



MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Heron Island welcomes turtle hatchlings
New partnership formed with The Sea Turtle Foundation

(December 2011) The annual turtle nesting season has begun again on Queensland's Heron Island, with early sightings of green turtles coming ashore to nest on this beautiful Great Barrier Reef coral cay.

In celebration of this annual wildlife wonder, Heron Island Resort owners, Delaware North Companies have partnered with the Sea Turtle Foundation, a non-profit, non-government organisation that is dedicated to safeguarding sea turtle populations, migration routes and habitats.

"Many of our guests come to the island specifically to see the turtles, so we have "hatched a partnership" with the Foundation that provides guests with a greater opportunity to understand and support these amazing creatures," said Michelle Kenna, Director of Marketing for the Island. "The partnership will help to support the endangered turtles of the Great Barrier Reef including up to 900 nesting turtles annually on Heron Island," explained Kenna.

"The partnership will be a phased approach that in its initial stages will see the Foundation personnel and trained Resort staff organising guided beach walks to watch the nesting and hatching," commented Tim Harvey, a Director of the Sea Turtle Foundation. "In addition we will present information sessions and provide materials for the guests. These will also be incorporated into the Island's already highly successful Junior Rangers program for the younger guests," he continued.

The Foundation is even hoping to be able to buy a turtle stretcher for the Island this year which will help volunteers to move trapped or stranded turtles with minimal stress.

In future years the program hopes to set up live webcams which will follow the nesting and hatching real time online. An acoustic telemetry project is also in the early stages of discussion which will allow satellite trackers to be attached to selected turtles to follow their movements and log the data on their migration.

The Foundation and the Resort are hoping these projects will be supported by guest donations. Just a \$10 optional contribution on check out will allow the Sea Turtle Foundation to ensure there are 'turtles for tomorrow'.

Heron Island is a true coral cay that sits right on the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef and boasts amazing snorkelling and diving all year round, just minutes from the beach.

For reservations to visit during turtle season please call: 1300 233 432 or +61 3 9426 7540 www.heronisland.com

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