



**kakadu**<sup>®</sup>  
NATIONAL PARK

**Garri-djarrkdurrkmirri**  
Working together

# TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE

YEKKE SEASON

EDITION NO: 3

29 APRIL 2016

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Park Manager

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## Message from our Park Manager

The tourists are coming and once again we are treading a fine line between the Lords or weather, king crocs and the disappointed tourist. The wild flowers are plenty, the waterfalls flowing and the water soft and crystal clear. There's always a 'but'.



And this year the 'but' is some late downpours wreaking havoc on our access roads and rising water levels, a four metre croc in Maguk and the chance of more crocs taking advantage of swollen rivers and unclaimed billabongs. But there's still so much on offer.

The good times are on their way though and all hands are on deck to prepare the camp grounds, fix the roads and open up the swimming areas to the public (details are on the next page and website will be updated every few days from here on in). We are just finishing our 2016 'spruce' which will see new picnic tables, refreshed toilet blocks, new lighting and fish cleaning bays. Not too far away we'll also see the new welcome statements – the southern entrance finished already.

A reminder that industry update newsletters are sent out monthly. All our previous newsletters can be viewed here.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/kakadu-tourism-industry-updates>

Road reports are issued daily to your inbox or can be accessed via our website.

The Kakadu Facebook page also provides up-to-date information on things to do and activities in Kakadu.

In the coming months, we are interested in hosting a Knowledge Sharing session with operators in Darwin. This will provide an opportunity to meet and greet with key park staff and Bininj/Mungguy and share information on crocodile management, burning programs, feral and weed control, cultural heritage, tourism projects, Board of Management, Threatened Species, compliance and capital asset programs. We welcome your feedback on this idea (initiative) and whether it is something the tourism industry would be interested in.

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)

## Happening right now:

Our rangers are out working hard getting Kakadu's iconic visitor sites ready for the tens of thousands of tourist that are about to come and discover our World Heritage park and its secrets.

| Site                                 | Expected Opening Date  | Croc Management  | Notes   |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Gunlom</b>                        | Site opening preparations will be completed by end of week.<br><br>Gunlom Road was badly damaged by flash flooding and recent rain. Road contractors on-site 6 May 2016 to repair road prior to opening. | Croc trap installed 18 April<br>4 x spotlight surveys<br>2 x daytime surveys<br>At this stage no <i>c porosus</i> detected in area<br>Requires one more clear spotlight survey.  | Gas barbeques filled and toilet check this week.<br>Campground manager commences this week.<br>Ranger staff will have all on ground work completed by the end of this week  |
| <b>Jarrangbarnmi (Koolpin Gorge)</b> | Site opening preparations will be completed by end of week.<br><br>The Gimbat Road has been damaged during the wet season and recent rains. Road works commencing 6 May 2016.                            | Croc traps installed 20 April<br>3 x spotlight surveys<br>2 x daytime surveys<br>At this stage no <i>c porosus</i> detected in area<br>Requires two more clear spotlight survey.   | Ranger staff will have all on ground work completed by the end of this week<br><br>Site will open once road work and crocodile surveys complete.  |
| <b>Maguk</b>                         | Site opening preparations will be completed by end of week   | Croc traps installed 17 April<br>1 x 3.9 m <i>c porosus</i> trapped 19 April<br>3 x spotlight surveys<br>2 x daytime surveys<br>At this stage no further <i>c porosus</i> detected in area<br>Requires two more clear spotlight surveys. | Ranger staff currently repairing flood damage on access road and will have all on ground work completed by the end of this week   |
| <b>Jim Jim Twin Falls</b>            | Aim to have the JJ Falls area open for the weekend 3 June  | 5 x croc traps will be installed at Jim Jim Falls 10 May<br><br>Surveys will commence 16 May<br><br>Twin Falls croc survey to run concurrently but will be a week behind   | Ranger staff target to have the Jim Jim Falls area and Garnamarr campground opening preps completed over a two week period.<br>Installation of infrastructure and boats at Twin will take place after the croc surveys completed at Twin (approx 2 weeks after Jim Jim Falls area). |

Please note, further heavy rain may impact road repairs and perimeter burns, significant water level rise which may delay crocodile surveys. We will continue to provide up-to-date advice via our daily Road Report and Facebook pages.



## April 2016 - Discovery Month

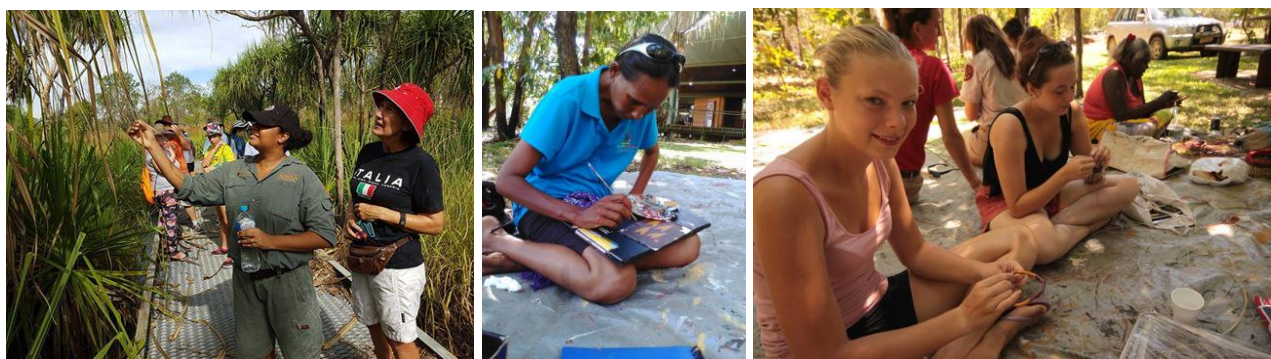
Throughout April there were over 80 activities for visitors and locals to enjoy.

In addition to regular slide shows and our popular walks and talks at Nourlangie Rock, Nanguluwur and Nawurlandja guided by Interps Ranger Christian Diddams, Savana Eccles led regular woodlands-themed walks starting from the visitor centre. Both Bowali and Warradjan Cultural Centre were buzzing hubs of activity with art and craft workshops and lunchtime talks.

A big shout-out to the Mercure Crocodile Hotel for organising bush tucker walks, cooking demonstrations, art workshops and movie nights at their premises!

Rangers and staff took time out of their busy schedules to give presentations on their day-to-day work in the park. Topics ranged from growing up in Kakadu, feral animal control and looking after rock art.

Jacqueline Cahill and family spent Saturday mornings giving painting lessons at the Bowali Visitor Centre while Jennifer Wellings and her aunties Ruth and Susan introduced visitors to the art of weaving with pandanus fibres on Thursdays and Fridays.



Senior artists Abel Naborlhborlh and Graham Rostron facilitated cultural painting demonstrations at Bowali on behalf of Children's Ground. The artists have been talking with visitors about the processes of collecting and preparing the natural materials they use to create their art and how important it is to continue to pass on knowledge and skills to future generations.

They demonstrated traditional cultural techniques of painting using ochre pigments, pipeclay and charcoal on *dolobbo* (stringy bark) surfaces, applying layers of fine line *rarrk* with a paint brush made from *manyilk* (grass). Thank you to everyone involved making our very first Discovery Month a success.

If you have any feedback or ideas about Discovery month in the future please contact Tracey Diddams on 89381107 or [tracey.diddams@environment.gov.au](mailto:tracey.diddams@environment.gov.au)

*'My Grandfather and my Father told me these stories, they're from long time ago, I have two grandsons now and I teach them.....like my Grandfather showed me, I will show this mob.'* -**Abel Naborlhborlh**



## Dry Season Burning

Kakadu's early dry season burning program has commenced.

Every year in the early dry season, controlled burns are conducted across the park by Bininj and park staff. This helps to clean up country by removing dry grasses and vegetation build up to reduce fire dangers and promote fresh plant growth. The fresh green provides an important food source for Kakadu's fauna, so please be cautious of wildlife grazing particularly by the roadsides. Please observe all burning warning signs and for further information contact Bowali.

It is important to note that fires in the early dry season of Kakadu and the Top End are cool ground fuel reduction fires that simply burn themselves out overnight; they are not the hot unmanageable fires like those that devastate the forest regions of our southern states.



## New staff in the Tourism and Visitor Services Team

Sarah Burgess has returned to Kakadu's TVS unit to deliver the Signage Project and oversee interpretive programs and activities in Kakadu. Sarah has worked in interpretive roles in various World Heritage national parks in Asia, Kakadu and the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory. She looks forward to working with a strong team this year to deliver memorable visitor experiences.

Rachel Price came to Kakadu a little over 18 months ago from Toowoomba where she and her partner ran a small business designing and delivering programs and workshops with an arts, environment and multicultural focus in local, regional and remote settings. She recently started full time with the TVS team as the Community Liaison and Education Coordinator after working at Bowali Front Counter since August last year and is excited to be here.

Steve Toms has joined the team as the Project and Communications Officer. Steve comes to the team with 41 years of experience in Kakadu, having worked the last 21 years in the local tourism industry. Steve is enjoying the challenge of his new role.

## Tourism Partners Trade Portal

Tourism operators can now sign up to purchase park passes through the Trade Portal. The Portal has been built in collaboration with you. So, firstly a huge thanks to all who have helped us on the journey; your feedback has allowed us to build something that will make your business lives easier.

It's quick and easy to purchase passes. You no longer have to pre-purchase bulk tickets or stop on the way into the park to get them. Only one ticket is required for your whole vehicle and best of all, all purchases you make online as a recognised partner of Kakadu National Park gets you a 5% discount.

Interested in selling passes? Accommodation providers, visitor information centres, roadhouses or any outlet with internet connect can now sell passes. As an agent, promotional materials, posters, signs and menus are available to further stimulate sales. Add to that, your business name is printed on all passes that you sell.

Your link to the Portal is here

[Trade.ParksAustralia.gov.au](https://Trade.ParksAustralia.gov.au)

The new ticketing system will soon be integrated into our website for independent travellers, simplifying the purchase process. Check it out here

[www.Book.ParksAustralia.gov.au](https://www.Book.ParksAustralia.gov.au)

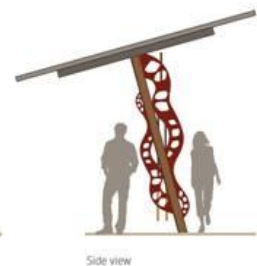


## Signage Project Update

- Park welcome statements (Arnhem and Kakadu Highway) - currently being installed.
- Orientation shelters (Arnhem and Kakadu Highway) – installed from 9 May 2016.
- Regional Welcome shelters - to be installed during July/August 2016
- Directional sign - priority sites (Ubirr, Nourlangie, Jim Jim, Maguk, Gunlom, Yellow Water) to be installed during July/August 2016
- Info signs - priority sites to be installed in August 2016
- Orientation signs - priority sites to be installed in August 2016
- Track heads - priority sites to be installed in August 2016
- Interpretation signs - this will be a much longer process as these are our story telling signs. We plan to spend six months sitting down with all clan groups in the park talking through the content and reviewing where necessary. This will also include design of these special signs. Installation of these will then be prior to the dry season 2017.

With over 2,300 signs in the park, this is a huge job and we thank you for your patience. We look forward to revealing the new look over the coming months.

The northern information bay has also had a great refurbishment with Kakadu-branded toilet blocks and four bespoke-look picnic tables installed. Stay tuned for more photo updates.



## Kakadu is for all the senses

Vision impaired Janice Campbell and her four-legged mate recently visited Kakadu on an Intrepid Tour recently and had the opportunity to meet Senior Ranger Andrew Lawson (pictures below). Janice enjoyed feeling the warmth of Kakadu, sensing the ancient culture and hearing the birds and trees rustling.

## Guide, Hearing, Assistance and Companion dogs.

While it is prohibited to bring pets into the park, guide, hearing, assistance and companion dogs are allowed in Kakadu under section 12.19 of the EPBC regulations; however there are still strict rules to follow. The EPBC Act and regulations can be viewed at [www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2015C00673](http://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2015C00673)

Please make sure to carry necessary certification and contact us as a courtesy before coming to Kakadu with one of these amazing dogs.



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu)

Useful forms and information

[www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators](http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators)