



WRECK ROCK TURTLE MONITORING PROJECT.

Turtle Care Volunteers Queensland Inc.

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CPL4602015

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER.

Hi All,

The 2025 2026 season was an eventful season. The patrol vehicle “The Mule” behaved itself till the 19th December and then it reverted to deciding when it would start. This became extremely frustrating and dangerous as we did not know when this would happen. As a result, we had no option than return the vehicle to its owner BMRG. We thank them for this. The day we took it back to Bundaberg it would not start so we had to get the crew together and push it onto the trailer but after the drive into town it started and was driven off.

We are now investigating what to get as a replacement vehicle. Top of the list is the Polaris. Similar to Bev’s vehicle but unfortunately they now have bucket seats. Cost for this vehicle is approximately \$25,000.00. Nev has submitted a grant application to the Gambling Fund for the majority of this costs. Fundraising needed for the balance.

After many years of battling with our 2-way radios on the beach, we’re ready to retire them and move to **Starlink Mini** units for each side-by-side vehicle — just like the one we’ve successfully been using in our caravan at base camp.

Last season we trialled a Mini in Bev’s Polaris with outstanding results. We had perfect reception along the entire length of the beach! Not only is the connection reliable, but it also means we’ll no longer need someone stationed at base to monitor the radio.

This change will also bring significant savings. The annual cost of servicing, repairing or replacing our ageing radio equipment is substantial. The antenna (which also needs repairs) is increasingly difficult to erect and dismantle, and we currently pay an annual licence fee. Moving to Mini-Starlinks will greatly reduce these ongoing costs and physical demands.

Our goal is to purchase three units:

- One unit funded through savings from our annual radio servicing costs
- Potential sale of surplus radio equipment
- Community donations

A complete unit, including accessories and the monthly fee, is approximately \$1,600.

We’ve already had kind suggestions and offers of support in \$50 contributions. Members can make a single \$50 donation, or team up with family and friends to contribute multiple amounts. Remember, all donations are tax deductible — just be sure to request an official receipt.

The benefits of this upgrade will be enormous:

- Reliable, secure communication
- Improved personal safety on the beach
- Minimal ongoing costs
- Far less physical set-up work

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Turtle Care Volunteers Queensland Inc. – foster conservation through the study and enjoyment of turtles.
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Please consider being part of this important step forward. Your support will truly make a difference.

We had some new members scheduled to come to Wreck to learn the ropes and become volunteers but unfortunately the weather closed the Causeway and Leanne and Krystal were unable to attend this year. Looking forward to them joining us next season. We did have a new member able to join - Marni. Marni had volunteered at Mon Repos so had the basics but found our project a little different and definitely will be back in the future. Marni loved digging nests till she had one of our green nests to dig. 110 cm later the nest data was obtained. There was so much sand moving this season with the winds that the 110 cm depth record was broken a few days later. Some of our white nest marker posts had a lot more sand covering them than when first installed.

Unfortunately the foxes were out in force this season, probably worse than the goannas. Luckily the Agnes Water National Parks Office was able to organise an early fox baiting project and 9 foxes were caught up near Red Rock and more were still around down near the Conservation Park.

We also had an Indigenous gathering at Wreck and they are very interested in setting up a Goanna Management Plan as are Burnett Mary Regional Management Group. We will be supplying them as much information as they require.

After sorting out the data computer, all data has now been entered, amendments in the process of being made and then it will be off to our Technical Advisor Dr Col Limpus who will then format the 2025 2026 Seasons Report.

We have learnt some exciting news from Dr Col about his future and the future of data collection. Stay tuned

The iPads worked well this season and I think we have the different data layers sorted, although a couple of tweaks have been made.

A lot more information will be made available at the AGM and Debrief. Nev and Bev are now qualified trainers for the Qld Turtle Project.

The Sunshine Coast training day has been booked again for here at the Centre on Saturday 14th November.

IMPORTANT NOTES.

1. Don't forget bookings of sites can be made 12 months in advance now. We have booked site 10 already for the next season.
2. AGM 12th April 10.00 am Here at the Centre for catering purposes please let us know if you are coming. +
3. If you are unable to attend attached a proxy form. Please complete and return
4. Nomination form for positions up for election
5. Have you paid/renewed your membership for the 2026 year? Form attached

Urgently needed fundraising suggestions. What can you do to help this?

INDIVIDUAL TURTLE NOS						
DATE	DAILY TALLY			Same DATE Last Season		
	NEW	RECAP	TOTAL	NEW	RECAP	TOTAL
26/01/26.						
LOGGER	28	46	74	43	67	110
GREEN	16+3J	22+1J	38+2J	19	14+1J	34+1J
FLATBACK	2	1	3	1	1	2
SEASON TALLY	46+3J	69+1J	115+4J	63	83	146
	FINAL TALLY LAST SEASON			TIDE	TIME	DATE
LOGGER	43	67	110	H 2:34	14:59	27/11
GREEN	19	14+1J	34	L 1:05m	21:31	27/11
FLATBACK	1	1	2	H 2:79m	4:21	28/11
GRAND TOTAL	63	83	146	L 1:34m	10:51	28/11
	LOGGER	GREEN	FLATBACK	UNDETERM'D	TOTAL	ADULT VISITS
NESTS LAID	185	111	11	35	342	609
Hatchling RUNS	13	10	8		31	34/11/25