

## Simon Coates

### Wildlife Management International (Crocodylus Park) Darwin

When an opportunity came for work placement in a desired field I immediately thought of my favourite topics and interests, and from there I narrowed it down to trying to gain a position in this area. In my second year unit Origins and Evolution of the Australian Biota I studied crocodiles and I decided I wanted to work on these animals. After making contact

with Wildlife Management International (Crocodylus Park) in Darwin the Department of Environmental Management and Ecology arranged all the details of the placement and I was on my way to spend my break working towards an understanding of the life of crocodiles. At Crocodylus Park I had to prepare a report on the methods used in the hatching of young crocodiles and I began to live, breath, and eat crocs (no joke, it tastes like chicken).



Opportunities exist out there for anyone, it is all a matter of how you approach your current position in life and not be afraid to think outside the box. To undertake a placement in Albury-Wodonga on crocodiles is impossible due to the different climates between the south and the north of Australia and our lack of crocodiles. But it is possible to follow your interests with the support of La Trobe University and travel to Northern Australia and work in one of the best places in the world for reptile research with regards to abundance and richness of species. Plus the chance to work with some of Australia's leading experts in the field was an experience not to pass up.