

September/October
2013

Turtle Talk



E-news for members & friends of the

Our Network was formed in response to the turtle crisis caused by 2011'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.

Although our official name is Turtle *Oblonga* Rescue & Rehabilitation Network Inc., or TORRN for short, we will also be using Turtle *Oblonga* Network as a trading name.

TURTLE SHOP

Please support us by purchasing something from our **Turtle Shop**. We will also have selected items available for sale at future events, so please bring your wallets!



DEAR NEW READERS...

We've recently expanded our mailing list to include a variety of government and non-government agencies, environmental companies, wildlife organisations and friends groups to ensure they know about us and what we are up to.

If you are reading this for the first time, we hope you enjoy our E-news. You can also check out some previous editions on our website [here](#).

Do you know of someone who might also like to receive a copy of our E-News? ☺

Please send an email to **Karen** with the word "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line and tell us their **NAME, ORGANISATION and EMAIL ADDRESS**.

Should you no longer wish to receive our E-News ☹

Please send an email to **Karen** with the word "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

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INFO FOR VET PRACTICES

We are in the process of writing a "What to do if you admit a turtle" handout to send to all Vet practices around Perth so that turtles that come into care can be dealt with more quickly.

TAKE SOME TIME OUT !

We spend a lot of time putting stories together for your information and amusement. But we speak to members/readers and mention a recent E-News story only to discover that they haven't read their Turtle Talk! We know you're busy, but it's time to make some more time for you... so put the kettle on or pour yourself a glass of something else you fancy, put your feet up and read this super-sized issue. Cheers ☺





PROJECTS

ELLENBROOK RESTORATION PROJECT

Earlier this year TORRN was contacted by the Swan River Trust (SRT) to seek advice on managing turtles during a river restoration and constructed wetlands program planned for the Ellen Brook catchment. Ellen Brook is a feeder for the Swan River and contains high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen from agricultural land use in the catchment area. These nutrients lead to algal blooms, eutrophication, oxygen debt, death of marine life and poor river health. To help address the problem, the Swan River Trust has planned works in the catchment including river restoration, creation of riffles, bank stabilisation, construction of a fish ladder and work on wetland basins in the area. It is proposed to use a filter media known as Neutralised Used Acid (NUA) or Iron Man Gypsum, a by-product of mineral-sands processing, in the constructed wetland. CSIRO research has shown NUA, which takes the form of a dark-brown loamy soil, to be effective in the treatment of nutrient-rich waters. Water will be diverted from the Ellen Brook into the basin and then back into the brook further downstream.

TORRN representatives recently met officers from the Swan River Trust on site to gain a better understanding of the proposed works and to answer questions on turtle habitat, behaviour and how to best manage their relocation during the river restoration program. The SRT will keep TORRN informed as the timing and process for the restoration is finalised. Subject to funding, it is anticipated that the first part of the program will take place in early 2014.

SERVICES WE OFFER

We are not just about Rescue and Rehabilitation of turtles. Please see our [website](#) for information about the services we provide to the community.

TURTLE RELOCATION... AKA CRITTERS WITH MITTERS

Recently we were contacted by an environmental company seeking advice on turtles for an exercise which will see turtles from one lake transferred to another lake a short distance away while their home lake is drained and deepened. As we were keen to gain some knowledge of this type of work we tagged along to see what it was all about.

It was interesting to see the record keeping process for each relocated turtle - weight, shell length-width-depth and tail measurement X three to ensure an accurate figure. As well each turtle was implanted with a microchip and a minute radio tracker - details of which were also recorded. Since relocation into the nearby lake, the turtles have been tracked daily as there was concern by the relevant Ethics Committee about what would happen to the turtles if they decided to attempt to return to their home lake (although we assured them that this was most unlikely to happen at this time of the year). Dianne tagged along on one of the tracking trips which involved Michelle from *Syrinx Environmental* walking around the edge of the lake holding aloft something which looks like a TV antenna - the looks on by-standers faces were priceless. We resisted the urge to tell the bystanders that once we'd located a strong signal we'd bring down the TV set. All relocated turtles were present, and accounted for.





COMMUNITY NEWS

BOLD PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Here are a few great photos of art projects completed by the DRAGON TRACKERS at Bold Park Community School...



A 3-D turtle !!



DEATH BY DROWNING ☹

For every good news story, there is a bad one....

We were alerted to a horrible story in late July of a young girl and her friends finding a trap containing ten dead turtles at Sherlock Park in Jane Brook.

What we don't know is if they were trapped as a result of by-catch ? for Marron or whether they were being caught for consumption. Either way this was a terrible outcome for these turtles. The sale and use of these nets in WA is illegal.

If you see any suspicious activities around your local lakes or waterways, please call the *WildCare Helpline* on 9474 9055. Please put this number in your mobile phone NOW so that you always have it to hand. Let's hope these culprits are found and dealt with.



Please read the story about WILDLIFE POACHING under the Miscellaneous pages later in this edition....



TURTLE SCULPTURES

Have you seen these fantastic turtle sculptures in the lake next to Claisebrook Cove in East Perth?



Someone managed to capture this great photo of a turtle basking on one...



TURTLE RELEASES

Both July and August were busy months for releases:

OUR SALT WATER BABE "BOBBI" AND SOME OF HER FRIENDS WERE RELEASED...

As reported in the last edition, poor Bobbi was found in salt water and came to us with a depressed carapace fracture and a snout injury.



Carapace fracture repair - "Bobbi"

We are pleased to report that Bobbi was recently released along with "Gobble" and "Toby" at this lovely site which is a long way from the sea...



Read on for more releases....



"POPEYE"...



Popeye making his way into his new home (yes he's there just in front of Ruth) was released in the same location as Murdo...

"MURDO"...



Murdo sprinting to his release in early July

AND "ESKY"

Esky was bought to Ruth by a caring tradie in his lunchbox. He was recently released at a lovely small protected wetland.



"Esky" on admission

OUR ORIGINAL NINJAS ARE ALSO ON THE LOOSE !!!

For those of you who don't know the background of our little Ninjas. We received a clutch of mangled eggs which were accidentally disturbed by gardeners in South Perth at the end of February. Remarkably, despite being extremely premature, we managed to incubate and hatch many of them. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, many of them did not survive. With recent rains and aquatic food sources now available, the two remaining hatchlings Monster (13.0g) & Tiny (7.5g) were released ☺

Just as we were preparing for their release along came another hatchling, so their smallest friend Rosie was kept back to keep it company. It's just as well that we had the extra room as hatchlings are on the move ... See the "Hatchling Central" Section in the following pages...

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK LITTLE DUDES!!



Going....



The story continues....



Going...



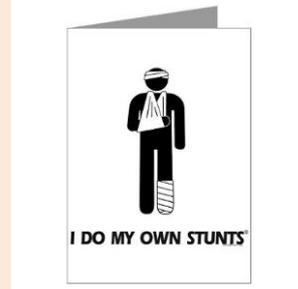
Gone...



So tiny in their big new world!!!



WHO KNEW THAT TURTLE RELEASES COULD BE SO DANGEROUS?



Whilst walking ahead to our cars after releasing these hatchlings we were oblivious to events unfolding behind us.... Dianne had slithered down a wet grassy slope in gumboots (which were lacking any form of traction) during which she heard few small noises coming from her shoulder. OUCH! (or worse?) she said to herself, but brushed it off to the rest of us as a mere flesh wound.

Dianne carried on with her turtle business that day but soreness and some impressive bruising ensued. Without ever having experienced a fracture before she was comforted by the fact that as there was no pain and that, therefore, the arm couldn't be broken.

Right ??? Wrong !!!

An X-ray revealed a "not displaced" (the important bit) fracture of the head of the humerus. One month on all is well if not entirely convenient or comfortable. Dianne says the most inconvenience has been caused by the to-ing and fro-ing between medical appointments.

Happily the specialist has said that other than taking it easy, no further treatment is required. So Dianne soldiers on and we will make sure that she is fully supervised in future ☺



Don't talk to me about
having an itch you can't scratch...



HATCHLING CENTRAL

WE SHOULD REALLY CALL THIS "THE ROYAL BABY ISSUE" AS WE THINK PRINCE GEORGE STARTED IT ALL....

INTRODUCING GEORGE ALEXANDER LOUIS, PRINCE OF CAMBRIDGE!

This cute little hatchling was found in Southern River on the same day Kate and Will named the future King, so we thought why not!



"Prince George" posing with his great Grandma!

No sooner had we released two of the February South Perth hatchlings than the "real" hatchling season commenced, stretching us to the limit!! At highest count Karen had **12** hatchlings - all were assessed, kept for a short time to ensure they were feeding and that their shells had hardened; they've since been released ☺

We can't possibly take every hatchling into care (nor is it necessary), it's usually a matter of advising the public/callers to release any active and uninjured hatchling(s) into their closest lake away from predators and into fringing vegetation. However, sometimes when we get turtle callouts the hatchlings have been found in the most unlikely places with no nearby water source... see stories to follow...

YOU FOUND A TURTLE HATCHLING WHERE....?

"ELDON"

Young Eldon 4.1g (we named him after his human rescuer) was found inside the WA Marathon Club (on the blue carpet) which is on the Swan river foreshore just in front of the Crown Casino in Burswood!! No, we couldn't make that one up if we tried!! Eldon has since been released.

We think little Eldon deserved a red carpet!



"MONGER"

Little Monger was found in the fur on the leg of the rescuer's DOG. We can only speculate that the hatchling crawled into the sleeping dog's fur in the absence of any suitably camouflaging water weed. Monger has also been released.



"BUDDY"

How many people does it take to rescue one tiny hatchling? As many as necessary! A small army of people were involved in little Buddy's rescue and transfer to us.



EAT, GROW, HIDE !

Hatchlings' mantra.

A RECENT BULK HATCHING RELEASE



ESCAPE ARTISTS

"BERTRAM"

Tortoises may be slow, but turtles are NOT as two of our members have recently been reminded. Dianne was returning home with a tiny hatchling Bertram on board after a harrowing drive through unfamiliar areas in the midst of one of the recent storms; she said she could hardly hear the SatNav's voice during the storm, let alone see the road ahead. The hatchling was in between towelling in a large unlidded ice cream container on the passenger seat beside her when she stopped just before home to pick up a bottle of wine which she felt was necessary after the experience she'd just had.

On returning to the car, and checking the hatchling, she found it had "escaped". Sneaky little hatchling had not moved at all during the journey but knew when to make his move. After checking the driver's foot-well and seat for the hatchling she decided it would be best to get home where she would have more light available to search for the hatchling - a tiny black creature in an all-black car interior . . . visions of needles in haystacks again came to mind! After beginning methodically with the front passenger area of the car the hatchling was soon found much to her relief . . . and her reputation. You don't get any points for losing a turtle !

Lesson learned ! Cunning little hatchlings will now be transported in a much deeper container to prevent their escape !





"THORPIE"

About a week later member Karen's Thorpie who is due for release went AWOL from his pond in the secure garden. Like the hatchling, he was missing in an escape proof area but that doesn't make the search any easier, or the concern any less. Karen didn't worry initially but then became concerned (imagining the worst, as we do) that Thorpie might be trapped somewhere. After thoroughly searching the garden, she began removing parts of the decking in case she was somewhere underneath. Fortunately before she began demolishing the garden shed, Thorpie was found to have buried herself in the garden (to aestivate) where she was left undisturbed. End of Part One. Start of Part Two...

As Thorpie was safely aestivating Karen decided to take the opportunity to spring clean the pond and make a few minor repairs so headed off to Bunnings. She returned home and started to potter around the pond when to her surprise a beady little face popped out of the water. As soon as we think we know what turtles are up to, they prove us wrong. Turtles rule!

How fast is a turtle? **Faster than you think!**

How well is a turtle camouflaged? **Better than you think!**

Where does a turtle go? **Where it wants to!**

How well does a turtle climb? **Like the legendary Himalayan Sherpa, Tenzing Norgay!**



Turtles are true escape artists. They can climb walls, hide in bushes and bury themselves. We find them in all sorts of unusual places; it's amazing how difficult they can be to find....

It was during this search that Karen found what appeared to be two dead hatchlings underneath a folded umbrella stored down the side of a shed. The hatchlings were very cold and lifeless but remembering the wisdom of our Chair Ruth Haight - *a reptile isn't dead until it's warm and dead*, the hatchlings were placed in a bucket with a very small amount of water at one end. About twenty minutes later, after being warmed by the sun, the first of the hatchlings sprang to life. Karen picked up the second hatchling and held it in her hand in the hope that the warmth might help it wake up - shortly after it opened its eyes and unfurled its legs.



The two hatchlings were placed in very shallow water in a heated tub and after two weeks are progressing well. They have voracious appetites and have been named accordingly - Hoover and Dyson. The two hungry tots, who enjoy mosquito larvae, bloodworms and brine-shrimp will shortly be released.

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of this story is that the hatchlings are believed to have come from eggs laid by Thorpie. In addition to laying two eggs in the pond (which are still in our incubator) it is thought that she laid additional eggs in the garden from which Hoover and Dyson hatched!

Postscript, Karen found yet another hatchling in the garden this past weekend and has named it Frodo ☺



TURTLE REHAB

With so many recent releases the number of turtles still in care has decreased significantly - Yay! Here are just a few stories for your reading pleasure...

"WILL"

In a quiet neighbourhood by a pretty little lake Will lay bleeding and badly injured. The victim of a dog attack, this large adult male turtle was helpless and in grave danger until young Josh found him and gently carried him home. After an internet search to obtain our phone number, Will was collected by a TORRN volunteer who immediately phoned the Vet. It was close to closing time but this animal needed urgent medical attention. To everyone's surprise, the Vet concluded that Will could be saved but would need a lot of intensive care and most probably would lose his right eye.

Today Will is still in home care and has had a few setbacks but continues to fight on. Even though his eye was surgically removed, he has a good chance of survival. The Vet has seen other turtles admitted with only one eye and in good condition indicating that they are able to hunt successfully.

Turtles use echolocation as well as sight to locate their prey and often live in cloudy water where visibility is low, yet they can still find food. As an adult, Will has perfected his hunting skills but will need time to adjust to his disability. A release site has been chosen well away from people, roads and dogs. As soon as Will is able to hunt again he will be released, it's just a matter of time.



Ruth's Turtle Hospital

ADDITIONAL FOSTER CARERS NEEDED!!!

Did you attend our Rehabilitation Workshop in April? For those of you who can realistically afford the time to rehabilitate turtles in suitable facilities at home, we are offering one-to-one advanced training in some of the techniques needed. Please get in touch with [Ruth](#) to discuss your skills and availability.



TURTLES AT A DOLPHIN CENTRE...?

Dianne was trawling the internet (as she does!) and came across a story on the Bunbury Dolphin Centre's website about an oblong hatching that they had in care and sprang into action (as she does!).

A day trip to Bunbury was duly planned to check out the Dolphin Centre, see the cute little hatchling (and a subsequent juvenile turtle) and to offer them some advice on housing and care.

Postscript: Our new best friend, Jan from the Bunbury Dolphin Centre has since released these two into a local wetland.

SOME OF OUR TURTLES CAN BECOME QUITE "FOND" OF THEIR HEATERS WHILE IN CARE. BUT A RECENT COMMENT BY ONE OF OUR HUSBANDS HAS US A LITTLE CONCERNED...



NO, THIS IS NOT AN "ADULT TOY" THAT JUST CAME IN THE MAIL. NAMES HAVE BEEN WITHHELD TO PROTECT THE GUILTY ;) OR NAÏVE ?



TURTLE RESCUES

July and August were also busy months for turtle taxiing and rescues, here are just a few:

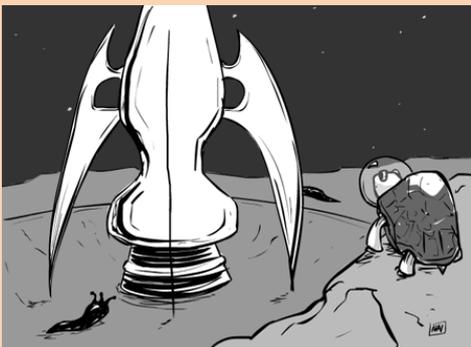
"RK" THE BUNBURY TURTLE

Member Richard was on his way back to Perth at the weekend when, just south of Bunbury on the Bussell Highway, he saw and just missed an oblong turtle on the road. Being turtle people everyone clicked into gear - they pulled off the road and the turtle was quickly retrieved by Richard before it attempted to cross the other side of the dual carriageway. Not knowing the geography of the area or of anyone in Bunbury who could take the turtle, Richard brought it back to Perth where it enjoyed a bit of R&R before going back to Bunbury. The lucky turtle was named RK for Roadkill which is what he would have been had he not been rescued by Richard.

A happy ending.....Thanks to Jan from the Bunbury Dolphin Centre we were able to get RK back to Bunbury within a few days where he was released by Jan ☺

Ruth reckons he will be telling stories to his Friends

"A funny thing happened on the way to the swamp, I was abducted by aliens, taken to their leader and fed on prawns and basked in divine radiant heat before being plonked right back in the swamp. Was it a dream?"



Take me to your leader...?

CAR Vs TURTLE

Not as lucky as RK, this adult male turtle was taken by a member of the public to a Vet clinic, we think as a result of a car accident. The poor turtle had severe damage to its shell in two places, unfortunately this turtle's injuries could not be repaired and was euthanased.



JUST CALL ME FIDO...

Ever had a turtle come through your doggy door? Well a lady in Spearwood had just that experience recently! We got the call and relocated a very disoriented male turtle to a nearby wetland!

"BINKS"

Rescuer, Katie was walking her dog on a local nature trail about 100m from a local pond when she came upon the tiny hatchling in the northern suburbs. She took the hatchling home, promptly searched the internet for advice and made sure the hatchling was comfortable and safe before contacting TORRN for advice.

One of our Turtle Taxi members was despatched to assess the hatchling and decided to take it into care. The hatchling was found in bushland, across a road with steep sided kerbs from the local pond. Had it not been for rescuer Katie it is unlikely the hatchling would have been able to make its way back to the pond. The local pond has no fringing vegetation and much of it is surrounded by a concrete wall further hindering the chances of hatchlings making it to the water. The rescuer is a Star-Wars fan and named the hatchling "Binks", after Jar Jar Binks. He/she showed strong hunting instincts from day one and enjoys large quantities of mosquito larvae and will be released to a more suitable wetland very soon.



SPREADING THE WORD

E-NEWS, ONLINE & SOCIAL MEDIA

- PICS: If you have any pictures of Oblong turtles (and/or stories about them) for inclusion into the next Turtle Talk OR the website/Facebook page, then **Karen** would love to hear from you.
- OLD STUFF: Have you been out of the loop or want to re-read something? Find previous editions of the TURTLE TALK E-News [here](#).
- NEW STUFF: Please note the following pages were recently added on our website: [Rescues](#), [Rehab & Release](#) page. Also check out the additions to our [In the Media](#) page.
- WEBSITE: We welcome your suggestions and comments about our website see: www.turtleoblonganetwork.org.au
- FACEBOOK: We are currently sitting on **262** likes and counting! Please **LIKE US** and share things of interest with your friends, as this may also assist us in gaining more likes and subsequent members.



AND SPEAKING OF MEMBERSHIP.....

- INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: **108**
- GROUP MEMBERSHIPS: **1**

To those of you who are receiving/reading this newsletter, but have not yet officially joined us as a member please do so! Numbers count. Just by becoming a member you are helping. The more members we have, the more supporters our turtles have which will be of benefit when we are lobbying on their behalf. Membership is FREE but you'll still need to complete a membership form. [Download our Membership Form](#).

CHANGED ADDRESS, EMAIL OR PHONE?

Remembering that we might need to mobilise our forces in the event of emergency, it would be great if our lists of members and friends were always up to date. Please email **Karen** any changes to your contact details.

EVENTS PAGE

UPCOMING EVENTS.....

TORRN AGM 2013, 15 SEPTEMBER 11AM @ CANNING RIVER ECO EDUCATION CENTRE

Members will, by now, have received email notification of our Annual General Meeting on 15 September at the Canning River Eco Education Centre at 11am.

Non-members are also welcome to attend as observers. Tea and coffee will be provided. Why not stay afterwards and join us for a delicious lunch at the adjoining café - at own cost. For planning purposes we'd appreciate advance notice of your attendance, or absence. A quick **email** is all we need.

WORLD ANIMAL DAY, FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2013, 1:30-4:00PM @ PINEY LAKES

We will be participating in an event on World Animal Day at Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre on Friday 4 October, 1.30 - 4:00pm. Various wildlife groups will be in attendance, including TORRN, Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre, Birds of Prey Centre and Kanyana Wildlife. Live animals will be on display during the day.

FUTURE EVENTS.....



"TURTLES UNMASKED" SEMINAR COMING UP IN 2014

We were hoping to schedule this event for World Turtle Day in May but as many of our committee members are planning to attend the National Wildlife Conference in Hobart that week, we'll choose another date in the first half of next year. More details later after we've secured a venue.

We hope to have a range of entertaining and expert speakers talking "all things turtle" including Vets, turtle researchers, ecologists and rehabilitators. If you are interested in presenting, please contact **Ruth**.



MEMBERS PROFILE

DR TIFFANY JACOBS

Hi Tiffany, please tell us a little bit about yourself...

Your Childhood...

My childhood was spent in the beautiful Northwest of the States: mountains, amazing forests and so much green. My parents were very encouraging of volunteerism from a young age, so from primary school on I have been lucky enough to participate in community and wildlife welfare and education.

Your Education...

I was selected to participate in an accelerated Pre-Vet program out of high school through Washington State University (WSU). The doors this program opened up for me saw me first arrive in Australia in 1999 for Study Abroad. I subsequently completed my Vet degree at Murdoch University, studied further in Conservation Medicine and regularly attend a variety of Continuing Education events both here and interstate.

Your Professional life...

I currently work in small animal practice in the Hills, however I also assist with the teaching of the 3rd-5th year Murdoch University Vet students in Wildlife Medicine as well as providing the vet work for Caversham Wildlife Park. I have also recently gone partners into the purchase of a vet clinic.

How you first became drawn to wildlife/turtles...

I have worked with wildlife since I was very young. I used to volunteer at shelters and wildlife rehab facilities in the States and later at WSU as part of their Raptor Rehab program. I am very interested in the nuts and bolts of wildlife care, but I also very much enjoy education of the public and those in the industry.

Your volunteering experiences...

I would have to give you my CV!



Tiffany (at varying ages) working with wildlife !

Your turtle experiences...

One of my most incredible turtle experiences was assisting my good friend Dr Sabrina Trocini with her Loggerhead sea turtle PhD on Dirk Hartog Island. So many fantastic memories of emerging hatchlings but also a very humbling experience witnessing the incredible odds they face to survive - not just natural but also the effects of man.

Why you joined TORRN...

I joined to be involved in an organisation that aims to raise the profile of such great animals.

Your current/future involvement...

Whatever TORRN is keen for, and whatever I can fit in!



If you are interested in becoming the next featured member in this column, please email [Karen](#). If you don't start volunteering, we will start targeting individuals or might even start making stuff up about you!!!



MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Thanks to members Andreia and husband Dan who have kindly donated their excess turtle equipment, we thought that Christmas had come early.



Thank you, Dan and Andreia!!

If you, or anyone you know, have any unwanted aquarium equipment we can always make good use of it. Whilst we don't have any use for glass aquariums (glass loses too much heat), every turtle in care needs a water filter, a water heater, digital thermometer and, depending on the time of the year, lamp holders for both heat lamps/emitters and a UVB lights.

POACHING OF WILDLIFE

We've all heard about it but did you know that it's also a problem in Australia, not just other countries ?

Since white settlement, almost all species of Australian wildlife have been put under pressure from our settlement practices, with some species driven to extinction. As well our wildlife is also subject to poaching and smuggling.

Oblong turtles are listed as "near threatened" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's *Red List* which is why every turtle is important.



Australian birds and reptiles are a favourite target of a global trade that stretches from backyard collectors through to high end criminal syndicates.

The illegal wildlife trade is a multi-billion dollar global industry - in the order of \$10-20 billion US. It's thought to be third behind human trafficking and drugs.

Read about how WA authorities are leading the fight against these activities [here](#).

Turtles have been all but wiped out in the wild in east Asia, driven by the food and traditional medicine markets. Demand has grown at the same fast pace as economies have grown, especially in China, bringing millions more consumers into the market.

Turtles' famed longevity has been double-edged, with the animals reputed to extend life and therefore sought after for traditional medicine and prized food dishes. Traditional Chinese medicine ascribes great power to the turtle—to purify the blood, to cure diseases and to bestow longevity or virility.

Additionally, millions of turtles are targeted by obsessive western collectors.

Turtles' life strategy is to live for a long time (~ 80 years) and combined with their slow rates of reproduction they're unable to withstand this level of exploitation.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

What can you do ?

1. Put this phone number - 9474 9055 - into your mobile phone NOW so that you always have it to hand to report suspicious or suspected illegal wildlife activities. You may also use this number to report injured wildlife.

2 If you see what you think is suspicious or illegal wildlife activity ie anyone removing turtles, birds or frogs from lakes and wetlands, the use of traps, nets or gidgees in lakes and wetlands, etc -

- Call the above number to report the activity
- If possible, surreptitiously, take a photo of the activity
- If possible, take down the license numbers of any parked cars nearby
- Do not approach the individuals yourself



Dianne came across this saying recently and we think it is pretty good:

*Turtles don't need much,
but what they do need they
MUST have!*

SQUIRT GOES HOME

Reproduced from WA Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's E-News July 2013.....

Little Squirt, a Loggerhead turtle was rescued by WAWRC member Sue from a beach near Albany in January 2012. Cold, starving, dehydrated and with an injured front flipper Squirt weighed only 346 grams. After being stabilised by WAWRC member Sue in Albany, Squirt was sent to the *Dolphin Discovery Centre* in Bunbury. For 18 months, Squirt was lovingly cared for by volunteers and staff until recently when, weighing 3.5 kilos and with a 32cm carapace length, he was flown to Exmouth with another Loggerhead Turtle for release.

Both turtles were fitted with satellite transmitters prior to release. Squirt's wasted no time making the most of his freedom, clocking up nearly 2273kms since his release about a month ago. He's heading in a west-south-west direction and is now 600kms north of Perth. If you'd like to follow Squirt's progress for the life of the transmitter's battery, see

http://www.seaturtle.org.tracking/index.shtml?tag_id=130734



IT'S RAINING MEN

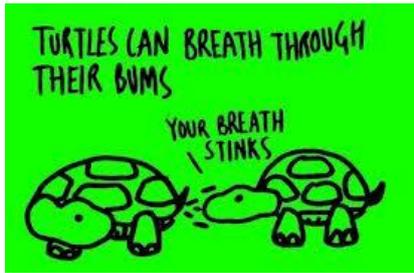
(With apologies to The Weather Girls)
Please sing along...

Humidity is rising - Barometer's getting low
According to all sources, the street's the place to go
Cause tonight for the first time
Just about half-past ten
For the first time in history
It's gonna start raining turtles

It's Raining Turtles! Hallelujah!
It's Raining Turtles! Amen!
I'm gonna go out to run and let myself get
Absolutely soaking wet!
It's Raining Turtles! Hallelujah!
It's Raining Turtles! Every Specimen!
Tiny, round, dark and clean
Small and fragile, alone and barely seen...



You've probably noticed that it's also been raining rain. Although we've received more than the average rainfall, and average number of rain days, for August we're still 100ml below the average rainfall for this time of the year. However, the rainfall figures don't always paint an accurate picture as many of the lakes and wetlands are looking better than they have for some years.



WHAT'S THE COMMON THREAD IN THESE IMAGES?

A few of the turtles we've rescued lately have been discharging their defensive smell - they were greatly distressed, and with good reason considering what they'd been through. We don't think the smell is all that bad but all the men involved with these rescues went on, and on about the smell. Sissies!

This started us thinking about worst smells so we asked some of the Committee to name their worst smells:

Dianne. Top of my list has to be raw liver (good for getting really sick turtles eating - greater love hath no woman), Stink Bugs (during my time in PNG), Insectivore (food supplement for birds in rehabilitation) and Bleach.



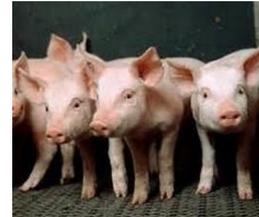
Ruth. When I worked in the lab we had a Richter scale of bad smells. Cat poo was way up there with stallion urine along with anything that had been in contact with a fox. When I worked in America and smelled Skunk, it went to the top of the list as the all-time worst; it induces vomiting at twenty paces. So glad we don't have Skunks here!



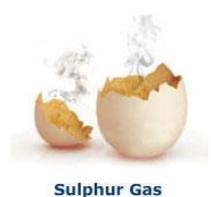
Michelle. Joey Coccidiosis (which results in bloody diarrhoea), 40 ducklings in hotboxes first thing in the morning, Exit Mould, and an *off red wine* depresses me immensely!



Vet Amy. My worst smells would have to be anal glands, piggeries, cattle necropsy and those hand-made soap shops.



Karen. Mine would be ammonia, sulphur, cat urine, wet dog and dog breath (particularly my pug Stella).



Barbara. Tawny frogmouth (a nocturnal bird) poo after a mouse dinner. Dead mouse is hard to beat, whether processed via a Tawny Frogmouth or not. Non-refrigerated fish markets in Asia . . . and last, but not least, I dug out our leach drain many years ago. That was wonderful (not).



WHAT ARE YOUR WORST SMELLS?
Email [Karen](#) and we could feature your list in a subsequent edition.



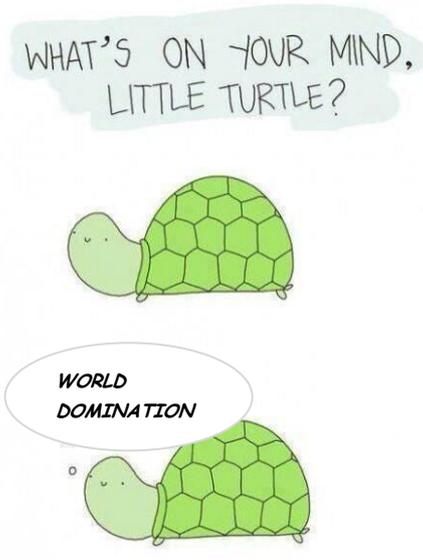
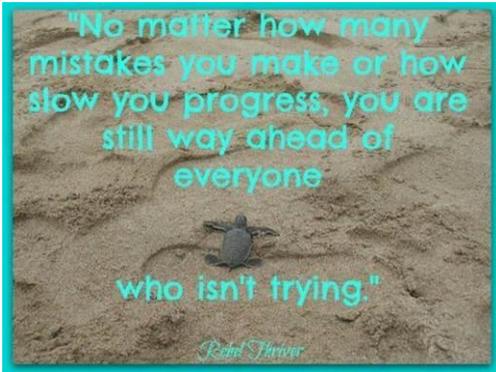
Turtle Oblonga
Rescue & Rehabilitation
Network

Turtle Talk

September/October 2013



☺☺☺ AND JUST FOR LAUGHS ☺☺☺



WE NEED YOU!!

If you have some spare time and would like to get more involved - please get in touch with one of us ...

**TORRN
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS &
CONTACTS**



The Committee Members have a variety of experience and include administrators, veterinarians, vet nurses, wildlife volunteers & rehabilitators affiliated with many wildlife centres across Perth.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Chair-Secretary | Ruth Haight | Committee Member | June Butcher |
| Treasurer | Dianne Hunter | Committee Member | Michelle Hazelwood |
| Membership | Karen Cavanough | Committee Member | Dr Amy Northover |
| Merchandise | Barbara Wright | Committee Member | Carla Tassone |

EMERGENCY MOBILES

- 0424 727 411 East Metro
- 0424 727 624 South Metro
- 0414 476 867 North Metro

If, for any reason, the number in your area doesn't answer, please call one of the other numbers.



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