



'Psychic' croc Harry picks Gillard to win Aussie election 澳洲通靈鱷魚哥預測吉拉德當選總理

A "psychic" crocodile named Harry last week tipped Prime Minister Julia Gillard to win the razor-tight Australian election, siding with pollsters and bookmakers — and an octopus called Cassandra.

Harry, a feisty five-meter saltwater croc, took several minutes to decide before snapping up a chicken labelled with Gillard's picture, snubbing another carcass representing opposition chief Tony Abbott.

"Harry's come over to the area, he's lifted his head in the air and he's just nailed Gillard as clean as you want," Nigel Palmer, Harry's handler at Darwin's Crocosaurus Cove attraction, told AFP.

"So we're thinking he's predicted the ranga (red head) to win the election."

Gillard can take heart from the endorsement after the crocodilian clairvoyant also correctly picked Spain to win last month's World Cup final against the Netherlands.

"Harry selected Spain over the Netherlands, so he knows what he's doing," Palmer explained.

Staff at the park were inspired to test Harry's prescience by German octopus "Paul," who shot to global fame after correctly calling eight World Cup games including the final.

Harry, a 750-kg beast, is 45 years old and "in his prime," his keeper said, with an aggressive streak and a reputation as a "handler hunter."

"Nature says that the crocodiles have been around a lot longer than octopuses, we're talking 40-odd million years longer," he said.

"So we're sort of thinking that's his advantage over an octopus — he knows what he's doing."

The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper's own "psychic" octopus, Cassandra, also called the vote for Gillard when the election was first called, while opinion polls and punters give the prime minister a narrow lead.

And what will happen to Abbott's chicken? "That'll be turned into croc poo," Palmer laughed. (AFP)

一隻名叫哈利，號稱能「通靈」的鱷魚上週預測總理茱莉亞·吉拉德將贏得這場差距極微的選舉，恰巧跟民調與賭注登記機構一以及一隻叫卡桑德拉的章魚預測的一樣。

這隻脾氣不好，身長達五公尺的鹹水鱷魚，花了數分鐘才決定，一口吃了吉拉德照片下的雞肉，而遺留另一個代表反對黨領袖的艾伯特的肉塊。

達爾文鱷魚主題公園，負責照顧哈利的馴獸員耐傑·帕爾莫告訴法新社，「哈利來到附近，把頭高高抬起在空中，一口把吉拉德給吃得一乾二淨。」

「所以我們覺得它在預測這位紅髮人會贏得選舉。」

吉拉德在獲得特異功能鱷魚的背書後，可以說是打了一劑強心針，這鱷魚在上個月的世界杯足球賽，也準確預測西班牙打敗荷蘭，獲得冠軍。

帕爾莫解釋道，「哈利選擇西班牙而不是荷蘭，所以它知道自己在做什麼。」

主題公園的員工也對哈利的預測感到興趣，因為德國章魚「保羅」於世足賽準確預測八場賽事包括決賽，因而在全世界爆紅。

照顧哈利的人表示，這隻四十五歲的鱷魚體重達七百五十公斤，目前「正值壯年」且富攻擊性，還擁有「馴獸員殺手」的名聲。

他說，「鱷魚存在於世上遠比章魚還要久，我在講的可是超過四千萬年。」

「所以我們想這就是它比章魚還要厲害的地方——它知道自己在幹嘛。」

雪梨晨鋒報自己的「通靈」章魚卡桑德拉，在各個民意調查與下注者預測吉拉德將以些微差距勝選時，也預測她將當選。

至於掛在艾伯特照片的雞肉會發生什麼事呢？帕爾莫笑道，「到最後肯定也會被吃掉，變成鱷魚排泄物。」

(法新社/翻譯：吳岱環)

An image provided by Crocosaurus Cove on Aug. 19, 2010 shows crocodile Harry snapping at a piece of chicken connected to a picture of Prime Minister Julia Gillard at Crocosaurus Cove in Darwin, Australia.

PHOTO: EPA/CROCOSAURUS COVE

八月十九日，這張由澳洲達爾文鱷魚主題公園提供的照片中，「鱷魚哥哈利」正咬下用線綁在總理朱莉亞·吉拉德照片下的雞肉塊。

照片：歐新社/鱷魚主題公園

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. bookmaker /'buk'mekə/ n.

賭注登記人 (du3 zhu4 deng1 ji4 ren2)

例: Darryl got in trouble for placing a bet with an illegal bookmaker.

(達里爾因為在一個違法的賭注登記人那邊下注而惹上麻煩。)

2. carcass /'kɑ:kəs/ n.

遺骸 (yi2 hai2)

例: The vultures feasted on a rabbit carcass.

(禿鷹盡情享用著一隻兔子的遺骸。)

3. clairvoyant /kler'vɔ:ɪənt/ n.

預知未來者 (yu4 zhi1 wei4 lai2 zhe3)

例: The old woman made her living by claiming to be a clairvoyant.

(那位老太太自稱能預知未來，並以此維生。)

4. punter /'pʌntə/ n.

賭客 (du3 ke4)

例: A lot of punters lost money on last year's Super Bowl.

(許多賭客在去年的超級盃輸了很多錢。)