Brother befriends the turtles

Brother International is partnering with Earthwatch in a three-year partnership to provide the funds for R&D into the impact of humans on marine animals in Queensland.

The funds donated will come from the proceeds of the sales of its new colour LED and multi-function centre (MFC) and its current colour laser range of printers.

Dr Kathy Townsend, a marine scientist from the University of Queensland's Moreton Bay research station, focuses on turtles and manta rays. Dr Townsend, Earthwatch and Brother run corporate research programs on North Stradbroke Island. Until you have the experience of a day with Dr Townsend, assisting with research under her tutelage, one has no concept of what we humans are doing to the turtles.

Our day started with a lecture on what to expect, followed by a post mortem of a very emaciated turtle. Precise measurements are taken of every aspect of the turtle, including how many barnacles - which numbered hundreds - it had on it when it died.

Dr Townsend has received an international science award to continue her research into the work of marine rubbish on turtles. After a day with Dr Townsend, congratulations go to her, Earthwatch and Brother.