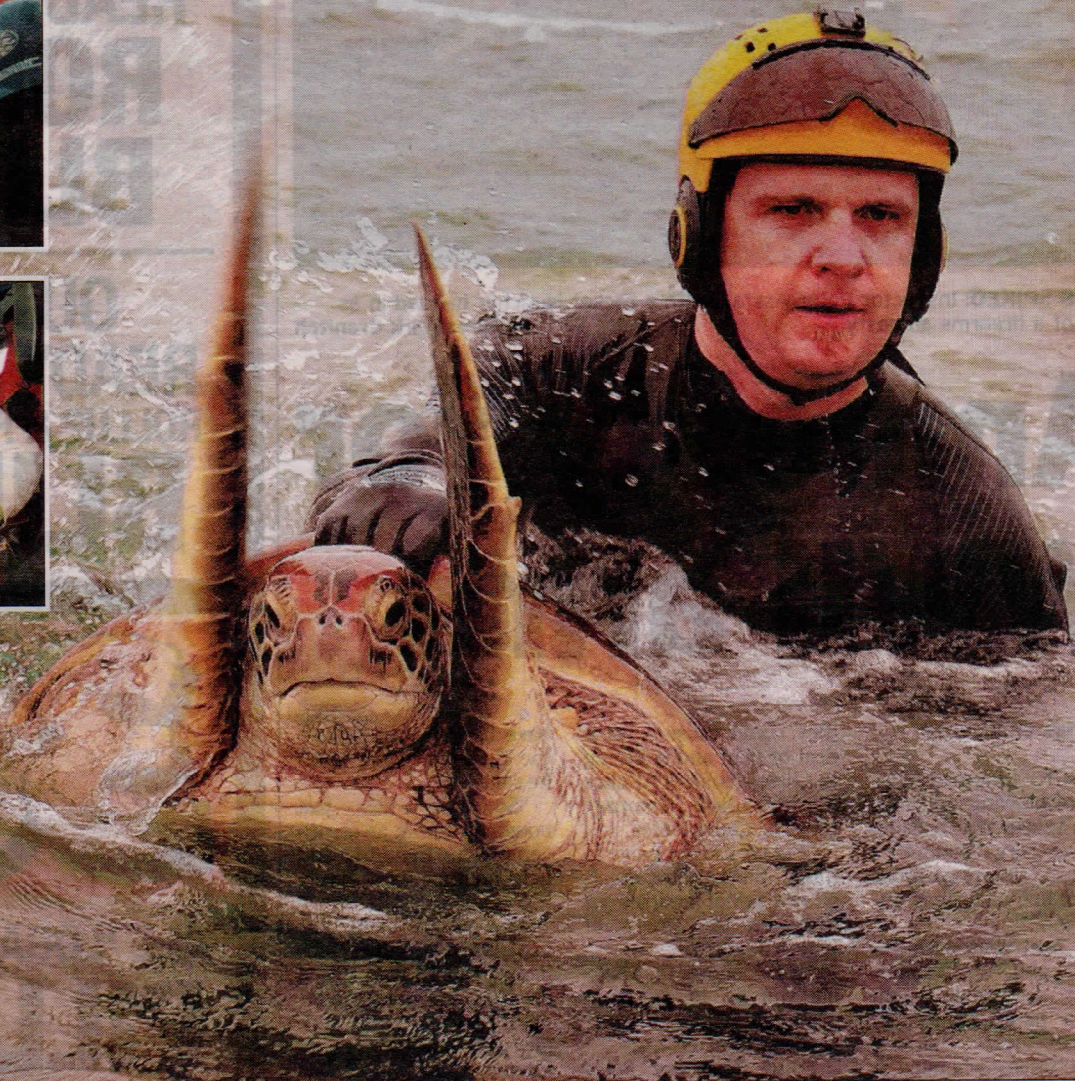
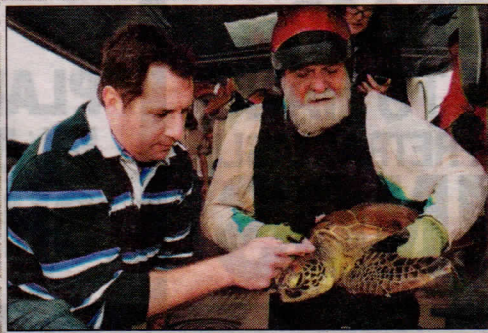


# Shell-shocked bay dwellers recovering



**CHECK UP:** Turtles in Moreton Bay are captured (above), taken on board (inset top left) and given a health check and tagged by Dr Colin Limpus and the environment minister Andrew Powell (inset left). The population is rising again after the 2011 floods. Picture: Adam Armstrong

## Sarah Vogler

MORETON Bay's turtle population is continuing to show signs of recovery following the devastating 2011 floods.

The Environment Department's Dr Colin Limpus yesterday led an annual health check of the bay's

turtles on the eve of World Turtle Day today.

A small sample of the population were wrangled in the water and brought aboard a departmental barge to be weighed, measured and given a general health check to gauge how the 10,000-strong population was coping compared to last year.

Dr Limpus, the department's chief scientist (aquatic threatened species), who was accompanied on the trip by Environment Minister Andrew Powell, said the signs were good.

But he warned the animals were still under threat from boat strikes and plastic wrap and containers making their way into Moreton Bay.

"After the 2011 floods, we found that almost no females in Moreton Bay prepared for breeding last year," Dr Limpus said.

"That's not a surprise because of the way the seagrass was damaged. But with the seagrass recovering, then we should see the breeding rate come up."