



# kakadu<sup>®</sup>

## NATIONAL PARK

Garri-djarrkduurkmirri  
Working together

# KAKADU NEWS

WURRGENG SEASON

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### Northern Welcome Statement

The new Arnhem Highway welcome statement is here! Park Manager Pete Cotsell and Tourism & Visitor Services Manager Tracey Diddams inspected the finished product. We look forward to seeing your photos of the new park welcome designed by Armsign in collaboration with traditional owners and park staff.

Landscaping and some additional construction work around the site are still underway. Consultations and development of artwork for the new suite of signs are also ongoing.

### Now Online - Visitor Survey 2016

Our annual visitor survey is now online and we'd love to hear from our visitors post-visit! The survey assists Parks Australia in future planning and management of Kakadu and aims to determine whether visitors' expectations were met during their visit. They give your clients the chance to tell us about aspects that could be improved.

If you're a Kakadu tour operator, please include the following link in your newsletters and on social media and don't forget to mention that participants can enter the draw for a Kakadu merchandise pack:

[Kakadu National Park - Visitor Survey 2016.](https://www.facebook.com/KakaduNationalPark)

### Facebook

Check out our Facebook page  
to see the latest info on the  
park

[https://www.facebook.com/  
KakaduNationalPark](https://www.facebook.com/KakaduNationalPark)



## Fighting Salvinia at 4 Mile Hole

*Salvinia molesta* is an aquatic fern that was introduced into Australia in the 1950s as an aquarium plant because of its pretty colour and extremely quick growth. Highly invasive, it has become a Weed of National Significance and has been an ongoing concern for Kakadu's Integrated Feral Team.

Kakadu staff enlist the services of the plants' natural enemies to tackle this noxious floating weed in our waterways. In early July they released salvinia weevils (*Cyrtobagous salviniae*) at 4 Mile Hole, where a significant outbreak has occurred. More weevils will be released in coming months.

The weevils will slowly eat their way through the infestation, breeding as they go (what a life!) and reducing the biomass on the surface of the water. The weevils work by eating the young plants, which then sink – and they move on to the next plant. This control method can take several years to be fully effective – so in the mean time we will hope for a big wet season to flush out the bulk of the salvinia. We don't anticipate the area being accessible for fishing for the remainder of the year.

As with all biological controls, this method will not eradicate salvinia, but it should reduce the biomass and hopefully open up the waterway for future fishing. We will monitor the site throughout the rest of the year, and adjust our management strategy accordingly.

Across the park, please remember to clean your boats and equipment – and remove any salvinia – prior to leaving an area as it is easily spread.

A big thanks to Bert Lukitsch at the NT Weeds Branch for breeding the weevils and bringing them out with his staff for the release. A good example of NT Weeds Branch and Kakadu working together.





## NT Ranger Awards Winners

Congratulations to Kakadu's Integrated Feral Team - winners of this year's NT Ranger Awards for Outstanding Environmental Achievement.

For more than 25 years the Integrated Feral Team has worked tirelessly to protect the park from *Mimosa pigra*, one of the world's most invasive weeds, often in difficult conditions. Left unattended it has the ability to choke wetlands with dense, thorny, impenetrable thickets. The team has been tackling this weed using helicopters, quad bikes or airboats across Kakadu's vast wetlands. Since 1983 they've maintained a database of more than 120 sites to keep track of the species. They have largely contained the spread in the park and no new outbreaks have been recorded in the past four years – no mean feat considering this plant can spread thousands of seeds that can lay dormant for several years.



## Bird Week 2016 - Calling Kakadu Operators

While we have started putting together the draft program for Kakadu Bird Week (1-9 October, 2016) we're still open to any bird-themed suggestions that will encourage visitors to attend throughout the week.

Please email us your

- ideas
- preferred dates and times and
- any other information or contributions you can offer

The program will be finalised by the end of July and promoted widely to encourage birdy folk to attend.

Of course we encourage our local community to get involved and discover our feathered friends in our Kakadu backyard.

We have promotional icons and posters that you can use on your website and social media sites/offices/foyers etc to promote the event.

We look forward to receiving your responses: [kakaduxperiences@environment.gov.au](mailto:kakaduxperiences@environment.gov.au)



## 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](mailto: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.)

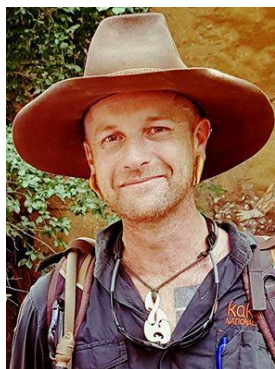
We will update our list of trained local step-on guides who can provide high quality interpretation and make this list available to operators on request.

## More Awards

Congratulations to our NAIDOC Award winner Savana Eccles who has been recognised by the Department of the Environment for her outstanding achievement in promoting Indigenous values and positive outcomes. Savana, who coordinates the Bowali Visitor Centre, has been recognised for her dedication and enthusiasm in recruiting and mentoring a group of young Bininj with the aim of supporting them into permanent employment opportunities in the park.

Interpretive Ranger Christian Diddams won a Tourism Top End Super Deeds award after being nominated by a couple visiting from Western Australia for being knowledgeable, friendly and an inspirational communicator.

Congratulations to you both!



## WiFi @ Gunlom

The WiFi installation is a joint initiative between Parks Australia and the Northern Territory Government, making it easier for visitors to get all-important travel info on the go! Visitors can now get general information on the park and purchase their park passes.

Limited to the day use area – and during daylight hours only – visitors can now share their holiday highlights through social media using Kakadu's official hashtag #SeeKakadu





## Know Your Kakadu - White-Throated Grasswrens

White-throated grasswrens are a priority threatened species in Kakadu National Park. Endemic to Kakadu's Arnhem Land escarpment the white-throated grass wren is rarely sighted as it lives in rough sandstone ranges and escarpment valleys, amid spinifex and scattered shrubs.

Australia's Threatened Species Strategy, launched in 2015, includes commitments to improve trajectories of 20 threatened birds by 2020, among them Kakadu's white-throated grasswren. Follow this link to find out more about [20 Birds By 2020](#).

Park staff are working together with Indigenous Ranger groups, a Northern Territory government flora and fauna expert and local volunteers to determine how to implement traditional fire management programs that enhance habitat quality and to tackle the thread of feral animals in the bird's habitat.

Park visitors are reminded that due to the steep and dangerous nature of the terrain in Kakadu, deviation from designated roads, tracks and approved bushwalking routes within the park is not permitted.



Credit: Luke Paterson, NT Bird Specialists

## Wildlife

Watch out for our wildlife. Every year, hundreds of our native animals are killed or injured on our roads.

Drive slowly, look well ahead for animals on the road. If you come across a wallaby or possum that has been injured in a road accident make sure you check the pouch – joeys have been known to survive in the mother's pouch following her death for several days. If possible take the joey to the Bowali Visitor Centre so it can be looked after by one of our trained wildlife carers, like young Jeff in the photo below.



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)