

# *Turtle Watch* News 8



November 2011

Welcome! ... to *Turtle Watch* this very active month ...

## **Whoya gonna call? ... No, not Ghostbusters but Turtlewatchers! Typical call out ... for Joe Tonga ...**

Date: Thursday 17 Nov 4pm. Weather: Raining.

Joe received call from concerned public Turtle Watch participant near Lake Monger.

Within 20mins load camera gear and mount Turtlewatcher vehicle, sliding around corners while driving to location. Dangerous wet roads.

4.30pm. Pouring cats and dogs, met participant. Participant shows where turtle has nested.

5.00pm. Check site. No eggs! Turtle displayed nesting behaviour but didn't actually lay eggs.

5.30pm. Turtlewatcher hides behind trees while pouring with rain, watching turtles slowly coming out of lake.

6.00pm. Several turtles appear to attempt to lay eggs, but ground not suitable. They then turn around and struggle back to lake.

6.30pm. Call out over....maybe next time.

Conclusion: Turtles attempt to dig holes but give up if ground not suitable. Do not lay eggs. Return to lake.

**Action:** If you see nesting behaviour, especially 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 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 ... hopefully ... determine predator/s involved in the destruction of nests. Thank you.

## **Turtle Publicity**

A partnership between *Turtle Watch* and ClimateWatch is being developed so that promotional bookmarks can be distributed to the general public. 2000 bookmarks are to

**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.

be printed. ClimateWatch is committed to turtle conservation; see their website to log turtle sightings: <http://www.climatewatch.org.au/>

### **Turtle Education**

The last two turtle education events funded by the grant were conducted this month:

#### ***Turtle Watch at the Manning Park Rotary Spring Fair***

This *Turtle Watch* stall for the City of Cockburn was conducted by Elaine on Sunday 6 November, 11am-5pm. Over 100 people visited the stall; mostly families with young children. Elaine used clay and playdough turtle-making activities as a vehicle for talking about the biology and habitat needs of oblong turtles.

Many thanks to Vicky Hartill from the City of Cockburn for providing the facilities to conduct this successful community education event.

#### ***Turtle Watch at CREEC***

60 people visited CREEC to hear a talk on turtles presented by Dr Jacqueline Giles. This final education event was held on Thursday 17 November, 6.45-9.45pm. Following Jacqueline's presentation, Elaine outlined the history and aims of the Turtle Watch project. Participants enthusiastically engaged in question and answer sessions and continued their turtle discussions over supper.

Sincere thanks to Dr Giles for an extremely engaging and informative presentation and to Hayley Bullimore at CREEC for enthusiastically hosting the event.

#### ***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. Membership of the Network is free. You can contact the Network: C/- PO Box 4206, Myaree, 6154, or by email at: [secretaryoblonga@inet.net.au](mailto:secretaryoblonga@inet.net.au)

#### ***Oblong Turtle Collaborative Research Group***

Turtle research in Caitlyn (Murdoch University) and Shino (UWA) PhDs is progressing as planned. Dr Giles' turtle study at Bibra Lake is also continuing. For further information contact Elaine: [Elaine.Lewis@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:Elaine.Lewis@det.wa.edu.au)

#### **E-bulletin**

The seventh 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 & Kirsty Rowland (CREEC).
3. Oblong Turtle Collaborative Research Group: Dr Catherine Baudains, Dr Jane Chambers & Dr Mirela Tulbure (Murdoch Uni); Caitlyn Bartholomaeus (Murdoch Uni)

***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.

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 October e-bulletin was received from:  
CWEC, CREEC, HLWC and Coolbinia Primary School.

### ***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)

Thank YOU



Australian Association for Environmental Education -WA

***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.