

NATIVE FAUNA OF THE GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE AREA

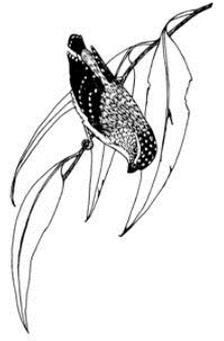


REPTILES

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NATIVE FAUNA OF THE GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE AREA

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Version 3

Judy Smith and Peter Smith

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Australian Government

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Cover illustration of Eastern Water Dragon by Kate Smith katesmithart@gmail.com

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Introduction

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area comprises eight reserves: Blue Mountains, Gardens of Stone, Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai, Thirlmere Lakes, Wollemi and Yengo National Parks, and Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve. The area was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 because its natural values, including the diversity of its fauna, were considered to be outstanding at international level.

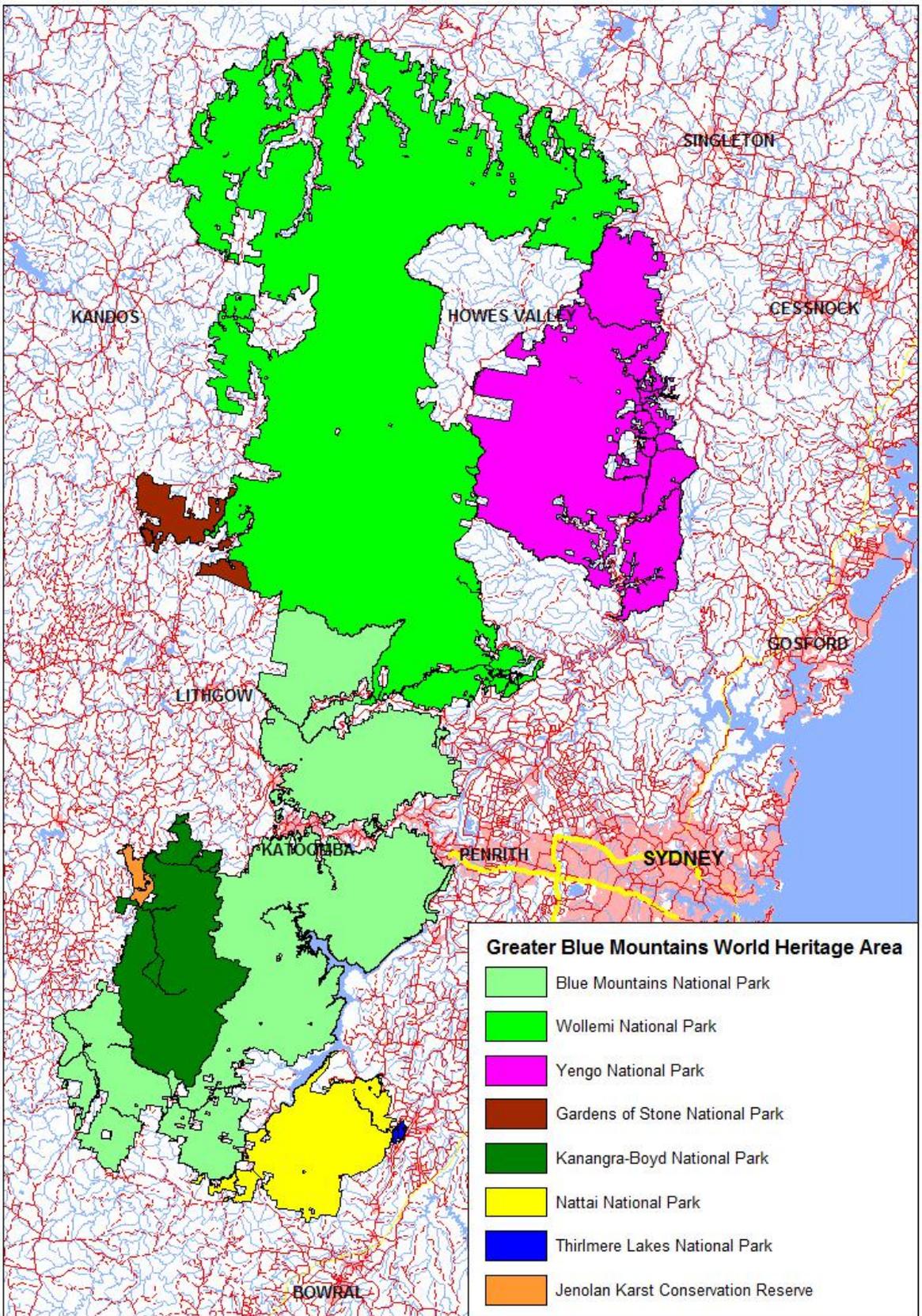
In 1998, when the nomination of the Greater Blue Mountains Area for inscription on the World Heritage List was prepared for the Australian Government, it was well known that the area provided habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. However, details of the vertebrate fauna were sketchy. The nomination indicated that about 400 native terrestrial vertebrate fauna species had been recorded in the area, including 52 mammal, 265 bird, 63 reptile and more than 30 frog species. The diverse bird fauna included 25 species of honeyeaters, about one third of the Australian total.

Over the last year, in an attempt to gain a clearer understanding of the vertebrate fauna, we have prepared four annotated checklists, one each for the native mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The four checklists indicate the species we consider to have been reliably recorded in each of the eight constituent reserves since the time of European settlement. Details of the conservation status at national and state level, and habitat, distribution and relative abundance in the World Heritage Area are provided for each species.

The checklists indicate that at least 423 native terrestrial vertebrate fauna species have been recorded in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. This includes 71 reptile species, three of which are threatened species, a distinct increase in the number of reptile species known to occur in the area since its nomination for the World Heritage List. One species, the Blue Mountains Swamp Skink *Eulamprus leuraensis*, is restricted entirely to the World Heritage Area and adjacent lands.

There are still many gaps in our knowledge of the fauna of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Updating the checklists is an on-going process. If you have additional records or other information, your feedback would be very welcome.

Judy and Peter Smith



Native reptile species recorded in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

Status in NSW and Commonwealth legislation: E = endangered, V = vulnerable

GBMWA reserves: BMNP = Blue Mountains National Park, GOSNP = Gardens of Stone National Park, JKCR = Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve, KBNP = Kanangra-Boyd National Park, NNP = Nattai National Park, TLNP = Thirlmere Lakes National Park, WNP = Wollemi National Park, YNP = Yengo National Park

Species nomenclature follows Cogger (2014). 'Recent' records are 2000 or later, otherwise the date of the last record is specified.

Scientific name	Common name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves								Total WHA
			NSW	Com	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP	
<i>Chelodina longicollis</i>	Eastern Snake-necked Turtle	Chelidae			recent	recent			recent		recent	recent	recent
<i>Amphibolurus muricatus</i>	Jacky Lizard	Agamidae			recent	recent	recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
<i>Diporiphora nobbi</i>	Nobbi	Agamidae									recent		recent
<i>Intellagama lesueurii lesueurii</i>	Eastern Water Dragon	Agamidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent	recent
<i>Pogona barbata</i>	Bearded Dragon	Agamidae			recent	recent					recent	recent	recent
<i>Rankinia diemensis</i>	Mountain Dragon	Agamidae			recent		recent	recent	recent		recent	recent	recent
<i>Phyllurus platurus</i>	Broad-tailed Gecko	Carphodactylidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
<i>Underwoodisaurus milii</i>	Thick-tailed Gecko	Carphodactylidae			recent	recent			recent		recent	recent	recent
<i>Amalosa lesueurii</i>	Lesueur's Velvet Gecko	Diplodactylidae			recent	recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
<i>Diplodactylus vittatus</i>	Wood Gecko	Diplodactylidae			recent	recent				1954	recent	recent	recent
<i>Nebulifera robusta</i>	Robust Velvet Gecko	Diplodactylidae									recent	recent	recent
<i>Delma plebeia</i>	Leaden Delma	Pygopodidae									recent	recent	recent
<i>Lialis burtonis</i>	Burton's Snake-lizard	Pygopodidae			recent	recent					recent	recent	recent
<i>Pygopus lepidopodus</i>	Common Scaly-foot	Pygopodidae			recent	recent					recent	recent	recent
<i>Acritoscincus duperreyi</i>	Eastern Three-lined Skink	Scincidae			recent			recent					recent
<i>Acritoscincus platynotus</i>	Red-throated Skink	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
<i>Anomalopus leuckartii</i>	Two-clawed Worm-skink	Scincidae									recent		recent
<i>Anomalopus swansoni</i>	Punctate Worm-skink	Scincidae									recent	recent	recent
<i>Carinascincus coventryi</i>	Southern Forest Cool-skink	Scincidae			recent		recent	recent					recent
<i>Carlia tetradactyla</i>	Southern Rainbow-skink	Scincidae				recent					recent	recent	recent
<i>Carlia vivax</i>	Tussock Rainbow-skink	Scincidae										recent	recent
<i>Concinnia tenuis</i>	Bar-sided Skink	Scincidae			recent	recent		recent	recent		recent	recent	recent
<i>Cryptoblepharus pulcher</i>	Fence Skink	Scincidae			recent	recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
<i>Ctenotus robustus</i>	Robust Ctenotus	Scincidae			recent	recent			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
<i>Ctenotus taeniolatus</i>	Copper-tailed Skink	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent

Scientific name	Common name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves								Total WHA	
			NSW	Com	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP		
<i>Cyclodomorphus gerrardii</i>	Pink-tongued Lizard	Scincidae			recent							recent	recent	recent
<i>Cyclodomorphus michaeli</i>	Mainland She-oak Skink	Scincidae			1994				1998					1998
<i>Egernia cunninghami</i>	Cunningham's Skink	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent			recent	recent	recent
<i>Egernia saxatilis intermedia</i>	Black Rock Skink	Scincidae			recent		recent	recent				recent		recent
<i>Egernia striolata</i>	Tree Skink	Scincidae				recent			undated			recent	recent	recent
<i>Eulamprus heatwolei</i>	Yellow-bellied Water Skink	Scincidae			recent		recent	recent				recent		recent
<i>Eulamprus leuraensis</i>	Blue Mountains Swamp Skink	Scincidae	E	E	recent									recent
<i>Eulamprus quoyii</i>	Eastern Water Skink	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	1994		recent	recent	recent
<i>Eulamprus tympanum tympanum</i>	Southern Water Skink	Scincidae			recent		recent	recent				recent		recent
<i>Hemiergis talbingoensis davisii</i>	Eastern Three-toed Earless Skink	Scincidae			recent	1997	recent	recent	recent			recent		recent
<i>Lampropholis delicata</i>	Dark-flecked Garden Sunskink	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent	recent
<i>Lampropholis guichenoti</i>	Pale-flecked Garden Sunskink	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	1994		recent	recent	recent
<i>Lerista bougainvillii</i>	South-eastern Slider	Scincidae				recent						recent	recent	recent
<i>Liopholis modesta</i>	Eastern Ranges Rock-skink	Scincidae										recent		recent
<i>Liopholis whitii</i>	White's Skink	Scincidae			recent	recent	1970	recent	recent			recent	recent	recent
<i>Lygisaurus foliorum</i>	Tree-base Litter-skink	Scincidae			recent	recent		recent	recent			recent	recent	recent
<i>Morethia boulengeri</i>	South-eastern Morethia Skink	Scincidae				recent						recent	recent	recent
<i>Pseudemoia entrecasteauxii</i>	Tussock Cool-skink	Scincidae			recent		recent	recent	1997			recent		recent
<i>Pseudemoia pagenstecheri</i>	Tussock Skink	Scincidae			recent		1995	recent				recent		recent
<i>Pseudemoia spenceri</i>	Trunk-climbing Cool-skink	Scincidae			recent		recent	recent						recent
<i>Saiphos equalis</i>	Three-toed Skink	Scincidae			recent		recent					recent	recent	recent
<i>Saproscincus mustelinus</i>	Weasel Skink	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	1997			recent	recent	recent
<i>Tiliqua nigrolutea</i>	Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard	Scincidae			recent		recent	recent				recent		recent
<i>Tiliqua scincoides scincoides</i>	Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard	Scincidae			recent		recent		recent			recent	recent	recent
<i>Varanus gouldii gouldii</i>	Gould's Goanna	Varanidae										recent	recent	recent
<i>Varanus rosenbergi</i>	Heath Monitor	Varanidae	V		recent	recent		recent				recent	recent	recent
<i>Varanus varius</i>	Lace Monitor	Varanidae			recent	recent		recent	recent			recent	recent	recent
<i>Morelia spilota spilota</i>	Diamond Python	Boidae			recent	recent	undated		recent			recent	recent	recent
<i>Boiga irregularis</i>	Brown Tree Snake	Colubridae			recent							recent	recent	recent
<i>Dendrelaphis punctulatus</i>	Green Tree Snake	Colubridae			recent							recent	recent	recent
<i>Acanthophis antarcticus</i>	Southern Death Adder	Elapidae			recent							recent	recent	recent
<i>Austrelaps ramsayi</i>	Highlands Copperhead	Elapidae			recent		recent	recent				recent		recent

Scientific name	Common name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves								Total WHA
			NSW	Com	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP	
<i>Cacophis squamulosus</i>	Golden Crowned Snake	Elapidae			recent		recent	recent			recent		recent
<i>Cryptophis nigrescens</i>	Eastern Small-eyed Snake	Elapidae			recent	recent		recent	recent		recent		recent
<i>Demansia psammophis psammophis</i>	Yellow-faced Whipsnake	Elapidae			recent				recent		recent	recent	recent
<i>Drysdalia coronoides</i>	White-lipped Snake	Elapidae					1964	recent					recent
<i>Drysdalia rhodogaster</i>	Mustard-bellied Snake	Elapidae			recent		undated	recent			recent	recent	recent
<i>Furina diadema</i>	Red-naped Snake	Elapidae			undated						recent	recent	recent
<i>Hemiaspis signata</i>	Black-bellied Swamp Snake	Elapidae			1998								1998
<i>Hoplocephalus bungaroides</i>	Broad-headed Snake	Elapidae	E	V	recent	recent					recent	recent	recent
<i>Notechis scutatus scutatus</i>	Tiger Snake	Elapidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent	recent
<i>Parasuta spectabilis dwyeri</i>	Dwyer's Snake	Elapidae				recent					1997	recent	recent
<i>Pseudechis porphyriacus</i>	Red-bellied Black Snake	Elapidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
<i>Pseudonaja textilis</i>	Eastern Brown Snake	Elapidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent	recent
<i>Vermicella annulata</i>	Eastern Bandy-bandy	Elapidae			recent		recent	1989			recent	recent	recent
<i>Ramphotyphlops nigrescens</i>	Blackish Blind Snake	Typhlopidae			recent	recent			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent

Native Reptile Species Recorded in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area comprises Blue Mountains (BM), Gardens of Stone (GOS), Kanangra-Boyd (KB), Nattai (N), Thirlmere Lakes (TL), Wollemi (W) and Yengo (Y) National Parks and Jenolan (J) Karst Conservation Reserve.

Species nomenclature follows Cogger (2014). 'Recent' records are 2000 or later. If there are no recent records for a reserve, the date of the last record is indicated. Status refers to listing of species under NSW and Commonwealth legislation.

TURTLES

Family CHELIDAE

Eastern Snake-necked Turtle *Chelodina longicollis*

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Widespread but largely restricted to permanent waterbodies. More common at lower elevations.

Found in natural waterbodies such as Abercombie River (Blue Mountains NP), Nattai River (Nattai NP) and Capertee River (Wollemi NP), and may be locally common in artificial waterbodies such as former farm dams and the larger Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP). Occasionally seen on roads as it moves overland between waterbodies.

LIZARDS

Family AGAMIDAE

Jacky Lizard *Amphibolurus muricatus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, N, TL, W, Y

Common resident. A semi-arboreal dragon lizard that is widespread in dry sclerophyll forest, grassy woodland and heath across the WHA.

Nobbi *Diporiphora nobbi*

Reserves: W

Rare resident at eastern edge of range. A semi-arboreal dragon lizard more typical of inland areas. The only WHA records are from dry box-cypress pine woodland on the slopes east of Lee Creek in the north-western corner of Wollemi NP in 2006 (DEC 2007).

Eastern Water Dragon *Intellagama lesueurii lesueurii*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, W, Y

Moderately common, widespread resident. A semi-aquatic, semi-arboreal dragon lizard that is restricted to the vicinity of permanent waterbodies, including creeks, rivers, ponds and dams.

Bearded Dragon *Pogona barbata*

Reserves: BM, GOS, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Occurs mainly at lower elevations. A semi-arboreal dragon lizard found in grassy woodland, less often dry sclerophyll forest.

The largest number of recent records are from Wollemi NP, where it has been reported in the vicinity of Baerami, Hungerford, Martindale and Doyles Creeks and Dunns Swamp.

Mountain Dragon *Rankinia diemensis*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, N, W, Y

Common, widespread resident. A terrestrial dragon lizard found in drier vegetation types where there is ground debris such as fallen timber and leaf litter. The most frequently recorded dragon lizard in the WHA.

Family CARPHODACTYLIDAE

Broad-tailed Gecko *Phyllurus platurus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common resident. Recorded in every WHA reserve but more common at lower elevations. Essentially restricted to the Sydney Basin, where it occupies a range of habitats, including rainforest. Typically found sheltering in rock crevices and cracks in sandstone cliffs, outcrops and overhangs, often around waterfalls. Has also been recorded in limestone caves (The Ballroom) in Jenolan KCR. At the western limit of its range and approaching both the northern and southern limits.

Thick-tailed Gecko *Underwoodisaurus milii*

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, W, Y

Moderately common resident. Widespread at lower elevations. Occupies a range of habitats and shelters by day under litter and debris or under bark at the base of trees.

Family DIPLODACTYLIDAE

Lesueur's Velvet Gecko *Amolasia lesueurii*

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, TL, W, Y,

Common resident; the most common gecko in the WHA. Widespread but no records from Jenolan KCR, and records in Kanangra-Boyd NP are all from below 800 m asl. At south-

western edge of its distribution. Shelters under loose rock on rocky ridges, pagodas and other sandstone outcrops.

Wood Gecko *Diplodactylus vittatus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, TL (1954), W, Y

Uncommon resident. Shelters during the day on the ground under fallen timber and rock. Appears to be absent from high elevation areas such as Jenolan KCR and Kanangra-Boyd NP. The only records for Thirlmere Lakes NP are specimens at the Australian Museum collected in 1954.

Robust Velvet Gecko *Nebulifera robusta*

Reserves: W, Y

Rare resident. Restricted to the north of the WHA, where it is at the southern edge of its range. An arboreal species of dry sclerophyll forest and woodland.

Recently recorded from the vicinity of Appletree Creek, Cedar Creek Gorge and the trail to Gowie Hut (Wollemi NP), and once from the north-east of Yengo NP.

Family PYGOPODIDAE

Leaden Delma *Delma plebeia*

Reserves: W, Y

Rare resident. Restricted to northern portion of WHA, where it reaches the southern edge of its range. Inhabits dry sclerophyll forest.

Recently recorded in the Baerami, Doyles Creek and Martindale Valleys (Wollemi NP) and in ironbark woodland in northern Yengo NP.

Burton's Snake-lizard *Lialis burtonis*

Reserves: BM, GOS, W, Y

Rare resident. Found in low vegetation and ground litter in a variety of habitats at lower elevations.

Common Scaly-foot *Pygopus lepidopodus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Less frequent at higher elevations. Typically found in sclerophyll forest and heath where there is thick shrubby undergrowth.

Family SCINCIDAE

Eastern Three-lined Skink *Acritoscincus duperreyi*

Reserves: BM, KB

Rare resident. At northern edge of range, where it is a high elevation species, generally above 800 m asl. Found amongst rocks and logs in open habitats such as grassy woodland.

Red-throated Skink *Acritoscincus platynotus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common resident. Widespread, recorded from every WHA reserve, but less frequent in drier northern parts of WHA. A ground-dwelling skink found in dry sclerophyll forest and heath on sandstone ridges.

Two-clawed Worm-skink *Anomalopus leuckartii*

Reserves: W

Rare resident. Restricted to the north of Wollemi NP, where it is at the southern edge of its range. A burrowing skink more typical of northern NSW.

Recent sightings in Wollemi NP have been made in dry environments along major creek flats and lower slopes in the Baerami, Hungerford, Widden, Myrtle and Bylong Valleys (DEC 2005a, 2007).

Punctate Worm-skink *Anomalopus swansoni*

Reserves: W, Y

Uncommon resident. Restricted to northern half of WHA, where it is at the southern and western limits of its range. The species has a restricted distribution in the northern Sydney Basin and Hunter Valley. A burrowing skink found under rocks in areas with sandy soils.

Within the WHA, records are scattered across ridges, slopes and small creeklines. Recent localities include Mt Yengo (Yengo NP), and Martindale Range and Baerami Valley (Wollemi NP).

Southern Forest Cool-skink *Carinascincus coventryi*

Reserves: BM, J, KB

Rare resident in the southern half of the WHA, where it is at the northern edge of its range. Prefers high elevations (above 800 m asl). Associated with decaying timber in tableland forests and woodlands.

Southern Rainbow-skink *Carlia tetradactyla*

Reserves: GOS, W, Y

Rare resident. Restricted to northern half of WHA, where it is at the eastern edge of its range. Found in dry eucalypt forests and woodlands, and cypress pine woodlands.

Recent localities include Mellong Plateau and the Capertee River (Wollemi NP). Smith and Smith (1990) noted that it was an uncommon species of grassy woodland, dry sclerophyll forest and farmland in the Coxs River Valley.

Tussock Rainbow-skink *Carlia vivax*

Reserves: Y

Rare resident. Restricted to north-east corner of the WHA, where it is at the southern edge of its range. Recorded from the northern end of Yengo NP, where it occurs in dry forest and woodland (DEC 2005b, Australian Museum specimens).

Bar-sided Skink *Concinnia tenuis*

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, W, Y

Uncommon resident. More common at lower elevations. In Kanangra-Boyd NP it is found in lower elevation gully systems rather than the higher plateau areas (DEC 2004a). Typically an arboreal skink of wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest, but also found in drier open forest and woodland. Shelters in trees and rock outcrops.

Fence Skink *Cryptoblepharus pulcher*

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common resident. Widespread but more typical of lower elevations and not recorded in Jenolan KCR. An arboreal species, typically found in trees on ridges.

Robust Ctenotus *Ctenotus robustus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Widespread but absent from the two higher elevation reserves, Jenolan KCR and Kanangra-Boyd NP. Found in a variety of habitats, sheltering in shallow burrows underneath ground debris.

Copper-tailed Skink *Ctenotus taeniolatus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common resident. Widespread, recorded from every WHA reserve, but more frequent at lower elevations. Associated with rocky ridges and rock outcrops.

Pink-tongued Lizard *Cyclodomorpus gerrardii*

Reserves: BM, W, Y

Rare resident. At southern limit of range. Southernmost records in Blue Mountains NP at Blaxland, Linden and Kings Tableland. Typically found in wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest, where it is partly arboreal. Also occurs in houses on the urban fringes of Blue Mountains NP.

Appears to have been more common in the past (Smith and Smith 1990). In the early 1980s it was a major prey item of a Sooty Owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*) roosting near Glenbrook Creek in Blue Mountains NP (Smith and Smith 2014).

Mainland She-oak Skink *Cyclodomorphus michaeli*

Reserves: BM (1994), KB (1998)

Recorded from both Blue Mountains NP and Kanangra-Boyd NP, but no recent records from either reserve. Formerly considered an uncommon resident patchily distributed through the upper Blue Mountains, east to Woodford, living amongst leaf litter and fallen timber in dry sclerophyll forest, grassy woodland and heath (Smith and Smith 1990). In the late 1980s it was regularly encountered on Kings Tableland (Judy Smith).

Cunningham's Skink *Egernia cunninghami*

Reserves: BM, J, GOS, KB, N, W, Y

Moderately common, widespread resident. Lives in colonies amongst rock crevices in cliff lines and rocky outcrops. Tends to be more common at higher elevations.

Black Rock Skink *Egernia saxatilis intermedia*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W

Moderately common resident. At northern edge of the range of subspecies *intermedia* (subspecies *saxatilis* has a more northern distribution in the Warrumbungle Mountains). Restricted to higher elevations and most common above 800 m asl. Typically found in rocky areas, occurring in colonies or as individuals. Shelters amongst rocks or logs.

Tree Skink *Egernia striolata*

Reserves: GOS, KB (undated), W, Y

Uncommon resident. More typical of inland areas and reaches eastern edge of range. Found in drier habitats. Typically arboreal, it shelters in tree hollows, behind bark, in fallen timber and also in rocks.

Mainly recorded from northern half of WHA, but there is an undated specimen at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History collected by Rick Shine at Kanangra Walls (Kanangra-Boyd NP).

Yellow-bellied Water Skink *Eulamprus heatwolei*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W

Common resident. Confined to mid to high elevations. Occurs in a range of woodland and forest types both along streams and on ridges well away from water.

Blue Mountains Swamp Skink *Eulamprus leuraensis*

Status: endangered (NSW and Commonwealth)

Reserves: BM

Rare resident. Species restricted to the Blue Mountains and Newnes Plateau. Most of the approximately 40 known locations of this species are within the WHA in Blue Mountains NP. Confined to high to mid elevation sedge and shrub swamps, which are a naturally fragmented habitat.

Eastern Water Skink *Eulamprus quoyii*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL (1994), W, Y

Common, widespread resident. Recorded from every WHA reserve, but no records from Thirlmere Lakes NP since 1994. Common along most permanent and semi-permanent streams at low to mid elevations and extends less commonly up to higher elevations along streamlines.

Southern Water Skink *Eulamprus tympanum tympanum*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W

Rare resident. Found mostly at higher elevations (over 800 m asl) in the southern half of the WHA. Associated with small creeks in grassy open forests and woodlands in montane and sub-alpine environments such as on Boyd Plateau (Kanangra-Boyd NP). Recent records from north-western Wollemi NP (above 600 m in the vicinity of the headwaters of Blackwater Creek and east of Mt Coricudgy), an apparently isolated population, with the closest records 70 km to the south near Blackheath and 80 km to the north in Barrington Tops NP (DEC 2007).

Eastern Three-toed Earless Skink *Hemiergis talbingoensis davisii*

Reserves: BM, GOS (1997), J, KB, N, W

Rare resident. Recorded in low numbers at scattered locations, generally at higher elevations. At eastern edge of species range and approaching southern edge of subspecies *davisii* range. A burrowing species found in wet and dry sclerophyll forest. There are two subspecies in NSW: *davisii* (northern) and *talbingoensis* (southern). Most WHA records do not identify subspecies, but Australian Museum specimens indicate that only subspecies *davisii* has been recorded in the WHA.

Recent localities include the vicinity of Mt Werong and Parliament Hill (Blue Mountains NP) and Martindale Range (Wollemi NP). There are no records from Gardens of Stone NP since 1997.

Dark-flecked Garden Sunskink *Lampropholis delicata*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common, widespread resident. Recorded from every WHA reserve, but appears to be less common at very high elevations and in the dry northern and north-western parts of Wollemi NP. Common in ground litter and fallen timber in a wide range of habitats.

Pale-flecked Garden Sunskink *Lampropholis guichenoti*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL (1994), W, Y

Common resident. Recorded from every WHA reserve, but no records from Thirlmere Lakes NP since 1994. Appears to be less common in the dry northern and north-western parts of Wollemi. Common in ground litter and fallen timber in a wide range of habitats.

South-eastern Slider *Lerista bougainvillii*

Reserves: GOS, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Restricted to northern half of WHA, it is more typical of drier inland areas and is at the eastern edge of its range. Found under rocks, logs and leaf-litter on drier northern and western aspects on ridges, slopes and escarpments.

Recent localities include the vicinity of Culoul Range, Grassy Hill Track, Angorawa Creek and Mount Nielson (Wollemi NP).

Eastern Ranges Rock-skink *Liopholis modesta*

Reserves: W

Rare resident. Found at the northern end of the WHA, where it is at the southern edge of its range. A species of fallen timber and rocky slopes in dry sclerophyll forest and woodland.

Only known from two recent records from the far north-east of Wollemi NP: Appletree Creek vicinity and Kings Creek vicinity (DEC 2005a).

White's Skink *Liopholis whitii*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1970), KB, N, W, Y

Common resident. Widespread but more frequent at lower elevations. The only record for Jenolan Caves KCR is a 1970 Northern Territory Museum specimen. Lives amongst fallen timber or rocks on rocky ridges and plateaus.

Tree-base Litter-skink *Lygisaurus foliorum*

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, W, Y

Moderately common resident. A species of low to mid elevations that is at the southern edge of its range. Particularly common in the dry northern woodlands of Wollemi and Yengo NPs. Typically found in leaf litter at the base of trees and beside logs.

South-eastern Morethia Skink *Morethia boulengeri*

Reserves: GOS, W, Y

Rare resident. More typical of inland areas. Restricted to drier northern and north-western parts of WHA, where it reaches the eastern edge of its range. Found in ground litter and fallen timber in a variety of drier habitats.

Tussock Cool-skink *Pseudemoia entrecastreauxii*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, N (1997), W

Common resident. At eastern edge of range. Prefers higher elevations. In Kanangra-Boyd NP it is the most common skink above 800 m. Found in ground litter and fallen timber in various habitats.

Tussock Skink *Pseudemoia pagenstecheri*

Reserves: BM, J (1995), KB, W

Rare resident. At eastern edge of range. Typically found in high elevation grassland, heathland and grassy woodland. Last recorded at Jenolan Caves in 1995 (Australian Museum specimen).

Trunk-climbing Cool-skink *Pseudemoia spenceri*

Reserves: BM, J, KB

Moderately common resident in high elevation areas (above 800 m). At northern edge of range. Prefers grassy open forests and woodlands of montane and sub-alpine environments.

Tree-toed Skink *Saiphos equalis*

Reserves: BM, J, W, Y

Moderately common resident. At western edge of range. Recorded at both high and low elevations. A burrowing species found in rotting logs and under rocks in moist habitats.

Weasel Skink *Saproscincus mustelinus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N (1997), W, Y

Moderately common, widespread resident. Reaches western edge of range. Found in leaf litter and ground debris in moist forest habitats.

Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard *Tiliqua nigrolutea*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W

Moderately common resident at higher elevations. Reaches northern edge of range. The population in and around the WHA is disjunct from the population in southern NSW. Found in a variety of forest and woodland habitats at higher elevations. May be encountered basking on tracks.

Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard *Tiliqua scincoides scincoides*

Reserves: BM, J, N, W, Y

Uncommon resident found in scattered locations, generally at lower elevations. Occurs in a variety of habitats. Shelters in hollow logs and ground debris.

Family VARANIDAE

Gould's Goanna *Varanus gouldii gouldii*

Reserves: W, Y

Rare resident. Restricted to drier, more northerly parts of the WHA, where it is at the eastern edge of its range. A wide-ranging, ground-dwelling species that occupies a variety of habitats.

Regularly encountered along the eastern half of the Glen Gallic Trail (Wollemi NP) in October 2004 (DEC 2005a).

Heath Monitor *Varanus rosenbergi*

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, W, Y

Rare resident. Occurs in low numbers at scattered locations in the WHA. Reaches the northern limit of its range at the southern escarpment of the Hunter Valley. Found on sandstone ridges and plateaus in dry sclerophyll forest and woodland with a heathy understorey. A mostly terrestrial species that shelters in burrows (which it digs), hollow logs and rock crevices. Requires terrestrial termite mounds in which to lay its eggs.

Recent localities include: Scotts Main Range (Blue Mountains NP); between Mount Harvey and Hughes Defile (Gardens of Stone NP); Grassy Hill Track, Gowee Trail and Old Coach Road (Wollemi NP); and Big Yengo area (Yengo NP).

Lace Monitor *Varanus varius*

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, W, Y

Common resident. Widespread but more frequent at lower elevations. A wide-ranging species that forages both on the ground and in trees. Generally more common in gullies than on ridges. Usually lays its eggs in a hole dug into a termite mound.

Some individuals of the Bell's form of this species, a colour form characterised by broad black and pale yellow banding that is more typical of drier areas further west, have recently been recorded in the Burragorang Valley (Nattai NP; DEC 2004b) and near Bylong River and Lee Creek (Wollemi NP; DEC 2007).

SNAKES

Family BOIDAE

Diamond Python *Morelia spilota spilota*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (undated), N, W, Y

Moderately common resident. Widespread, mainly at lower elevations. At the western edge of the range of subspecies *spilota*. Partly arboreal and typically found in or near wet sclerophyll forest in gullies. Recorded at Jenolan Caves from an old, undated Australian Museum specimen.

Family COLUBRIDAE

Brown Tree Snake *Boiga irregularis*

Reserves: BM, W, Y

Rare resident. At southern limit of distribution. Typically found in wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest. Nocturnal and arboreal, but frequently forages on the ground.

Recent records are mainly from the north of the WHA (for example, vicinity of Putty Road and Settler's Road in Yengo NP). Also recorded recently on the urban fringe of Blue Mountains NP at Blaxland (Peter and Judy Smith).

Green Tree Snake *Dendrelaphis punctulatus*

Reserves: BM, W, Y

Uncommon resident. At southern limit of distribution. More common at lower elevations, but has also been recorded as high up as Blackheath. A diurnal, arboreal species typically found in or near wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest, often near water. Also frequents houses and gardens on the urban fringe of Blue Mountains NP.

Family ELAPIDAE

Southern Death Adder *Acanthophis antarcticus*

Reserves: BM, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Mainly found at lower elevations but extends along Grose Valley into upper Blue Mountains. A diurnal but cryptic species of dense sclerophyll forests. Hides in leaf litter and attracts prey by wriggling its tail. Considered common in the Coxs River Valley in the early 1900s (Smith and Smith 1990) but no recent records from here. Baerami and Wilpen Valleys considered a stronghold for the species in Wollemi NP (DEC 2005a).

Recorded at Glenbrook Creek in Blue Mountains NP in 2012 (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletters).

Highlands Copperhead *Austrelaps ramsayi*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W

Moderately common resident. Restricted to higher elevations (most common above 800m). Found in and around upland swamps and other wetlands, often forming large colonies.

Golden Crowned Snake *Cacophis squamulosus*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W

Rare resident. Few records of this secretive, nocturnal snake. At western edge of range. Typically found in wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest.

A recent record from Widden Valley in north-western Wollemi NP in unusual habitat (a dry box-ironbark-cypress pine slope) appears to be an outlying population, with nearest records 70 km away to the north-east near Mount Royal NP and south-east near Putty State Forest (DEC 2007).

Eastern Small-eyed Snake *Cryptophis nigrescens*

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, W

Uncommon resident. Recorded from scattered locations at both low and high elevations in a range of habitats on Hawkesbury and Narrabeen sandstones and basalt caps. Secretive and nocturnal, small groups shelter by day under rocks or logs, in rocky crevices or under ground litter.

Yellow-faced Whipsnake *Demansia psammophis psammophis*

Reserves: BM, N, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Recorded at scattered locations, mainly at lower elevations and mainly in dry sclerophyll forest and woodland.

White-lipped Snake *Drysdalia coronoides*

Reserves: J (1964), KB

Rare resident. Restricted to high elevations. The main population of the species reaches its northern limit in the WHA (a smaller disjunct population occurs further north in the higher parts of the Northern Tablelands). Mainly nocturnal, sheltering by day under rocks, logs or ground litter.

The only recent records are from Kanangra-Boyd NP, where it has been recorded in mallee heath on Kanangra Tops (DEC 2004a). Recorded at Jenolan Caves KCR in 1964 (Northern Territory Museum specimen).

Mustard-bellied Snake *Drysdalia rhodogaster*

Reserves: BM, J (undated), KB, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Widespread but appears to be most common in the north-east of Blue Mountains NP (DECC 2008a). Reaches its northern and western limits in the WHA. A largely nocturnal snake found in a range of habitats, including rocky heath, dry sclerophyll forest and upland swamp. Shelters in ground debris. The only record for Jenolan Caves KCR is an old, undated specimen at the Australian Museum.

Red-naped Snake *Furina diadema*

Reserves: BM (undated), W, Y

Rare resident. A nocturnal snake found in heath and drier woodlands and forests, where it shelters by day amongst rocks and fallen timber. Recorded mainly from the northern half of the WHA. The only record for Blue Mountains NP is an old, undated specimen in the Australian Museum collected at Faulconbridge.

Black-bellied Swamp Snake *Hemiaspis signata*

Reserves: BM (1998).

Rare resident. At western edge of range. A diurnal snake typically found in low-lying marshy areas, but also sometimes on dry, rocky ridges.

Recorded from two sites in the Kedumba Valley in Blue Mountains NP in 1998 (BioNet Atlas records; DECC 2007c). No other records within WHA, but Smith and Smith (1990) noted its occurrence in the Kurrajong Hills area (adjacent to and east of Blue Mountains NP), where it was found in grassy ironbark woodland, often near water.

Broad-headed Snake *Hoplocephalus bungaroides*

Status: endangered (NSW); vulnerable (Commonwealth)

Reserves: BM, GOS, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Endemic to Sydney Basin. Reaches the northern edge of its range in Wollemi NP and the western edge in Gardens of Stone NP. Occurs in isolated pockets mainly on rocky Narrabeen and Hawksebury sandstone ridgetops and escarpments. A nocturnal snake that shelters during the day in rock crevices (often under large slabs of rock lying on rock outcrops), and also in tree hollows, especially in winter.

Recent localities include: Sunnyside portion (Gardens of Stone NP); vicinity of the Glow Worm Tunnel, Angorawa Track and Colo River (Wollemi NP); Linden Ridge, Tabaraga Ridge Firetrail and Deep Pass Trail (Blue Mountains NP); and Howes Swamp and Mogo Creek (Yengo NP).

Tiger Snake *Notechis scutatus scutatus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, W, Y

Uncommon resident, more common at mid to high elevations. A diurnal snake that may be found in various habitats, including swampy areas, grassland, dry and wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest.

Recent localities include Boyd Plateau (Kanangra-Boyd NP); Settlers Road and Boggy Swamp Creek (Yengo NP); and Nattai Tablelands (Nattai NP). Said to be common in the Coxs River Valley in the early 1900s, but now uncommon (Smith and Smith 1990).

Dwyer's Snake *Parasuta spectabilis dwyeri*

Reserves: GOS, W (1997), Y

Rare resident. A species typical of drier inland areas, only recorded in the northern half of the WHA, where it is at the eastern edge of its range. A nocturnal snake of dry, open, rocky habitats.

Recent localities include in the vicinity of Halfway Hollow (Gardens of Stone NP); Old Bulga Road and Howes Valley (Yengo NP).

Red-bellied Black Snake *Pseudechis porphyriacus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common, widespread resident, recorded from every WHA reserve. The most common snake in the WHA. A diurnal species usually found in the vicinity of permanent and semi-permanent streams, upland swamps, ponds and other wetlands, although sometimes ranges well away from these habitats.

Eastern Brown Snake *Pseudonaja textilis*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, W, Y

Moderately common resident. A diurnal species that is widely but patchily distributed in grassy woodland and dry sclerophyll forest.

Eastern Bandy-bandy *Vermicella annulata*

Reserves: BM, J, KB (1989), W, Y

Rare resident. A nocturnal burrowing species found in a variety of habitats. A cryptic species that may be more common than the few records suggest. The only record for Kanangra-Boyd NP is one found dead in 1989 (BioNet Atlas).

Family TYPHLOPIDAE

Blackish Blind Snake *Ramphotylops nigrescens*

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common resident. Widespread at lower elevations, but not recorded from the two higher elevation reserves, Jenolan KCR and Kanangra-Boyd NP. A burrowing species found under rocks and logs in dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland. A cryptic species that is most often detected when it comes to the surface after rain. May be more abundant than the records suggest.

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