

# *Turtle Watch News 11*



February 2012

Welcome to our second last *Turtle Watch* e-bulletin ...

## **Lotterywest Grant near completion**

The Lotterywest grant that enabled the *Turtle Watch* project to go ahead is nearing completion. It started in April 2011 and will finish next month. The final e-bulletin, due to be distributed at the end of March 2012, will present a summary of project achievements. Thank you for your interest and involvement in this project.

## ***Turtle Watch* posters**

The partnership between *Turtle Watch* and ClimateWatch enabled not only the design and printing of 2000 promotional bookmarks, but also poster advertising for the **Turtle Hotline** and ClimateWatch website. Our sincere thanks to Vicky Hartill, representing the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre (CEWC), and Richard Weatherill at ClimateWatch for facilitating this latest publicity initiative.

## **Turtle Education**

The *Turtle Education Kit* is being trialled at Coolbinia Primary School this term and at CEWC in the April school holidays. The kit will be available online later this year. For further information contact Elaine: [Elaine.Lewis@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:Elaine.Lewis@det.wa.edu.au)

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. The impact of these events continues, as more are being scheduled, for example:

- The City of Canning is organising a 'Jazz in the Park' event in the Kent St weir park on Sunday 4 March from 11am to 1pm, with a *Turtle Watch* session and display at CREEC.
- CREEC's *Earth Day* celebrations on 30<sup>th</sup> March will feature *Turtle Watch* sessions this year, after capacity building (training staff and volunteers) to conduct these workshops.
- The *Turtle Watch* committee has been approached by the Baldivis Children's Forest to conduct a community education session at their centre. This event is expected to be held in Term 2 this year.

It is noteworthy that these new events are not funded by the Lotterywest grant, and therefore illustrate the sustainability of this project.

## **Surveillance Cameras:**

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

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## **Turtle Sightings**

Turtle sightings have been documented north and south of the Swan River this month, for example, at Lake Gwelup and Lake Yangebup. Unfortunately, following on from turtle deaths reported last month - “5 dead turtles on North Lake Road” - more turtle deaths were reported at Lake Yangebup.

Sincere thanks to our turtle watchers. Please keep these 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.

2. Please report other turtle sightings too. Visit the ClimateWatch website to log turtle sightings: <http://www.climatewatch.org.au/> or phone the Turtle Hotline at your closest eco centre.

## **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.

## **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)

## **E-bulletin**

The January e-bulletin (10<sup>th</sup> edition) 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 January e-bulletin was received from: CWEC, CREEC, SERCUL, HLWC, the Turtle Oblonga Rescue & Rehabilitation Network, Mirrabooka Primary School and Coolbinia Primary School. This clearly reflects considerable community interest in the *Turtle Watch* initiative.

Note: Previous editions of the Turtle Watch e-bulletin can be viewed at: <http://www.aacewa.org.au/> Click on the turtle in the middle of the page.

***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

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