

## **‘Students Investigate Sustainable Futures’**

The annual Science Experience saw registrations soar, with our largest cohort of year 9 students participating since its inception in 2007. This years event was again hosted by the Faculty of Education, Health & Science from the 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> of June at the Casuarina campus, from both local and remote schools participating. The ‘Science Experience’, is a National initiative that provides an innovative and interactive look at Science, Engineering and Technology.

The 2010 CDU theme ‘Science for Sustainability’, incorporated the usual activities such as seminars, from high profile professionals, laboratory experiments, excursions, hands on practical experiences, field trips, career information and study pathways.

Seminars included topics such as ‘Climate Change in the Top End’, ‘How will we power the future’, ‘Big Crocs, Solving Big problems’, and the activities investigated ‘Sustainable Harvest – Indigenous management and sustainable use of wildlife’, ‘Crocodylus Park a conservation tool’, ‘Mangroves and their Fauna’, ‘Biodiversity’, ‘Water Quality’, ‘Allied Health’, ‘Aquaculture’, ‘Spatial Science for Survival’, ‘Sports Science’ and ‘Pharmacy’.

Students were fascinated with the fauna discovered, in what appeared to be lifeless mangroves, with majority of them falling instantly for the beautiful and friendly mangrove snake, and at Crocodylus Park others got up close to the not so friendly crocodile.

Worlds leading Crocodile specialist Prof Grahame Webb said, “Students need to understand the reasons behind using wildlife as a conservation tool, especially with regard to the not so friendly crocodile. By managing wildlife, we can ensure we protect their environment and the preservation of the species”.



friendly mangrove snake



not so friendly Crocodile

Local Director, Dr Diane Pearson said, “The students really embraced the theme and appeared to gain a much clearer understanding of sustainability, it is not necessarily about restricting the use, but more about being smarter on how and what we use it for. ”.

Charles Darwin University acknowledges that we would not be able to host such a fantastic learning experience without the support of local Government, Industry, Business and Community Groups. For full program details, including local sponsors, photos and the student evaluation results please follow the link: <http://www.cdu.edu.au/ehs/siemens/>