Croc harbouring ill intent nabbed in trap

TAMARA HOWIE

A CROCODILE potentially responsible for an attack on a Darwin kite surfer had been pulled from Darwin Harbour.

The 1.9m saltie was pulled from the water at a permanent trap in Rapid Creek yesterday.

Wildlife ranger Erin Britton said it was a reminder to be crocwise as crocodiles were pulled from Darwin Harbour all year.

“IT could be the croc spotted recently but there is no way to know,” she said.

“The average size of crocs we pull from the harbour is about 2-2.5m.

“We catch the juvenile or subordinate males and females who have been kicked out of the river systems. They're in the harbour looking for a new place to hang out.”

Chris Keeping, 29, was lucky to escape with his life and limbs after being attacked by a crocodile while kite surfing earlier in the month.

A crocodile, estimated to be around 2-2.5m, latched on to his shoulder and chest about 100m off the beach at Casuarina Coastal Reserve while he was waiting in the water for his kite to untangle.

Earlier this week, a woman was stalked by a crocodile as she walked along Nightcliff beach.

She ran from the water after noticing the crocodile, also estimated to be about 2m long.

Turkey sightings should be reported via the CROCWISE hotline on 0419822859.

Ellie Turner

A CONVICTED criminal who was jailed after he threatened backpackers with a knife and forced one of them to watch him masturbate while posing as a tour guide isn’t allowed to have women aged under 40 on his farm.

Correctional services workers report that William Nicolas O'Donnell now denies responsibility for his crimes and has been employing backpackers in his “horse business” at Dundee since he was released on a suspended sentence bond – after serving 11 months of a two-year prison term – in December.

He has been arrested and charged with drinking alcohol in breach of his conditional release.

O’Donnell, 42, admitted he had a new backpacker girlfriend living with him when he faced the NT Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Trevor Riley asked the woman’s age, and a tearful O’Donnell said: “She’s over 18.”

Chief Justice Riley said: “You will have to survive some time without her... you have brought this on yourself.”

He released O’Donnell on bail with a condition not to have women under 40 on his farm, and said he hoped male backpackers who chose to work on the property could “look after themselves”.

Prosecutor Matthew Nathan said O’Donnell failed to “grasp the chance for rehabilitation” since his release.

The accused last year admitted three assault charges and deprivation of liberty.

Three travellers – one man and two women – bought tour guide services he advertised online, and he took them to Litchfield National Park, in January, 2014.

He got drunk and insisted one woman sleep in his tent, then spooned her and asked her wishes.

He had a tantrum and demanded money, threatening the travellers with a 15cm cooking knife, when the victim said she was leaving.

He got drunk again and forced the same woman to stay in a car with him while he masturbated after pestering her for sex.

The prison sentence was backdated to allow for time spent in custody.

Parent group launched

THE first Remote Indigenous Parents’ Association (RIPA) has been launched in Darwin.

The association, set up to improve links between indigenous parents and communities and boarding schools was launched at Parliament House.

Boarding Australia CEO Dan Cox said BA recognised how important good parent engagement was.