



**Australian Government**  
**Parks Australia**



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

**Gunumeleng Season**

**TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE # 6**

**1 December 2014**



**Alyurr – Leichhardt’s Grasshopper**

**THE BUILD-UP SEASON IS HERE**

It’s the time of year when clear blue skies slowly start to bear threatening clouds and the odd storm will remind us of what is looming ahead. Streams will soon begin to run and new growth will quickly appear throughout the parched landscape. On occasion, Alyurr (Leichhardt’s Grasshoppers) will also be spotted by a lucky visitor in and around the sandstone habitats.

With the impending wet season, there are a few risks visitors need to be mindful of:

- greater potential for crocodile movement
- extreme heat and other extreme weather conditions, such as lightning and storms
- sites may be closed quickly due to flash flooding or road access

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

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



## FOURTH ROUND: INVITATION TO APPLY FOR A LICENCE

**Closing date: 31 January 2015**

Licences are currently being offered for the following activities:

Activity	Number of licences available
Sports fishing tours	Unlimited
Bush walking tours	Unlimited
Safari camps	Merl x 2 Gunlom x 1
Access to Jarrangarnmi (Koolpin Gorge)	Unlimited casual

We invite all interested tour operators to apply by **31 January 2015**. Applications will be assessed in February.

To apply for a licence, please download this form [www.environment.gov.au/parks/permits/kakadu-tours.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/permits/kakadu-tours.html)

For further information about licences, please contact Tracey Diddams on (08) 8938 1107 or email [tracey.diddams@environment.gov.au](mailto:tracey.diddams@environment.gov.au).

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY INJALAK

On Saturday, 1 November, Injalak Arts Centre celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was a near perfect day and a great crowd with the people of Injalak Arts showing the rich cultural landscape of Gunbalanya. Throughout the day, there were displays of local bands, traditional dancing, bush tucker and arts and crafts. Visitors were also able to take tours up Injalak Hill to enjoy the extensive rock art on display.

Kakadu National Park would like to thank Injalak Arts for their hard work in all of their projects, including their efforts towards Kakadu's seasonal interpretational program, and hope there are many more happy years to come.

Injalak Art Centre is open Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm, and Saturday between 9am and 2pm. Visit the Injalak website for more details ([injalak.com](http://injalak.com)). Please keep in mind that a permit is required to visit Gunbalanya, and can be obtained from the Northern Land Council

(<http://www.nlc.org.au/articles/info/tourist-transit-work-research-permits>).



Isaiah and Rueben from Injalak showing off their screen printing talent

## SIGNS PROJECT



The Kakadu Signage Project is progressing with the first new signs in the ground. Rangers were trained on 5 November in sign installation specifications. Rangers of course know how to dig a hole and mix concrete! The training goes a step further, with instructions based on Australian Standards, specifying post heights, hole depths and sign placement to ensure consistency across the park.

Expect to see new croc signs, information and regulatory signs going up around the park over the next month. We have three more batches of signs to install over the next year:

- Park management signs (direction, information, identification)
- Welcome places (park and area entrances, orientation nodes)
- Interpretation signs

A tender is out now to produce these signs. The tender invitation is now available on AusTender <https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.ATM.list&keyword=&number=DNP&submitButton-1=Search>

As always, your input is welcome. Please contact Kate, our Signage Project Officer at [kate.mcmahon@environment.gov.au](mailto:kate.mcmahon@environment.gov.au).

## CHANGES AT GUBARA

For visitor safety, the Gubara walk in the Nourlangie Region was closed recently due to evidence of an estuarine crocodile in the area. The site remained closed whilst rangers conducted extensive surveys, finally capturing and removing an estuarine crocodile.

Rangers have now re-opened the area for walking. Swimming at Gubara is considered dangerous and is currently not permitted whilst we review the crocodile management strategy for this area. Please stay on marked tracks and observe all warning signs. Estuarine crocodiles can move into waterways undetected at any time. For sightings and concerns, please report to the Bowali Visitor Centre 08 8938 1120.

## GUNLOM ROAD REPAIR

Preparations to the Gunlom access road are well underway with truck-loads of gravel shipped in ready for the post-wet season repairs. We would like to thank you all for being patient and slowing down in these areas.

## BYE BYE THAI (for now)

In recent years, the Border Store has made a name for itself for being a great place for an incredible Thai meal or ice cream while on the way to or from Ubirr and Gunbalanya. However, just as the dollar birds come and go each year, Michael, M and the family must depart on their annual journey, shutting their doors for the wet season. We ask that you keep this in mind when you are visiting the East Alligator Region of the park.

Kakadu National Park would like to thank Michael and the family for keeping a lot of us well fed for another year, and look forward to seeing them back in 2015.

## PERMITS, PERMITS, PERMITS...



We have had a great (and busy) year with a new team and lots of permits out the door! This year so far has seen more than 600 permits issued, in addition to the development of ongoing projects and services.

For film and photography, the TVS team has issued 47 film permits and 58 photo permits, and the projects have ranged from documentaries and television productions to filming for high profile events such as Restaurant Australia's Invite the World to Dinner campaign.

We also issued 383 permits for bushwalking and camping, totalling a massive number of 2,216 bushwalkers overall.

If you are interested in learning more about Kakadu National Park's permit system, or would like to apply for a permit, please contact [Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au](mailto:Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au).

## UBIRR WET SEASON SCHEDULE STARTS 1 DECEMBER 2014.

From 1 December 2014 to 31 May 2015 tour operators and their guides can access Ubirr between 8.30 am and sunset if they hold a special Ubirr wet season access permit. Permits have been issued, keys allocated and the first guides have been using the keys issued to them already.

A few Tour Guide Agreements are still outstanding and we would like to remind everyone that guides must return the signed forms if they wish to access Ubirr prior to 2:00 pm. Please check condition 21 of your Ubirr wet season access permit.

Forms can be returned to staff at Bowali or emailed to [Kakadu.Permits@environment.gov.au](mailto:Kakadu.Permits@environment.gov.au).

## OUTBACK RANGERS

If you are one of these lucky people who have subscribed to Austar, you may have been viewing the recent *Outback Rangers* on the National Geographic Channel. Screening at 7.30pm Tuesday nights (EST) are 10 x 30 minute episodes. The content is based off last year's ABC series but a slightly cut with more in-depth story telling aimed at the International market. Well done to our own Kathy Wilson and Fred Baird who helped promote the show on the weekend Today morning show!



## KNOW YOUR KAKADU KTCC

The Kakadu Tourism Consultative Committee (KTCC) was established by the Kakadu National Park Board of Management. The KTCC reports directly to the Board and is chaired by a Board member. Some key aspects of the committee's role are:

- To provide advice and industry expertise on proposals relating to tourism, both commercial and private, in the park.
- To establish and maintain sound working relationships between traditional owners, Kakadu National Park, and the tourism industry.
- To provide advice to the Board on commercial aspects of park management, including commercial opportunities and revenue potential.
- To create greater understanding to the Board and Parks Australia about tourism industry aspirations and responsibilities in the park, and understanding within the tourism industry of traditional owners' interests and park management objectives.
- To build understanding in the tourism industry and government for park management objectives and arrangements.

The committee provides advice on tourism issues (both commercial and private business) in Kakadu National Park. Matters are brought to the committee either by the Kakadu Board of Management or by members on behalf of the groups they represent.

We have attached the current membership flyer for your information - If you have any questions or issues you would like to raise, please contact your representative or the Kakadu Tourism Services Officer, Anja Toms on (08) 8938 1170 or at [anja.toms@environment.gov.au](mailto:anja.toms@environment.gov.au).