



## Wurrngeng season

TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE # 3

18 August 2014



### **COLD WEATHER TIME**

The dry season is still in full swing with starry nights, cool mornings, clear days and endless blue skies.

All main visitor sites are now open and we hope you and your clients enjoy the pleasant days in Kakadu's great outdoors!

If you're heading into the more remote regions of the park, please remember the potential presence of crocodiles in water crossings in Kakadu National Park. Do not enter the water and stay inside the vehicle at all times while crossing water bodies in vehicles.

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

## SPEED LIMITS – ROAD TO JIM JIM AND TWIN FALLS



The road to Jim Jim and Twin Falls has recently been graded. There have been reports of vehicles not observing the 60 km per hour speed limit. Please slow down for everyone's safety, to prevent accidents along this unsealed road, reduce damage to vehicles and prevent damage to the road. Police will be enforcing speed limits in coming weeks.

## MEET YOUR TVS TEAM

Great news, our Tourism and Visitor Services team is complete once again!

Doug Wade has been with us for nearly two months already as the new **Permits Officer**. Right now he's extremely busy issuing bushwalking and camping permits. So far this year, the Permits team has issued close to 500 permits to commercial tour operators, bushwalking groups and camping enthusiasts. Contact Doug by email to [David.Wade@environment.gov.au](mailto:David.Wade@environment.gov.au) or call him on 08 8938 1140 for any of your permit enquiries!

Lucas Fiddaman came to us three weeks ago from the Commonwealth Marine Reserves Branch of Parks Australia – good timing to relocate from Hobart after the recent spurt of snow and ice! Lucas is our new **Project and Communications Officer** and now responsible for looking after our 100+ commercial media crews that come into the park. He's also producing our Industry Update newsletters and sharing news on social media. Call Lucas on 08 8938 1176 or drop him a line to [Lucas.Fiddaman@environment.gov.au](mailto:Lucas.Fiddaman@environment.gov.au).

Anja Toms is now in the role of the **Tourism Services Officer**, leading the Permits team and assisting the Tourism and Visitor Services Manager Tracey Diddams with policy development and Precinct planning. Please note that Anja's phone number is now 08 8938 1170, her email address remains unchanged: [Anja.Toms@environment.gov.au](mailto:Anja.Toms@environment.gov.au)

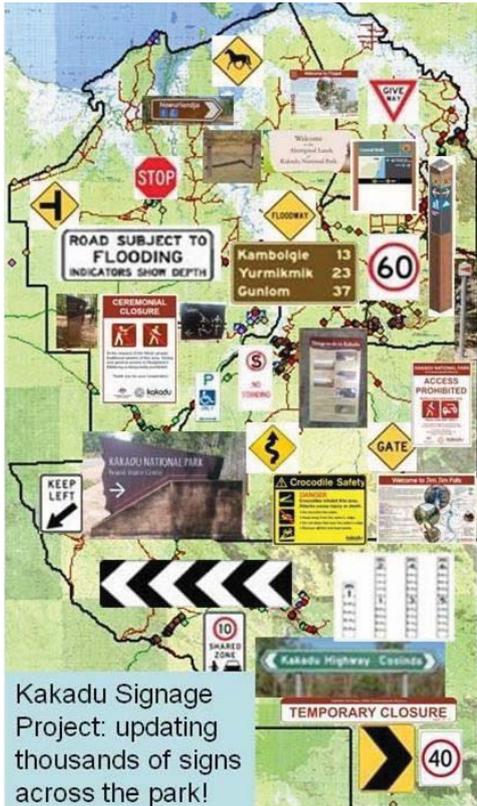
Andy Ralph has settled into his role as Kakadu's **Interpretations Officer**. Many of you know him as tour guide and coordinator of Kakadu Cultural Camp. This dry season he's looking after our Seasonal Interpretive Ranger program, coordinating more than 40 activities per week, ranging from art site talks and interpretive walks to slide shows.



Back: Anja, Lucas; front: Andy, Kate, Tracey, Doug;  
Not pictured but also part of our busy TVS family are Seasonal Rangers Annie and Christian and Bowali staff Brooke, Leah and Sylvia.

## PROJECT UPDATES

### Signage project – Signs of bigger things to come!



The Kakadu Signage Project is underway and over coming months we will see a start to the complete refresh of all signs throughout Kakadu National Park.

In an area the size of a small European country we have thousands of signs to replace – this is a HUGE project!

Our designated project officer, Kate McMahon has already spent several months planning this project, conducting an audit of existing signs, mapping, doing some of the initial design work and starting the complex tender and procurement process.

Great news - quite a number of the signs, like directional and operational signs, are easy to replace and will go in the ground over coming weeks!

But so much more work still needs to go into interpretive signs to make everyone feel welcome and provide information around rock art sites, walking tracks, lookouts and in bird hides and shelters!

With so many stories to tell, we want to make sure that all signs will have the right feel and provide accurate and appropriate information.

In some places you may notice temporary, laminated signs to provide important information. These will of course be replaced with flash-looking full size information boards.

To get it right, a project team which includes tourism industry representatives will work together with traditional owners, the Kakadu Board of Management, the local community and a linguistic anthropologist to discuss content and design details.

We aim to have this project completed during the 2015/16 financial year and will keep you informed with regular updates throughout. You're welcome to contact us or your KTCC representative for more information or to provide feedback and suggestions.

[Kate.McMahon@environment.gov.au](mailto:Kate.McMahon@environment.gov.au) or phone 08 8938 1156.

For your KTCC representatives visit [www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/0031bcf2-e1a5-4761-ac9b-ffc5a897be70/files/kakadu-ktcc-flyer-13-05-29.pdf](http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/0031bcf2-e1a5-4761-ac9b-ffc5a897be70/files/kakadu-ktcc-flyer-13-05-29.pdf)

### Precinct planning is well underway.

In line with the National Landscapes program, Kakadu's Tourism Master Plan identifies a number of 'precincts' that can be described as areas with conceptual boundaries that offer a variety of experiences within our large and diverse national park. Ensuring that visitors slow down and take time to connect with country and dispelling the myth that Kakadu can be done in one day are the main goals set out in our Shared Vision for Tourism.

So far, we've done preliminary planning in both the Jim Jim/Twin Falls precinct and the Mary River precinct. Workshops have been held on country with traditional owners, park staff and tourism industry representatives to talk about the visitor experience and how it can be enhanced – ideas have been wide and varied from mountain bike tours to nature based accommodation. Reports will be made from these workshops with the hope to develop more formal plans in the future.

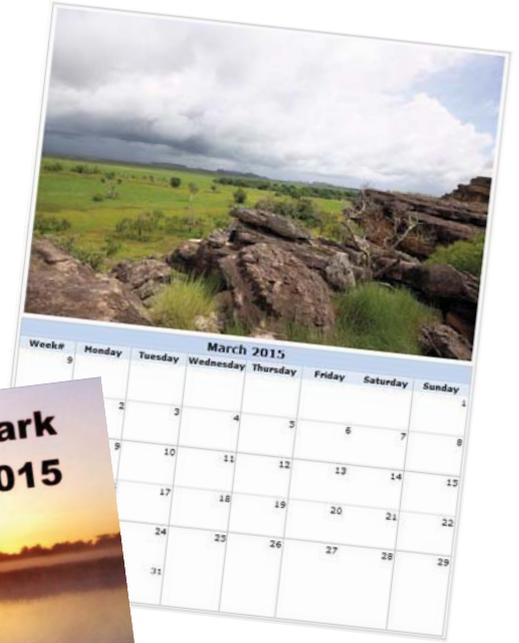
## COMPETITION UPDATE – KAKADU CALENDAR 2015

Exciting news! Our call for competition entries was answered with a great many people, visitors and locals alike, sending in their favourite images of Kakadu through the seasons.

The images have now been selected and photographers have been contacted. We will announce the winners in the next Industry Update!

All winners will not only have their photo credited in the calendar but also receive a free Kakadu 2015 calendar.

Calendars will be available for sale at our Bowali Visitor Centre soon!



## FREE RANGER GUIDED ACTIVITIES

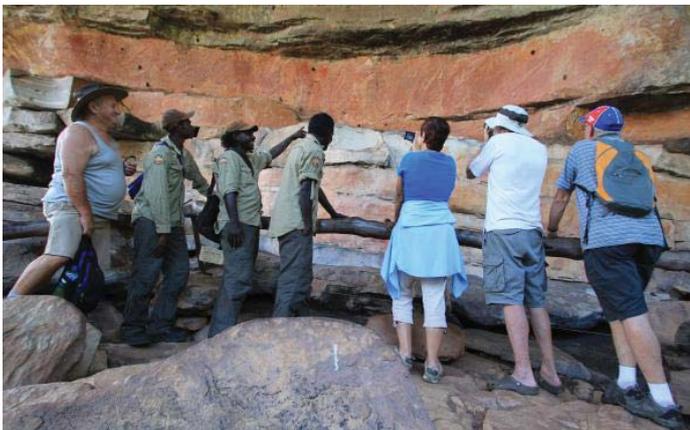
Our free ranger guides activities are still running at full steam! This year we are offering 44 free weekly activities across the park from slideshows, art site walks and talks, guided walks and cultural activities.

This year we also have an exciting new partnership with the Indigenous owned Djabulukgu Association who also run Hawk Dreaming, Guluyambi Cruise and the Arnhemlander tours.

A team of 20 young Njanjma Rangers (Njanjma meaning northern quoll) provide twice daily art-site cultural talks at Ubirr and are providing guided walks and cultural demonstrations such as painting, weaving and spear making in the East Alligator region.

So, if you haven't been out to Kakadu for a while, you really must come and join us on our free ranger guided activities. Check out our What's On Guide for details:

[http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/pub/whats\\_on-2014.pdf](http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/pub/whats_on-2014.pdf)



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

## KNOW YOUR KAKADU

### WHAT DO YOU CALL THAT PLANT OR ANIMAL IN BININJ GUNWOK?



Bininj Gunwok is a collective name for the dialect chain that includes Kunwinjku, Gundjeihmi, Kuninjku, Kune, Mayali and Kundedjnenghmi. These languages are spoken from Kakadu National Park in the west through to the Mann, Liverpool and Cadell River districts south of Maningrida in West Arnhem Land.

For more than 20 years, linguist and anthropologist Murray Garde has been learning and working together with Bininj people to document and support the Bininj Gunwok dialects of the region.

As a result of his commitment to the people living and working in Kakadu and West Arnhem Land, a new online resource is now available, documenting Aboriginal names for plants and animals of the region. It features Bininj Gunwok names for common plant and animal species and includes artwork and photographs.

The interactive database includes audio files of the Bininj Gunwok names so that users can hear how to pronounce words.

Many people working and living in Kakadu National Park and Western Arnhem Land need to know the Bininj Gunwok names for natural species. Indigenous land managers and rangers, scientists, linguists, arts centre workers, tour guides, students and others who have an interest in Indigenous ecological knowledge will find this online resource useful.

This language resource is a work in progress, as there are six different Bininj Gunwok dialects and it will take time to fill out all categories for the various dialects.

If you want to be part of this exciting project, there are different ways in which you can contribute information or photographs. You can submit your information via the website <http://mayh-dja-kundulk.bininjgunwok.org.au/> or contact NERP by email at [nerp.northern@cdu.edu.au](mailto:nerp.northern@cdu.edu.au) or phone 08 8946 7619.

If you want to know more about Bininj Gunwok languages, there are many more resources on [bininjgunwok.org.au](http://bininjgunwok.org.au)