

# *Turtle Watch News 3*



June 2011

Welcome! Continued progress this month for *Turtle Watch* ...

## **Turtle Education Events**

Two turtle education events are scheduled in July and August:

- ✚ Saturday 16th July 10-11am at the Cockburn Wetlands Centre: Get Wild About Wetlands – presentation by Dr Jacqueline Giles.
- ✚ Sunday 21st August 10-3pm at the Canning River Eco Centre: Community Science Fair – turtle activities stall organized by Elaine Lewis.

Jacqueline's presentation will outline the latest scientific understandings about the Oblong Turtle, while Elaine's stall aims to highlight issues impacting on the survival of the Oblong Turtle through various educational activities.

Everyone welcome.

## **Surveillance Cameras:**

Two surveillance cameras for the project arrived last Friday. These cameras have video and audio capability. Joe Tonga (Consultant) will be setting up the cameras soon, so further evidence is anticipated. Joe has already obtained footage of a fox digging up hen's eggs at Herdsman Lake. See: <http://youtu.be/syxWgssIKLO>

## **Turtle Education Pack**

Elaine commenced the collection of resources for a turtle education pack. The library search continues. CWC, Excelsior Primary School and Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise contacted Elaine about sharing their education resources. Elaine will continue to liaise with these groups.

## **Turtle Hotline Poster Promotion**

*Turtle Hotline* posters encouraging community participation are on display at the 3 sites – Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre (HLWC), Cockburn Wetlands Centre (CWC) & Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC). No reports have been received by the Centres yet, which isn't surprising given this is a 'quiet' time of the turtle year.

## **Partnership with UWA**

Elaine is working with third year UWA Science Communication students to develop a communication plan for *Turtle Watch*. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 15<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May meetings were held with three Science Communication students working on the project. Elaine attended the final presentation of the communication plan on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Recommendations were made. The *Turtle Watch* team will consider the implementation of these recommendations. Sincere thanks to the students for their contribution to the project.

**Turtle Watch Aims:** 1. Identify predator/s involved in the destruction of oblong turtle nests at three sites – Herdsman 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.

## **Oblong Turtle Collaborative Research Group**

The last meeting of the Oblong Turtle Collaborative Research Group was held on 24<sup>th</sup> May. Interested stakeholders are welcome to contact Elaine for further information.

### **E-bulletin**

The second e-bulletin was circulated to the various 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 (CWC); and Hayley Bullimore & Tanya Porter (CREEC).
3. Oblong Turtle Collaborative Research Group: Dr Catherine Baudains, Dr Jane Chambers & Dr Mirela Tulbure (Murdoch Uni); Caitlyn Bartholomaeus (Murdoch Uni PhD candidate – oblong turtle research); and participants listed in 1 & 2 above.
4. City of Cockburn: Climate Change Adaption funding for an ‘Oblong Turtle Population and Recruitment Capacity Study’ (CWC).
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 to the May e-bulletin was received from CWC, CREEC, HLWC, SERCUL, Friends of Herdsman Lake, Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise, Excelsior and Coolbinia Primary Schools. Thank you.

### **Turtle Watch Information**

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

[Elaine.Lewis@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:Elaine.Lewis@det.wa.edu.au)

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Thank YOU



Australian Association for Environmental Education -WA

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