

## LFW NEWS

### Feral control – Jerramungup style!

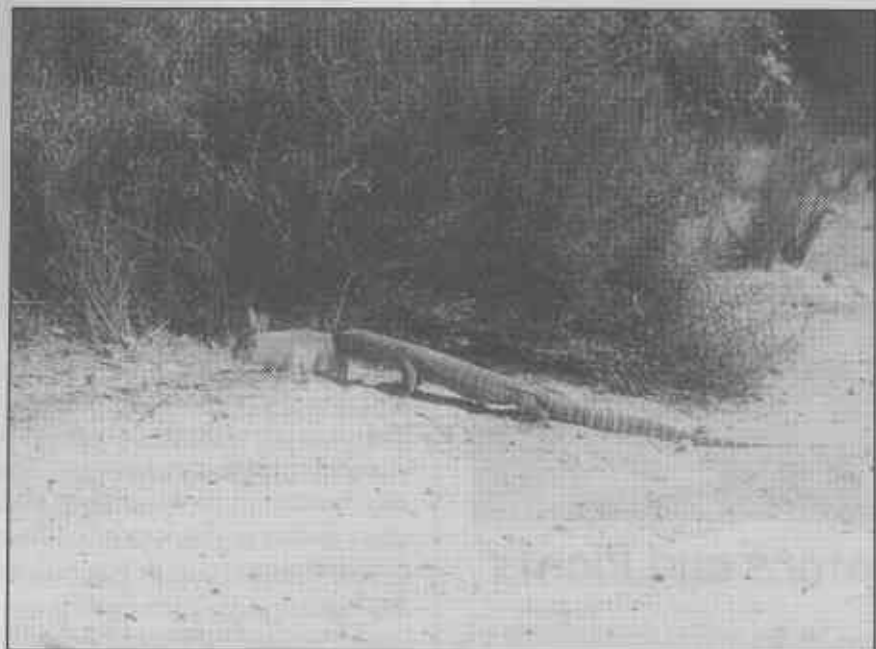


photo Ned Crossley

**A**VRIL BAXTER sent this photo of a Southern Heath Monitor (*Varanus rosenbergi*) catching lunch. Apparently the goanna used its strength to hang on for 15 minutes or so while the rabbit struggled frantically to get away. When the exhausted prey paused, quick as a flash, the grip was changed to the throat and the rabbit suffocated. Lunch was then served! Goannas frequently enter burrows to take rabbit kittens, but do not usually tackle animals of this size.

The Southern Heath Monitor can be found from Perth, through the southern forests and along the south coast. It hunts mostly on the ground where it feeds on frogs, reptiles, insects and carrion, but it can climb to escape predators or seek out bird nestlings.

It can be distinguished from Gould's Monitor (*V. gouldii*) by the fact that the body has bands of colour rather than spots, while the other southern goanna, the Black-tailed Monitor (*V. tristis*) is more uniformly dark coloured.