

# Turtle Watch News 14



Sept 2012

Turtle Watch Education  
Kit is ready for use...

## **Turtle Watch bookmarks and conference poster**

The ongoing partnership between *Turtle Watch* and ClimateWatch enabled another run of 5000 Turtle Watch bookmarks. These bookmarks were funded by and are being distributed by the four eco centres – CREEC, SERCUL, CWEC and HLWC.

The partnerships also supported the design of a *Turtle Watch* conference poster. The poster will be part of a *Turtle Watch* presentation at the 17th Biennial AEE 2012 Conference, *Creating your next Courageous Steps (Next Steps 2012)*, 30<sup>th</sup> September – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012 in Melbourne. Copies of the conference poster are also displayed at the eco centres to facilitate ongoing promotion of the *Turtle Watch* initiative.

## **Turtle Education**

The Turtle Education Resource Kit is completed and has been uploaded onto the AEE WA website. See: <http://www.aeewa.org.au/turtlewatchedkit.html>  
Further information relating to the Kit can be obtained by contacting Elaine:  
[Elaine.Lewis@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Elaine.Lewis@education.wa.edu.au)

Many community turtle education events have been conducted to date this year:

- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March - the City of Canning organised a *Jazz in the Park* event in the Kent St weir park, along with a *Turtle Watch* session and display at CREEC.
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - oblong turtle presentations by Caitlyn Bartholomaeus (Murdoch Uni PhD candidate), Coolbinia Primary School.
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March - CREEC's *Earth Day* celebrations featured *Turtle Watch* sessions.
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April - *Turtle Creations* workshop, Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre.
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April - turtle session during *Evening at the Forest*, Baldivis Children's Forest.
- Bold Park Community School on 18<sup>th</sup> June,
- CREEC Science Expo on 19<sup>th</sup> August,
- CREEC Little Green Steps launch on 1<sup>st</sup> September, and
- AEE Conference, Melbourne, in October.

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

These events were not funded by the Lotterywest grant, illustrating the ongoing success and sustainability of *Turtle Watch*. Furthermore, the eco centres are conducting ongoing Turtle Watch education sessions, such as the three conducted last month by Vicky Hartill, City of Cockburn.

### **Turtle Sightings**

During the last 18 months of the project there were:

- Over 40 hotline calls and
- 115 turtle recordings on the ClimateWatch site.

Your input provided valuable data to our eco centre staff and researchers. Many thanks for your participation.

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.

### **Action:**

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.

2. Please report other turtle sightings too. Visit the ClimateWatch website to log turtle sightings: <http://www.climatewatch.org.au/>

### **Surveillance Cameras:**

Joe Tonga (Consultant) is continuing camera surveillance to collect video evidence of nest predation.

### **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. Email: [secretaryoblonga@iinet.net.au](mailto:secretaryoblonga@iinet.net.au)

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

Caitlyn (Murdoch University) and Shino's (UWA) turtle research (PhDs) is progressing steadily. Stuart Dawson (Murdoch University) is a new turtle researcher who commenced his Honours study of turtles this year.

### **E-bulletin**

The thirteenth e-bulletin was circulated to stakeholder groups:

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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 June 2012 e-bulletin was received from: DEC, CWEC, CREEC, SERCUL, HLWC, Bold Park Community School, and Coolbinia Primary School.

### ***Turtle Watch Information***

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

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

Thank YOU



Australian Association for Environmental Education -WA

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