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# August 2015

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## HERPUTOPIA NEWS

*Promoting the care and enjoyment of reptiles  
and amphibians through education.*

[www.illawarrareptilesociety.com.au](http://www.illawarrareptilesociety.com.au)

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### REPTILE RAMBLINGS

by Aaron Baker.

We were lucky enough to hear from one of our previous presidents Garth Rankin. Garth has been keeping reptiles for decades and is well known in the hobby. Garth spoke to us on some of the reptile greats within the hobby and on morelia. He has a very respectable sized morelia collection and is very knowledgeable in this area. Garth also mentioned his favourite morelia princes who was an albino Darwin python. It was a very interesting talk as I'm sure all would agree.

Don't forget guys **memberships are due** so if you haven't renewed yet please do so as soon as possible. You don't want to miss out on the great speakers we have lined up in the coming months. Speaking of which next month we will be hearing from the Top End Pythons team which I'm sure will be very entertaining.

Until next time, happy herping.

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### New Members

*Welcome!*

We are excited to welcome the following people who have recently become members of the Illawarra Reptile Society:

Bruce Cartwright

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Meetings are held on the **first Monday of the month at 6.30pm at Fairy Meadow Community Centre, Guest Park**, cnr Princes Hwy and Cambridge Ave, Fairy Meadow (opposite Woolworths)

LUCKY DOOR PRIZE at each meeting! Sausage Sizzle \$2.00; Drinks \$1.00; FREE tea and coffee

For enquires, contact 0433064460

PO Box 183  
Albion Park NSW 2527

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### Committee Members

President: Aaron Baker 0431526843	Vice President: Daniel Rumsey 0422713110
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Secretary: Jo Payne 0433064460	Treasurer: Nina Markwell 0433344722
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Newsletter Editor:  
Tina Gray  
0413293170

Committee Members: Kathy Hicks; Belinda Elms; Kieran Revell-Reade; Jake Cullen

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## Dates for your diary

August 3

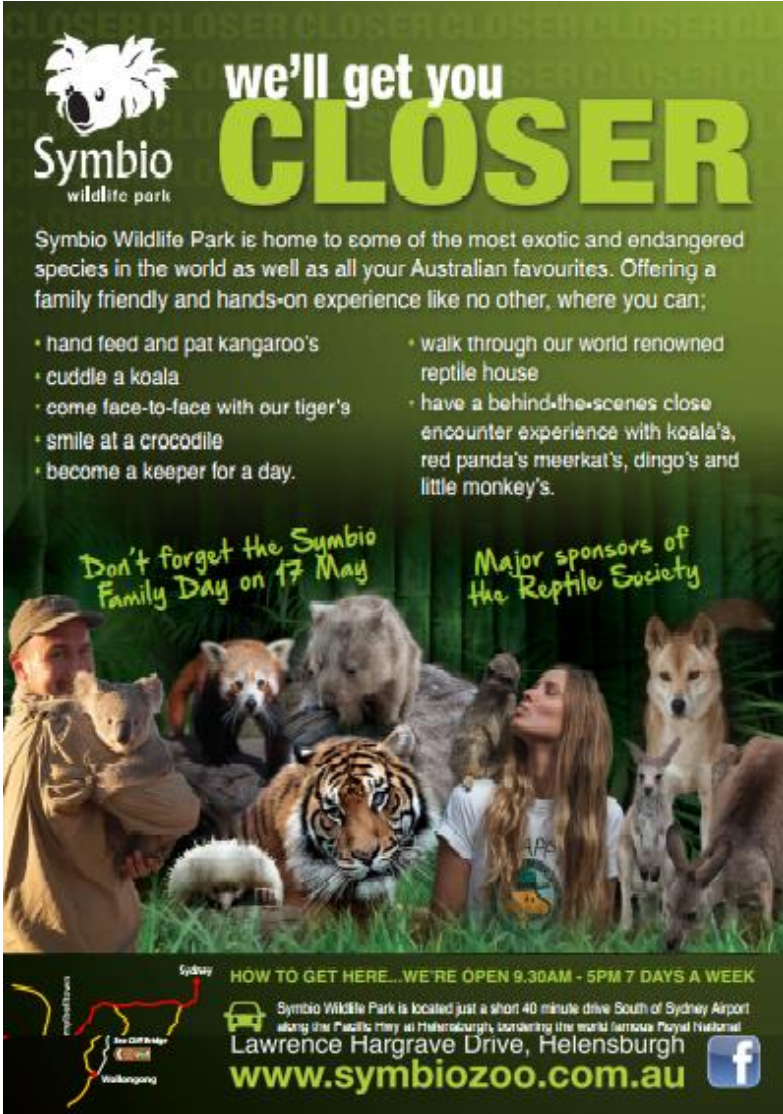
**Illawarra Reptile Society meeting at Fairy Meadow Community Centre. 6.30pm start. Special guest: Top End Pythons** – they will be talking about how they came about and breeding for this season.

October 5

**Illawarra Reptile Society meeting at Fairy Meadow Community Centre. 6.30pm start.** Join us for the kids meeting. Pizza night and talking about hatchy set ups, etc.

October 18

**Shoalhaven Zoo Family Day.** Meeting point – new BBQ area. BBQ lunch provided. Please let Jo (0433064460) know if you're coming ASAP.



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# MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE!

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If you haven't already, please renew your memberships ASAP at the next meeting or by direct depositing into the Reptile Society's bank account:

**ANZ BSB 012593 ACCOUNT 197838498.**

**Please include your name as a reference.**

## This happened last month

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Former Illawarra Reptile Society president Garth Rankin was the guest speaker at last month's meeting. He gave an interesting talk about Morelia, as well as showing us some of his personal photos and stories during the time he has been keeping reptiles.



## Grab an Illawarra Reptile Society hoodie!

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Winter is here! A great way to stay warm is in one of the Society's hoodies.

They are \$50.00 each.

If you would like to order one, please see Nina at the meeting or can email her at - [illawarrareptilesociety2015@gmail.com](mailto:illawarrareptilesociety2015@gmail.com)

A \$20 deposit is needed prior to ordering and can be given to Nina at the next meeting or deposited into the IRS bank account using your name as a reference.

## In the news

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### Death adder among reptiles sent in mail



A Perth man with a self-described "addiction" to reptiles has been fined more than \$6000 for smuggling rare and endangered snakes and lizards out of WA.

Niall Cooke, 22, was given a spent conviction in Joondalup Magistrate's Court yesterday over charges he illegally took and then posted protected animals to the other side of the country.

The court was told Cooke was a registered keeper of reptiles with a passion for collecting them but

"seriously" stepped outside the bounds of his licence between January and June last year.

Prosecutor Rachael Young said Cooke took protected snakes and lizards — believed to be worth thousands of dollars on the black market — from the Pilbara before posting them to an address in Melbourne.

The crime was detected only when boxes containing the reptiles, including a potentially lethal death adder, were returned to a bogus address in Cooke's name.

After the discovery, officers from the Department of Parks and Wildlife executed a search warrant at Cooke's Yanchep home, where they found several other animals he had been keeping illegally.

In all instances, Ms Young said Cooke explained his possession of the animals by saying he wanted to take pictures of them.

Cooke said he deeply regretted taking the reptiles and mailing them in enclosed containers.

But he denied suggestions his actions amounted to cruelty, saying he had ensured they had enough food and water. He also said he packaged them as securely as he could to reduce risks to postal workers.

Cooke said he had sought counselling to help him deal with his addiction to collecting reptiles.

Magistrate Edward De Vries said he was satisfied Cooke was of prior good character and ordered a spent conviction.

He fined Cooke \$6100 and ordered him to pay costs.

DPaW regional wildlife officer Matt Swan said 389 illegally poached reptiles were seized in the 12 months to June 30, about twice as many as in previous years.

Mr Swan said black market demand for WA reptiles was high but officers worked hard to stamp out the trade.

Credit: au.new.yahoo.com



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The advertisement features a central text block listing various reptile supplies. It is framed by a black border. On the left and right sides of the text, there are images of a snake and a bearded dragon respectively. At the top, there is a logo for 'Allcrazythings' featuring a green lizard.

# Classifieds

FOR SALE: Baby jungles \$100 Garth 42564884	FOR SALE: Long neck turtle hatchlings Craig 0420483338	FOR SALE: Roughie hatchlings Dan 0422713110
FOR SALE: Frozen mice Bruce 0427610758		

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