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Warraberalgahl Rangers and community members rescue Flatback Turtle

Warraber community members saved a small flatback turtle in distress last month, after they saw it floating near the northwestern side of Warraber Island.

The turtle was observed tangled in a ghost net and a plastic bag, so the community members contacted the Warraberalgahl Rangers.

My Pathway participants Isaac Harry, Dennis Harry and John Bowie joined in with the Warraber Rangers to look for the drifting turtle and community member, Nathan Pearson, used his dinghy to help the Rangers rescue the turtle.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said this is a perfect example of the community, TSRA and other organisations working together to protect our natural resources.

“It’s sad to think that every year, many turtles are caught in ghost nets from outside the Torres Strait. It just goes to show that we must remain vigilant in our waters ,” Mr Elu said.

“Fortunately, Rangers are caring for their land and sea country across all of the Torres Strait, in order to preserve it for the next generations to come.”

When the turtle was found, it was tangled in a ghost net and a plastic lined bag.

Ghost nets are just one of the many types of marine debris that are fouling the otherwise pristine coastline of Island communities in the Torres Strait.

The Rangers and My Pathway participants untangled the little turtle, which had four bruised flippers and was nursed back to health by the Rangers. The turtle was released a week later.

The Warraber Rangers thanked the My Pathway participants and the community of Warraber for working together to save the turtle.

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Caption: Warraberalgahl Ranger Mark Pearson with John Bowie (centre) and Dennis Harry from MyPathway untangling the little Flatback Turtle (Image: TSRA).



Caption: Warraberalgahl Ranger Mark Pearson (centre), Dennis Harry (L) and John Bowie (R) from MyPathway with the ghost netting removed from the flatback turtle (Image: TSRA).