



Gunumeleng Season

TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE # 19

20 November 2013



Afternoon storm during Gunumeleng

MAGUK NEWSFLASH

District rangers are monitoring **Maguk** (Barramundi Gorge) closely as water levels are on the rise after recent heavy rainfall on the Arnhem Land plateau. Please note that Maguk may have to close for the season at short notice due to the risk of flash flooding and crocodile movement.

CAMPGROUND MAKEOVER

Exciting news! Some of our campgrounds will receive a makeover in coming weeks in preparation for next year's busy season.

Muirella Park campground is the first to receive an upgrade. The amenities block has been fenced off so contractors can safely carry out maintenance work. Otherwise, the area (including the 4WD track to Sandy Billabong) remains open. Djarradjin Billabong boat ramp will also remain open until wet season flooding requires us to close the area for the season.

Camping areas **Merl 1** and **Mardugal 1** will also receive a facelift as part of our capital works program. Merl 2 and Mardugal 2 are not affected and will remain open to visitors throughout the wet season.

For more information, contact the Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120 or email KakaduNationalPark@environment.gov.au

UBIRR WET SEASON ACCESS

From 1 December the public will only be able to access Ubirr between 2.00 pm and sunset.

However tour operators can apply for a special permit which, if granted, provides you with almost exclusive lock and key access between 8.30 am and sunset.

Time is running out to apply for one of these special permits! Applications are currently being processed and permits will be emailed to approved operators over coming days.

Application packages were emailed to all operators a little while ago. If you did not receive yours and would like to apply please contact us at Kakadu.Permits@environment.gov.au or call Anja Toms on (08) 8938 1176.

A wet season special access permit to Ubirr is a privilege granted by our traditional owners. For this reason permit holders and tour guides have a greater responsibility to assist us with not only presenting the significance of this site to their visitors but also aiding us with protecting Ubirr for future generations.



After a few hiccups last wet season we have made a few small changes to procedures to make sure all guides are fully across the permit conditions.

Once your operation has been granted a permit and we have received the guides' signed agreement forms, they are required to attend a brief induction at our Bowali Visitor Centre. After the briefing session, the guides will receive their key to the access gate.

HOSTING MEDIA?

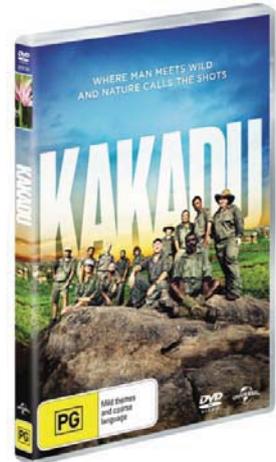
We've been seeing lots of positive coverage and fabulous promotion of Kakadu National Park in the media lately. Unfortunately we have identified a few instances where operators have hosted travelling journalists – or had a photographer on board for marketing purposes – without a permit.

If you're hosting a journalist or bringing in a photographer or film crew, please let us know. If they are capturing images for commercial purposes, they will need a permit. It's worth getting it right.

We are more than happy to lend a hand and take the stress out of the application process and planning. For any media permit queries, please contact Anja Toms on (08) 8938 1176 or email Anja.Toms@environment.gov.au.

NEW KAKADU MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE AT BOWALI

Christmas is just around the corner! Are you still looking for the perfect Christmas present? We have some beautiful new merchandise on offer at our Bowali Visitor Centre! Check out our new collection of caps, t-shirts, bags and water bottles – don't they look fabulous?



And don't forget, the four-part documentary series KAKADU will be available on DVD and Blu-ray later this month from ABC Shops <https://shop.abc.net.au/products/kakadu-2dvd> and selected outlets – including Bowali!

KAKADU DURING THE CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR BREAK

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

Please note **Bowali will be closed on 25 December 2013**. However, the information board with road conditions and access notes will be up to date, park notes will be available on the desk and the e-ticket machine will be open for any park pass purchases.

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?

COMPETITION TIME!

CALLING ALL KAKADU GUIDES – WE WANT TO SEE YOU IN ACTION!!!

Do you like our new merchandise? This is your chance to win a bag full of goodies including the boxed DVD set of KAKADU!

We are running a competition to show our appreciation of all the tour guides who are fantastic ambassadors for the park and do an incredible job interpreting Kakadu's natural and cultural values to visitors from around the world.

Send us a photo of you (or your colleague) in action, giving a talk at one of the art sites, striking a pose at Yellow Water, or cooking up a storm on the campfire?

Like us on Facebook and share your best action shot with the world!

We will put together an album of our most inspiring Kakadu Tour Guides on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/KakaduNationalPark.

Our panel of experts, incorporating some of our "KAKADU" TV stars, will pick the most inspiring shot of a tour guide showcasing Kakadu to the world.

The winner will be announced on 30 November 2013!

KNOW YOUR KAKADU

KAKADU NATIONAL PARK JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

The Kakadu National Park Junior Ranger Program is a long standing and successful program which provides opportunities for local school-based Bininj (Indigenous) and Balanda (non-Indigenous) students to learn about local Bininj culture, country and the management of Kakadu National Park. It provides fundamental knowledge for students and is the first link in a chain of programs which provide education, training and employment pathways in Kakadu.

Kakadu's Junior Rangers are an intrepid group of 11 and 12 year olds from nearby schools who get a hands-on taste of ranger work as part of their school curriculum. Three primary schools, Jabiru, Gunbalanya and Pine Creek, are involved with the program.

Developed at the request of traditional owners and other stakeholders, the Junior Ranger Program is aligned with the school curriculum and is delivered for upper primary school students. Lessons cover key topics fundamental to understanding Kakadu's cultural and natural values, as well as its management context. They include joint management, the six seasons of Kakadu, habitats, ranger work, weed control, fire management, cultural tourism.

The Junior Ranger Program involve lessons in the classroom plus a range of field-based learning activities. These activities include learning to preserve the rock art created by their direct ancestors and measuring the details of a cheeky *ginga* (estuarine crocodile)! An annual Junior Ranger camp is also scheduled.

All students who have been involved in the junior rangers program have found it a fascinating learning experience. We're proud to know Kakadu's future is in such good hands.



Above: Junior rangers learn to measure a croc and how to scrape away wasp nests from art sites.