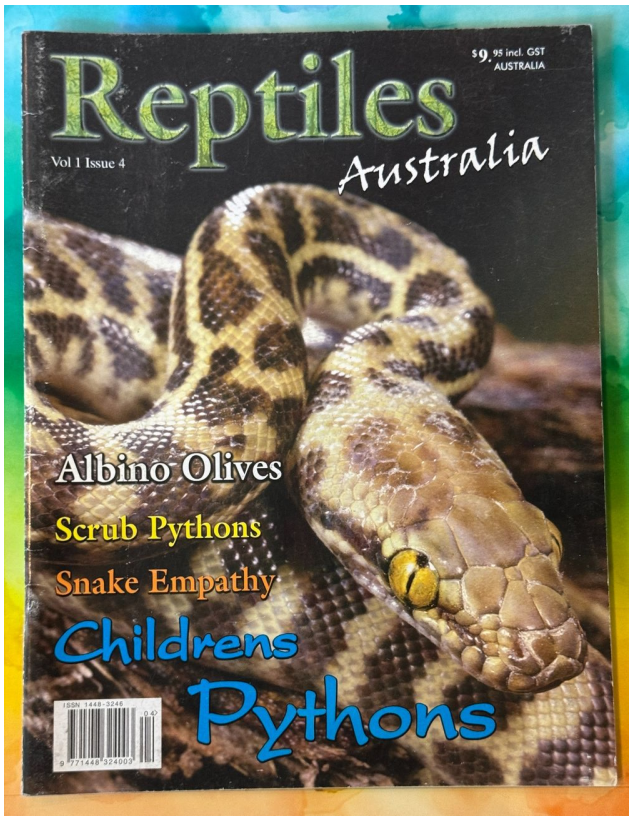
Reptiles Australia

Magazine Research Record



Volume 1, Issue 4, one of the earliest issues represented in the collection.

Publication Identification

Field	Information
Country	Australia
Publisher	Alex Lannan later issues
Publisher address	PO Box 4499, Wantirna, Victoria 3152, Australia
Magazine title	Reptiles Australia
Publication status	Pending research update
Publication run	Documented Volume 1 through Volume 6. Full start and end dates pending research update; later collectors report a thirty three issue run, not independently confirmed.
Editor	Simon Watharow
Printer	Design & Printing Leading Edge Solutions earlier issues
ISSN	1448-3246
Language	English
Publication type	Reptile husbandry, field herpetology, breeding, conservation, veterinary topics, species profiles, books, products, and reptile community news
Publication frequency	Every two months / bimonthly
Collection coverage	Eleven physical issues across Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6
Earliest issue represented	Volume 1, Issue 4
Latest issue represented	Volume 6, Issue 3

Preservation Significance

Reptiles Australia has strong preservation significance as a specialist Australian herpetological magazine that combined captive husbandry, breeding, field observations, conservation, veterinary material, species profiles, and community reporting. The supplied issues span six volumes and preserve a broad cross section of the magazine rather than a single isolated issue. Read together, the covers show recurring attention to Australian pythons, venomous snakes, lizards, turtles, field herping, captive breeding, morphs, feeding, enclosure design, and regional reptile conservation.

The surviving masthead and editor pages add substantial historical value because they document the people and working structure behind the publication. Simon Watharow is identified as editor in the earlier supplied masthead, with Rachael Hammond credited for layout, design, and illustrations, Angela Reid for administration, and a group of writers and contributing photographers named by the magazine. A later masthead shows an expanded production structure including Leesa Lannan as Admin / Co. Editor, Attila Vermes in graphic design, and Katerina Tanasic as designer assistant. These changes preserve evidence of how the publication developed internally over time.

The editor's own statements also preserve the magazine's purpose. The early supplied editor note describes the publication as bimonthly and states an intention to bring readers a reptile magazine every two months. It invites prospective authors, encourages inexperienced writers to seek help from the support group, and describes the magazine as a place to publish, share, and promote reptile husbandry and field herpetology. A later editor note continues that emphasis, describing a balance of husbandry, conservation, field, and general articles and placing particular importance on detailed husbandry material based on records, research, and writing.

One represented issue also preserves a memorial to Graeme Francis Gow, an important figure in Australian herpetology. The memorial records his work with reptiles, his curatorial career, his move to Darwin, his work with the Northern Territory Museum, the establishment of the Crocodile Farm at Noonamah, the opening of Graeme Gow's Reptile World at Humpty Doo, his publications, and his influence on keepers, herpetologists, and the wider Australian community. Preserving that issue therefore retains not only reptile information but also a contemporary record of the people who shaped Australian herpetology.

The physical run is also significant because later collector discussions indicate that Reptiles Australia is now difficult to assemble as a complete set. Later collectors describe a thirty three issue run and specifically note missing early and late issues when attempting to complete their sets. The issues preserved here therefore contribute to the survival of a specialist print publication from a period when much reptile information was still circulated through magazines rather than through websites and social media.

Publication Metadata and Masthead Documentation

Field	Information
Publication	Reptiles Australia
Country	Australia
ISSN	1448-3246
Editor	Simon Watharow
Early layout / designer	Rachael Hammond
Early administration	Angela Reid
Early illustrations	Rachael Hammond
Later Admin / Co. Editor	Leesa Lannan
Later graphic design	Attila Vermes
Later designer assistant	Katerina Tanasic
Postal address	PO Box 4499, Wantirna, Victoria 3152, Australia
Website	www.reptilesaustralia.com.au
Publication schedule	Bimonthly / every two months, as stated by the editor
Cover price shown on many issues	$9.95 incl. GST Australia
Later cover price shown on selected issues	$10.95 incl. GST Australia
Volumes represented in the collection	Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6

Issues represented in the collection	Vol. 1 Issue 4; Vol. 2 Issues 2 and 4; Vol. 3 Issue 4; Vol. 4 Issues 1 and 2; Vol. 5 Issues 1, 3, 5, and 6; Vol. 6 Issue 3
Editor documented in supplied masthead	Simon Watharow
Publication address documented in supplied masthead	PO Box 4499, Wantirna, Victoria 3152, Australia
Website documented in supplied masthead	www.reptilesaustralia.com.au
Publication focus	Reptile husbandry, field herpetology, breeding, conservation, veterinary topics, species profiles, books, products, and reptile community news
Frequency documented by the editor	Every two months / bimonthly

International Distribution

Australian cover prices are recorded in the physical issues. Specific overseas distributors, subscription territories, and circulation figures: Pending research update.

Issues Represented in the Collection

Field	Information
Volume 1, Issue 4	Albino Olives; Scrub Pythons; Snake Empathy; Children's Pythons.
Volume 2, Issue 2	Woma; Bearded Dragon; Scrub Python; Herping in the USA; Fitzroy River Turtle.
Volume 2, Issue 4	Rough-scaled Pythons; Top 10 Northern Queensland; Urban Carpet Pythons; Keeping Geckos. This issue also contains the Graeme Gow memorial.
Volume 3, Issue 4	Albino Special; Snake Feeding Techniques; Thick-tailed Gecko; Madagascar's Reptiles.
Volume 4, Issue 1	King Cobras, an Australian first; The Great Tokay Hunt; Q&A with Doc Rock; Heating; Large Lizard Enclosures; Townsville Carpet Pythons; Military Dragons; The Brigalow Belt.
Volume 4, Issue 2	Womas; Komodo Dragons; Geckos around Alice; Encounters with Spiny-tails; Enclosure furnishings.
Volume 5, Issue 1	Venom, Nature's Pharmacologists; Alpine Blue-tongues; Morphs, Mutants & Hybrids; Silk Worms; Herping in Borneo Part 2, Frogs.
Volume 5, Issue 3	Big Snake Special; Scrub Pythons; Chappell Island Tiger Snakes; Mambas; Colossal Carpets.
Volume 5, Issue 5	Diamond Pythons; Herping in the Hinterland Part 2; Pilbara Dwarf Bearded Dragon; Siamese Spitting Cobras; Venom Part 3.
Volume 5, Issue 6	Australia's first twin Green Pythons; Pink-tongued Skinks; Dugites; Boyd's Forest Dragons; Diamond Pythons Part 2.
Volume 6, Issue 3	Keeping & breeding Antaresia; Copperheads of Tasmania; Lace Monitor Nesting; Water Dragons; Austin Stevens close call.

Editorial Purpose and Publication Development

The supplied editor material provides unusually useful primary evidence about the publication's editorial goals. An early note states that the timing of Reptiles Australia had improved and that a bimonthly publication had become a reality. The editor thanks writers and photographers and states that the magazine aimed to bring readers a reptile magazine every two months.

That same editorial page actively solicits contributions from readers and prospective authors. It describes the magazine as a place to publish, share, and promote reptile husbandry and field herpetology, encourages inexperienced writers to obtain assistance, and seeks unusual or bizarre herpetological material for recurring features.

A later editor note describes the magazine as reflecting current trends within the reptile industry. It emphasizes husbandry articles, breeding records, regional field material, conservation, and general reptile subjects. The editor specifically notes that detailed husbandry articles are difficult to produce because of the records, research, and writing involved, and describes financial incentives for selected authors and papers.

Contributors and Production Evidence

Field	Information
Editor	Simon Watharow
Layout / Designer, early masthead	Rachael Hammond
Administration, early masthead	Angela Reid
Illustrations, early masthead	Rachael Hammond
Writers named in early masthead	Dr. Danny Brown; Dr. Brendan Carmel; Simon Fearn; Ian Grace; Lyall Naylor; Matt Stockdale; Simon Stone; Mike Swan; Simon Watharow; John Weigel
Series contributing photographers named in early masthead	Damian Goodall; John Weigel; Ken Griffiths; Brad Maryan; Lyall Naylor
Series graphics designer	Attila Vermes, Leading Edge Print
Website design, early masthead	Nodex Pty Ltd
Cartoonist	Jay Harley
Admin / Co. Editor, later masthead	Leesa Lannan
Graphic Design, later masthead	Attila Vermes
Designer Assistant, later masthead	Katerina Tanasic

Graeme Gow Memorial

Volume 2, Issue 4 contains a full page memorial titled “Farewell to a legend... Graeme Gow’s Eulogy.” The memorial identifies Graeme Francis Gow as born in Sydney in 1940 and describes a lifelong involvement with reptiles and other animals. It records his appointment as Curator of Reptiles at Taronga Zoo in 1965, his move to Darwin in 1973, and his work as Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians for the Northern Territory Museum.

The memorial also records his work preserving Sweetheart, described in the article as Australia’s largest recorded crocodile, his establishment of the Crocodile Farm at Noonamah, and the opening of Graeme Gow’s Reptile World at Humpty Doo in 1982. It credits him with discovering and describing species, having species named after him, writing books and papers, contributing to tourism, and gaining worldwide recognition for his work and observations.

The memorial states that Graeme Gow died in 2005 following cancer and emphasizes his influence through publications, advice, support of other keepers and herpetologists, and his contribution to the Australian community. Because the article was published close to the time of his death, it is a valuable contemporary record of how the Australian reptile community remembered him.

Selected Issue Evidence: Volume 2, Issue 4

Field	Information
Page 6	The Rough-scaled Python Part 2: Captive Husbandry & Breeding, by John Weigel
Page 12	Breeding Pythons Part 1: Reproductive Anatomy, by Dr. Rock
Page 16	Brisbane Carpet Pythons, Morelia spilota mcdowelli, Life in Suburban Brisbane, QLD
Page 20	Top Ten: Tropical North Queensland, Herp Things to Do & See
Page 26	Freakin’ Herps
Page 32	The Care and Husbandry of Diplodactylus Geckos Part 1: Terrestrial Forms
Page 38	Vietnam’s Reptiles: A Bleak Future
Page 43	Vet Report
Page 47	Book Review
Page 49	Product Review
Page 51	Classifieds
Front cover identification	Rough-scaled Python, Morelia carinata. Photo: Melbourne Zoo, Damian Goodall

Independent Corroboration

A contemporary 2006 forum post made under the name ReptilesAustralia identifies Simon Watharow, the Reptiles Australia website, the PO Box 4499 Wantirna address, and describes the publication as “The magazine for Aussie Herpetologists.” The post also refers to the next issue in a new volume and solicits classifieds, subscriptions, back issues, and poster enquiries. This closely matches the contact and editorial information preserved in the physical mastheads.

Later collector discussions provide useful evidence for the publication run. Collectors describe Volumes 1 through 5 as having six issues each, with Volume 6 extending through at least Issue 3 or Issue 4 depending on the collection described. One 2024 collector post states that thirty three issues were produced. These collector records are useful corroboration for the issue sequence but should remain secondary to physical copies and publisher material.

Later bibliographic and husbandry references also cite Reptiles Australia by volume and issue. For example, a reptile husbandry manual cites Reptiles Australia Volume 5 Issues 5 and 6, supporting the continued use of the magazine as a reference source after publication.

Website Category Placement

Field	Information
Primary website section	Magazine Preservation
Country grouping	Australia
Publication title	Reptiles Australia
Issue metadata	Volume and issue exactly as printed, cover price where visible, major cover subjects, and ISSN
Publication history	Bimonthly Australian reptile magazine edited by Simon Watharow, with documented staff changes and an emphasis on husbandry, field herpetology, conservation, and community contributions
Preservation emphasis	Multi volume specialist run, changing production staff, detailed Australian husbandry and field content, and preservation of the Graeme Gow memorial

Source Notes

Field	Information
Photographed physical covers	Primary evidence for the eleven issue designations, cover prices, cover subjects, and ISSN.
Photographed masthead and editor pages	Primary evidence for editor, contributors, production staff, publication address, website, frequency, editorial purpose, and changes in staff structure.
Photographed Volume 2, Issue 4 contents page	Primary evidence for article titles, page numbers, and the Rough-scaled Python cover identification.
Photographed Graeme Gow memorial	Primary evidence for the memorial text and its biographical statements as published by Reptiles Australia.
Contemporary ReptilesAustralia forum post, 2006	Independent corroboration for Simon Watharow, contact details, website, publication identity, subscription and back issue activity.
Later collector forum discussions, 2020 to 2024	Secondary evidence concerning the total run, surviving issue sequence, scarcity, and collector attempts to assemble complete sets.
Later husbandry references	Evidence that individual Reptiles Australia issues continued to be cited as reference material.

Issue Dating Research and Verification

The represented covers identify eleven volume and issue combinations, but do not print an unambiguous month or year for each individual issue. The evidence below provides chronological anchors. None supports assigning exact dates to all eleven copies.

Volume 1: A published bibliography identifies Volume 1, Issues 1 and 2 as 2003. A separate reptile-care reference identifies Volume 1, Issue 1 as September/October 2003 and Issue 2 as November/December 2003. These are dates for earlier issues, not verified dates for the represented Volume 1, Issue 4.

Volume 2: A specialist bookseller lists a complete six-issue Volume 2 set as 2005. The Volume 2, Issue 4 masthead in this collection separately carries a 2005 copyright statement. These support an association of Volume 2 with 2005, but do not establish the publication month of Issue 2 or Issue 4, and a copyright year is not necessarily an issue date.

Volume 3: On 3 September 2006, an account posting as ReptilesAustralia, signed by editor Simon Watharow, announced that the next issue would begin a new volume and was due in approximately ten days. This provides contemporary evidence of a new-volume transition in September 2006. It does not establish dates for the collection's Volume 3, Issue 4.

Volumes 4-6: The research reviewed here does not identify a definitive publication month and year for any of the represented issues in these volumes. The bimonthly schedule and sequential numbering are insufficient to assign precise dates because printing or distribution could have varied.

Dating sources: Reptiles Australia Volume 1, Issues 1-2, identified as September/October and November/December 2003 in a reptile-care reference (whitescreekwildlifecare.com.au, Black-Headed-Python.pdf); bibliographic identification of Volume 1, Issues 1-2 (2003) in Reptiles, Shingleback Lizard (reptilestar.com); AbeBooks listing "REPTILES AUSTRALIA Magazine, Vol. 2, Issue 1,2,3,4,5,6" (Volume 2, 2005); Aussie Pythons & Snakes Forum, "Reptiles Australia Vol 3 no1 Classifieds ASAP," posted 3 September 2006. These are external corroborating sources, not issue-specific masthead dates for all eleven copies.

For the inventory, retain all eleven volume and issue numbers and leave the month and year blank until a dated page or reliable issue-level citation establishes them. The Volume 2 copyright statement must not be entered as an exact publication date.

Research Cautions

- Do not assign precise publication months or years to individual issues unless the date is printed in the physical issue or supported by reliable bibliographic evidence.
- The Volume 2, Issue 4 masthead carries a 2005 copyright statement, but that alone should not be generalized to other issues.
- The exact total publication run should be treated cautiously. Later collectors describe thirty three issues, but the project should prefer publisher records or a complete verified run if those become available.
- The Graeme Gow memorial is a valuable contemporary source, but biographical claims within the memorial should be attributed to the magazine unless independently verified.
- Do not treat later collector statements about rarity or value as objective market evidence. They are useful primarily for documenting collector interest and the difficulty of assembling the run.
- Preserve the exact volume and issue designations as printed on each physical copy.

Web Sources Consulted

- Aussie Pythons & Snakes Forum, 2006 ReptilesAustralia post concerning Volume 3 No. 1, classifieds, subscription information, website, and Simon Watharow.
- Aussie Pythons & Snakes Forum collector discussions from 2020, 2021, and 2024 concerning Reptiles Australia issue runs and attempts to assemble complete sets.
- Phill's Wildlife Blog husbandry manual citing Reptiles Australia Magazine Volume 5 Issues 5 and 6.