



Gunumeleng Season

TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE # 20

13 December 2013



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Kakadu National Park – Road and Access Report 10 December 2013

There are no changes to report since the last update

At this time of year, severe storms associated with flash flooding and significant stream rises may affect site access. Please travel safely and take any changing weather conditions into account. Contact Bowali Visitor Centre for all up-to-date details or to report any incidents on 08 8938 1120.

THINGS TO DO IN KAKADU!



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NEW LOOK ROAD REPORT

From Monday 16 December 2013 our daily report will take on a new and improved look!

We are updating our road report service for you to make sure it's reliable, easy on the eye and linked to our other web services, news and information.

We will continue to send out the report in the old format to all current subscribers until the end of the year, but don't forget to re-subscribe on our new road report website to never miss an update again: <http://kakaduroadreport.wordpress.com>

THIRD ROUND: INVITATION TO APPLY FOR A LICENCE

Closing date: 31 January 2014

Some licences are still available for tourism activities starting on 1 April 2014, following our notification to the applicants who succeeded in round two.

Licences are currently being offered for the following activities:

| Activity | Number of licences available |
|--|------------------------------|
| Sports fishing tours | Unlimited |
| Bush walking tours | Unlimited |
| Safari camps | Merl x 2 Gunlom x 1 |
| Access to Jarrangarnmi (Koolpin Gorge) | Unlimited casual |

We invite all interested tour operators to apply by 31 January 2014. Applications will be assessed in February.

To apply for a licence, please download this form

www.environment.gov.au/parks/permits/kakadu-tours.html

For further information about licences, please contact Tracey Diddams on (08) 8938 1107 or email tracey.diddams@environment.gov.au.



UBIRR WET SEASON ACCESS

From 1 December 2013 to 31 March 2014 tour operators and their guides can access Ubirr between 8.30 am and sunset if they hold a special Ubirr wet season access permit.

Permits have been issued, keys allocated and the first guides have been using the keys issued to them already.

A few Tour Guide Agreements are still outstanding and we would like to remind everyone that guides must return the signed forms if they wish to access Ubirr prior to 2:00 pm. Please check condition 21 of your Ubirr wet season access permit.

Forms can be returned to staff at Bowali Visitor Centre or emailed to Kakadu.Permits@environment.gov.au.

KAKADU DURING THE CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR BREAK

Kakadu is a magic place to celebrate and spend time with family and friends – there are many exciting places to visit in the park if you happen to be spending time with us during this period.

Please note **Bowali and Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centres will be closed on 25 December 2013**. However, Bowali's information board with road conditions and access notes will be up to date, and park notes will be available on the desk. (Unfortunately the kiosk printer has been sent off for repairs...)

If there is an emergency on 25 December please contact the duty ranger via our emergency calling devices, which are located throughout the park. The visitor centre will be open for the remainder of the festive period.

To help plan your travel ahead of Christmas Day why not contact our Bowali team on (08) 8938 1120 or email KakaduNationalPark@environment.gov.au?

AND THE WINNER IS: PATSY RAGLAR

A huge thank you to all guides who took part in our Facebook competition in November! We called for photos of all those passionate guides who are the backbone of the tourism industry and do such an amazing job interpreting the Park – and you came to the plate! Check out the images and all the lovely comments from near and far on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/KakaduNationalPark.

Our panel of experts had the incredibly hard task to chose the most inspiring shot of a tour guide showcasing Kakadu to the world, but in the end we had a clear winner; Patsy Raglar from Kakadu Animal Tracks Safari! A bag full of goodies, including the KAKADU DVD has found its way to her.



Photo By Adrian Brown Photography

Those of you who have met Patsy know that apart from her survival skills, her knowledge of the bush and her deep connection with the land, she has a great sense of humour and a positive outlook that is highly contagious!

Congratulations Patsy!

KNOW YOUR KAKADU

Charles Darwin University issued the following media release on Monday, 9 December 2013.

TROPICAL GLIDER'S IDENTITY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

A tropical tree-dwelling marsupial with an identity crisis is the subject of a new Charles Darwin University research project in Kakadu National Park and other parts of the Top End.

Known to make a yapping sound like a small dog, the Lambalk glider had been regarded widely as a sub-species of the sugar glider (*Petaurus breviceps*) until recent genetic studies gave rise to questions about its real identity.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Sue Carthew said the finding came as a surprise to the scientific community.

"Results showed that it was probably more closely related to the squirrel glider and the mahogany glider, neither of which is known to live in the Territory," Professor Carthew said.

"It immediately prompted questions about its taxonomy; about whether it was a tropical version of a squirrel glider or whether it's a new species altogether. Unfortunately, we have had too few samples to really know. That's why this study is so important.

"While research had shown concerning declines in populations of native terrestrial mammals across the Top End over the past decade, there is little data about tree-living species, such as gliders.

"It is important to find out which species we have here, where they live and exactly what their habitat requirements are," she said.

With the support of Kakadu National Park and in collaboration with the South Australian Museum, CDU researchers will continue to trap gliders and other arboreal marsupials over coming months.

"We will also take a second look at glider specimens in museums and other collections as part of a broader exercise to reach a better understanding of the Lambalk."

Professor Carthew said Lambalk gliders were small marsupials that could be seen at night gliding from tree to tree, where they eat sap, gum, nectar, and insects.

"While existing knowledge from traditional owners and park staff had already proved useful in understanding something of the glider's distribution in Kakadu, CDU has asked people 'on country' to assist with the project," she said.

"A fresh specimen or even the partial remains could provide valuable genetic and morphological information and I urge anyone who finds one to contact Research Associate Dr Montague-Drake at our Jabiru Centre as soon as possible."

Dr Montague-Drake's contact details are 0419 614 427, or Rebecca.montague-drake@cdu.edu.au.



Lambalk glider in Kakadu National Park
Photo courtesy Christopher MacGregor



Dr Montague-Drake with a Lambalk glider
in Kakadu National Park.
Photo courtesy Christopher MacGregor.