



Australian Government
Director of National Parks



kakaduTM
NATIONAL PARK

Gudjewg season

TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE # 2

12 March 2014



Barrk bushwalk

WHAT SEASON ARE WE IN?

The monsoon has been taking an extended break and floodwaters are slowly receding...for the moment. Wildflowers everywhere, dragonflies fluttering and Yamitj, the green katydid calling at night time suggest that the end of the wet season may be near.

The speargrass is flowering in many places, almost ripe and ready to seed. Banggereng, the season of 'knock'em down storms' is just around the corner with gusty afternoon storms and squally showers.

Severe storms can cause flash flooding and significant stream rises, sometimes with very little warning. Please travel safely and take any changing weather conditions into account.

Sign up to our road report to receive up-to-date information on site access and road conditions: <http://kakaduroadreport.wordpress.com/>



We have received reports that Almangeyi, long-neck turtles, are on the move again, looking for their dry season homes.

Please keep an eye out for turtles crossing the roads, particularly near culverts and in floodplains.

WELCOME TO THE NEW DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS



In December 2013, Minister for the Environment Greg Hunt announced the appointment of the new Director of National Parks, Sally Barnes. The Director has a key role in Kakadu's management, as a member of the Kakadu Board and the statutory officeholder responsible for Commonwealth reserves.

Ms Barnes has experience in parks, conservation and both Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage management having managed NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service for many years before taking on the role of Chief Executive Officer at the NSW Government Office of Environment and Heritage.

Ms Barnes has a strong customer focus and a track record developing strategic partnerships with tourism bodies. She was a key player in securing for Australia the prestigious IUCN World Parks Congress, to be held in Sydney in November.

Ms Barnes succeeds Mr Peter Cochrane, who held the position for 14 years.

She has just visited Kakadu National Park for the March Board of Management meeting, and looks forward to working with you all.

2014/2015 STANDARD LAND-BASED PERMIT APPLICATIONS

It's that time of the year again!

We have started processing permit applications to make sure operators will receive their 2014/15 permits prior to 31 March 2014, when current one-year permits will expire.

The first permits have already been mailed out. A big thank you to those operators who got their applications in early!

If you didn't receive your application pack by email, click on this link to download a permit application form: www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators

Tips for applying

For speedy processing and to avoid phone tag with us, here's a few tips to keep in mind:

- Ensure all questions are completed. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet
- Complete the application checklist (page 13) – this is your toolkit to make sure we've got everything needed for a quick turn around
- Make sure to renew your public liability insurance policy and attach a certificate of currency
- A certificate of accreditation is required if you're applying for a three-year permit
- Attach your promotional material. If it's not ready, we will accept a draft or alternatively your website address (please write this on the checklist on page 13)
- Ensure your tour leaders have completed the Kakadu Knowledge for Tour Guides course
- Select your permit duration and provide payment details (sorry, Amex is not accepted)
- Sign and witness the declaration and agreement pages.

When will I get my permit?

Please allow a minimum of 14 days for application processing.

Need more information?

Please contact Anja Toms at Anja.Toms@environment.gov.au or phone 08 8938 1176.

COMPETITION TIME – KAKADU CALENDAR 2015

Fancy seeing your most beautiful Kakadu photograph, with credit to your name, in a professionally produced calendar to go on sale at our Bowali Visitor Centre later this year?

Send us your best shot that illustrates one of Kakadu's six seasons for inclusion in an A4 calendar (that opens to A3) and see it published alongside images of nationally and internationally acclaimed photographers.

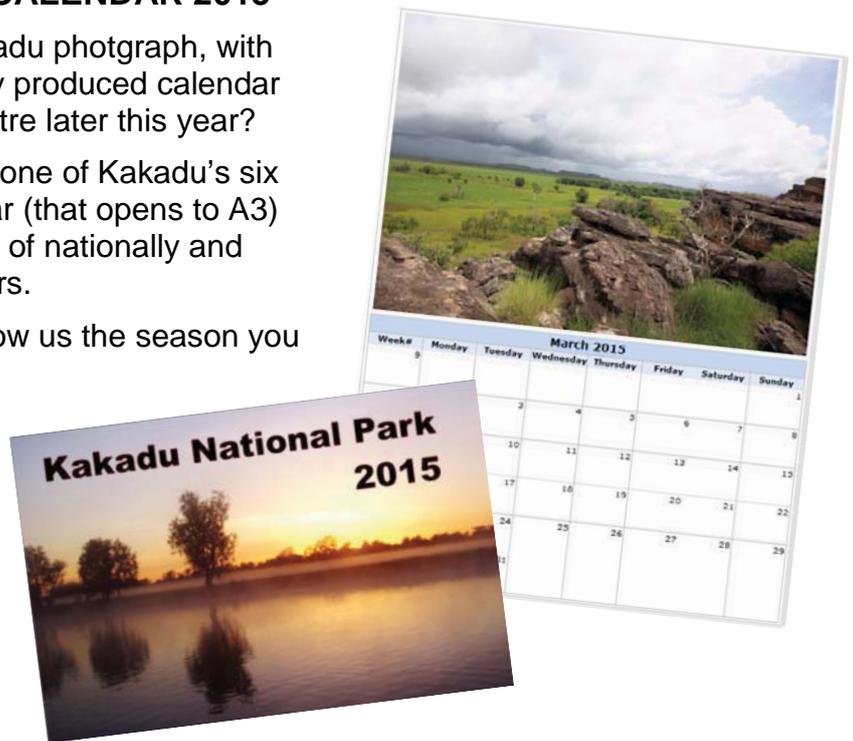
Images speak louder than words – show us the season you like best and tell us in just a few words where and when the image was taken and what it means to you.

To help us create a fantastic, high quality calendar, make sure to send a high-resolution file. Remember that the file size is not the best indicator for quality, images should be at least 2371x2875 pixels in size.

Send your entry by email to

Kakadu.Permits@environment.gov.au (don't forget to stick 'CALENDAR' in the subject line) or share your photo via our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/KakaduNationalPark> and we'll be in touch. Entries close 30 April 2014 – winners will not only have their photo credited in the calendar but also win a free Kakadu 2015 calendar.

**NB – images will always be credited but may be used in other promotional or park material.



COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT TOURISM SERVICES OFFICER?

We are currently looking for a tourism professional to lead our Tourism Services Team in Kakadu National Park. If you have a passion for tourism (and especially Kakadu), understand the needs of commercial tour operators, excel in data management, customer service and are keen to be involved in some of the park's high profile projects, we want you!

For a full job description and selection criteria visit www.apsjobs.gov.au, start a job search and use the keyword 'Kakadu', or contact the Tourism and Visitor Services Manager, Tracey Diddams for more details:

Tracey.diddams@environment.gov.au

Ph: 08 8938 1107

TRAINING NEW RECRUITS?

If you are planning on heading into the park soon to train new tour guides, we'd love to see you. If you would like a meet and greet with park staff or to receive a ranger guided tour of one of our visitor sites please let us know. We would be only too happy to assist with any questions you may have.

Please contact Tracey Diddams to arrange.

KNOW YOUR KAKADU

SHARKS OF KAKADU RIVERS

Kakadu's estuaries are internationally significant for threatened shark species. Some of our shark species, such as the bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*), are common in Australia's coastal waters. Others are more rare.

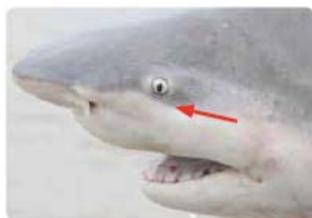
Two of our river shark species, the speartooth shark (*Glyphis glyphis*) and the northern river shark (*Glyphis garriki*), have restricted distributions and habitats – which makes their havens in Kakadu particularly important.

Researchers have found that particularly the South and East Alligator rivers support a significant population of northern river sharks. Speartooth sharks are rarer, making the South Alligator River population one of considerable importance.

These are 'euryhaline' species of sharks, meaning that they tolerate salinities ranging from freshwater to seawater. Rivers are especially important for juvenile euryhaline sharks, but little is known about the adults' movements. While northern river sharks have been found in rivers, estuarine, coastal and marine waters, the occurrence and habitat of adult speartooth sharks remains a mystery because no one has been able to record adults of this species.

Researcher Peter Kyne, based at Charles Darwin University, is currently leading a project called 'Supporting Management of Listed and Rare Species', through the Marine Biodiversity Hub of the National Environmental Research Programme. This project will improve the understanding and management of these rare Kakadu shark species that we know so little about.

To find out more about this exciting research project visit: <http://www.nerpmarine.edu.au/sawfish>



Photos: Peter Kyne

Speartooth sharks and northern river sharks are protected species. If caught, they must be released safely back into the water. If you've seen or caught a speartooth shark or a northern river shark, please send details to: peter.kyne@cdu.edu.au or call 08 8946 7616. Include: Location of sighting or capture, date, size (if possible), and photographs.