



Baby crocodiles, lizards and snakes were all part of the show at Mounties on Thursday. Picture: BRENT MCGILVARY -PP301477

# Show with teeth

A PYTHON that swallows wallabies and a saltwater crocodile were some of the reptiles on hand at the Kids Reptile Show at Mounties.

More than 300 excited children flocked to the first of two shows on Thursday.

Under the watchful eye of reptile handler Tony Scalas, the children got up close with reptiles such as a bearded dragon, a blue-tongue lizard, a longneck turtle, a black-headed python, a diamond python and a saltwater crocodile.

Hinchinbrook's Joel



**SLIPPERY CRITTERS:** See young ones get up close to reptiles in our video. Click on this story at [www.liverpoolleader.com.au](http://www.liverpoolleader.com.au)

Gadd, 11, said he was mesmerised by the 50cm-long saltwater crocodile named Crush. It is the largest crocodile species in the world, with the reptiles reaching 7m long.

"My favourite animal was a crocodile and I liked it because it has sharp teeth," Joel said.

"I liked (the show) be-

cause they had reptiles that could kill and some that are harmless."

Mr Scalas, who educates children and families about reptiles with his interactive shows, said children were becoming more fascinated with reptiles.

"Kids these days are right into reptiles, a lot more than when I was a kid," he said.

"They are more accepting and realise they are an important part of nature and they need to be here."

- By *Torin Chen and Maryann Wright*

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