



kakadu[®]

NATIONAL PARK

Garri-djarrkduurkmirri
Working together

KAKADU NEWS

YEKKE SEASON
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Meet Burarr - Mertens Water Monitor

How good is this? A couple of weeks ago this Mertens water monitor took a tour of the Bowali Centre, checked out the interpretive display and scaled the cathedral termite mound out on the before settling into the billabong. Our lizard friend likes the billabong a lot: a smorgasbord of native fish, comfortable rocks to bask on and plenty of attention from visitors!

Park Manager's Message

They're coming and they're smiling! And their numbers are up as much as 4% compared to last year – a sign of good things to come. The weather is getting marginally better but another downpour last Sunday has left the Red Lily 4WD track a bit slippery. Unfortunately it will remain closed over the long weekend.

In a bid to clean up the southern part of the Kakadu Highway, last week we took out a large number of ferals from within a 10km buffer zone. There's been a lot of activity along the roads this year, however with some early action and some roadside burning we should see less animals, particularly at night. They are a problem so please be careful.

And finally, the Bowali Cafe and Marrawuddi art gallery are in full swing. A new coffee machine, beautiful bites and fine art will provide something for everyone. Try the Bowali Burger!

Keep an eye on the road report for new openings and stay safe:
kakaduroadreport.wordpress.com

Pete Cotsell

Facebook

Check out our Facebook page
to see the latest info on the
park
[https://www.facebook.com/
KakaduNationalPark](https://www.facebook.com/KakaduNationalPark)

Salvinia Alert - Temporary Closure of Four Mile Hole

There is currently a large outbreak of the floating aquatic weed, salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), at Four Mile Hole. This weed has covered approximately 95% of the area, making the water inaccessible for boating and fishing. Salvinia is considered one of the worst weeds in Australia, due to the impacts it has on the environment. It forms a dense floating mat on top of the water, which affects aquatic plants and animals by decreasing light and oxygen levels. It grows rapidly – salvinia infestations can double in size in less than three days, which makes it difficult to control.

Normally, heavy rains would flush out any salvinia from Four Mile Hole, and clear it out. This year, Kakadu has had only about half the rainfall of an average wet season, and the Wildman River has had very little flow. With no major flows, the salvinia has not been flushed out of the system this year and has been able to expand and take over the area.

Four Mile Hole will be closed until further notice. It may reopen next year if there is a good wet season and the salvinia is flushed out. However, this is very much dependent on weather conditions. Parks will advise the public and key stakeholders when the area is open again. Access to Four Mile Hole is prohibited during this period, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Fines may apply.

What we will do

- Kakadu National Park will be actively managing the salvinia infestation at Four Mile Hole by using a biological control agent, the salvinia weevil (*Cyrtobagous salviniae*), to assist in controlling salvinia outbreaks. This weevil eats salvinia plants, causing them to die off over time. It is an effective control method, but can sometimes take several years to be fully effective.
- Parks will be monitoring the area on an ongoing basis, and will provide updates to the fishing and tourism community as the situation changes.

What you can do

- Salvinia can be spread accidentally by humans – for example on fishing gear, boats, or boat trailers. It is important to check your boat and gear before leaving and entering a fishing spot, to make sure you are not spreading salvinia.

Four Mile Hole, showing 95% coverage in salvinia, May 2016. Photo by Calvin Murakami.



Happening Right Now

After a memorable wet season that broke all kinds of records, sites are now becoming accessible. Maguk looks just stunning, Gunlom and Jarrangbarnmi have been attracting visitors for the last few weeks and rangers are now putting the finishing touches on some of the remaining sites.

Site	Expected Opening Date	Croc Management	Notes
Jim Jim Falls	Site opening preparations nearing completion.	Complete.	Garnamarr campground open this afternoon (4:00pm); Jim Jim Falls and Barrk Marlam walk will open Saturday morning, 11 June 2016. Jim Jim day use area and Budjmi Lookout remain closed until further notice.
Twin Falls	Additional rainfall caused delays in forecast site opening 3 June.	Crocodile surveys underway.	Installation of infrastructure and boats at Twin will take place after the croc surveys completed at Twin (approx 25 June 2016).
Four Mile Hole	Four Mile Hole will be closed until further notice, refer to previous page for more information.	Weed management.	Kakadu will be actively managing the salvinia infestation at Four Mile Hole so that it can be reopened to the public as soon as possible.

What's On in Kakadu

Weekly Activities – 2016 DRY SEASON					
MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
9.00 - 11.00 am Burrungkuy Rock Art Talks Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) art site <i>Nourlangie Region</i>	8.00 - 10.00 am Seasonal Changes in Kakadu's Wetlands Mamukala Walk & Bird Hide, Easy 3 km loop <i>South Alligator Region</i>	9.00 - 11.00 am Burrungkuy Rock Art Talks Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) art site <i>Nourlangie Region</i>	8.00 - 10.30 am Connecting Through Time with Rock Art Nanguluwur Walk, Easy 4 km return <i>Nourlangie Region</i>	8.30 - 10.00 am Welcome to Kakadu Bowali Woodlands & Visitor Centre Walk (meet at Bowali Visitor Centre) Easy 1.5 km return <i>Jabiru Region</i>	8.30 - 10.00 am* Creation, History & Biodiversity Gunlom Lookout Walk Steep 2 km return <i>Mary River Region</i>
	8.30 - 10.00 am* Creation, History & Biodiversity Gunlom Lookout Walk Steep 2 km return <i>Mary River Region</i>	9.30 - 11.30 am* Ubirr Rock Art Talks Ubirr art site Easy 1.5 km loop <i>East Alligator Region</i>	8.30 - 10.30 am* Explore Riverside Stone Country Bardedjildji Walk Easy 2.5 km loop <i>East Alligator Region</i>	9.00 - 11.00 am Burrungkuy Rock Art Talks Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) art site <i>Nourlangie Region</i>	10.00 am - 12.00 pm & 1.00 - 3.00 pm (Fortnightly from 14 May) Traditional Painting Bowali Visitor Centre <i>Jabiru Region</i>
1.00 - 3.00 pm* Traditional Weaving Merl campground <i>East Alligator Region</i>	9.30 - 11.30 am* Ubirr Rock Art Talks Ubirr art site Easy 1.5 km loop <i>East Alligator Region</i>		11.00 - 1.00 pm* Traditional Painting Cultural activities Merl campground <i>East Alligator Region</i>	9.30 - 11.30 am* Ubirr Rock Art Talks Ubirr art site Easy 1.5 km loop <i>East Alligator Region</i>	
5.00 - 6.30 pm Linking Billabongs & Stone Country Nawurlandja Walk Steep 1.5 km return <i>Nourlangie Region</i>	9.30 am - 1.00 pm Cultural Activities Bowali Visitor Centre <i>Jabiru Region</i>		1.00 - 2.00 pm Caring for Kakadu Bowali Visitor Centre (Meet near Bowali theatre) <i>Jabiru Region</i>	10.30 am - 1.30 pm Cultural Activities Bowali Visitor Centre <i>Jabiru Region</i>	Look out for weekend cultural activities at Gunlom Day Use Area* <i>Mary River Region</i>
7.30 - 8.30 pm* Southern Kakadu Stories Slideshow Gunlom Day use Area <i>Mary River Region</i>	7.30 - 8.30 pm Wildlife, Behind the Scenes or Seasons Slideshows Aurora Kakadu Lodge Jabiru (By the pool) <i>Jabiru Region</i>	7.30 - 8.30 pm Rock Art Through the Ages Slideshow Crocodile Hotel Jabiru (In the Jim Jim Room) <i>Jabiru Region</i>	5.00 - 6.00 pm Croc 'n' Tell Ranger Talk Crocodile Hotel Jabiru (in the Escarpment Restaurant) <i>Jabiru Region</i>	7.30 - 8.30 pm* Mary River Histories Slideshow Gunlom Day use Area <i>Mary River Region</i>	
Look out for cultural activities at the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre (Yellow Water Region)			Dates:		
Please Note: Activities may be cancelled for reasons beyond our control.			1 May - 30 September - Jabiru, Nourlangie and South Alligator Region activities		
			*1 June - 30 September - East Alligator and Mary River Region activities		

Bird Week 2016 - Become Involved

Join traditional owners, Parks Australia and local birding specialists to celebrate the Top End's diverse birdlife during Kakadu Bird Week 1-9 October, 2016! Tour operators and Kakadu businesses can register their interest to offer activities, events or special products and packages here: kakaduxperiences@environment.gov.au

Please submit your offers by 25 June 2016 so the program can be finalised. (Participating businesses will receive a Kakadu Bird Week tile for their marketing purposes and have their logos cross promoted by Tourism NT and Kakadu National Park).

Last year's Bird Week was a great success and we look forward to more involvement and program offerings for 2016.



Step-On Guides - Register Now

Have you successfully completed your 'Kakadu knowledge for Tour Guides' course?

Are you passionate about sharing your knowledge of the park and its people, giving visitors up-to-date and culturally appropriate information, helping them stay safe and giving them some great holiday stories to tell their friends and family?

Visiting international or interstate operators can use the services of a trained step-on guide if their drivers/guides have not successfully completed the course themselves.

If you're keen to act as a step-on guide, email your details to Kakadu.Permits@environment.gov.au by the end of this month and include:

- Name
- Contact details (phone and email)
- Where you are based (e.g. Darwin, Katherine, Kakadu)
- What services you can provide (e.g. day tours, extended, coach groups, small groups)
- Special skills or interests (e.g. Auslan, foreign language(s), bird expert, etc.)

We will update our list of trained local step-on guides who can provide high quality interpretation and make this list available to operators on request.

Kakadu Walking Project

Kakadu's Walking Strategy and Walking Track Manual were recently endorsed for implementation by the Kakadu Board of Management.

The Walking Track Manual covers Kakadu's 40 short day walks.

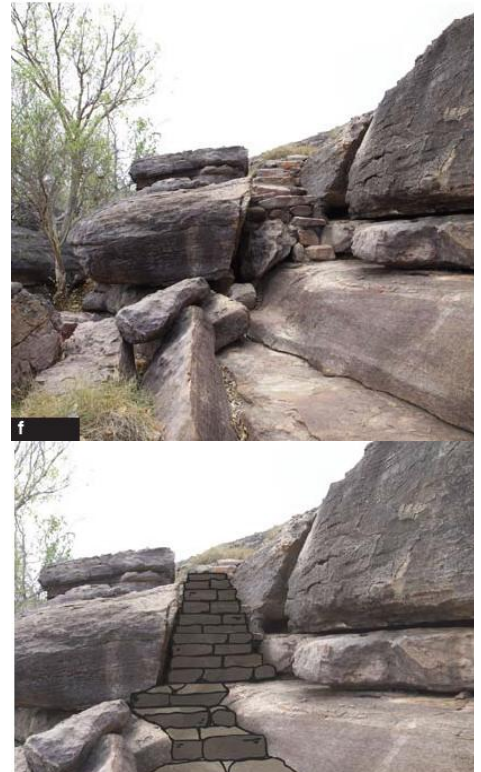
The designs will ensure tracks;

- Meet Australian standards
- Provide access solutions for varying physical abilities
- More opportunities for viewing platforms and rest areas
- Possible access solutions to some sites closed during the wet season

Overnight Bushwalking Guidelines

are also currently being drafted by the park this will include;

- Consultations with TOs and Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
- Lock in an approved walking route system to promote walking opportunities in the park
- Create new guided experiences and tour products particularly for local Bininj/Mungguy
- Ensure the park's cultural values are protected (over 5000 rock art sites are within bushwalking areas in the park)
- Develop bushwalking inductions following the Leave No Trace Principles
- Future online booking ability and fee
- Partnerships with local bushwalking clubs and operators



Welcome Statements

By now you may have seen some of the new Kakadu-branded safety and regulatory signs in the park. These are designed to keep visitors and our cultural and natural heritage values safe.

With the new welcome statement at the southern entry in place, work at the Arnhem Highway info bay is well underway too. Visitors will soon experience the welcome to this world Heritage area and, most importantly, the Aboriginal lands of Bininj/Mungguy.



Meet the Team - Patrick May, 'Grader Man'

Patrick May has been operating graders and machinery for over 30 years throughout Western Arnhem Land and for the last three seasons here in Kakadu National Park. So it is fair to say knows this land and his machines well.

Although he gets to see wildlife calmly going about their business and explore the damage left on roads from the previous wet season before anyone else does, it's not all glitz and glamour while he cruises around Kakadu... You can see why roads need to dry out before grading can commence.

Patrick will be grading the Jim Jim Road and other 4WD tracks in the park regularly during the tourist season to keep driving conditions safe. So if you come across the road sign 'GRADER AHEAD' slow down, overtake only if safe and give Patrick a friendly wave.



Ubirr Key Return

Opening hours at Ubirr have now reverted back to dry season hours, 8:30 am to sunset, subject to road conditions. This means tour operators issued with wet season access key(s) need to return them by 30 June 2016. The same keys will NOT work next year as we alternate locks from year to year.

If you haven't already done so, please return key(s) to our Bowali team or via registered mail to the following address:

Kakadu National Park
Permits Officer
PO Box 71, Jabiru NT 0886

Remember, keys not returned by 30 June 2016 will be deemed lost and a recovery fee of \$50 per key charged to the operator. Contact our Permits Officer if you have any issues.

We would like to know what you are interested in learning about regarding Kakadu.

If you have any suggestions as to what you would like included in a future edition of the Industry Update, please forward your suggestion to Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au

For more information about Kakadu National Park contact Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120 or visit our websites.

Visitor Information

www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu

Useful forms and information

www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators