

Turtle Watch News



May 2011

Welcome! Great progress this month...

Surveillance Cameras:

Joe Tonga (Consultant) has ordered surveillance cameras for the project. In the mean time he has been using his own surveillance equipment to experiment with catching a fox on camera and to get to know fox movements within our target areas. Thanks Joe for your commitment to the project. Joe has obtained footage of a fox digging up hen's eggs at Herdsman Lake. See:

<http://youtu.be/syxWgssIKLO>

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

www.wildlifesurveillance.wordpress.com

Action: Delivery of two new cameras is expected at the end of this month. These cameras will be installed by Joe at the Herdsman and Bibra Lake sites. Trials can then commence to determine the filming characteristics of these instruments.

***Turtle Hotline* Poster Promotion**

Elaine Lewis (Project Coordinator) prepared and distributed draft *Turtle Hotline* posters to the 3 sites – Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre (HLWC), Cockburn Wetlands Centre (CWC) & Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) – to encourage community participation.

Action: Eco centres please advise if further assistance is required in relation to your poster and/or whether there has been any response to the poster.

***Turtle Watch* Promotion**

Vicky Hartill, from the CWC, arranged a poster display about the *Turtle Watch* project at the Harvest Lakes Community Festival. This Festival was held on Sunday 9th April and was run by the Harvest Lakes Residents' Association. The display included information about the current *Turtle Watch* project as well as the original project conducted during 2006-2008. Thank you Vicky for organising this.

Turtle Education Pack

Elaine commenced the collection of resources for a turtle education pack. The library search has begun. CWC has also liaised with Elaine regarding a grant application for additional funding for education resources.

Action: If you have access to turtle education materials please let Elaine know.

Turtle Education Sessions

As part of the project, day and evening education sessions will be conducted at each of the three eco centres. For your information, tentative dates for these sessions are:

Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre - Saturday 15 October am (Bird Walk) and Friday 30 Sept pm (Frog Fest).

Canning River Eco Centre - Sunday 21st August 2-3pm (Science Fair) and 2nd February 2012 pm (World Wetlands Day).

Cockburn Wetlands Centre - Saturday 16th July 10-11am (Get Wild About Wetlands) and Saturday 1st or 8th October (Festival of the Lakes).

You will be advised when these dates are confirmed.

Partnership with UWA

Elaine is working with third year UWA Science Communication students to develop a communication plan for *Turtle Watch*. On 22nd April and 15th May, meetings were held with three Science Communication students working on the project.

Action: On Friday 27th May Elaine will be attending the final presentation by the students on the communication plan.

Oblong Turtle Collaborative Research Group

The next meeting of the Oblong Turtle Collaborative Research Group will be held on Tuesday the 24th May at 3.30pm. The venue is Murdoch University, in the Environmental Science seminar room (2.059A). Interested stakeholders welcome.

E-bulletin

The first e-bulletin was circulated to 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.

Action: If you know anyone who is interested in oblong turtle conservation and they wish to be added to the mailing list please ask them to contact Elaine (email below).

***Turtle Watch* Information**

The aims of *Turtle Watch* are:

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.

For further information about any aspects of the project, you are welcome to contact Elaine Lewis at: Elaine.Lewis@det.wa.edu.au

Thank YOU

