

THE FRESHWATER TURTLE TIMES

1 MILLION TURTLES COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM UPDATES,
RESEARCH INSIGHTS AND MORE



Photo Credit: Dr Donald McKnight

In this issue:

- 2024 Turtle Month Webinar
- 1 Million Turtles program update
- TurtleFEST in SA update
- Spotlight on community turtle conservation – Springfield Pond Wetland, Central Coast NSW



AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM
**EUREKA
PRIZES**
2023 WINNER

Join us in the Upcoming Turtle Month Webinar!

The 1st of November marks the start of turtle month.

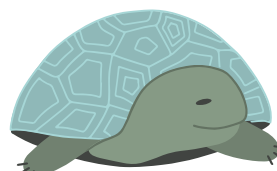
Every year, the 1 Million Turtles team celebrates the start of turtle month with an online webinar sharing all things turtle, interesting updates about the program and the field of turtle research.

This year, the team will be hosting an online webinar on **Tuesday, 29 October 2024, starting at 6:30pm (Sydney time)** and we would love to see you there!

[To register, click here](#)

Overview of Webinar Program:

- 1 Million Turtles program updates
- TurtleSAT and Predictor map highlights
- 'Baited Remote Underwater Video' surveys – a new citizen science opportunity?
- Best practice for nest protection
- Turtle Safe Roads – overview about partnership with Transport NSW



Happy Turtle
Month
to us :)



While nesting has begun for 2024 in the south-west of WA, there are no records yet in TurtleSAT for the rest of southern Australia. Nesting season is almost here and climate change means that it is occurring earlier than ever. Hence, look out for the beginning of nesting activity in your area over the next few weeks and log the information into TurtleSAT. If previous years are a guide, some nesting will happen prior to Turtle Month (November).

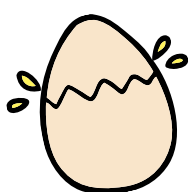
Updates: 1 Million Turtles Community Conservation Program

Turtle activity, citizen science, conservation action and research have continued across Australia over the last few months. Eastern long-neck turtles were recorded moving about in the Adelaide Hills and South-East of South Australia in September.

Western Australia has seen a flurry of nesting recently, and other mainland states will be coming online shortly following the spring rains.

While in early October in Victoria, hatchling Eastern long-neck and Broad-shell turtles have been recorded emerging from nests and making their way to the water. These babies probably hatched back in March and then spent the winter underground, waiting until spring to emerge. They can do this because of the left-over yolk they still have when they finish development in the egg.

All of this tells us so much about our turtles, their threats and needs across Australia, and we haven't even hit Turtle Month yet!



***Keep those TurtleSAT
records coming!***

TurtleFest in South Australia Updates

Following on from the successful 1 Million Turtles workshop in Albury-Wodonga, a similar event was held in Murray Bridge, South Australia on 25th August hosted by 1 Million Turtles partner, the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board.

Over 60 people attended to learn about and share their turtle conservation experiences. These included; First Nations people, state and local government staff, Professor Mike Thompson and other university researchers, wildlife carers, community members who have recorded turtles and protected nests, as well as interested individuals and families.



Associate Professor James Van Dyke and Christina Hunter also kindly came across from Victoria to share their recent research findings.

Funding is being sought to collate all this knowledge into a Turtle Management Strategy for SA to guide future efforts.

The event also provided the perfect occasion for the Landscape Board to honour a number of dedicated volunteers who have made significant contributions to our knowledge and conservation of turtles in our region, with a Citizen Science Award for Outstanding Achievement.

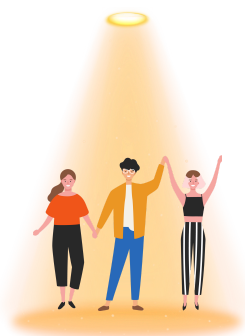
Congratulations to Issy Campbell, Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation, Pam Warneke, Strathalbyn Naturalists Club, Owen Love, River Murray Mallee Aboriginal Corporation, Trevor and Max Kubenk, Ruth Maidment, Paiwalla Wetlands Trust, Graham Keller, Deanne Smith, and teachers Serena Donovan, Leighton Pearce and Karl Klose.

We also extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Ngarrindjeri Thukabi (turtle) Monitoring project; finalist in the 2024 SA Citizen Science Awards held at the South Australian Museum earlier in August.

In other SA news; The state government is working to manage and rehabilitate farm dams in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Fleurieu Peninsula in partnership with the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and local community groups. 1 Million Turtles has supported a number of the on-ground community workshops with Professor Mike Thompson sharing information about turtles in the region.

If anyone would also like to organise a state or regionally based turtle workshop, please let the 1 Million Turtles team know. We would be happy to support this in any way we can. Please reach out to us on 1millionturtlesprogram@gmail.com

Spotlight on community turtle conservation: Springfield Pond Wetland, Central Coast NSW



From Glenys Ray

An old orange orchard dam at Springfield, on the NSW Central Coast, became part of a subdivision where it transitioned to being a wetland. Apparently, someone dumped an aquarium into the wetland around 2016 and very unfortunately also dumped 3 very noxious aquatic weeds at the same time.

One of the weeds was salvinia which rapidly blanketed the whole wetland around Christmas 2017. We weren't even aware that turtles lived in the wetland until they 'miraculously' appeared a few years later when a small section of weed was removed. They had survived years with no light and minimal oxygen and their shells were very slimy at first.

They were a regular sight sunning on the weir during the warmer months – mostly Murray River shortnecks.

As the council worked to remove the weeds they employed booms to allow them to work on sections at a time and so the turtles started sunning themselves on the booms. Investigations were made to try to identify a raft or similar that they could use once the booms were removed (the salvinia battle continues so the booms remain for the time being), without success.

We were amazed when we saw a Facebook post for @1MillionTurtlesConservation program showing turtle islands. The original idea was for a raft to sun themselves and in our ignorance it never occurred to us that the foxes that regularly roam would take their eggs.

Springfield Residents Association successfully applied for State Govt funding to purchase an island. Central Coast Council insisted that it be portable so it could be removed without great expense if no longer needed in the future.

The community is looking forwardly excitedly to seeing it arrive in the near future and to see turtles breeding and basking on the deck.



Check them out in their socials and show some love by following :)

Facebook: [Springfield Pond Wetland](#)



Instagram: [Springfield Wetland](#)



Have a Story?

We're really keen to share the turtle conservation achievements of groups and individuals around Australia. If you would like to share your group's activities in a future newsletter please let us know via 1millionturtlesprogram@gmail.com and include 'newsletter update' in your subject heading.

And don't forget to **tag us @1millionturtles** on Facebook if you are sharing your turtle photos, activities and stories.

To Find Out More

Visit our 1 Million Turtles <https://1millionturtles.com> website for more information about the 1 Million Turtles program, the team members who support the project, videos, training modules, some of the recorded webinars, and more.

We also have two Facebook pages; (1) [TurtleSAT](#) which provides updates on interesting sightings and community alerts such as red-eared sliders (invasive species), and (2) [1 Million Turtles](#) which provides general freshwater turtle information, project updates and invitations.

1 Million Turtles Team Contacts

Remember that if you would like one-on-one support from a team member please contact 1 Million Turtles 1millionturtlesprogram@gmail.com, include 'Need 1 on 1 support' in the subject heading, provide us with some information on the nature of the assistance you require along with your location and best contact details, and a local contact with be in touch with you.



NSW/ACT - Assoc. Professor Ricky Spencer, Ms. Geetha Ortac, Dr Deb Bower (Armidale area)



VIC/TAS - Assoc. Professor James Van Dyke (and NSW Riverina)



SA - Dr Sylvia Clarke, Professor Mike Thompson



WA - Dr Anthony Santoro



QLD - Ms Marilyn Connell, Assoc. Professor Deb Bower



NT - Assoc. Professor Deb Bower