

Turtle Watch News 9



December 2011

Season's greetings!
Welcome! ... to *Turtle Watch* for December ...

***Turtle Watch* Bookmarks ... available!**

A partnership between *Turtle Watch* and ClimateWatch has enabled the design and printing of 2000 promotional bookmarks. These *Turtle Watch* bookmarks are being distributed to the general public by the project eco centres (CREEC, HLWC, CWEC and SERCUL). ClimateWatch is committed to turtle conservation; see their website to log turtle sightings: <http://www.climatewatch.org.au/>

Turtle Education

Six turtle education events have been conducted in 2011, two each for CREEC, HLWC and CWEC. These community events, ranging from workshops, to seminars and fair stalls, were funded by the Lotterywest grant.

A school education kit is now being prepared, incorporating *Turtle Watch* learning experiences for children from K-7. The kit, linked to the Australian Curriculum, will be trialed in Term 1, 2012, at Coolbinia Primary School. Student materials developed from the kit are intended to be displayed in public places, such as shopping centres and libraries, to provide ongoing publicity about the turtle's plight. The kit will be available online later in the year. For further information contact Elaine:

Elaine.Lewis@det.wa.edu.au

Turtle Sightings

By mid December observations at Herdsman Lake recorded considerable nesting activity during the preceding three weeks. This activity was attributed to the warm humid weather at that time. Also reported was "... predated nests are not scratched up by foxes; hole is intact with minimal damage". However, signs of Ibis probing were observed; suggesting the Ibis probes around till they discover the nests and eat the eggs. The Purple Swamp Hen is reportedly similarly involved on some occasions (hole is more dug up); as well as ravens, seen scratching around trying to find eggs.

Action: If you see 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 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.

***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.

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@iinet.net.au

Oblong Turtle Collaborative Research Group

Turtle research for Caitlyn (Murdoch University) and Shino's (UWA) PhDs is progressing. Dr Giles' turtle study at Bibra Lake is also continuing.

E-bulletin

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

Turtle Watch Information

For further information, you are welcome to contact Elaine Lewis at:
Elaine.Lewis@det.wa.edu.au

Thank YOU



Australian Association for Environmental Education -WA

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