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## Snakes in Whittlesea: Doreen, Mernda hot spots for copperhead and tiger snakes

A snake catcher is warning locals to be vigilant after numerous sightings of highly-venomous breeds in two hotspots, saying one was seen eating goldfish from a pond in Melbourne's north. And he is warning dog owners to be especially cautious.


Kimberley Seedy, Whittlesea Leader

Subscriber only | September 8, 2020 12:50pm



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Mernda: History of postcode 3754

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Mark Pelley, known as [The Snake Hunter](#), said along with the goldfish-eating tiger snake, he had also recently been called out to remove a copperhead snake which was sunning itself on a statue outside a woman's house.

Mr Pelley was also called out to help a mum who spotted a snake underneath her car, and has received two calls to remove snakes from the inside of people's homes.

He said all the snakes were captured and safely removed from the area.


All the calls were from residents in Mernda, Doreen and Whittlesea.

On the Thomastown 3074 Facebook page, a local said they spotted two snakes in 30 minutes on Monday near the bike path along Whittlesea Gardens.

On the Mernda and Doreen 3754 Facebook page on Saturday, someone reported seeing a snake at the duck pond park on the corner of Mernda Village Drive and Plenty Rd Mernda.


"Mernda and Doreen are very common places for me to find venomous snakes," Mr Pelley said.

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every single snake.

"The snake population numbers are actually booming in Mernda and Doreen."




Mr Pelley said the vast majority of snakes in Doreen and Mernda were tiger snakes or lowland copperheads.

He said he expected to receive even more calls in the coming weeks as the weather heated up.

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