

## Turtle Tales

Our **Turtle Conservation Centre** is turtle-y busy, caring for loggerhead hatchlings and sub-adult green, hawksbill, and loggerhead turtles. Keep reading for some flipper-tastic news!

### Turtle Teacher

Did you know that turtles can see in colour?

As you can see, Amber the hawksbill turtle's eyes are rather small but her pupils are large. This helps turtles like Amber to see a fair range of colours. Turtles' eyesight is great underwater, and they're able to recognise hues along the spectrums of near-ultraviolet, blue-green, and yellow.



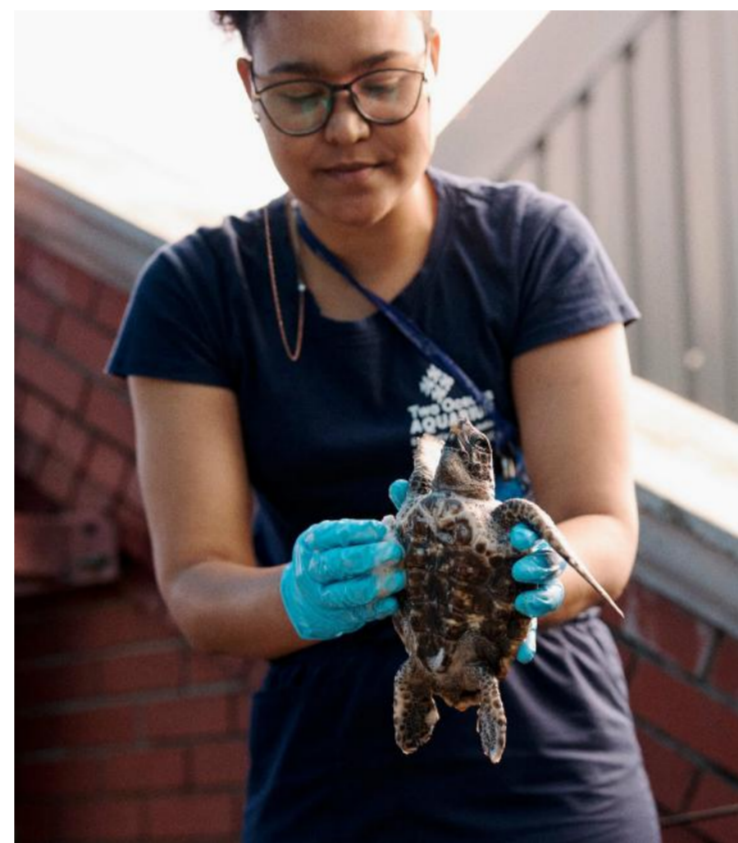
### Q&A with some of our turtle team

#### What have you learnt about turtles that has surprised you?

Razaan (Clinic Coordinator) says, "The thing that most surprised me about turtles is how similar they are to us! Although they have a hard exterior, they soften when compassion is extended toward them. They are complete softies!"

#### What do turtles represent for you?

Laura (Content Coordinator) says, "It just so happened that Bheni was rescued the same month that I started working at the Aquarium. I was going through a lot at the time, and I couldn't help seeing parallels between his healing journey and mine. It meant a lot to see him return home to the ocean a year later - what a profound sense of hope triumphing over tough times. For me, turtles represent perseverance, healing, and above all, hope."



#### What is "Turtle Tetris" and what does it entail?

Ayesha (Sea Turtle Aquarist) says, "Turtle Tetris is a phrase commonly used when the turtle team does a shuffle around of turtles. This could be because of a number of reasons: The turtles are getting bigger and they need bigger spaces, one of them has fallen a bit ill and needs to move to quarantine, or there is a tank being chlorined and no turtle can be present in the tank for a few days. So, the team plays turtle tetris to figure out which turtles need to move to ensure that everyone is happy and healthy!"

#### Do you have a favourite book or movie related to your career?

Alex (Senior Aquarist) says, "Tarzan was one of the first movies that made me want to work with, understand, and protect wildlife. Also, Jane Goodall's book *In the Shadow of Man*."



### 2024 in plastic...

One of the more sobering parts of our work at the Turtle Conservation Centre is monitoring the amount of plastic that has been ingested by our turtle patients. As opportunistic feeders, turtles often snack on whatever floats past them - unfortunately, this includes plastic.

#### 2024's plastic tally so far...

Turtles that have passed plastic: 193  
Pieces of plastic passed: 1 259  
Most pieces from one turtle: 96



This is a poignant reminder to us all to be mindful about our plastic use. **Check out this blog to learn how you can make a positive impact and help save our turtles.**

### Stay in the loop with our turtles!

Turtle Tales is a regular mailer from the **Turtle Conservation Centre**, packed with tons of turtle news, information, and fun! If you want to be a part of our turtle community, this is the space for you!

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