

SAVANNAH GUIDES

Communicator

PO Box 33 SMITHFIELD QLD 4878 Phone: 0408 772 513
Email: info@savannah-guides.com.au Website: www.savannah-guides.com.au



April 2016

Welcome to our April Newsletter!

This year is flying and our visitors are starting to hit the north! Thank you to our Enterprises who are collecting the email addresses of our Savannah Guides Supporters. We hope you enjoy reading about our organisation, our people and some wonderful nature insights. Please feel free to send in your stories and /or photographs ... there is always room to share these!

Recently we headed to The Kimberley again for a truly fabulous Savannah Guides School in Broome! It was great to meet so many new friends including the dynamic APT team! Participants travelled from all over Australia to join us - a huge thank you for making the journey and your contributions to our School.

2016 is shaping up to be an exciting year for our members, partners, new friends and supporters. We hope to see you soon.

Mick Clark

President - Savannah Guides










Broome School – WOW!

“Kimberley Culture and Guiding Skills” was the theme of our Broome Savannah Guides School and it certainly lived up to that!

From near and far we came together to learn from each other and our valued presenters. Our stay with the Bardi community at Lombadina Community was a definite highlight. New birding enthusiasts twitched during our private tour of the Broome Bird Observatory and we considered ways we can convey cultural and environmental messages to our guests. We met some Kimberley snakes, leant about the region’s marketing and had a ball.

More stories and photographs inside ...

INSIDE...

-  Next School... Cooktown!
-  New Members
-  Broome Memories
-  Cobbold Gorge Gecko!
-  Capricorn Caves on the Road
-  Ulovane Update
-  Memories

SAVANNAH GUIDES

Savannah Guides is a network of professional tour guides with a collective in-depth knowledge of the natural and cultural assets of Northern Australia. It is a not-for-profit company with enterprise and individual members. Savannah Guides works with many of Australia's leading tourism, environmental and community organisations to pursue its mission:

Being an economically sound, community based, professional body maintaining high standards of: interpretation and public education; training and guiding leadership; and through the promotion of ecologically sustainable tourism principles, enhancing regional lifestyles and encouraging the protection and conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the Tropical Savannahs of Northern Australia.





The next SAVANNAH GUIDES SCHOOL will be held in Cooktown 27-30 October 2016

Cooktown, about 330 kilometres north of Cairns, is known as the 'gateway' to Cape York and is blessed with a perfect dry season climate, a stunning natural backdrop, a fascinating history, and superb heritage buildings ... the perfect backdrop for our next School.

Cooktown sits at the foot of Mt Cook beside the magnificent Endeavour River, and it is this excellent location which first drew Captain James Cook here back in 1770. Memorials and reminders of the legendary explorer's seven-week stay in the area as he repaired the Endeavour are everywhere. There's the stunning 360-degree Grassy Hill lookout where Cook once stood to search for a passage through the reef, the James Cook Museum, and, of course, the famed Captain Cook statue. Cooktown also has a magnificent Botanical Garden, established in 1878!

We are planning a vibrant and interactive School, so put these dates in your diaries now and we can't wait to see you all up north!

We aim to have vehicle transport available from Cairns, driving to Cooktown on 26 October, and returning on the evening of the 30th. Information and Registration Form available soon at:

<http://savannah-guides.com.au/about/savannah-guide-schools/>



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As our Broome School closes we are excited about the opportunities emerging with some of our new partners and friends. The recent growth in our membership and the benefits this brings to everyone in our network is great news. We look forward to offering everyone more professional development opportunities and resources and will continue to build on our strengths in the year ahead.

Our corporate position is strengthening all the time, with a busy Board working to grow our network, and our financial position is in better shape than ever.

Our Broome School was made possible by our growing links to APT and their great support in providing two safari trucks (not buses!) and 18 enthusiastic participants. It was great to work with Operations Manager Jane Ballantyne to bring logistics together.

SAVANNAH GUIDE



We met many APT guides for the first time, while others were reconnecting given our close knit industry. The professionalism of APT's management and guides is a great fit with Savannah Guides and we look forward to working together into the future. The depth of knowledge and experience of numerous APT guides including Brownie, Kempie and Jenny really added to the School. Some of these guides will be travelling through Cape York, the Gulf Savannah and the Kimberley through 2016 so please say g'day when you see the APT vehicles.

It was terrific to have the Ganggalidda Garawa Rangers with us for the second successive School, and to hear about their activities for 2016. New camping areas will be opening around Burketown and tagalong tours operating into the region, including "A Day in the Life of a Ranger" tour. They are also now operating the Burketown Visitor Information Centre, offering craft works and local information.

We know how much our guides and friends enjoy coming together and the value this brings to our professional and personal development. We are getting more participants at Schools who are not currently guiding in northern Australia, but just want to see a great part of Australia with like-minded people.

Resources Call Out!

We'd like to build the guiding content resources on the Savannah Guides website to help support members. Please let us know if you have any documents relating to flora, fauna or landscape topics, appropriate cultural information, local heritage or other commentary content.

Please send us any documents, website links or organisation contacts to help build this important library. You'll find our current documents at <http://savannah-guides.com.au/members/>

Members can contact Russell at info@savannah-guides.com.au if you have forgotten the access password!

In 2017 we are planning to have more Schools and workshops to provide easier access for our members. On the drawing board for March/April are Schools in the Kimberley, and Gulf Savannah and Outback Queensland, plus one to wrap up the year in October/November. On top of this we'll have Wet Tropics Tour Guide Field Schools at the beginning and end of the dry season, and some one day workshops in other locations around Australia. We hope everyone can make at least one of these.

Regards

Mick Clark President - Savannah Guides



Welcome to the Team!

A very warm welcome to our newly accredited Savannah Guides:

Tegan Gargett – Recently moved to Cairns. Formerly of Capricorn Caves.

Alan Gillanders – Alan's Wildlife Tours, Atherton Tableland

Leanne Hayter – Taronga Zoo, Sydney

Katherine Herring – Capricorn Caves, near Rockhampton

Lynda McCorquodale – Capricorn Caves, near Rockhampton

Keagan Morris – Capricorn Caves, near Rockhampton

Heidi Vandermeer – Capricorn Caves, near Rockhampton

Jordan Wheeler – Capricorn Caves, near Rockhampton

And new Savannah Guides Enterprises:

Australian Age of Dinosaurs – Winton

Congratulations to these talented and valued new Members!

SAVANNAH GUIDES ENTERPRISE PROFILE

AUSTRALIAN AGE OF DINOSAURS

Home of the world's largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils and the most productive fossil preparation Laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere! Meet famous Australian dinosaurs including Banjo (*Australovenator wintonensis*), the most complete Australian carnivorous dinosaur ever discovered and many giant plant-eating sauropods. The Museum is located on top of an ancient mesa called The Jump-Up with huge rocky outcrops, cliffs, canyons and spectacular views. The Museum is located just 13km south-east of Winton on the Landsborough Highway and then 12km further on an unsealed road. Guided tours of the dinosaur collection and fossil preparation Laboratory run hourly from 9:00am. There is also a Gift shop, Café and two walking trails.



Broome School Memories: 22-24 April 2016



Chris Mitchell and friend!



Jane Ballantyne presents the APT Story



Cameron Crowe explains Leave No Trace



Magdita and Maria at Lombadina Craft Workshop



Charlotte and Cam at the Dinosaur



Nigel at the Broome Bird Observatory



Alan Gillanders in his natural habitat



Kempie, Brownie, Peter and Will looking for Waders



Brownie, Rod, Sherea, Murrandoo, Brenton and Wrangler at the Lombadina Craft Centre



Broome School Memories: 22-24 April 2016



Kooljaman Sunset! Russ, Lee, Tracey, Mick, Kempie, Katie and Magdita



Irene and Wossi's Cultural Insights at Lombadina



The rustic look!



Lombadina Workshop visitor!



Wendy, Claudia, Trevor and Luke roughing it at Kooljaman



Twitchathon Winners! Tracey, Claudia, Wendy, Jytte and Jenny



New Geckos discovered at Cobbold Gorge!

Scientists from the Australian National University have discovered at least two new species of gecko at Enterprise Member Cobbold Gorge in May 2015!

Gaye Bourke from ANU's Research School of Biology said the find was exciting. "We found two species of gecko that are genetically distinctive" she said. "The genetic data indicates that the geckos from this area are distinct from the common and widespread group of striped geckos they resemble, but there are differences in scales and colour patterns".

She said there were up to 80 species of gecko in Australia, but added that finds like this indicated that there could be more, especially in the north's monsoonal tropics.



Why these two species should be found in remote Jurassic, Hampstead sandstone environment formed more than 130 million years ago is a mystery, but one to which there could be a plausible explanation. Ms Bourke said it was possible that during extreme weather events over the ages animals such as the two species of Cobbold Gorge gecko sought out recesses in the sandstone as places of refuge.

Cobbold Gorge is the name given to a designated tourism area on Simon and Gaye Terry's Howlong Station near Forsayth. The gorge and its surrounding area is part of the State Government's Nature Refuge Agreement which brings together landholders and the Government in a management partnership of valuable environmental areas.

SAVANNAH GUIDES / ECOGUIDE NEW PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Details are being finalised for the exciting new partnership between Savannah Guides and Ecotoursim Australia to link the national EcoGuide program to Savannah Guides.

New arrangements will see Savannah Guides operating the EcoGuide program including assessing and administration. Along with the Wet Tropics Tour Guide program operated by Savannah Guides, this creates a cohort of over 300 guides, the base for a national culture of excellence in ecotourism guiding with an ethos of continual improvement and network of partnerships with Protected Area Managers, Tourism Organisations, operators, Tour Guides and trainers, conservation and research bodies. The links will support Tour Guide career progression with more transportable credentials and recognition.

The new elements will include:

- Regional one day workshops on Landscape, Flora and Fauna; General Indigenous Culture Protocols and Knowledge; and Commentary Excellence.
- Generic workbooks allowing Tour Guides to develop their own content for specific locations using local field guides, other references and knowledge sharing.
- Accredited training options including through program workbooks and on-the-job assessment.
- EcoGuide field assessments held during the workshop visits to endorse applicants.
- Working with regional EcoGuide Assessors to develop local professional development programs.
- National communication links through e-newsletters and social media.
- Discounted rates to 2-4 day field schools and Savannah Guides Schools.
- An online National Interpretive Resources Library for certified Tour Guides and partners.
- Job listings on the Career Opportunities page on the Ecotourism Australia website.
- Access to cost effective Tour guide insurance.

We will keep you in touch with developments or email info@savannah-guides.com.au



Meanwhile in Tokyo ...

An Interesting Concept:

“Book ahead and secure a volunteer “Tokyo Free Guide” to explore the city with a local. The guide is free but you need to pay all their expenses, including transport, food and drink during the tour.
www.tokyofreeguide.org

An interesting snippet from
The Road Ahead”
Dec 2015/Jan 2016

WET TROPICS TOUR GUIDE PROGRAM

Savannah Guides continues to work with its partner, the Wet Tropics Management Authority, to develop the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program.

Our latest Field School was held at the state of the art Daintree Rainforest Observatory, near Cape Tribulation. We met up with old buddies and also welcomed many new friends.

Thursday saw us hold an optional workshop on Sharing Indigenous Culture and Protocols. This Workshop, along with Interpreting Flora, Fauna and Landscape is a part of the new process of accreditation for Wet Tropics Tour Guides and will now be offered before each Field School.

On the two-day Field School, we looked at Living and Guiding in the Daintree, Cassowaries, Marine Debris, Northern Bettong, Relic Plants, Interpretation Workshops at Maardja and Kulki Boardwalks, Tree Kangaroos, Habitat Connectivity and Issues for the Daintree. Our thanks to Michele at the Daintree Rainforest Observatory and to Ron & Pam at The Daintree Discovery Centre.

If you'd like to know more about the program please visit:
www.wettropics.gov.au/tour-guide-training or contact Russell to receive the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program E-newsletter.



Tour Guide Program

Cairns Tropical Zoo Closes its Doors

The location of our November 2015 Wet Tropics Tour Guide Field School, Cairns Tropical Zoo has recently shut its doors for the last time. Critters have taken a swipe at Rachel Hawes from time to time, but the reptile trainer will miss her scaly friends dearly. She has worked at the zoo for 18 months and was there to usher the last visitors through the much-loved Palm Cove attraction, which has closed after 36 years. Zoo managers Peter and Angela Freeman will instead focus on their three other wildlife parks, Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, Kuranda Koala Gardens and Birdworld Kuranda, where many of the animals will be resettled. Emotions ran high as locals visited for the last time and staff staged their final shows. The Park's closure was yet to sink in for Mr Freeman: “The Zoo has come a long way from where it was – a very small backyard operation with just a few birds – and has grown to become the first tropical zoo in North Queensland” said Mr Freeman. “There have been many highlights and it's been a great journey because of the great team.



DATE CLAIMER

LEARN TO IDENTIFY TROPICAL RAINFOREST PLANTS

Dates are now confirmed for the Australian Tropical Herbarium and Wet Tropics Management Authority's annual Rainforest Plant Identification Short Courses.

These are:

Saturday 30 July to Monday 1 August 2016

Daintree Rainforest Observatory, Cape Tribulation.

Friday 25 November to Sunday 27 November 2016

James Cook University Research Station, Paluma

Enrolment and course fees will be released soon. Email the Course Coordinator (stuart.worboys@jcu.edu.au) if you have any queries, or wish to reserve a place on either of these courses.



SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH'S GREAT BARRIER REEF

"It's fantastic, better than traveling to the moon"

Sir David Attenborough



David Attenborough returned to Australia 60 years after his first visit to film a new documentary on the Great Barrier Reef. With the episodes now released in the UK to critical acclaim you can begin to experience the reef through his interactive website that includes a wealth of information and footage from the three part documentary.

www.attenboroughsreef.com

Never witnessed the stunning colours of the Great Barrier Reef first hand? Get a little closer with Google Street View and take a virtual dive at Agincourt Reef. This is one of the main locations that Port Douglas outer reef tours visit. Check it out here - [Agincourt Reef](#).

NORTHERN GULF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GROUP UPDATE

Another year has dawned and we look forward to many events and activities for 2016.

The past year has been a busy one for the group, with many bird surveys undertaken on properties in conjunction with the Northern Gulf Wildlife Management project and Birds Australia members. All the property visits have also included spotlighting for nocturnal wildlife and many have also included diurnal searches for wildlife and identification of woody plants.

Two successful field weekends have also taken place, the first to Gilberton in June and the second to The Oaks in November with many interesting and valuable observations made and recorded.

Perhaps the most important event in 2015 was the resurrection of the North Queensland Naturalist, a free, online, peer-reviewed journal to document the natural history of tropical Queensland.

A website is up and running and we are ready to accept contributions from authors - for more information please visit the website - www.nqnat.org

Contributions or questions regarding submissions should be forwarded to the editor at:

editor@nqnat.org or via the contact page on the website.

We welcome your involvement over the coming year!

SUPPORTERS PROGRAM

If you know someone who would like to become a Savannah Guides Supporter and receive our newsletter, just email info@savannah-guides.com.au.

We'll subscribe them and post out a Savannah Guides Bookmark or Bumper Sticker.

Helping Small Birds in the Drought

Our old mate and Tropical North Queensland birder Del Richards urges us to think about how we can save small birds on cattle properties from drowning or dehydration as cattle trough water levels drop. Place a piece of pipe from the bottom corner to the lip of the trough to allow birds to walk down to drink or anchor a milk crate upside down in the trough.

Contact Del with any Gouldian Finch sightings or thoughts on saving birds from drought: info@finefeathertours.com.au 07 4094 1199



WHY DON'T WE HAVE MORE NATIVE DECIDUOUS TREES IN AUSTRALIA?

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-07/deciduous-trees-in-australia/7200608>

Australia has hardly any native deciduous trees. Why do we mostly have evergreens? Is it too hot for deciduous trees to have evolved, or is there another reason? There are only a few trees native to Australia that are deciduous — that is, they lose some or all of their leaves, for a part of the year — and that makes us pretty unique. "The fascinating thing about Australia is the remarkable absence of deciduousness in our flora," says Dr David Bowman, a professor of environmental change biology at the University of Tasmania. "We have some deciduous trees, but they are very, very outnumbered by evergreens."

Aussie trees need to be ready for the good times

In most parts of the world, deciduous trees get a clear message from the environment — in the form of day-length, temperature and moisture — about when to lose their leaves. But in Australia, plants have evolved in a much more variable climate, says Dr Bowman.

Good growing conditions can happen at any time of year — and that makes it smarter to be an evergreen ready to jump into action the minute they appear, says Dr Bowman. "If you're in outback Australia and a thunderstorm goes past, you can immediately suck up the rain, whereas if you are deciduous you can't do anything because you don't have a leaf — you can't be opportunistic," says Dr Bowman. So to put it bluntly, being deciduous in a variable climate is risky. "You could be tricked into putting out your leaves, which are very expensive to make, and then the climate doesn't play. Then you take a hit," Dr Bowman says.

Our ancient soils favour evergreens

While Australian soils are generally poor in nutrients, most soils are deep, so trees can tap into a source of groundwater far below the surface. During dry seasons, trees can keep running in 'maintenance mode', waiting for the next rainy opportunity for a growth spurt. While evergreen leaves are even more expensive to make than deciduous leaves, they last longer. According to 'leaf economics', which weighs up the cost and benefit of being evergreen versus deciduous, it pays to be evergreen in Australia. "Being deciduous is not a winning strategy," says Dr Bowman.

[Photo: *Nothofagus gunnii* commonly known as Fagus in Tasmania is Australia's only temperate native deciduous tree. It puts on a spectacular display in autumn. \(John White Photos/Getty images\)](#)



But we do have some deciduous trees

Most deciduous trees in Australia, such as the red cedar (*Toona ciliata*), white cedar (*Melia azedarach*), and boab (*Adansonia gregorii*), live in tropical or subtropical regions, where they lose some or all of their leaves in preparation for the dry season.

This is different to deciduous trees in temperate areas, which lose their leaves in the lead-up to the cold season. Australia has just one true temperate deciduous native tree — the deciduous beech or Fagus (*Nothofagus gunnii*) in Tasmania, which puts on a [stunning autumn display](#) before dropping all its leaves in anticipation of cold winter weather.



A ROAD TRIP WITH CAPRICORN CAVES !

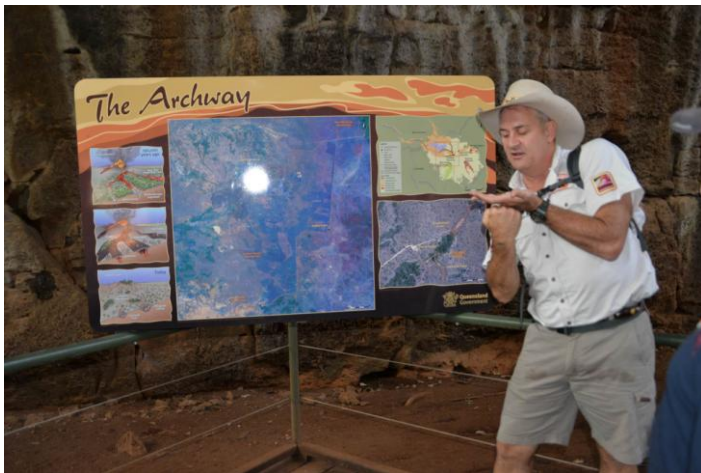
By Ann Augusteyn

Ten staff from Capricorn Caves embarked on a 3000 kilometre road trip to Tropical North Queensland and the Outback in the first week of March.

Our objective was to foster the professional development of our tour guides, fuel their passion and build their knowledge, skills and confidence interpreting the natural environment. Each guide had to first undergo an onsite assessment at Capricorn Caves by Steve Grainger, a Savannah Guide. Areas for improvement were noted. The Savannah Guide Tour Training Module relating to the Development of Flora, Fauna and Landscape Commentary was tabled as a pre-trip requirement for Savannah Guide accreditation.

We experienced the amazing diversity of Queensland's natural environment from the Outback Undara Lava Tubes to the Daintree Tropical Rainforest and Aboriginal Culture at Tjapukai Cultural Park in Cairns. For many

staff this was their first introduction to the tropical rainforest. They were blown away by the different experiences: the boardwalk towers of the Daintree Discovery Centre; a cable car ride on Skyrail hosted by Savannah Guide Evan Tandy and zip lining above the tree tops at Jungle Surfing. This tested the basic fears of some individuals and satisfied the adventure junkies in the group. Hartley's Crocodile Adventures and Paronella Park with its raging waterfall after the heavy rain added other iconic experiences. We are totally grateful to the operators who provided complimentary or discounted fees and the support of Russell and Savannah Guides Limited.



Undara Experience

After a 1200km drive to Undara we were met by Senior Savannah Guides, Ivor Davies and Bram Collins resplendent in their uniforms. Introductions to Managers Kane and Mona followed. Their hospitality was legendary. We loved the Swags Tents, the meals were excellent – the steak to die for, which is a huge compliment coming from Rocky residents! We loved the campfire without a fire and “Manuel” was still being hummed on the way home. We were all impressed with the seamless combination of the themed Facilities and Lava Tube Tours. The younger staff related so well to Bram's guiding techniques and attitude – Savannah Guide status became an even greater aspiration. A proud moment for Amanda and myself was after much excitement and late night “entertainment”, our crew

turned out on their first morning at 5:30am all dressed in uniform for Ivor's Birdwatching session and not one serious twitcher amongst them! The Wildlife at Sunset Tour was more than any of us anticipated. We will never forget watching the sun set in the west and the magnificent storm clouds and lightning in the east, as we sipped champagne on the bluff. We perhaps should have taken more heed of the storm but no-one could take away the awesome experience of the bats, the snakes, the rain and the lightning. None of us will forget the Night Tiger snakes clustered and twisted together around a branch in the emergent flight of the bats as the rain poured down on us.



The Hot Seat

After many changes in venue, we ended up at the Russell and Sam's home with 30 minutes notice. Their hospitality was legendary from towels for swimmers to showers and shampoos and a barbeque for twenty people. The Hot Seat for the six Capricorn Caves Guides was a truly memorable experience, both engaging the fun and spirit of the group with a couple of anxious moments for some. It was also good to share the hot seat with Bec Kilpatrick from Oz Tours. Several Savannah Guides from other Enterprises came along demonstrating the regard and respect they have for the organisation.

Reflections

This whole experience was certainly an optional format that could be developed for Savannah Guide training. There is nothing better than to experience quality interpretive guiding at other sites followed by a review process afterwards.



It has been the most amazing journey: The support of everyone involved from those that provided accommodation and tours to Savannah Guide leaders (not forgetting Steve Grainger) and the participants themselves. Our Cave Crew managed to play hard, work hard and have, without a doubt, learnt a great deal from the experience and will be an asset to Savannah Guides and Capricorn Caves.

Quotes from Capricorn Caves Guide Participants

"This road trip was a wonderful opportunity to see how our fellow tour operators conduct and manage their tours and also the different props used to heighten their guests experiences. Great to see the big picture in regards to Queensland's different environments and the challenges faced by the guides and how they interpret the different environs. Highlights were the Undara Lava Tubes for environmental interpretation and Tjapukai for an amazing cultural experience."

Katherine Herring

"I enjoyed experiencing a range of different guides (quality and techniques) and getting an understanding of what guests/customers/ tourists want from the tour guide. I enjoyed Bram Collins ability to effortlessly go into great details and the relaxed nature of the tour."

Jordan Wheeler

"The highlight for me was the night tour at Undara. The scenery and wildlife were amazing."

Keagan Morris

"Tjapukai was amazing. The way they used a mixture of interpretation tools, mixing technology with tradition. I loved the way they got the whole group involved."

Heidi Vandermeer

"For me the highlight was Undara Experience and in particular the night tour. The staff were so friendly and welcoming. They made us feel like 'part of the family'. I'm coming home from the experience hoping to instill some of that warmth into my own tours."

Tegan Gargett



PS: Sadly Tegan has since left Capricorn Caves for a position at Kuranda Wildlife Park. Do call in and say Hi to her.

Postscript: Australasian Cave and Karst Guide School at Rockhampton 3-6 May 2016

The next highlight: Capricorn Caves are hosting the Australasian Cave Guide School from 3rd to 6th May with the theme "Delivering Exceptional Interpretive Experiences". Two inspirational Keynote Speakers have been engaged: John Pastorelli, an interpretation trainer and David Morgans, Director Destination and Experience Development, Tourism & Events Queensland. For further information contact Capricorn Caves 07 4934 2883 or email admin@capricorncaves.com.au.



SOUTH AFRICA ... Here we come !



In our last Newsletter we described how Ulovane Environmental Training had put together a short 4 week Course to suit Australian tour guides. Topics include:

Week 1 – Safari Game Drives and Walks on Amakhala Game Reserve

Week 2 – The art of Tracking and how to approach dangerous game on foot

Week 3 – Marine – Shore profiling, Whale Watching and ID

Week 4 – ID of African Birds with world-class African birder

We are thrilled that nine Savannah Guides Members are taking advantage of this incredible opportunity. Gerry Collins, Bram Collins, Ivor Davies and Russell Boswell are joining the Ulovane Team in August, while our November Crew consist of Ange Clucas, Janette Tegg, Lee Hayter, Mick Clark and Di Hudd. We can't wait to hear their stories!

ULOVANE 2017 DATES ...

For those that couldn't make it this year, start planning and packing! Here are the 2017 Short Course dates:

19 February – 19 March 2017

14 May – 11 June 2017

13 August – 10 September 2017

05 November – 03 December 2017



NEW TOUR GUIDE TECHNOLOGY

From PeerLink, this is a Tour Guide System, Simultaneous Interpretation System, Wireless Conference System, One-Way Radio Guide, Portable Audio Guide System and Wireless Walkie Talkie.

Product Application includes Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Sightseeing Spots, Factory Tours, Product Exhibitions, Presentations, Tourism, Horse-riding Training, Museums, Art Galleries, City Bus System, Simultaneous Interpretation, Churches, Prayer Rooms, Disability Care, Government Departments etc.

Specifications: Frequency Range of 800-823MHZ, 100 Optional Channels, 100-200 Metres Transmission Distance, Built-in Rechargeable Li-Battery, 12-15 Hours Battery Life after fully charged.

www.audioguide.cn

sales@audioguide.cn



El Questro Gears Up for the Season

It's been a busy start to the season at El Questro Wilderness Park. The first job to be done is cutting in the walking trails, followed by training new guides on all of our tours. This year a new up to date training manual was developed with the help of Savannah Guides to make it easier for new guides to learn about the property. Another new initiative was to film Senior guides on tour with a "Go Pro" so new guides could replay and watch the tour on video. This year will see 10 new tour guides join the Activities Team along with the five returning guides from 2015.



There is a diverse range of tours available at El Questro to suit all guests. One of the most popular tours is the Chamberlain Gorge Cruise. A 13m aluminium boat named "The Wandjina" is capable of seating 45 guests for a 90 minute cruise on the 220km long Chamberlain River. Guests are provided with informative commentary about the different points of interest along the river. A fish sanctuary is located at the half way point where Archer Fish, Barramundi, Sooty Grunter and Silver Cobbler can all be observed in their natural surroundings. Sparkling Wine and fresh fruit platters using local Ord Valley produce are served during the cruise.

Other amazing El Questro experiences include: Full Day Tour - including a gorge walk, morning tea, soak in hot thermal pools, Barra or Steak lunch, afternoon boat cruise; Big Day Out - a 250km circuit around the stunning Cockburn Ranges including a visit to historic Wyndham and great bird watching at Marlgu Billabong; Explosion Gorge - One hour 4WD trek, 45 minute boat cruise followed by sunset bubbles and nibbles at the stunning Brancos Lookout; Heli Fishing - try your luck catching that elusive Barra in places where only a chopper can go, magical scenic views as you fly over the Kimberley; 4WD Fishing - take a one hour trek to the tidal reaches of the Pentecost River where our boat awaits, great chance to catch a Barra and see Salt Water Crocodiles lazing on the banks; Bush Culture & History - learn about how plants were used by Indigenous people, get the facts about the past owners of El Questro and how this working cattle station co-exists with a modern tourism operation; Bird Watching - wake up early and experience the diverse bird life of the East Kimberley; Gorge Walks - take a guided walk through one of five incredible gorges all with Spring Fed waterfalls and amazing wildlife experiences; Thermal Springs - soak away in the beautiful Zebedee Springs, a series of natural bubbling springs under the canopy of cabbage palms.

With three resorts and a fully equipped campground on 700,000 acres you will find everything you need to enjoy a relaxing stay at one of the most spectacular areas in Australia.



EL QUESTRO
WILDERNESS PARK



Sharing Memories

Some of you may be aware that Noeline Ikin (previously Noeline Gross), a staunch Savannah Guides Supporter for many many years has been diagnosed with brain cancer. Fabulous news is that she has recently undergone successful surgery. We wish Noeline all the very best on her road to recovery. During a recent Filing Cabinet "clean-up" we came across this Poem written by Noeline in 1999 at our Katherine Savannah Guide School ... we would like to share it with you all.

Ask the Savannah Guide

Standing on an ancient cliff face, blanketed by crimson sunshine,
Wrinkled black skin, betraying paler scars of sharpened wattle spears.
Greying hair captured in a warm breeze from another time,
And eyes telling of the hardships of his yester years.
His lifetime revolving around the land before him laid,
His life entwined with nature like copulating adders tied.
His story to be told with passion and respect duly paid,
When heart and soul is needed, just ask the Savannah Guide.

Where Burke and Wills set forth to explore great plains and rivers,
To be lost to loved ones forever as their minds and bodies perished.
Where Stuart traversed extremes, his vista heated quivers,
Yet his endurance rightly triumphed to be forever cherished.
Where the pioneer drove his sheep and cattle to places little known,
Leaving marble stones, telling of a mother's agony past cried.
Gold rushes making townships just as quickly overgrown,
The outback carving history, just ask the Savannah Guide.

A kangaroo flicks his ears dispelling flies as he rests,
The emu strolls by wearily, trailing chicks striped brown and white.
An echidna purposely shuffles, following scent to termite nests,
While before the searing flames of a bushfire swoops the black kite.
A crocodile's eyes peering out the water in ambush lies,
While frogs awaiting rain safely deep in earth still hide.
A silent kaleidoscope of colour of a mass of butterflies,
A world of boundless wonder, just ask the Savannah Guide.

Woodlands full of gum trees, bark so smooth and white,
Wattles flowering yellow balls of pollen feeding native bees.
Tea trees reserving nectar for creatures of the night,
While pink beds of lotus lilies sway with the slightest breeze.
The aborigine used the ash and sap for wounds to heal,
The cocky apple's leaves worked wonders on ulcer when applied.
The nonda plum, pandanus and yam supplied a meal,
Yet some are deadly poisonous, just ask the Savannah Guide.

Where volcanoes captured rivers leaving tubes of darkened glory,
And heated gases deep within bore precious gems reclaimed.
Where rivers cut through rock, yielding gorges to tell their story,
And erosion wore down mountains leaving a vastness planned.
Where blackened soils are treacherous when coupled with the rain,
Then crack and break a horse's leg as soon as they have dried.
A landscape wild and wonderful, never to be tamed,
Lands the bushmen know and love, just ask the Savannah Guide.

Noeline Gross
Katherine School
1999

