



Border Mail 29 September 2009

Emily Keys, 5, couldn't believe her luck when she got to hold this olive python at a reptile show at Centro Wodonga. Picture: NIC GIBSON

Emily is wrapped in python

BY BREANNA TUCKER

EMILY Keys holds no fear of snakes or anything "goosey" and she proved it yesterday at Centro Wodonga Plaza.

The Springhurst youngster, 5, was one of the first to have a giant olive python wrapped around her neck as part of a school holidays "Snakebusters" entertainment program.

Hosted by expert snake handler Raymond Hoser, the program gives children the chance to get hands-on with snakes, crocodiles and frogs.

Emily's mother, Melissa, said it was one of the most exciting reptile programs she had seen.

"We've been to reptile displays before ... but they were nowhere near as interactive as this," she said.

"We get a bit worried with the kids because we live on a property and this was great because they actually got the message."

The show is at Centro Wodonga Plaza at 11am and 1pm each day this week.

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Thursday, 22 January, 2009, Page 89

Star

Snakes slither into limelight

By Bridget Brady

CROWDS flocked to Centro Shopping Centre last week for some slippery, scaly snake action.

The owner of Snakebusters, Raymond Hoser, led the snake shows and said hundreds of people attended throughout the week.

Children had the opportunity to handle non-venomous snakes and reptiles and get up close and personal with some of Australia's deadliest during the shows, which ran for six days at the Cranbourne shopping centre.

"It was a hugely popular week. Kids can actually hold snakes and meet and greet the animals," Mr Hoser said.

Lyndhurst resident Pauline, 54, brought her daughter to one of the shows for the first time last year, and said it was great to watch the kids enjoy themselves and pay attention.

"It's the best show I've seen as far as information and education," she said.

"It's a credit to the performer. Children are having fun but being educated at the same time and it's free, which is fantastic."

Mr Hoser said some children conquered their fears of snakes during his shows.

"It's always great to see children get over their fears. But we actually tell people during our shows that it's good to be afraid of snakes in the real world. They don't run around trying to kill you, they are quite casual animals most of the time, but our shows offer people the opportunity to hold non-venomous snakes."

Right: Molly, 10, from Carrum Downs handled a snake with care at the Centro Shopping Centre in Cranbourne last week. 26202



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Dear Raymond,

I apologise for taking so long to write this thank you letter but school has been very hectic preparing students for their VCE exams and I have had the flu these past two weeks.

However I am pleased to say we have heard nothing but positive feedback from both students and staff regarding the great presentations you gave for us. Although you ran five consecutive sessions you were always fresh, entertaining and tuned in to the students and their questions. The level of information you chose was pitched perfectly for the students.

Our school has had other reptile presentations but I believe this has been the best to date. The fact that students get to actually handle the snakes for a very decent proportion of the presentation (over a quarter of the time) gives them a real opportunity to learn first hand about the reptiles biology, care and environmental issues surrounding them. I was impressed with the way you explained the dangers of handling snakes and how the students should behave with the snakes and the fact that you trusted the students to handle the snakes appropriately. The students appreciated this open approach and were not afraid to get involved, they were very excited but you controlled them really well.

We are definitely planning for you to visit next year.
Thank you once again



Lorraine Watson
Science Coordinator
Whittlesea Secondary College



St Finbar's Outside School Hours Care

90 Centre Rd Brighton East VIC 3187

Ph: 95920994

21/5/2010

What an awesome time we all had when "Snakebusters" came to our program. Raymond, with his incredible repartee accompanied by his entourage of snakes, lizards, crocs, and frogs kept everyone completely enthralled and engaged for a full hour and a half. During that time we laughed, took some crazy photos holding the reptiles and frogs, and laughed some more.

This is the second time we've had "Snakebusters" attend the program in a matter of weeks; once during vacation care and again during a school closure day. Both days brought enormous numbers to the program lifting its profile and enhancing learning whereby children could explore reptiles and amphibians independently but still have staff nearby for support and intentional teaching opportunities. (Framework for learning and creating a supportive environment and building positive relationships).

Thank you Raymond for taking the time to come to our program and for providing such a positive experience.

We all look forward to the next time "Snakebusters" come to town!

Kindest Regards

Melissa Asmar
Directress

Wednesday, 24 March, 2004

Letters

Snakes the showstopper

CONGRATULATIONS again to the people of Pakenham for another wonderful agricultural show last weekend.

My wife and children enjoyed the displays in weath-

er only God himself could have ordered.

For us the showstopper was the snake show by snakebuster Raymond Hoser.

Never before have I seen such an informative demonstration of our local venomous snakes and had such a good chance to eyeball them at close quarters.

It wasn't the old fashioned style 'This snake is mean and will kill you', snake out of bag and back in seconds later.

Hoser brought the snakes out of the box and by the end of the talk, all were sitting together on a table so you could see the different kinds next to one another for a comparative look like I'd never seen before.

Blacks, browns, tigers, copperheads, death adders, the lot!

Based on the pleasant way the snakes were behaving I realised that snakes are far from evil, but only attack when in fear of their life.

They obviously didn't fear the snake handler yesterday. As rodent pest controllers, nothing it seems beats a snake.

Hoser convinced us to leave them alone on the farm from now on.

My kids were captivated by the 'hands on' handling of the blue tongue lizards and Cuddles the carpet python that happened between the venomous snake shows.

Actually, they wouldn't let us leave the snake show area, so we were there for three full hours.

The children then badgered me into buying a snakebusters video, which shattered many of the old myths about snakes.

After seeing video footage of tiger snakes gobbling up dog bones and lumps of meat and eating other strange things, it became obvious that snakes don't have to eat 'live food' like I'd been told as a youth.

Snakes mating? More myths shattered by the video.

Forget the trash on television, this video was the most informative one on reptiles I've ever seen.

The only drawback of all this is that now my kids want us to get reptiles as pets and I understand that by the time I get a licence, cages and the reptiles themselves, I may be up for a small fortune.

John Benadine,
Beaconsfield.


Pakenham-Berwick Gazette - www.senews.com.au

Letters

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Eric and Betty Johnson.

Diamond Valley Leader

 THUMBS UP to Snakebusters, who removed a large, aggressive tiger snake from our house at 1am. They arrived within 10 minutes of my call.

Adam, Eltham. 17-12-03

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The Pakenham and District Agricultural and Horticultural Society Inc.

ABN: 42 054 210 414

Secretary/Treasurer

M. G. Farley
P.O. Box 141,
Pakenham. Vic. 3810

Phone:

03 5629 4103 Show Week 03 5941 3952
0418 419 875 Email Wbscon@bigpond.com

Mr Raymond Hoser,
Kotabi Pty Ltd,
PO Box 599,
Doncaster, Victoria, 3108,
Australia

Dear Mr. Hoser,

On behalf of the President Mr D Spiderlings and the Committee of the Pakenham & District Agricultural & Horticultural Society Inc I thank you for the very excellent talk and handling demonstrations you gave to the People, of all ages, who attended the Pakenham Show on March 20 2004.

The very great interest shown in all the talks and demonstrations you gave, at regular intervals through out the day, confirmed to us that your skill and knowledge of all types of snakes and other reptiles was of great interest to all those present at each of your presentations.

We are sure that it made children and adults aware of the danger of some snakes and the care that they should take when they are out in the country enjoying sport or any other activity.

We request that you keep our Show Day in mind for next year as we would like you to be with us again at the Pakenham Show 2005.

Sincerely

M. G. Farley

Raymond Hoser,
Kotabi Publishing,
PO Box 599,
Doncaster,
Victoria, 3108.

Roy Cutts,
105, Tynong North Road,
Tynong North,
Victoria, 3813.
March 21st 2004.

G'day Raymond,

Nice surprise to encounter one of Australia's leading herpetologists at the Pakenham show yesterday. I'd seen your publications before but I hadn't realized that you were a local resource.

Considering the potential danger of local snakes, coupled with the population boom in this area, it's reassuring that someone with your experience is targeting education to where and when it's most needed.

I'm sure your efforts will save both people and snakes.

Judging by the response from your audiences, the reptile exhibit was a highlight of the show. The format was spot-on: entertaining, practical and specific to the Pakenham area.

The fact that you displayed several colour and size variants of local snakes made your talks even more relevant.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roy Cutts', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Roy.



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Raymond Hoser,
C/O Snakebusters,
P.O.Box 599,
Doncaster,
Victoria, 3108.

21/04/2004

Dear Mr Hoser,

I am writing to you in appreciation of your snake handling show that you brought to our store recently. It was certainly different to our normal style of promotional event but one that I feel was an unprecedented success. So many of our customers have only limited experience of our wildlife so to have such close encounters in such a controlled safe manner was something not only different for them but also positive towards understanding the creatures we share the world with. We were particularly impressed with the manner in which children responded towards the snakes.... generally without fear but with curiosity and amazement!

Once again, I thank you for the professionalism shown at our store for a truly remarkable experience. I would like to think that we could arrange to get you back here for further displays and wish you (and your animals!) the best of luck.

Until then,

Yours sincerely,

Mr Justin Barr

Facilities Supervisor

IKEA Moorabbin.

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A must see

LAST Thursday was cold and wet and my kids weren't happy, as it was school holidays.

We went to see a Snakebusters reptile show at the Hampton Park Library.

The snakeman, Raymond Hoser, and his assistant were the most professional I have seen.

The show started with deadly snakes and a snake safety lesson for the kids.

Then the children were allowed to hold and handle harmless snakes, lizards and other critters in a hands-on style.

A week later the kids are still talking about it.

While it was billed as school holiday entertainment, this was education at its best and shows like Snakebusters should be seen by as many school aged children as possible.

Dot Gillard,
Hampton Park.

>>> More letters, page 10.

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Mount Waverley Secondary College

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Junior School:

145 Stephensons Road Mount Waverley

Phone: 9887 9290 Fax: 9887 9231



ABN 19 486 840 793

April 12th 2009

Raymond Hoser

"Snakebusters"

PO Box 599

DONCASTER 3108

Dear Raymond

Thank you for your support of the Year 8 "Challenge" Program. The program aimed to extend students beyond their normal classroom experiences, to help them develop into confident young adults.

Your expertise at working with groups of young people, assisting them to learn new skills and to grow and develop, was greatly admired. Your enthusiasm and willingness to let students touch your animals makes you different from many presenters, and we value the tactile experience that our students get.

We look forward to further presentations from you.

Yours sincerely

Tim Hall

Junior School Programs Manager



Dear Snake Busters,

We would like to thank you for your wonderful contribution to the 2009 Warrandyte Festival.

We have received lots of great feedback about this year's festival.

Our aim for the Riverstage was to have a diverse and eclectic range of entertainment and your contribution helped us successfully achieve that aim.

We hope that you enjoyed the experience and spending time in our beautiful environment.

Best of luck with where your performing takes you,

With very warm wishes,

Adie & Maree

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your view

Snakes 'tormented'

DURING the school holidays we managed to check out five different travelling reptile shows in Melbourne.

The two snakemen at the Royal Melbourne Show soured what was an otherwise excellent event.

Both snake handlers tormented snakes with metal sticks and the clearly agitated snakes struck back

at their captors in obvious pain and distress.

As an animal lover, this suffering in the name of "entertainment" disappointed me.

There's no doubt that if snakes were furry animals, such cruelty to animals would never be allowed by the authorities.

One of the handlers, a blonde girl, obviously had no experience with the reptiles and was as agitated as the hapless snakes she tormented.

By contrast the reptile demonstrations at shopping malls were all excellent.

The three competing acts, Aussie Wildlife Display at Endeavour Hills Mall, Snakebusters at Waverley Gardens and Wild Action at Dandenong Plaza were professionally run and reptiles were treated with care and respect.

The stand out best of them all was Snakebusters.

Here the handler treated the

Have your say

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Preference is given to short, typed letters. We reserve the right to edit letters. Letters must carry full name, address and phone number.

world's deadliest snakes with care and respect.

Surely if other so-called snake handlers cannot match this basic level of care to their captives, then they shouldn't be in the business of wildlife displays.

As an educational and conservation tool, nothing beats live shows and the "hands on" experience.

Jane Wilmouth,
Mulgrave

12 DANDENONG LEADER October 9, 2006

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Tom and Michael

From: Maurice Perry (perry68@netspace.net.au)

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Sent: Monday, 3 May 2010 8:30:45 PM

To: viper007@live.com.au

Hi Ray,

We were initially disappointed when you did not come with your snakes and dog to Leaps and Bounds but Tom and Michael were excellent and the students loved them. Once again Snakebusters has provided us with one of the terms highlights. Thankyou very much.

Regards

Maurice Perry

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is not a teacher's favourite activity, and it seems harsh to suspend a student for wearing incorrect shoes - but if we don't follow through students think we are not serious. My intention, therefore, is to include the following sentence on student reports and references where a student consistently ignores the uniform policy: "It is disappointing that [name] is not willing to comply with the college uniform policy."

Some parents have suggested that items of uniform be changed. I am pleased to conduct this debate with the School Council. However, at the end of the debate I will expect that a clear and enforceable decision is made. I trust that parents recognise that once a decision about uniform is made, it should apply to all.

Eastern Region Conference

This Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Ms Mitchell, Mr Butler and I are attending the Eastern Metropolitan Region Principal Class conference. Approximately 300 principals and assistant principals are attending.

The main speaker is to be Andy Hargreaves, from Boston University. His latest book, titled *Sustainable Leadership*, looks at the issue of how educational change can be sustained. He writes:

If the first challenge of change is to ensure that it's desirable and the second challenge is to make it doable, then the biggest challenge of all is to make it durable and sustainable.

Year 7 Snakebusters

On Monday and Tuesday of this week Raymond Hoser the Snakeman presented a very captivating and interactive reptile experience to our year 7 students called Snakebusters. Students were given lots of information on the different types of reptiles including the 5 most venomous snakes in the world and a newly discovered species, the floodplain death adder. Students also handled the lizards, tortoises and crocodiles and towards the end of the session were literally wrapped up in pythons and jaffas. Raymond is the only Snakeman who is able to allow students to handle the venomous snakes because they have had their venomous glands surgically removed. At the end of the 2 day session we were pleased to report that all reptiles survived their close encounter with our year 7s!!!!!!

The snakebusters experience was the most thrilling experience I had ever had. We got up close to snakes, crocodiles and blue-tongue lizards and we met the most venomous snake in the world, the taipan.

Isabelle Lee

"Wow!" I said, because I saw many strange snakes and the snake man told us about the snakes and how dangerous they are.

David Yang

The snake man told us many interesting facts such as snakes are deaf (like the politicians) and

I enjoyed how he told us about snakes killing the mice and rodents that chew on our phone lines.

Lachlan McKeogh-Green

The funniest bit was when the snake man threw a plastic snake at us!

Ghazaleh Eftekhari

I was so afraid when the snake tried to strangle my hand, but it was worth it. I also held a baby crocodile which was quite rough. At the end I wasn't as scared as before!

Wen-Yi He

More information can be found at: www.snakebusters.net

Ms V Vella

Science Coordinator



Youth Leadership Forum

On Wednesday the 26th April 5 Year 8 students from the EDSC Junior College Council were invited to attend a leadership forum held at Milgate Primary School. We were given a variety of activities to participate in, and to succeed the whole group had to contribute. Jane Crabtree came and talked to us about how she achieved her goal, to be an

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Totally awesome party!!!! Thank you

From: **Jamie Mills** (kal96203@bigpond.net.au)
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Sent: Sunday, 2 May 2010 11:46:21 AM
To: viper007@live.com.au

To the guys that hosted Coen's 4th birthday party yesterday,

A huge thank you and straight from the birthday boys mouth "that was totally awesome".

Thanks guys every one commented on how great you were with the kids and how much fun it was, at least those that were brave enough to venture inside (scared men!!!!)

thanks again and chances are we will be seeing you again in 12mths time!!!

cheers

Kym Alderson

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Awesome

From: **Wendy Anderson** (bent55@bigpond.net.au)
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Sent: Sunday, 21 March 2010 10:17:40 AM
To: viper007@live.com.au

Hi Raymond

As I said yesterday, Tom and Michael are absolute rock stars. Great guys. They did an awesomely good job all day and are a absolute asset to your business. But I'm not telling you anything you don't already know.

As soon as we have a date for next year's fair, I'll be in touch.


thanks again,
Wendy
Wendy M Anderson
55 Bent Street
McKinnon 3204

Ph: 03- 9557 8795
Mob:0419 789 313

bent55@bigpond.net.au

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Recognition for fantastic service!

From: **Loz Di Giovanni** (lozsangels@hotmail.com)
 You may not know this sender. [Mark as safe](#) | [Mark as junk](#)
Sent: Friday, 4 June 2010 4:23:05 PM
To: viper007@live.com.au

Hi Raymond,

We would just like to say a Big thankyou to Snakebusters for making Alessandro's birthday party in May 2010 so amazing and unforgettable!

In particular we need to make mention our two party enteratainers, 'Michael and Tom' who were so entertaining' the children all enjoyed their humerous, fulfilled, exciting and educational expressions and learning techniques.


Tom and Michael were able to introduce the children to all the reptiles in such a professional and inviting manner. Consequently, all who attended the party could feel comfortable to experience Australia's best reptiles up close and personal.

We can not speak highly enough of Michael and Tom, they were so obliging with all their interactions and especially with the care and handling of the reptiles, which demonstrated exceptional rolemodeling!

We also have a special request for Tom and Michael to come back, we would love to book you guys for another party in September this year!

Thankyou again Snakebusters, keep up the tremendous work and see you soon!

The Di Giovanni's, Ballarat Vic.



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