

# SAVANNAH GUIDES

## Communicator

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November 2014

Welcome to our November Newsletter!

Another season winds down as we look back on a brilliant School at El Questro and a successful year all round for Savannah Guides.

I am honoured to be the new President of Savannah Guides and look forward to many exciting years ahead. You can find my first President's Report on Page 3.

*Mick Clark*

Savannah Guides President



## Viva El Questro!







*The El Questro Savannah Guides School really was as good as we all expected!*

El Questro's landscape, alive with Gavin and his team battling circling bushfires, was spectacular and a grand setting for our activities. Valuable input came from El Questro Rangers, Indigenous Tourism operators, National Parks experts and a host of locals and participants. There were special moments with several Traditional Owners and gorge swims that we'll remember for a long time.

On the learning front we worked on Responsible Tourism, Thematic Interpretation, Risk Management and of course our Birding Skills in another gripping Twitchathon. There was a strong emphasis on Cultural Interpretation, including the launch of our Cultural Protocols document.

We cruised on Chamberlain Gorge with dual cabooses towed behind the main vessel and rocketed across Lake Kununurra with Triple J Cruises, soaking in Kimberley sunsets. We scanned for fires from Di's tailgate bar at Pigeon Hole Lookout and didn't want to leave Emma Gorge or Zebedee Springs! Our field trips in the East Kimberley included Wyndham's spectacular Five Rivers Lookout and classic Pub, Kununurra (yep, the pub) and a drive across the Pentecost River on the Gibb River Road to Home Valley Station to meet the team.

### INSIDE...

-  El Questro Memories
-  New Board News
-  Savannah Guides Wedding
-  Cobbold Gorge Koala
-  Cultural Protocols
-  Lots of Research Links

The jam session was a cracker, with Geoff, Ben and Joe leading the guitars, Greg blowing a mean didge, Steve on mandolin and guitar and Russ thrashing that poor little uke. Highlights included some favourite Slim and bar room classics, the Bedrock Mob's song and Ben and Jen's Crocwise Anthem.

We welcomed new Members El Questro (Site) and Colin Morgan (Roving Interpreter), outstanding ambassadors for the Kimberley and deeply appreciated partners in a School for the Savannah Guides history books.

## 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.

## Savannah Guides Board News

The recent Savannah Guides Limited Annual General Meeting at El Questro resulted in some changes to the organisation's leadership team.

**Ben Humphries** (NT Parks and Wildlife Commission) retired as President and will continue on the Board as **Treasurer**. Ben's valued ongoing contribution provides important continuity.

**Mick Clark** (El Questro) became Savannah Guides' new **President**. Congratulations Mick! Mick was also acknowledged through his promotion from Site Interpreter to **Savannah Guide** for his contributions on the Board and in organising the El Questro School.

**Steve Grainger**, Roving Interpreter and owner of Tropical Treks Walking Tours in Mossman, Queensland, joins the Board for the first time. Thanks and congratulations Steve!

**Ivor Davies** retired as Treasurer and from the Board but will remain a "**Shadow Board Member**" (participating in Board discussion but without a vote) when he is not researching tourism in Spain or elsewhere overseas. Ivor is another major contributor to Savannah Guides who remains a valued member of the leadership team.

**Amanda Jennings** (Capricorn Caves) is our new **Vice President**.

**Ken Fairbairn** (QR Gulflander) and **John Colless** (Wetherby Station) continue on the Board, providing further diverse expertise and energy.



Steve Grainger in Winton School attire

## The next SAVANNAH GUIDES SCHOOL will be held at Undara Experience 26-29 March 2015

We are expecting a strong turnout for our next Savannah Guides School with great guide sessions, local exploration and just a little socialising. The School will incorporate the Gulf Savannah Tourism Futures Conference, a forum for tourism leaders to help direct the region's strategy. Please contact us if you'd like to be involved. A full range of accommodation and transport from Cairns is available.

The Information and Registration Form will be available before Christmas at:

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



Robyne Mungulu and three of the main Wandjinas



Risk Management Workshop at El Questro Gorge





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since joining Savannah Guides in 2011 I have realised the importance of being involved in an organisation that promotes best practice and training in professional tour guiding. Attending Savannah Guide Schools gives members a fantastic opportunity to learn from other guides and network amongst each other. The recent school at El Questro Wilderness Park in the East Kimberley highlighted this and gave me enormous satisfaction to see it as the first accredited Savannah Guide Enterprise in Western Australia.

As the new President of Savannah Guides I hope to continue on with the great achievements made by past presidents and boards. When I joined the board of Savannah Guides 12 months ago it gave me a real insight into the day to day running of our organisation. Ben Humphries has been the driving force during my time on the board and as past President has shown me many admirable talents in his leadership roles. Under Ben's guidance Savannah Guides is in a strong position both financially and in readiness for future projects and training opportunities. I feel very privileged to be taking over as President with the organisation in such great shape. Having a strong and positive board and Russell Boswell as Manager makes it an easy transition for me.

Under my leadership as President I will be pressing hard to continue to grow the membership and expand further into WA and search for new exciting opportunities to take Savannah Guides into the future. Please don't hesitate to contact me about any matters or just call for a friendly chat.

Regards

*Mick Clark*

President Savannah Guides and El Questro Ranger



**Mick Clark and Ben Humphries at El Questro**

## PAST PRESIDENT'S HANDOVER

In 2010 when I took on the Savannah Guides President's role from Andy Ralph, the Strategic Plan provided the direction for the Board. Remaining financially sustainable soon became the priority, and was achieved by developing a dependence on grant funding and growing the membership by making the organisation more adaptable.

It gives me great pleasure to hand the President's role over to Mick Clark with the organisation in a financially comfortable position. I am confident that with Mick's leadership, the dedicated Board and the commitment of Boz Oz's Management Services, Savannah Guides Limited has a bright future ahead.

Since my introduction to the tourism industry in 1998 and Savannah Guides in 2005, I remain passionate about guide training and accreditation, recognition of guiding as a professional career, and best practice industry standards.

I have developed personally and professionally thanks to my involvement in Savannah Guides. I have thoroughly enjoyed witnessing Savannah Guides Limited grow as an organisation attracting more women and more Aboriginal people to participate in Schools and get involved in the tourism industry.

Thank you to the Members for the opportunity, thanks to the Board, and special thanks to Russell and Sam Boswell, Life Member Pauline Rayner and Rick Murray, who's support has made this experience rich and memorable.

I look forward to working with you all on our organisation into the future.

Thank you. *Ben Humphries*





## El Questro Memories – 9-12 October 2014



Smoking Ceremony, Chamberlain Gorge



Former President (not because of this) with snatchem attached in the newly named "Ben's Bog".

Time for another swim – Pauline Rayner, Jen Hunter, Greg Ross, Douglas Hunter, Shane Ross on esky wheelbarrow and Mick.



Those who went to the Mount Borrodaile, El Questro (2001 or 2014), Kununurra or Alice Springs Schools will know Colin Morgan. Colin, his wife Maria and supportive family operate Wundargoodie Tours from Wyndham. Colin is a leading Indigenous tour guide and a welcome Roving Interpreter. Colin is seen receiving his patch from Mick Clark.



Mick Clark and Andy Ralph at Emma Gorge's Droplet Waterfall



Left: Mick Clark receives his Savannah Guides patch from Ben Humphries

Right: Russ Boswell, Andy Ralph and Ian Waina being towed in the trailer, Chamberlain Gorge



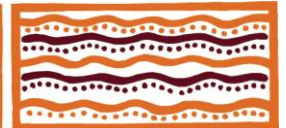
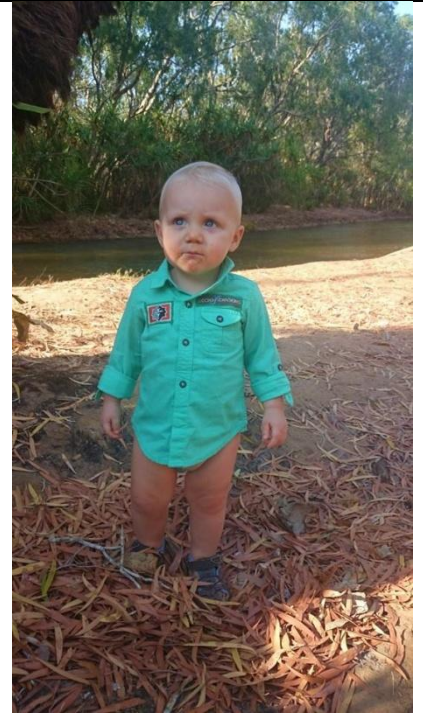


## A SAVANNAH GUIDES WEDDING!

Huge congratulations to Paula and Matt Leigh, who tied the knot (probably a clove hitch) recently on the Katherine River. Paula and Matt have a distinguished history with Gecko Canoeing / NT Immersions and Savannah Guides.

Their son Lincoln, a Savannah Guide in training, showed off a couple of new uniform styles on his first 3 day river trip.

Best wishes Matt, Paula and Lincoln!





## FLASHBACK to the April 2001 El Questro School, with thanks to Jim Fitzgerald



Martin "Snowy" Wohling, Max Davidson, Gerry Collins, Tom Warnes, Jodie Tanswell (now Thomas), Russell Boswell, Rick Murray, Jim Fitzgerald, Simon Terry, Bram "Goatee" Collins



Tom Warnes, Pauline Rayner, Rick Murray and Mark Crummy

## News from Cobbold Gorge

### Our resident Koala

The month of September was very exciting as a Koala was spotted near the Robertson River on the way to Cobbold Gorge. Our resident amateur photographer Kellie took this shot of him/her relaxing one afternoon. There are more photos on our [Facebook](#) page.

### Queensland Tourism Awards and Outback Queensland Tourism Awards

Cobbold Gorge has entered both the [Queensland Tourism Awards](#) and the [Outback Queensland](#) Tourism Awards under the category of Tourist Attraction. Both award ceremonies are held in November so wish us luck.

### Closing for 2014




31 October will mark the last day of our 2014 tourist season. It has been a slower season than the last few but apparently it has been quieter across the Gulf Savannah region in general. On saying that, we have record numbers in October!

We reopen for the 2015 season on 1 April so hopefully we will be able to report on a great wet season with dams full and grass green and plentiful. Keep up to date with what's happening at Cobbold Gorge via our [Facebook](#) page.



## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Don't forget we are still after your ideas for our lists to help members adopt more Responsible Tourism principles:

-  Tips for Tour Guides
-  Tips for Operators
-  Opportunities for Savannah Guides

Please contact Russ at [info@savannah-guides.com.au](mailto:info@savannah-guides.com.au)





## Why do good Guides matter for responsible tourism?

From #RTVOICES - Newsletter December 12, 2013 by [Jeremy Smith](#). A round up of our latest blogs and comment published on [WTM Responsible Tourism](#); and news of events staged by [WRTD logo supporters](#) around the world.

Recently in South Africa I keep seeing how a traveller's experience of a place is transformed by a good guide. All I can see around me now are forested hills, innumerable shades of impenetrable green. Yesterday David Letsaolo, one of two bird guides at [Kurisa Moya ecolodge in the Limpopo province in northern South Africa](#), took me walking in this rainforest – so pristine that at its heart is a tree featured in Thomas Pakenham's Remarkable Trees of the world – a 2,000 year old Cassonia that it is impossible to pass without being drawn to rest your palm or wrap your arms against its trunk.

Walking alone through this forest is an awe-inspiring exercise in feeling joyously small, but with David as my guide its complex riches unfold. He constantly picks out the different bird sounds, directing my gaze towards Knysna Louries, Narina Trogons and a host of other beautiful creatures hidden amongst the multi-dimensional labyrinth of branches. Where I hear just alien 'birdsong', David distinguishes the individual melodies, whistling their songs back to beckon them closer.

David is widely recognised as the best bird guide in South Africa, yet he was born in a poor rural village practically devoid of trees. As a teenager he was a gardener, and luckily one of the people he worked for recognised his love of birds and gave him binoculars. He now sits on the board of Birdlife South Africa, and trains up people from his community as guides, encouraging them to use their skills finding animals to make money from tourism rather than risk prison as poachers. He develops permaculture gardens and plants indigenous trees in local schools. And he leaves his mark on countless mesmerised tourists, as he translates an undecipherable forest of sound into a celebratory conversation between twin spots and touracos, olive thrushes, greenbills and whoever else is singing their presence through the trees that day.



The giant cussania

### Learning from the past

Before coming here I stayed a few days at [Fugitives Drift](#), a remarkable lodge built near the site of two key battles in the histories of Britain and South Africa. Best known in Britain is Rorke's Drift, immortalised in the film Zulu, where a small band of British soldiers held out for several hours against thousands of attacking Zulus. Less eulogised in the UK is the battle that took place a few miles away that morning and resulted in the biggest defeat of the British empire at that point – Isandlwana. For years the Rattray family that owns Fugitives Drift has sat with elders in the local Zulu community and scoured imperial archives to piece together the many interpretations and events of this epochal day. Their guides now recount these stories not just to remember the past, but to nurture our understanding towards better, shared futures.

Isandlwana today is an empty hill shaped like a sphinx and dotted with cairns of white stones. The stones mark where 1500 British soldiers were slaughtered one sweltering December morning under a total eclipse of the sun. We sit among these stones clutching cups of coffee as our guide tells the battle's story, and this silent place echoes with the sounds, feats, tragedies and victories of that day. By the end everyone has shed tears at least once. Our understanding of the battle, the actions that led up to it, and how it has helped shape the futures of two countries are profoundly enriched. But it's more than that. For the rest of our stay our conversations, often with strangers, keep coming back not just to this conflict – but to conflict in general, as we talk and think about warfare, its impact on the men and women who fight, and why it carries relentlessly on to this day.

I have been twice, and both times it provided one of the most thought-provoking experiences I have had while travelling. Too often we assume tourists only want to see happy faces, and a charade is enacted to gloss over darker truths. Next year is 100 years since the start of World War One. Judging by the scale of Flanders Tourism's presence at WTM last month, the promotional efforts will be huge. I hope the guides are as sensitive and knowledgeable as those from Fugitives Drift – for then the impact on many thousands of tourists could be enormously powerful too.

### It's the way you tell 'em

But you don't need a 100-year old war or a 2000-year old tree to tell a good tale: you just need a good storyteller. Thankfully, they are all around us. [Tripbod connects tourists with local people](#) keen to reveal the secrets of the places they live. [Storymap films the people of Dublin](#) telling their city's tales, and weaves them into an online map of the city. [Unseen Tours won an award at WTM for empowering homeless people](#) to work as guides and offer their unique perspectives on the streets they know best.

It is said we only protect that which we love. When a guide tells us what they love of a place, its people, its past, its birds – its stories – they perform an act of preservation through sharing. Ensuring that tourists encounter good guides is therefore one of the most powerful things that responsible tourism can do.





## Multi-Media Mick

### Mick in the Kimberley Echo

Subscribe now for the follow up article on the school, possibly featuring Mick!

### Mick with his New Movie...

4WD Touring Magazine filmed at Saddleback Ridge Lookout on El Questro last year. Check out Episode 3 to see a potential Logie nominee!



El Questro ranger Mick Clark. Picture: Cally Dupe

The Kimberley Echo  
Thursday, September 4, 2014

Echo News 7

### Guides to hit outdoor classroom at El Questro

■ Cally Dupe

Tour guides from the Kimberley, Northern Territory and Queensland will descend on El Questro Wilderness Park for a professional development school in October.

Savannah Guides, a not-for-profit network which shines a spotlight on educating Australian tour guides, is extending its reach into WA, starting with the Kimberley.

A four-day professional development conference will be held at the park from October 9 to 12.

El Questro ranger Mick Clark has been a driving force behind the school's inception at the park.

He said it provided an invaluable opportunity for guides, industry members, traditional owners, environmental specialists and land managers to learn more about their area and better their presentation skills.

Savannah Guides was founded in 1988 and has won a handful of tourism awards.

The park will become the first Savannah Guide Enterprise in WA.

For details, visit [www.savannah-guides.com.au](http://www.savannah-guides.com.au) or phone manager Russell Boswell on 0408 772 513.

Is this the most amazing station gate you've ever seen?  
Ben and Russ at Home Valley Station.



Jen, Balin and Ben at Marlgu Billabong





## SAVANNAH GUIDES



*Protectors and Interpreters of the Outback*

### SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR CULTURAL PROTOCOLS

Please consider these principles in your tour guiding and operations:

- Appreciate and respect the interconnectedness of all peoples to each other and to country.
- Find out who the local people are and contact them for local knowledge and protocols. Remain open to, and listen out for, the local stories.
- In development stages – consult with local people about protocols and participation.
- Install interpretive signage stating traditional ownership and status of welcome/entry, relevance of area, sacred status.
- Acknowledge country by speaking from your heart. Identify yourself and state your purpose when entering to show respect. This is also a part of looking after yourself and your customers.
- Educate and encourage guests to respect country by also acknowledging country, and by not littering, damaging the land or behaving disrespectfully.
- As a tour leader you can change your guests' attitudes and cultural awareness, encouraging human respect for spiritual boundaries.
- Say hello to locals and show respect.
- Use local stories from local people, acknowledge your source and share appropriately.
- Only use cultural knowledge that has been authorised by local people.
- Slow down and feel the country. Enjoy the moment.

*These concepts were noted at an interactive workshop at Standley Chasm, 13 October 2013 and discussed afterwards by email. Contributors were Alice Springs Savannah Guides School participants including Kimberley region Indigenous tour operators, Savannah Guides Members, other tour guides and tourism personnel.*

*The document was launched at the 2014 El Questro Savannah Guides School to provide advice to all Tour Guides and operators.*





**Please remember that Savannah Guides is your vehicle for continual professional development.**

Consider how you can:

- Be nominated for a Savannah Guides award – these are available to accredited guides employed by member enterprises
- Upgrade your accreditation from Site or Roving Interpreter to Savannah Guide through contributing to Savannah Guides activities and its Mission
- Stand for election to the Board
- Join a project to assist developing businesses or integrate Responsible Tourism into member activities
- Contribute to the newsletter

Ask Russell or a Savannah Guides Board member for details.



Gerry Collins, Dale and Ross Rogers and Ivor Davies at Undara's Opera in the Outback. Ross, now retired from Undara Experience guiding, is looking forward to visiting the Undara School in March 2015. He wishes SGL and all his mates the very best.

**Site Interpreter Kevin Lyons** featured in the Qantas Inflight magazine in October. Sounds like he is moving into stand-up comedy! Go Kevin!

News from

**SAVANNAH WAY LIMITED**

The Local Tourism Organisation for the Gulf Savannah has been busy:

- ◆ Media famils and feature articles in caravanning and 4WD magazines will have new promotion out for the 2015 season.
- ◆ A new A4 Savannah Way brochure has been produced and distributed.
- ◆ The 2015 Gulf Savannah Visitor Guide has just started production.
- ◆ A *Bird Watching in the Gulf Savannah* booklet has been produced with input from our own Savannah Guide Ivor Davies and Friend Allan Gillanders.
- ◆ Architects and engineers are designing the new Barramundi Discovery Centre in Karumba as a part of Savannah Way Limited's TIRF project with Carpentaria Shire Council.



[www.savannahway.com.au](http://www.savannahway.com.au)





## 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, which includes Two Day Field Schools, Day Famils and Workshops, an Online Course developed by Industry Accreditation and a social media network of guides.

The community and tourism industry involvement in the Program has been strong and helped share the key themes of the World Heritage Area. Our 14-15 November Field School is in Cairns, featuring:

- Cairns' War History at the Cairns RSL, and Sharing a list of Cairns Secrets
- Using Birds in Commentaries Workshop and a Bird Watching Session on the Cairns Esplanade
- Disaster Preparation for tourists by the Disaster Management Team
- Meeting with a local artist at Umi Arts and Ed Healey, author of Timber and Timbermen
- DISC Personality Profiling for Participants
- Receiving the newly reprinted Wet Tropics Tour Guide Handbook, and using it to interpret species at Cairns' Centenary Lakes, Rainforest Boardwalk and Gondwana Heritage Walk

One highlight will be our Saturday morning session in the sparkling Austin Cafe, opened recently by Roving Interpreter Andres Lukacs and featuring some awesome empanadas!

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

## SAVANNAH GUIDES PARTNERSHIPS

Savannah Guides Limited has a range of valued partners who assist our organisation work towards its mission:

### Our Corporate Partners

*Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service* – support our Schools through expert presentations and participation and continually liaise with Savannah Guides on access and park monitoring issues.

*Tourism NT* – long term partners acknowledging Savannah Guides Limited's role in experience development.

*Savannah Way Limited* – promotes the Cairns to Broome drive route and features SGL Enterprise Members.

*Price Waterhouse Coopers, Townsville* – leading accountancy firm who complete our Annual Financial Review.

### Our Project Partners

*Wet Tropics Management Authority* – protectors and presenters of the ancient rainforests in north Queensland who contract Savannah Guides to run tour guide workshops for rainforest guides.

*Ecotourism Australia* – developing links between guides and promoting excellence in interpretation.

SAVANNAH GUIDES



*Protectors and Interpreters of the Outback*

## Vegetation Mapping

Explore the following links to learn more about Queensland's vegetation mapping and plant communities. Check out the data on some of your favourite spots. Thanks to Mark Newton at the Australian Tropical Herbarium.

[http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/ecosystems/biodiversity/re\\_introduction.html](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/ecosystems/biodiversity/re_introduction.html) ... Introduction page.

<http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/land/vegetation-management/vegetation-maps/vegetation-map-request> ... This link is where you request a map using a lat/long or lot on plan number. You are sent a pdf map by email.

<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/ecosystems/biodiversity/regional-ecosystems/index.php> ... This is where you make sense of the codes use to describe the vegetation; by inserting the code of the vegetation you are interested in, a simple layman's description of the community is generated. Elsewhere you can download a spreadsheet summarising all the vegetation communities for a bioregion (ie Einasleigh Uplands).

[http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/ecosystems/biodiversity/regional-ecosystems/technical\\_descriptions.html](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/ecosystems/biodiversity/regional-ecosystems/technical_descriptions.html) ... These are the more technical descriptions drawn from field data.





## The El Questro ARIA Award went to the Bedrock Twitchers, who topped up their impressive birdwatching with a ditty penned on the way over:

### THE BEDROCK TWITCHERS

*(To the tune of "We're the Boys from the Bush")*

We're the Bedrock Mob, from Mount Surprise,  
Four slick ladies, five good lookin' guys,  
All on a bus, and westward bound,  
To El Questro station, near Kununurra town.

There's Esther and Graeme, Mr And Mrs Jo,  
Mark and Maree, that's just three to go,  
That's Jenny and Geoff, and a bloke named Mac,  
We're the Bedrock Mob, on a west bound track.

#### Chorus

**We're the Bedrock twitchers, with our eyes to the sky,  
"Oh, look at that one there, see how he flies!"  
With a flutter, flutter, flutter and a tweet, tweet, tweet,  
No deadlier twitchers, will you ever meet!**

At El Questro station, at Savannah Guides School,  
We're an odd lookin' lot, but don't you be fooled,  
We've come a long, long way and we're all just itchin',  
To count mobs of birds, in the twit, twit, twitchin'!

We've been blown away, by the country out here,  
With gorge after gorge, and the cold, cold beer.  
So we say thanks to Lori, and the El Questro lot,  
"I'd love to work here, it's a really great spot!"

#### Chorus

So thanks to Andy, Russ and Ben, and their mate Mick Clark,  
Now a full Savannah Guide, he's a really bright spark!  
And there's a special mob here, who have done a great job,  
We wanna' give our thanks, to the Wandjina mob.

#### Chorus

**SAVANNAH GUIDES  
IS ON FACEBOOK**



**SEE YOU THERE!**

### EL QUESTRO TWITCHATHON RESULTS

Top End Spotters 36 species  
Quiet Achievers Award

Spangled Mob 45 species

Bedrock Mob 52 species

Whiplash 53 species

Melbourne Mob 56 species

Tree creepers 64 species

... who actually saw the Black-tailed  
Trecreeper. Congrats to Choccy, Greg, Nikki  
and Steve who took home the metre high bird  
garden ornament donated by Mitre 10  
Kununurra.

**WELL DONE TO ALL!**

**PLEASE WELCOME  
our new Savannah Guides Site ...**

### El Questro Wilderness Park



Visit their website at:

**[www.elquestro.com.au](http://www.elquestro.com.au)**

or Like them on Facebook at:

**El Questro Wilderness Park**



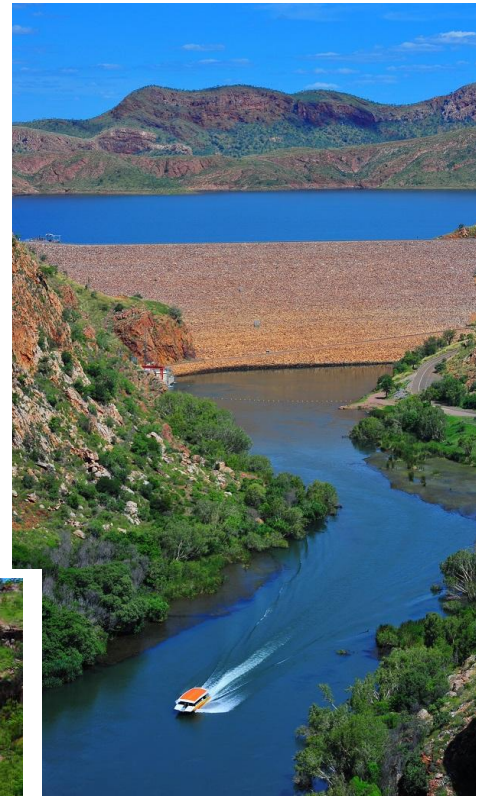


## Triple J Tours

Triple J Tours have been offering one of the longest river cruises in Australia between Kununurra and the Ord Top Dam at Lake Argyle (a distance of 55km one way) for over 26 years. Savannah Guides were treated to a sunset cruise with this leading Kimberley operator.

Cruising on a section of the Ord River known as Lake Kununurra, Triple J Tours will have you admiring spectacular scenery, flora, bird life, crocodiles and flying foxes all from the comfort of one of their vessels aptly named 'Peregrine', 'Harrier' and 'Osprey'. Fully shaded and with toilets on-board, these vessels cruise the river with ease and are ergonomically constructed so as to cause as little damage as possible to the river bank.

Touring options can include a 70km coach transfer Kununurra to Lake Argyle (or vice versa), a magnificent cruise, a tasty buffet lunch at a riverside camp and/or afternoon tea. A commentary is provided on not only the flora and fauna, but also on the nature and history of the mighty Ord River.



**TRIPLE J TOURS**  
ORD RIVER CRUISES



## Reading List

### European History

Journal of an Overland Expedition in Australia 1844-45, Leichhardt L.

Mr Stuart's Track, Bailey J.

Far Country, Powel A.

The Front Door (Darwin, 1869-1969), Lockwood D.

### Cultural Heritage

The World of the First Australians, Berndt R & C.

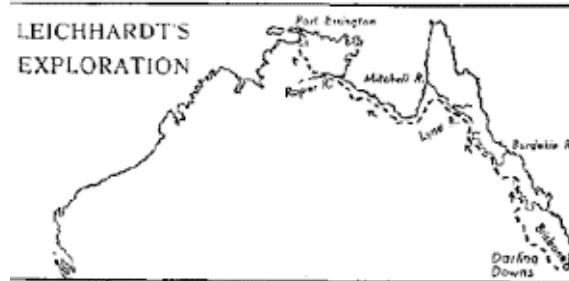
Prehistory of Australia, Mulvaney J. & Kamminga J.

### Philosophy

Ecopsychology (restoring the earth, healing the mind), ed.

Roszak, Gomes & Kanner

The Sacred Balance, Suzuki D.



## Leichhardt Fans – Don't Miss This!

Check out this fantastic website on Leichhardt's expedition. It has his diary as well as some of the other journals for each day, with an interactive Google map which positions each night's campsite.

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/entity/8843>





## - - - Catch up on some Research - - -

### Some recent research with limited access:

Tourism and Social Media: Tourists are increasingly embracing technology to share their exploits and enhance their travelling experience. Tourism agencies have used this technology in promoting their brand devising ways to encourage users to act as destination ambassadors on their behalf. The below collection explores the relationship between Tourism and Social Media from both tourist and industry points of view. Read for free until the end of the year.

<http://explore.tandfonline.com/page/pgas/tourism-social-media>

A recent special issue from *Journal of Policy Research in Tourism, Leisure & Events* on 'Moral Panics or the Politics of Pleasure? Alcohol and Policy Directions in Tourism, Leisure and Event' is now available to view online, with important discussions including the effect of alcohol consumption in a sporting context, alcohol-related tourism ventures and policies, and alcohol's role in forming identities. [free to access](#)

### NERP RESEARCH

Northern Australia Hub - National Environmental Research Program has links to their latest [e-news edition](#), and here is the latest [research update](#) for Kakadu and you can also view a [shark guide](#) that was produced for Kakadu.

### TOUR GUIDE RESEARCH

A new book available is available, written by two of Australia's leading interpretation academics:

Tour Guiding Research Insights, Issues and Implications, by Betty Weiler and Rosemary Black.

Available online for AUD \$30 plus postage from:

<http://www.channelviewpublications.com/display.asp?isbn=9781845414672>



## CANE TOADS - MORE INFORMATION

At the El Questro Savannah Guides School we heard about the march of the Cane Toad into Western Australia. Here are some of the links for information presented at Emma Gorge talk by Jasper and Sean of WA Department of Parks and Wildlife:

<http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/animals/cane-toads>

[http://sydney.edu.au/science/biology/shine/canetoad\\_research/scientific-publications-the-biology-of-canetoads.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/science/biology/shine/canetoad_research/scientific-publications-the-biology-of-canetoads.shtml)

<http://www.canetoadsinoz.com/>

<http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/about-us/science-and-research/biological-surveys/123-kimberley-islands-biological-survey>

<http://www.stopthetoad.org.au/>

<http://www.sciencewa.net.au/topics/aboriginal-science-a-knowledge/item/2800-kimberley-goannas-trained-in-cane-toad-taste-aversion/2800-kimberley-goannas-trained-in-cane-toad-taste-aversion>





# WHY?

## A KEY QUESTION IN INTERPRETATION

Val Speedie was a Savannah Guide who worked at Undara Experience. Although no longer with us she is commemorated in the Val Speedie Tour Guide Award, presented by Savannah Guides to an outstanding interpreter working with a Savannah Guides Enterprise.

Val had a true understanding of interpretation, the art of connecting an audience with real meaning in a landscape. She looked at every aspect of her commentaries - using correct information and current research, developing fascinating themes, and interacting with her customers.

When asked what drove her passion for continually working on her own guiding and training the next generation of Undara's Savannah Guides she said that her ongoing love for sharing nature was to ask "Why?"



Tony and Val Speedie, 2000 Longreach School

Why are there different trees on that hillside? Why are different raptor species often seen at different heights? Why was this place so important for people?

Continually asking "Why?" can stimulate a guide's passion, research and effectiveness with an audience and it is a question that has driven some other great minds.

Julius Sumner Miller was a science star of the 1960's, with his series "Why is it so?" in high demand across the globe, appearing in Australia 26 times, and eventually having a question posted everyday in The Australian newspaper in 1966.



In Miller's book of Q & A's, *Millergrams* he says: "The hope I have here is simply summed up: To stir your imagination, awaken your interest, arouse your curiosity, enliven your spirit - all with the purpose of bringing you to ask, as young Maxwell put it, "What's the go of it?" - or, as Kepler had it, "why things are as they are and not otherwise". Or, more simply in my own phrase, "why is it so?"

Russell Boswell





## Some Interesting Facebook Pages:

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife  
Savannah Way  
Queensland Country Hour  
El Questro Wilderness Park



## PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS!

It's great to hear your news, learn about something you've seen or share a nice image. Please email your contribution for the April 2015 newsletter or your E-newsletter updates to Russ at: [info@savannah-guides.com.au](mailto:info@savannah-guides.com.au)

## NT Wildlife App

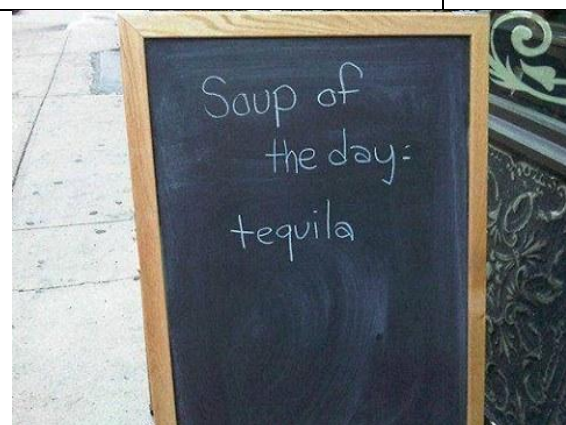
The Darwin Museum recently released an outstanding wildlife app for iphone, ipad and android devices, packed full of great images and information.

Its available for FREE in the App Store and Google Play, and you can use this website to get straight to the downloads:

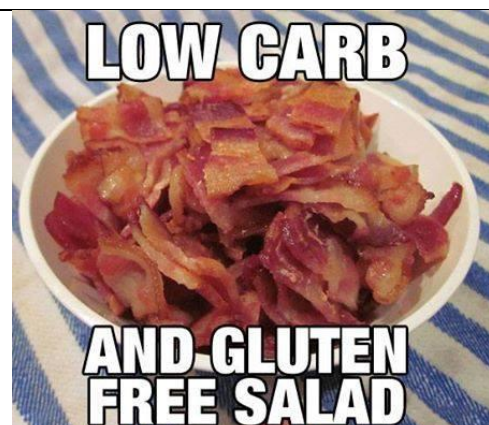
<http://museumvictoria.com.au/app/s/ntfieldguide>

## Online Resources

- Landscape and people information at: <http://www.savanna.org.au/>
- The old Cooperative Research Centre for Tropical Savannas: <http://www.savanna.cdu.edu.au/publications/index.html>
- Northern Australian bushfires: <http://www.firenorth.org.au/nafi2/>
- Tropical Topics booklets: <http://www.wettropics.gov.au/tropical-topics>
- FREE Rainforest Plants Key: [www.ath.org.au/JCUPRD\\_042124.html](http://www.ath.org.au/JCUPRD_042124.html)
- Biological Inventory of the World's Protected Areas: <http://www.ice.ucdavis.edu/bioinventory/bioinventory.html>
- Climate Change: <http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/about-us>



←←  
Some  
INNOVATIVE  
Menu  
Suggestions!  
→→



## Bush Poetry

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/2kpinGWpmj0>

**BlazeAid** is a volunteer-based organisation that works with farmers and families in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires and floods. Do you have a spare fortnight?

## Browse the Web

- <https://trailwalker.oxfam.org.au/sydney/donate>
- <http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/guess-why-people-in-this-tiny-german-town-pay-31-less-for-electricity>
- [Earthlink](http://www.earthlink.net)
- [Man and Biosphere Species Database](http://www.manandbiosphere.org)
- <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/documentaries/interactive/twointhetopend/>
- <http://www.outbacknow.com.au/index.php>



THE END

**SEE YOU AT THE UNDARA SCHOOL: 26-29 MARCH 2015!**

