

Turtle Watch News 10



January 2012

Welcome to the New Year! ... and to *Turtle Watch* in 2012 ...

***Turtle Watch* Bookmarks ... enthusiastic feedback!**

A partnership between *Turtle Watch* and ClimateWatch enabled the design and printing of 2000 promotional bookmarks. These *Turtle Watch* bookmarks are being distributed to the general public through the project eco centres (CREEC, HLWC, CWEC and SERCUL). Feedback about the bookmarks has been extremely positive so many thanks to ClimateWatch for their fabulous support. Lotterywest funding also contributed to the printing of these bookmarks.

Turtle Education

Six community turtle education events were 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 will 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 this year. For further information contact Elaine: Elaine.Lewis@det.wa.edu.au

Turtle Sightings

Numerous turtle sightings south of the Swan River have been documented this month. Nesting behaviour was observed. As one turtle watcher reported, "*I watched an oblong turtle laid her eggs at the lake in Sanctuary Waters Estate in Canning Vale*". Another turtle watcher sadly reported seeing "*5 dead turtles on North Lake Road*".

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.

Actions:

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.

***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.

2. Please report other turtle sightings too. Visit the ClimateWatch website to log turtle sightings: <http://www.climatewatch.org.au/> ClimateWatch is committed to turtle conservation and is working closely with the *Turtle Watch* team and the *Oblong Turtle Collaborative Research Group*. Alternatively, you may phone the Turtle Hotline at your closest eco centre to report your sighting.

Surveillance Cameras:

Joe Tonga (Consultant) reported ongoing commitment to the project. He has lost count of how many times he has driven to possible sites to set up a surveillance camera! His most recent trip was to the site at Sanctuary Waters in Canning Vale, where a turtle was observed laying eggs. However, this site was unsuitable for camera set up because it was open; no trees within 15 metres of the nest.

Despite these setbacks, Joe previously obtained footage of a fox digging up hen's eggs at Herdsman Lake. See:

<http://youtu.be/syxWgssIKL0>

Joe also devoted part of his website to the *Turtle Watch* project. Check out:

www.wildlifesurveillance.wordpress.com

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

Caitlyn (Murdoch University) and Shino's (UWA) turtle research is progressing steadily.

E-bulletin

The ninth 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.

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Feedback on the December e-bulletin was received from: CWEC, CREEC and numerous teachers.

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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