

## Professor Mike Bull



**Professor of Biological Sciences  
School of Biological Sciences  
Faculty of Science and Engineering**

**Room 152, Biological Sciences building  
Ph 8201 2263, 8201 2805  
Email [Michael.Bull@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Michael.Bull@flinders.edu.au)**

### Research Interests

- Lizard Social Organization
- Parapatry
- Host- parasite Ecology

### **Current Research Projects**

#### **Lizard Social Organization.**

The conventional wisdom is that lizards have little social organization beyond territoriality. I am interested in Australian skinks that seem to have far more cohesive social structuring. We are studying sleepy lizards, *Tiliqua rugosa*, and various species of the genus *Egernia*. We have been able to show long term pair fidelity, offspring recognition, and family group associations. We are exploring the evolution and functions of these social behaviours. We are also investigating the costs and benefits of various forms of sociality, including the implications of enhanced parasite transmission in social groups.

The Bunday Bore field station within the Mount Mary area is our main reptile ecology study site. Data have been gathered from populations at this site since 1982 and comprise over 44,000 capture records at the end of 2005.

The Burra reptile ecology study site is a remnant area of semi arid native grassland located approximately 150 km NE of Adelaide. The Burra site is home to the critically endangered pygmy bluetongue lizard, *Tiliqua adelaidensis*, which was thought to be extinct until its rediscovery in the area in 1992.

#### **Research Collaborations and Consultancies**

Dr Steve Cooper and Dr Steve Donnellan from the SA Museum in using microsatellite DNA analysis to get clues about the relatedness among interacting species and to work out the parentage of juveniles.

Dr Michael Perkins from Chemistry to work out the nature of the signals lizards use to recognise each other.

#### **Professional Affiliations**

Editor of Austral Ecology

#### **Committees**

Associate Head of Faculty: Research (Science & Engineering)

- Conducting multidisciplinary collaborative research on Australia's biodiversity & landscapes
- Providing innovative interpretation of biodiversity research for a wide variety of end-users