**Current Event Analysis #5**

**Did Giant Crocodiles once swim in**

**the Waikato River?**

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Believe it or now – and do believe it because it’s absolutely true – during the 1880s, some people believed that a giant crocodile once roamed the Waikato River on the North Island. Our story begins in September 1886, when …

Read the article on Great Waikato Crocodile Hunt of 1886 at: <https://timespanner.blogspot.com/2008/12/great-waikato-saurian-hunt-of-1886.html>

1. Who were the first two witnesses?

2. What happened when Constable Wild looked for the creature?

3. How was the story reported in the Waikato Times newspaper? Did they try to hype it up to get more readers or were they skeptical?

4. How did some of the Auckland newspapers sensationalize the story?

5. At the end of the article, what does the writer conclude was responsible for the monster sighting?

6. You can go to the New Zealand National Archives online and read one of the newspaper reports for yourself at: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WH18871108.2.17>

7. Some experts believe that what people were seeing in the Waikato was a large seal? See: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/95338327/waikato-farmer-surprised-by-sunbather-on-his-property>

8. What is your opinion? How is it possible a crocodile could survive in the river for so long? Where did it come from? Isn’t it more likely that people were misidentifying a large seal from a distance?