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CAIRNSPOST.COM.AU THURSDAY JANUARY 18 2018

Beach empty as croc sighted

SHANE NICHOLS

COW Bay residents are steering clear of their Daintree beach after repeated sightings of a large crocodile lurking in the water.

A crocodile believed to be between 4m and 5m long has been regularly sighted with residents nervous about using the beach for recreation and fishing.

Earlier this week Port Douglas photographer Stephen Nutt used a drone to take a photograph of the predator lying in about 1m of water at high tide.

Mr Nutt and his son Reuben warned an unaware boat owner not to launch his vessel.

Earlier, Mr Nutt had warned a man walking on the beach of the reptile which was apparently interested in him.

The man had walked across the small creek, also unaware of the animal.

Mr Nutt said he phoned the Department of Environment and Heritage hotline to report the sighting.

"The ranger asked: Is that a beach where many people go?" he said.

Cow Bay beach has a big carpark and other visitor amenities and is a popular spot for residents and visitors.

When Mr Nutt first saw the crocodile it was 5-10m offshore.

At the northern end of the beach he launched a drone and took photos and video footage.

He kept it at a considerable altitude but at one stage the

crocodile seemed to be aware of it and moved back to a slightly deeper point where there was a submerged reef.

"He didn't seem to move anywhere in a big hurry," Mr Nutt said.

The man with the boat left and Mr Nutt then moved closer to the shore himself and put his arms in the air.

The next piece of footage showed the crocodile turning to face him.

"I couldn't see him at all. He was on the bottom, but somehow he knew exactly where I was.

"At that point he was a good 20m off the shore.

"His nose was pointing directly at me back on the beach - which was pretty amazing.

"It shows that these creatures have incredible eyesight, or whatever it is.

"There were no other people on the beach and he only turned back to me when he saw me move closer to the water."

A Department of Environment and Science spokeswoman said wildlife officers were investigating and a spotlight survey was planned.

She said on Monday there were three reports of a large crocodile sighting as well as other earlier reports, including one of a large reptile coming within 10m of a boat on January 9.

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MOUTHFUL: Apex Milk Bar chef Rodrigo Dourado tries out the Big Boy Challenge. PHOTOS: ANNA ROGERS

Wanted: An Apex carnivore

DANAELLA WIVELL

A MAMMOTH appetite is the only thing that will be able to defeat the enormous new food challenge at Apex Milk Bar.

The Big Boy Challenge was created by the Manunda food haunt's head chef Brad Ansell and owner Ricci Whelan.

"For a long time now we've been interested in bringing something unique to Cairns," he said.

"The burger is pretty big. There's a bottom bun with Apex special sauce, you've got



lettuce tomato and onion, five burger patties, five slices of cheese, five pieces of bacon, one hash brown, a pineapple fritter, Apex special sauce on the top bun, skewers with four onion rings, and you also have to smash a milkshake and a

basket of chips within 12 minutes."

He said only one person had managed to wolf down the extraordinary meal.

"Maybe security guards in town will be able to do it, but so far we've only had one guy out of 10 finish it - and he did it with two minutes to spare," he said.

"But he also messaged our Facebook page afterwards and said he was feeling really full."

"The \$29.50 Big Boy Challenge is available at the Hoare St shop on Tuesday evenings.

Queensland Legislative Assembly
 Number: 56197513
 2 APR 2019
 NEWS 03
 MP: *me knight*
 Clerk: *nature*
 Tabled
 By Leave
 Briefs
 Woman charged

A WHITE ROCK woman will front court over fraud allegations she took money belonging to an elderly man. Police allege the woman was in a position of trust to assist with banking for a 61-year-old man. The 26-year-old allegedly transferred quantities of money from the man's account into her own account several times between January 1 and January 7 at Earlville. She was charged with nine counts of fraud, six counts of attempted fraud and one count of stealing. The woman was issued a notice to appear at the Cairns Magistrates Court at a later date.

Crossing safety
THE State Government has urged parents and motorists to take extra care around railway crossings ahead of the start of the school year. The warning comes after the release of CCTV footage showing near-misses with cars, pedestrians and cyclists at crossings last year. Almost 200 near-misses were reported at Queensland crossings last year.

STEM applications
ARE you a woman working in science, technology, engineering or maths? If so, you are invited to apply for the 2018 Queensland Women in STEM Prize. The prize features two categories, each worth \$5000 and aims to recognise the contributions of women working in the STEM fields.

Drug charges
A 23-YEAR-OLD Manunda man will appear in the Tully Magistrates Court next month on drug-related charges. It will be alleged that while police attended an Ellerbeck Rd property in relation to a disturbance, officers found cannabis seedlings and a number of utensils. He was with one count each of possessing a dangerous drug and drug utensil.

Lakeland crash
A 55-YEAR-OLD man was taken to Cooktown Hospital after his vehicle rolled down an easement off the Mulligan Highway. The crash occurred near the Palmer River Roadhouse on the way to Lakeland just before 3pm yesterday. Ambulance crews responded to an emergency call to the location and treated the man for leg and arm injuries.