

MEDIA RELEASE

15 September 2008

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON
CLEAN UP THE WORLD DAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2008**

The **Townsville** community and local residents are being called upon to celebrate Clean Up the World Day on Saturday, 20 September 2008.

Sea Turtle Foundation urgently needs your help to clean up our beaches and shorelines. More than ever, Townsville needs the help of volunteers to not just improve our local area but also be an important part of a global movement that is working to protect the environment for future generations.

Did you know that every year an estimated seven billion tons of debris enter the world's oceans? The consequences are devastating as each year an estimated 100,000 marine animals, including sea turtles, dolphins and whales, choke or get tangled in debris and nearly one million birds are killed by aquatic litter.

Sea Turtle Foundation, a Townsville-based, not-for-profit organisation will use this clean up event to launch a larger campaign against marine debris, one of the main threats to our sea turtles. "We really need to address this issue as over 80% of sea turtles are already affected by marine debris", says Gitte Kragh, Project Manager for Sea Turtle Foundation. She continues, "Sea Turtle Foundation works to remove the marine debris already out there but what we really want is to stop it from entering our waterways and oceans in the first place. We can only achieve this with public support"

Clean Up the World Day is a year-round community-led environmental campaign that takes place in local communities in over 110 countries and involves an estimated 35 million volunteers each year. Everyone can have fun and help contribute to healthy, clean shorelines and marine environments.

Volunteers can get involved at:

Time: 20 September 8-10 am

Locations: 1. Ross Creek at public boat ramp at the Coast Guard building (Sea Turtle Foundation)
2. Rowes Bay at Soroptimist Park (Marine Wildlife Australia)

Description: We will meet at both places at 8 am. Registration forms to be filled out and bags, gloves etc to be handed out. We will finish at 11 am at Soroptimist Park with a BBQ.

Further information: Gitte Kragh: 4721 2699 / 0423 334 136 / info@seaturtlefoundation.org

Bring your friends and family along and help make clean waters a reality!

Media inquiries:

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