

WPSQ Membership

Name:

Family Members:

Address:

.....

..... Postcode:

Phone: (h) (w)

Email:

Preferred Branch: **Bayside Branch**

Your special interests / skills:

.....

Membership of Wildlife Queensland:

\$30 Single \$12.50 Youth (up to 18 years)

\$20 Concession \$45 Family / Non-profit Group

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Posted Within Australia:

\$47 (4 issues) \$90 (8 issues)

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\$70 (4 issues) \$135 (8 issues)

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Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ)

Level 1, 30 Gladstone Rd, Highgate Hill QLD 4101

You can also subscribe online at www.wildlife.org.au

What is the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland?



The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (Wildlife Queensland or WPSQ) is a community environmental group with a wonderfully diverse membership drawn together by a common interest in wildlife. It was started in 1962 by naturalist David Fleay, poet Judith Wright, artist Kathleen MacArthur and publisher Brian Clouston who decided to act on their concerns about Australia's precious and vanishing natural environment. The society aims to protect all Australian wildlife, through education, consultation and legislation.

Our society is made up of a head office located in Brisbane while branches are spread throughout Queensland. Our head office largely focuses on matters on a regional or state level while branches are mainly focused on activities in their local area. They combine their efforts on issues of importance to all. Projects aim to involve other likeminded groups and individuals throughout the state.

What can a community group do?

Plenty. As individuals, we have unique talents and experiences. As a community group we can learn from each other, pool our talents and be more effective and influential. Working together we can ensure wildlife interests are represented in planning. Just being a member lends your weight to our efforts. Members of our society are drawn from all around Australia as well as from overseas.

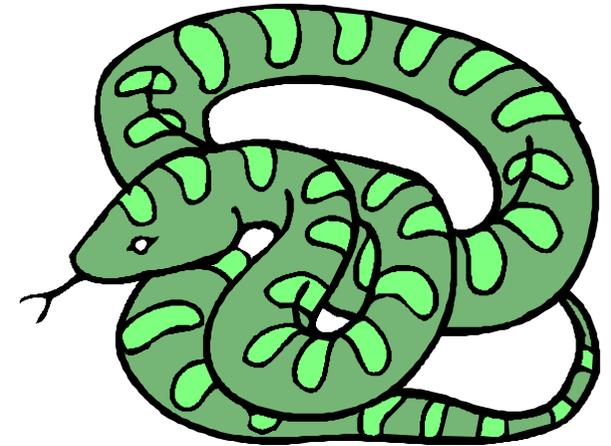
Bayside Branch

Bayside Branch hosts monthly meetings with expert guest presenters, conducts workshops, arranges family outings such as spotlighting, bushwalks and bird watching. Each year we participate in fauna surveys and run projects many involving the community. Publishing our monthly newsletter and diary plus the bi-monthly koala news keep members informed on issues and coming events as well as providing information on specific wildlife.

VOLUNTEERS: *As we are a community-based non-profit organisation your help would be welcome in a number of areas. Please contact us to find out more.*

Email: bayside@wildlife.org.au
<http://branches.wildlife.org.au/bayside>

Living with Snakes



 **Wildlife** Qld
Preservation Society of
Bayside

Living with Snakes

Snakes are undoubtedly the most fascinating of our vertebrate animals. Whilst it is only a very small percentage of people who look on snakes with affection, everyone has a story, myth or opinion on them. People are amazed by snakes whether it is because of their connections to the biblical serpents, their unique lifestyle, or that some species can kill with deadly poisons. Snakes are a great conversation starter. It is unfortunate that most of these conversations are not based on fact. There are many popular stories about snakes which are so far from the truth it is hard to credit that anyone can believe them.

In Australia we have many large and/or potentially deadly snakes, and this fuels people's fear of them and leads to many harmless snakes and even lizards being killed. Most people in Australia have a snake in their yard at some time and many are permanent residents that have shared our yards with us for many years. It is only when people actually see them that they are aware of their existence.

Snakes are rarely aggressive and prefer to slip away rather than confront something as large as a human. They can also be an asset around the home. Many snakes eat rodents and other pests.



Threats to Snake Survival

Habitat destruction: As more bush is destroyed, snakes are forced to move into residential areas seeking food and shelter.

Cane toads: The diet of many snakes includes frogs and toads, but unfortunately the introduced cane toad will kill them with its poison.

Cars: Snakes are often killed attempting to cross roads.

Bayside Snakes

These are not considered a threat to humans:

- Carpet python*
- Green tree snake*
- Brown tree snake♦
- White-crowned snake*
- Marsh snake♦
- Common keelback*



These can be dangerous and should be avoided:

- Red-bellied black snake♦
- Yellow faced whip snake* (to a child)
- Small eyed snake*
- Eastern brown snake♦

* common ♦ uncommon

All snakes are protected. There is seldom a justifiable reason to kill one. Potentially dangerous snakes can be relocated by trained snake handlers. Untrained persons should never attempt to relocate or kill them. Around 90 per cent of those people bitten by snakes are attempting to catch or kill them. Give snakes room and there should be no conflict.

Simple ways to avoid problems:

- Watch for snakes basking in the sun on tracks or pathways.
- Wear boots if walking through long grass.
- Stamping your feet will alert snakes to your presence and should avoid unnecessary confrontations.
- Beware of wood piles or old car parts in the backyard where snakes may have made a home.

If you need assistance with a snake call the National Parks and Wildlife Service or the conservation section of your local council or the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland on 3844 0129 for details of competent snake handlers.

