



# Steve's Guide

...to snakes of the  
North Coast & Tablelands  
NSW





## *A letter from Steve:*

When I was a very young boy, one of my first pets was a big green tree frog. It used to live on top of my digital clock enjoying the tiny bit of warmth that it produced. That tree frog could eat a whole mouse and would sit there with just the tail hanging out of its mouth for ages. Quite amazing!

From there I went on to keep bigger and better reptiles and amphibians as pets. Eventually my mother refused to go into my room, not knowing what she would find in there.

I spent most of my youth out in the bush looking for reptiles, observing them in their habitat and reading as much as I could about them. My father used to say that if I devoted as much time to my school work as I did to studying reptiles, I would be a genius. I may not be a genius but I sure learned a lot just doing something I loved.

I realise that not everyone shares my fondness for reptiles even though the number of enthusiasts out there is growing. In producing this book I wanted to help people who just want to know "what kind of snake is that?" It has been designed as a quick reference guide specific to the area with clear pictures, which you can take with you anywhere.

I have also included a section on snake bite first aid that hopefully you will never need.

I think everyone can find a use for this book at some time. I hope in reading it and enjoying my photographs it will foster an understanding, of our reptile life and stop the needless killing of our unique fauna.

As a boy I remember wanting to learn everything I could about reptiles. As a man, that dream goes on.

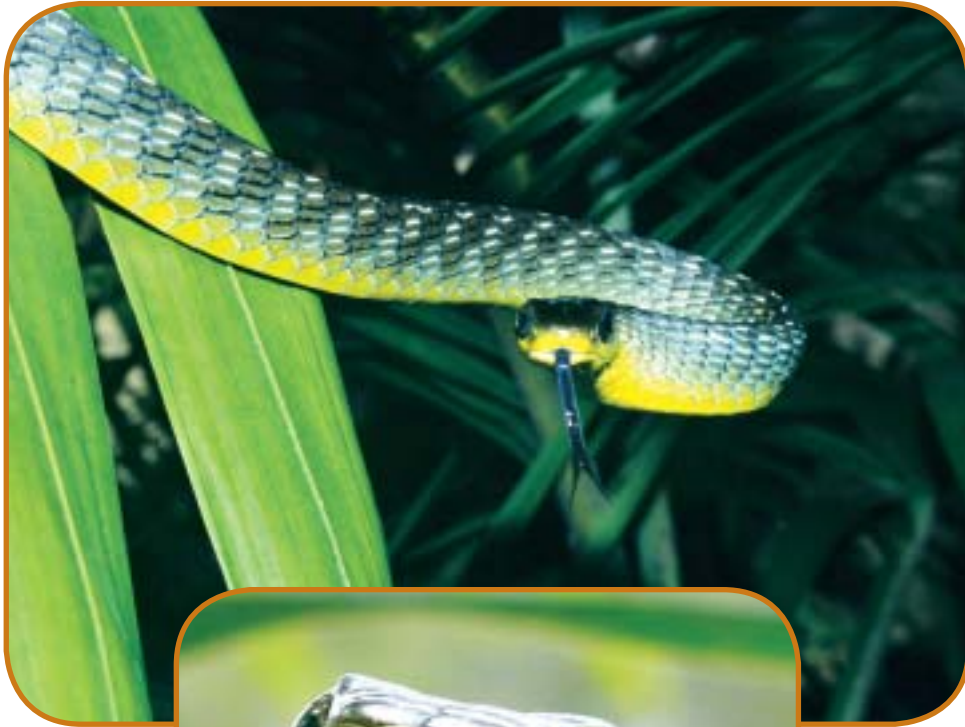
*Steve McEwan*

# Contents:

Blackish Blind Snake .....	2
Spotted Python .....	3
Carpet Python .....	4-5
Common Tree Snake .....	6
Brown Tree Snake .....	7
Keelback .....	8
Coral Snake .....	9
Red Naped Snake .....	10
White Crowned Snake .....	11
Dwarf Crowned Snake .....	12
Golden Crowned Snake .....	13
White Lipped Snake .....	14
Swamp or Marsh Snake .....	15
Dwyers Black Headed Snake .....	16
Yellow Faced Whip Snake .....	17
Bandy Bandy Snake .....	18
Pale Headed Snake .....	19
Stephens Banded Snake .....	20
Eastern Small Eyed Snake .....	21
Red Belly Black Snake .....	22
Copper Head .....	23
Rough Scaled Snake .....	24
Tiger Snake .....	25
Eastern Brown Snake .....	26-27
Death Adder .....	28
Coastal Taipan .....	29
Yellow-Bellied Sea Snake .....	30
Burttons Snake Lizard .....	31
Common Scaly-Foot .....	32
Shedding .....	33
Mating .....	34
Reproduction .....	35
Treating Snake Bite .....	36

# Common Tree Snake

(Non-venomous) Grows to approx 1.5m.



A daytime snake which occurs in nearly all habitats on the north coast. Often found in suburban gardens, particularly those with water features that attract frogs on which it feeds. Tadpoles, fish and lizards also form a large part of this snakes diet. As the name suggests it is an active tree climbing species, but is often seen foraging on the ground. An easy snake to identify by its' slender green to olive green body and yellow underneath, mainly under the neck.

# Brown Tree Snake

(Mildly venomous) Grows to approx 1.5m.



The Brown Tree snake is a nocturnal species and is found throughout the north coast. It has arboreal (tree climbing) habits but is often encountered on the ground moving between vegetation that it climbs in the hope of finding birds, small mammals and lizards on which it feeds. May be found during the day curled up on beams and shelves, in sheds, garages, and in the roofs of houses.

**This snake is rear fanged and has a mild venom that may cause pain and swelling**

# Eastern Brown Snake

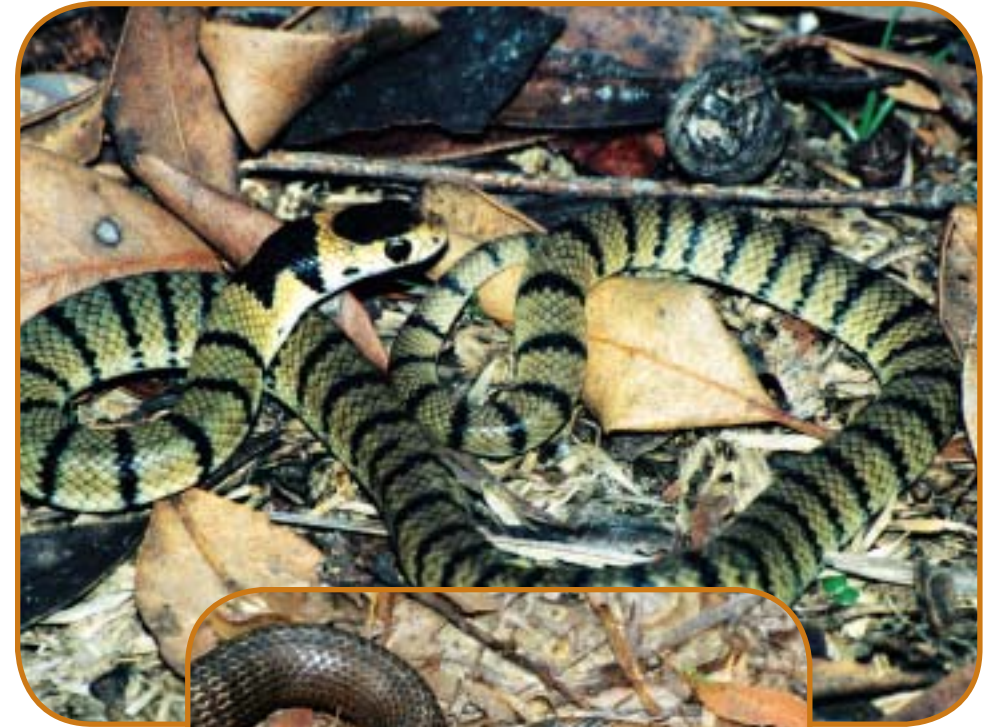
(Venomous) Grows to approx 2m.



The Brown Snake varies a lot in colour and pattern being many shades of brown, cream, grey or black. Some brown snakes have dark heads and stripes across their back (particularly juveniles), and because of these stripes are wrongly identified as Tiger Snakes, often by self professed experts. Because of the size that this snake sometimes attains and the brown colouration, it is regularly called the King Brown Snake (Mulga Snake) which doesn't occur within about 400km of the N.S.W. coast.

# Eastern Brown Snake

(Venomous) Grows to approx 2m.



When feeling threatened this snake will stand its' ground, assume a striking stance in an "S" shape, open its' mouth wide and may strike repeatedly. Brown Snakes are active daytime hunters which feed mostly on lizards and mice. They prefer dry environments and can be very common in some areas, particularly where mice are plentiful. **A bite from this snake should be regarded as serious, apply first aid and seek medical treatment.**