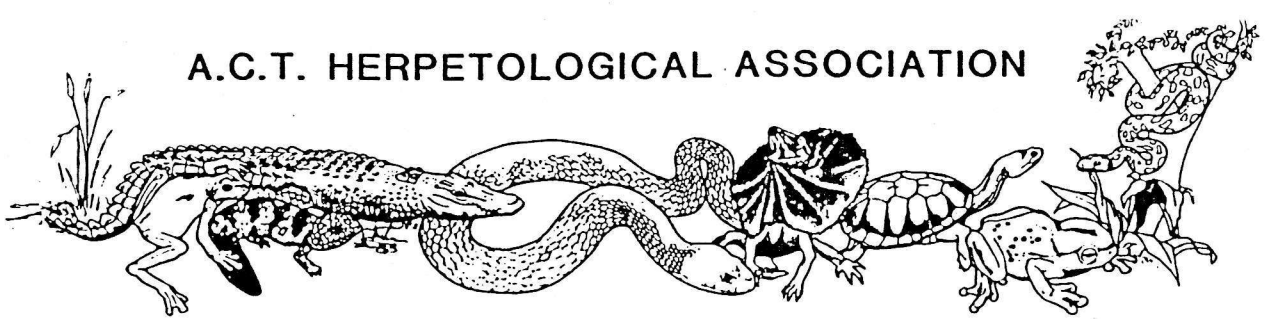


A.C.T. HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



Well, hello everybody !! Just a short note to remind you that the next meeting is on **WEDNESDAY 23RD MARCH 1988**, starting 7.30pm in the Zoology Department Tea-room, Australian National University. Be there to find out who our surprise speaker is.

The meeting schedule for the following couple of months is :

Thursday 28th April Wednesday 25th May Thursday 23rd June
I think June meeting is our AGM, so everybody consider now if you would like to nominate for a committee position.

Klaus Henle gives his final PhD seminar at 4.00pm, Tuesday 22nd March @ the Zoology Department Seminar room, ANU. There is even a Happy Hour afterwards (cheap drinks for those who indulge and those that do not !!)

Next newsletter will be another bumper issue. If you want anything to be included, send it to me, DEAN WARD, c/o DEPARTMENT of ZOOLOGY, GPO BOX 4, CANBERRA ACT 2601 before April 11.

Unwanted 'guest' is on the march south

THE ugliest thing in Queensland, the cane toad, is continuing to move southward into NSW. It is also heading west into the Northern Territory.

According to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, the toad is expanding its sphere of influence at the rate of around 30 kilometres each year.

The toad now occupy about 50 per cent of Queensland and have moved offshore onto Lizard Island.

Greg Siepen, wildlife extension office for the NPWS, said the toads have had a devastating effect on native wildlife where ever they appear.

He said they eat just about anything they can fit in to their mouth and have led to significant falls in local snake and goanna numbers after they appear in an area.

The cane toad is one of Australia's early attempts at biological control but one that went wrong.

The toad was imported into Queensland from Hawaii in 1935 to control grey backed cane beetles. From an original population of 101, they now number millions.

Their diet has expanded from the beetle to just about anything that moves and they can survive dry climates and temperature ranges from 0-41 C.

They also have the capacity to kill man via poison glands and it has been this poison which has prevented the pest becoming a meal for birds.

James Cook University in Townsville is making a major effort to find ways to rid this continent of the unwanted guest.

Sun - Herald
Newspaper

DAVID CARTER