

## 8 Advertiser News

# Rare turtle hatchlings captured on camera

■ Glenn Cordingley

Dozens of endangered olive ridley turtle hatchlings emerging from their nest in the Kimberley have been captured on camera for the first time in WA, 300km north-east of Broome.

The discovery has stirred excitement among marine scientists and the Dambimangari traditional owners of the area because the species is rarely seen in the State.

Department of Parks and Wildlife staff and Dambimangari rangers came across the nest while removing marine debris from a beach near Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park.

DPaW marine ranger Cameron Smith recorded the event with Dambimangari traditional owner Kieran Bangmorra.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the species had never before been filmed in WA and rarely anywhere else in Australia.



**The endangered olive ridley turtle hatchlings emerge from their nests on a beach near Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park.** Picture: Cameron Smith

"It has only recently been discovered that olive ridley turtles nest in WA and they have never before been recorded from the beach where they were filmed," he said.

"They are extremely scarce, so to witness this hatchling event is significant and helps to increase scientists' understanding of the species in Australia."

The olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) is the smallest of Australia's sea turtles and only grows to about 70cm long.

An adult olive ridley turtle in poor health was found in the proposed Yawuru Nagulagun/Roebuck Bay Marine Park near Broome and later released into the wild with a satellite tracking device attached to its shell.

# Punters get rodeo ready

■ Robert Dougherty

The Halls Creek Rodeo and Campdraft is just around the corner as cowboys and cowgirls get ready to stampele towards Halls Creek Rodeo Grounds on July 22-24.

The first day of the tournament hosts the majority of the campdraft events, and Saturday's action-packed setting consists of campdraft finals, children's campdrafts, Gymkhana or timed speed pattern racing, all the fun of the junior barrel races, the paddy race and the first half open bull ride.

The final day wraps up on Sunday with ladies and men's barrel races, timed rodeo events, station buckjumps, saddle bronc, bareback events, junior bull ride and the second half open bull ride.

The event will host campdraft cattle supplied by Heytesbury Cattle Company, and bar-and-catering facilities will be available over the three days, as no alcohol is allowed to be brought to the grounds.

Competition nominations closed last Friday.

Visit Halls Creek Rodeo Facebook page for more information.