



MARINE TURTLE RESEARCH  
PROJECT  
ROSEMARY ISLAND

VOLUNTEERS NEWSLETTER  
Issue 1 October 2000



Welcome to the first issue of the Marine Turtle Research Project, Rosemary Island newsletter. This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with what's happening with turtle tagging at Rosemary Island.

If you have anything that you would like to see included in the newsletter or would like to contribute yourself, please let me know. It would be great to get your impressions of the project and things you have been involved with.



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#### HAWKSBILL HUT

Hawksbill Hut is now set up fully and provides shelter and some home comforts to turtle taggers. This facility could not have become a reality without generous donations from a number of people: Woodside agreed that some of their donation could be used to set up the hut, the Dampier Port Authority donated the sea container, Mermaid Marine transported it to Rosemary Island, BGC and Swan Earthmoving moved the sea container from the barge and up the beach, Watty provided the paint at a reduced price and DK

The information contained in this newsletter is accurate at the time of printing. Views expressed are those of the author and not of CALM, so blame me if I get it wrong! My apologies for any errors!

Electrical assisted with electrical work. Most of the hard yakka, including putting in cyclone tiedowns and the pine poles (lots of hole digging) was done by Warren Richards and Geoff Kregor.

Thanks to all involved.



#### NESTING NEWS

The first report of nesting turtles this year came in from Warren Richards when he stayed at the hut in July. He reported two nesting turtles and he also saw hatchlings emerging from a nest. This is relatively unusual for this time of the year, as it takes 6-8 weeks for the eggs to hatch after laying. This means that these eggs were laid sometime in May and survived the relative cold of winter. However, it is not unknown for Hawksbills to nest virtually all year round.



#### TAGGING SO FAR...

Warren was again tagging in September, this time with help from his family and some friends. They tagged approximately 10-11 turtles each night for 4 nights and recorded a visit by the first turtle ever tagged at Rosemary Island back in 1986. This is the second time this turtle has been recorded. Unfortunately, a nasty flu bug got the better of them and they had to return early. Hope you've all got over it now.

Anna Vitenbergs, turtle tagger extraordinaire, then spent a week at the island and recorded 52 turtles. She was ably assisted for part of that time by some new volunteers Loretta Martin and Patrice Kirkpatrick, who are now trained in tagging techniques.

Anna is now back at Rosemary.