

AUSTRALIAN

HERPETOLOGICAL

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 07

**FULL COLOUR
WEB VERSION**

Central Netted Dragons *Shannon Plummer*

**Future Directions for Australian
Herpetoculture** *John Weigal*

Snake Bites in the Sydney Region



Australian Herpetological Society Inc.

[Captive Care of the]

Central Netted Dragon



Central Netted Dragon - Captive Care Book & Website

Words & Photography
by Shannon Plummer



Shannon Plummer

As my eyes surveyed the endless enclosures housing everything from Stimson Pythons to Pink Tongue Skinks, I came across the most adorable little lizard I'd ever seen. He returned my stare intently and paced the glass front of his enclosure, urging me to free him. His vibrant orange and black markings held my attention, as did his blunt snout and tiny 'eyelashes'.

On that day at the pet store many years ago, I intended on purchasing a Bearded

Dragon, however, my encounter with this beautiful, curious and energetic lizard changed the course of my day, and my life.

It was, of course, a Central Netted Dragon (*Ctenophorus nuchalis*). Their active nature and gentle temperament make them an ideal pet. The dragon in question, along with

subsequent additions, has allowed me countless hours of entertainment and pleasure. As a wildlife photographer, I have spent plenty of time photographing these cute little dragons and they never cease to provide interesting and beautiful images.

My love of reptiles developed at the tender age of 9, when I came across an injured Blue



Tongue Skink. I assume a car had hit it because its jaw was shattered. I carefully scooped it up and took it home, intent on caring for it. With good intentions, I offered the injured lizard soft cat food through a syringe, which it readily ate as best it could. I can't remember how long I cared for it before my family and I decided to take it to a wildlife ranger at the local Parks office, maybe a day or two. To my horror, the only option they offered was to place it in the freezer, assuring me it would be a painless death; how little we knew back then! This encounter founded a lifelong love of wildlife, in particular reptiles. While many years would pass before I cared for reptiles again, they always intrigued me.

Today as a wildlife photographer, wildlife carer and keeper of several reptiles, I'm continually fascinated by these unique creatures and do not take for granted the fact that Australia is home to many interesting species, many of which are endemic. I have several international reptile-keeping friends who are quite envious of this, even though they are able to keep various exotic species from all over the world. The Central Netted Dragon is one of those species they wish they could keep.

With a clear lack of husbandry information available on the Central Netted Dragon, I decided to write a book to assist keepers on their captive requirements. 'Captive Care of the Central Netted Dragon' is soon to be released and I am currently taking pre-order enquiries. The book has a clean



and modern layout with plenty of full colour photos and useful diagrams. It covers chapters including Housing, Heating & Lighting, Breeding, Health & Disease plus many more.

I also created the Central Netted Dragon website which provides more information about the book as well as photos and general information about these beautiful dragons. The website contains a basic care sheet and data keeping template, both of which can be downloaded as PDF files.



All Photographs ©Shannon Plummer

www.centralnetteddragon.com

www.shannonplummerphotography.com



Captive Care of the
[Central Netted Dragon]

A comprehensive resource in the care of Central Netted Dragons in captivity including chapters on . . .

Characteristics | Housing | Heating & Lighting
Feeding | Bathing & Sloughing | Breeding
Health & Disease | Record Keeping Template

