

# *Turtle Watch* News 13



June 2012

Welcome to a new phase of *Turtle Watch* ... the project is continuing ...

## **Lotterywest Grant**

*Turtle Watch*, initially a twelve month project funded by Lotterywest, commenced in April 2011. Due to considerable community interest in this project, an extension was granted by Lotterywest. The project will continue for another year to enable the documentation of:

- New initiatives that have arisen as a result of the project, such as additional community education sessions and a conference presentation.
- Additional camera surveillance and research evidence related to predation of turtle nests.

Sincere thanks to all our stakeholders for your outstanding support and commitment to *Turtle Watch*. Thank you.

## ***Turtle Watch* conference poster**

The partnership between *Turtle Watch* and ClimateWatch enabled not only the design and printing of 2000 promotional bookmarks, as well as poster advertising for the **Turtle Hotline** and ClimateWatch website ... but also a conference poster. The poster will be part of a *Turtle Watch* presentation at the 17th Biennial AAEE 2012 Conference, *Creating your next Courageous Steps (Next Steps 2012)*, 30<sup>th</sup> September – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012 in Melbourne. A draft of the conference poster is currently being prepared by ClimateWatch.

Numerous copies of the final poster will be printed, not only for the conference but also for the eco centres involved, to facilitate ongoing promotion of the *Turtle Watch* initiative.

## **Turtle Education**

Since the start of this year, the draft *Turtle Education Kit* has been trialled at:

- Coolbinia Primary School during first term,
- CREEC during events in March, and
- CWEC in the April school holidays.

Sincere thanks to all trial participants. Your input and feedback has been invaluable.

The kit can be accessed online this month: <http://www.aaeewa.org.au/partnerships.html>  
For further information contact Elaine: [Elaine.Lewis@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Elaine.Lewis@education.wa.edu.au)

***Turtle Watch* Aims:** 1. Identify predator/s involved in the destruction of oblong turtle nests at three sites – Hardsman Lake, Bibra Lake and Canning River. 2. Foster partnerships between the community, research organizations, educational institutions and industry in relation to the conservation of oblong turtles.

Numerous community turtle education events have been conducted so far this year:

- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> March - oblong turtle presentations by Caitlyn Bartholomaeus (Murdoch Uni PhD candidate), Coolbinia Primary School.
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March - CREEC's *Earth Day* celebrations featured *Turtle Watch* sessions.
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April - *Turtle Creations* workshop, Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre.
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April - turtle session during *Evening at the Forest*, Baldivis Children's Forest.

These events were not funded by the Lotterywest grant, illustrating the ongoing success and sustainability of *Turtle Watch*.

Three further turtle education events are currently scheduled:

- Bold Park Community School on 18<sup>th</sup> June,
- CREEC on 19<sup>th</sup> August, and
- AAEE Conference, Melbourne, in October.

### **Turtle Sightings**

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 can 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/>

During the first year of the project there were:

- Over 30 hotline calls and
- 85 turtle recordings on the ClimateWatch site.

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

### **Surveillance Cameras:**

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

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## **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](mailto: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 twelfth 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.
6. Friends/volunteer groups interested in oblong turtle conservation e.g. Friends of Herdsman Lake and Canning River Regional Park Volunteers.

Feedback on the March 2012 e-bulletin was received from: Dajun Wang (UWA Science student), Stephen Davis (Beckenham Primary School), DEC, CWEC, CREEC, SERCUL, Baldivis Children's Forest, Bold Park Community School, and Coolbinia Primary School.

## **Turtle Watch Information**

For further information, you are welcome to contact Elaine Lewis at: [Elaine.Lewis@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Elaine.Lewis@education.wa.edu.au)

Thank YOU



Australian Association for Environmental Education -WA

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