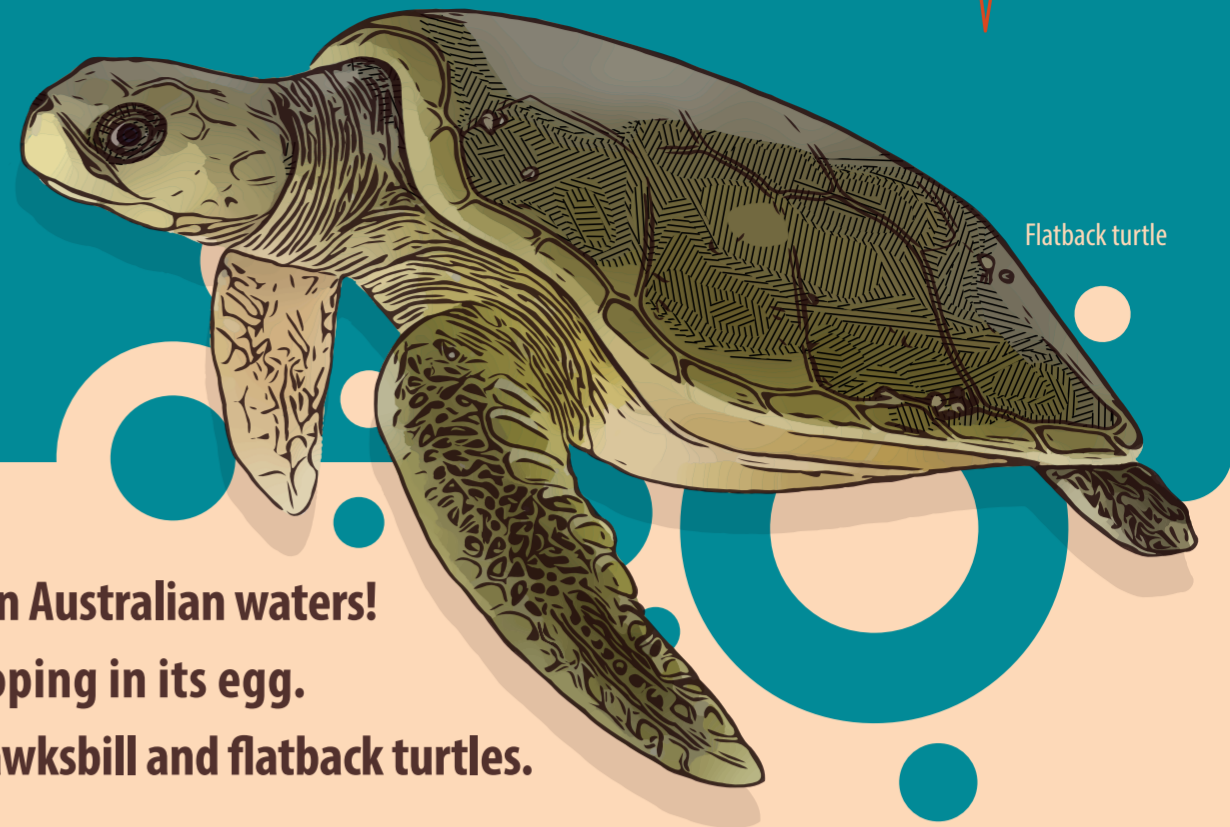


# ANCIENT REPTILES OF THE SEA

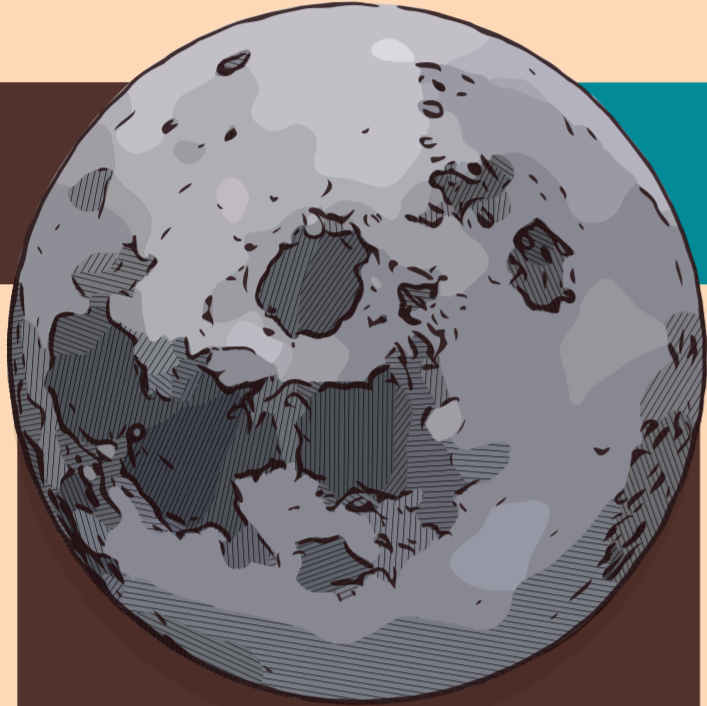
GREAT BARRIER REEF  
— JUNIOR —  
OUTLOOK

reef beat



Flatback turtle

- There are seven species of turtles found around the world. Six of these can be found in Australian waters!
- A baby turtle's sex is determined by the temperature of its nest while it is developing in its egg.
- The Reef has globally important nesting and feeding areas for green, loggerhead, hawksbill and flatback turtles.



## The moon shows them the way

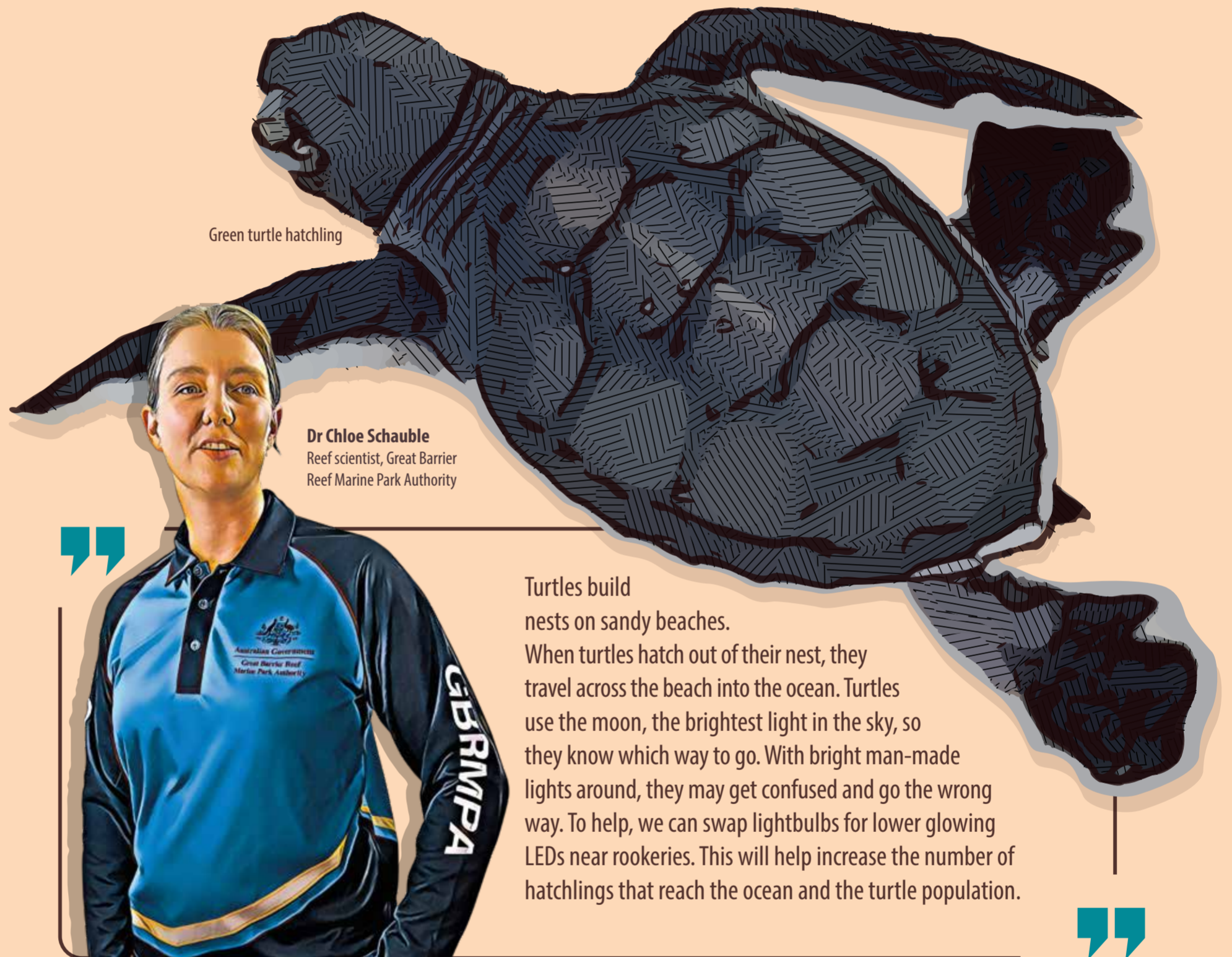
### What can I do?

- Use lower glowing LED light bulbs near rookeries.
- Reduce your waste and recycle.
- Drive below the high tide line when four wheel driving on beaches

*Share these tips with others.*

### What's that word?

**Rookery** – a place where turtles or seabirds gather to breed



Green turtle hatchling

Dr Chloe Schauble  
Reef scientist, Great Barrier  
Reef Marine Park Authority

Turtles build nests on sandy beaches. When turtles hatch out of their nest, they travel across the beach into the ocean. Turtles use the moon, the brightest light in the sky, so they know which way to go. With bright man-made lights around, they may get confused and go the wrong way. To help, we can swap lightbulbs for lower glowing LEDs near rookeries. This will help increase the number of hatchlings that reach the ocean and the turtle population.

## Plastic bags are not food



Dr David Wachenfeld  
Chief Scientist, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Rubbish that makes its way to the ocean is a big threat to turtles. Turtles think plastic bags look like jellyfish, a yummy treat in the turtle world! If turtles eat plastic, they can get sick, float and die. Remember your reusable shopping bags to cut down on plastic and help the turtles.



**Australian Government**  
**Great Barrier Reef**  
**Marine Park Authority**

The Outlook Report 2019 explains the current condition of turtles in the Great Barrier Reef is poor. There are major concerns for turtles due to climate change and overseas fishing pressures. They also face many other threats, such as light pollution, boat strikes, marine debris, and predators. By acting now, we can help these amazing animals.