

SPRING BRINGS CRITTERS OUT FROM SLUMBER

Snaking into your backyard

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VENOMOUS snakes are quietly lurking in the suburbs, a snake expert says.

The Snake Hunter, Mark Pelley said many Melburnians did not know some of Australia's deadliest snakes were in creeks, shopping centres, inside cars and even in dog kennels in the 'burbs.

"No matter where you are in Melbourne, the bad news is that every endemic species of snake in our great city is venomous," Mr Pelley said.

He said the four most common snakes across the suburbs were the red-bellied black, lowland copperhead, eastern tiger and eastern brown snakes.

"They are very common, can grow quite large, and can deliver a decent bite with potentially deadly consequences," Mr Pelley said.

"Two of Melbourne's snakes are considered to be among the deadliest species on the entire planet."

The world's second most venomous snake, the eastern brown snake, can be found during the day in northern parts of Melbourne including Tullamarine, Campbellfield, Broadmeadows and Greensborough.

Mr Pelley said the eastern tiger snake, one of most venomous snakes in the world, was the most common snake found in Melbourne.

He said the reptile lived in the western suburbs, inner-city areas and the Peninsula.

Mark Pelley holds a poisonous lowland copperhead snake.



"Places I have found these snakes is the stuff of nightmares," he said.

Mr Pelley said he caught the 1.5m to 2m reptiles behind curtains in a retirement village, underneath refrigerators, behind dishwashers, in a washing machine, in kitchen cupboards, in car engines, schools, garages and even under beds.

Mr Pelley also said the little whip snake, white-lipped snake and small-eyed snake

could be spotted in the suburbs too.

"While considered to be venomous, these snakes are small, not typically encountered and retreat quickly if discovered by Melbourne residents," he said.

He said any Melburnian could bump into a snake.

A Diamond Creek father and son were bitten by an eastern tiger snake earlier this year.

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SERPENTS IN THE SUBURBS

- White-lipped snake
- Small-eyed snake
- Eastern tiger snake (above)
- Eastern brown snake
- Lowland copperhead snake
- Little whip snake
- Red-bellied black snake

