

PRESS KIT FOR

SNAKE SHEILA

Just don't hiss her off!

CO-PRODUCED BY



wildbear
entertainment

CO-FINANCED BY AND PRODUCED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF SCREEN QUEENSLAND



@Flickchicks Pty Ltd, WildBear Entertainment Pty Ltd, Screen Queensland Pty Ltd, 2015

SYNOPSIS

[LOGLINE]

Red-bellied black in your radiator? Death adder in your dunny? Python in your pool? Never fear, the Snake Sheila is here!

[SHORT SYNOPSIS]

Imagine, you get in your car, you turn the key but there's a hissing noise coming from under the hood.

And it's NOT the radiator.

You lift the hood to reveal... two enormous carpet pythons making out. S-s-s-snakes! They seem to be springing up everywhere in Brisbane of late but there's no need to panic: the River City unofficially has the most snake catchers in the world. Snake Sheila follows two of these suburban saviours ('Snake Sheila Julia' and her Scottish bloke 'Johnny Bagpipes'), over a snake season where they're run absolutely legless.



ONE PAGE SYNOPSIS

They're eating our pets, slithering into our stereos and writhing into our rumpus rooms. Normally snakes would like to stay well out of our way but with their natural habitat rapidly disappearing, they're on the move – and more than ever - into the burbs, and our homes.

And if you think you're safe in the big smoke, think again!

Australia is home to most of the world's deadliest snakes and nowhere more so than Brisbane, a city with more dangerous snakes than any other state capital. No surprise, then, to hear that Brisbane is one of the most competitive places in the world for snake catchers. And to make it in the trade they say you need real balls. Well, figuratively, that is.

Meet Julia Baker. She's not your typical Brisbane mum.

When this half-German, half-Englishwoman turned 40 not so long ago, she had the mother of all mid-life crises. She wrote a bucket list of things she'd always dreamt of doing: Get a motorbike licence and buy a chopper (check). Become a stand-up comedian (check). Land a nice bloke – must be Scottish (check). Become an actress (check). Become a professional puppeteer (check).

But it wasn't enough. This thrill-seeking mother of two decided the only way to really get her blood pumping and a new lease on life was to become a professional snake catcher.

Now, with four challenging snake catching summers and one very nasty snake bite under her belt, the former five-star pastry chef is on the brink of ticking the most ambitious goal on her list yet – to ditch the puppet shows for good, make a full time living off relocating snakes, before ultimately creating a snake catching empire.

Like any super hero, Julia doesn't act alone – her Scottish beau 'Johnny Bagpipes' is her capable apprentice ("I send him in for all the crap jobs"), but Johnny's more interested in chasing Julia than the snakes.

Julia's personal quest is as much a story about the householders and, this season, we'll meet some real characters at the places she gets called out to. And then there are the countless pythons that crush and constrict their way into suburban laundries, lofts and land cruisers. But it's the venomous ones that really get Julia excited. She'd be even happier if she could catch them by hand – she just needs someone to teach her how, and who better than personal hero and Australia's godfather of reptiles, Bob Irwin Senior!

For the snake weary folk of Brisbane, Julia and Johnny are just a phone call away – but even that can sometimes be too late – time to bring in the secret weapon – 12-month-old Jack Russell, Bonnie, who's being professionally trained up to be one of the country's first snake-sniffer dogs!

With drama and intrigue, fear, phobias and funny moments crammed into every episode Snake Sheila is a series that triumphs at every slithery twist and turn.



EPISODE BREAKDOWNS

EPISODE ONE: DOUBLE TROUBLE

There's only one thing worse than having to extract a massive carpet python out of a huge tree – and that's doing it when you're utterly terrified of heights and perched atop a ladder! Ripped to shreds by the pandanus thorns she's immersed in, vertigo-suffering Julia tries to stave off the phobia-shakes until after she's bagged the snake. She hasn't got long to make the catch – the python's got its eyes well and truly fixed on a possum that's frozen in sheer terror!

It's snake mating season and Julia's next call out finds her eyeballing a pair of amorous eastern brown snakes. As the couple get jiggy with it, she's faced with a strange working dilemma: when you come across lovemaking highly venomous snakes – who do you move first – the male or the female? And where's her Scottish lover to help her decide? Turns out, he's on the other side of town with a group of young kids who are saying goodbye to their pet duck, Waddles, that's now a huge bulge in the belly of the python Johnny's just pulled out of the chicken shed.

EPISODE TWO: A SORRY TAIL

Hiding within metres of the bare feet of children at a karate school is not where you want to find one of the world's deadliest snakes, but that's exactly where an eastern brown has been cruising, and it's so stealthy it even gets Julia jumping!

Trotting off to answer her next call from a local riding school Julia thinks she's cracked it when she pulls out a harmless tree snake – but this isn't the one the call went out for – there's still an eastern brown lurking underneath the shed and it's immune to Julia's charm. She even tries wafting the tempting odor of baby mice to lure the elusive 'Harry Houdini' out but he ultimately gives her the slip.

There's nothing for it, it's time for Julia to go back to school herself. Humbled in the presence of her hero, Bob Irwin senior, Julia gets top marks from Australia's godfather of reptiles and conservation, as he personally trains her in the fine hand craft of 'tailing' venomous snakes. It's a life changing moment for Julia – but not one she has too much time to ponder as another call comes in: a pet cat has brought in an unwanted gift and now there's a mildly venomous marsh snake on the loose in the petrified owners' bedroom ...

EPISODE THREE: STUCK IN THE MIDDLE WITH YOU

It's a snake-eat-snake world out there and in the snake catching business, building up your name takes time and ingenuity. When Julia's not chasing reptiles, she tops up her snake catching income with her second job – as a Punch and Judy puppeteer. But her snake catching life doesn't keep regular hours and before Mr Punch is back in his box, the phone rings for a suspected deadly. Rocking up in the puppet van, it's a disappointing callout for Julia – she can't track down the snake, but she does find inspiration from the family's dog that seems to be better at sniffing it out than she is...

After a quick job relocating a python from under a bin Julia ditches the work gear to meet her honey from the airport – partner Johnny works two weeks on, two weeks off as a fly in fly out diesel mechanic – and he's in for surprise – the 'snaked up' car she meets him in is Julia's next tool towards achieving global snake catching domination.

Johnny's home just in time: The next job is as dangerous as it gets and calls for some serious teamwork. Eastern brown snakes are responsible for more snakebite deaths than any other snake in Australia, and this one's got itself well and truly stuck in a fence. With one half of its body on one side of a fence and the other in the next door neighbour's yard, it falls to Johnny to prise open the gap in the fence with a screwdriver – bringing his hands way too close for comfort to the "bitey end". It's a tester for the trust between Johnny and Julia and a job that lifts the lid on a softer side to Julia as her love of snakes is clearly on display.

EPISODE FOUR: BIRD APPÉTIT

The pet dog from last week's callout has given Julia a cunning plan and now she and Johnny are mulling over dog breeds... What kind of pooch would best sniff out a snake, they wonder?

It's almost business as usual in their unusual world as Julia heads off to take a python out of the budgie cage it's already emptied of one occupant. The iridescent blue of the budgie's feathers are still shining out through the snake's stretched belly. Johnny then does a Jamie, and serves up a delectable rat-a-touille to one of their four pet pythons. It's a much easier job than his next one where he has to coax a huge python out from a crevice at the very back of a dreaded rock wall. Can he get this job done and still avoid the perils of python poo? This episode sees an addition to the family as the snake busting duo head to their local animal shelter to find the hound that can potentially help them track down snakes... Enter the untrained Bonnie, a 12-month-old Jack Russell terrier who's spent her life so far, neglected and tied up in a backyard.

EPISODE FIVE: IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

Julia's hackles start to rise when she arrives at a callout to be greeted by a man waving a golf club. Luckily he hasn't used it but it's a reminder to her that not everyone has her tolerance to finding snakes in their cupboards. Luckily for this caller, the snake in question is a placid green tree snake and not the deadly beast he first feared. Placid it may be, but the tree snake does what all good snakes do when they meet Julia: they poo on her.

Cleaned up and at home it's training time for Julia as professional search and rescue dog trainer, Barry Lowday, gets down to work with Bonnie. Sniffing out snakes isn't coming naturally on this first go as Bonnie blithely ignores the snakes put in her path. This sniffer dog training is clearly going to take some time!

Called to a sighting of a potential red-bellied black snake, Julia's pumped! It's her favourite type of snake and she's been dying to tail one since Bob Irwin taught her how, but when she gets there the snake seems to have vanished... or has it? Julia's snake radar is dialed right up and she knows it's around here somewhere - it's just a matter of flushing the blighter out! Just when everyone's thought the snake's disappeared for good, viola! It appears and is perfectly caught by our ecstatic heroine! With the coast clear, a limp green tree frog appears out of a nearby hole, which necessitates an urgent trip to Dr Sasha, a specialist in exotic animals.

EPISODE SIX: THE FEAR FACTOR

It's not a good week for cockroach and height phobic Julia: her best friend Bindi decides some aversion therapy is just what Julia needs and takes her to the famed Australia Day cockroach races – without telling her what's on the entertainment line up!

Julia's snaky business finds her dealing with householders who have the one phobia she certainly doesn't have: Ophidiophobia. Firstly, there's a petrified Englishwoman who has a python that needs to be rescued from her axe-wielding hubby, followed by a near-hysterical New Zealander that wants a tiny "brown" intruder removed from her lounge room.

Finally, Julia finds herself seeking out a massive python that's chilling out in someone's gutter – a gutter she can only access by climbing ladders and crawling on all fours over rooftops. Far from the favourite location for a vertigo-suffering snake catcher! Johnny tops the day off with another shock to her system.

EPISODE SEVEN: LIFE AND DEATH

It's a tug on the heartstrings for Johnny this week as he arrives at a callout to find a python nestled in a bird box belonging to three small children. The python has a bulge in its belly and the kids are asking it very nicely to please give them their birdie back. Meanwhile, the python Julia is hunting down has the opposite problem: it's got nothing in its belly and this is one skinny snake that needs medical help and fast. It's out of the garage and off to the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital for this one...

Out in the bush, Johnny is just about to release the python that refused to give the birdie back, when the crew stumble on a life and death situation: a keelback snake in a valiant battle to take down a toxic cane toad.

Back at the RSPCA, Julia is reduced to tears at the incredible care the skinny snake receives – X-rays and all, as the dedicated staff do everything they can to save the withered python. It's touch and go at the clinic before Julia and Johnny join wildlife carer mate, Janne, to release 11 newly-hatched carpet pythons into their new life in the bush...

EPISODE EIGHT: TWO BOYS AND A SHOE BOX

It's the best start to the week for Julia as she gets a callout to her favorite snake – a juvenile red-bellied black. The gloves are well and truly on as the defensive baby repeatedly bites into the hand that tries to save it - leaving Julia's trusty gloves stained with venom.

Apprentice Johnny is then called out to peek under pianos for the mystery owner of a newly shed skin while Bonnie the reluctant sniffer dog continues her snake seeking training...and makes Julia jump for joy when finally progress is made! It's not just Bonnie that's a slow learner. Julia gets a call from two young boys who send her a photo of a snake they've caught with a pair of kitchen tongs - it's a baby eastern brown, the second deadliest snake in the world. It's a frantic, ultra wriggly, extremely dangerous situation for Julia as the stripy youngster escapes from its shoe box, just as she pulls up. Julia chases it down with a pillowcase and the tongs, before giving a lecture to the young lads who had absolutely no idea how close to death they came.

EPISODE NINE: ALL IN A HARD DAY'S WORK!

Bonnie's been training doggedly and sets out to impress Barry the search and rescue dog trainer with her new skills as he comes over to set her first sniffer dog exam. Meanwhile owners of a ritzy house are being thwarted at attempts to sell – the resident python keeps coming out to sunbake by the pool only on open days, and scaring off potential buyers! Enter Julia as she retrieves the feisty python out of a pond and takes it away for a life on the wild side. Not before putting her long nails to good use to pluck out some parasites.

Koalas light up Julia's way home as the eagle-eyed crew spot the cuddly Aussie icons snoozing amongst the gum trees. A four-hour search for a suspected deadly inside a house has Julia leaving empty handed, and a very worried mother of two small kids.

Keen to put her feet up after a big day, Julia wearily answers yet another call just as she pulls into her garage – but perks up when she learns where it is. Her petrified Kiwi neighbour has found a snake tucked up in the fence, so it's all the way next door for Julia to play a game of nocturnal snakes and ladders as she hops over fences, hot on the trail of the fast fleeing critter.

EPISODE TEN: WHAT A CATCH!

Julia and Johnny have got delicate work to do in a veggie patch as a callout summons them to help out a well and truly trapped snake. Bound up in garden netting is a desperate eastern brown, and the only way to release it is to painstakingly cut him free. Snip by snip, Johnny shows surgically steady hands while Julia firmly holds the head of toxically charged snake.

It's Bonnie's big day out in the 'real world'. Off in the sidecar with trainer Barry, Bonnie and Julia bike off to their simulated callout – their mate's hidden one of his pet snakes in his house and neither Julia nor Bonnie knows where it is...Can young Bonnie pass her first onsite mission and let Julia know where the snake is?

The pressure is on for the young pup...but it's nowhere near the pressure Julia and Johnny are about to face. Lurking in a shed full of rats and cobwebs, is an enormous eastern brown and Julia's got its back up against the wall and it's coming out fighting. Julia makes a grab for it as the deadly zips dangerously close past our dynamic duo...and ends up tailing the hugest eastern brown she's ever held. It's another big tick off the bucket list for Julia, as the season comes to a close. And as for Johnny, his goal list for the year is looking good too: he didn't get bitten and he didn't get pooped on...and Julia finally weakens to his Scottish charms as we end the series with them walking down the aisle.



EPISODE TEASERS

Ep 1

On this episode we'll see Snake Sheila confront her fear of heights, while wrangling a huge carpet python. Johnny and Julia get a bit more than they bargained for when there's double trouble on both callouts, and Snake Sheila has a close call with the world's second deadliest snake.

Ep 2

On this episode Julia saves a karate school from a highly venomous visitor, only to get a callout to another school! This time with horses, as well as kids. Johnny Bagpipes leaves his lady flying solo as he heads off for Roma. Then Julia becomes the student, when the grandfather of conservation gives her a lesson in tailing. And at the end of a long day, Snake Sheila comes face to face with a bedroom snake!

Ep 3

On this episode, Julia teams up with a terrier to track down a suspected deadly. She then rescues Bob from a tetchy python, and comes up with a scarily good marketing idea. Johnny's back in time to team up with Snake Sheila to try and save a stuck snake.

Ep 4

In this episode we're offering up a delicious smorgasbord of catches- it's snake snack-o-rama! Johnny and Julia rescue a budgie from the same fate as his poor mate, Johnny is faced with one of his pet hates, Julia's disturbing an early Christmas feast, and finally, Johnny and Julia welcome a new member to their snake catching team.

Ep 5

On this episode, Julia faces off against an unwelcome house guest. Johnny and Julia arrive just in time to thwart a quick getaway. Bonnie goes to doggie boot camp, then it's code red with one of Australia's most venomous land snakes.

Ep 6

In this episode, Snake Sheila's having to contend with a lot of fear, the fear of a potted intruder, and a suspected deadly in the TV room, before ultimately confronting some of her biggest phobias.

Ep 7

On this episode, Julia rushes a gravely ill python off to the RSPCA wildlife hospital, while Johnny gives some heartbroken kids a few lessons in life, then accidentally stumbles on a life and death struggle. And Julia and Johnny talk babies.

Ep 8

In this episode, Julia gets a love bite from her favourite snake. Johnny tracks down the owner of a newly shed skin, while Bonnie continues her snake detection training. And then Julia finds herself in her least favourite scenario, wrangling a deadly, juvenile eastern brown.

Ep 9

In this episode, it's all in a hard day's work for Snake Sheila: After an early morning training session with Bonnie, she goes poolside to fish out one cool snake. Then Julia's straight off to search a house for a suspected deadly brown. And just when she thinks the day is over, she has a very close call.

Ep 10

In this episode, Julia and Johnny get caught up in a delicate operation. It's time to finally put Bonnie to the test. Julia's then cooped up with a massive eastern brown, and Johnny ultimately makes his biggest catch yet!



[MANDY LAKE]

Flickchicks

I've got extreme Ophidiophobia.

That is, I did ... until about a quarter of the way into working on Snake Sheila. Initially, I couldn't even look at the animals on a TV screen, let alone be anywhere in the vicinity of one.

It's not that I was afraid of them biting me, it was simply a case of I couldn't handle their legless state (even the sight of a legless lizard used to send me fleeing).

And yet, in a warped, ironic way, it was through my fear that I came to find the utterly s-s-sensational Julia Baker aka 'Snake Sheila'. Call it self-enforced aversion therapy, if you will ...

A few years back, a doctor friend of mine who was bemused by my phobia, mentioned that a new male patient of hers was a snake catcher who made a living out of retrieving snakes from mine shafts. Up until that point I didn't even know there was such a thing as snake catchers, but I immediately thought the unusual profession would make for fascinating doco subject matter (turns out, my instinct was right!), and I set about searching for an interesting character. Enter the incredibly talented, passionate Julia Baker.

The very early days of shooting were extremely problematic for me. I was constantly coiled, ready to run.

And, it's not good form for a bossy director to be asking their courageous camera crew to "get in closer" to one of the world's deadliest snakes, in a confined, cluttered bedroom, when she's safely quivering at the other end of the house.

Needless to say, I went to great lengths and expense to ensure I had a wireless monitor set up so that I could call out directions from afar, or bolt out of the blocks.

Julia was utterly determined to get me holding a snake by the end of the season and, by the sixth shoot, I had a major turning point when I saw a 70-something English lady go from being utterly terrified of her potted intruder to touching the big python, in no time.

I thought: "If she can do that, I can too!" and before I knew it, I was lining up for a pat.

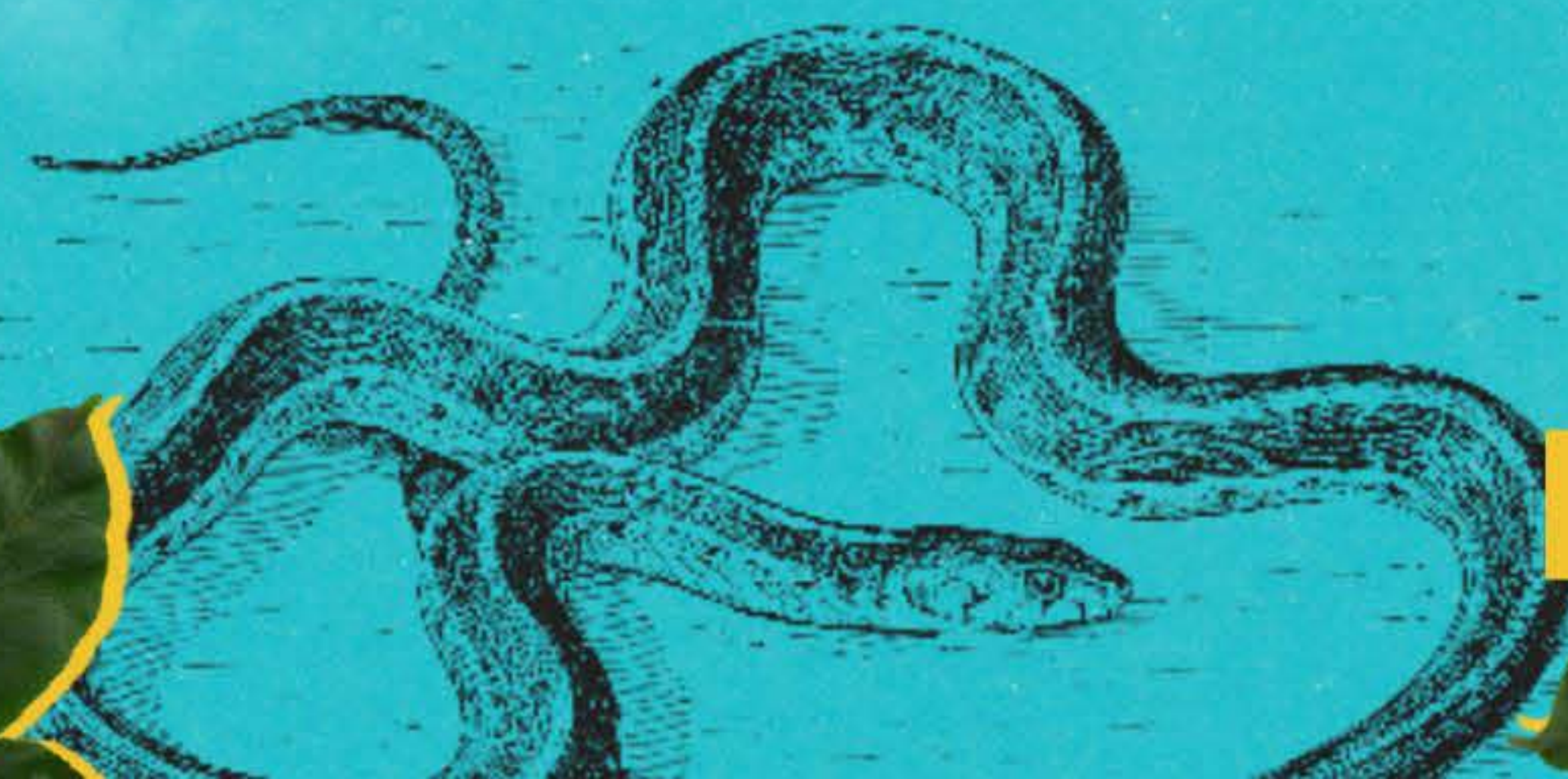
Through the incredible Snake Sheila journey, I've come to truly love snakes and, like Julia, am on a mission to change misguided perceptions of them. I'm very hopeful the series will help people view snakes as something to be appreciated and respected - not to be feared or hacked to death in panicked frenzy.

And I think we've already changed a few minds in our very own editing suite (aka 'The Snake Pit'): I walked in a few months back to find our young editor, Joe, who was working on a story about an injured deadly, disconcerted and a bit teary. "What's wrong?" I asked.

"Ummmmmm..." he said. "I never thought I'd get so upset about the death of a brown snake." Mission... well on the way to being accomplished, I thought.

And as for me holding a snake?

I'm not quite 'there' yet but, then again ... there's always season two ...



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR CO-PRODUCERS

[MARGIE BROWN]

Flickchicks

It was in 2012 that our glorious Snake Sheila rollercoaster ride pulled out of the station! We had snake catchers on our story development radar and when we saw a small article about Julia Baker in a women's magazine, we knew we had found our catcher and sensational talent - before we had even made the call!

Turns out, Julia was 'cyberstalking' us as well! And, when we called her to arrange a meeting, she declared: "You beat me to it, I was just about you call you tomorrow!"

We soon became a strong, well-oiled team and went on to shoot the series trailer as soon as the weather started to warm up and the snakes were out again! We soon found out that shooting snakes is a time critical activity! One also needs to be very patient: Shoot days are like waiting at a fire station for the call to come through! It's all action stations when that call comes in.

The trailer ultimately created a lot of interest from the international market and with WildBear's reputation and clout in that sphere, a 10-part factual series was commissioned with Discovery Channel and the show was set for production in October 2014!

And the Flickchicks team has learnt and grown an incredible amount (in many ways!) from the experience! Under the creative and quirky eye of our self-described "bossy director", writer and editor Mandy Lake, and our amazingly talented crew that we ultimately assembled, we've produced a show we're all incredibly proud of!

Personally, I have had withdrawals since the shoots ended, missing the team, the beautiful snakes, and the thrill of the places and situations we ended up in! No two days were the same and you can't say that about too many jobs!



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR CO-PRODUCERS

[VERONICA FURY]

WildBear Entertainment

When Flickchicks presented me with Snake Sheila I knew that this was a great opportunity to showcase an amazing local character and unique story - to make a series that would work for international audiences.

WildBear Entertainment has strong market presence and has been able to successfully produce a lot of programming for international broadcasters. Subsequently Snake Sheila offered a chance to work locally on a global scale.

Flickchicks has an amazing ability to tell quirky, funny, and powerful stories. They were a company that we had always wanted to work with. Snake Sheila allowed WildBear to bring our market experience to the table and they were able to bring their amazing creative vision. Together we have made an incredible and entertaining series and I look forward to working with them again well into the future.

MEET OUR BELOVED CHARACTERS

[JULIA BAKER]

Born in Brisbane, Australia in 1969 to an English mum and a German dad, Julia moved to Europe with her parents where they lived in England, before settling in Germany when Julia was 10.

After leaving school at the age of 16, Julia successfully completed an apprenticeship as a baker and then another one in confectionary.

Julia used these skills when she returned to Australia at the age of 24, and quickly climbed up the ranks within the 5-star hotels.

After a marriage and two daughters later, Julia took the same path as her parents had done years previously in becoming a puppeteer and self-employed.

Her marriage break-up and a following bout of depression is what drove Julia into wanting more out of life, and having always been a “pleaser” to others, she decided it was time to take care of herself for once.

“I didn’t want to become a victim or even just a survivor – there had to be a way I could turn this situation around to an even better life for myself and my girls!” Julia says.

It started with a bucket list and amongst the many things she has now successfully ticked off (including finding her dream man, owning a huge motorbike with side-car and setting up two businesses), her greatest passion remains her love for snakes – in particular the venomous species.

In 2010, she joined the ranks of only a handful of snake catchers that work full time (especially during the hot snake season months) for Brisbane residents/businesses that require a snake to be relocated from their premises.

Two years later, she founded her business ‘1300-Catch it’ and trained her partner Johny up in hope that they could keep up with the ever growing demand for snake catchers within the city and suburbs of Brisbane.

As well as providing an efficient and friendly service – Julia feels it is her mission to help eradicate the old Aussie saying “a good snake is a dead snake” with the new one “a good snake is a respected snake”.



MEET OUR BELOVED CHARACTERS

[JOHNY GALLACHER]

Born in Glasgow in 1969, to a working class background, John left school at 16 with average qualifications but an urge to do better in life, eventually becoming a qualified heavy vehicle mechanic.

The next 25 years saw him working long, hard and often difficult days and nights providing for his two sons and wife.

He often dreamt of a life with more free time and the sunshine to enjoy it. A move to Australia found John in an entirely different world with new opportunities and a more relaxed lifestyle.

Sadly, the already rocky marriage fell apart and he found himself all alone. The fear of the unknown was more than matched by the fear of the Australian wildlife, often finding John refusing to venture out at night or even walking on grass due to snakes or the dreaded mosquito!!

Eighteen months after arriving in the 'land down under', John found the love of his life in Julia Baker, a snake catching, motorbike riding divorcee and mother of two young girls. Sparks flew and they soon became a couple.

An encounter with her pet snakes and a snake call out on their second date changed his fear to admiration, as he quickly recognised the grace and beauty of these reptiles. A year later, he completed a venomous snake catching course and after some training set out to work for Julia's business '1300-Catch it'.

John also works in a fly-in fly-out mechanics job in Roma, Queensland - working two weeks, on two weeks off. In the hot summer months, John's weeks off can quickly pass, helping Julia in rescuing the Brisbane population from the snakes.

MEET OUR BELOVED CHARACTERS

[BONNY BAGPIPES]

Bonnie started life as 'Coco' and spent her first year neglected, and tied up in a backyard, before being rescued and dropped off at the Peninsula Animal Aid (PAA) shelter.

The loveable Jack Russell found a new home after Julia Baker and Johny Bagpipes, saw her on the internet and she's now being trained up to be one of Australia's first snake detection dogs.

She is a keen reptile lover and enjoys taking long walks on the beach.



MEET SOME OF OUR CREW



MANDY LAKE **DIRECTOR/ WRITER/ CO-EDITOR**

Ex-photojournalist and investigative journalism tutor, Mandy Lake, came home to roost (roast?) in the glorious world of filmmaking in 2004 when she co-established Flickchicks film production house with producer Margie Brown.

In 2011, Mandy directed, wrote and edited the award-winning ABC TV-commissioned documentary, *The 100+ Club*. Despite being initially quite snake phobic, she directed, wrote and co-edited *Snake Sheila* for Discovery Channel's Animal Planet International and is now entertaining the idea of getting a pet python.

She is now being run legless on a slate of TV series including: *The Third Eye*, *Show and Tell*, and *All Tucked Up: A Dragumentary*.



MARGIE BROWN **CO-PRODUCER**

Following illustrious careers as a Zambesi river guide, moth breeder, and journalist (she also authored the well-received *Careers That Started in Science* book), Margie Brown turned to producing in 2004 after co-hatching film production house Flickchicks with director Mandy Lake.

In 2011 she produced the documentary, *The 100+ Club*, for ABC TV (which won the United Nations Association of Australia, Media Peace Award for Promotion of Positive Images of the Older Person), and she has also produced dozens of documentary-style films for government and corporate clients across Australia.

Snake Sheila is her first TV series.



VERONICA FURY **CO-PRODUCER**

Veronica Fury is a principal and executive producer at WildBear Entertainment. Veronica is an ACCTA nominated and ATOM award winning producer, whose screen content has reached audiences around the world from ABC and SBS in Australia, to ZDF/Arte, TG4 and Arte France internationally.

Veronica has worked with award winning directors like Mark Hartley and Lawrence Johnson across her feature documentary slate including *Machete Maiden's Unleashed!* (2010, ABC, MIFF, TIFF), *The Curse of the Gothic Symphony* (2011, ABC, MIFF), and *Electric Boogaloo: The Wild Untold Story of Cannon Films* which she co-produced with RatPac Documentary Films in 2014 and premiered at Toronto International Film Festival.

Veronica is currently developing and producing a broad range of television series and feature documentary productions.

PETER WRIGHT
CAMERA



Peter Wright is a director of photography who has been a working lighting camera operator for more than 15 years. After being employed with Channel 7 for four years he joined BSKYB in London. In London Peter worked on sport and studio productions, before specialty training to become a successful jimmy jib operator. In 2005 Peter returned to Australia to work on a freelance basis. Since the return home Peter has specialised in reality television, working on productions for both free-to-air and subscription channels, including shows Amazing Race, House Rules, Celebrity Get Me Outta Here, Hot Plate, Snake Sheila and Wild But True just to name a few. As a result of Peter's professional and easygoing nature he develops a wonderful relationship with directors, crew and talent.

CAMERON BROWNE
CAMERA



Cameron has been shooting for seven years, and spent a few months dedicated to filming Snake Sheila. Cameron has shot news for the last five years and likes to think that that skill of run and gun that news cameramen use is taken advantage of in Snake Sheila.

TRAVIS BROWN
SOUND



Travis got his start as a location sound recordist in the film and TV industry on CBS's Survivor back in 2007. After 12 seasons working his way through the ranks of the audio dept he has been fortunate enough to see a lot of the world whilst capturing some great sound bites. Also having completed two seasons of Amazing Race Australia (one working along side our very own cameraman Peter Wright) he has definitely earned his stripes as a run and gun audio guy. Aside from traveling the world with reality shows he has also worked on many of Australia's biggest format TV shows back home along with numerous commercials, corporate projects, travel shows and live broadcasts.

SCOTT WALTON
EDITING



Scott is a freelance editor with a committed focus on documentary and drama. In 2013 Scott was awarded an 'Ellie' by the Australian Screen Editor's Guild for Best Editing in a Documentary Feature for the film Show Me The Magic - The Adventures of Don McAlpine. In 2012 he was nominated for the same award for the documentary feature The Curse of the Gothic Symphony and in 2008 Scott received an AFI nomination for Best Editing In A Documentary for the film Rare Chicken Rescue which was nominated for a total four AFI awards including Best Documentary.

BEN JURSS
EDITING



Ben started out as an editing assistant on The Crocodile Hunter television series and various Ben Cropp documentaries before becoming senior editor for 10 series of the fishing action show, Escape with ET, hosted by ex-rugby league star Andrew Ettingshausen. Ben also spent 18 months in the UK working on TV series such as The House of Tiny Tearaways and Weird Connections. Additionally Ben has had much experience with corporate and music videos, and has also won awards in the short film arena, winning the Coffs Harbour 'Cool Bananas' Film Festival and The Courier-Mail 'Short Cuts' Short Film Festival.

ASHLEIGH HARDING
EDITING



Ashleigh began producing and editing corporate and online eLearning programs at the award winning Beyondedge as their video and motion graphics producer. Here she led the production team and created programs for such clients as BHP Billiton, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and CSIRO. In 2014, Ashleigh completed her Masters Degree in Screen Production, with a major in Post Production. As part of Griffith's Masters program, Ashleigh was fortunate enough to work as assistant editor to Scott Walton on her first feature film, Bullets for the Dead. This working relationship then led Scott and Ashleigh to work together again, this time as part of the editing team behind Animal Planet's new doco-wildlife series Snake Sheila.

JOSEF SWITAK
EDITING



Film and television have always been huge parts of Josef's life. After studying IT straight out of school, he decided to pursue a more creative career, leading to a degree in Film and Screen Media at Griffith Film School in Brisbane, Australia. During his study he tried many production roles, including directing and cinematography, before finding his passion for editing. Graduating in 2013, Josef has been cutting his teeth on numerous short dramas and documentaries, and assistant editing on larger projects. Snake Sheila is his first foray into television, and his love for documentary has only increased working with this wonderful team.

DOUGLAS WILSON
DRONE OPERATOR



Doug has been working with Flickchicks as their motion graphics artist since 2011. In 2014 he received his Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Operators Certificate which allows him to fly drones commercially in Australia. He then established his aerial cinematography company, AeroFlix, which he is piloting to great heights.

OUR COMPANIES



Nestled within the heights of Brisbane, Australia, Flickchicks first spread its wings and took off into the glorious world of film in 2004 to become a well-respected film production house, that now boasts an impressive client base and slate.

Their talented team of good eggs produces documentaries, TV series, educational and training films, television commercials, and promos for government, corporate and not-for-profit clients.

All of their films come lovingly baked in creative juices and have a strong bent towards stories that make you think, laugh, and sniffle!

Flickchicks hatched the award winning ABC TV documentary *The 100+ Club* (a film about some rather sprightly centenarians), and produced *Snake Sheila*, a 10-part international TV series for Discovery Channel's Animal Planet International.

They tend to gravitate towards thought-provoking projects that are imbued with a wonderful mix of humour, pathos and quirkiness.

Flickchicks' Mandy Lake and Margie Brown are also the artistic directors for the Heart of Gold International Short Film Festival.

If you'd like to know more about Flickchicks, please peck onto their website www.flickchicks.com.au. For all the latest news from The Coop, please like them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter.

To view a selection of Flickchicks' films and documentary trailers, please take a look at their YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/flickchicks



An integrated factual entertainment company, WildBear Entertainment works across television, theatrical, corporate, educational, and government communications.

Formed after the 2014 merger of Australian production companies WildFury and Bearcage, WildBear combines the skills and experience of respected producers Bettina Dalton, Veronica Fury, Serge Ou, and Michael Tear. Former CEO of Southern Star, Hugh Marks, is Chair of the Company.

With offices in three Australian capital cities and a comprehensive catalogue of completed projects — including co-productions with leading international and Australian broadcasters such as National Geographic, Discovery, ZDF, Arte, CCTV9, FINAS Malaysia, PBS, Beijing TV, ABC TV, Seven Network, SBS, FOXTEL, and the Nine Network — WildBear is an ideal co-production partner for international producers and broadcasters.

WildBear also owns Content Mint (formerly Absolutely Wild Visuals), an internationally renowned stock footage library. The library holds thousands of hours of HD, 35mm, S16mm, and other high end video stock footage with a focus on travel, worldwide locations, wildlife and nature. www.wildbear.tv



Contact DETAILS

MARGIE BROWN, PRODUCER

Flickchicks Pty Ltd
Level 3, Z1 the works
8 Musk Avenue
Kelvin Grove
Queensland 4059

Phone: +61 (0) 7 3136 2578
Mobile: +61 (0) 404 062 807
Email: margie@flickchicks.com.au
Website: www.flickchicks.com.au

VERONICA FURY, PRODUCER

WildBear Entertainment Pty Ltd
1/33a Logan Road
Woolloongabba
Queensland 4102

Phone: +61 (0) 7 3891 7779
Mobile: +61 (0) 401 888 733
Email: veronica.fury@wildbear.tv
Website: www.wildbear.tv



CREDITS

CO-PRODUCED BY FLICKCHICKS AND WILDBEAR ENTERTAINMENT



CO-FINANCED BY AND PRODUCED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF SCREEN QUEENSLAND



Complete

CREDITS

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Julia Baker
John Gallacher

DIRECTED AND WRITTEN BY

Mandy Lake

PRODUCED BY

Margie Brown
Veronica Fury

EDITED BY

Scott Walton
Ben Jurss
Mandy Lake
Ashleigh Harding
Josef Switak

CAMERA

Trevor Smith
David Russell
Peter Wright
Cameron Browne
Matt Cox
Adrian Eyre
John Moffat

COMPOSER (SERIES TITLE)

Joff Bush

NARRATED BY

Jamie Dunn

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Michael Tear
Edwina Thring

PRODUCTION MANAGERS

Margie Brown
Sam Moor
Sally Wortley

SOUND RECORDIST

Angus Rex
Travis Brown

ADDITIONAL CAMERA

Margie Brown

DRONE OPERATOR

Douglas Wilson, AeroFlix
Peter Wright

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Bronwen Noakes
Bree Roe
Rebecca Vallis
Leanne Edmestone
Donna Hurley
Mandy Lake

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Bronwen Noakes
Jessica Magro
Shirin Edwards
Phillapa Tanner
Gulnaz Caplice

EQUIPMENT HIRE

Pro-Cam Broadcast Hire

FLICKCHICKS

Principals
Mandy Lake
Margie Brown

WILDBEAR ENTERTAINMENT

Principals
Bettina Dalton
Veronica Fury
Hugh Marks
Serge Ou
Michael Tear

Chief Operating Officer

Nunzio Gambale

Head of Production

James Sutherland

Head of Corporate

Wayne Brown

Head of Development

Harriet Pike

NARRATION WRITERS

Mandy Lake
Bronwen Noakes
Scott Walton

MOTION GRAPHICS
Andrés Gómez Isaza

ADDITIONAL GRAPHICS
Douglas Wilson
David Blackwell

POST PRODUCTION FACILITIES
Flickchicks
WildBear Entertainment

POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS
Margie Brown
Matthew Nightingale

FOOTAGE CONFORM/ONLINE
Cameron Kirby
Jim Wilks
Nick Arganese

COLOUR GRADE
Mina Reyad

AUDIO MIX
Naimat Ahmed
Des Shore

NARRATION RECORDING
Brett Johnson, Audio One

TRANSCRIBER
Karin Peagram

HEAD OF FINANCE
Miranda Felton

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT
Sarah Woods

LEGAL ADVISORS
Caroline Verge, Verge Whitford & Co
Lloyd Hart, Lloyd Hart Lawyers

BUSINESS AFFAIRS
Tim Dingwall, WildBear Entertainment
INSURANCE BROKER
Arthur J. Gallagher

COMPLETION GUARANTEE
Jenny Woods, Film Finances, Inc

PHOTOGRAPHS
Mandy Lake
Julia Baker
Sean Gluyas
David Blackwell
Bob Irwin
Janne Torkkola
Susan Myler

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