

Media Release

17 December 2020

Raise your awareness about snakes with free workshops at Tondoon

Gladstone Tondoon Botanic Gardens will be the venue for two interactive workshops featuring a local snake catcher who will aim to break the stigma surrounding the slithery creatures.

Two free Snake Awareness Workshops will run across the summer school holidays and are open to adults and children aged above 11 years.

The first workshop is being held this Saturday (19 December) from 10am-11am in the Courtyard at Tondoon Botanic Gardens.

The second workshop will be held in the new year, from 10am-11am on Saturday, 16 January 2021.

Bookings can be made by contacting the Tondoon Botanic Gardens team via email at tondoon@gladstone.qld.gov.au or by phoning 4971 4444.

Gladstone Region Councillor Darryl Branthwaite said snakes play an important role in keeping our natural ecosystems working.

“While they aren’t the most popular animal to grace the Gladstone Region, without snakes the number of prey species would increase to unnatural levels and predators who eat snakes would struggle to find food,” Councillor Branthwaite said.

“The aim of these workshops is to educate that snakes can be our friend, not our foe.

“A local snake catcher, Kris Foster, will help to create awareness, increase education and try to change the common mindset that ‘the only good snake is a dead one’.

“Kris will also discuss about all snakes in our region and teach you what to do should you be bitten by a snake.”

Snakes are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and it is an offence to kill, injure or take snakes from the wild unless done by a licensed snake catcher.

Visit www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/wildlife to learn more about snakes, how you can protect yourself from snakes and a list of local snake catchers.

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