



Australian Government
Parks Australia



kakadu[®]
NATIONAL PARK

Gunumeleng Season

TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE # 5

24 October 2014



Magpie Geese

THE BUILD-UP SEASON IS UPON US

Water around the park is becoming scarce, and the bush is getting even drier. This is often a time of extreme fire danger – please use caution.

There are fires burning in various areas of the park at present – rangers are continuously monitoring and controlling these fires. Please be advised in the southern area of Kakadu, fires are creating occasional smoke hazards. Should rangers deem an area unsafe due to fire, the area may be closed at short notice – updates will be provided immediately via our Kakadu Road Report.

The Barrk Sandstone Walk in the Nourlangie region and the Barrk Marlam Walk to the top of Jim Jim Falls are now closed due to extreme heat.

The Twin Falls area is now also closed until next dry season to allow for necessary road works before the onset of the rainy season until next year.

Jim Jim Falls seasonal closure will come into effect from Sunday 9 November from 4pm.

Sign up to our road report to receive up-to-date information on site access and road conditions:

<http://kakaduroadreport.wordpress.com/>



For more information about Kakadu National Park contact Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 89 381120 or visit our websites: www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu for visitor information or www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators for useful forms and info

2014 Kakadu Bird Week

Kakadu is a birdwatcher's paradise, home to more than 290 species of birds - from woodland birds of the tropical savannah to water birds gracing the region's famed billabongs, to richly voiced birds ringing across majestic sandstone escarpments.

As a way of celebrating the birdlife in the Top End, Kakadu Bird Week was held from 22-26 September 2014. With good numbers of both birds and participants recorded, Bird Week provided the opportunity for researchers, twitchers and interested members of the public to participate in bird surveys, as well as taking part in various walks, talks, tours, slideshows and information sessions.

For more photos of the action of Bird Week, visit us on our Facebook page.

Bird Week will be back in 2015.



Photo: Micha V Jackson. Yellow chat

Crocodile safety



With the weather heating up and waters continuing to recede, crocodiles are once again on the move. This means there are a lot of hungry crocodiles in Kakadu searching for an easy feed. It is important to remind ourselves of the dangers of operating in 'croc country', and to ensure that tourists and locals alike are aware of the risks.

Always keep a safe distance from the water. Some crocodiles are very bold and will approach on the surface, but others can

surprise you from below the water. Just because you don't see a crocodile doesn't mean there isn't one there.

Although our rangers do crocodile patrols, we rely on tour operators, visitors and fishermen to report croc-related incidents. Anyone who encounters a croc displaying confronting behaviour should immediately contact Bowali Visitor Centre on 8938 1120.

No need to rush – Enjoy the journey

There have been some reports of vehicles driving at excessive speeds on Kakadu's dirt roads. Please slow down for everyone's safety, stay on the left and drive with your headlights turned on. Driving at the posted speed limits not only prevents accidents from occurring, and reduces wear and tear on vehicles, but also allows passengers the rare opportunity to enjoy this unique landscape on the way through.



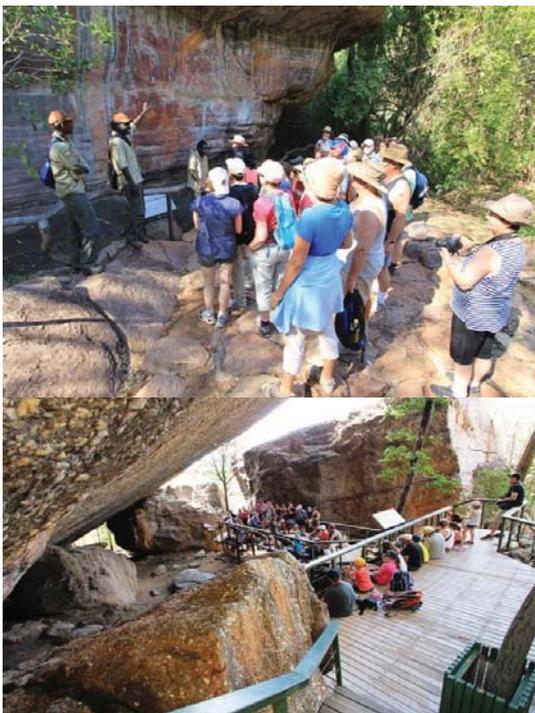
Gunlom Road – preliminary road works will commence at Gunlom from Monday 27 October 2014. Road trains will be carting gravel for approximately 3 – 4 weeks along the Gunlom Rd from the Gunlom Rd/Gimbat Rd. Visitors may experience short delays – please drive with caution and observe all warning signage.

Police will be enforcing speed limits in coming weeks.

Did you know...?

We live in a time of rapid technological advancement, and with this can come a lot of fun doodads and gadgets. However, it is important to note that not all of these toys are allowed in the park. Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (Reg 12.27), remote control devices, including planes, cars and drones, are not permitted in any Commonwealth reserve. So, please remind your guests to leave their gadgets at home, and enjoy the park for its natural, unimpeded beauty.

End of interpretative activities for another year



For more than 20 years we have been wowing visitors with free walks and talks through Kakadu's seasonal ranger program. After more than 800 walks, talks and slideshows, the seasonal ranger program is over for another year.

The program moved in a slightly new direction this year, with the Njanjma Rangers stepping up to deliver interpretive activities in the East Alligator Region. Campground manager Mike Oliver provided activities at Gunlom, we offered a Nanguluwurr guided walk, and activities in the south were covered by two internal interpretive rangers, Christian and Annie. All reports for the year have been extremely positive, and we are looking forward to returning next year.

Kakadu National Park would like to thank everyone involved for all of their hard work and perseverance throughout the 2014 program.

If you have any feedback or recommendations you'd like to supply about the seasonal ranger program, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the Park Interpretation Officer, Andy Ralph at andy.ralph@environment.gov.au (emails work best as Andy hasn't worked out how to retrieve his voicemail messages yet!)

Call for Ubirr Wet Season Permits

Ubirr is managed as a restricted area during the wet season each year. During this time independent travellers may only access the site between 2:00 pm and sunset, while tour operators may apply for a permit to access Ubirr between 8.30 am and sunset. For the coming wet season, wet season permits will extend from 1 December until 31 May 2015, rather than finishing on 31 March as they have in previous years. This will ensure that permitted operators will be able to access the area if the 'wet' does not subside. This is subject to road conditions, of course (e.g. when the road has been closed by the NT Department of Infrastructure, it is closed!).

Access into Ubirr during this period is granted on the understanding that permittees and their guides will work together with park staff to help protect this significant site by adhering to their permit conditions. We also ask that tour guides use caution when travelling through this flooded area. The road becomes rated as "impassable" at 0.6m (meaning you cross at your own risk) and then closed generally from 0.8m onwards.

For those operators interested in obtaining a wet season permit, the application package is available online (<http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators>). Please complete and return the application to kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au by 14 November 2014. Alternatively, please call Lucas Fiddaman on (08) 8938 1176 if you have any questions about Ubirr wet season permits.

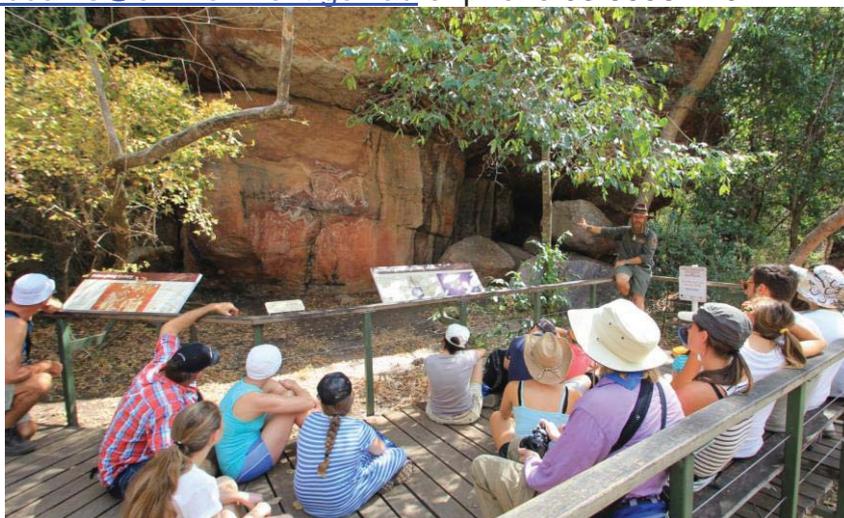
Would you like to promote your tours on our website?

As you may know, Kakadu maintains a visitor website with around 80,000 page views each month - <http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu>.

We want to include details of permitted and licensed operators via this page: <http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/do/tours.html>

It's free – In exchange, we just ask that you link to the official Kakadu site from your webpage so visitors can click on it to reach the official park site.

Interested? For more details please contact Tracey Diddams, Manager Tourism and Visitor Services tracey.diddams@environment.gov.au or phone 08 8938 1107.



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KNOW YOUR KAKADU

A threatened species is a native species that is at risk of becoming endangered in the near future. A threatened species may have a declining population or be exceptionally rare. Like endangered species, the cause of its rarity is variable, but may be due to threats such as habitat destruction, climate change, or pressure from invasive species.

Threatened species are divided into three categories depending on the degree of risk:

- Critically endangered
- Endangered
- Vulnerable

In Kakadu, there are 26 species listed as threatened.

Listed as critically endangered

- Bare-rumped sheath-tail bat (*Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus*)
- Spout-tooth shark (*Glyphis glyphis*)



Gouldian finch

Listed as endangered

- Gouldian finch (*Erythrura gouldiae*)
- Yellow chat (*Epthianura crocea tunneyi*)
- Northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*)
- Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)
- Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)
- Arnhemland egernia (*Bellatorias obiri*)
- Yellow-snouted gecko (*Lucasium occultum*)
- Northern river shark (*Glyphis garricki*)



Yellow chat



Northern quoll

Listed as vulnerable

- Red goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*)
- Partridge pigeon (*Geophaps smithii smithii*)
- Masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli*)
- Northern shrike-tit (*Falcunculus frontatus whitei*)
- Northern brushtailed phascogale (*Phascogale pirata*)
- Water mouse (*Xeromys myoides*)
- Golden-backed tree rat (*Mesembriomys macrurus*)
- Golden bandicoot (*Isodon auratus auratus*)
- Brush-tailed rabbit rat (*Conilurus penicillatus*)
- Arnhem rock-rat (*Zyzomys maini*)
- Plains death adder (*Acanthophis hawkei*)
- Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)
- Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
- Flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*)
- Dwarf sawfish (*Pristis clavata*)
- Freshwater sawfish (*Pristis microdon*)



Red goshawk



Partridge pigeon



Flatback turtle hatchlings

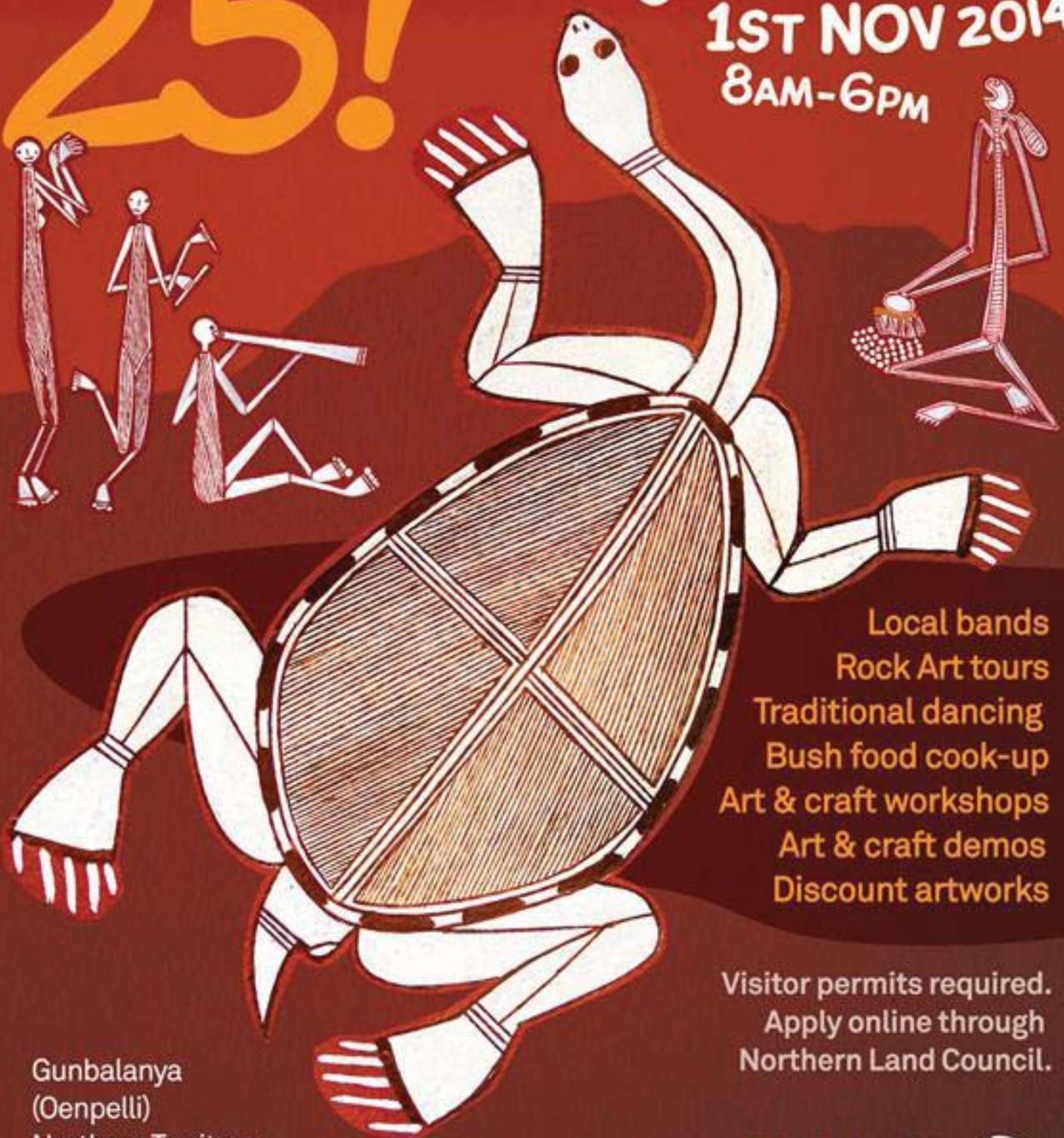


Northern quoll joey

INJALAK TURNS 25!

NGURRIMRAY
COME &
CELEBRATE!!

GUNBALANYA
1ST NOV 2014
8AM-6PM



- Local bands
- Rock Art tours
- Traditional dancing
- Bush food cook-up
- Art & craft workshops
- Art & craft demos
- Discount artworks

Visitor permits required.
Apply online through
Northern Land Council.

Gunbalanya
(Oenpelli)
Northern Territory
T 08 8979 0190
E info@injalak.com W injalak.com

INJALAK
ARTS 