**Field of Mars Animals**

**Empire (Sydney, NSW: 1850 - 1875), Tuesday 8 March 1864, page 5**

LIST OF DONATIONS TO THE AUSTRALIAN

MUSEUM.

FEBRUARY, 1864.

A white hawk (Astur Novae Hollandiae): by Mr. Thomas Barnett, Pennant Hills.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 20 January 1872, page 5**

PARRAMATTA.

On Wednesday afternoon news was brought into Parramatta that the premises of Mr. John Lackey, M.L.A., at the Glebe, were surrounded by fire. Many of the townspeople hastened to the scene. The fire-bell having summoned the members of the brigade together, after a trifling delay owing to horses not being at hand, they hurried to the fire, and it was found that the bush had been burning for a very considerable extent around. By dint of the efforts of Mr. Lackey's neighbours, the fire was kept under very much but, notwithstanding all their exertions, the orchard was partly destroyed, and some pigs burnt to death. A portion of the house also caught fire, but, thanks to the Fire Brigade, the flames were promptly extinguished. A portion of Mr. Henry Whittaker’s vineyard, at Orchardleigh, also suffered considerably. After the fire had burned out, dead bodies of bandicoots, wild rabbits, snakes, reptiles of various kinds, and even large birds of the hawk kind, including night owls, were found lying dead about the bush and during the raging of the fire, and for a considerable time after, numbers of eaglehawks and crows hovered about in the air, doubtless attracted by the smell of the burning carcases.

**Cumberland Mercury (Parramatta, NSW: 1875 - 1895), Saturday 26 December 1885, page 3**

Pennant Hills.

A TRIANGULAR DUEL. - A rather novel incident occurred in this neighbourhood a few days since. A wallaby managed by some misfortune to get into an orchard, and was of course attacked by a dog, who apparently thought he had a right do so. In turn a pet magpie came upon the scene of action, and the noise the bird made while the combat was going on may be better imagined than described. It was sufficient to attract the attention of a

neighbour residing a considerable distance away. He found the dog under an apple tree, and the wallaby belabouring him very unceremoniously, evidently having come off best in the encounter. The presence of a human being, however, soon decided the struggle, in favour of the dog.

December 22.

**Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 7 Oct 1889**

WOMBAT OR BEAR?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir, - On Saturday last while sitting with my family at breakfast at Beecroft between 8 and 9 o'clock, one of my children called my attention to an animal walking through the grounds, and I now ask you to insert these few lines in the hope that some of our naturalists may be able to say what it was. It had the appearance, size, and walk, of the common brown bear; but its, wool seemed to me to be of an ashy-grey colour. It had a short stump of a tail, and one of my party said its snout was something like a pig's; but this last feature I did not notice myself. The children ran after it, but before they could get near, it disappeared behind a

fallen tree and could not be seen again.

I am, &c.,

H. R. G.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 27 May 1893, page 7**

A Little Dog with a Big Record.

Toby, the half-bred Scotch terrier, the property of Mr. John Purser, of North Rocks, Pennant Hills, whose deeds of daring and vermin extinction have previously been chronicled in the columns of the Argus, has been at it again, and beats all previous performances. Last season his record was 365. This season (about six months) he did 447, as follows: — Snakes 14, slow-worms 26, jew lizards 35, rough lizards 174, smooth lizards 45, bush rats 57, house rats 13, mice 67, bandicoots 14, kangaroo rats 2. One of the snakes was 5ft 6in long. This record only includes those which Mr. Purser has actually seen himself. Tempting offers have been made for the purchase of Toby, but Mr. Purser says no money would buy him.

**Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1871 - 1912), Saturday 21 October 1893, page 852**

On Sunday, July 18, [1821] a young man named Bellamy and his brother, aged 16, were kangaroo-hunting in the district of Pennant Hills.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 4 November 1893, page 7**

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The following is a list of donors and donations since last monthly meeting: - 3 cockateels and a Pennant Hill parrakeet, Mrs. C. B. Thirkell.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 1 February 1896, page 10**

Among the Flying Foxes.

A Big Haunt.

And Big Slaughter.

On Monday and following days a large number of growers from Pennant Hills, Castle Hill and Dural visited a secluded spot on Chiver’s Creek, Pennant Hills, where the discovery of a huge haunt of flying-foxes had been made. The haunt was estimated to number not less than 50,000 foxes, the close bush for eight or ten acres being literally black with the

“enemy” as they hung, bat-like suspended from the branches. Everyone knows the destruction which these pesky creatures cause in the orchards, and it is commendable spontaneity of regard for the general weal of the growers that prompts all who can go forth to do so and aid in the slaughter of the pests. The slaughter is said to have begun on Sunday; but Monday saw upwards of fifty orchardists and friends engaged in the work, and nearly every man-jack of them carried firearms. The time chiefly chosen was in the early daylight, although the attack was kept up throughout the day with fearful effect. The sharp crack of rifles resounded through the adjacent hills each morning, as though hostile companies of infantry were engaged in earnest warfare. Some idea of the carnage may be gained from the fact that it was not uncommon for as many as five, six, seven, and eight foxes to be brought down in one shot. The destruction had on Wednesday reached thousands, but as the haunt was declared to be the biggest ever seen, there was then an alarming number left. Although powder and shot have been used with such telling effect, it is poor satisfaction after all for the damage and loss sustained in the orchards through the merciless ravages of these pests, which occasion more serious loss to the orchardist than the outlawed kangaroo does to the squatter with his net-wire fences; and the few pence per pair of claws — if indeed it is now available — is little recompense after all,

**Sun (Sydney, NSW: 1910 - 1954), Saturday 8 May 1920, page 6**

BLUE TONGUE PETS

SIXTEEN AT A BIRTH

A naturalist resident of Beecroft is the possessor of a healthy family of 16 baby blue-tongue lizards, probably the first born under practically domestic conditions. The reptiles are a side-line to the naturalist, whose principal hobby is the breeding of birds of paradise and other beautiful winged creatures.

Struck with the tameness and harmlessness of the blue-tongue lizard, which is too often mistakenly regarded as venomous, he secured a pair of large ones that wandered into his place from the bush, and gave them the free run of his aviaries. They are unable to reach the high nests in his great aviaries, so the eggs of the treasured birds are quite safe from them; but they do not appear to seek eggs.

It is interesting to learn that the young blue-tongues are born in a tough sac of yellow jelly, not at all like an egg, at intervals of about five months. They can be seen feeding on this jelly until they absorb the lot of it, and then they are found to be fully equipped for obtaining their food as their parents do. After the young are born neither of the parents take any notice of their offspring, and the little fellows do not seek help when alarmed. They just scuttle for cover.

The adult blue-tongues make interesting pets, and climb on to their owner's shoulder and take food from his fingers. They are useful about the aviaries in getting rid of insects.

**Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Saturday 30 April 1927, page 41**

Ways of the Wild

it Is refreshing to hear from Mr, G. A. Heumann, of Beecroft (who has been very successful as a breeder of birds), that he once succeeded in acting as a kind of foster-father to a family of blue-tongue lizards. Mr. Heumann says he remembers very well the initial birthday of the quaint little creatures. They, were born on a Sunday. The mother raised herself on her front legs and dropped a small bag, transparent like gelatine, in which the little blue-tongue lay curled up, tail touching head. The interval between the -birth of each one was about three minutes, and the total number of the young was 16. They immediately set to work to eat themselves out of the little bag. which seems to be their first meal. In fact, they seem to be born very hungry, because all of them ate meal-worms at once. One of them consumed as many as eight small meal-worms. You can almost see them grow.

They got away without taking notice of their mother. Mr. Heumann kept them in a box for a long time but eventually let them out.

**Sun (Sydney, NSW: 1910 - 1954), Sunday 27 February 1938, page 3**

WHERE I LIVE

Many times have I walked up and down the streets admiring the lovely homes, with their well-kept gardens, and becoming more and more attached to my loved home town — Beecroft.

Mother Nature's gift to this dear place is the bush and its wild haunts. The timid animals whose sharp eyes seem to peer at you each time you explore beneath their special tree! Whilst revelling in a beautiful mass of wild flowers, a rabbit scuttles away to warn her young family of the giant who Is surely after them! Then we wander off to the stream, to be greeted by the voices of many frogs banqueting beneath those reeds near the little wooden bridge, A beautiful kingfisher will perhaps be found high up in a tree, peering into the water with his sharp eyes for some unlucky creature to capture for his wife's supper. A big lizard slides away at the sound of leaves stirring as we steal off.

(Midget Certificate to Pamela Cabot (10), 7 Kirkham-street, Beecroft.)

**Sun (Sydney, NSW: 1910 - 1954), Sunday 19 March 1950, page 7**

Kangaroo in suburbs

AN old-man kangaroo is living in bush between Wahroonga and Beecroft.Several residents have seen him and want him left alone. One man said he heard the 'roo jumping near his house. Mrs. Alan Joscelyne, of Clapham Avenue, Beecroft, says she feeds the ‘roo each night.

Her children get up at dawn each day to track him.