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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Territory Crocodiles on World Stage **Toothy Stars of the Silver and the Small Screen**



ATTACHED PHOTO: Sir David Attenborough (right) shares the screen with a freshwater crocodile film star assisted by Erin Britton (left) and Adam Britton (centre) of Big Gecko during the filming of Life in Cold Blood (Big Gecko, permission is given for use with articles based directly on this press release, a higher resolution version is attached)

Saltwater crocodiles from the Northern Territory feature widely in wildlife documentaries and feature films around the world. Many Australian and international film crews come to Darwin for the opportunity to film crocodiles in the wild and in captivity.

This week Darwin sees the Australian premiere of two very different high-profile filming projects featuring NT crocodiles. The first is *Black Water*, a crocodile thriller movie which is loosely based on incidents that have occurred in the Top End. The second is *Life in Cold Blood*, the latest highly-praised television series by Sir David Attenborough.

Black Water was filmed in the NT because the director wanted to use real crocodiles to make the movie more realistic and frightening, and he knew the expertise existed here to achieve that. *Life in Cold Blood*

filmed sequences in the NT because they wanted new and remarkable crocodile behaviour that had never been filmed before, and again we had the expertise here to achieve that.

NT crocodiles will always be of major interest to audiences worldwide because most people are fascinated that places still exist in the world where animals can eat you, and that crocodiles are a real part of our lives here. That is why crocodiles remain a major tourism drawcard. Territorians know crocodiles, and understand that they are part of life up here, and it is good to keep awareness of them foremost in the public mind.

Working with David Attenborough

Adam Britton has a massive resume of involvement with filming projects over the last 15 years, and together with his wife Erin their Darwin-based consultancy Big Gecko has worked hard to bring national and international attention to the NT through its crocodile work. Big Gecko feels that a lot of conservation work involves communicating crocodile information and issues to a wider audience so they can better appreciate how valuable crocs are to the NT, without losing sight of other issues such as safety.

Working with Sir David Attenborough on *Life in Cold Blood* was a career highlight for both Adam and Erin as David has been a huge inspiration for them and many others over several generations. They spent a week with David filming crocodiles showing communal feeding behaviour on mullet as they jumped an overflowing barrage, and we were able to get Sir David within a few feet of the crocodiles in complete safety. The resulting sequence has turned into a highlight for the series, and can be seen in the fifth and final episode of the series.

“David Attenborough is one of the only people I’ve met who actually exceeded my expectations” said Dr Britton. “His enthusiasm and fascination for both animals and people was humbling, and there’s no better ambassador for how remarkable our crocodiles are than watching David enthuse about them in his inimitable style.”

Big Gecko also believes in establishing a network of expertise and resources across the NT, and often works in conjunction with local businesses, government departments and upcoming local filming expertise. We believe the NT has valuable assets here if they are used correctly.

Black Water’s advanced screening shows at Birch Carroll and Coyle at 6pm on Monday 14 April, and opens nationwide on Thursday 24 April.

Life in Cold Blood premieres on Channel 9 at 7.30pm on Monday 14 April.

Dr Britton can be contacted for further information, comments or interviews on either 0407 185182 or 08 89884607 or by email at gecko@crocodilian.com

Big Gecko is a Darwin-based consultancy focussed on research and conservation of crocodiles. Further information about Big Gecko is available at <http://crocodilian.com/big-gecko>