



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

**Garri-djarrkdurrkmirri**  
Working together

# TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE

WURRKENG SEASON

EDITION NO: 5

11 August 2017

## This issue

**Twin Falls Opens  
Saturday 12 August**

**More on Twin Falls  
Opening**

**Kakadu site of  
Australia's oldest  
home**

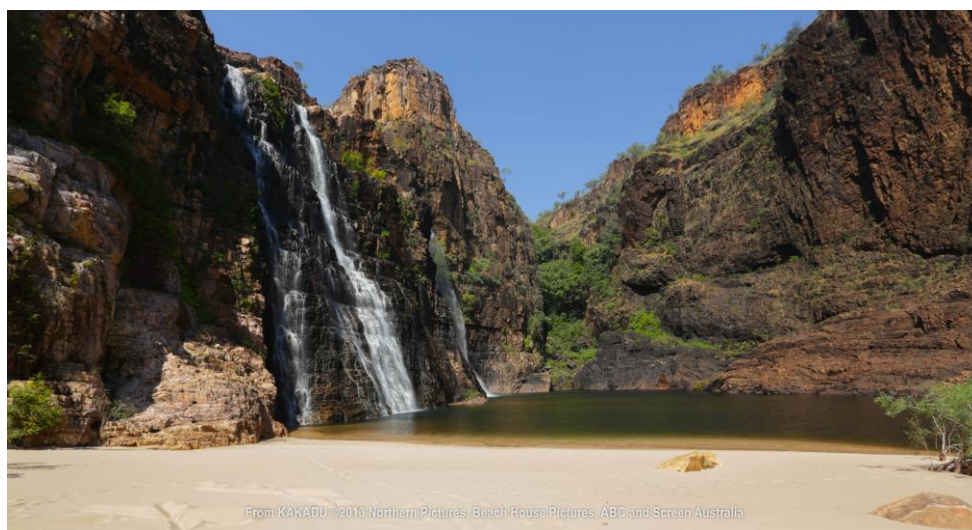
**Meet the Seasonal  
Rangers**

**Please Drive Safely**

**Kat Noonan – New  
Tourism Member on  
the Kakadu Board of  
Management**

**Bird Week 2017**

**Million Dollar Fish**



From KAKADU ©2018 Northern Pictures, Beach House Pictures, ABC and Screen Australia

## Twin Falls Opens Saturday, 12 August, 8am

Great news! The Jim Jim Creek crossing has receded and is now at 0.8m, this allows us to open the Twin Falls area safely to visitors.

We strongly advise to anyone attempting to cross the Jim Jim ford that you take the following precautions:

- Only high-clearance 4WD vehicles with a sealed snorkel should attempt this crossing.
- Engage low-range 4WD and drive slowly through the crossing, do not push a bow wave.
- Cross only one vehicle at a time.
- This crossing is not suitable for SUV (All Wheel Drive vehicles).
- If hiring a vehicle, check with your rental car company if you are covered to cross the Jim Jim Creek. Most hire car companies do not allow this and will void your insurance.
- In the event of a breakdown, stay in your vehicle until help arrives, do not get out of the vehicle under any circumstances, as estuarine crocodiles frequent this area.
- Recovery will be at your expense.
- If in doubt, consider your options carefully.
- Consider taking an organised tour into Twin Falls.

## Facebook

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

<https://www.facebook.com/KakaduNationalPark>

## More on Twin Falls Opening

Boats will be back in the water at Twin Falls to shuttle visitors into the gorge from 8am daily.

Tickets for the Twin Falls boat shuttle remain unchanged at \$12.50 per adult (children under 16 are free). They are available from Bowali Visitor Centre and Garnamarr campground.

Wear sturdy footwear as the walking track leads over rocks and boulders and can be slippery with sand and water, carry plenty of drinking water and a picnic hamper. Remember – entering the water is not permitted anywhere in the gorge. If you do feel the heat, cool off under one of the showers installed on the floating boardwalk.



## Kakadu site of Australia's oldest home

A team of archaeologists and dating specialists have new proof that Aboriginal people have been in Australia for at least 65,000 years — much longer than the 47,000 years believed by some archaeologists. The new findings have been published in Nature magazine this week.

The site where this new evidence has been found is Madjedbebe, located on the traditional lands of the Mirarr people surrounded by the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park. The site is located on Aboriginal land excluded from Kakadu National Park as a result of the Jabiluka uranium mining lease granted in 1982. The lease is now held by Energy Resources of Australia, which partnered with the Gundjehmi Corporation to provide access to the site.

Madjedbebe rock shelter has been excavated four times since the 1970s, most recently in 2012 and 2015 by an international team led by Associate Professor Chris Clarkson — an Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellow at the University of Queensland — in partnership with the Mirarr Traditional Owners. [A landmark agreement with the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation \(GAC\)](#) made it possible for Professor Clarkson and colleagues to dig the site in 2012 and 2015. [mirarr.net/stories/kakadu-site-of-australia-s-oldest-home](http://mirarr.net/stories/kakadu-site-of-australia-s-oldest-home)



Supplied: Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation/Dominic O'Brien



## Meet the new Seasonal Interpretive Rangers

**Lauren Thornton – Visitor and Community Engagement Coordinator**—coordinating seasonal ranger program, school programs, festivals and events



My name is Lauren Thornton. I have lived and worked in aboriginal communities in the Kimberley, the Central Desert, Arnhem Land and Kakadu for around 10 years. I have been in beautiful Kakadu for almost 4 years and absolutely love it here.

I studied Eco Tourism at university as well as Community Development, Frontline Management and Outdoor Recreation amongst other things. I have planned and delivered many outdoor recreation activities in Kakadu, NSW and Victoria. Part of my role is to plan and implement an educational program called Quicksmart in Jabiru Area School.

I spend all of my spare time exploring the park and surrounds. I am a keen fisherwoman and will be out fishing, walking, camping and exploring at any opportunity.

I am very excited about being able to share my passion and enthusiasm for this park as part of my career.

### **Kai Suridge – Seasonal Interpretive Ranger**



Hi, my name is Kai and I'm 25 years old.

I lived in Kakadu as a young kid but did most of my schooling in Jervis Bay, NSW, before moving to Lismore, NSW, to complete a Bachelor of Environmental Science at Southern Cross University.

During my time at university I did a NSW National Parks Ranger Internship at the South East Forests, Bombala.

I love fishing, sports and being outdoors, and I'm very excited for this opportunity to work in Kakadu National Park.

I look forward to meeting everyone!

### **Phoebe Reeves – Seasonal Interpretive Ranger**



Hi, I'm Phoebe, I'm from Canberra, and studied a Bachelor of Science in Resource and Environmental Management at the ANU. Since then I've worked for Conservation Volunteers, coordinating volunteer projects, including the Volunteer Interpreter Program at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and Namadgi National Park and a koala monitoring project, among other things.

Most recently I have been working on Kangaroo Island for SA Department of Environment, at Seal Bay Conservation Park.

I'm a bit of nature nerd with a love of all things plants and animals.

Look forward to meeting you all soon!

### **Luke Malady – Seasonal Interpretive Ranger**



G'Day I'm Luke. Originally from country Victoria I have lived and worked in the Top End for 9 years.

After a couple of years studying Natural Resource Management I spent most of my adult life travelling and guiding around Australia, including several seasons in Kakadu and the Kimberley.

I enjoy hiking and travelling in my spare time and look forward to learning more about this amazing place.

## Please Drive Safely

And slow down on our roads.

Tour operators and travellers alike have been observed reaching speeds over 100km/h on Jim Jim Road, sign posted as a maximum speed of 60km/h.

Excessive speeds only further damage the road and create hazards for oncoming traffic. So, please slow down for everyone's safety, stay on the left side of the road and drive with your headlights turned on.

Kakadu staff have been informed to keep an eye out for any dangerous behaviour on our roads. If you see any dangerous driving within the park, we ask that you let us know.

Contact [kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au](mailto:kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au)



## Kat Noonan – New Tourism Member on the Kakadu National Park Board of Management.

Kat Noonan has recently been appointed to the Kakadu Board of Management as the tourism representative and will now also chair the Kakadu Tourism Consultative Committee (KTCC).

Please join us in welcoming Kat to the position, we are very excited to have her join us. Kat brings a wealth of experience in the tourism industry, which is best described by Kat herself:

*"My Name is Kathleen (Kat) Noonan and I'm originally from Kalgoorlie Western Australia, I came to Darwin for 6 months 17 years ago, sound familiar? My first job in Darwin was as a hostel receptionist in 2000 and this is where I met my husband. We have been married for 15 years and have 3 daughters.*

*In 2009 my husband Anthony & I started Territory Expeditions, a Kakadu & Litchfield National Park 4WD tour company, with a focus on the 18-45 market. The experience I have gained throughout the last 17 years across tour sales, operations and product development while operating a successful tourism experience in partnership with both Parks Australia and Indigenous Traditional Owners is pivotal in ongoing operations. My role as an owner and director of Territory Expeditions has seen me travel both across Australia and internationally where I have met face to face with the sales distribution networks and major players in the Travel & Tourism sector. This experience has helped me to better understand the needs and wants of the travellers and the continued shift in global market trends.*

*I feel honoured and privileged to be appointed to the Kakadu Board of Management as the tourism member."*





## Bird Week 2017

The program is bursting full of interesting activities and events that truly sum up Kakadu's amazing connection to its diverse birdlife. Download the program and register for activities at [parksaustralia.gov.au/birdweek](http://parksaustralia.gov.au/birdweek).

Don't miss the launch of traditional aboriginal artist Graham Badari's book 'Mayhmayh – Different Birds'. There will be a range of birding tours, walks and cruises hosted by local NT birding experts and opportunities to meet scientists and keepers working to conserve the Top End's unique birdlife.

We look forward to celebrating Kakadu's diverse birdlife with you!

Use the following hashtags to share your images: #KBW2017\_ #seekakadu\_ #BirdingNT



## Million Dollar Fish III

Registrations are now open to Season 3 of Million Dollar Fish which kicks off on 1 October 2017!

<http://www.milliondollarfish.com.au/>

Once you are registered, come out to Kakadu and try your luck at one of our pristine billabongs. Last year there were 4 tagged fish in the South Alligator river system, this year there could be more.



We would like to know what you are interested in learning about 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)