



# A Word from the President

After Covid stopped our 21 and 22 expo there was no stopping us in 2023!

This year's Expo and Expo Dinner proved to be a great success with a great number through the doors and a heap of new vendors and sponsors. I want to thank all our sponsors again for their support because without them we would not be able to present our Expo in the way we do. (For those interested our event cost approximately \$55,000 to hold.)

Not only did we attract new sponsors for the Expo, we have also partnered with Petstock for the full 12 months of 2023 and we are excited to work with the Petstock team during this time.

I also need to thank Peter Birch from CrittaCam for helping to secure Dingo for our Expo Dinner. I am sure all those who were lucky enough to attend would agree Dingo's talk was not what we expected and was simply amazing. He then followed it up at the Expo, signing autographs, talking to fans and of course promoting our hobby. From start to finish Dingo didn't stop but we all know without Kirsty none of this could have happened.

But there is no rest for the committee, straight after our expo we were into the final planning stages of the Pet Show. Again, I need to thank those who helped make it possible, the team from Minibeast Enterprises, Black Snake Productions and of course those who volunteered over the weekend.

**petstock** where pets are family  
**2023 VHS** VICTORIAN HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

**REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN EXPO**

Adults \$15 (16 Plus)    Child \$5 (Under 16)    Family \$30 (2 Adults + 4 Kids)    Concession \$10 (VHS Members admitted free)

**Saturday March 11th**  
9am-4pm | Expo Hall, Melbourne Showgrounds

info@vhs.com.au | www.vhs.com.au

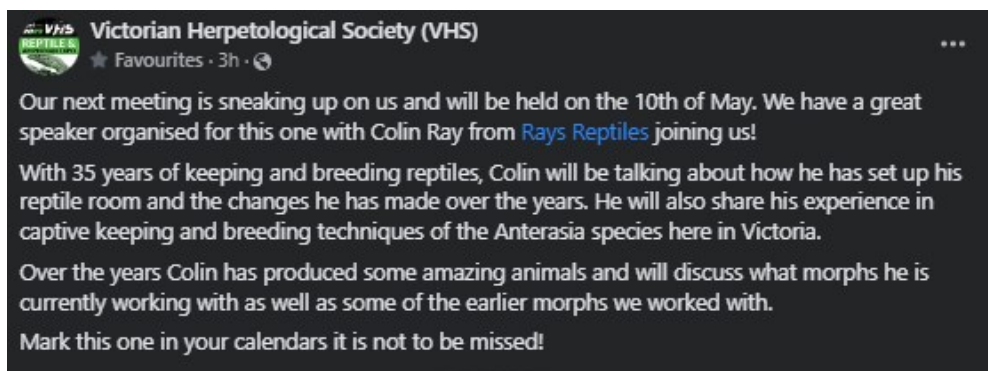
Proudly Sponsored By: JURASSIC JUNGLE, SMART HERP Petcover, EXO TERRA, The Australian Pet Store, MINIBEASTS, BLACK SNAKE, YARRA REPTILES, RE

So, what's next?

Our meeting dates for the rest of the year are up on our website with guest speakers to be announced closer to each meeting. At the moment our regular venue (The Anglers Tavern) is still being refurbished after the flood damage so our next two meetings, May 10 and July 12 will be at the Victoria Hotel in Yarraville. Follow us on Facebook for more detailed updates as we get closer to each meeting.

But what everyone really wants to know is, what about the expo for 2024?

I can tell you all we have a date booked with the Showgrounds and are just waiting on the final contract before we announce it. We have listened to all the feedback and will do our best to accommodate where we can. Unfortunately not everything is in our control. We will continue to do our best to make sure we put on the best expo we can.



## ***December Meeting — Dr. David Kirshner***

The December VHS Meeting was held at a different venue to normal as unfortunately, the Angler's Tavern was still under renovations as a result of the flooding events earlier in November. Therefore, for the first time, a meeting was held at the Victoria Hotel also in Yarraville. We would just like to thank the venue and the staff for accommodating such a large group of people for the night.

The meeting itself began with the announcement of the committee for next year whereby no changes were made, so the committee is as follows:

President — Adam Sapiano

Secretary — Kevin Welsh

Treasurer — Shane Brodie

Executive Committee — Grant Burling

Executive Committee — Brian Barnett OAM



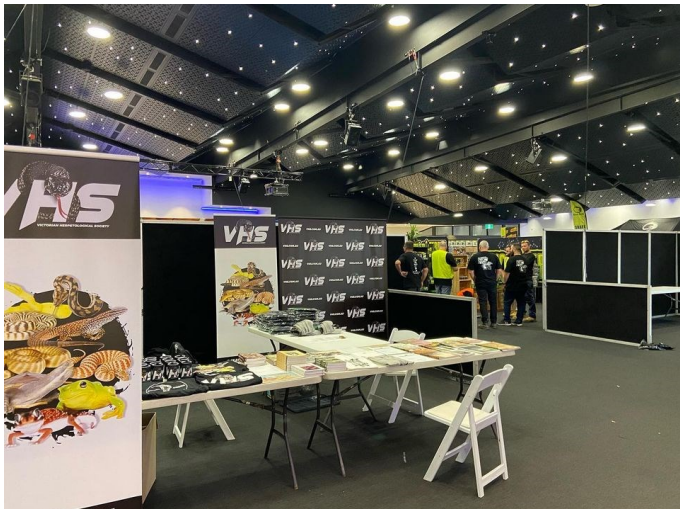
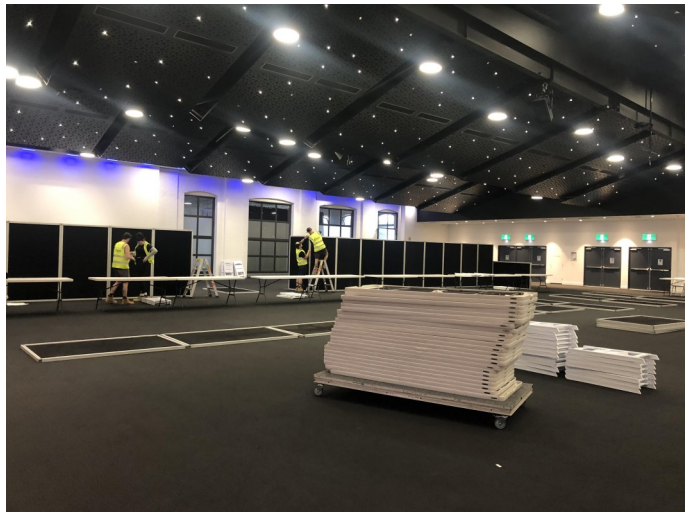
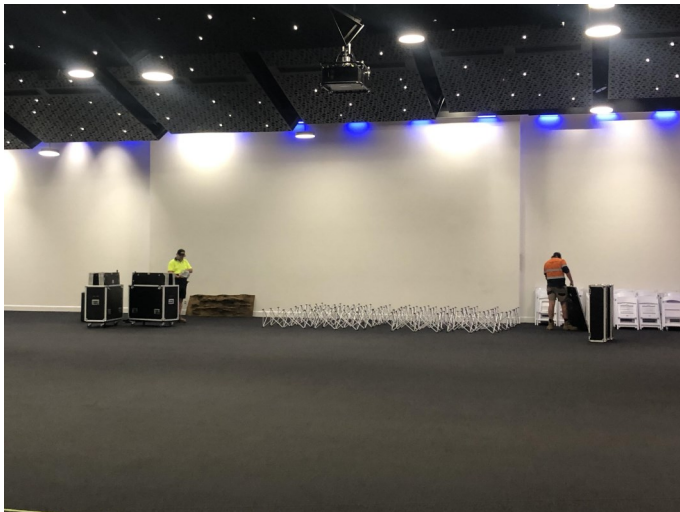
We were very fortunate to have Dr. David Kirshner fly down once again to give a talk on the development and design of the Sydney Zoo's Reptile building. David's presentation took us through the process from start to finish and every detail in between. From the movement of the first animals including Hyenas and Chimpanzees to the zoo through to the intricate placement of lighting for reptile enclosures this talk had a bit of everything. Key takeaways included the angled design of some enclosures to avoid glare for visitor experience as well as designing the Reptile side of the building to flow into a Nocturnal House by utilising nocturnal Reptiles and Invertebrates.

We would just like to give a big thank you to David for coming down once again and providing an incredible presentation rich with various photographs, videos and drone footage of the whole process. We would also like to thank all those who attended, contributed in some way shape or form to the auction on the night and stuck around for a chat afterwards.



# Setting up the Expo

Setting up for Expo 2023 began early on Friday morning. With the tables, chairs, stage and walls being delivered and put together, setup was well and truly underway. Later in the day, doors opened for vendors to begin setting up their tables and the excitement began to build as the room took shape. The finishing touches were put together early on Saturday morning with many of the private vendors setting up their tables and so we were ready to rock and roll for Expo 2023!



# Pre-Expo Dinner — Dingo & Kirsty Dinkelman



The Pre-Expo Dinner was a great turn out. We'd like to thank Dingo and Kirsty Dinkelman for their incredibly passionate talk about "all things African" wildlife. The talk held a particular focus on African reptiles including the Black Mamba as well as African mammals such as the Rhinoceros and Pangolin. We'd also like to thank Tim, Donna and the team at iPetz for donating an enclosure setup for the Friday night raffle. Excitingly, VHS President Adam Sapiano was given the status of Life Member voted by the committee without his knowledge. As always, we thank Adam for his tireless efforts with the VHS.



# Expo Day 2023

The expo had a fantastic turnout with over 5,000 people walking through the doors. It was fantastic to see so many people with a keen interest in reptiles coming out to support the expo. We'd like to thank each and every person who came out and hopefully enjoyed the expo. We'd also like to thank each of the sponsors, vendors and those who contributed to the auction as well.







As always, the vendors, displayers and sponsors brought along some impressive animals including this Brown Tree Snake also known as a Night Tiger (*Boiga irregularis*) at Black Snake Productions who were set up in the foyer space with an impressive static display of Australian reptiles.

There was also quite a range of different Carpet Python morphs (*Morelia spilota* sp.) on display at many tables including one from Radical Reptiles.



Yarra Reptiles, Copperhead Customs and Animals of Oz worked together to display an incredible Oenpelli Python (*Nyctophilopython oenpelliensis*) with an impressive background. This was a very popular display throughout the day.

# Melbourne Pet Show



The Melbourne Pet Show was a massive event over two days which represented some of the many pets that people keep in their homes. There were two buildings for this event, one being filled with Cats and Dogs and the other being Small Animals including the VHS display of reptiles alongside Black Snake Productions, Minibeast Enterprises and Yarra Reptiles.

It was an incredibly busy weekend with over 15,000 people coming through the doors. It was a joy and pleasure to be involved with wildlife education and reptile pet ownership. The display was focussed on native reptiles that can be held either without a license or with a basic wildlife license to show what can be kept in the home by anyone interested in keeping reptiles.



We would like to thank Mike and his team from Black Snake Productions, Phil and Kate from Minibeasts as well as Chris and Stacy from Yarra Reptiles for making the Tails and Scales section one of the most popular across the weekend.

# Brisbane Reptile Expo 2023

For the first time in about 5 years, Brisbane had its very own reptile expo. Open from 10am – 3pm on both Saturday and Sunday, it was eye-opening to see what a two day event would look like. Credit to Elizabeth and her team for organising the event and to those who sponsored and supported it. The expo seemed to be a hit with over 2,000 people walking through the doors on Saturday morning.





It was great to see some incredible vendors including the likes of Joe Ball from bluetonguelizard.com.au with some incredible blue tongue morphs (*Tiliqua sp.*) and T+ Albino Cunningham Skinks (*Egernia cunninghami*) as well as Gavin Bedford with some stunning Oenpelli Pythons (*Nyctophilopython oenpelliensis*) and Albino Olive Pythons (*Liasis olivaceus*). There was some awesome animals on display at the expo including the Emerald Monitor (*Varanus prasinus*) and Biak Green Tree Python (*Morelia azureus*) from Snake Sanctum. There was also some very well put together terrariums on display by the team at Natural Ecosystems.

