

MEDIA RELEASE



22 September 2008

"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

Scaly workshop for Myall Park Botanic Garden

A reptile identification workshop will be hosted at the Myall Park Botanic Garden on 4 October to launch a new threatened species toolkit.

Organised by the Myall Park Botanic Garden, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the workshop will include an early morning bird walk as well as reptile species and habitat identification activities.

"We often overlook reptiles," said QMDC's Alison Goodland.

"Yet, they play such an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, and have come under such significant threat from things like clearing and predation," she said.

The workshop is part of a range of reptile conservation activities the Botanic Garden has been doing.

"Although we're a botanic garden, we do have a great focus on our local wildlife, not just the plant species in the area," said Myall Park Botanic Garden Director, Gill Kidd.

"So, we'll be undertaking some fencing and feral animal control work here in the gardens to protect the smaller rare and threatened animals, such as reptiles, that we find here," she said.

The day will also include the launch of a new information toolkit, funded by the Threatened Species Network, on 16 reptile species found in the Brigalow Belt bioregion that have recently become the target of recovery actions.

"Dalby Regional Council Mayor, Ray Brown, will be attending to launch the toolkit in the morning," said Alison.

"Everyone who attends the day will receive a copy of the toolkit, which will then also be made available to the public to help raise awareness about what we can all do to help preserve some of our rarer reptiles," she said.

People wishing to attend the workshop should RSVP by 1 October to Alison Goodland (0427 651 906) or Gill Kidd (07 4663 0720). Cost for the day will be \$5 per person, of \$10 for a family, which will include a copy of the toolkit, and a BBQ breakfast.

Additional information

One of the species included in the kit, which could be found on the day, is the Dunmall's snake.

"This dark coloured snake is almost entirely restricted to the southern half of the Brigalow Belt, with most sightings occurring from Yeppoon, to Oakey, Inglewood and even Glenmorgan, which is near the Myall Park Botanic Gardens," said Alison Goodland.

"This snake, although venomous, rarely bites. It's also listed on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) Red List of Threatened Species, which means it's internationally recognised as a vulnerable species," said Alison.

"It would be a tragedy if something so unique to this area was lost forever," she said.

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Images



The golden-tailed gecko is one of the species covered by the Reptiles of the Brigalow Belt information kit, to be launched at the workshop. Photo courtesy of Craig Eddie, Boobook Consulting.

For high resolution images (including of the Dunmall's snake), please contact Amelia Radford on 07 4637 6234, or ameliar@qmdc.org.au.