



kakadu[®]
NATIONAL PARK

Garri-djarrkdurrkmirri
Working together

TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE

KURRUNG SEASON

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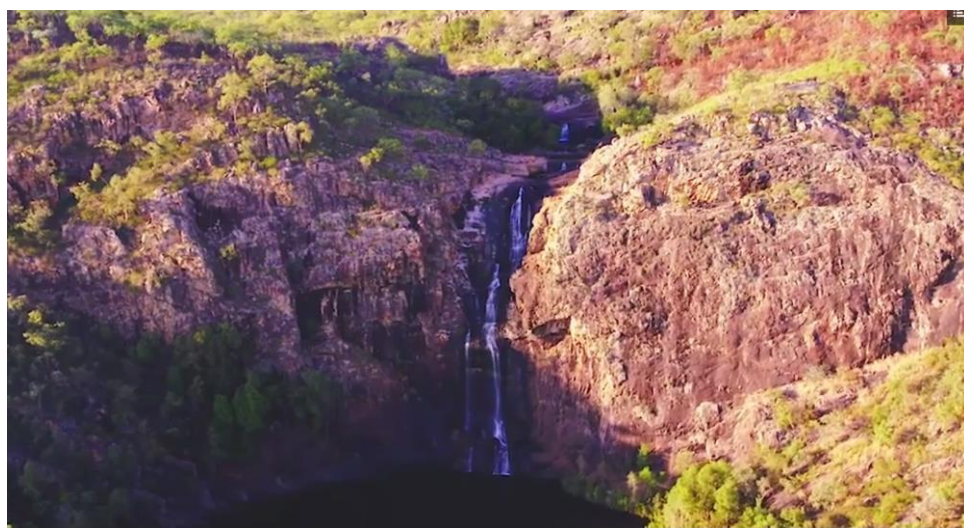
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Park Manager's Message

Hi all,

It's been a great start to the financial year for KNP, with the best visitation numbers in July and August for several years and record park pass sales. We're really pleased that everyone is doing the right thing and purchasing passes and I'm also delighted to see that tour operators have been on the ball with this, so thanks.

I'm disappointed to hear though, that several of our key operators have had a disappointing Top End season. We're organising a forum in late October to talk with as many of you as possible. You may remember that we ran a couple when I first started back in late 2015 and the feedback from those was great.

By the way, as of October 1st, we're operating the Twin Falls boat shuttle for free until it closes on November 5th. It will be operated by our own ranger staff too, so your travellers can hang out with a Kakadu Ranger!

Take care, and best of luck for the remainder of the season.

Steve Wroe

Acting Park Manager

Facebook

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

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

Jim Jim 4WD Track and Carpark Works

Repairs and maintenance work commenced on the Jim Jim Falls 4WD track this week. These works include gravel filling pot holes and wheel ruts along sections of the road and re-gravelling some of the sandy and black soil sections, it is anticipated these works will be finished in a week. Once completed, work will commence on the upgrade of the Jim Jim Falls carpark. The upgrade of the carpark includes designated parking areas, pedestrian walkway, picnic area and drop off zone. It is aimed to create improved traffic management in the area and enhance the visitor experience.

There will be plant and equipment operating in the area, including trucks carting gravel, however impact on visitor access is expected to be minimal. Traffic management will be in place and visitors are asked to adhere to the conditions.

Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) and Ubirr Walking Track Upgrades

Works on the upgrade of the Nourlangie walking track has commenced. The works include the formalising of some of the more uneven and challenging sections of the walk to make it safer and more enjoyable and to deal with some of the erosion issues in the area. Maintenance of the hand rails and platforms will be undertaken also.

It is anticipated that works will be completed here in the next week or so. In addition works are being undertaken on the Ubirr walking track including stone work, works are scheduled to be completed in this area in approximately three weeks.

Using Drones and other Gadgets

We live in a time of rapid technological advancement, and with this can come a lot of fun doodads and gadgets. However, it is important to note that not all of these toys are allowed in the Park. Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (Reg 12.27), remote control devices, including planes, cars and drones, are not permitted in any Commonwealth reserve. In fact, anyone who uses these types of devices in Kakadu can be subjected to criminal fines of \$1,700. So, please remind your guests to leave these devices at home.

Ask your guides to be our 'eyes and ears' and report any breaches to Bowali Visitor Centre or email Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au. Photos of any sightings would be great.



Using non-TV Plated Vehicles

Just a reminder to all tour operators working in Kakadu – under Northern Territory law you must carry your passengers in a registered commercial vehicle with tourist vehicle number plates.

For all information on commercial vehicle licences visit the NT Government's website:

<http://transport.nt.gov.au/taxi/commercial-vehicle-licences>

Queries or complaints? Contact the Commercial Compliance Team in the NT Department of Transport on 08 8924 7992 or via email at cpv.compliance@nt.gov.au



New Partnership Tackles Salvinia Scourge in a Territory First

Kakadu National Park, the NT Government and Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation have joined forces on a new program to get unprecedented levels of salvinia-eating weevils into the park's billabongs and creeks. Capitalising on a big wet season, that flushed out waterways and led to the reopening of popular fishing location Four Mile Hole, weed experts are releasing the salvinia-eating weevil into Yellow Waters Billabong to help prevent the weed from spreading.

The release of the new weevils is part of a partnership to help Kakadu get back on the front foot in its battle against salvinia after a series of drier than usual wet seasons provided perfect conditions for the weed. Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation Chief Executive Officer Justin O'Brien said Djurrubu Rangers from the Gundjeihm Aboriginal Corporation, working with a private firm Kakadu Native Plant Supplies, had set up an impressive new facility to breed weevils for release into Kakadu. "Salvinia is an extremely invasive weed and infestations have the capacity to double in size every three days," Mr O'Brien said. "It's very hard to manage and it doesn't take much for it to spread. Just a fragment carried by a car, boat or trailer can be enough to infect other areas. Once it infects an area it creates a thick mat of vegetation that chokes waterways and makes the area unsuitable for fish and other animals. This can reduce the biodiversity of the wetlands.

"The GAC facility allows us to breed very high numbers of weevils. We are releasing around 20 times more weevils into infested waterways than anyone has in the past. It is a testimony to what can be done when government works with community," Mr O'Brien said. The weevils are a biological control so the more weed there is, the more food there is for the weevils. As the weed is reduced the number of weevils also drops off. The weevil is not new to Australia. It was first released in 1980 at Lake Moondarra in Queensland, near Mt Isa. It wiped out 99 per cent of a 400 hectare infestation - about 30,000 tonnes - within 12 months of its introduction.

Kakadu National Park Program Manager for Threatening Processes, Anthony Mann, said the weevil began its work at Kakadu in September 1983. "Weevils are the most successful method for managing salvinia on a large scale," Mr Mann said. "The weevils can take anywhere from one to five years to be effective. Its impact depends on changes in seasonal conditions both within a year and between years. "We have a list of priority sites for weevil release at Kakadu, but we'll be starting with Yellow Waters and Four Mile Hole, and will monitor the other sites.

"We'll continue to use them in Kakadu to control these infestations and help keep our waterways open for NT locals and visitors from around the world so they can enjoy this magnificent part of Australia." The Northern Territory Government provided technical support to develop and implement the breeding program, based on previous success in the Daly River region working with a ranger group there.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Chief Executive Officer, Jo Townsend, said this was a great example of a collaborative project that would yield results by positively impacting the environment, fishing, tourism and local livelihoods.



Kurrung (Hot Weather Time) is Here

Daytime temperatures are already climbing to the mid-30s in Kakadu National Park, increasing the risk of dehydration and heat exhaustion. A number of heat related incidents involving visitors have already occurred, an issue traditional owners and park staff are very concerned about.

No matter how fit a person, hot weather can be draining and overexertion can quickly turn into a life threatening situation. Heat exhaustion and dehydration can hit suddenly, and in remote locations can lead to dire consequences.

We recommend avoiding strenuous walks during the heat of the day. Consider adjusting your itinerary to Kurrung conditions, make sure you and your clients carry plenty of drinking water, wear appropriate clothing and sun protection and keep an eye out for early warning signs of dehydration.



Kurrung is hot weather time. The days are getting hotter and the nights are certainly warmer, the build-up has definitely arrived. The vegetation is going into stress mode by shedding their foliage, this is quickly reversed once the rain begins.

Even the diurnal reptiles are now starting to hunt at night time to avoid the heat of the day, the agile wallaby is forced to venture further out of the woods for greener pastures leaving it vulnerable to dingo attacks and at this time of the year.

Frogs go into hiding at this time of the year and crocodiles on the flood plains now move into the last remaining mud pools in an effort to escape the heat, this however leaves them at risk of dying a long hot horrible death.

Jim Jim District Seasonal Closure Plan

As many of you are aware, since 2010 we have implemented a closure plan for certain areas of the park. As we head into this season of extreme heat and potential storms, we are, as always, making visitor safety our top priority.

Kurrung is an incredibly hot time of year, with dehydration incidents occurring daily. Heat exhaustion and dehydration can hit suddenly, and can have dire consequences in remote locations.

To remain consistent with our closure plans of previous years, we have scheduled the following closure dates for 2017.

Area	Closure Dates
Barrk Marlam Walk	From 4:00 pm, 24 September 2017 Unless sudden heavy rains require the site to be closed earlier.
Sandstone Barrk Walk (Nourlangie region)	From 4:00 pm, 24 September 2017 To be reopened once regular rainfall occurs
Twin Falls Escarpment Walk	From 4:00 pm, 15 October 2017 Unless sudden heavy rains require the site to be closed earlier.
All remaining sites at both Jim Jim and Twin Falls	From 4:00 pm, 5 November 2017 Unless sudden heavy rains require the site to be closed earlier.

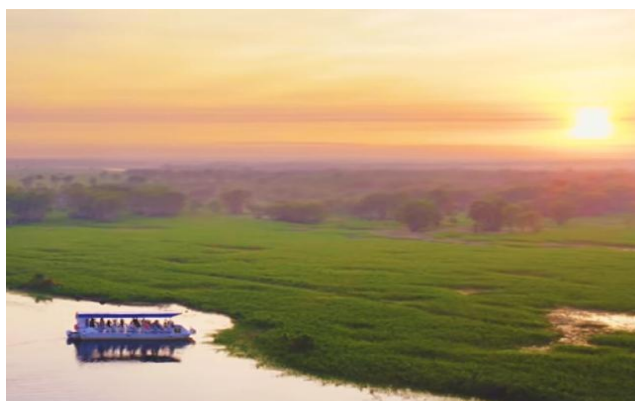
A Journey through Kakadu

For the first time and with special permission from traditional owners, drones have been permitted to capture footage of Kakadu National Park which stretches over 20,000 square kilometres. Allowing you a bird's eye view of some of Kakadu's hot spots. You'll understand why Kakadu National Park is World-Heritage listed for both its environment and living Aboriginal culture.

Watch the video: [A Journey Through Kakadu](#)

Kakadu National Park now has a commercial Image Capture and Research drone policy. This policy was put in place to allow companies like Salty Wings to bring us these amazing pieces of footage.

Contact Kakadu.Permits@environment.gov.au for more information.



Kurrung – HELP US STOP WILDFIRES!

- Bin your butts!
Don't throw out burning cigarettes.
- Keep an eye on your campfire and refrain from lighting large 'bonfires'.
- Extinguish your camp fire and douse the coals before crawling into your swag or breaking camp.
- If you witness wildfires being lit in the park please report it to Jabiru Police on (08) 89792122 or the Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120.



Kakadu Bird Week 1-7 October 2017

Every day, you can join in the Kakadu bird week fun with a range of activities for the early bird to the night owl. The week is jam packed with events for the whole family during and for bird appreciators at all different levels of experience. Don't miss the opportunity to be in the draw to win a variety of exciting prizes with scenic helicopter flights over Kakadu and family passes to the Territory Wildlife Park. A great way to visit Kakadu during the school holidays.

For the full program and more information head to: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/do/events/bird-week/>

Share your photos with us: @seekakadu #seekakadu #kbw2017 #BirdingNT



Licence Opportunities

Don't forget applications are still open to apply for one of our unique or restricted access licence opportunities in the park. Licences are currently available for the below activities;

Activity
Sports fishing tours (unlimited number of licences available).
Bushwalking tours (unlimited number of licences available).
Safari camps Merl x 2

We invite all interested tour operators to apply by **31 October 2017**. Applications will be assessed in November. To apply for a licence and download the form, head to our website:

www.environment.gov.au/parks/permits/kakadu-tours.html

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