

MEDIA RELEASE

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Pupils Illustrate they want *Turtles for Tomorrow*

Sea Turtle Foundation and a group of Townsville schools have worked together to raise awareness of the plight of endangered sea turtles in Queensland waters. On Saturday 05 September, as part of Threatened Species Day, they launch a 2010 calendar of children's artworks that graphically illustrates how dangerous humans have made the ocean for sea turtles.

"Sea turtles can deal with natural predators like sharks and crocodiles, said Dave Roe, Project Manager for Sea Turtle Foundation. "But today there are so many unnatural obstacles that they are losing the fight for survival. They mistakenly eat floating plastic bags that clog their stomachs; they get caught up in fishing gear and drown; they find buildings on their nesting beaches and; they are hit by boats when they surface to breath".

These and many more impacts have been illustrated by pupils from several Townsville Schools in a project partly funded by Townsville City Council. Sea Turtle Foundation worked with Townsville schools to learn about the issues and the pupils turned their lessons into artworks.

"We are very impressed at how well the children have learnt about the problems facing sea turtles", continued Mr Roe. "Their drawings show a remarkable understanding of the issues and a clear message to us all that they want turtles for tomorrow."

Cr Vern Veitch, Environment and Sustainability Committee Chairman from Townsville City Council said they were delighted to be involved in this project. "We all have a responsibility to care for animals living in Queensland and projects like this that involve our children in learning and communicating are very effective in raising our awareness. Through this project we are learning from our children".

"We have included on the calendar many simple actions that we can all take to help sea turtles, continued Mr Roe. "We call on all Queenslanders to help us protect our precious sea turtles."

The launch takes place at 12:30pm at Aitkenvale library, all are welcome to attend. Artworks from The Willows State School and Annandale Christian School can be seen at Aitkenvale Library between 21 August and 11 September. Artworks from Belgian Gardens State School and In Ages School of Fine Art can be seen at Perc Tucker Gallery between 4 September and 4 October.

For copies of the Turtles for Tomorrow calendar and to see how you can help sea turtles go to www.seaturtlefoundation.org

Media enquiries:

Images and further information is available from Dave Roe, Sea Turtle Foundation
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