find
out
what
it
is.



Thanks to 5th Piccolo Puzzle Book,
page 61.

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