

Turtle Watch News 15



Dec 2012

Festive greetings turtle watchers ...

News from the Eco Centres

Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC):

Key developments include:

- 5000 turtle book marks printed and distributed amongst the 3 centres
- Turtle Watch display at the new Canning LeisurePlex which was officially opened on 5 September. Display stayed in place for 3 weeks, then was returned to CREEC and remained in CREEC public foyer for another 3 weeks.
- Turtle Watch presentation/promotion presented at the Threatened Species Day event at CREEC on 8 September by Hayley Bullimore.
- Turtle Watch interactive display at the Colours of Science Community Expo (19 Aug) & Sustainability Eco Fair (8 Dec).
- Turtle Watch hotline was promoted in the last issue of the CREEC newsletter.
- 'Turtles of Yellagonga Regional Park' video currently being shown on CREEC public foyer monitor.

Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre (HLWC):

HLWC reported a great story regarding the rescue of an oblong turtle at UWA. The turtle had come out to lay eggs, was rescued on Hackett Drive, and placed back in the Swan River, 300m down where there was more habitat for nesting. See photos below.



Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre (CWEC):

CWEC continues to promote Turtle Watch in many ways, ranging from distributing the bookmarks, conducting displays and workshops, the Turtle Hotline and arranging for a poster presentation at the forthcoming World Wetlands Day conference early next year.

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SERCUL:

SERCUL maintains an ongoing commitment to Turtle Watch. Amongst its extensive range of environmental initiatives, SERCUL continues to support Turtle Watch in similar ways to those listed previously.

Sincere thanks to all the eco centres involved for their continuing support.

Turtle Watch Conference Poster

The ongoing partnership between *Turtle Watch* and ClimateWatch supported the design of a *Turtle Watch* conference poster. The poster was part of a *Turtle Watch* presentation at the 17th Biennial AAEE 2012 Conference, *Creating your next Courageous Steps (Next Steps 2012)*, 30th September – 3rd October 2012 in Melbourne. Copies of the conference poster are also displayed at the eco centres to facilitate ongoing promotion of the *Turtle Watch* initiative.

Turtle Education

The Turtle Education Resource Kit is completed and has been uploaded onto the AAEE WA website. See: <http://www.aaewa.org.au/turtlewatchedkit.html>
Further information relating to the Kit can be obtained by contacting Elaine:
Elaine.Lewis@education.wa.edu.au

Many community turtle education events have been conducted this year, for example:

- Sunday 4th March - the City of Canning organised a *Jazz in the Park* event in the Kent St weir park, along with a *Turtle Watch* session and display at CREEC.
- Friday 23rd March - oblong turtle presentations by Caitlyn Bartholomaeus (Murdoch Uni PhD candidate), Coolbinia Primary School.
- Friday 30th March - CREEC's *Earth Day* celebrations featured *Turtle Watch* sessions.
- Wednesday 11th April - *Turtle Creations* workshop, Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre.
- Friday 27th April - turtle session during *Evening at the Forest*, Baldivis Children's Forest.
- 18th June - Bold Park Community School.
- 19th August - CREEC Science Expo.
- 1st September - CREEC Little Green Steps launch.
- 3rd October - AAEE Conference, Melbourne.
- 8th December – CREEC Sustainability Fair.

These events were not funded by the Lotterywest grant, illustrating the ongoing success and sustainability of *Turtle Watch*. Furthermore, the eco centres are conducting ongoing *Turtle Watch* education sessions, such as the three conducted in August by Vicky Hartill, City of Cockburn.

Turtle Sightings

During the last 21 months of the project there were:

- Over 50 hotline calls and

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- 165 turtle recordings on the ClimateWatch site.

Your input provided valuable data to our eco centre staff and researchers. Many thanks for your participation.

Many thanks to our turtle watchers. Please keep the reports coming in as they help us build a picture of what is happening in the community.

Action:

1. If you see oblong turtle nesting behaviour in the 3 research areas –

- Herdsman Lake (Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, HLWC),
- Bibra Lake (CWEC),
- Canning River (CREEC/SERCUL),

please advise the eco centre staff immediately and complete the *Turtle Watch* hotline form. HLWC, CWEC, CREEC or SERCUL will then contact Elaine, who will inform Joe, so that camera surveillance may be set up to determine predator/s involved in the destruction of nests. Thank you.

2. Please report other turtle sightings too. Visit the ClimateWatch website to log turtle sightings: <http://www.climatewatch.org.au/>

Surveillance Cameras:

Joe Tonga (Consultant) is continuing camera surveillance to collect video evidence of nest predation.

Turtle *Oblonga* Rescue and Rehabilitation Network

The Turtle *Oblonga* Rescue and Rehabilitation Network aims to provide the expertise and capacity needed to save Oblong Turtles in emergency situations. Email: secretaryoblonga@iinet.net.au

Oblong Turtle Collaborative Research Group

Caitlyn (Murdoch University) and Shino's (UWA) turtle research (PhDs) is progressing steadily. Stuart Dawson (Murdoch University) is a new turtle researcher who commenced his Honours study of turtles this year.

E-bulletin

The 14th e-bulletin was circulated to stakeholder groups:

1. Turtle Watch project team: Dr Jacqueline Giles (Oblong Turtle Consultant); Joe Tonga (Camera Surveillance Consultant); and Dr Jennifer Pearson (Community Education Consultant).
2. Eco-education centres: Roger Harris (HLWC); Vicky Hartill & Denise Crosbie (CWEC); and Hayley Bullimore (CREEC).
3. Oblong Turtle Collaborative Research Group: Dr Catherine Baudains, Dr Jane Chambers & Dr Mirela Tulbure (Murdoch Uni); Caitlyn Bartholomaeus (Murdoch Uni PhD candidate); Shino Hamada (UWA PhD candidate); and participants listed in 1 & 2 above.
4. City of Cockburn: Climate Change Adaption funding for an 'Oblong Turtle Population and Recruitment Capacity Study' (CWEC).
5. Environmental and Landcare departments/organisations committed to oblong turtle conservation e.g. DEC, SERCUL.

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6. Friends/volunteer groups interested in oblong turtle conservation e.g. Friends of Herdsman Lake and Canning River Regional Park Volunteers.

Feedback following the Sept 2012 e-bulletin was received from: DEC, CWEC, CREEC, SERCUL, HLWC and community members. Thanks for your interest and support.

Turtle Watch Information

For further information, you are welcome to contact Elaine Lewis at:

Elaine.Lewis@education.wa.edu.au

Thank YOU



Australian Association for Environmental Education -WA

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