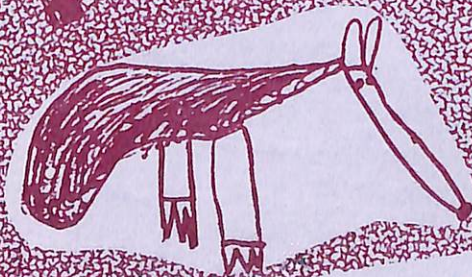


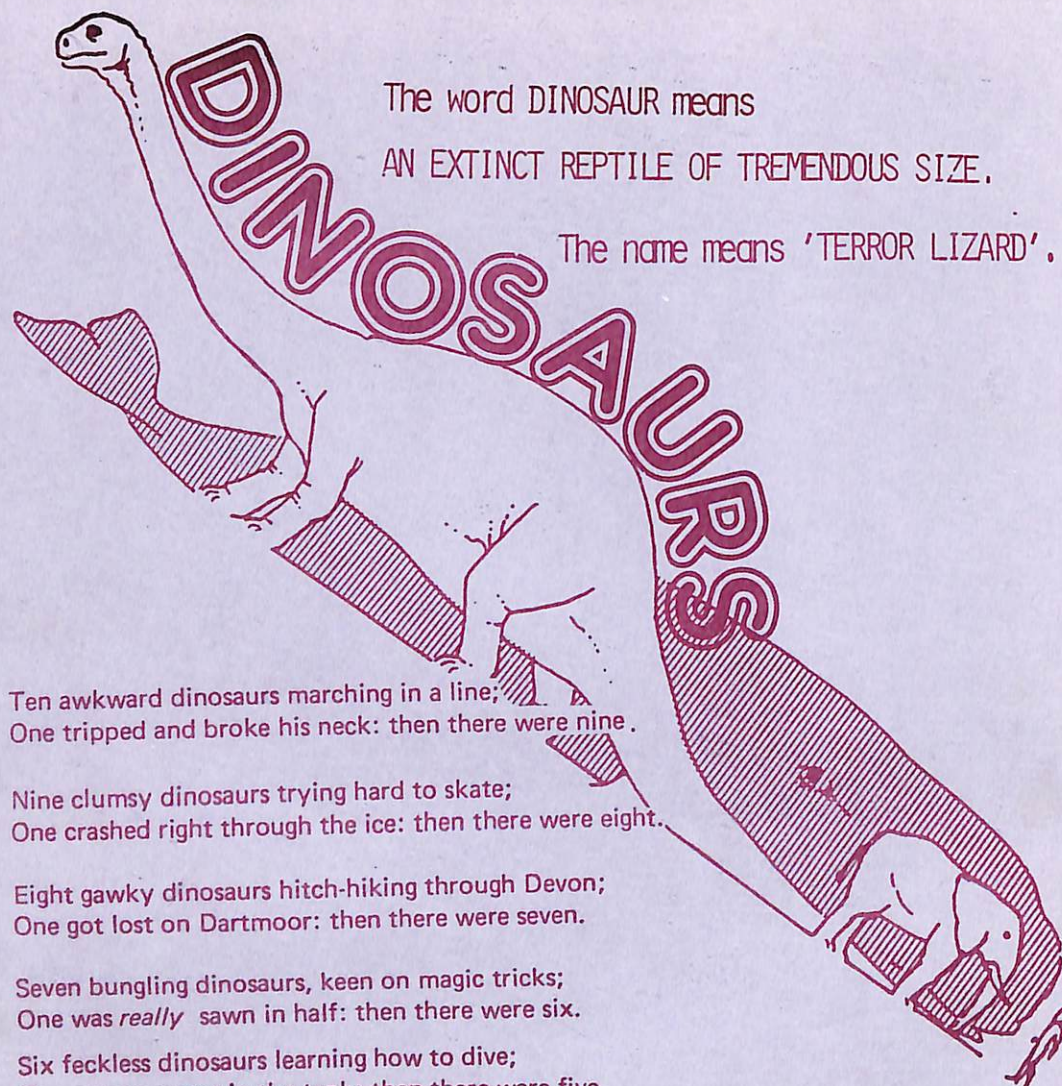
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Nature Probe

SUPPLEMENT TO VOL. II NO. 5



JULY 1985



The word DINOSAUR means
AN EXTINCT REPTILE OF TREMENDOUS SIZE.

The name means 'TERROR LIZARD'.

Ten awkward dinosaurs marching in a line;
One tripped and broke his neck: then there were nine.

Nine clumsy dinosaurs trying hard to skate;
One crashed right through the ice: then there were eight.

Eight gawky dinosaurs hitch-hiking through Devon;
One got lost on Dartmoor: then there were seven.

Seven bungling dinosaurs, keen on magic tricks;
One was *really* sawn in half: then there were six.

Six feckless dinosaurs learning how to dive;
One put no water in the tank: then there were five.

Five warlike dinosaurs joined the recce corps;
One couldn't read a map: then there were four.

Four reckless dinosaurs sailing on the sea;
A hungry shark swallowed one: then there were three.

Three demented dinosaurs in search of Doctor Who;
One argued with a Dalek: then there were two.

Two enterprising dinosaurs explored the Amazon;
One trod on a crocodile: then there was one.

One lonely dinosaur, when all his friends had gone,
Simply pined away and died: then there was none.



THE END OF THE DINOSAURS



The most puzzling question of all is why
did the dinosaurs disappear completely?

There have been many theories put forward
but none provides a fully satisfactory answer

1 CATASTROPHES. Perhaps great earthquakes,
tidal waves, volcanoes, etc
wiped them out.

These things might kill them all in a small
area, but not all over the world.

2 EPIDEMICS. Perhaps some disease or plague killed them all
An epidemic could destroy the population of one area or even
a country, but not all over the world.

3 CHANGES. Perhaps the atmosphere or vegetation changed
and the dinosaurs, unable to adapt, died out.
Such changes would be very slow, over millions of years and
if other creatures adapted to the changes then the dinosaurs
could perhaps have adapted also.

4 MAMMALS. A new class of animal arose which was better
equipped to compete for food and space, thus
forcing the dinosaur out of existence.

But the mammals did not rise in importance until after
dinosaurs died out.

IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE WILL EVER KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE DINOSAURS.



Nature Notes
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Thankyou for
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by Charles Connell, 1978.

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At this time of the year... mid-winter, it has become very popular for families to go to the alpine country for holidays and have fun in the snow.

Ernie and Bruce enjoy it too.

* Do you know what ALPINE means?

.....

* Have you seen snow?

* How does it feel? Soft?

Cold? Heavy? Light?.....

* If you haven't seen snow, what do you think it would be like to touch?

.....

Each year more people are going to the mountains and learning to ski. Ernie is getting very good at it isn't he! He's all rugged up, keeping warm as he skis down the snowy slope.



As more people, in cars and buses visit the high snow plains, more snow-field villages are built to house them.

New roads are made to cater for the extra traffic.

"I'm playing eskimo's Bruce.... but I'm not having much luck!"

Both Bruce and Ernie notice that a lot of DAMAGE has been caused in the past by off-the-road trail bikes and four wheel drive cars and trucks.



* Have you ever been to the alps?

* If you go there, look for signs of damage.

* Are there any broken trees and plants?

These activities by man bring lots of problems.

THEY UPSET THE BALANCE OF NATURE

The lovely alpine areas are very easily damaged by careless acts.

The delicate mosses that grow there help to control the run-off water (from the melting snow) to streams. They are easily ruined by people walking on them.

IN ALPINE PARKS -- KEEP TO THE TRACKS

That way you will protect the plants and you will not get lost either!

Ernie and Bruce always go out prepared for sudden bad weather by wearing suitable water resistant boots. Rainproof clothing, caps and woollen gloves. Only wool stays warm when wet.

Wilma Prohasky

Ernie & Bruce on HOLIDAY... in our SNOW Country.



tortoises

I have lost count of the number of tortoise stories that started in this sad way.

Why do animals get injured, sick or die? Probably because their owners do

not know how to look after them.

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS THAT WILL KEEP YOUR PET HEALTHY AND HAPPY.

CHOOSING A TORTOISE

1 Don't collect one from the wild.

WHY NOT?

2 Buy the tortoise from a good pet shop.

HOW COULD PET SHOPS HELP TORTOISES TO SURVIVE?

3 Pick an animal that

- has bright eyes.
- is alert
- does not smell 'fishy'.
- has a clean mouth.
- has a shell that is not damaged.
- is not too small (young).

WE NEED CALCIUM TOO!
WHAT FOR?????????????

THE TORTOISE ENCLOSURE

(We covered this last month but here are a few more hints.)

If you have an indoor enclosure and some heating your tortoise will be active all year. It will not need to hibernate if it has enough food.

Heating: a light globe over the dry land
(make sure that the tortoise can move away from the warm spot.)



: a fish tank heater for the water in very cold weather (not more than 24'C).

Pot plants, stones and bark make the enclosure look good.

Make sure the tortoise can get in and out of the water easily.

FEEDING

Your tortoise will need to feed in the water. FOODS : chopped meat (not fatty)
fish, worms, snails.

HOW OFTEN? About every 2-3 days. If you watch your tortoise you will be able to tell.

ALWAYS take out uneaten food quickly - otherwise it will rot and make your tortoise sick.

CALCIUM. Tortoises need calcium to keep their shells hard and healthy. Fish in diet will help. So will a lump of "Plaster of Paris" in the water.



P.T.O.

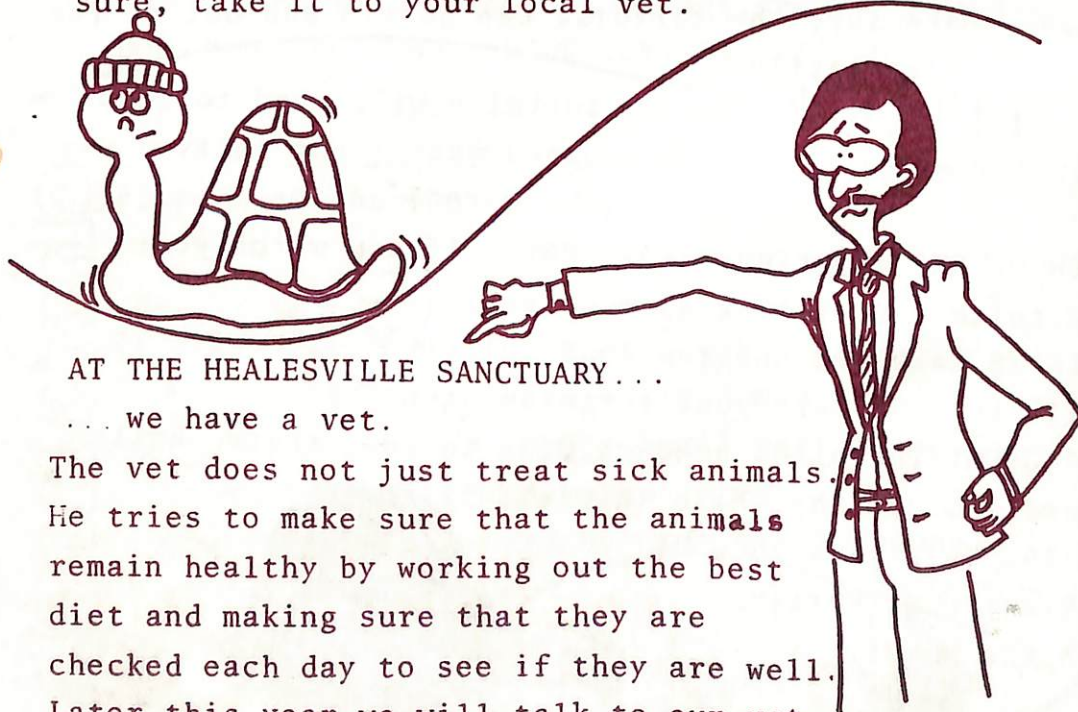
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HEALTH PROBLEMS

- 1 SHELL ROT this is the one reason for never drilling a hole in the shell.
(It also hurts the tortoise!)
- 2 EYE FILM
- 3 COLDS - with runny nose and eyes - VERY dangerous for tortoises.
- 4 SOFT SHELL
- 5 MALNUTRITION - right diet is important.
- 6 FUNGUS

A book like "TORTOISES" by George Warren can help with treatment of tortoises but if you are not sure, take it to your local vet.



AT THE HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY...

... we have a vet.

The vet does not just treat sick animals. He tries to make sure that the animals remain healthy by working out the best diet and making sure that they are checked each day to see if they are well. Later this year we will talk to our vet in Nature Probe.

Some Animals Create Problems.

Cockatoos (which include Galahs, Long Billed Corellas, Sulphur Crested Cockatoos, and the Little Corella) are sometimes responsible for feeding on freshly planted crops.

What do you think farmers should do about this ?

COCKATOOS



KANGAROOS



Kangaroos also create problems for farmers by eating the grass.
Would you wear a kangaroo fur coat ?
Do you think you would look better in a skin than a kangaroo. ?

Are there any animal furs or skins that you would be prepared to wear ?

e.g.



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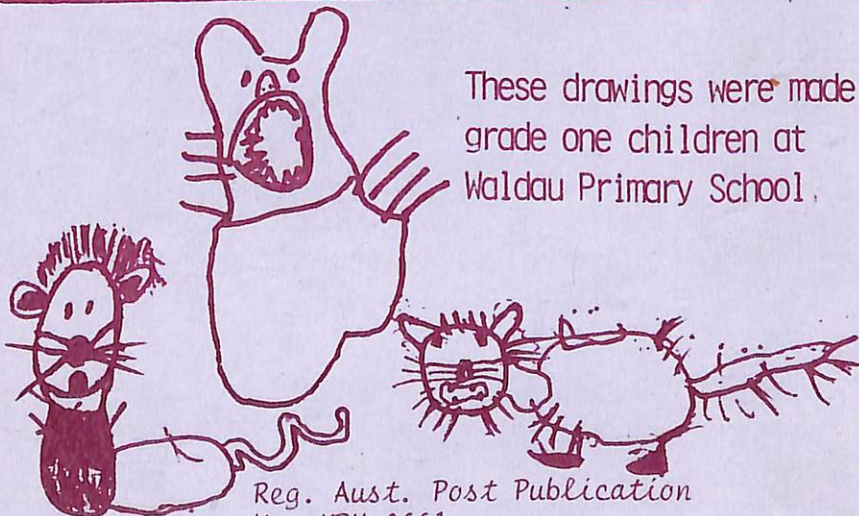
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grade one children at
Waldau Primary School.



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