

# TURTLE TOUR AT LAKE ALEXANDRA NSW

## 4 Turtle Spotting and Safety

Lake Alexandra is the ideal location to see freshwater turtles and other aquatic wildlife. While walking around the lake you may see turtles exhibiting different behaviours. Here are a few tips for looking for turtles:

- Basking** – keep an eye on rocks, fallen trees and branches in the lake. Turtles can also be observed basking in shallow water.
- Swimming** – Small "pebbles" on the surface of the water could be a Turtle's head. Turtles need to breathe air and they will also bask in the warm surface water on a hot Spring of Summer's day.
- Nesting** – turtles to build a nest may travel up to 500m away from the lake. You may see them in areas around the lake or in backyards.
- Crossing roads** – turtles can find themselves on our roads. Be alert when driving around the lake and nearby roads.

The lake provides important habitat for turtles. Make sure you report your sightings using TurtleSAT.

- Please remember it is illegal to catch and keep turtles. Please report illegal activity by calling 131 555.
- It is safe to pick up a turtle off the road and place it in the direction it is going. Do not return it directly to the water. Simply place it out of danger in the direction it was headed.

Scan Here to report sightings





## 3 Turtle Basking

Turtles are ectothermic, meaning they need external sources to remain warm. To do this, turtles can often be seen basking in the sunlight on rocks and logs.

Turtles bask between September and June. Best times to spot a turtle is mid-morning. However, during the warmer months of the year, they can be spotted throughout the day.

Make sure you report any turtle sightings on the TurtleSAT website or app.

Scan Here to record turtle sightings






While walking around the lake, make sure you check exposed rocks, branches and logs. Turtles will often use them to bask.

Turtles can be easily startled. When observing them, make sure you are quiet and approach them slowly.






## 5 Types of Freshwater Turtles

Australia is home to 23 species of freshwater turtle. In New South Wales, 7 of these species can be found. Freshwater turtles in Australia can be divided into long-necked and short-necked turtles. Within Lake Alexandra, Eastern Long-necked Turtles and Murray Short-necked turtles can be observed. Fortunately there are no Red-eared Slider records.

 <p><b>Eastern Long-necked Turtle</b> <i>Chelodina longicollis</i> ✓</p> <p>Native Species: Yes Size: 20cm Found: throughout eastern Australia Unique features: • Long neck • Pungent smell when threatened • Black markings on underside (plastron)</p>	 <p><b>Murray Short-necked Turtle</b> <i>Emydura macquarii</i> ✓</p> <p>Native Species: Yes Size: 30cm Found: throughout Murray-Darling Basin Unique features: • Short neck • Cream patch along jawline • Rarely seen on land except for basking on rocks and logs.</p>	 <p><b>Red-eared Slider</b> <i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i> ✗</p> <p>Native Species: No. Highly invasive species and a threat to native freshwater turtles. Size: 20cm Found: USA and northern Mexico. Found in Australia due to released pets. Unique features: • Dark green shell with yellow markings • Red or orange marking behind eye</p>
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Scan Here to learn more about how you can help our turtles.

## 1 Lake Alexandra Turtle Tour

**What is the Turtle Tour?**  
This initiative is a self paced tour designed to provide information about turtles and how to become a citizen scientist. The initiative has been put together by the 1 Million Turtles Community Conservation Program and Wingecarribee Shire Council.

**Why Turtles?**  
Turtles are an important species for our waterways and wetlands. They act as a vacuum to help maintain the health of a waterways. Unfortunately, turtle populations are rapidly declining due to predation and loss of habitat. By becoming a citizen scientist you can help build our understanding about turtles and their threats.


**How to get involved?**  
Become a citizen scientist and help with research and future conservation efforts.

- Download TurtleSAT app.
- Register an account
- Visit each of the Turtle Tour Stops around the lake to learn more about freshwater turtles and to records your turtle observations.

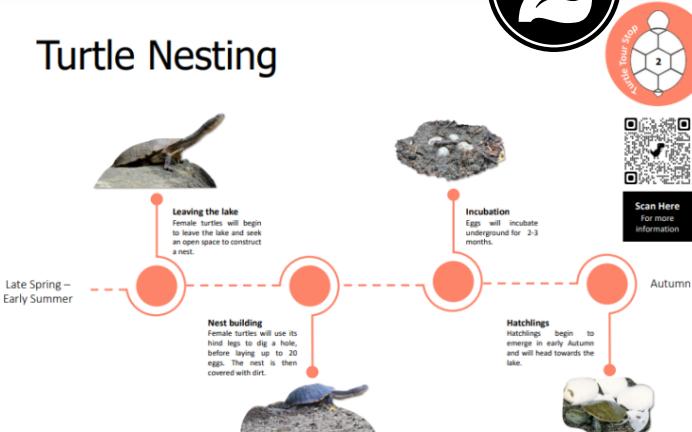
Scan Here to download app



As you walk around the lake, keep an eye out for signs and QR codes. At each of these locations you will learn more about freshwater turtles and their behaviour. See map for Turtle Tour stops around the lake.




## 2 Turtle Nesting



**Leaving the lake**  
Female turtles will begin to leave the lake and seek an open space to construct a nest.

**Nest building**  
Female turtles will use its front legs to dig a hole, before laying up to 20 eggs. The nest is then covered with dirt.

**Incubation**  
Eggs will incubate underground for 2-3 months.

**Hatchlings**  
Hatchlings begin to emerge in early Autumn and will head towards the lake.

The island is an ideal location for nesting as it should be protected from fox predation. During late spring and early summer, keep an eye out for turtles constructing nests.

Please do not disturb turtles building nests or handle hatchlings.

