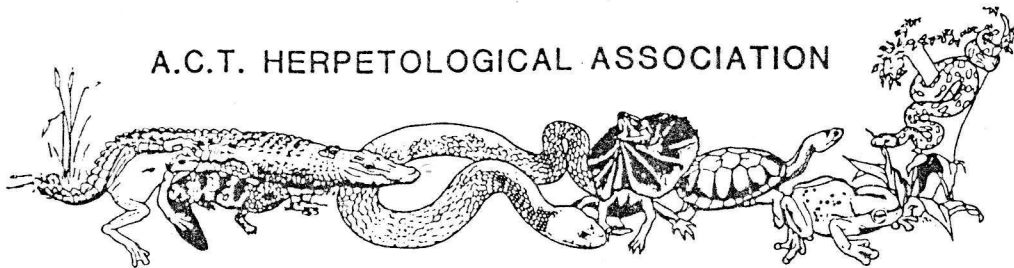


Dec '88

A.C.T. HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



NEXT MEETING:

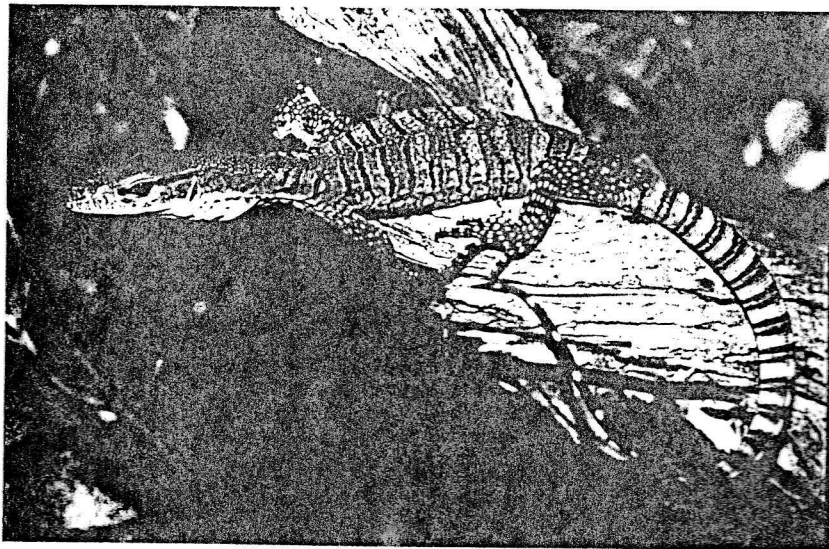
"GETTING TO KNOW YOUR A.C.T. HERPETOFAUNA" is the title of a workshop to be conducted by the A.C.T. Herpetological Society on Monday, December 5 at 8.00 p.m. in the A.N.U. Department of Zoology. This workshop promises to provide an opportunity for close identification and inspection of every species of snake, lizard and tortoise found in our area (including the presumed extinct earless dragon). Directing the workshop will be Richard Longmore, Biologist from the Bureau of Flora and Fauna (and editor of the Elapids of Australia Atlas) and John Wombey, Collections Manager of the Australian Wildlife Collection. Membership of the Society is open to anyone with a genuine interest in and concern for reptiles.

Bring your identification books such as Cogger.

Further information is available from JO VANDERMARK on 477963 (AH).

Next Field Trip

Day excursion to Bathurst on Sunday 11th December. Meet with Gavin Waters (a local herpetologist). On the trip we hope to see Earless dragons Tympanocryptus lineata (if they can be found!) Gavin also has a Rosenberg's Monitor (the undescribed new ~~Gonana~~ ^{Gonana} that has also been found in the Canberra region) in captivity for us to look at. Further details of the trip will be available at the next meeting, or from Will Osborne on 462127 (work).



2. Varanus sp. (rosenbergi) Captured at Googong Ranger Station, November 1987. Released at capture site. 290mm. Photograph: R. Bennett.

Committee Meeting held 7th November

Present: J. Vandermark, W. Osborne, D. Pook, R. Longmore, K. Thomas.
Apologies: R. Bennett.

A committee meeting was held at Jo Vandermarks house on the 7th of November. Dom. Pook presented an account of our current financial situation. We currently have a balance of \$209.61. Our records show that a large number of people still have not paid their annual membership. This is the last chance to pay your membership for the 1988/89 financial year, from now^{on} the newsletter will be sent only to financial members.

NON-FINANCIAL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

At the meeting we decided to expand the committee to include the following:

President Jo Vandermark
Secretary Ken Thomas (acting)
Treasure Dom Pook
Newsletter Will Osborne and Ross Bennett
Resource Person Rick Longmore (acting)
Committee Person 1 Paul Scanlon (acting)
Committee Person 2 Warrick Smith (acting)

Tentative meetings program for 1989

February	John Wombey	"Reptiles of the Kimberleys"
March	Arthur Georges	"Workshop on Turtles and Tortoises"
April	Dave Carter	"Goanna Update"
May	Steve Sarre	"Genetics, Islands and Sleepy Lizards"
June	Sylvia Spring	"Marine Turtles of Papua New Guinea"
July	Dave Carter	"Freshwater Crocodiles"

HERPETOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES COURSE.

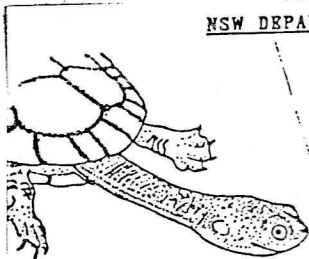
URGENT!

JO VANBERMARK (477960)

I am interested in hearing from anyone who would be interested in participating in this Herpetological Techniques Course. Harry Ehmann runs this unique course (no, this is not advertising jargon - it really is the only one in Australia) at Sydney TAFE College. It comprises identification of reptiles, laboratory and field techniques, introduction to telemetry etc. etc.

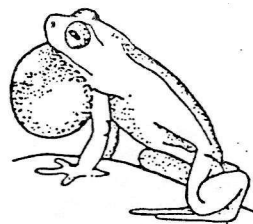
No, I'm not suggesting travelling to Sydney each week. The NSW government had a policy of taking its education programmes to country areas. If we had sufficient people interested (minimum of 10) we could make an approach to the Queanbeyan TAFE to request presentation of the course in a condensed format (e.g. over 2 or 3 intensive weekends, consecutive or alternate) next spring. The earlier the approach to NSW TAFE, the greater the chance of success. If you are interested (and there are 4 takers already) would you please contact me ASAP. (JO VANDERMARK 477960)

NSW DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES



HERPETOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES SHORT COURSE

Information Leaflet 08/88



Herpetology is the study of reptiles and amphibians.

This course consists of two subjects: Applied Herpetology and Advanced Herpetology. It is a practically oriented course for technicians, park rangers, teachers, graduates and amateur herpetologists with a sound knowledge of reptiles and amphibians.

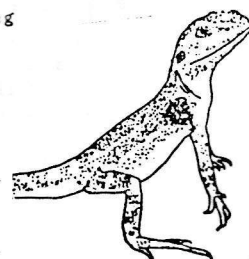
The subject Applied Herpetology allows students to become familiar with and also master some important current Australian herpetological research techniques. Skills that are demonstrated and practiced include identification, diet analysis, remote sensing (telemetry), preservation methods, frog call analysis and illustration techniques. Ten weekly three hour evening sessions and one day weekend excursion are involved.

The subject Advanced Herpetology allows students to master important field techniques including telemetry, the study of a single species' ecology. This subject involves 2 full weekend excursions and 3 evening sessions. Students produce a report of their work which will be of publishable standard. The previous subject is a pre-requisite.

The course is available only at Sydney Technical College.

For further information about the course and the enrolment write to:

The Enrolment Officer,
School of Biological Sciences,
Sydney Technical College,
Broadway, 2007



and mention that you have seen this information leaflet.

DAVID CARTER
ANY

BICENTENNIAL HERPETOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The ACT was well-represented at the Australian Bicentennial Herpetological Conference held at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane in August, with a dozen of our members participating. Papers presented by Canberra herpetologists were:

- DAVE CARTER : "Courtship and mating in wild Varanus varius"
- ARTHUR GEORGES : "Nesting ecology of the Pig-nosed Turtle"
"Biochemical systematics of Australian Chelid Turtles"
- ROB JENKINS : "Dispersal and Movement by Crocodylus porosus in Kakadu National Park : A Clue to the Process of Recovery"
- RICHARD LONGMORE : "The Zoological Catalogue of Australia Data Base System"
"Distribution of Snakes of the Family Elapidae in Australia"
- WILL OSBORNE : "Distribution and Conservation of Aprasia parapulchella in the Canberra Region"
"Morphological and Genetic Divergence in Corroboree Frogs and Implications for Conservation Management"
- SYLVIA SPRING : "The Commonwealth's Role in Marine Turtle Conservation"
- DEAN WARD : "Morphological Adaptations for Tree-Climbing in the Lace Monitor"

It is hoped to present at least some of this research at ACT Herpetology Groups meetings next year.

Speakers at the Conference were restricted to fifteen minutes, normally ten to present their research and five to answer questions. It is an exacting discipline to have to condense one's research findings to ten minutes! But while one can sympathise with the speakers in the problems this posed, it certainly made for a most stimulating format - six presentations before morning tea, six more before lunch, six between lunch and afternoon tea, with another three or four after that. Altogether, seventy-five papers were presented in three days, ranging through morphological, biochemical, biogeographic, epidemiological, electrophoretic, evolutionary and distribution studies, from macro studies of turtle classification to micro studies of geckoes toes, from the wet dreams of water dragons to the expanding earth theory, from the reptiles of Madagascar to Herpetology based visitor programmes at the Melbourne Zoo!

With such diversity and concentration inside the Conference lecture theatre and tantalising exhibits and displays of the superb new Museum surrounding us, even Expo '88, just across the road, could barely compete for our attention!

Congratulations to Jeanette Covacevich for a superbly organised conference. Admittedly it was my first Herpetology conference, but I can't imagine a conference being better organised and it was such a great experience to be with ninety other people all similarly enthused about our fantastic and wonderful herpetofauna. May there be one hundred and ninety by the next conference - we need them!

Jo Vandermark