

# Watch:

## Contribution to al Impact Assessment



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An independent primary school in the Perth  
lie expressed concern about evident  
nearby wetlands. Early investigation  
lack of suitable nesting sites were impacting  
the issue further, and with the aim  
the school successfully applied for  
the subsequent project involved close  
the Department of Environment and  
and other organisations.

Program

undertaken over  
March 2006 -  
the site was located  
ern side of Henderson  
rately flat, open,  
x 25m) was about  
ter (Figure 1). It was  
from the school  
ity members and  
school conducted the  
activities.

Activities at the site and in  
the area.

iders to discuss  
y and arrange the  
ed species.

ations at the site of  
ferred nesting places  
d) the characteristics  
dard with Figure 3).  
reactions and  
s, such as the number  
turtle nests found.

in single visits to seek  
professors.

king, make and  
recommendations to  
actions for the turtles.

### Results

The turtles used the provided decks for  
resting, but it was not safe as all the  
observed nests were predated  
(Figures 2-4).

**Turtle Watch Data** - During the study  
period 31 predated turtle nests were  
found in the total site, with another 4  
predated nests located in the nearby  
vicinity. No live hatchlings were  
observed at the site, however 5 were  
observed in the surrounding area (Figure 5).  
Recommendations related to the  
c-4). Recommendations related to the  
importance of weed control, predator  
control, pollution control and ongoing  
turtle population monitoring.

**Community Contribution** -  
Collaboration between stakeholders  
was timely and effective throughout  
the project. An effective, cooperative,  
clear working partnership between  
DEC staff and the school was a vital  
feature. Students, staff and other  
community members were involved  
in hands-on activities at the site.  
Other collaboration included advice  
from the Natural History Museum of  
Western Australia, the City of Spring  
and the Henderson Lake Wildlife  
Centre. Continued collaboration was  
recommended.

### Connectivity to Nature

Enhanced  
student and community connectivity  
to the Henderson Lake wetlands, as  
shown by improved knowledge, skills,  
behaviours and values related to the  
lake ecosystem. Further opportunities  
for participation were recommended.

### Interest in Science

Enhanced  
student and community interest  
and knowledge about the life  
cycle of the turtle and wetland  
ecosystems. Participant alignment  
improved understanding about  
the interrelationships between all  
components of the ecosystem and  
wider geographic and environmental  
systems involved in its management.  
Students' motivation and focus were  
heightened and there were  
high, well-developed and positive  
views for the wetlands and positive  
environmental behaviours transferred  
to other contexts. Ongoing visitor  
experiences in real life settings were  
recommended.

### Lessons Learnt

Need for  
integration of environmental  
projects into non-curricular school  
programs and funding for  
program support and project  
management.



**Conclusions**

A suitable nesting site for the Galah  
turtle was provided. However the  
turtle was not able to complete  
the cycle as the nest was predated.  
This is a valuable contribution to the  
project for wetland conservation  
and government agencies on site.  
The high level of motivation  
and interest in the project was  
evident. Continued collaboration was  
recommended to ensure the  
management of the site.



### TURTLE WATCH

Acknowledging Turtle Watch

1. Health and Safety  
2. Predator Control  
3. Pollution Control  
4. Weed Control  
5. Ongoing Monitoring

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