

WASAH



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY of AMATEUR HERPETOLOGISTS (Inc)
FOUNDED IN 1990
(Member of the Australasian Affiliation of Herpetological Societies)

NEWSLETTER

13 December, 1998
(17)

SEASON'S GREETINGS EVERYONE
--

A Profound and Paradoxical Period for WASAH

The period between the last newsletter and this one has been an emotionally turbulent time. We suffered the sad loss of a young member to snakebite and are nearing the establishment of a reptile/amphibian keeping system in Western Australia.

Tony Pattison must have rapidly made some influential friends in that other place.

The direction things have taken since his passing is only marginally removed from a miracle!

The WASAH Executive and Subcommittee met with the Minister, Cheryl Edwardes and CALM's Gordon Wyre at Parliament House on 12 November, '98. At this meeting the Minister and Gordon gave WASAH an undertaking to change the Wildlife Regulations in advance of the new *Wildlife Conservation Bill* being completed and provide the resources for this to occur as quickly as possible to allow a keeping system to be established.

On 17 November and 1 December, '98 we had meetings with Gordon Wyre,

David Mell and Peter Mawson at CALM's Como Wildlife Branch to develop a draft public comment document. They are deserving of our accolades and commendation for the considerable thought they had already given to a reptile/amphibian keeping system beforehand as demonstrated by their comments at these meetings.

Basically, the system we are working on incorporates the best parts of those operating in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. WASAH and CALM are fine tuning the public comment document at present and hope, if we do not complete it by then, that at least most of the work towards it will be finished by Christmas.

Keep in mind though that it will still have to run the gauntlet of others who may not share our enthusiasm for keeping and instead may downright oppose the whole thing during the public discussion process.

The system we are aiming at will be five tiered as follows:

Exempt, Basic, Advanced, Expert or Special and Prohibited Species.

You beauty!!!

Footnote: As in Victoria and South Australia pet shops will be participating.

Emotions & Wildlife

While manning my display and in the middle of an educational presentation recently, a passing woman yelled,

“I’m reporting you to the RSPCA. You are upsetting sensitive animals.”

I wont include my reply here, apart from saying it was within the parameters of my typical non-constructive spontaneity.

AR people are ill-informed and could do worse than ponder on the following DH Lawrence poem, *Self Pity* - it has an uncanny ability to portray the thing that separates *Homo sapiens* from

the other co-existing organisms.

I never saw a wild thing sorry for itself.

A small bird will drop frozen dead from a bough without ever having felt sorry for itself.

Concerning the woman’s threat, I have little respect for an organisation that promotes the killing of native animals by exotics. They perpetuate the ignorant and antiquated attitude that “the only good snake is a dead one”. This was demonstrated in 1995 when a terrier was given a medal by the RSPCA for killing a brownsnake. The ceremony was condoned by the NSW politicians and held in their Parliament building.

Some Days Are Diamonds

by Shane Heriot

As a wildlife educator working in the Midwest who primarily deals with reptiles, and also one of the only snakebusters within a snake’s hiss, my daily work allows me contact with a wide range of the public, from primary school children to old leathery, weather-beaten farmers.

I would like to relay a few stories on the positive aspects of snake awareness education. As most of us know, everyone has got an opinion on snakes. If one is seen, all and sundry become

experts, as Linda Gwinnett found (*WASAH Newsletter* 14). If it is brown it is a Dugite, if it is over one metre long it is a King Brown and if it has got the slightest banding, it is a Tiger and of course they must all be killed at any cost for the greater good of society. When dealing with the general public in relation to snakes, I guess at one time or other we have all felt like we were bashing our heads against a brick wall. As Prof Ric Shine mentions in his brilliant book, *Australian Snakes, A Natural History* herps often feel like they are supporting a football team that loses almost every game. This is not always the case but many a time I wonder whether anything I say actually makes a difference. There are three words of encouragement though: persistence, persistence, persistence. At the time it seems none of our message is actually getting across, but take heed, I have found that if you provide enough information some of it soaks in.

I experienced two very enlightening examples of this almost on consecutive days last year.

The first incident took place when an acquaintance of mine lobbed at the front door late one afternoon and shoved a bucket under my nose. Upon closer inspection, a feisty little Gwardar was bidding me greetings from the bottom of the container. This in itself was quite impressive as Davo, tile chippy, used to always tell me that the only good snake was a dead snake. Why the

change? Over a cold can of amber antivenom the story unravelled.

A week previously I was proudly showing Davo some newly acquired Spotted Mulgas (another story), when he commented on how docile the animals were and how impressive the striking black and yellow markings looked. After showing him the animals in a positive light and dispelling all the fairytales he had been fed while growing up on a sheep station in the Murchison, Davo left that night with a whole new perspective on snakes, if not on reptiles in general.

A couple of days later saw him entering a building site where all the workers were milling around something on the ground, shovels in hand. After quietly explaining to the gathered throng that the animal in question was only small and posed no real problems, Davo proceeded to scoop it up in a bucket and presented it to me that evening. Rather than advocating the rescue of venomous snakes from the mob, I saw this as a positive step forward for somebody that previously would not have hesitated to dispatch the animal. The fact that he took the action he did in front of his work mates was quite impressive, although I doubt we will drag him in as a member of WASAH, and it demonstrates that people are listening to our message.

The other incident unravelled the next day and reinforced the success of educational programs.

While walking down the main street of town I was hailed by a local farmer. Rich is well into his seventies and has farmed this area all of his life. His tough leathery exterior belies his extremely friendly nature, unless you are snake. I shudder to think of the number of serpents that have been dispatched at the hands of Rich. Except two.

The first, several months previously, was a very lucky animal that crawled across a clearing and then up under the farm truck before Rich could find a suitable implement with which to engage it. Normally the offending beast would have been swiftly taken care of but in this case the snake had managed to find its way into the engine cavity. Usually not a problem, but this particular truck was one of those tilt cab units in which you need to put your hands under the body to locate and pull two separate levers to tilt the cab. Under the present circumstances, with the snake not in view, nobody was keen to put their hands underneath the truck. I received a telephone call explaining the situation and asking for assistance. After arriving twenty minutes later I was informed that the offending creature was still there as it had not been sighted since entering the truck. On tilting the cab I was greeted by the most magnificent specimen of a healthy adult Mulga Snake quite happily perched on top of the radiator. As I gently lifted him out of the motor he remained quite docile dispelling the expectations of the onlookers who had been led to believe that Mulgas

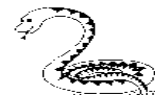
were particularly vicious. I used the opportunity to explain the benefits of retaining these beautiful animals on the farm and blew away a number of myths at the same time.

The second lucky snake story was described to me in the main street of Geraldton. Rich had been on a camping trip somewhere in the Murchison District a couple of weeks after the truck incident. He had got out of the vehicle to open a station gate when he spotted quite a large snake moving along the fence line. His immediate urge was to race back to the vehicle and grab the gun, when he remembered the conversation we had had on the farm and he preceded to tell me that for twenty minutes he was mesmerised by the snakes movement and beauty and eventually watched it crawl off in the distance, quite happy with the fact that it was doing some good.

Those two incidents, probably because they happened so close together, drove home the fact that people's attitudes *can* be changed, as long as the information is true and concise and put forward in a positive fashion.

Some days really are diamonds.

Happy herping!



AVAILABLE
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John Weigel's

*Care of
Australian
Reptiles in
Captivity*

ONLY \$17 each

With a keeping
system coming to
WA, this book
will be a must!

TOILET HEAVEN for a frog

By Brad Maryan

It is amazing how some frog species that inhabit pristine rainforest streams are falling by the wayside, never to be seen again, and others are able to successfully survive in a place like a toilet? All living organisms are governed by certain requirements in order to survive. Some species, the generalists, can live just about anywhere, while others, the specialists, require a little extra to support a healthy population. I do not know much about what is happening with the disappearing frogs, however I do think if they persist we should bung them all in toilets in their respective

areas and their survival would be ensured. Sounds far fetched you say - OK, maybe it is, but consider this: wildlife management is a hit and miss thing because we do not know enough about these animals tick. Sometimes we have to consider what most people would think to be outrageous and absurd to test the water. Hey, remember we would still have the gastric-brooding frog around if they were allowed to be kept in captivity - even in a toilet.

Two frog species that immediately spring to mind when sitting on that seat are the tree frogs, *Litoria caerulea* and *Litoria rubella*. These guys love hanging out in the local loo and survive very well there. Nearly every house in the Pilbara must have a resident colony of *L. rubella* in the toilet. They will occupy any vacant space (be careful when you sit down) and always have a permanent pool of water with the occasional wave to surf on after flushing. What a great place for a frog to live, air-conditioned comfort too. I have noticed that they seem to vacate the safety of the dunny rim and pan when the toilet is being frequently used. It must get precarious for them sometimes. I am not too sure how they handle the blue-loo, and what happens if they do not get out of the water in time. Suddenly they are plunged into absolute darkness, having to dodge those rock-like missiles falling from above, and then the flush arrives turning their quiet little pool into a whirling flood. Amazing animals they are, and they look so healthy too - and to

top it off, they will often hop into the shower with you to have a swim, or are they just cleaning themselves too, after all, they do live in a toilet!

A HERPING WE WILL GO

Our first WASAH field excursion to Manning Lake, Hamilton Hill on 27 September, 1998 was a laugh. WASAH members are easy to spot with their good looks, super eye sight and carrying rakes. Well at least most of us would fit that description, except for Busho. About 20 members turned up to go looking for herp in an area that WASAH is currently surveying.

The traps were covered up at this time due to minimal herp activity. Unfortunately several of our trapping sites had been disturbed by idiots who pulled out lines and pits. Hey, no worries, this is WASAH and we can handle anything. Once the warm weather arrives we will commence pit-trapping again. Anyway, we hit the bush and most of us spread out to go fossicking. It is great to have so many hands which optimises the finding of animals. Raking through spoil heaps and turning over rocks and rubbish yielded 14 species for the day. Several of the younger members were

thrilled after raking out a couple of black-naped snakes. This beautiful burrowing snake looks like a piece of spaghetti geared up for a Saturday night. It was great to see western bluetongues and bobtails in the same area. The species recorded on the day were:-

Western Banjo Frog

(*Limnodynastes*

dorsalis), **South-western**

Spiny-tailed Gecko

(*Strophurus spinigerus*),

South-western Sandplain

Worm Lizard (*Aprasia*

repens), **Burton's Legless**

Lizard (*Lialis burtonis*),

Western Bearded Dragon

(*Pogona minor*), **Fence**

Skink (*Cryptoblepharus*

plagiocephalus), **West-coast**

Ctenotus (*Ctenotus fallens*),

Two-toed Earless Skink

(*Hemiergis quadrilineata*),

Perth Lined Lerista (*Lerista*

lineata), **Common Dwarf**

Skink (*Menetia greyii*),

Southern Pale-flecked

Morethia (*Morethia*

obscura), **Western**

Bluetongue (*Tiliqua*

occipitalis), **Bobtail** (*Tiliqua*

rugosa), **Black-naped Snake**

(*Neelaps bimaculatus*).

BM

Allergies & Venoms

Brian Bush

Exotic honey bees are responsible for more deaths each year in Australia than all our native venomous animals combined.

Why? Because of allergic reactions in many people to bee sting or, more correctly, a life-threatening event triggered by an antigen or allergen in bee venom. It is a mistake to believe that the greater exposure to venom one has the more resistant one becomes. This is the exception. Usually the more exposure an individual has results in an increase in the sensitivity he or she will have. This is an **allergy**.

Keepers of snakes are no exception. Continual exposure to venoms of even the smallest elapids can result one day in a massive allergic reaction or **anaphylaxis**.

Basically what happens is that after the initial exposure the body has learnt to recognise the foreign proteins in the venom. These may become **antigens/allergens** triggering of the production of **histamines** which in turn cause vast amounts of fluid to flow into the body tissue.

Where this tissue is shallow, as happens on the face covering the skull, swelling appears most pronounced. The initial therapy is to administer **antihistamines**, however in severe cases **anaphylaxis** results causing a rapid drop in blood pressure, **hypotension**. To reverse this **adrenalin** may be required **subcutaneously**. In snakebite **intravenously** introduced **adrenalin** can be dangerous due to the **coagulation defects** caused by many Australian snake venoms.

INTERESTED IN DOING SOME PIT- TRAPPING?

Are you seeking peace, solitude, relaxation and rest? Well, you will not get any here, instead you can run around in the bush like some headless chook checking pit-traps, looking for herp and getting covered in ticks as you go.

The Lowlands Bushland area located between Serpentine and Mundijong requires a herpetofauna survey. If you can spare a week at any time could you please contact Mr Mark Angeloni on 9525 2274 or 9525 5070.

Some pit-traps are already in the ground and the farm can provide accommodation. It is a beautiful spot.

FOR SALE

The durable super professional, and scintillating extendable pocket snake hook.

ONLY \$20 each

Help Brad out here - he over-ordered these little devils and now can't get rid of them



A TRIBUTE TO TONY

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of one of our members on 4 November, 1998 from complications related to tiger snake bite. Tony Pattison was not quite fifteen years old but had already lived a lifetime.

Tony not only represented the next generation of herpetologists, but he represented the true spirit of herpetology. His enthusiasm and passion for the beasts he loved was insatiable and it was extremely gratifying to those fortunate enough to know him. Already at such a young age he was a great role model for tyro naturalists. He made notes of all his observations in the field and on any animals held temporarily for rehabilitation. He reminded many of the older members of what they were like at his age, including myself. He often telephoned me to simply have a conversation about reptiles, and it is probably the only time I can remember where I struggled to get a word in on a subject that I shared his love for. I will always remember the look on Tony's face at our Manning Lake field excursion recently after finding his first black-naped snake. It was a look of absolute delight and achievement as he walked away with his great find to photograph and record that moment on film. As a youngster with an interest in reptiles living in Australia, simple pleasure would come extremely easy. Many of us take so many things for granted and do not realise how lucky we are. I can say without any doubt that this is what Tony thought all the time. I want to photograph this, I want to get that book, I want to ask this question and so on.

Our only consolation is that Tony left us doing what he enjoyed the most, pursuing his beloved interest. As a fellow herpetologist it was an honour to know you mate. You will always be remembered.

WASAH's sincerest condolences to the Pattison family.

BM

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GENERAL MEETING

18 September 1998

MINUTES

- 1. Convene Meeting** - 7.45 pm at Perth Zoo Education Centre
- 2. Attendance** - 32 members, 11 visitors
- 3. Apologies** - Jamie Stuart and Eric Kidd
- 4. Correspondence Tabled** -
 - Invitation to members to attend South-east Metro College of TAFE Centre for Animal Studies' Open Day on Saturday 19 September.
 - Letter from Eric Kidd apologising for not being able to attend meeting.
 - Letter from the Peter Rankin Trust Fund confirming WASAH's successful application for \$200 funding towards a field search for the Lake Cronin Snake (*Echiopsis atriceps*).

5. President's Report - • BB mentions that Dr Allen Greer's latest book *The biology and Evolution of Australian Snakes* is available for sale.

6. Vice-President's Report - Nil

7. Treasurer's Report - Nil

8. General Business - • BB mentions captive bred carpet applications and lack of response from CALM regarding these.

- David Knowles asks members to keep an eye out for Turtle Frogs for wildlife photographer, Mike Linley to obtain footage of reproductive habits of this frog.
- David also mentions private property bushland site ideal for WASAH Herp Survey located on coastal plain south of Swan River known as "Lowlands". A cabin is available and can accommodate up to seven survey people. Contact person is Midge Richardson (08) 95252274.
- Dr Ken Aplin shows members a spiny-tailed skink of the *Egernia stokesii* species-group from Perenjori and explains that several restricted populations occur in the Wheatbelt and Cue area. The WA Museum is currently attempting to determine the status of these populations. Ken thanks members involved in field work assisting the WAM with the abovementioned study and other WAM herp projects.
- Mike Lynch mentions the lack of progress in negotiations with CALM that became obvious at the latest CALM/ WASAH Subcommittee meeting. It appears that CALM personnel directly responsible for issuing licences are the major obstacle in the process. This was illustrated by CALM's lack of response to members' licence applications and herpetological projects. Mike then mentions the letter the WASAH Executive and Subcommittee sent to Gordon Wyre of CALM's Wildlife Section.
- BB mentions that of 14 applications to keep captive-bred carpet pythons only 2 had been approved.
- D. Knowles mentions a filtering process for herp-keeping applications which would standardise applications to CALM.
- M. Lynch mentions that members should be aware that the WASAH Executive and Subcommittee are available to assist members with their applications.
- BB mentions the need for CALM to implement an interim licensing system to enable CALM to issue licences prior to the completion of the revised *Wildlife Conservation Bill* and the lengthy processes involved in getting it accepted by Parliament.
- BB mentions that back issues of *Herpetofauna* are available through the society for \$4 each.
- Dave Pattison shows the design of reptile terrariums available, or custom built to personal specifications.

9. Editor's Report - • Nil

10. Call for further business - • Mike Lynch displays and demonstrates an Elliott trap. This was in response to an inquiry at a previous meeting.

- The Cichlid Society invites WASAH to set up a display at their next show.

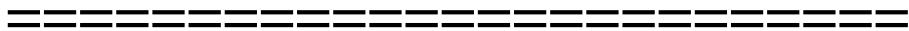
11. Speaker - • The evenings main event "General Members Slide Show" followed with John Dell, Brad Maryan, David Knowles, Brian Bush and Robert Browne-Cooper showing slides of herptiles and herp field trips.

12. Meeting Closed - • 9.25 pm.

WASAH GENERAL MEETING

There has been so much going on that we ran out of time to have a meeting before Christmas. I trust this does not upset too many members. We will notify everyone with an extraordinary notice once a decision is made on venue and date.

Thanks for your patience everyone



*Your Subs are due now
\$15 per year*

Application attached showing your financial status for 1999

WASAH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President/Editor: Brian Bush
(08) 9295 3007
Vice-President: Brad Maryan
(08) 9444 6412
Secretary: Robert Browne-Cooper
(08) 9445 2409
Treasurer: Russell Brown
(08) 9390 8091
Executive Minder: Bruce George
(08) 9490 2107

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.

Address all correspondence related to this newsletter to:

The Editor, 9 Birch Place, Stoneville, Australia 6081

CHECK YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER

SNAKE BUSTERS

(as at 1 December, 1998)

COTTESLOE

Don Howe 9384 1184

BULLSBROOK

Jamie Stuart 9571 1832

SCARBOROUGH

Robert Browne-Cooper(H) 9445 2409

MOUNT HAWTHORN

Brad Maryan(H) 9444 6412

MANNING/BENTLEY (no large snakes)

Rod Jacobson*Mobile*...014 885 547

MORLEY

Mitch Ladyman(H) 93753360

Mobile.....0419 916 091

MOUNT LAWLEY

Rico Schmidiger(H) 94439748

WILSON

Paul Orange(H) 9451 6972

GOSNELLS

Bruce George(H) 9490 2107

..... *Mobile*...019 379 403

WESTFIELD/KELMSCOTT

Russell Brown(H) 9390 2680

ARMADALE/BYFORD

Klaas Gaikhorst(H) 9399 6927

John 9525 1029

WANNEROO

Linda Gwinnett(H) 9405 2383

Mobile...019 955 283

KOONDOOLA

Ian Armstrong(H) 9247 3224

Mobile...0411 647 792

LESMURDIE

Dave Hall(H) 9291 5009

Mobile 019 374 542

Amelia Briggs9293 3458

FORRESTFIELD

David Pattison 9453 9623

Natalie Kais(H) 9453 1221

Mobile.....041 947 272

Trevor Howe 9453 1553

MIDLAND

Jay Houston(H) 9274 4125

Ray Dixon9299 6615

WEST SWAN

Gayne Doyle9296 4597

David Thorne9274 2202

MUNDARING

Brian Bush9295 3007

Gary Davies9295 0357

.....*Mobile*...0412 914 537

Russel Trehare(H) 9295 4777

ROCKINGHAM

Jim Maher(H) 9593 1841

.....*Mobile*...018 949 751

Rod Bradfield9331 5212

John Rogerson9593 2998

Paul Kenyon(H) 9592 4311

..... (W) 9527 2222

Simon Wilson

QUINNS ROCK (no large snakes)

Sandy Griffin*Mobile* ...014 885 547

COOLOONGUP

Nigel Hare(H) 9527 1232

Mobile...0412 205 652

SOUTH PERTH

Perth Zoo (Reptile Section)9474 0342

WATERMAN

Simon Ball 9448 2168

MANDURAH

John Smith9581 5713

Mobile0419 860 898

Kai 9535 2493

TOODYAY

Nick Cording 9574 4112

MARGARET RIVER

Phil Pain (08) 9757 2960

NORTHAM

Luc Thirion.....(08) 9622 1466

Mobile..... 015 448 078

SPEARWOOD (Commercial - \$50-\$70)

Steve Smartt9418 1719

REPRODUCTIVE RECORDS IN TWO OVIPAROUS LIZARDS

by Tony Pattison and Steven Howe

Western Bearded Dragon (*Pogona minor*)

EGG LAYING INFORMATION

Deposition date: **15 October, 1997**
Number of eggs: **5**
Egg length: **22 mm**
Egg width: **13 mm**
Egg weight: **4 g**
Hatching date: **10 January, 1998**
Incubation temperature: **Unrecorded room temperature**
Incubation period: **87 days**
Incubation medium: **3 cups of water to 7 of vermiculite**

MEAN NEONATE SIZE

Total length: **88 mm**
Snout-vent length (SVL): **33 mm**
Tail base width: **4 mm**
Tail length: **50 mm**
Head width: **10 mm**
Body width: **11 mm**
Weight: **2 g**

Southern Cool Skink (*Acritoscincus trilineatum*)

EGG LAYING INFORMATION

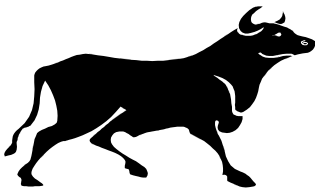
Deposition date: **15 October, 1997**
Number of eggs: **6**
Egg length: **12.3 mm**
Egg width: **8.1 mm**
Egg weight: **n/a**
Hatching date: **8 December, 1997**
Incubation temperature: **28°C**

Incubation period: **54 days**
Incubation medium: **2.5 cups of water to 5 of vermiculite**

MEAN NEONATE SIZE

Total length: **55 mm**
Snout-vent length (SVL): **21 mm**
Tail base width: **2.4 mm**
Tail length: **34 mm**
Head width: **4 mm**
Body width: **3.4 mm**
Weight: **n/a**

HERPTALES



Who was that **Rass**-cally young fellow that thought he could put one over on a couple of old herps during a recent trip to Shark Bay? It was a marine

turtle in a Denham fish and chips shop's goldfish pond that he thought was real - the old blokes knew it was plastic from the start.

By the way, this lad's first name starts with the same letter as turtle.



IMPORTANT NOTICE!

The views expressed by contributors to the WASAH Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Executive, the Society or its members. As editor I tend towards minimal censorship as I believe everyone's opinions should be heard, but I will exercise this if I believe an article's content reflects poorly on WASAH.

Brian Bush

Herpetofauna of the Chapman River Reserve, Geraldton, Western Australia

by Anthony Desmond and Shane Heriot, 176 Durlacher Street, Geraldton, Western Australia 6530

Species list compiled during the three year period from September, 1992 to December, 1995. A total of 28 species of reptiles and 6 species of frogs were recorded within the study area.

FROGS

LEPTODACTYLIDAE

Heleioporus albopunctatus **Spotted Burrowing Frog**

Limnodynastes dorsalis **Pobblebonk**

Myobatrachus gouldii **Turtle Frog**

Neobatrachus pelobatoides **Humming Frog**

Pseudophryne guentheri **Guenther's Toadlet**

HYLIDAE

Litoria moorei **Western Green Tree Frog**

REPTILES

CHELIDAE

Chelodina oblonga **Oblong Turtle**

GEKKONIDAE

Crenadactylus ocellatus ocellatus **Clawless Gecko**

Gehyra variegata **Variegated Dtella**

Heteronotia binoei **Binoe's Gecko**

Strophurus spinigerus spinigerus **South-western Spiny-tailed Gecko**

PYGOPODIDAE

Delma fraseri fraseri **Fraser's Legless Lizard**

Pygopus lepidopus **Common Scaly-foot**

Lialis burtonis **Burton's Legless-Lizard**

AGAMIDAE

Ctenophorus reticulata **Reticulated Dragon**

Pogona minor minor **Western Bearded Dragon**

VARANIDAE

Varanus gouldii **Gould's Monitor**

SCINCIDAE

Cryptoblepharus plagioccephalus **Fence Skink**

Ctenotus fallens **West-coast Ctenotus**

Lerista elegans **West-coast Four-toed Lerista**

Lerista lineopunctulata **West-coast Line-spotted Lerista**

Lerista praepedita **Western Worm Lerista**

Menetia greyii **Common Dwarf Skink**

Morethia lineocellata **Western Pale-flecked Morethia**

Tiliqua occipitalis **Western Bluetongue**

Tiliqua rugosa rugosa **Bobtail**

TYPHLOPIDAE

Ramphotyphlops australis **Southern Blindsnake**

Ramphotyphlops leptosoma **West-coast Blindsnake**

ELAPIDAE

Demansia psammophis reticulata **Reticulated Whip Snake**

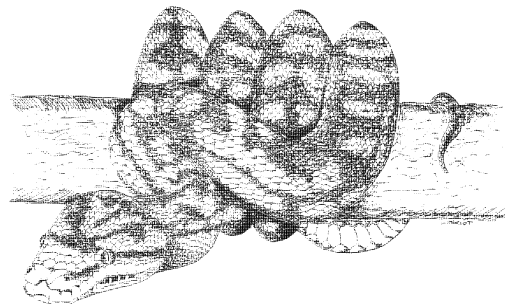
Pseudonaja nuchalis **Gwardar or Western Brown Snake**

Rhinoplocephalus monachus **Monk Snake**

Neelaps bimaculatus **Black-Naped Snake**

Simoselaps littoralis **West-coast Banded Sand Snake**

Simoselaps semifasciata **Southern Half-girdled Snake**



Two Urban Herp Surveys or Size Does Matter!

by Brad Maryan, 169 Egina Street, Mount Hawthorn, Western Australia 6016

The larger the area of bush you survey the more diverse the assemblage of frogs and reptiles will be. This is generally the case and was demonstrated during two recent herpetofauna surveys conducted locally by WASAH members. Both were a great success and the species lists are presented below. If you are interested in a more detailed survey report please contact me.

Modong Nature Reserve (154 hectares) - 33-36 pit-fall traps were operated for a total of 129 nights from October 1997 to May, 1998. The numbers in brackets are the number of animals observed.

FROGS

MYOBATRACHIDAE (Southern Frogs)
Crinia insignifera **Sandplain Froglet** (2)
Heleioporus eyrei **Moaning Frog** (325)
Myobatrachus gouldii **Turtle Frog** (7)
Pseudophryne guentheri **Guenther's Toadlet** - only heard calling.

REPTILES

PYGOPODIDAE (Legless Lizards)
Aprasia repens **South-western Sandplain Worm Lizard** (8)
Delma fraseri fraseri **Fraser's Legless Lizard** (14)
Delma grayii **Gray's Legless Lizard** (17)
Lialis burtonis **Burton's Legless Lizard** (28)
Pletholax gracilis **Keeled Legless Lizard** (47)
Pygopus lepidopus **Common Scaly-foot** (5)

AGAMIDAE (Dragons)
Pogona minor minor **Western Bearded Dragon** (50)
Tympanocryptis adelaidensis adelaidensis **Western Heath dragon** (35)

VARANIDAE (Monitor Lizards)
Varanus rosenbergi **Southern Heath Monitor** (2)

SCINCIDAE (Skinks)
Acritoscincus (= *Bassiana*) *trilineatum* **South-western Cool Skink** (24)
Cryptoblepharus plagiocephalus **Fence Skink** (21)
Ctenotus lesueurii **Western Limestone Ctenotus** (11)
Egernia napoleonis **South-western Crevice Egernia** (4)
Lerista elegans **West-coast Four-toed Lerista** (107)
Lerista lineata **Perth Lined Lerista** (9)
Menetia greyii **Common Dwarf Skirt** (43)
Morethia lineoocellata **Western Pale-flecked Morethia** (10)
Tiliqua rugosa rugosa **Bobtail** (7)

TYPHLOPIDAE (Blind Snakes)
Ramphotyphlops australis **Southern Blind Snake** (12)

ELAPIDAE (Venomous Land Snakes)
Neelaps bimaculatus **Black-naped Snake** (1)
Notechis ater occidentalis **Western Tiger Snake** (2)
Parasuta gouldii **Gould's Hooded Snake** (1)
Pseudonaja affinis affinis **Dugite** (3)
Simoselaps semifasciatus **Southern Half-girdled Snake** (1)

Samson Park (8.5 hectares) - 13 pit-fall traps were operated for 60 nights during November, 1997 to January, 1998.

GEKKONIDAE (Geckos)
Phyllodactylus marmoratus **Marbled Gecko** (1)

PYGOPODIDAE (Legless Lizards)
Aprasia repens **South-western Sandplain Worm Lizard** (1)

SCINCIDAE (Skinks)
Cryptoblepharus plagiocephalus **Fence Skink** (6)
Ctenotus lesueurii **Western Limestone Ctenotus** (25)
Hemiergis quadrilineata **Two-toed Earless Skink** (28)
Lerista elegans **West-coast Four-toed Lerista** (24)
Menetia greyii **Common Dwarf Skink** (6)
Morethia obscura **Southern Pale-flecked Morethia** (44)
Tiliqua rugosa rugosa **Bobtail** (7)

TYPHLOPIDAE (Blind Snakes)
Ramphotyphlops australis **Southern Blind Snake** (2)

So as you can see from these lists size does definitely matter. As there is so little natural bushland left on the coastal plain around Perth it is important to record any information on the herpetofauna. The most important thing is having fun hey no one likes digging holes for pit traps, but once there in you reap the rewards.

Financial for 1999

Dues required for 1999

Membership Form

1999

(Western Australian Society of Amateur Herpetologists Inc)
Address to: The Secretary, WASAH, 169 Egina Street, Mount Hawthorn 6016

I wish to become a member of WASAH and in so doing agree to abide by the rules and constitution of the Society. Membership entitles me to an annual subscription to the journal of the Australasian Affiliation of Herpetological Societies, *Herpetofauna* and the Society's newsletter.

Surname (Ms Miss Mrs Mr).....

Given names.....

Postal address.....

Post Code.....

Telephone number (H)..... (W).....

Remittance enclosed (\$15/year to a maximum of 5 years).....

Constitution & rules will be forwarded to you upon joining

Date.....

Signature.....