

## Team Turtle CQ

2014 - ONGOING



“I love being a part of TTCQ, it is such satisfying work and has allowed me to rediscover my love of turtles and our ocean.”

Tonya Wilson,  
TTCQ Volunteer

### AIM

Team Turtle Central Queensland (TTCQ) was established almost a decade ago to train a network of community volunteers in turtle monitoring. TTCQ is a citizen scientist program with the aim of collecting and collating quality data for submission to the Department of Environment and Science (DES) managed Queensland Turtle Conversation Program database and local authorities which informs and influences coastal management and threat mitigation for marine turtle species.

### OVERVIEW

The central Queensland region is home to six of the world’s seven marine turtle species. Three of these species – Flatback Turtle (*Natator depressus*), Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) – nest on central Queensland beaches. All marine turtle species found in Australian waters are threatened with extinction, listed as either vulnerable or endangered under both Queensland and Australian legislation. Monitoring of marine turtle activity has occurred along the Queensland coast for decades. However, a 2014 gap analysis carried out by Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) identified that the Fitzroy region provided significant opportunity to add valuable information to this dataset: in particular, by establishing a community marine turtle monitoring program.

TTCQ has grown into a vibrant project group with a strong membership and community interest consisting of two cohesive and cooperative groups separated by location (Capricorn and Curtis Coasts). These groups record data electronically and have three main types of activity including: turtle monitoring, volunteer training and community engagement. These activities and data collection are used to produce annual season reports.

### ACHIEVEMENTS:

- TTCQ started with 7 active volunteers and now has 68 (871% increase)
- TTCQ started with 6 beaches surveyed and now has 46 (666% increase)
- TTCQ has created a strong sense of community stewardship, education and collaborative planning
- Volunteers have reported experiencing both mental and physical health benefits from being involved in the project
- Implemented an App-based approach to recording turtle behaviour





### Achievements, cont.


- Increased knowledge and skills by volunteers, leading to enhanced data quality
- Beach access signage installed in collaboration with local councils
- Fox control management is aided by TTCQ nest data, local volunteer observations and knowledge.
- TTCQ hosts volunteers who provide Marine Stranding response on the Capricorn Coast
- 91kms of coastline covered – see map below
- 1,484 confirmed nests recorded over the project period

### TEAM HATCHLINGS:

Team Hatchlings is the junior arm of TTCQ. Hatchlings engage young people living on the Capricorn Coast through interactive activities at events and by producing resources to educate and promote positive behavior change. Team Hatchlings collaborates with Traditional Custodians, Darumbal and Woppaburra, on this initiative.



 Team Turtle CQ 2022-2023 Monitored Beaches

 Places

 FBA Boundary

Known Sea Turtle Nesting Areas

 Potential Area for TTCQ

Other known Sea Turtle nesting areas unavailable for TTCQ:

 QTCP Monitored Area

 Area within Military Training Area

 Area on Remote Island

 Area requiring access via Private Property

 Area outside of TTCQ Area of Interest

Sea turtle nesting areas data: CC BY 3.0. © State of Queensland (Department of Environment and Science) 2023.  
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 TTCQ data: © Fitzroy Basin Association 2023.  
 Map: © Fitzroy Basin Association 2023. Created 31 May 2023. Ref: j2382 TTCQ 2022-2023

Over the last almost decade, this innovative program has been supported and funded by a range of stakeholders including: the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation in partnership with the Australian Government's Reef Trust program and the Queensland Government, Gladstone Regional Council, Livingstone Shire Council, Woppaburra TUMRA, Darumbal Enterprises and many more.

FBA would like to thank the many people and organisations who have worked to support Team Turtle CQ, most of all the amazing volunteers.

