



CROCODILE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Crocodile Policy

Crocodiles inhabit the waters in and around Rockhampton and pose a real and potentially grave danger to rowers. The purpose of this risk management plan is to ensure each student is aware of this danger and the means to minimise risk to student safety. Each club member is expected to adhere to this plan. Each rower must take caution at the launch area at all times and must adhere to warnings issued by the TIC from time to time.

All rowers will receive education about the crocodile risk management plan during annual inductions and ongoing discussions.

In particular, rowers are to:

1. Survey the vicinity for crocodiles prior to entering the water.
2. Prepare boats quickly at the launching area and whenever possible stand on the landward side of the boat whilst rigging oars.
3. Complete a Crocodile Sighting Reporting Form and notify the TIC if you see a crocodile anywhere in the river, including approximate size and location.
4. Whilst in the boat, rest in the middle of the river rather than near the shoreline.
5. Side creeks are considered out of bounds due to the higher risk of encountering crocodiles.
6. Learn and practise capsize-recovery at safe locations.

Upon notification of crocodile sightings, the TIC will liaise with the local authorities to ascertain the risk to rowers; and students will be notified of the activity and any decision of the authorities regarding the risk and removal of the crocodile. Notwithstanding any decision of the TIC or local authorities, the decision to continue rowing and to remain vigilant and aware of this risk is placed on each student.



The Rockhampton
Grammar School
Established 1881

Crocodile Awareness Plan

The Crocodile Awareness Plan is an extension of the already existing Crocodile Risk Plan. This Awareness Plan is aimed at alerting members to the risks associated with the presence of crocodiles in the river so that members can make an informed decision about rowing on the river.

While the school does not want to discourage anyone from participating in the sport, we feel it is important to ensure that all members are aware of the potential dangers. Whilst the school has provided this information it is still the individual student's responsibility to educate themselves of the dangers of crocodiles. As part of this Awareness Plan, the school has prepared an information kit which includes the following:

- Crocodile Risk Management Plan
- Crocodile Sighting Reporting Form
- Accessible information on crocodiles as published by the RRC (Rockhampton Regional Council), and Queensland Government (Croc watch)
- Information proposed by the school in relation to reporting and monitoring of sightings, and
- Precautionary advice on rowing on the river.

Crocodile Risk Management Plan.

The school's Crocodile Risk Management Plan is attached and is also available at the club premises for review by rowers. All staff and students are asked to be familiar with this policy.

Crocodile Sighting Reporting Form

The club's Crocodile Sighting Reporting Form is attached and is also available at the club premises for review by rowers. All staff and students are asked to be familiar with reporting requirements of this form.

Based on the nature of sightings, the club may also consider temporary closure of the rowing activity, or identify restricted areas of operations for rowers during peak activity times.



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Precautionary Advice to Rowers about Crocodiles

As we are all aware, crocodiles live in the Fitzroy River and present a risk. The following precautionary advice is issued to rowers to ensure there is a heightened sense of awareness amongst all members of this risk.

- All members are encouraged to take extra care when launching and exiting the water at the launch area, and keep a sharp look out for crocs while on the river.
- Small boats should travel in groups.
- Crews should rest for short periods when taking a rest break. Avoid remaining stationary for excessive periods in the same location as this may give the impression you are vulnerable.
- If there is a close encounter with a crocodile, remain calm and continue rowing away. Get as far away from the crocodile as possible and maintain as much distance as possible. Warn others in the immediate area. If you need to return past the sighting area, row on the opposite side of the river and keep a sharp lookout. On return to the launch area, report the sighting immediately.
- Refrain from immersing body, arms, and legs in the water when at rest.
- ALL students MUST complete a Sighting Reporting Form and report any crocodile sightings to a staff member on the day of the sighting. The Report Form is located in the club shed (copy attached) and must be completed and submitted directly to the TIC. This report must be submitted to Croc Watch on the day it is sighted. Members will need to note the location of the sighting, characteristics of the sighting area, approximate size and characteristics of the animal.



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Crocodile Sighting Reporting Form

Date of report	
Reported by	
Time and Date of sighting	
Weather conditions	
Location and description of sighting	
Description of crocodile and whether on the bank or in the water Approximate length of crocodile Characteristics / behaviour of crocodile (include comments on behaviour and actions)	
Actions taken by rowing club	
Additional comments	

Name:

Signed:.....

Date:.....