



MARINE TURTLE RESEARCH PROJECT  
ROSEMARY ISLAND  
VOLUNTEERS NEWSLETTER  
Issue 6 October 2002



Welcome to another turtle nesting season. Yes, it's time to dust off the gear and get back into it! The focus of this year's programme will be on working out which beaches are used by which species of turtle. However, tagging will continue at our main sites. There is also to be an external review of the WA marine turtle program to be carried out by Dr Col Limpus, of Queensland turtle fame.



**DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO**

We have a number of trips planned out into the archipelago to try and work out which species of turtle are using which beaches. It is proposed to head out on Friday afternoon or Saturday to the island of choice, and spend one or two nights looking for turtles. We would look at the beaches during the day to see if they are being used by turtles, and then revisit them at night to determine which species are using the beach. A third visit the next morning will enable us to count how many turtles nested the previous night. There is likely to be the opportunity to see turtles nesting and laying eggs, and possibly also see hatchlings emerging from the nest.

To be involved in this program, you need to be fit and able to walk beaches both in the day and at night, and have a genuine interest in being involved in the turtle monitoring program. We are very keen to get people involved longer term, rather than just for one visit.

The trips outlined below will be conducted on CALM's boat, *Bidthagara*. However, if you have your own boat, we would encourage you to use it. Children under 16 are not covered by the Department's insurance and so we cannot take them on our boat. If you bring children along on your own boat, they are your responsibility.

Dates are listed below. Please let either Fran or Geoff know (contact details below) **as soon as possible** if you are available and which dates you would prefer. Numbers are limited on each trip.

- 18-20 October – Legendre/Keast/Cohen area
- 22-24 November – Malus Island
- 6-8 December – Angel or Enderby Island
- 20-21 December – Legendre/Keast/Cohen area



**QUEENSLAND TURTLE RESEARCH SEMINAR**

Dr Col Limpus will be in WA to do an independent review of CALM's turtle program in early October. As part of the review he will be visiting turtle rookeries throughout the state, including Exmouth, a flight over Barrow and Varanus Islands and the Montebellos, a day trip to the archipelago and a day trip to Munda station. He will be doing a presentation on some of his work in Queensland on Friday 11 October.

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