

# Crime spikes over holidays

■ Nicola Kalmar

More than 50 burglary and stealing offences were reported to Broome police on the recent long weekend and school holidays.

Officer-in-charge Senior Sergeant Brendon Barwick said 30 burglaries took place from September 26-October 9, most of them in the last week of the school break.

Sixteen of those incidents were

as a result of unlocked doors and windows, while 12 were forced entries and four were attempted burglaries.

Police reported 23 stealing offences, 12 from vehicles broken into, six from unlocked vehicles and five from residences with valuables left outside on tables and chairs.

Sen Sgt Barwick said since the arrest and remand of a "high risk

offender" in the last weekend of the holidays, the instances of burglary, stealing of motor vehicles and general stealing had declined.

Residents have been warned to stay vigilant in the wet season and to ensure their homes are secure and their valuables out of view.

"With the wet season commencing, not everyone has the capacity to have or run an air-conditioner, so doors and windows are left open to

get whatever airflow is available," he said.

"There are people who will take advantage of this and see it as an open invitation to commit offences."

Police also targeted road users in the school holidays and carried out 1639 random breath tests.

One motorist was found to be over 0.05 per cent while another tested over 0.08 per cent.

# Mating sea snakes make a fishing tour guide's day

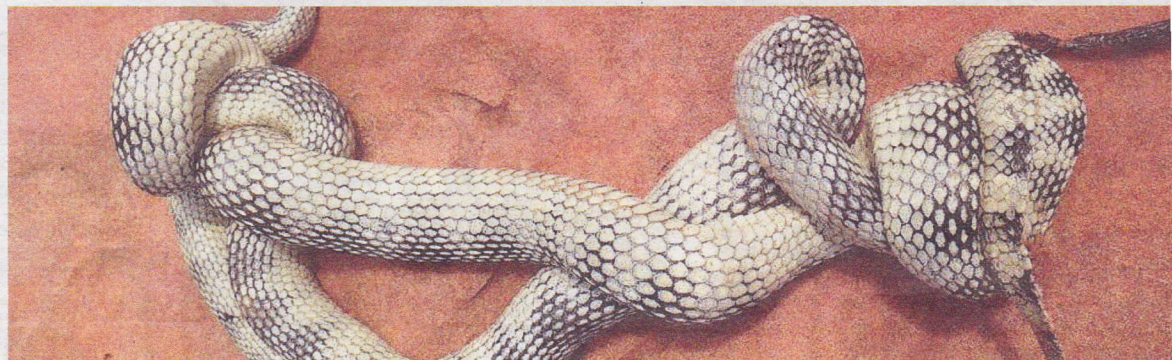
■ Robert Dougherty

Local tour guide Niall Cooke got more excitement than he bargained for while on a fishing trip to Crab Creek late last month.

Cooke had been in the area with a fellow tour guide on September 19 when the high tide washed up a pair of mating north-western mangrove snakes at his feet.

Cooke had the quick thinking to video the entwined duo, as well as commenting that "Spring is in the air" and how it looked like "one hell of a party".

The Aussie Wanderer Tours and Safari guide, who is also a licensed reptile removalist said he had struck out on fishing for threadfin salmon and broken his toe earlier that morning but it was still worth it to see the embrace of reptiles.



**Aussie Wanderer Tours and Safari tour guide Niall Cooke found this pair of mating north-western mangrove snakes while fishing Crab Creek late last month. Picture: Niall Cooke**

"It's very uncommon to see sea snakes washed up on the shore and mating as well — there's not many sightings of mangrove snakes so it was pretty cool to see them," he said. "I thought, 'Oh this is awe-

some', went closer and seen the tails coiled together and said, 'Oh my God they're mating', that's why I got my phone out straight away because I'd never heard of anyone coming across mangrove snakes

mating before. Every time I'm not on a tour I'm always down at the beach and the mangroves chucking in a line — always got my camera out and my phone out ready to film anything I come across."