

We hope this e-news will become a regular occurrence.

This Network was formed in response to the turtle crisis caused by last year's very hot Summer when many of Perth's metropolitan lakes dried up resulting in widespread turtle deaths and a mass rescue of debilitated turtles.



### Latest News

We are now incorporated, have an ABN and Tax File Number. Whoo Hoo ! The next move is to apply for inclusion on the Register of Environmental Organisations which will give us tax deductible status. We also have a great logo, as you can see.

We're about to write a letter of introduction to all the appropriate organisations we can think of - to advise about the formation of the Network and our aims. If you can think of any local groups you think we should contact, please let us know.

Although our official name is Turtle *Oblonga* Rescue and Rehabilitation Network Inc, we will also be using Turtle *Oblonga* Network as a trading name

### Website

We have a domain name – [www.turtleoblonganetwork.org.au](http://www.turtleoblonganetwork.org.au) – and are working on material to go onto the website. If anyone has any good photos of turtles (preferably with a plain background) we're looking for pictures to use on the Homepage Banner of the website. Most of our pictures are of sick turtles and their ailments.



### Why did the turtles cross the railway line ?

Member Cathy's husband drives *the Prospector* train (what a great job to have !) and alerted us to a large number of dead turtles between the rail tracks on the line between Toodyay and Walyunga National Park. After contacting WAWRC's Wheatbelt Representative, Sue, who arranged for her neighbour, the local FESA representative, we were able to access the railway service road. As expected, the bodies had been preyed upon in the few intervening days so we only found three and a bit bodies. Unfortunately the three largely intact bodies were all large females. Even though we didn't expect to find any bodies we wanted to check out the location to work out what may happened. The shells weren't mangled although one body was missing a leg which could have been due to a predator. Perhaps, as Sue says they died of fright when the trains passed over them; the trains are terrifyingly loud. We think the turtles we found were large enough to negotiate the railway lines. After looking at satellite maps (see attached) we think the turtles were heading toward the river from the very large dam 1km away on the hillside above.

### Turtles at the Tavern

Thanks to a message passed on from Jan from the Western Swamp Tortoise group, we attended a small lake at the back of a suburban shopping centre in High Wycombe. The caller was concerned that the lake was polluted and that the turtle he'd seen should be re-located. We didn't see any turtles but thought the lake was healthy (large aerator and plantings of sedges and other suitable vegetation both in and out of the water) although we had some doubts about food sources.

## Turtle Rescue

Ruth recently rescued a large female in beautiful condition (her shell looked as though it had just come out of the factory) from a back garden and relocated it into nearby wetland area.

## Dates for 2012

We've worked out some meeting dates for this year but have yet to decide on venues so if anyone's got any ideas for **free** venues we'd love to hear from you. We are required to have three General Meetings each year but can have more if wanted. Our list of priorities just keeps growing but we have planned a talk on Turtle Housing for the first General Meeting in May.

WHEN		WHERE	WHAT	
JAN	9	Mon	Department of Commerce, WA	Turtle <i>Oblonga</i> Network's Birthday
FEB	15	10am	Craftsman Cafe, Carousel Shopping Centre, Albany Highway opposite Harvey Norman	Turtle <i>Oblonga</i> Network Committee Meeting
MAY	6	Sun 10 – 4pm	Kanyana at Paxwold	Turtle <i>Oblonga</i> Network Open Day Display
MAY	13	Sun 10am	venue tbc	Turtle Oblonga Network General Meeting Talk – Basic Turtle Housing
AUG	1	Wed 10am	venue tbc	Turtle <i>Oblonga</i> Network Committee Meeting
AUG	12	10am	venue tbc	Turtle <i>Oblonga</i> Network Annual General Meeting Talk - tbc
NOV	7	Wed, 10am	venue tbc	Turtle <i>Oblonga</i> Network Committee Meeting
NOV	18	Sun, 10am	venue tbc	Turtle <i>Oblonga</i> Network General Meeting 2013 Planning

Our first public event will be a display at Kanyana's Open Day on Sunday 6 May.

Our second event will be a General Meeting and the first of what we hope will be many training sessions. We're beginning at the beginning with **Turtle Housing** and this presentation which will be given by Ruth Haight, RVN, will be held at Kanyana on Sunday 13 May between 1000-1200. The cost of \$10 will include notes and morning tea with the revenue split between Kanyana and the Turtle Oblonga Network. We'll have a variety of housing and husbandry on display to illustrate the session. Please register with Ruth – [secretaryoblonga@iinet.net.au](mailto:secretaryoblonga@iinet.net.au) – if you plan to attend.



### Good news for chocolate-loving turtle-fanciers

Swampy, the Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise group's the fund-raising chocolate turtles for will now be easier to obtain for chocolate-loving turtle-fanciers. The Margaret River Chocolate Company is opening a city outlet at 317 Murray street - between William and King Streets.