

The

PYTHON

Periodical



Vol. 1 Issue 1.

www.northcoastherpetologygroup.org.au/

Inaugural



President's Welcome

Well it's been an interesting past couple of years to say the least. The NCHG has persevered through everything the world has thrown at us, and with pandemics and lock downs now behind us, its full steam ahead into an exciting year ahead for the group.

With many changes in the world as we know it, it has spurred on changes in our group. It has been quite some time since our group's constitution has been reviewed and updated. Our committee has been working hard, digitising and updating key details of the constitution to reflect the group going forward.

The NCHG's new website is up and running and looks fantastic. A big thank you to Chayne for the creation of the website. Between the website and Facebook page, we can have a much broader reach and connection with our members and welcome new ones.

2024 is shaping up to be a big year for our group. After a 3 year hiatus, I think everyone is looking forward to the return of the North Coast Reptile Expo next year! Throughout the year we have seen the return of a number of reptile expos around the country, all with big crowd turnouts and positive feedback. Over the coming months and upcoming meetings, we will discuss ideas, proposed dates and expressions of interest for an expo committee, in order to get the ball rolling.

Next year also marks the group's 25th anniversary. We are looking forward to celebrating this milestone with members past and present and holding an anniversary dinner later in the year. Alicia and Bec have been busy making inquiries and sussing out a potential venue for the dinner. Along with the dinner, throughout the course of next year we will look back over the group's 25 year history. If anyone has any information, memorabilia etc they would like to share, it would be greatly appreciated.

Happy Herping,

Stu

In this edition

President's Welcome
Feature: Bearded Dragons
In The Herping World
Classifieds
Whats On
NCHG Committee & Membership
For the Hatchlings

Find Us...



COMING SOON



P.O. Box 438
Port Macquarie 2444

FEATURE: BEARDED DRAGONS

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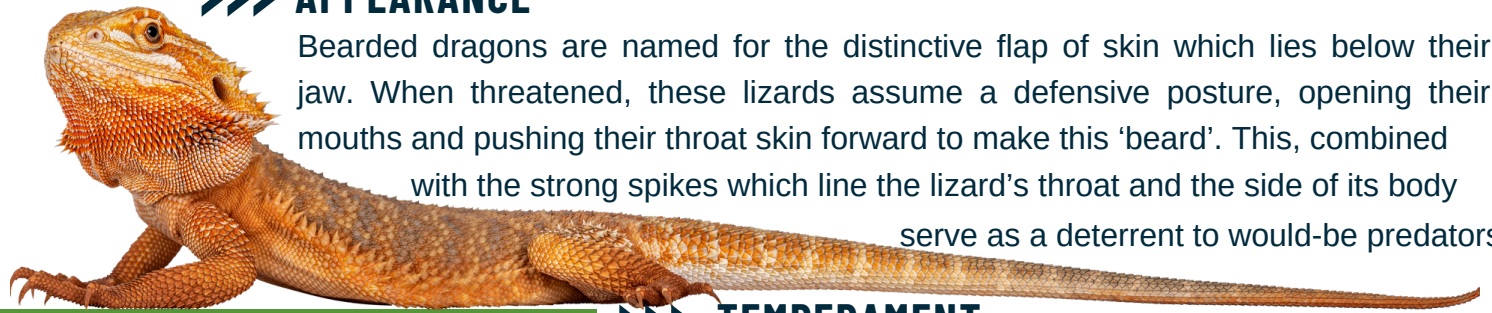
>>> SPECIES OVERVIEW

Reptilia Pogona. Aka "Beardies"

There are three types of bearded dragons commonly kept as pets in Australia; the Eastern Bearded Dragon (*Pogona Barbata*), the Pygmy Bearded Dragon (*P. henrylawsoni*) and the Central Bearded Dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*). The Eastern Bearded Dragon occurs along the length of the Great Dividing Range and is replaced in more arid areas by the Central Bearded Dragon. Pygmy Bearded Dragons are native to the black soil plains of Central Queensland and are the smallest of the Bearded Dragons.

>>> APPEARANCE

Bearded dragons are named for the distinctive flap of skin which lies below their jaw. When threatened, these lizards assume a defensive posture, opening their mouths and pushing their throat skin forward to make this 'beard'. This, combined with the strong spikes which line the lizard's throat and the side of its body serve as a deterrent to would-be predators.



Fast FAQs

Adult Size: 45-60cm (20-30cm for Pygmy)

Lifespan: 10-15 years

Diet: Omnivores. Insects & vegetables

>>> TEMPERAMENT

Bearded dragons are pretty docile and gentle animals, especially the centralian and pygmy. All three species will however be flighty and wary of handling unless they are hand raised and treated with care. Be mindful of open doors, windows or other pets if you choose to let your lizard roam the room.

>>> ENCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended that Bearded Dragons have an enclosure of around 1.3m in length which allows them to bask at different temperatures depending on their needs. To do this place the heat source at one end and the Bearded dragon can move away as it desires.

Substrate is somewhat of a controversial topic and many will argue about the best choice. Sand and woodchip substrates have been associated with impaction in the intestines while reptile carpet has the tendency to catch claws and breed bacteria. The choice of sand varies greatly but if you do choose to use sand it is recommended to use compacted clay-like sands.

Other substrates include newspaper, or paper towel although need changing more regularly. Whether it be sand or reptile carpet, it is recommended that it be kept clean and changes occur every 4 weeks with Reptile carpet requiring disinfection.

Did you know?

*Bearded dragons
change colour
depending on their
temperature needs!*



IN THE HERPING WORLD

Have a
suggestion or
submission?

northcoastherp@gmail.com
for more information

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>>> GREENIE'S ADVENTURES- JUNE 2023

Our June 2023 Meeting was a special treat with our member Mark Green from Wild Aussie Adventures sharing photos and stories from his trek around Australia. Mark captured some amazing footage of not only reptiles but marine life and mammals along with some amazing landscapes across the vast terrain. Mark shares his journey on his [facebook page](#) and [youtube channel](#).



>>> SHOW & TELL - SEPTEMBER 2023

What a night our Show and Tell was with all creatures GREAT and small being shown!

New member Dom was excited to show us his Knob-Tailed Gecko, Monty!

Mark brought in his Jag Carpet Jaz and his baby carpet along. Such vivid colours!

We were fascinated by Jamie's two baby Green Tree Pythons that had just started to go through their colour change.

Stu's new baby Death Adder remained safely in its container but was interesting to see how small they really are and his new Spencer's Monitor who is yet to be named.... I think Don is a great name! What do you think? Don... Don Spencer!



Don the
Spencer's
Monitor



Jag
Carpet
Python



Baby
Green Tree
Pythons



Knob-Tailed
Gecko

Baby Death
Adder



Want to
advertise?

northcoastherp@gmail.com
for more information

CLASSIFIEDS

>>> SELLING

Ross McGibbon Photography Fundraising Calendar 2024

The Calendar features 12 of Ross's best images of the year and raises money for the RFDS and the Global Snakebite Initiative

NCHG Members receive a \$10 discount off their order.

<https://rmrphotography.com.au/limited-edition-2024-fundraising-calendar/>



>>> WANTED

WANTED: Breeders/ Vendors for our Upcoming Expo. See details on our "Upcoming Page"

WANTED: Details of past members for our 25th Anniversary Event. Please email northcoastherp@gmail.com

Wanted: Your listings! Buying or Selling? Contact us to be included in our next Python Periodical

>>> LINKS

NSW Reptile Keeper Licenses

Native reptiles are protected by law so if you want to keep a native reptile as a pet you'll need a biodiversity conservation licence granted under the [Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016](#) from the Department of Planning and Environment (National Parks and Wildlife Service).

It is illegal to keep exotic (non-native) reptiles.

NSW Frog Keeper Licence

Native frogs and amphibians are protected by law so if you want to keep one as a pet you'll need a biodiversity conservation licence granted under the [Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016](#) from the Department of Planning and Environment (National Parks and Wildlife Service). The only non-native (exotic) amphibian that can be kept as a pet without a licence is the axolotl, *Ambystoma mexicanum*. All other non-native frogs and amphibians cannot be kept as pets because they may become invasive and spread disease.

UPCOMING...

>>> NCHG EXPO RETURNS!

2024 will see the return of the NCHG Expo in Port Macquarie! Breeders, retailers and experts in herpetology will be present and ready to help with anything herpetology related.

When: 27th April 2024 10am-3pm

Where: Port Macquarie Panthers Auditorium.

Adults: \$5

Children under 12: \$2 (Under 4 Free)

Vendor enquiries welcome!

**Reptile
Solutions**



**PANTHERS
PORT MACQUARIE**

**NOW
ACCEPTING
VENDORS!**

northcoastherp@gmail.com
for more information

>>> CALENDAR 2024

February 4th: Aussie Ark

(Field Trip in lieu of General Meeting)

March 1st: General Meeting
3rd: World Wildlife Day

20th: World Earth Day

April 5th: General Meeting
27th: Reptile Expo

>>> NORTH COAST HERPETOLOGY GROUP INC.

The North Coast Herpetology Group is a *Not For Profit* Incorporation.

Meetings are held on the **1st Friday of the month at 7pm** at the Lions Club Hall, Hastings River Drive, Port Macquarie.

Meetings feature Guest Speakers, movie nights, Show & Tell with outings and special events for extra herping fun!

Annual Memberships are \$15 for a single or \$25 for a couple or family.

If you would like to come join us to check out what's going on in the herpetology world and have access to decades of experience, we are welcoming new members of all levels.

For more info find us on Facebook or email northcoastherp@gmail.com

See you there!

OUR COMMITTEE

President: Stuart Johnson

Vice President: Michael Banicek

Secretary: Rebecca Potts

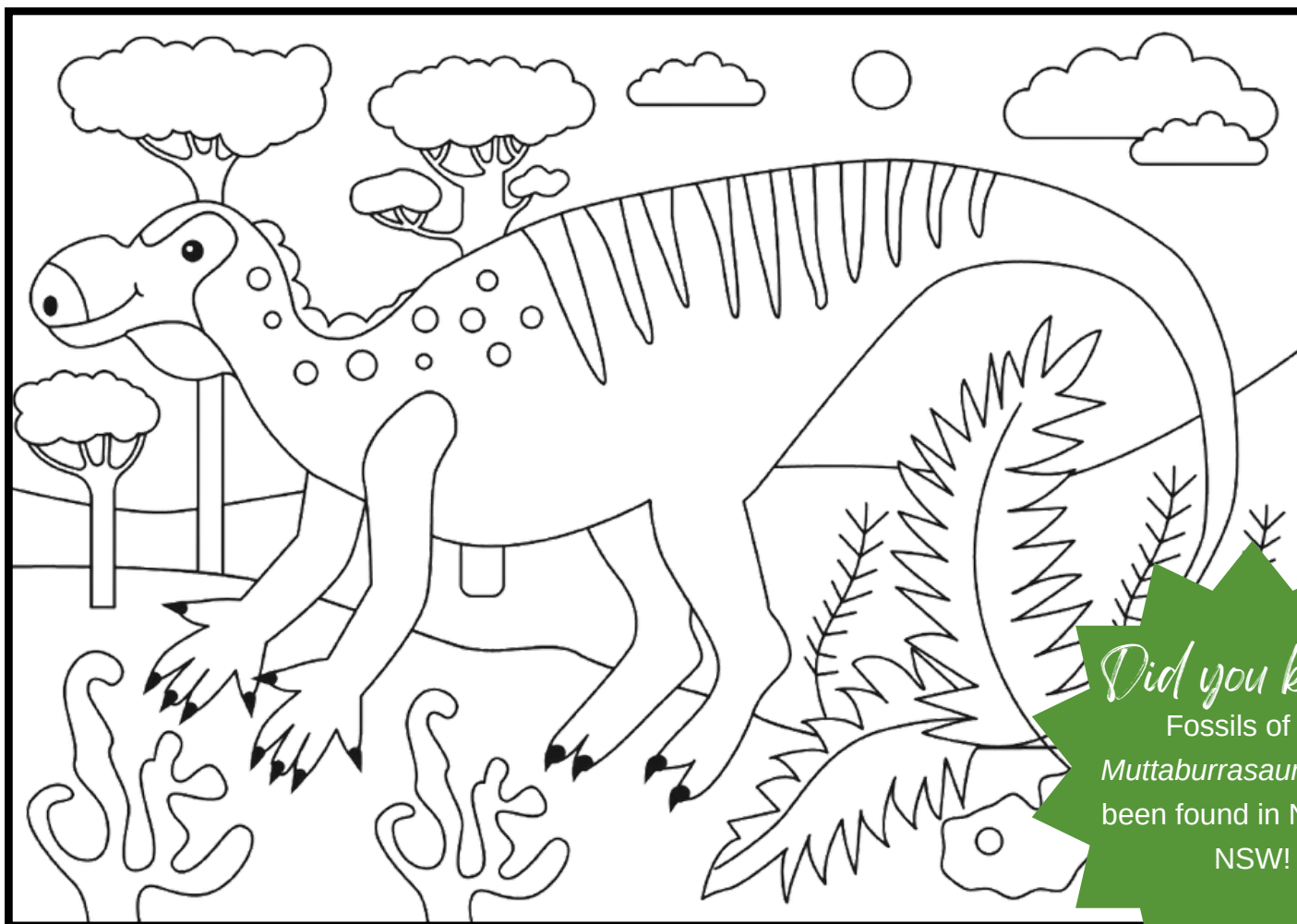
Treasurer: Alicia Palmer-Johnson

Committee:

Mark Willis, Allison Quinn, Ron Walker

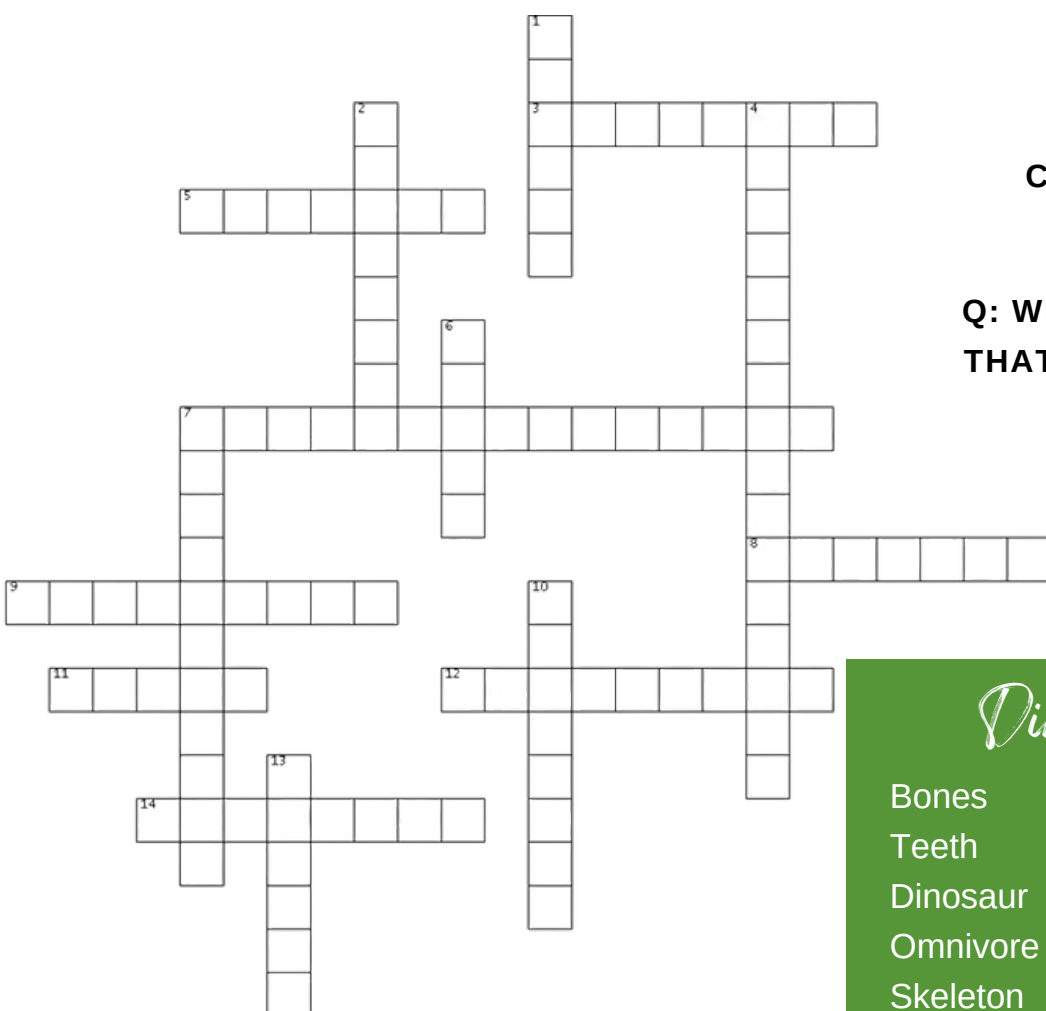
Social Media/IT: Chaney Boyle





Did you know?

Fossils of the
Muttaborrasaurus have
been found in Northern
NSW!



**Q: WHAT KIND OF TILES
CAN'T YOU STICK ON WALLS?**

A: REP-TILES!

**Q: WHAT DO YOU CALL A REPTILE
THATS GREAT WITH DIRECTIONS?**

A: A GOOD NAVI-GATOR.

**Q: WHAT'S THE COLDEST
TYPE OF REPTILE?**

A: A BLIZZARD.

Dinosaur Crossword

Bones	Tyrannosaurus Rex	Fossil
Teeth	Prehistoric	Jurassic
Dinosaur	Herbivore	Carnivore
Omnivore	Extinct	Reptile
Skeleton	Palaeontologist	Museum