



kakadu[®]

NATIONAL PARK

Garri-djarrkdurrkmirri
Working together

KAKADU NEWS

WURRGENG SEASON
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Invitation to Apply for a Commercial Tourism Licence

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
Ikoymarrwa	1x Regular 2 casual (up to 12 visits per year)
Access to Jarrangbarnmi (Koolpin Gorge)	Unlimited casual 1x Regular

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

To apply for a licence, please download this form

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.

Facebook

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

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

Turtle Surveys at Gardangarl (Field Island)

Gardangarl (Field Island) is a critical habitat for flatback turtles and a key monitoring site in the Australian National Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles.

Every year teams of park staff and traditional owners camp on Gardangarl over a four week period to study the turtles as they come ashore to nest. Surveying began in the 1980s and has continued since 1994. The study helps us to better understand the species as well as monitor the success of their breeding cycle.

The annual monitoring of nesting flatback turtles at Field Island commenced in 1994, the nesting activity is limited to a small section of beach on the Eastern side of Field Island and although the turtles lay for most of the year the data is collected in August each year, at the peak of the nesting cycle.

Each night the team head down to the 300 metre stretch of beach with their survey equipment. For about 2 hours either side of high tide the team stay on the beach to await the arrival of the turtles. The first turtles start clambering onto the beach with the incoming tide and work their way up to the dunes so they can start the process of laying their eggs.

First the turtle creates a body pit, clearing an area of sand to 'snuggle into'. Once she is comfortable she starts digging the egg chamber. After a brief pause she starts laying her eggs. This is when she goes into a trance and the survey team can commence their work.

The length of the carapace is measured and recorded and both front flippers are checked for tags. Tag numbers are recorded and any lost tag will be replaced. We also look for a PIT tag on the turtle's right shoulder. Once again, if the scanner doesn't pick up a signal we implant a tag just under the turtle's skin.

Any signs of tumours, markings, barnacles are also recorded on a data sheet before the female is left to finish her nesting.

All this is done while a safety officer is patrolling the beach for the occasional crocodile that may be hanging around for a feed of hatchlings.

I recently spent a couple of nights on the island, my first turtle survey. On our team's first night, we observed nine turtles coming onto the beach and hatchlings from several nests. My short stay on the island was quite rewarding and I will definitely be there again next year.

Steve Toms



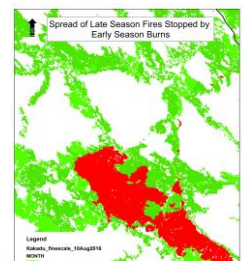
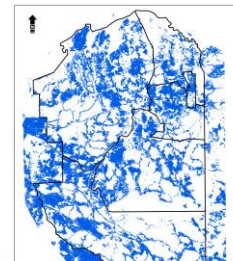
Fire Management

Most of you by now have heard the Anbangbang Billabong has been temporarily closed after fires were deliberately lit in two spots on either side of the billabong late last week, rangers are still monitoring the sites at the moment.

Apart from looking pretty charred, there is also a significant risk of trees and branches falling, particularly on the connection between Nawurlandja car park and Anbangbang Billabong. We're hoping to re-open the access road to Anbangbang and part of the walking track ASAP and will update the road report as soon we receive advice from district staff. Please note that all scheduled dry season burning has been completed for 2016, and has already been successful in preventing an unwanted hot burn as seen in the diagrams below. If you witness any fires at this time of year or suspicious activity, please report it to the park immediately.

Photo 1: After a full 3 days on the fire line, exhausted Park staff enjoy a cool drink after containing the fire at Anbangbang Billabong. Photo 2: The scorched melaleuca forest.

Diagram 1 shows the completed dry season burning fire scars, diagram 2 shows how a late fire was stopped by early dry season burns.



Kakadu Bird Week – 1 to 9 October 2016

Kakadu Bird Week 2015 was a fantastic event celebrating our feathered friends. Kakadu Bird Week returns in 2016, from 1 to 9 October. Kakadu is a birdwatcher's paradise – from woodland birds of the tropical savannah, to water birds gracing the region's famed billabongs, to richly voiced birds ringing across majestic sandstone escarpments. Click here to download this year's [Kakadu Bird Week Program](#) (PDF – 1.4 MB)

See more at: www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/do/bird-week

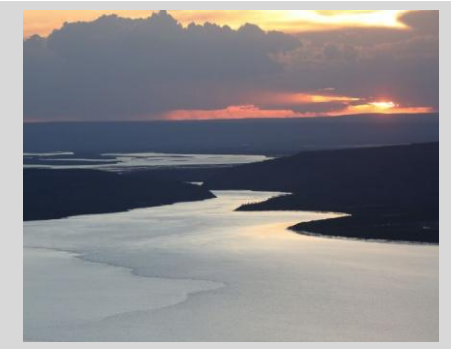


Mumburarr Whipray

Adding to the amazing specimens found in Australian waters! A new species of giant stingray, one of the largest in the world, has been named the Mumburarr whipray after being encountered by scientists in northern Australian rivers, coastal Papua New Guinea and the Arafura Sea.

Mumburarr is a local Limilngan language name for stingray, used by the Minitja people. Traditional owners in Kakadu chose the name to recognize the importance of stingrays in traditional culture.

Dr Peter Kyne of CDU found three young specimens of the ray in the tidal rivers of Kakadu National Park and two in the Kimberley region of Western Australia during shark and ray research for the National Environmental Science Program Marine Biodiversity Hub.



Tourism Industry Workshop

You've asked for more updates and knowledge sharing forums -

We are planning to reinvigorate the 'old' Tourism Industry Seminar, looking at a format that provides information on diverse range of Kakadu-related topics for tour operators, guides, information providers, front of houses staff and park staff alike.

Subjects would include:

- Crocodile Management
- Wildlife Management
- Cultural heritage management and awareness
- Compliance
- Threatened Species and management of threats (weeds and ferals)
- Role of the Kakadu Board of Management and the Kakadu Tourism Consultative Committee
- Rock art site talking points
- Visitor safety

All tour guides will be encouraged to attend, so we're proposing to schedule the workshop for November and/or March/April. Please feel free to contact Tracey.Diddams@environment.gov.au to express your interest in attending share your thoughts and ideas on what you'd like to learn about Kakadu. We would plan to host forums in both Darwin and Jabiru.

Ubirr – A Message from the Ranger

A reminder to all guides that the ironwood hand rails at Ubirr are not a piece of furniture to sit on. Rangers are currently looking at ways to permanently fix the railing in front of the Namarrkan Sisters which may indeed collapse if guides continue to sit on it while relaying their stories.

The Rangers have also witnessed several tour vehicles driving much faster than the 40 km/h allowed between Ubirr art site and the Oenpelli Rd turnoff. Please adhere to the speed limit and look out for pedestrians, particularly in front of the Border Store, and wildlife.



Know Your Kakadu – Barrk

We have noticed recently that Barrk, the black wallaroos at Burrungkuy are becoming frequent visitors at the Gunwarddehwardde Lookout both at the lookout and also near the main gallery.

Where the once timid wallaroos were only seen at a glance before disappearing among the rocks, they are now spending more time out in the open giving people the opportunity to get a great photo of one of our endemic species. Please observe these beautiful animals from a distance so they continue to feel safe in their home and hopefully hang around for others to enjoy.

If you get the opportunity to get that great photo, don't forget to share it on social media.

#seekakadu



Mahbilil Festival

Mahbilil is a festival of music, arts, bushfoods, dance, life and culture of the Kakadu & West Arnhem region.

Headliner music acts B2M, Kingfisha (Bris), Shellie Morris, Black Rock Band and Biniñ Band will be rocking the stage.

<http://mahbililfestival.com/program/>

Don't forget to visit the Kakadu National Park display.



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