

## Melton Environment Group

Yes, I would like to join or learn more about Melton Environment Group.

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

Phone: Home .....Work .....

Mobile: .....

Email: .....

### Membership details (GST):

Single/Concession: \$10

Family \$20

Corporate: \$50

Yes, I would like to make a donation to MEG

\$5 \$10 \$20 Other \$

How did you hear about Melton Environment Group?

### Melton Environment Group Inc.

PO Box 481, Melton, 3337

No. AOO4OO49F A.B.N 47 411575097

President: Daryl Akers 9743 2495

email: daryljakers@gmail.com.au

Vice President: Doug Godsil

**Meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Don Nardella's office, Alexandra Street at 7.30**



Marbled Gecko in Bacchus Marsh

Marbled Gecko (*Christinus marmoratus*). These shy nocturnal lizards are seen at night in gardens & sometimes even in houses! They have soft velvety skin, marbled skin patterns & huge golden eyes. They lose their tails easily, like skinks. The pads on the tips of their toes enable them to climb up smooth surfaces, even glass. They are sometimes found when old fences are removed



Goannas are occasionally seen in Melton. They are thought to be escapees.

Goanna photo by Peter Sell, Gecko photo by Roy Russell, remainder by Richard Akers.



## LIZARDS OF MELTON



The **Common or Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard** (*Tiliqua scincoides*) is a large skink (about 30cm) commonly found around Melton. They are fond of fruit & berries.

43 (bus hours)

### Lizards of Melton

Melton has an enviable diversity of lizards, which we need to take care of in the years ahead. Lizards are an important part of the natural environment. They eat a large quantity of insects & in turn are an important food source for larger animals.



**Cunninghams Skinks** (*Egernia cunninghami*) are large lizards (about 30cm) with spiny tails. They are fast runners & are common along Melton creeks in rocky crevices & escarpments. They are fond of berries & fruits, especially boxthorn berries.



**Garden Skink**, (*Lampropholis guichenoti*) sunning itself among rocks. These small lizards (about 10cm) are common along Melton's creek. They are often found in gardens.



**Striped Skinks** (*Ctenotus robustus*) are about 16 cm & are commonly seen around Melton in grassland adjacent to rocky outcrops along the creeks. They are extremely fast runners & swiftly vanish among rocks when disturbed in the grass.



**Bougainville's Skink** (*Lerista bougainvillii*) are seen among boulders beside creeks. They burrow into the soft soil when disturbed, in an almost snake-like wriggling manner. This lizard has a distinctive rose-coloured tail.



**Mountain Dragons** (*Tympanocryptis diemensis*) are about 20 cm & found in dry bushland around Toolern Vale, the Pyrete Forest & Lerderberg Gorge.



Jacky Lizards (*Amphibolorus muricatus*) are about 30cm & found in Eynesbury & Kororoit Creek. They resemble the better known but larger Bearded Dragon.

Other lizards are also found in & around Melton. These include

- Tussock Skink: found in grasslands & rocks
- Striped Legless Lizard: a rare endangered grassland species