



Turtle Oblonga
Rescue & Rehabilitation
Network

CONTACT US

Website

www.turtleoblonganetwork.org.au

Email

secretary@turtleoblonganetwork.org.au

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TurtleOblongaRescueandRehabilitationNetworktorrn>

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Perth

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 above.*

Regional

0428 984 445 Albany
0438 813 919 Margaret River
0437 910 054 Busselton

2015/16 COMMITTEE

- Chair** Karen Pye
- Secretary** Dianne Hunter
- Treasurer** Sarah Cameron
- Coordinator** Karen Cavanough
(Homecare)
- Coordinator** Amy Northover
(Membership)
- Coordinator** Carla Tassone
(Newsletter)
- Member** Tegan Box
- Member** Deborah Lavigne
- Member** Kylie Webster

Congratulations to all incoming and continuing committee members!

PATRON

Dr. Gerald Kuchling, Ph.D.
Renowned Turtle Scientist



Please like us on FACEBOOK and share our posts. We are at over 700 likes, and now aiming for **1000** likes!

2016

Turtle Talk

Happy New Year!



Another Floreat Drain Rescue: "Matt-ilda"

Rescuer Matt was on his morning walk along Floreat Beach when he noticed a very large freshwater turtle making her way up to the sand dunes having just emerged from the surf near the Floreat Drain.

He promptly called TORRN and one of our Turtle Taxi members met him at a local wetland to assess her. She was assessed as dehydrated and lethargic so was taken into care for rehydration and observation. The turtle was a very large 27cm and eggs could be felt near the leg openings at the rear of her carapace. For this reason, and as soon as she was rehydrated and a bit more alert, she was released to a wetland within 48 hours so that she could lay her eggs. Her extremely enthusiastic response at seeing and smelling the wetland confirmed that she was ready for release.

Sadly, we receive several calls to rescue turtles that have been flushed out of the Floreat Drain, a large diversion drain that empties into the water near Floreat Beach. The turtles enter drains near suburban wetlands and are carried into the main drain before being washed into the sea. Freshwater turtles do not belong on our beaches and many succumb to saltwater drowning. If you ever see a freshwater turtle on the beach or in the surf (even if you are not sure if it is dead or alive), it doesn't belong there so please rescue it and call us--we will send a turtle taxi member to collect it.

*Photos: "Matt-ilda", the gravid female's release
Copyright TORRN*



Happy New Year!

Welcome to our first edition of e-News for 2016 and a Happy New Year to all our members and supporters, may it be a year of health, happiness and success for you all!

It's hard to believe that another year has flown by and that TORRN celebrated its fourth birthday on 9 January 2016. Last year was another big contributor to the hundreds of turtles we have rescued, relocated and rehabilitated over the last four years.

In the last 12 months, our membership has grown to over 150 and we have welcomed fresh talent into our committee, trained even more turtle taxi rescuers and increased our number of home carers. May 2016 be even bigger and better.

Thank you!

New Year is a time of reflection and there are so many people who deserve a word of thanks for their contribution to ensuring every turtle receives professional and compassionate care.

Committee

I'd like to acknowledge the work of our Committee who help to keep things moving between times especially Dianne our Secretary who is the engine of TORRN and dedicates much of her spare time to every aspect of the network's activities. We've been really fortunate to welcome three new committee members on board this last 12 months including Sarah (Treasurer), Tegan (Minutes Secretary) and Kylie. All have excellent pedigree in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

And then there's our long-termers who over time have contributed in so many ways to the Network--Karen C, Carla, Deb, and Amy. Karen C and Carla who have done a great job with e-News, Karen C and Dianne for Home-care co-ordination and all committee members for their contribution to public talks and events, rescues, rehabilitation and all the weird and wonderful activities that are part of being involved in the world of turtles.

It's important too to acknowledge our outgoing committee members including Sandy who has done such a great job with public events and Michelle who works wonders with rehabilitating tricky cases. Thank you ladies.

Turtle Taxis

Our people at the coal-face are the holders of our turtle-rescue phones and our turtle taxis. Thanks to Tanya, Dianne and Karen C in the metro area and Jess, Lisa and Sue who look after our country phones. Last year we welcomed a number of new faces to the ranks of turtle paramedics following a turtle taxi workshop held in June. This brings our number of turtle taxis to around 20 but we are always in need of more especially people who can be available during weekends and public holidays and this role ideally suits those who are retired or part-time workers. Thank you to our rescuers for generously giving your time to save turtles in need and to ensure that they receive the care they need.

Home Carers

Our home carers, about 12 in number, have rehabilitated and treated dozens of turtle this year ranging from the very small at under 4 grams to the not so small at over 2kg. Thank you to our members Allan and Barbara, Dianne, Sandy, Kylie, Tanya, Meryn, Deborah, Michelle H, Sue G, Karen C and Judy. Thank you too, to Ruth who has taken calls this year and provided expert advice about difficult cases.

It has been a super busy year on the hatchling front but we are understanding better the markers for release. Thank goodness we are learning as feeding 16 hungry hatchlings up to 50 mosquito larvae each per day is seriously demanding. That plus the amount of poo they produce can be quite surprising requiring very frequent water changes.

More of our carers are building outdoor pond facilities with good filtration and balanced water. An appropriate outdoor enclosure is an ideal hospital environment for a Stage 3 rehab turtle as it is exposed to natural sunlight and the normal rhythm of day and night. A balanced pond also means less physical contact with the turtle and less chance of habituation.

As always we need more carers especially people who don't work full-time as turtle rehabilitation can be a very demanding job.

A look back at the year that was...

We were involved in numerous public events in 2015 but did struggle to maintain a presence at everything we wanted to be

involved with due to member unavailability especially at weekday events. Some of the highlights included the Turtle Rehabilitation Workshop which was fully subscribed within two weeks of opening, World Turtle Day and the Turtle Taxi Training Workshop for 12 new 'Taxis'.

Rewilding

2015 saw an increase in the number of rewilding cases the Network has been involved in. Often these cases result from members of the public who found a hatchling or turtle in the wild and took it home not realising just how much work and dedicated care is required to maintain a healthy and happy turtle or that it's illegal to take turtles (and any wildlife) from the wild. As we all know good nutrition, water quality, access to land for weight-bearing and brumation, sunlight, and the company with other turtles are essential ingredients for a turtle to thrive. Sadly, we sometimes receive turtles who have suffered greatly as a result of being housed in aquariums with poor water quality, no sunlight, inadequate diet and no opportunity to sunbake or weight-bear. Our turtle cases always teach us something and this year we have begun to realise just how much turtles need access to land so that they can weight-bear and brumate if necessary. When two of our 'rewild' cases, who had both spent considerable time in aquariums, were first exposed to sand, they immediately buried in to brumate. One of these cases, who had been in an aquarium for many years, buried himself for 3 months. There is a lot we don't know about turtles but it is thought that brumation is necessary for good health and may assist with readying them for reproduction in the warmer spring months. Captive turtles are denied the opportunity for this natural behaviour and as a consequence often have deformed shells and very poor skin condition. A lack of sunlight also causes retained scutes and it has taken almost a year for some of the thick retained scutes to slowly fall off one of our long-term cases. This is after several months of exposure to natural sunlight in an outdoor enclosure. These cases emphasise the need for greater education of the general public – although we can't stop people owning licensed turtles we can help to make sure they are kept as well as possible.

Cont'd

Famous Patients

We had a couple of famous cases in 2015 including Paris Hilton and Lady Clare Mont both of whom featured in the media. "Lady Clare Mont" is a bit of a legend in the Western Suburbs and was rehabilitated by Alan and Barbara after she was found in a lethargic state and at risk of attack by ravens. A big thank you to the "Friends of Lake Claremont" Board and to the Town of Claremont for their generous donations of \$250 each.

Paris Hilton, creatively named by Dianne, is another famous case – initially taken to the Hilton veterinary clinic, she ended up at Perth Zoo where it was discovered that as well as being gravid she had ingested a fish hook. The zoo vets weren't keen to remove the fish hook until she had laid the eggs so off she went to Dianne's maternity ward to deliver her healthy brood. She duly laid 16 eggs and then decided she felt like a post-birth swim in the neighbour's pool and took off without telling Dianne. Fortunately, an eagle-eyed neighbour spotted Paris and she was returned to Dianne for a trip back to the zoo and a spot of surgery at Murdoch University. All ended well and after a recovery stint at Dianne's she was released back to the wild.

We have continued to receive cases washed out of the Floreat Drain onto Floreat Beach and unfortunately unless the drain is diverted to a lake system such as Perry Lakes, we expect this to continue. Just a few weeks ago we had a very large (27cm) and gravid female washed onto the beach. Fortunately, she was in sufficiently good condition to be released within 48 hours.

We've also had a lot of hatchling rescues and an increased number of calls about turtles being attacked by ravens as they breed out of control in some parts of the metro area – this is especially prevalent in the Lake Claremont area where the ravens have learnt to flip over healthy turtles and attack them.

Challenges in 2016

One of our challenges into the future is recruiting onto the committee and other roles, more people who are retired or work part-time. Our current committee is very dedicated and talented but is time-limited due to other commitments that include work and study. We really need ideas and

suggestions about how we can recruit people who might have a bit more time, especially during the week, to assist with the day to day activities of the network. This is necessary to ensure the long-term continuation of our activities so any ideas or suggestions from anyone are very welcome.

On behalf of the Committee, I thank all of you--our members and supporters for the important contribution you make to the work of TORRN and most importantly to the positive outcomes for the many turtles we helped along the way.



Committee Chair
Turtle Oblonga Network

Photos: Copyright TORRN

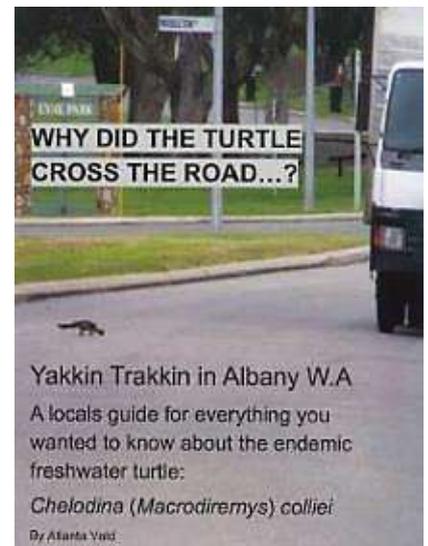


Yakkin Trakkin Book Launch

Albany local Atlanta Veld held a book launch late 2015 for "Yakkin Trakkin", an informative guide to the freshwater turtle.

The publication contains facts on evolution, naming, diet, breeding cycle, and discusses threats and how locals can help their turtle populations, particularly for the benefit of Albany residents but the information is relevant to any southwest Oblong Turtle population. The publication was supported by the Bushcarers Group Inc and funded by the City of Albany's Community Enterprise Grants.

The term "Yakkin" is the local (southwest) Noongar name for the turtle, while the name "Booyi" is used in Perth.



Turtles and Hot Weather

Just like humans and other animals, turtles also suffer in the hot weather and require extra attention. In the wild, turtles are able to bury into the cool mud in wetlands (aestivation) to regulate their temperature. In the rehabilitation or captive environment, they don't have this choice so it's up to us as carers to ensure they don't overheat.

Turtles are ECTOTHERMIC which means that they do not generate body heat so need to draw heat from their external environment to grow, digest, reproduce, heal and metabolise. They move to or from heat to regulate their internal temperature to 'Preferred Body Temperature' (around 24 to 26C).

Our turtles are usually rehabilitated in 'hospital tubs' (large black tubs about 200L in volume) or in outdoor ponds. Summer, when the ambient temperature can be higher than 40C, is a danger period for turtles in care. Ponds and rescue tubs can rapidly heat up in summer resulting in discomfort, and at higher temperatures danger, for turtles.

So what can you do?

Buy yourself a couple of digital temperature probes and leave them permanently in the tub or pond so that you can monitor the temperature variation throughout the day. You need to aim to keep the water temperature below 26C. If your turtle is being rehabilitated in a hospital tub make sure the tub is never placed in direct sun; dappled or indirect morning and afternoon sun from under a patio or pergola should be sufficient and you should always monitor the temperature of the water and provide a hide for the turtle to retreat to if it wishes.

Be aware that the black plastic sides of the tub can heat up if they are exposed to oblique sunlight so you may need to drape a wet towel over the sides. You can also place a damp towel partially over the mesh so that you control the amount of light and heat entering the tub.

If your turtle is in a pond, ensure that the pond is never in full sun for protracted periods and receives a good amount of shade from trees and plants. Some sun is OK, the problem is where a pond is exposed to full sun for several hours and the turtle has nowhere to go to escape the heat. Because of the volume of lakes and swamps the water temperature is stratified – the water up top is warmer and the cooler, denser water sinks to the bottom. This means that aquatic wildlife can move to cooler or shaded zones. The very small water volume in ponds means that the total water volume can heat up to dangerous temperatures very quickly.

In addition to plants and shrubs you can provide shade by using an umbrella in a stand or by placing wet towels over the turtle's enclosure to create a 'Coolgardie Safe'. This is particularly effective on hot days.

Another good tip is to freeze blocks of ice in old ice-cream containers so that they can be placed in the pond if the temperature starts to hover around 26C. They are remarkably effective in reducing the water temperature by a couple of degrees. If your freezer is too full or you keep forgetting to fill the ice-cream tubs the night before, you can always go to a supermarket or bottle shop and buy a bag of ice although this tends to become expensive if you do it a lot. ☺

A word about the garden hose. Before you top up the pond or hospital tub please allow the hot water to run out of the hose and even after the hot water has run through and it seems cool, check the temperature. Over several warm days, the water coming out of the mains system heats up and can be around 27C. This is too hot. It can be better to fill a separate container with water the night before so that it cools overnight before you add it to the pond or hospital tub. This has the added benefit of allowing some of the chlorine to dissipate.

Be very mindful of turtles kept in an indoor environment; although it might be shaded it can still be very hot. This is especially true in un-insulated workshops and garages. You might want to consider moving the turtle tub outside to a shaded and sheltered place where at least it can receive the benefit of a breeze when it come in. Ensure the turtle is safe from predators such as dogs and ravens and that you have a mesh cover over the container.

And finally, while we don't advocate the keeping of turtles in aquariums or as pets, we do ask that if you or someone you know has a turtle in such an environment that they are also mindful of the effect of summer temperatures on captive turtles.

Turtle rehabilitation enclosure all ready for summer. Note the shade-cloth platform directly over ¼ of the pond, shady plants and wet towel over the enclosure.

Photos: Turtle rehabilitation enclosure all ready for summer. Note the shade-cloth platform directly over ¼ of the pond, shady plants and wet towel over the enclosure. Copyright TORRN



The Lazarus Hatchlings and more tales of survival

by Kylie Webster

In August 2015, I was fortunate enough to be accompanied on a release of two hatchlings, "Tony" and "Max", by their respective rescuers.

"Tony"

Rachel found "Tony" in her backyard and, thinking he was dead, had left him there. However, Rachel's gentle canine companion discovered him the next day and it became apparent that "Tony" had moved during the night. "Tony" was placed in a lukewarm water bath, where he alternated between the roles of 'inanimate stone' and 'Houdini'. At 4.6g and miraculously uninjured, "Tony" was expected to be a short-stay guest, until he was joined by "Max" a few days later.

"Max"

Imogen, accompanied by siblings Sebastian and Sophia, has an exceptional eye for spotting a hatchling in strife – she found "Max" in the middle of a dog exercise park.

Initially thought to be dead, "Max" revived after a water bath and was picked up by Turtle Taxi Margaret Landre and brought into care, weighing 5.4g. Despite the healthy weight, "Max" had fairly pronounced ribs visible through his/her carapace, and remained in care for 20 days while he filled out. The hatchlings' coordination and hunting prowess steadily improved until both were over 9g.

It was fantastic to have the rescuers attend the release, and heart-warming to see the smiles of the next generation of turtle advocates as they carefully lowered the hatchlings into their new home.

Photo: Imogen holding turtle hatchling "Max", while siblings Sophia and Sebastian look on.

"Fatso", "Sneaky" and "Shy Guy"

These three were my first hatchlings, named for their recognisable styles of eating anything that moved, stealing fish if the other turtle had temporarily given up on its catch, and hiding under hibiscus leaves and appearing to not eat anything at all.

Photo: Hatchlings "Fatso, Sneaky & Shy Guy".



"Big Bertha"

"Big Bertha" was a large female I relocated from a gym-kids play session, much to the children's delight. She had a couple of minor abrasions, nothing that wouldn't heal in her natural habitat. I have some great video of her determinedly striding towards the lake.

Photos: "Big Bertha" Copyright TORRN



“Monty” the One-eyed Turtle

by Deb Lavigne

Monty came to me via Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. I am uncertain what had happened to Monty’s right eye, but unfortunately it had to be surgically removed.

My job was to rehabilitate Monty back to health and teach him to survive in the wild with the one eye. The first few days he was not interested in eating at all, which is worrisome—if Monty couldn’t eat on his own, his fate was not looking too good.

So I decided I needed to make the little sardines that lay on the bottom of his enclosure a little more enticing. I tied the sardines by the tails with cotton thread, and I dangled them into the water to make the move and look lively!

It required a fair bit of patience and lots of fresh fish changes until Monty finally realized that he could eat these yummy sardines dangling in front of him. After that it was no problem—Monty was grabbing and devouring the sardines as they hit the water. What a trooper indeed!

Each Wattle Grove Vet Clinic visit was more positive and before long the all clear was given for Monty to be released. How excited was I, and really happy to be releasing this wonderful creature back to the wild.

By the time Monty was released he was well and truly ready, having gained weight and a lot feistier (a great sign indeed).

So after further collaboration regarding a suitable site to release Monty, he went to a wonderful reserve with an abundance of water, bird life and food. Another successful release! ☺

Photo above: Deborah Lavigne, Stage 1 carer with ‘Monty’ the one-eyed turtle

Photo middle: ‘Monty’ off and running to freedom and a new home

Photo bottom: ‘Monty’ just checking to see if I am still here

Copyright TORRN



“Can I borrow a book for the holidays?”

by Tanya Marwood

Perhaps this is what ‘Loretta’, a 17 cm adult female found by in a hallway in the Library block at Kalamunda Senior High would have asked us, if she could?

The school volunteer who found her on 30 September said she appeared unharmed, bright and alert but may have been in the locked school building since the end of term—possibly as long as five days.

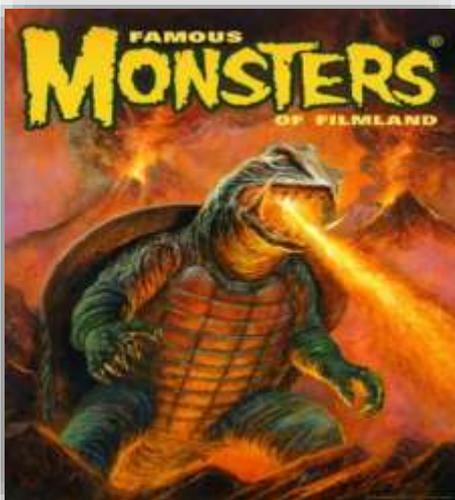
The rescuer believes the turtle had been disturbed by extensive earthworks on the school oval, with water of the adjacent drainage basin now red with silt. Grounds staff had observed a large number of turtles around the gardens, so it may be more than a case of females seeking nesting sites.

Fortunately, after a couple of days of R&R she was good to go.

Long life, Loretta!

Photo (above right): 'Loretta' the turtle being released on 2 Oct 2015 after being found locked in a school building in the Perth Hills.

Photo (right): The earthworks and drainage basin. Copyright TORRN



GAMERA FANS!

Gamera fans may be interested to know he celebrated his 50th Anniversary in April 2015. Here's a link to the Gizmodo article and Famous Monsters Magazines. <http://io9.gizmodo.com/gamera-has-never-looked-more-badass-than-he-does-in-thi-1698342633>

Although not as famous as Godzilla, he was the “childrens friend” way before the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. “Gamera: Little Braves” was released in 2006, with a new film release for sometime in 2016. For those who haven't a clue who Gamera is, refer to Wikipedia! <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gamera> (Image left is an artists rendition.)

In the Press...

Hyde Park oblong turtles study launched over fears of dwindling numbers

By [Laura Gartry](#) Updated 28 Oct 2015, 3:51pm

PHOTO: Roberta Bencini examines an oblong turtle from Hyde Park as part of a study into the local population. (ABC News: Robert Koenigluck)



The first-ever study of native oblong turtles living in one of Perth's most popular parks is underway to find out why the population appears to be declining.

Spotting turtles in the Hyde Park lakes has been a popular picnic activity for decades, but in recent years the number of sightings, particularly of juveniles, has dropped.

Concerned about the health of the turtles, the Claisebrook Catchment Group lobbied the City of Vincent for a study by the University of Western Australia (UWA).

The initial findings from researchers suggest increased predators and people may be to blame.

By using ultrasounds we can see if they have eggs or follicles. If we can find that out then we can rule out other reproduction problems in the population.
Roberta Bencini

Volunteer Dudley Maier said the group did not want to rely on citizen observations about turtles if the population was diminishing.

"Future decisions need to be based on real, hard science, not just the observations from a few people. There are some good citizen science programs but this study is going to be a good base," he said.

"So in five years' time, 10 years' time, we can say the population is stable or increasing or it's decreasing, and if it is decreasing try and work out is it water quality, habitats or predators?"

The Hyde Park turtles lived in swamps at the same location before the park was constructed in the 1890s, but a census has never been done.

In the last month, researchers from UWA have assessed and microchipped more than 20 of the oblong turtles so they can be tracked for future reference.

PHOTO: Roberta Bencini (right) and researcher Blaine Hodgson inspect an oblong turtle. (ABC News: Robert Koenigluck)

The females have also had ultrasound scans by the lake side to check fertility.

Hatchlings may not be surviving, research suggests

University of Western Australia associate professor Roberta Bencini said the team had found several adult females carrying eggs.

"By using ultrasounds we can see if they have eggs or follicles. If we can find that out then we can rule out other reproduction problems in the population," she said.

"We've found females with fully calcified eggs, indicating that she's probably going to nest in the next few days."



However in the initial two rounds of trapping, researchers have only found older adult turtles, and that the females are healthily reproducing.

The findings suggest hatchlings are not surviving and thus continuing the population.

Experts said most females sought higher ground to lay their eggs, wandering hundreds of metres to the perimeter of the park and sometimes even into neighbouring yards.

That left the juveniles with a long journey back to the lake, across open park lawns, and left them vulnerable to an increasing number of predators like swamp birds.

Researchers said the lake's growing swamp vegetation, designed to support the turtle population, may have attracted more birds likely to eat the baby turtles.

There were also concerns people were moving adult turtles back from the outer park to the lake just before they lay, with the disturbance harming the laying process.

It is hoped the nine-month study will help map the population and produce strategies to protect the turtles.

First posted 28 Oct 2015, 2:01pm

ART

PRINTS CHARMING

IT is little surprise Margie Oldfield's passion for natural history has transposed to images of fish and reptiles in her art.

The artist studied botany and zoology at UWA, working in Broome, Queensland, Africa and England before settling back in Perth to raise her three children.

It was then she turned her creative energy to art, most recently the ancient Japanese printing art form of gyotaku.

"I think my art has evolved entirely as a result of my love of natural history," Oldfield said.

"Gyotaku was originally used for people to bring back accurate measurements of the fish they caught before it dried up.

"Before photography it was a way to keep a record of their catch and has evolved over the years to be considered as a genuine art form.

"My love for it comes from my fascination for the texture and structure of animals.

"I don't use a lot of colour, really focusing on the texture and structure, which is perfect

when doing black-and-white print."

Oldfield said she had been unsuccessful in perfecting her gyotaku technique on her own, so applied for a grant and travelled to Japan in 2013 to study with a Japanese gyotaku master.

She will hold her first solo exhibition in a decade, aptly named Little Creatures at Little Creatures, at Little Creatures Brewery in Fremantle from December 5 to January 6.

"I sent them an email with some of my images and asked if they'd be interested in the exhibition," Oldfield said.

"They are fantastic at supporting local artists and emailed me straight back saying it would be a perfect fit."

The exhibition will feature 25 gyotaku prints and 10 other large-format prints.

Oldfield said it had been incredibly rewarding to create the full body of work.

"I had been too busy with three kids close together in age to have time for another solo exhibition," she said.

Tanya MacNaughton



Margie Oldfield with her works for her upcoming exhibition, Little Creatures at Little Creatures. Picture: Andrew Ritchie

www.communitypix.com.au d446580

Maylands Wetland Walk

by Sandy Shailes

Saturday, 3rd October was a perfect day for a walk around Lake Brearley and Lake Bungana in Maylands.

Twenty two members of the Action Outdoors group were treated to a guided tour of this popular turtle hotspot by TORRN volunteers Sandy and Tegan.

They saw a pair of swans famous for their brutal way of dispensing with other swans trying to enter their territory as well as many newly hatched ducks and water birds.

It was nesting season at the time and therefore a good chance of seeing some expectant mummies on the move.

But perhaps the sound of so many feet on the path scared them off as none were seen. But there was plenty to see such as popular turtle hotspots. It was especially good to see some temporary mesh covers on several stormwater drains, a clear sign the locals are aware of the hazards for turtles trying to return to water after nesting and doing their best to protect them.

There were lots of great questions and TORRN is happy to once again add to the growing number of turtle advocates and eyes on the street doing their bit to protect the turtles of Perth.

If you know of any other community group interested in a guided walk, please contact TORRN.



Photos Copyright TORRN



Scutes

In late October 2015, "George", a turtle in care, decided to go for a walk outside his pond. This allowed enough time for his scutes to dry and start lifting off. The result is loose scutes, as seen below.



Donations and Support

Why donate

Like most wildlife rehabilitation groups, we are unfunded and run by volunteers. Wildlife rehabilitation work is unfunded, relying on donations, sporadic grants and grass roots fundraising. Most wildlife care in Australia is funded from household budgets by ordinary people carrying out extraordinary work to help save and preserve our unique wildlife.

Out of sight, and out of mind; turtles have been, until now, the forgotten wildlife. It's commonly said that turtles are bombproof; that they can survive anything. Once this may have been true - before we began to upset the balance by causing habitat loss through urban development which prevents traditional and safe migration patterns, pollution of lakes, a dropping water table due to our use of underground aquifers and climate change which is altering weather patterns.

Most wildlife centres would normally see half a dozen turtles a year; trauma (dogs, cars and machinery) victims and found hatchlings. With the unprecedented rescue of over 100 debilitated turtles in a short time during the very hot summer of 2010/2011, it was realised just how little we knew about turtles. Whilst we've learned a lot from that summer's experience we are well aware of just how much more we need to learn about these complex creatures.

We anticipate that the events of that summer will occur more frequently in future. Before then, we aim to prepare for another such occurrence by providing training for vets and rehabilitators, community information sessions, establishing husbandry guidelines and working toward coordinating rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

Whilst, like most wildlife rehabilitators, we are good at scrounging, begging and operating on a shoestring we do need money.

How to Donate

Via Direct Debit

Name Turtle Oblonga Public Fund
BSB 306-066
Ac No. 273 2950

Email the treasurer@turtleoblonganetwork.org.au and a tax deductible receipt will be posted.

Online

Go to our website, and click the "Make a Donation" icon which links to the "GiveNow.com.au" site, and learn about Aphrodite's Legacy.

A tax deductible receipt will automatically be emailed to you for your donation.

How Donations Will Be Used

Emergency Housing

Providing housing set-ups for loan to wildlife centres and individual rehabilitators, which includes 220L tubs, water filters, water heaters etc.

Medication

Turtles as reptiles have a slow metabolism; healing is slower than for mammals and birds. Contrarily, considering the degraded state of metropolitan lakes, turtles in care are susceptible to a variety of water-borne bacterial infections. The antibiotic of choice for turtles is not expensive but by the time you've added the cost of syringes and needles and multiplied that by any number of turtles, it all adds up. A turtle requiring antibiotics needs a course of 14 injections over seven weeks.

In-house Veterinary Blood Testing

We are grateful to enjoy the generous support of the Veterinary community who provide their expertise free of charge, but still pay for consumables and outsourced testing. A simple blood test can give us an idea (blood protein and fluid levels) of the turtle's state health which can't be determined by an external examination. Ideally, we would like to test all admitted turtles to establish baseline data.

Imaging

Any trauma case requires an x-ray, and some females may need an x-ray determine whether they're carrying eggs.

Consumables

Turtles with shell infections require, as well as an extended course of antibiotics, 3x daily treatments with Chlorhexadine and Flamazine, costing \$20 and \$110 for 50g and 500g respectively. Waterproof dressings may be needed twice daily, along with pain relief.

Food

Sick animals like sick people need good food to aid their recovery. Whilst we aim to replicate natural diets for animals in rehabilitation it's not always feasible. In rehabilitation we feed turtles human grade whitebait, prawns, sardines, premium beef mince (all enriched with additional nutrients) and Reptile Mix jellies (a commercial product designed to supplement the diet of captive reptiles).

Membership

Membership is FREE so please fill out the membership form on our website and send it in!



"Aphrodite", one of the Network's former patients

Calendar of Events 2016

Community Education and Meetings

We are seeking helpers from our membership to enable us to meet various commitments relating to environmental community education and engagement events. If you are interested and the dates suit, **please contact us**

Date	Time	Event	Location
2 Feb (Tues)	9am-4pm	WA Wetland Management Conference	Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre
14 Feb (Sun)	9am & 10.30am	Committee Meeting followed by General Meeting	Canning River Eco Education Centre, Wilson
10 Apr (Sun)	9am & 10.30am	Committee Meeting followed by General Meeting	Canning River Eco Education Centre, Wilson
23 May (Mon)		World Turtle Day	To be confirmed
May-Jun		Turtle Taxi Session	To be confirmed
12 Jun (Sun)	10am	Committee Meeting	To be confirmed
14 Aug (Sun)	9am & 10.30am	Committee Meeting followed by Annual General Meeting	Canning River Eco Education Centre, Wilson
4 Sep (Sun)	10am-4pm	National Threatened Species Day Event	To be confirmed
7 Sep (Wed)	9.30am - 2pm	Kalunga Katitjin Festival, Kings Park	To be confirmed
18 Sep (Sun)	10am – 1pm	Celebrate Lake Claremont Day, Stirling Road	To be confirmed
2-3 Oct (Sun-Mon)		World Animal Day Event, Piney Lakes	To be confirmed
9 Oct (Sun)	10am	Committee Meeting	To be confirmed
11 Dec (Sun)	9am & 10.30am	Committee Meeting followed by General Meeting	Canning River Eco Education Centre, Wilson

ABOUT US ...

TORRN 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.**," (TORRN for short), our trading name is Turtle Oblonga Network.

Photo by Darren Darch, Fauna for the Future

