



HERPUTOPIA

NEWSLETTER

Promotion, Care and Enjoyment of Reptiles and Amphibians through Education

OCTOBER 2011

Estab 1998 **Vol 6 Issue 9**

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Find us at - www.illawarrareptilesociety.com.au

POSTAL ADDRESS – **PO BOX 183 ALBION PARK NSW 2527**

MEETINGS: First Monday of the month at 7.00 pm
(excluding January, April & October)

Fairy Meadow Community Centre: Guest Park, opposite Woolworths corner Princes Hwy and Cambridge Ave, Fairy Meadow

AT EACH MEETING - Lucky Door Prize, Sausage Sizzle \$2.00, Drinks \$1.00, Free Tea and Coffee

EVENT CALENDAR

2nd October Sunday -Picnic BBQ Outing – Nowra Wildlife Park - 10.30 am free entry for IRS members and BBQ at 12.30pm, see you all there for a fun day with the kids.

7th November - Arthur Weeding and his wife, created Turtles R Us and over the years has become probably the largest turtle breeding facility in NSW. Turtles are always a little misunderstood reptile. Come and learn from an expert.

5th December – Catered Christmas Party with special Guest Speaker Rex Neindorf, from the Alice Springs Reptile Centre

2nd January 2012 – NO MEETING

REPTILE RAMBLINGS

The weather was fine and a good size crowd attended the first of our spring meetings, and a fantastic meeting it turned out to be.

General business announced the societies newest major sponsor, Pet Select at Lighthouse Lane in Warrawong. Please let's show our support for those wonderful sponsors that support us.

Our Christmas party guest speaker was also announced (Rex Neindorf, from the Alice Springs Reptile Centre) as was this years Australian Reptile Symposium which will be held in Sydney (see article).

The Cann Family Reptile Show at La Perouse is officially the longest running show in human history. Even with John Cann retiring last year, it still continues due to our guest speaker this month.

Andrew Melrose has taken on and continues the century old tradition at exactly the same spot George Cann Sr. did his show almost 100 years before.

Andrew also spoke at length on his fantastic goanna collection and the wonderful backyard enclosures that house them. The Better Homes and Garden team visited Andrew recently along with Dr Harry Cooper, to film a sequence for an up and coming TV episode. Andrew warned Dr Harry about handling a particular woma python as it was somewhat unpredictable but Harry insisted, before long a loud YELP was heard and sure enough the woma had hold of Dr Harry's arm. With womas being stubborn to let go once they bite it took some time to release, leaving quite a noticeable bite mark that Harry was very proud of as it was his first python bite ever.



Everyone laughed about it later and hopefully will be included in a future show.

Andrew concluded his talk, bringing out a beautiful Bell's form Lace Monitor, a shingleback, a carpet python and a young Saltwater crocodile.

Andrew Melrose provides a reptile show service for any size function or birthday party. If you wish to contact Andrew, phone 0415 448 844.

Many thanks Andrew, it was great to have you with us once again.

THE IRS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Last year's Christmas party was an outstanding success. Dr Simon Stone (Dr Rock) from Southern Cross Reptiles joined us from Adelaide. With 100 invited guests and a giant spit roast dinner, it provided an event that will be hard to beat this year.

This year we are heading to the Northern Territory and asking Rex Neindorf, creator and owner of The Alice Springs Reptile Centre to join us. Rex will explain how, where and why a magnificent reptile facility of this magnitude comes about and what is involved on a daily basis in running the centre.

Don't forget the date. **December the 5th 2011.** Admission will be FREE to members and a small charge for non-members. It will be by invitation only, so stay tuned to the next newsletter for more information.

Arthur and Debbie Weeding were unable to attend our August meeting due to a health scare while they are holidaying in Thailand.

We will endeavour to reschedule their turtle talk for a little later in the year.

Welcome to new members

Ernie Thomson, Craig Sawtell, Michelle Andersen, Jared Huxley, Ollerenshaw Family, Warwick Spinks, Jackson Smith, Cherie Stephenson and Corey Brown.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE NOW

Membership Fees

Single Member is \$20 and Family Membership is \$30. Yearly fees are due in August. Direct Deposit to the following account. ILLAWARRA REPTILE SOCIETY INC BSB: 012 593 ACCOUNT:197838498 Please put your member No. in the xxx field for your identification.

THE IRS PICNIC DAY

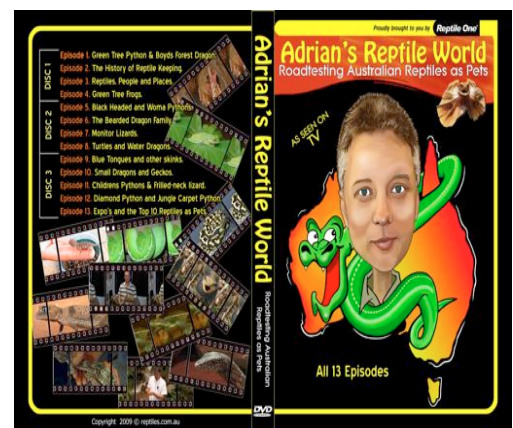
The date for this years picnic Day at the Nowra Wildlife Park is Sunday 2nd October, 2011.

This most beautiful venue has provided us with many happy memories in the past and the parks staff are keen to make this years event just as enjoyable.

The members of the IRS have free entry on the day and BBQ meat, salads and bread rolls provided free. Drink and other foods can be purchased at the kiosk.

If any member has a single membership card and wishes to bring along the family, you are more than welcome to update your membership to family, as your card must be shown at the entrance.

Adrian Reptile World - DVD available from the front meeting desk for \$25, along with the latest issue of Scales and Tails \$8



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A PROUD MOMENT

Garth presenting a \$1,000.00 cheque to Symbio Wildlife Park owner John Radnidge and his son Matthew Radnidge.

The IRS now sponsors two wildlife parks. Firstly, the Nowra Wildlife Park, which has expanded their reptile house and included Perentie monitors in an enclosure designed especially for them.

Recently, the IRS welcomed Symbio Wildlife Park to the sponsorship program and with Nowra Wildlife Park the money is intended to promote reptiles in a good light with the public.

Australian Herpetological Symposium. 1/11/2011

This years event will be held in Sydney. The symposium package has been subsidised and brought to you through the success of Australia's newest reptile magazine Reptiles Australasia.

The 2011 symposium theme is "Rare and Endangered" and will feature herpetology, herpetoculture and herp-related veterinary medicine. The Symposium will be held over 2 days on the 1st and 2nd of October.

The location for this years symposium will be The Sydney University. There will be an eclectic mix of presentations with some of the world's most knowledgeable speakers in their fields. There is something for every herp enthusiast.

The much anticipated, world first, book launch of "The Complete Carpet Python" by Nick Mutton & Justin Julander will take place at the gala dinner on the Saturday night. Each attendee will receive a copy, signed by both authors, on the night. There are plenty of goodies on offer for all attendees.

All inclusive for a price of \$499.

The Australian Herpetological Symposium is an annual event in Australia and is in its 2nd year of running.

For more information go to www.reptilesaustralasia.com and click on the Australian Herpetological Symposium link to access the program and registration pages.

Australia Zoo cash dries up without Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin



Terri Irwin says Australia Zoo has been hit by Queensland's devastating weather but will rebound. Picture: AP Source: AP

CROCODILE Hunter Steve Irwin died five years ago today and the loss of his star power and his millions is being felt at the zoo he helped found on the Sunshine Coast.

Takings at Australia Zoo plummeted since his death, with analysts estimating the zoo's annual profit from gate takings and merchandise have fallen to \$3.5 million from income of about \$70 million, which is poured back into the zoo and conservation.

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Its wildlife hospital charity has been handed a three-year, \$150,000 lifeline from the regional council.

Irwin's widow, Terri, attributes the slump to the economic climate and has sold properties, cut back on staff and postponed some expansion plans.

FOR SALE – OCTOBER 2011

Ads will only appear for 2 months

Baby Blue Tongues

Rats & mice – live & frozen- all sizes

Garth 4256 4884

Maculosa adult females – two

Gippsland Water Dragon – male

3 foot tank & veneer pinewood cabinet

Frank 0413 563 037

Ackie – one male – 5 years

Scott 04011 750 111

Mice live – all sizes

Tina 0411 814 449

2400 X 1900 Enclosure Male Diamond 5 y.o.

Gal Outside Enclosure 1850 x 1400

Ernie 0418 638 951

WANTED

Jackie Dragons – 0412 318 794

Saw Shell Turtles – 0431 526 843

Mountain Dragons – 0412 318 794

Levis levis – female – Rob 0414 484 326

Bearded Dragon – juvenile -0439 722 306

FOR SALE – SEPTEMBER 2011

Childrens Pythons

Stimsons Pythons

Diamond Pythons

Baby Blue Tongues

Garth 4256 4884

Macca's – two females

3 foot tank & veneer pinewood cabinet

Gippsland Water Dragon

Frank 0413 563 037

Ackie – one male

Scott 04011 750 111

Short Tail Monitors (v.brevicanda)

Diamond Pythons – one pair Adults

Boys Forest Dragon – one adult male

Cam – Symbio – 0402 244 195

Long neck turtles – babies

Bob 9521 2725

Childrens Python – hatchlings

Jungle Carpet Python – hatchlings

Bredli – hatchlings

Childrens Python – adult male

Inland Carpet – female

Smooth Knob Tail Gecko – male

Northern Velvet Geckoes – male

Phil 0406 730 862

Diamond Python - Female -4y.o

Coastal Carpet Python - 2 y.o

Beardies - two Males

Nathan 0424 634 231

WANTED

Gippsland Water Dragon – male

Garth 4256 4884

Smooth Knob Tailed Gecko – female (levis levis)

Rob Earl 0414 484 326

Central Bearded Dragon

Kyle Bassett 42570140

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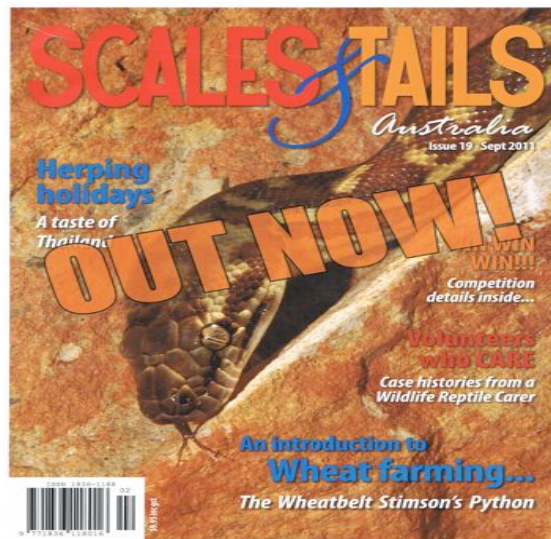
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Captured monster crocodile to be new tourist attraction

September 6, 2011 - 9:38AM



Giant crocodile caught in Philippines

RAW VISION: Villagers and veteran hunters capture a one-ton 21-foot saltwater crocodile which will become the star of a planned ecotourism park in the Philippines. It is one of the largest to be captured alive in recent years.

A giant crocodile weighing 1075 kilograms has been captured in the Philippines.

The 6.4-metre-long creature was caught by residents and crocodile farm staff along a creek in Bunawan late Saturday in southern Philippines.

Mayor Cox Elorde of Bunawan township, Agusan del Sur Province, said on Monday dozens of villagers and experts ensnared the male crocodile along a creek in his township after a three-week hunt.

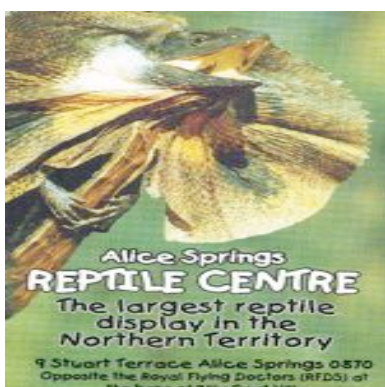
"We were nervous but it's our duty to deal with a threat to the villagers," Mr Elorde told The Associated Press by telephone. "When I finally stood before it, I couldn't believe my eyes."

About 90 men were needed to pull the 1075-kilogram fresh water crocodile from the river, the [Sun Star](#) newspaper reported.

It was one of the largest crocodiles to be captured alive in the Philippines in recent years.

Mr Elorde hoped the crocodile would become the centre of attraction at a planned ecotourism park.

It will be the biggest star of the park," he said, adding that he would be happy to turn the crocodile "from a threat into an asset". **AP and smh.com.au**



Red-eyed tree frog. Amphibians like frogs and toads have existed for 360 million years and survived when the dinosaurs didn't, but a new aquatic fungus is threatening to make many of them extinct. (Credit: iStockphoto/Mark Kostich)

Killer Fungus Threatening Amphibians

*ScienceDaily (Nov. 24, 2009) — Amphibians like frogs and toads have existed for 360 million years and survived when the dinosaurs didn't, but a new aquatic fungus is threatening to make many of them extinct, according to an article in the November issue of *Microbiology Today*.*

The fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (*Bd*), was found to be associated with waves of amphibian extinctions in Central America and north-eastern Australia in the 1990's. *Bd* infects over 350 amphibian species by penetrating their skin, but little else is known about where it came from and how it causes disease.

The earliest published record of *Bd* is from a specimen of an African clawed frog in 1938 from South Africa. Around this time there was a huge trade in clawed frogs when they were used in one of the earliest human pregnancy tests. The global exportation of the clawed frog is likely to have spread *Bd* around the world. The infection is spread by fungal spores released into the water supply from imported infected animals.

Researchers are trying different approaches to treat existing *Bd* infection. Some are treating tadpoles with antifungal drugs, whilst more innovative approaches involve introducing 'probiotic' bacteria that naturally

secrete antifungal compounds which kill *Bd* on amphibians' skin. To help limit the spread of infection, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) now recommends screening imported amphibians for presence of *Bd*.

The above story is reprinted (with editorial adaptations by ScienceDaily staff) from materials provided by [Society for General Microbiology](#).

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- Australian Ecosystem Foundation
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- WIRES Illawarra
- Sydney Wildlife Services
- Symbio Wildlife Park

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