

End of 2006-07 Season Report: Jurabi Turtle Centre (JTC)

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Ningaloo Turtle Program (NTP) first found its roots with the Ningaloo Community Monitoring Program in 2002, starting of with 38 volunteers. With Jurabi Turtle Centre (JTC) coming on board during the 2004-05 season the program strengthened, with volunteer numbers growing. This season we had 115 local and external volunteers participating in the NTP.

Morning monitoring and night based scouting have been married to form the NTP of today. The NTP provides a community/volunteer based, sustainable project concentrating on research and ecotourism activities for turtle conservation in the local region. It provides volunteer opportunities for locals, metro, interstate and international volunteers to dedicate time and efforts to the program.

In particular JTC provides a portal where conservation and education of turtles and local conservation efforts can be taken to a state and sometimes global level through public education and guided tours.

In the 2006-07 season JTC ran for a 9.5 week period from the 7th of December till the 10th of February. The grand opening of Jurabi Turtle Centre was held on the 7th of December 2006. Locals and NTP volunteers began the night with a cheese and wine introduction followed by a presentation, with free guided tours available. The first official tour by Ningaloo Reef Retreat was held on the 8th of December.

Logistically the season began on a back foot with little information being available not only to the Team Leaders but more importantly to the supervisors for what the season would hold and bring. Great efforts and contributions made by all the Team Leaders of 2006-07 assisted in the smooth operations of JTC. In this report I have included an outline of procedures for JTC, presentations,

scouting, access scouts, training, data entry and rosters that were used by the 2006-07 Team Leaders. I have also provided the functionality of our methods and I hope this provides a basis from which the Team Leaders for 2007-08 can use. By no means are these concrete but rather organic in nature.

Most of the recommendation made in this report need to be thought of carefully and organised before the season begins if not detailed other wise. A copy of this seasons report should be given to the new Team Leaders to detail the procedures, pros and cons of the 2006-07 seasons, as to make the 2007-08 a more productive one.

2. PROCEDURES

2.1. JTC, Presentation and Scouting

- Before JTC all presentation and scouting equipment needs to be placed in the bus (preferably while morning monitoring equipment is reloaded on the bus in the morning, after monitoring) :
 1. Radios
 2. Scouting bags (marked "S")
 3. Podium
 4. Screen and pole
 5. Projector (USB stick, remote control)
 6. JTC equipment box
- Make sure that all team leaders, volunteers and trainer names are on the roster sheet.
- Make a Schedule call to the duty officer on, before leaving DEC, once at JTC, leaving JTC and final arrival at DEC, i.e. 4 calls. (Caller Id and roster for duty officers are in the red folder on the bus)
- Access scouts are to be dropped off on the way to JTC and picked up on the way home from JTC.
- Once arrived at JTC unpack bus and get volunteers to help you set up
- Get your assistant information's officer to take the TEAM LEADER FOLDER and stand by the entrance to JTC. They will be required to:
 1. Greet visitors and hand over a COC brochure to self guided tourists
 2. Fill out the nightly information sheet. Recording number of self guided (throughout the night) and numbers of people on tours (they will need to ask the tour guide upon tour arrival)
- Send out scout groups onto Hunters or to other beaches (with DEC car with radio) approximately 8:00pm. Conduct a radio check with all scout pairs and attain information (what beach they are on and which direction are they walking in, north or south).
- Deliver the nightly presentation at 8:30pm (if Ningaloo Reef Retreat is running late you might have to wait a little)
- On the way home make sure all scouts fill in their 2 sheets in their scout packs ('Turtle Interaction Logsheet' and 'Visitor Interaction Sheet')
- Scouting bags and JTC presentation equipment are to be taken off the bus on arrival back to DEC (Radios are to be left on the bus)
- The next mornings monitoring team needs to:
 1. Check scout bags (first aid kit, blue rubbish bag, torches and spare batteries). Replace anything if necessary
 2. Remove, file and replace log sheets in all scout folders, including:
 - I. Self Guided sheet x 5
 - II. Turtle Interaction sheet x 5
 - III. Turtle COC x 10
 - IV. Operational Procedures for JTC x 1

- V. Section Map x 1
 - VI. Volunteer Guidelines x 1
 - VII. Licence Conditions x 1
 - VIII. Tides sheet x 1
 - IX. Turtle Nesting Phases x 1
3. Check and refill equipment box:
 - I. Red light torches x 2, with spare batteries
 - II. White light head torches x 2
 - III. Large dolphin torch with spare battery
 - IV. Out door power block
 - V. Yellow out door extension cord
 - VI. Pencil case with spare pens and emergency money for pay phone
 - VII. Spare Turtle COC brochures
 - VIII. Staff name badges
 - IX. Large sticky tape and large black electrical tape
 4. Check and refill Team Leader Folder:
 - I. JTC Nightly information sheet
 - II. Tour Operator sheet
 - III. Self Guided sheet x 5
 - IV. Turtle Interaction sheet x 5
 - V. Turtle COC brochures x 8
 - VI. Operational Procedures for JTC x 1
 - VII. Section Map x 1
 - VIII. Volunteer Guidelines x 1
 - IX. Tides sheet x 1
 - X. Turtle Nesting Phases x 1
 5. Enter volunteer hours
- On Thursdays:
 1. Take the cleaning kit with you on the bus. Get all the volunteers to help clean the centre while some are setting up for the night's presentation. Clean seats & displays in centre and access way. Collect any rubbish around the area. Sweep the area if required
 2. During the day give Ningaloo Reef Retreat a call (ph: 9949 1776) and go and pick up the data for that week, photocopy the data and return it ASAP to the Reef Retreat office in town (17 Pellew St, Exmouth). Sheets include Turtle Interaction Logsheet, JTC and Tour Survey sheet

2.2. Access Scouts

Access scouts were put into place as an attempt to combat the large numbers of self guided visitors coming to see turtles that were not aware of the code of conduct. The aim of this position was to make contact with visitors before they got on the beaches to try and minimise turtle disturbances and make them aware of their influence. The access scouts were run in groups with a minimum of two people for safety reasons

- Access scouts were transported on the bus along with everyone else for JTC and were dropped off at the appropriate access with the required equipment (~7:45pm). Priority beaches were Hunters Access, Mauritius and Wobiri.
- At this point they organised their material and waited for self guided visitors to arrive and informed them of the appropriate behaviour.
- They were later picked up roughly at 9:30pm once the speech and other JTC operations had finished.

Equipment list + folders:

- I. Torches
- II. Chairs
- III. Radio

- IV. NTP ID badges
- V. Folder:
 - a. Turtle Code of Conduct
 - b. Turtle species brochure
 - c. Reef Retreat Turtle Tour pamphlet
 - d. Laminated turtle nesting phases
 - e. Tide chart
 - f. Map of the area
 - g. Emergency contact numbers
- VI. Self Guided Data Sheet (recording numbers of self guided visitors and visitor interaction).
- VII. Access Scout Script (see below).

Top Things to Say an as Access Scout

Greet Arriving Visitors:

Approach visitors in a friendly manner – introduce self and where you're from
i.e. "Hi there my name is Billy Bob I'm a volunteer from the Ningaloo Turtle Program and tonight we're here to provide some beach education to visitors on turtle interaction."
Engage them in conversation – use an ice breaker question
"Are you here to see turtles tonight?" or "Have you seen a turtle before?" or "Where are you travelling from?"

Find Out if they are Self Guided or on the Tour:

"Are you with a tour group tonight, or have you just come down to check things out?"

If Self Guided:

"Would you like some information on how to interact with turtles and how to find them?"

Asses Situation:

Torch in hand or camera – provide advice on this

YES: Provide Information on Code of Conduct

Give them a brochure on turtle biology and the code of conduct (one per group)
Verbally tell them the code of conduct

GO SLOW, NO GLOW, STAY LOW explain

STOP, DROP, ROCK – explain

15m unless chambering and egg laying – explain how to identify these phases
Would you like some information on Turtle Tours in case you do not find a turtle tonight?

If there is still time to make a tour or at least see the talk: Provide Information on JTC Talk

Invite them to watch the free talk on turtles
Highlight the benefits of watching the talk (learn about turtles and correct turtle interaction procedures)

If interested in tours.... Provide Information on the Tours

The benefits of going on a tour; reduces chance of disturbance, greater chance of seeing turtle (scouts) and informative learn about turtle biology, threats and lifecycle
Tour prices (\$25 Adult, \$15 Child, Family \$60 – 2 adults + 3 kids)
Tour bookings (Through Reef Retreat, Exmouth Visitor Centre)

NO: Wish them well for their evening and let them go

2.3. Training/ Assessment

Scouting

There were 44 external volunteers and 5 locals who gained their scout competences, this season. Almost weekly we had a scout training sessions held for new volunteers. Volunteers put in approximately 18 hours of training which included a 2pm till 11pm Wednesday scout workshop and 3 times 3 hour scout training/shadow sessions on the beach. Training and assessments were conducted by Cath Samson, Claire O'Callaghan, Kate McGregor, Julie Waller and Alana Whilter. While shadowing could be conducted by any competent NTP scout.

Access Scouts

Access scout training was incorporated into the scout workshop. And on site training was conducted with a group on an access by Claire O'Callaghan (Volunteer Coordinator). Any access scout trained by Claire could then be shadowed by a non trained future access scout. This was to ensure that they knew the basics in how to interact with turtles without disturbing them and also have some basic human interaction skills.

2.4. Date Entry/ Database Training

On a master roster; compiled pre season by Claire O'Callaghan; JTC data entry was assigned a time slot of 2-3pm with groups rostered on each day. This was changed to a weekly basis as there wasn't as much data; compared to monitoring; to be entered. Each data entry session took approximately 1-2 hours.

The Excel based databases for JTC were compiled by Claire O'Callaghan in accordance with the sheets distributed, recorded and collected by NTP scouts and Ningaloo Reef Retreat guides, they were:

1. Turtle Interaction Logsheet (NTP scouts and Ningaloo Reef Retreat)
2. Turtle visitor interaction Survey (NTP scouts and access scouts)
3. JTC Nightly Logsheet (NTP information's officer)
4. JTC Feedback Survey (Only Ningaloo Reef Retreat)

Database training Procedures:

Database training happens on a weekly basis on Tuesday at 2pm and was conducted by the Team Leader on that day.

A 'Date Entry Hours Logsheet' was drawn up this season to allow volunteers; that were coming in for data entry; to be able to log their hours. This form lives above a computer where volunteers can access it.

Opening the program:

- I. My Computer
- II. SharedData on 'Calm-exmo-2'
- III. 422-Operations (District)
- IV. General Access
- V. DATABASES
- VI. JTC Databases (You can make a short cut for this and place it on the desk top for easy access)

There are 3 display folders ('Morning Monitoring and Database Training Procedures') that need to be used of JTC data base training. They have the 4 sheets that need entering and the corresponding face of the data base. These include:

1. Turtle Nesting and Hatchling Interaction Tour Data Logsheet
This sheet is to be entered into the 'Turtle Interaction Log Database 2006-07'
 - Please fill in all sheet with full scout and trainee names
2. Jurabi Turtle Centre Turtle Visitor Interaction Survey
This sheet is to be entered into the 'Self Guided Data Base 2006-07'

3. JTC Nightly Log Sheet: Self Guided Tourist Information Log
This sheet is to be entered into the 'Nightly Log - Data Base 2006-07'
 4. The 'Survey' sheet
This sheet is to be entered into the 'JTC Feedback Survey Data Base 2006-07'
- This file contains the 4 databases used for different JTC data sheets. This is where it should be made clear that the names of the databases and the names of the sheets may not always correspond completely. If the volunteer is unsure they can open the spread sheet and look at the example given in the Database Procedures manual.
 - Each excel spread sheet has colour coding to make it easier to identify each section of the sheets filled nightly
 - To overcome any confusion in data entry the trainer need to go through entering one of each sheet and then needs the volunteers to go through entering data on their own. Inturn any questions that may arise can be addressed
 - It should also be made clear that this is an excel spreadsheet and that they should be extremely careful not to change data that has already been entered and to save all their work repeatedly. And the JTC Team Leader should make it their responsibility to backup the data every few days to avoid incorrect data collection.
 - In the Database Procedures manual there is also a JTC tour operator information sheet, where people/groups operating out of JTC without a licence need to be recorded (in 2006-07 Ningaloo Reef Retreat was the only licence holder). These are not being entered into a database. If one of these is found it should be taken to management.

2.5. Rosters

A master roster was compiled pre season by Claire O'Callaghan where each group was allocated nights of working. From the master roster we worked out the finer parts of the logistics i.e. which positions each volunteer would fill. Each person was alternated through different roles and given the opportunity to gain an array of experience including Information Officer, Access Scout, Scout and the person giving the presentation. A team leader was rostered on every night. During the season we started handing out a weekly black and white copy of the roster for each volunteer house as a means to make it clear when people where on.

3. FUNCTIONALITY IN 2006-07 SEASON

3.1. JTC, Presentation and Scouting

JTC

In the 2006-07 season we clearly saw the important role JTC plays in turtle education and conservation in the area, as we had 351 self guided visitors going through JTC and had 551 tourists going on Ningaloo Reef Retreat turtle tours (Data collected as of the 19th of December, 2006).

This season we began having an information's officer at the front entry into JTC which helped immensely, not only could we accurately record number of self guided tourist going through the centre, tour group participants (recorded in the 'Nightly Logsheet' from the 19th December, 2006) but we could closely monitor any illegal tour group working out of JTC. This season we had 2 illegal tour groups running out of JTC, including Planet Perth and Western Explorer. This type of activity needs to be closely monitored

The 2006-2007 season ended earlier then the 2005-2006 the season ending on the 14th of February 2006, with a mutual agreement reached by NTP and Ningaloo Reef Retreat, due to lack of visitor numbers going through the centre.

Presentation

The presentation was held from Monday to Saturday at JTC at 8:30pm. It lasted for 20 minutes covering Ningaloo Turtle Program info, turtle biology, life cycle, threats in the Ningaloo region and a summary of the Turtle COC (Code of Conduct). The presentation was delivered by a Team Leader but later in the season 7 volunteers (Ruth, Howard, Evelyn, Holly, Aleesha, Erin and Lee) participated in its delivery. By getting volunteers involved in the delivery of the presentation this took a large load off the team leaders as it distributed roles at JTC more evenly for e.g. if team leaders were rostered on for the night they had the opportunity to scout rather than just fill in the position of delivering the presentation. The enthusiasm generated from the volunteers was tremendous not only for the development of the volunteers but also for the program. However, a problem that did arise was that some of the necessary preparation work before the presentation was lacking. This problem could be easily solved for the future if a kind of 'standard' was developed wherein the speech would need to be presented prior to the night. Most possibly the best people to be involved with this stage would be the program coordinators or Team Leaders.

Some issues that we had during the season included that on a few occasions tour guides of Ningaloo Reef Retreat arrived at the centre before or after the scheduled 8:30pm speech time. This might be a problem during the season peak if we have many self guided visitors that are made to wait for the speech if the JTC crew feel they need to wait for paying Reef Retreat customers. To make the presentation more complete and to fill in this waiting time a slide show of Exmouth (regional) images (with captions) could be played before the JTC presentation begins. This would not only entertain people as they arrive early at the centre but it is also a great way to promote the local area/wildlife and tours and in turn help the local economy.

Also a problem faced; occasionally during tours, is that sometimes tourists actually didn't get to see any of the turtle nesting phases. A possibility to combat this problem would be to incorporate a short video footage of turtles doing the different stages of nesting in the speech (Kim Onton could help with this). The videos are very short and would make a difference to the tour groups on a bad night.

On the odd occasion that there weren't any tour groups going out, the JTC group for that night were given the option to cancel the talk. This happened once during the season mid January after no self guided visitors had been seen on the beach for a few days.

More logistically while making the presentation we had troubles attaining permission for the use of some photos that were used in last season's presentation. Permission for the use of photo and the use of appropriate photos for the presentation needs to be looked at early on in the season so a final speech can be used with confidence by the team leaders and made easier for volunteers to learn and deliver.

Scouting

At the beginning of the season we had 4 team leaders and 6 monitoring and scouting competent external volunteers to work with. This placed limitations on the project in regards to having enough people on the beach scouting as well as dealing with self guided visitors. A possible solution to this would be to have two groups starting initially as to not overwork the first group. Recruitment of locals would be better as getting local volunteers will help in the longevity of the project. The opportunity for night volunteer work, for the locals needs to be marketed and advertised in a more aggressive manner as a means to get locals involved. There is a great market with people participating in the Marine Turtle Tour guiding course that could be better targeted. This would give us more volunteers to work with and it would also give these potential turtle guides great experience in being out on the beach.

Also it could be thought that more scouts on the beach at night, located on different beaches could assist in minimising the disturbance on turtles as tour groups could go directly to chambering/nesting turtles rather than scout their own with a large tour group.

Some problems we had during the season included radio contact to beaches other than Hunters more so Wobiri. Most probably because of the dune system in the area JTC based volunteers found it hard to communicate with Wobiri, in turn we stopped sending JTC scouts out to this

area. Because this was a popular turtle beach with Ningaloo Reef Retreat, not having scouts on this beach potentially had an affect on the quality of the turtle tours given. This eventually had a roll over effect at JTC as Ningaloo Reef Retreat guides opted to go to Wobiri rather than interact with turtles at JTC Hunters where we were able to have scout pairs. Some volunteers felt that their position became some what redundant when Ningaloo Reef Retreat wouldn't use the turtles scouted out. This problem was specifically evident on Hunters Beach particularly because the beach has also developed a reputation for having a high density of self guided visitors not adhering to the code of conduct. Perhaps we should be using volunteers for a different purpose on this section of beach so that they don't feel that what they are doing is fruitless. Possibly an access scout type role would be implemented more so during the peak of the season. To have people on the beach specifically targeting self guided visitors could greatly minimise the disturbance on turtles on this beach.

This season we also experienced some internal scouting issues regarding the happiness of our scouts. Many of the volunteers we had this season did not like scouting. Some of the issues they had involved: fear of disturbing turtles, uncomfortable being on the beaches at night time, disliking confronting self guided visitors on the beach especially if they were doing the wrong thing and felt that their position held little weight as they could not enforce the code of conduct. A possible solution to this could include a more thorough overview of what scouting involves pre season and giving people the option of taking on such a position. But also down the track possibly getting someone from DEC aboard that can enforce regulations, possibly someone like Brad Daw coming out on the beach once or twice a week during peak times to enforce the code of conduct.

In the 2006-07 season we had a total of 351 self guided visitors, with a nightly maximum of 27 in one night during the season peak. More efforts could be made in the advertisement or marketing of turtle tours during this period to help in further assist in minimising disturbance to turtles.

3.2. Access Scouts

During the holiday period i.e. the last week of December and first week of January we had great numbers of self guides coming through the centre. During this time we had an average of 17 self guideds per night, with the highest number of self guideds (27) on the night of 1st January 2007. During this same time we had an average of 17 tourists going on turtle tours, with one of the highest turtle tour participant numbers (30) found on the 1st January 2007. With potentially over 57 people on the beach the night of the 1st January 2007, we saw the need to implement extra measures to account for the huge number of self guides on the beach. Unfortunately the peak visitor influx was during the Christmas period which was at the same time that we were short staffed and weren't really able to meet the demands with scouts. So from the 16th of January till the 2nd of February we ran access scouts, but were a little unsuccessful as we had missed the season's peak and were getting an average of 4 self guided visitors coming through JTC. The purpose of access scouts was to make contact with visitors going to the beach before they wet on to the beach without prior knowledge of the Turtles Watchers Code of Conduct. And with just over 350 self guides going through the centre from the 19th of December we can note the importance such a role has in minimising turtle disturbance.

The access scouts were placed in the car park access just before entering the beach. The beach that people were put on was Hunters because we had a large number of self guided visitors coming through there. The first few sections of beach, along the west side of the cape, seemed to be the most popular to visitors most probably due to the shorter drive and also a popular misconception that the turtles only came to one section of beach to nest. Other beaches that may be beneficial to monitor in the future would be Mauritius and possibly even Wobiri. Access scouts ran from approximately 7:45pm till 10pm which we found to be a good time to utilise as it seemed that this interval was the time during which most visitors arrived. Other issues faced were through training operations. Training procedures could probably do with some formalisation; training was conducted by putting a large number of volunteers with someone with a lot of experience in this case Claire O'Callaghan. Some disadvantages to this was, that it in the access to the beach there would be a large group of people waiting for

someone to approach the beach access. This may have been intimidating to visitors wanting to go on the beach. Also if the group didn't see many self guided visitors, they would be more inclined to talk amongst themselves which may have presented an uninviting front to visitors. Though the benefit of this training was that they all went out with an experienced turtle tracker and learnt a standard from which to work from.

Finally another problem encountered was that many of the volunteers did not want to access scout. Some of the reasons for this was that they simply found it boring, they did not enjoy waiting in a car park for visitors and they also felt that some of what they did held little value when some visitors would still continue to break the information they were given. Though potentially if access scouts were put in place during the season peak then there would be a greater number of self guided visitors that they would encounter.

3.3. Training/ Assessment

A lot of time and effort was put into training and assessing for the volunteers we had over the season. Training and assessment occurred on a weekly basis with approximately 22 hours going into achieving competency (approximately 18 hours for training, another 3 hours for on beach assessment and 1 hour for oral assessments the next morning). This showed problematic at the beginning of the season and during vacation periods when volunteer, trainer and assessor numbers were extremely low. Not having many competent scouts meant we didn't have many people if any on the beach during peak times i.e. Christmas time and New Years. This also meant that competent scout were rostered on regularly to compensate for the lack of available volunteers. Finding trainers and assessors during this time also proved very difficult and those trainers/assessors available were overworked including our supervisors. If Team Leaders and locals were trained to train and assess early on in the season this would take some pressure off the supervisors during these times. And if locals were more involved in this part of NTP this would help out during the times of low volunteer number. As mentioned above marketing for recruitment of local volunteers is essential.

Despite all the work put in, some external volunteers didn't want to be apart of scouting. Some people stated that they really didn't have a clear grasp of what scouting entailed (crawling through wet, cold sand and participating in a project that worked side by side with a business). And stated that if they had known more details at the beginning they would have opted to not to go through the training process and just do monitoring. With these people going through the whole training process, it put some pressure on those who felt morally anxious about the situation. A clear advertisement could be designed to recruit volunteers to clearly outline the conditions that people will be dealing with.

3.4. Date Entry/ Database Training

Originally there were people rostered on daily to do data entry but it was more feasible to get people coming in 2 times a week as there wasn't as much data to be inputted, compared to the monitoring data set.

There were also issues with correct completion of the "Turtle Interaction Log Sheet" by Ningaloo Reef Retreat guides. It is necessary that *ALL* guides complete their *OWN* log sheet and that log sheets are also completed when there are no tours and when there are no turtles encountered as a means to account of all working days. This needs to be understood and explained to all parties involved at the beginning of the season. Team leader need to also make sure that our own scout are filling in data sheets correctly in particular if no turtles were sighted and recorded with **NO TURTLE SIGHTED**.

There was also trouble in the collection of the data (Turtle Interaction Log Sheet and JTC Feedback Survey) with Ningaloo Reef Retreat. A clear arrangement needs to be made with Reef Retreat as to how this will happen. This season we began collecting data on a weekly nightly basis with Ningaloo Reef Retreat guides but it didn't run smoothly as guides forgot or were hesitant to bring out important documents. We then worked out a system to go and actually collect the data on a weekly basis from them at their town office 17 Pellew St, Exmouth (Phone: 9949 1776). This data was picked up, taken to DEC to photocopy and returned to Ningaloo Reef Retreat Exmouth office later that same day. This arrangement worked out better but this again need to be arranged with Ningaloo Reef Retreat and NTP Team Leaders.

Recommendations for Data Sheets:

- a. Jurabi Turtle Centre: Turtle Visitor Interaction Survey:
 - A more appropriate name could be used for this, such as 'Jurabi Turtle Centre: Self Guided Survey'
- b. JTC Nightly Log Sheet: Self Guided Tourist Information Log
 - This sheet was not drawn up until later in the season, so information was collected since 19th of December 2006. Next seasons group and start using this data collection sheet as soon as JTC begins as it collects valuable information.
- c. The 'Survey' sheet:
 - Could be called a more appropriate name such as 'JTC Feedback Survey'.
 - This sheet is a very valuable data collection sheet for NTP and Ningaloo Reef Retreat, but the design, layout, format and questions need to be looked at carefully, summarised so as to make it easier to read and fill. This needs to be agreed with and discussed in conjunction with Ningaloo Reef Retreat.

These data sheets need to be renamed for ease in using them correctly and return in training. A workable database also needs to be done up so correct data is collected.

3.5. Rosters

As a whole having a pre made format to work with was very beneficial however, there were some problems encountered during the season. Some groups of volunteers needed to leave the program before their finish date and so some reshuffling of days on and off needed to be organised with other groups. If reorganising the roster was not possible, this meant that on some nights we had no scouts at all. If we did reorganise the roster so that everyone was still participating equally in the night activities, just on different nights, this then made the master roster inaccurate for the week. If these types of changes are made people need to be called up personally and given a new black and white roster for that week.

A problem encountered with the master roster was that every group was rostered on for JTC on the Saturday night before they left on the Sunday morning. This posed a problem with every group as many of the groups were leaving early on Sunday to drive home and did not want to be out late. This can be taken into consideration while the master roster is being drawn up. To avoid many rostering issues it would be ideal to allow volunteers to work around their roster themselves i.e. if some is rostered on and can not make that time they themselves need to organise a replacement and indicate these changes to the Team Leaders.

Also over the Christmas period, the groups that we had arriving were significantly short in numbers. Instead of roughly six members in a group, in some instances we had only one and two. This caused some havoc for rostering people on to fill all the JTC operational needs and placed more pressure on the existing volunteers. If recruitment for volunteers occurred earlier in the year and this time of the year was advertised appropriately then this issue could be minimised.

3.6. Sunday Socials

Sunday social that we had this season included the Yacht Club, Snorkeling outings at Turquoise bay, Lake Side, Oyster Stakes, Dive Days, hiring out the pool with the Aqua Run, dinner at Graces, pool competition at Graces and the Potshot, BBQ at towns Beach and BBQ and parties at the Team Leaders house.

Problem/Improvements

Trying to get the word out to locals was probably the hardest thing to arrange for Sunday socials this season. We were advertising the Sunday socials via the bus as well as sending local volunteers emails regarding the events we were holding. The problems that we encountered with this were that some locals only go monitoring on Mondays morning and don't have an email, so don't find out about the socials. If the Sunday social could be organised in advance and put up

Sunday night for Monday monitoring and emails to locals could be sent ASAP too this would eliminate these issues. We could possible use local businesses or facilities to not only build a rapport with locals but also encourage locals to come out for e.g. going out diving with Village Dive, going to dinner at the Yacht Club or taking a group tour with Little Bit Long Way (Bill Crispy) to Yardie Creek.

CONCLUSION:

With over 50 working nights, 351 self guided visitors, 551 turtle tour participants and 49 competent scouts the 2006-07 season was a success through the collaborative efforts from DEC volunteers, Ningaloo Reef Retreat and visitors. With a few ups and downs along the way Team Leaders, supervisors and volunteers managed to come together with a little hard work to make the season a smooth and productive one. It is evident by the work that goes into JTC and the productivity of the centre that is a vital part of the Ningaloo Turtle Program, providing education and interpretations of turtles and turtle protocols for all visitors alike.

Without prior knowledge of procedures and workable operations a lot of work went into making this season a forward step in turtle education and conservation in the local area. New procedures and operations have been worked on throughout the season with a new found foundation from which JTC can run. I hope that the procedures outline and recommendations made in this report assist in making next season a smoother running one where energies can be used in making necessary changes and refining the workings of JTC to make it an ever growing and evolving project.