



MEDIA RELEASE

Saltwater Crocodile at Darwin Water Gardens

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service crocodile management unit yesterday caught a 76cm saltwater crocodile at the Jingili Water Gardens.

Parks and Wildlife Service officer Andrew Wood said it was the first time a saltwater crocodile had been successfully located and removed from the Water Gardens during the 18 months he has been a part of the crocodile management unit.

“Two boys, aged 11 and 12, spotted the juvenile crocodile towards the back of the Water Gardens in a drain and notified Darwin City Council inspectors Phil Edgar and Gary Wright, who then called us immediately on our 24-hour-a-day 0419 822 859 call out number,” Mr Wood said.

“The boys did the right thing in notifying responsible adults and it is hoped other youngsters in future, or anyone for that matter, call us and keep an eye on the crocodile from a safe distance as Phil, Gary and the two boys did.

“We got there as soon as we were able to and after a short-lived game of cat and mouse, during which time the crocodile put up a bit of a fight, we managed to capture it in one of our nets and take it to the Darwin Crocodile Farm at Noonamah.

“While juvenile crocodiles are small they instinctively do what’s needed to defend themselves, as this one did yesterday in trying to bite us, so I wouldn’t advise other people to approach even a crocodile of this size as injuries might occur.

“People coming across crocodiles should remember to always call the 0419 822 859 call out number so we can remove these reptiles.”

Mr Wright said yesterday’s incident was the first of its kind he had experienced in the past seven years patrolling the Water Gardens.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Andrew Wood on 0419 822 859 or Gary Wright on 0417 854 589.

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