

# TASMANIAN HERP NEWS

Happy Birthday!  
20 Years!

TASMANIAN HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS FORUM

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## Editorial

I could stand the dreary weather no longer, so the only solution was to bog off to Queensland. It was only for five days but it included taking the children to Dreamworld, Australia Zoo (yeah, OK that was probably for me) and generally raising our winter temperature by 12°C and be reminded what wearing shorts and t-shirts was like. Soooooo nice!

Back in warm clothes now of course – but!... my Bluey has been basking in her out-door enclosure which is a promising sign of the warm to come, and I have the photos from my quick trip with which to reminisce.



One of the Water Dragons at Australia Zoo that run around free, which is lovely. So used to the crowds that you often have to mind where you tread!

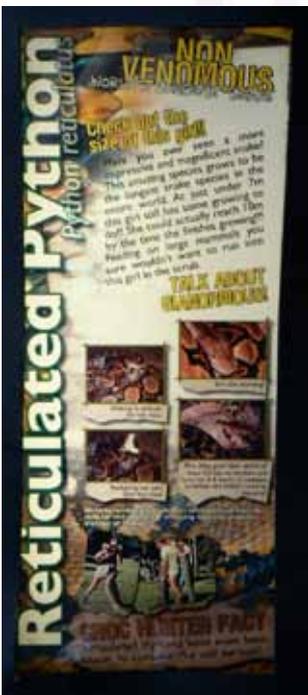


A Red-bellied Black on display at Australia Zoo. You can see how our Copperhead is often mistaken for one of these guys.

On a different matter, the recent articles in various Tasmanian newspapers regarding turtle seizures by DPIPW have indirectly highlighted the fact that the message had not reached all concerned that as of last December **turtles are prohibited in Tasmania**. There are still people out there who must have or must know of people keeping turtles. I know that readers of this newsletter are aware, but if you could keep spreading the facts at every opportunity, that would be fantastic.

Unfortunately, any turtle found by DPIPW now the amnesty is well and truly over will be euthanased, which is so very wrong - it's not the animal's fault after all, and Bass Strait doesn't pose that much of a problem to repatriate these animals back to where they belong.

Jane



The impressive Retic' python looking very well fed at Australia Zoo, along with her info panel – a great example of the signage around the place.



**Notice of Meeting**  
**The Reptile Rescue Inc.**  
**AGM will precede the THS**  
**meeting, at 7.30pm on**  
**Tuesday 5 October 2010, in the**  
**Queen Victoria Museum and Art**  
**Gallery 'Learning Centre', Inveresk.**

## Hi Fellow Herpers!!!

My name is Sally! You have probably seen me around the Reptile Club (now Tasmanian Herpetology Society) meetings, working with my good friends Ian Norton and Jane Guy!

At the Tas Herp Society AGM held in August I was elected President which was quite an unforeseen surprise! So I just wanted to let you all know that I will do my best to represent the THS and that if there is anything that I can help out with, like listen to your ideas or answer any questions you might have in regards to that which brings us together every two months, then I will try my best!!

We are now into Spring!! Yay! Once we get the unpredictable September weather out of the way things should start warming up and our favourite creatures start to wake up from their winter torpors! Some of my Blue-tongues have already started coming out which is a good sign! Just a little reminder to those who are planning to bring their reptiles out from their long sleep soon...do it slowly! It has to feel as natural as possible for the reptile so their metabolism, thermoregulation limits and other body functions stay in check! If they heat up too quickly they could die, so as the saying goes 'slow and steady wins the race'!

I have an idea that I would like to run by you all! At every meeting we will ask those who would like to participate, to write their names on some paper which we will place in a 'hat'. Near the end of the meeting we will pull one of the names out, and the person whose name we call gets to write an article for the next edition of the Tasmanian Herpetological Society's newsletter! It will be in a section that we will call 'My Pet Profile'. If you haven't got a reptile pet then not to worry! You can write about any of your pets and include a picture of you and your pet if you have one! That way everyone will hopefully get to know one another a little bit better! Jane and I will give you the details on how to get your article to either one of us to be put into the newsletter at the next meeting!

I think it's really important to encourage and facilitate the interest and involvement of the younger generations, as it is mainly they that makes the Tasmanian Herpetological Society what it is today! So thank you all for your loyal attendance! If there are any other suggestions that you have about what you would like our meetings to include please feel free to let us know!

I'll see you at the next meeting!

Happy herping!  
Sal.



Sal and Jane at the Victorian Herp Expo last year.



## More on Turtles in Tassie

A recent newspaper article highlighted the perils if turtles were to establish in Tasmania. Like all introduced wildlife there are risks when they establish outside of their quarantined existence.

Habitat and temperature requirement will impose nature's own restrictions, and we must never forget the threat that turtles may have on another introduced species, trout. A recent amnesty allowed such reptilian interlopers the opportunity of relocation back to the mainland where they are afforded sanctuary as a protected species. Reptile Rescue in particular Darron Cameron coordinated the repatriation funded by Government funding, so what's changed now the amnesty is over and turtles turn up? Why is there a need to euthanase them?

Given that turtles are protected wildlife in their state of origin, and Society's abhorrence to cruelty and the edict of welfare for all creatures great and small advertised by the RSPCA, why is it that those entrusted with care for wildlife can kill with impunity? It's an unnecessary evil, when only months ago similar reptiles were given a chance. I've heard the arguments stating that disease implications warrant destruction. Again why the inconsistency in policy application? Our wildlife authority has an obligation to care for all wildlife regardless of State boundaries. These hapless reptiles don't get here by their own means, they are introduced by well meaning people who purchase them from mainland pet shops believing that they are entitled to bring them into the State. If turtles were cuddly furry, cute little creatures, animal welfare agencies and animal lovers alike, would beat the doors down of DPIPWE in order to save them.

If our wildlife agency can't find the means to repatriate turtles, Reptile Rescue stands ready send them home and cover the costs given the opportunity.

Ian Norton, CEO Reptile Rescue Inc.

### For Your Diary...

The **Launceston Reptile Club** will take place at 6 pm on **TUESDAY 5 OCTOBER** in the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery's Learning Centre, followed by the **Reptile Rescue Inc AGM** and THS Meeting. We hope to see you there!