



Sea Turtle Foundation  
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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Volunteer Patrols Protect Nesting Sea Turtles**

Throughout November Townsville residents will be working with Sea Turtle Foundation to monitor nesting turtles in order to build a greater understanding of these endangered animals. Volunteers will patrol the beach at the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) to record nesting success, take vital statistics and install devices that protect eggs from feral predators.

“Our knowledge of sea turtles is so limited that part of their life-cycle is known as the ‘lost years’”, said David Roe, Project Manager for Sea Turtle Foundation. “Our volunteers make a real difference by monitoring nesting sea turtles and gathering information that otherwise would be unrecorded”.

“Sea turtles once shared the earth with dinosaurs, they were found in every ocean in vast numbers. But today, due to many human pressures, they face extinction. We need all the help we can get to keep sea turtles in our waters”.

Townsville resident Kathy Russell became involved after her son attended a Sea Turtle Foundation workshop at his school. “Darcy was so touched by the sea turtle’s story we felt we had to help protect them”, she said. “Darcy and his whole class were horrified that we may lose sea turtles forever”.

“Watching a sea turtle lay her eggs is an incredible experience. It’s like stepping back in time, you completely forget the outside world”.

“Once nesting is finished we tag the turtle and measure her shell. We check for injuries and mark the nest site. Sometimes we cover the nest with a special device that stops feral animals like pigs from eating the eggs”.

“We have also made changes at home and work. We are careful with our rubbish and don’t dispose of chemicals down the drain. If we see littered plastic bags we pick them up and bin them.”

“All sea turtles in Australia are listed as threatened species”, continued Mr Roe. “They are losing their feeding and breeding grounds to coastal development, they choke on plastic bags, feral animals eat their eggs and they get caught in fishing gear. Additional pressures from deteriorating water quality and climate change are taking a heavy toll on the sea turtle’s ability to survive.”

Sea Turtle Foundation is a Townsville-based non-profit organisation that protects and conserves sea turtles through research, education and action. To learn more about sea turtles or to support Sea Turtle Foundation by becoming a member, making a donation or volunteering go to [www.seaturtlefoundation.org](http://www.seaturtlefoundation.org)

**Media enquiries:** Images and further information is available from Dave Roe, Sea Turtle Foundation (07) 4721 2699 / 0431 259 129 / [david.roe@seaturtlefoundation.org](mailto:david.roe@seaturtlefoundation.org)

**Media Invitation:** AIMS Beach nesting patrols happen on the evenings of 13, 14, 15, 16, 28 November and 01 December. Media personal are invited to attend for story coverage.

#### **About Sea Turtle Foundation**

Sea Turtle Foundation is a Townsville based non-profit organisation that protects and conserves sea turtles through research, education, awareness and action. Sea Turtle Foundation runs workshops in schools, is involved in long-term scientific research programs and raises alerts when sea turtles or their habitats are under threat.