



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY of AMATEUR HERPETOLOGISTS (Inc)
(Member of the Australasian Affiliation of Herpetological Societies)

NEWSLETTER

10 April, 1996
(7)

Gordon & Klass meet WASAH

At our February meeting Klass Gaikhorst gave us an insight into running a reptile park in WA. His son Glen has included some further information on 'what's happening' at the Armadale Reptile Centre in this newsletter. Thanks a lot Klass.

Gordon Wyre made himself available to speak to us on CALM policy. He must be given credit for walking into the 'lion's den'. I reckon there would be many who would not. There was little joy for members in what he had to say, although he did leave the door ajar. We must build on this and take a more moderate approach in any discussions we have with

the department. We do not mean to put them offside but somehow we do.

Things already appear to be improving. Read on and find out what.

Victoria *here we come* & *there we go*

The Victorian Herp Society invited Brian Bush to speak at their 28 February meeting. This was publicised as *Beerbottles, brownsnakes and boulders with President Bush*. VHS president Brian Barnett mentioned that some of their members contacted him to ask if the ex-USA President Bush was really coming over to address them! *Herps are dags!*

Not wanting to miss Busho make a fool of himself, Brad Maryan, Robert Browne-Cooper and Dave Robinson flew over also. You can imagine the impact this bunch of wild WA reptile fanatics had on sleepy old Melbourne. After a few days I reckon they were glad to see the back of us.

After listening to Busho speak for nearly three hours this entourage came to appreciate just what a great place WA is! If we can move part-way towards the Victorian situation it will be even better. Brad, Rob and Dave had some trouble keeping their eyes open during the epic talk. They were so disappointed at missing some of it that they suggested playing the Busho tape at our next meeting rather than having a guest speaker. *I don't think so!*

Through our eyes Victoria is a herpetoculturalists' heaven. You can keep, breed and trade a wide diversity of species with minimum restrictions. Their situation is the direct opposite to ours. It is a whole lot better!

At our meeting on 9 February 1996 CALM's Gordon Wyre suggested that other states have a problem caused by their liberal approach to private herpetoculture. This did not appear to be the case. Representatives from the VHS, other interested organisations and the Victorian wildlife authority sit on a review committee to minimise unforeseen problems and modify policy to suit.

CALM is rightly concerned with excessive taking from the wild. However, over there, we get the impression that few captive reptiles come from the wild. Why bother! It is legal to beg, borrow, swap or buy captive bred reptiles of numerous species. If WASAH can cause positive changes in WA in line with Victoria then the conservation of our reptiles and frogs is ensured, and we would be happy. A Victorian example of this that parallels the North American Grey King Snake story is the Collett's Snake (*Pseudechis colletti*). From about three captives in the early days it is now so common in collections that you cannot give them away however, in the wild, Ehmann (1992) lists it as rare to sparse.

Human nature is such that we all make mistakes, forget, do the wrong thing or err in

some other way not allowed within the legislation. Generally there is no criminal intent when this happens. In WA this could finish in court proceedings where there is no defence under the WA Wildlife Conservation Act. For a misdemeanour you can end up with a criminal record! CALM is wrong in automatically considering us criminals just because we have an interest in Australia's native fauna. Gordon Wyre highlighted this at the above mentioned meeting. He continually made the connection of keeping with smuggling.

In Victoria a much more sensible system is in place. For minor indiscretions you receive an infringement notice the same as those issued for driving offences. When a person pays the fine they are not necessarily admitting guilt just taking the more convenient route. If you wish to argue the case you can do so by not paying the fine in the allotted time and eventually receiving a court summons.

We consider the only down side of the Victorian situation is the heavy involvement in the reptile trade by pet shops. No doubt there are many scrupulous pet shop proprietors over there. However, as profits are the main driving force in business, the temptation to make a quick buck is going to sway some to do the wrong thing. We believe it should be left to those with a passion for the beast rather than for the monetary reward.

Anyway, our visit was an eye-opener for us. Victoria is a good place for the herpetoculturalists, shame about the weather! Saying that, the people we met were all terrific. Raymond Hoser is still a big ball of energy. I am sure he has WA genes in there somewhere.

We were all given a behind the scene VIP tour of the Melbourne Zoo. Wow! We must thank Peter Comber and Jo for putting up with us camped in their yard. They didn't complain about Brad's feet once. Melbourne weather definitely effects the sinuses!

Anyway, we extended an invitation to all we met to visit a **Great Place: Western Australia.**

*Footnote: The number of licensed amateurs in WA has leapt to ten. A licence has been issued to keep Mangrove Monitors (*Varanus indicus*) and a couple to previously unlicensed WASAH members for captive-bred South-western Carpet Pythons (*Morelia spilota imbricata*). **You beauty!!!!***

Survey Work

The following two items may be irrelevant with the time delay getting them into the newsletter. Even so, if you are interested go ahead and contact the relevant people in case they still need help.

Survey
in
MOORE
RIVER
area

If any members are interested in doing some survey work in the area directly to the south of the Moore River, contact **Ms Debbie Onus on 577 1005**. A species to particularly target would be the Lancelin Island Skink (*Ctenotus lancelini*). The area in question is poorly known herpetologically. Any information would make an invaluable addition to our knowledge of the fauna of the Swan Coastal Plain.

Ms Onus is a member of the *Friends of the Moore River, Estuary & Bushland*. Representatives from WASAH were invited to a picnic meeting of their group back in November 1995. At that time however, no one was available to attend.

With regard to surveys, Robert Browne-Cooper is the author of an article in this newsletter on one we did for the Ellenbrook Conservation Group. This is good fun but it takes a hefty commitment on the part of those involved.

Help needed
with fauna
survey
in
QUINNS
ROCKS

by Sandy Griffin

The 2nd round of trapping for the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group's fauna survey will start on Saturday February 17. We will have pit, Elliott and insect traps in Gumblossom Reserve and Wattle Park. Vertebrates (mammals, reptiles & frogs) are trapped live, identified and released. Invertebrates are preserved for later identification. Through this work we are building up a list of what lives in the local bushland, so better understanding why it is important.

Help is needed to set traps and check these each day. Can you help? No special skills are required. This is a practical and fun activity and a way to discover some of our local wildlife.

Please contact Karyn Shaw on 305 1405, Davis Wake on 305 1591 or Sandy Griffin (014) 885547.

*South-west
Woma
Update*

The hunt for the South-west woma continues. Did you see the article on the plight of this snake in Earth 2000 (*West Australian* 22 Jan '96)? The response from the public has been terrific. The article along with several radio broadcasts by yours truly increased the public's awareness of this snake by a country mile.

We received a number of 'phone calls from people reporting possible sightings from numerous places including Augusta, Badgingarra, Bindi Bindi, Brookton, Geraldton, Kalbarri, Moora, New Norcia, North Dandalup, Port Hedland, Shark Bay, Toodyay, Watheroo, Wongan Hills, etc. This is fantastic stuff, and some of the descriptions, from people familiar with their local snakes (but wont touch them), are definitely womas. One caller described a python he sighted as "a barber's pole about 5ft long, thick as your arm and moving slowly across a track." Sounds too good to be true. They are definitely out there, we just have to find them. Being forever the optimist, the long term objective of WASAH in this project is to develop a captive breeding population and accumulate data on husbandry, reproduction, growth, etc. If CALM issue

the appropriate licences this will become a reality. The South-western woma may be WA's Collett's snake as mentioned in an earlier article in this newsletter.

On 28 December 1995 the WASAH executive visited the Marchagee/Watheroo area

once again to look for this beast with no success. No worries though, it is only early days yet. These unsuccessful visits do not discourage us, only harden our resolve making us more determined than ever. Anyway, we are getting good data on what's in the area as a consolation. See additional species recorded at the end of this note.

We distributed more 'wanted' posters also. Some were placed in store windows and others were dropped into farmers' mail boxes. We spotlighted until almost 4am - and boy! Do we look rough after only a couple of hours sleep on the side of a track which, at first light, crawls with ticks. We wouldn't be dead for quids!

Yes, it is great and if you are interested in getting involved in the hunt give one of us a call. Come on, don't be shy!

We are compiling quite a reptile list for the area during our visits. Additional species recorded to date are:

Ornate Stone Gecko
(*Diplodactylus ornatus*)
Fraser's Legless Lizard
(*Delma fraseri*) **Hooded Scaly-foot** (*Pygopus*

nigriceps) **Western Bearded Dragon** (*Pogona minor*)
Stimson's Python (*Antaresia stimsoni*) **Bardick** (*Echiopsis curta*) **Gwardar** (*Pseudonaja nuchalis*) **Gould's Hooded Snake** (*Rhinoplocephalus gouldii*) **Narrow-banded Burrowing Snake** (*Simoselaps fasciolatus*).

This brings the number of species recorded to date to twenty one.

BM

WHAT IS CRYPTO?

No! It is not an infectious disease and it does not come from the planet Kryptonite (I believe in Superman don't you?). [Ed here. *Believe him! Anyone ever trying to ring Brad while 'Lois & Clark' is on wont get him. He refuses to answer the 'phone during his favourite show. Fair dinkum!*] It is actually a business called Cryto Biological Surveyors and Consultants managed and operated by Robert Browne-Cooper and myself. If you look under the Environmental Section in the Yellow Pages you will find a long list of consultants for all sorts of things dealing with land management practises, etc.

Biological surveys are happening all the time. Apart from the consultancy

companies, government departments such as museums and CALM's wildlife research section carry out small to large surveys all over the place. Western Australia is large and to make decisions with regard to land management concerning conservation we need first to know how a place ticks. In

other words what plants and animals occur there and why?

For example, look at the Kimberley region in the north. If it were not for biological surveys done by the WA Museum and CALM we would not know how unique and diverse the biota there is. Of course the results of these surveys are published providing an invaluable reservoir of information to anyone interested. I know I am! I get goose bumps just thinking about the Kimberley and all the goodies up there. Most of our large national parks and nature reserves have fauna lists printed somewhere.

Crypto is about 3 years old now and we have mainly done local jobs for various shires or other consultancy companies. You see, one company often subcontracts another thereby having available a wide range of expertise. We have a good general knowledge but are mainly into reptiles. It may be necessary at times for us to bring in someone whose forte is something else such as birds.

Crypto comes from the skink genus *Cryptoblepharus* - those little greyish lizards you often see on walls, fences and

trees. These little guys are adaptable, successful, agile, friendly and cute like us.

BM & RBC

Introducing Glen Gaikhorst

Glen is the son of Klass Gaikhorst of the Armadale Reptile Centre. He works at the Perth Zoo and has a keen interest in reptiles. Brad Maryan and Glen recently did a woma run together. Glen has kindly sent in a couple of articles from observations he has made at the reptile centre. Hopefully we can include regular updates on what's going on there.

LOVE at FIRST SIGHT

By Glen Gaikhorst (Member)

On the 3 February 1996 a male Ridge-tailed Monitor (*Varanus acanthurus*) was kindly donated to the Armadale Reptile Centre. He ate his first meal the same day (a weaner mouse) and has continued to eat every second or third day to date. He has thrived on all the attention since arriving here.

On the 19 February he started to slough, maintaining activity and feeding. Five days later we received a 'phone call from UWA to see

if we would be interested in another ridge-tailed monitor. We accepted and the animal was delivered on the twenty-fifth. It was a female and we introduce her to the male immediately. To our surprise, and not wasting any time, the pair started to copulate. This continued for fifteen minutes before they separated. They are still housed together and are going well. Another classic case of **love at first sight!**

THE ONE THAT DID

By Glen Gaikhorst (Member)

The Crowned Snake (*Drysdalia coronata*) generally feeds on lizards and frogs. We have had this species brought in to the Armadale Reptile Centre. However, the problem has always been the same: getting individuals to feed on something other than lizards and frogs. This had always been unsuccessful until eventually we found **the one that did!**

On the 18 December 1995 we received a young adult crowned snake from Forrestdale. We tried several times on warm nights to feed it pinkie mice but its interest was minimal. A sandalwood processing company had given us some dead geckos (*Gehyra variegata*). These were offered and two were consumed. Three days later we offered another pinkie that had been rubbed liberally

with dead gecko. No success. “#&\$@, what a little turd!”. Dad had one more trick up his sleeve. He set off to collect gecko droppings from one of the enclosures. After fifteen minutes he had quite a handful. Taking a pinkie he rolled it in the gecko faeces and, as the crowned snake was active, introduced it immediately to the snake's cage. The mouse was grabbed instantly by the snake and swallowed shortly thereafter. Yippee! A win!! We repeated the procedure for the next two feeds and were successful. On the third feed we introduced a clean pinkie and it was taken straight away.

This crowned snake is going very well now and will eat pinkies out of your hand.

New arrivals at the ARMADALE REPTILE CENTRE

Gwardar (*Pseudonaja nuchalis*) 13 Feb. '96 from farmer in Marchagee area.
Northern Bluetongue (*Tiliqua scincoides intermedia*) 26 Feb. '96 from Grace Bros. Removalists.
Four Collett's Snakes (*Pseudechis colletti*) from Roy Pails in Victoria. These are approximately three weeks old and are all feeding on pinkies. Six **Western Tiger Snakes** (*Notechis*

scutatus occidentalis) were born at the centre on 2 Mar. '96. This is the mother's first clutch.

GK

KEEPING & PRIVATE STUDY of reptiles & frogs

I have been keeping reptiles since I was about six years of age. I was bitten by my first snake when I was ten. This happened when I was looking for reptiles at Menai, NSW. There was this handful of yellow-faced whip snakes beneath this rock I had lifted. Because of its weight I was having trouble holding it up. That wasn't a problem though when I spotted the snakes. The adrenalin flowed allowing me to flick the rock out of the way so I could dive in and grab two handfuls. The problem was, the whip snakes all grabbed me. This caused my body to swell and my parents, upon my arrival home, to think I was going to die.

I housed the snakes in rough glass-fronted, slightly modified fruit packing cases. At this point in my life I was

fascinated with reptiles, especially snakes. My bible was J.R. Kinghorn's *Snakes of Australia* (publ. 1929, revised 1956). To this day I believe this to be one of the best illustrated books available. I had no trouble

identifying every snake I found with its help.

In those early days I was an amateur herp but did not consider private study. I looked upon snakes as things of beauty to behold. How can you behold it in the bush? All but impossible! It must be kept close at hand. Its beauty must be maintained, it can't be lost in death.

Kinghorn had given me a basic understanding of their requirements. I can't explain it but I knew instinctively when my charges were 'not happy'. So started my early years as a herpetoculturalists.

I do not see the need to justify a person's wish to keep with study. However, at present, the WA licensing system requires so. The act of keeping will automatically cause in the keeper the need to know. The end result will be study.

If someone asked me out of the blue what specific areas of study I am doing on the snakes I keep I would have to stop and think for some considerable time. Therefore, in developing a standard WASAH application to CALM for a Regulation 16 licence to keep for private study, we came up with a list of projects the keeper may be

interested in undertaking. Many of these are an integral part of good husbandry practises, while others are far more complex.

BB

Some private study projects

1. Growth rate - record SVL, TL & weight.
2. Sloughing frequency \$ seasonality.
3. Fecundity - relative to age & clutch mass. Intra & interspecific comparison.
4. Reproductive effort (RE) or relative clutch mass (RCM).
5. Ontogeny - colour development/changes, scalation changes, sexual maturation/developmental divergence.
6. Polymorphism.
7. Sex ratios in siblings - temperature influence.
8. Sexual size dimorphism & comparative growth rates.
9. Husbandry techniques - caging, substrate-type, furnishings, hygiene, heating & preferred body temperatures (PBT).
10. Dietary preference.
11. Thermoregulation behaviour.
12. Bacteria & parasite - loads & diversity.
13. Sexual behaviour - intra & interspecific convergence & divergence.
14. Copulation behaviour - single/multiple matings & mates, duration & configuration.
15. Intraspecific breeding cycles/stimuli - temperature, photoperiod,

- sloughing, competition, etc.
16. Longevity - how long do they live?
 17. Scale anomalies
 18. Intraspecific male interactions - combat.
 19. Extended social behaviour - monogamy vs polygamy.
 20. Artificial incubation techniques - humidity, temperature, medium, etc.
 21. Non-assisted/maternal incubation in pythons.
 22. Activity cycles.
 23. Interspecific behaviour - divergence/convergence.
 24. Taxonomic determination - biochemical, ecological, etc.
 25. Neonatal sibling variation.
 26. Lighting - natural vs artificial influence on comparative health & behaviour.
 27. Foraging behaviour.
 28. Reproductive frequency & seasonality.
 29. Double clutching potential.
 30. Interspecific feeding strategies.
 31. Sperm production & artificial insemination.

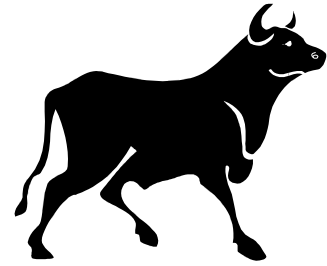
Listed are many areas of study that can be undertaken on captive reptiles and frogs. I am amazed by the lack of published data on, for instance, longevity. I have a carpet python I have kept for twenty years. I estimate, on its size when I obtained it, that it is in excess of twenty-five years old now. There is so little data available on most of WA's herpetofauna. Any project you come up with is going to be of tremendous benefit to our knowledge of these glorious beasts.

KING BROWN OR MULGA?

Two years ago I bred this species. Brad Maryan was given CALM approval to take two of the hatchlings. No sexing was done at the time but he was fortunate in getting a male and a female. Anyone visiting Brad's place will be amazed at the size of the male after two years. Nearly as big as its dad, which is a fair lump of a snake: really heavy-bodied! Brad's male is sure a 'chip of the old block'. Sexual size dimorphism occurs in some populations of *Pseudechis australis*, but not all. For example, in the wheatbelt the males are generally no larger than the females - a 1.5 metre individual of either sex would be large. However in the north there is definitely a 'big size' gene attached to the male chromosome, males of 2-2.5 metres are not uncommon, whereas females rarely exceed 1.2 metres. Maybe after biochemical analysis and a comparison of the southern and northern populations it will be found to be composite. The king brown and mulga may eventually be determined to be two names that can be used to represent two 'species'.

BB

HERPTALES



In this section we include all the information about particular people and goings on that most of us would prefer no one knew. Also, if you wish to submit anything to be included here go ahead. It's "tongue in cheek" and all in good fun.



Who is the bloke that keeps falling off his bike? They tell me he came off it again but with a little help from a motor vehicle this time. Not to be worried, he persists in bagging Reg 4 snakes in his incapacitated condition.
Good on ya Bruce!

What about us?

Who was the smelly-footed fellow that had a shower, shave and shampoo and then locked his mates out of the house? *Good one Brad!*

WASAH GENERAL MEETING

Friday 17 May 1996

7.30pm

Perth Zoo Ed Centre

Entry off Labouchere Road

Guest Speaker:

Dr Ken Aplin

(Head of the Herpetology Department at the WA Museum)

On Reptiles and Frogs of Western Australia

REMINDER!!!

The WASAH membership year is January to December.
Subscriptions are due by the end of March of the year
following a paid year if you wish to benefit from the
society's good name.

WASAH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President/Editor: Brian Bush (09) 295 3007

Vice-President: Brad Maryan (09) 444 6412

Secretary: Robert Browne-Cooper (09) 445 2409

Treasurer: Russell Brown (09) 496 1732

Address all correspondence related to this newsletter to: **The Editor 9 Birch Place STONEVILLE 6081**

WASAH is an informal group of people with similar interests - all wishing to keep for private study and "love", frogs, turtles, lizards or snakes! WASAH joined the Affiliation of Australasian Herpetological Societies in 1994.

REPTILES & FROGS of ELLENBROOK BUSHLAND

by

ROBERT BROWNE-COOPER, 24 Wotan Road, Innaloo, Western Australia 6018

Ellenbrook Bushland is one of the few remaining areas in the Perth region with natural habitat in near perfect condition. This bushland is only 20 kilometres north-east of Perth's CBD in the Shire of Swan. Maralla Road is the northern boundary and was the only access until 1994. The minimal human disturbance includes some timber harvesting, the construction of a few vehicular tracks and the introduction of exotic grasses along Maralla Road.

It is truly a jewel of the Swan Coastal Plain with 42 herp species recorded to date and potentially as many as 48 species in its 950* hectares. With the possible exception of Yanchep National Park (44 species recorded after much more intensive surveying), it is the most diverse herpetofauna for a single area within the Perth region.

Banksia woodland dominates on a gently undulating topography. There are several seasonal swamps with associated wetland vegetation including sedges. A mix of shrub and woodland fringes these wetlands. To visit this site is to see what many other Perth wetlands may once have looked like.

The annotated list included here is from the results of survey work conducted by WASAH members in 1992 and 1993. That survey resulted from a request to the society by the Ellenbrook Conservation Group to undertake the work. Our methods included pit-trapping with and without drift-fences, hand collecting and headtorching. Our most intensive surveying occurred along the northern boundary.

AUSTRALIAN GROUND FROGS

(Myobatrachidae)

Red-thighed or Quacking Froglet

Crinia georgiana

Common in lowland areas and adjacent ecotone.

Glauert's Froglet

Crinia glauerti

Numerous males heard calling from lowlands in July.

Sandplain Froglet

Crinia insignifera

Common in winter swamps.

Moaning Frog

Heleioporus eyrei

The most commonly pit-trapped frog and common throughout this area.

Western Banjo Frog

Limnodynastes dorsalis

Pit-trapped in banksia woodland but must move to lowlands during breeding.

Turtle Frog

Myobatrachus gouldii

Commonly pit-trapped in banksia woodland in spring.

Guenther's Toadlet

Pseudophryne guentheri

Found throughout most of the area.

TREE FROGS (Hylidae)

Slender Tree Frog

Litoria adelaidensis

Two found in swampy areas.

* This area was part of a planned housing development by Sanwa Vines Pty Ltd and Homeswest, Mt Lawley Pty Ltd within the 2,208 ha known as Ellenbrook Estate. Eventually about 400 ha of this bushland became reserve.

Western Green Tree Frog

Litoria moorei

Two individuals spotlighted on Maralla Road near lowland in September.

FRESHWATER TURTLES (Chelidae)

Oblong Turtle

Chelodina oblonga

One observed active in August on a lowland track.

GECKOS (Gekkonidae)

Western Spiny-tailed Gecko

Diplodactylus spinigerus

Several pit-trapped and observed active at night near lowland areas. Possibly subspecies *inornatus*, if so, then first record for the Swan Coastal Plain.

LEGLESS LIZARDS (Pygopodidae)

South-western Sandplain Worm Lizard

Aprasia repens

Common in banksia woodland. Pit-trapped and raked from spoil heaps.

Gray's Legless Lizard

Delma grayii

Two pit-trapped in woodland over shrubbery understorey.

Fraser's Legless Lizard

Delma fraseri

Two individuals: one amongst spoil, the other beneath rubbish.

Burton's Legless Lizard

Lialis burtonis

The most commonly recorded legless lizard. Observed active and pit-trapped.

Keeled Legless Lizard

Pletholax gracilis

Commonly pit-trapped in banksia woodland and lowland sedges in spring.

DRAGON LIZARDS (Agamidae)

Western Bearded Dragon

Pogona minor

Juveniles commonly pit-trapped in banksia woodland. Uncommon in lowlands.

Western Heath Dragon

Tympanocryptis adelaidensis

Very common in banksia woodland with many juveniles pit-trapped in late summer.

SKINKS (Scincidae)

South-western Cool Skink

Bassiana trilineata

Common in wetland and lowland areas.

Fence Skink

Cryptoblepharus plagiocephalus

Common throughout area being observed active and pit-trapped.

West Coast Ctenotus

Ctenotus fallens

Commonly observed active and pit-trapped in lowland and adjacent shrubland where it appears to replace the western limestone ctenotus (*C. lesueurii*).

Jewelled Ctenotus

Ctenotus gemmula

Three recorded from lowland and adjacent shrubland.

Western Limestone Ctenotus

Ctenotus lesueurii

Very common on high ground supporting banksia woodland where it appears to replace the west coast ctenotus (*C. fallens*).

South-west Crevice Egernia

Egernia napoleonis

Common in dead blackboy stumps.

Two-toed Earless Skink

Hemiergis quadrilineata

Common in moist lowland areas. Gravid females recorded in March.

Bold-striped Four-toed Lerista

Lerista christinae

Common (eleven pit-trapped) in lowland sedge site close to Maralla Road. This record represents a range extension into the Perth area on the mainland. The other local population occurs on Rottnest Island.

West Coast Four-toed Lerista

Lerista elegans

The most common lizard found throughout the area.

Western Worm Lerista

Lerista praepedita

Commonly pit-trapped and found under surface debris in drier areas.

Common Dwarf Skink

Menetia greyii

Common throughout area. Gravid females found in late December.

Western Pale-flecked Morethia

Morethia lineoocellata

Only two recorded. May be competitively excluded from many habitat types by the western pale-flecked morethia (*M. obscura*).

Southern Pale-flecked Morethia

Morethia obscura

Recorded active and pit-trapped in most vegetation types.

Western Bluetongue

Tiliqua occipitalis

Four recorded active in lowland and adjacent areas. One found beneath corrugated iron.

Bobtail

Tiliqua rugosa

Eight recorded active mainly in lowlands and on tracks.

MONITOR LIZARDS (Varanidae)

Gould's Monitor

Varanus gouldii

Only a few sightings in *Banksia* and *Jacksonia* woodlands.

Black-Headed Monitor

Varanus tristis

One pit-trapped in lowland immediately below banksia woodland.

BLIND or WORM SNAKES (Typhlopidae)

Southern Blind Snake

Ramphotyphlops australis

Found in loose soil of spoil heaps and pit-trapped in banksia woodland through to lowland.

FRONT-FANGED VENOMOUS SNAKES

(Elapidae)

Black-Striped Snake

Neelaps calonotus

All but one of nine recorded were from lowland area, the other from banksia woodland.

Western Tiger Snake

Notechis scutatus

A few observed in lowland sedge and adjacent areas

Dugite

Pseudonaja affinis

Single hatchling observed active in banksia woodland.

Gould's Hooded Snake

Rhinoplocephalus gouldii

Several recorded from lowland areas inside dead blackboy stumps and spoil heaps.

Jan's Banded Snake

Simoselaps bertholdi

Favours lowland and adjacent *Jacksonia* woodlands. Three juveniles found beneath a log in March.

Southern Half-girdled Snake

Simoselaps semifasciata

Three recorded from beneath logs in lowland and one inside spoil heap in banksia woodland.

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There are a number of reptiles not found during the WASAH survey that are expected to occur in the Ellenbrook bushland. Remembering that the most concentrated work was along the northern boundary, it is probable that at least another six species will be added with more extensive surveying.

Herp lists such as this are important as they show what was in an area before habitat degradation begins. Ongoing survey work is also valuable in illustrating changes in fauna abundance and diversity over time.

ATTRACTING FROGS TO YOUR GARDEN

Create an ideal habitat for native frogs in your own garden

Creating a frog-friendly garden is easy, fun and environmentally beneficial. *Attracting Frogs to Your Garden* is a complete guide to 'frog-scaping', the increasingly popular art of transforming your backyard or property into a welcome habitat for local native frogs. It offers practical advice on the essentials of enjoying frogs in your garden, including:

- *Raising tadpoles
- *Constructing a backyard frog pond
- *Frog-friendly plants
- *Native frog identification tips
- *Frog-spotting
- *Frog calls & mating
- *Frog photography
- *Amphibians as predators & prey
- *Providing food, shelter & moisture for your frogs
- *Attracting native birds & other garden wildlife

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CARE OF AUSTRALIAN REPTILES IN CAPTIVITY

By John Weigel

First published in 1988 by the Reptile Keepers' Association this an important reference for anyone keeping reptiles. Includes information on housing, parasites, incubators and a whole lot more. WASAH has purchased a bundle at the special price to members of **only \$15**. ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER AVAILABLE - BE QUICK!

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