

SAVANNAH GUIDES

Communicator

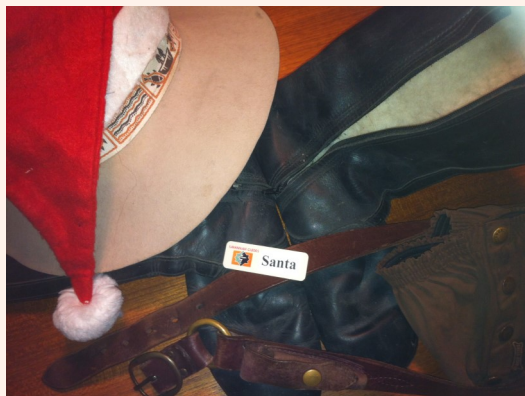


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DECEMBER 2018

Welcome to our End of Year Newsletter and the End of our Year Long 30th Birthday Celebrations!

After a slow start to the northern Australia tourist season due to extensive flooding, Operators have reported that they were very happy with their final numbers. Delivering great tourism experiences helped make this happen!



Inside you will find pics from our Fitzroy Crossing Field School, our super Tourism Award Winning Members, nature insights and plenty more. Our EcoGuide and Supporter Networks continue to grow, we are working more closely than ever with Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers and will start delivering Tourism and Guiding training to remote Secondary School students in 2019. Even more

amazing benefits and networking opportunities are developing through the growth of Savannah Guides!

Wishing you all a seriously fabulous Festive Season and a Brilliant 2019!

Ho Ho Ho!

Mick Clark

INSIDE...

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- Welcome New Members
- Sustainable Guiding
- EcoGuide Update
- What is xeno-canto?
- Tourism Award Winners
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AUSTRALIA
CERTIFIED
GUIDE

ABOUT SAVANNAH GUIDES

Savannah Guides is a network of tour guides and operators based in Northern Australia, delivering various professional development programs around Australia including EcoGuide and the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program. Savannah Guides is a not-for-profit company with enterprise and individual members working with leading tourism, environmental and community organisations to pursue its mission:

To be 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.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Protectors and Interpreters of the Outback

Another amazingly busy year has come to an end for Savannah Guides with the celebration of our 30th Anniversary, three very well attended Field Schools, one at Carnarvon Gorge QLD, another at Kakadu in NT and lastly Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley WA.

Celebrating 30 years of continuous operation of our wonderful organisation has been a highlight for me and I feel very privileged to be President during this special time. The Board of Directors has been very active again ensuring the successes we enjoy and I commend their continued support for making Savannah Guides the premier guiding organisation in Australia. Your enormous contributions of time and effort are greatly appreciated.

We accredited and welcomed nine new Savannah Guides throughout the year. Angela Clucas and Leanne Hayter were promoted to Senior Savannah Guides at our Kakadu Field School and it was here that we saw the Presentation of our newest Life Member, Russell Boswell - Congratulations Russell.

Savannah Guides is very conscious of our long term relationships with many Indigenous groups and individuals since our inception. It has been wonderful to reconnect recently with John Clark, a Ewamian man who was on Savannah Guides' first Board. Over the years we have had many Indigenous Individual and Enterprise Members and we have increased our support for many emerging Indigenous Tourism Operations and Ranger groups looking to enter tourism. As an organization we submitted an Uluru Statement from the Heart letter showing our continuous support for an Indigenous voice in the national dialogue, and we have been researching how we can develop an appropriate Cultural Awareness Program to offer our members.

The EcoGuide Certification Program continues to grow in numbers, strengthening our nation-wide network with other like-minded guides. Importantly this is providing a benchmark that is being applied in some regional initiatives to bolt onto local nature and culture content. Increasingly, Tour Operators are using EcoGuide as a way to encourage their guides to upskill, stay and build their careers.

Our Partnership with our African mates at Ulovane Environmental Training offers incredible opportunities for any nature enthusiast to develop their professional career at extremely reasonable rates. Please contact Russ and Sam for more information. We urge you to take advantage of this amazing opportunity!

We continue to seek out new partnerships with others around Australia to keep us at the forefront of the Guiding Industry. These arrangements broaden our horizons and offer us new insights for the future. Please contact us if you have any idea around Tourism Guiding or Tourism Development that we can help with.

Our Management Team and Board are finalising our Strategic Plan which has a clear vision of the direction we will take during the next five years and some exciting projects for members to be involved in. Stay tuned for more news!

On a very sad note we remember Ann Augusteyn, owner of Savannah Guides Enterprise Capricorn Caves, whose sudden and unexpected passing in mid-October was felt by all. On behalf of Savannah Guides I would like to express our deepest sympathy to Ann's family and the staff of Capricorn Caves, many of whom are Savannah Guides.

Mick Clark

President
Savannah Guides Limited



Welcome to the Team!

A very warm welcome to Peter Henry from Flat Creek Station, our newest accredited Savannah Guide! Peter was given the “Hot Seat” treatment and was accredited in early October at our Fitzroy Crossing Field School.

SAVANNAH GUIDE



CONGRATULATIONS PETER!

CAIRNSPOST.COM.AU THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 20 2018

NEWS 05

Gene code in toad war

DANIEL BATEMAN
daniel.bateman@news.com.au

Findings unlock new ways to control pest

VIRUSES could be tailor-made to kill cane toads after scientists revealed they have unlocked the genetic code of the toxic amphibians.

An international team of researchers has announced the discovery, which will help close key knowledge gaps and accelerate research into Australia's most infamous hopping pest.

The group, from UNSW Sydney, the University of Sydney, Deakin University, Portugal and Brazil, deciphered

more than 90 per cent of the cane toad's genes using technology to sequence long pieces of its DNA.

The findings have been published in scientific journal *GigaScience* today.

Since the poisonous species was introduced into Australia onto a farm south of Cairns in 1935, they have conquered most of the continent, with their empire estimated to occupy more than 1.2 million square kilometres.

In 80 years, their venom has killed large numbers of native wildlife including northern quolls, freshwater crocodiles, snakes and lizards.

University of Sydney researcher Professor Rick Shine said genetic sequencing of the toad would help scientists understand more about how they spread, how their toxins worked and open new avenues to control toad populations.

"We've found out a lot about toads over the last 15

years or so, but this takes it to another level," he said.

"This essentially gives us the blueprint for how you build a toad and what's changed since the toads evolved into more capable invasion machines since they raced across Australia.

"I'm optimistic that this is actually a pretty powerful new weapon we can use to do something about the problem of cane toads."

UNSW researcher Alice

Russo said gaining access to the toad's DNA would help scientists find viruses to better target and control the amphibians, similarly to viruses used to control feral rabbits.

Previous attempts at engineering toad viruses have stalled due to concerns native frogs could be affected.

"DNA contains ancient fragments of viruses – the DNA of every animal can sometimes catalogue past infections," Ms Russo said.



TOXIC TARGET: Cane toads are deadly to native wildlife.

31km Crater Discovered

The Cairns Post—16 Nov 2018

Researchers have discovered a crater bigger than Paris under Greenland caused by a massive iron meteorite smashing into the Earth as recently as 12,000 years ago.

The 31km-wide crater, discovered using sophisticated radar, is the first of its kind ever found under any of the Earth's ice sheets and is among the 25 largest known on Earth, a report in journal *Science Advances* said.

It is estimated the asteroid would likely have been made largely of iron, measuring about 1.5km



Early October saw our very first Savannah Guides Field School being held at Fitzroy Crossing, a four hour drive from Broome.

Despite soaring temperatures, around 60 intrepid participants, from as far away as Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland and southern Western Australia had a fabulous time ... and gained a lot of knowledge along the way!

It was inspiring to see such a cross-section of Indigenous Tour Operators and Rangers and the hard work and determination they showed to promote and enhance their products and industry.

Presentations from WAITOC, WA Parks and Wildlife, Willie Creek Pearl Farm, Windjana Tours, Twin Gorges Walk, Bungoolee Tours, Mimbi Caves, Yiriman Women, Narlijia Tours, Waringarri Arts and Tours and Hunter's Creek Tagalong Tours gave real meaning to our theme "Showcasing Indigenous Tourism in The Kimberley". This was reinforced and tied together with an Indigenous Tourism Panel and Open Forum on our final day.

We thoroughly enjoyed a relaxing and informative Danggu Geikie Gorge Cruise hosted by WA Parks and Wildlife. We were extremely fortunate to have Mary Aiken, Bunuba Elder, along for the ride. She told many stories, some amusing, in her husky voice from cheering on the West Coast Eagles the week before!

Standing on the hot orange sand and listening to Dillon Andrew's story of "Jandamurra", among others, surrounded by the walls of Windjana Gorge was a very special experience. In the water some thirty odd Freshwater Crocodiles were sunning themselves on the surface ... any thoughts of a refreshing dip immediately vanished!

The cool of Tunnel Creek was a welcome relief that afternoon. Most went all the way up the tunnel, some even swimming! The rest remained at the entrance chatting and discovering interesting facts about each other.

After a very special Smoking Ceremony we spent some wonderful time at Mimbi Caves with Harrison Skinner visiting two cave systems. A Risk Management Session was welcomed and all participated. Lunch was enjoyed at the close-by Mimbi Caves Camping Area - which we had learnt about in Gary Taylor's session on the "Camping with Custodians Program".

Lastly the ladies had an opportunity for shopping at Ngumpun Community where we sat with the Yiriman "Desert Weaving" Women while they showed us how they made their strings of beads, each bead painstakingly decorated by hand.

A huge thanks to our hosts - Dave Woods and Katie McMahon-Stevens from WA Parks and Wildlife Service. Their assistance in the lead-up to this Field School was invaluable.

Thank you to everyone for your input and participation. We hope to see you all again very soon.



Fitzroy Crossing Field School

4-7 October 2018



OUR NEXT SAVANNAH GUIDES FIELD SCHOOL

will be held at ...

Capricorn Caves, Queensland
28 - 31 March 2019



We will catch up with many Queensland mates during this “behind the scenes” Field School!
Interpretation, Citizen Science and Cave Exploration!
Come along and share in this special Queensland secret ... everyone is very welcome!

Accommodation and Camping options are both available.

Information and Registration Form available soon at: <http://savannah-guides.com.au/about/savannah-guide-schools/>



Animal Track Casts by Tom Warnes, Savannah Guides Life Member

I came across these great animal track moulds on a recent trip. These are pretty flash and they're no doubt favourites with children (and the big kids too) on visits to this USA State Park Visitor Center. Actually, they're so flash that it might be too difficult and expensive to produce metal casts like these.

But, the good news is I remember making my own Plaster of Paris casts a long long time ago when we kids used to spend lots of time running around in the bush. Now there's an "Oldie but a

Goodie" activity for the School Holidays. Too easy and too cheap. 1Kg Plaster of Paris from Bunnings \$6.78 plus Mum's egg ring, jug, spoon and water! HAVE FUN!



WET TROPICS TOUR GUIDE PROGRAM

Savannah Guides continues to work with its partner, the Wet Tropics Management Authority, to deliver the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program. Earlier this year two Cairns based Workshops covered the knowledge units of Flora, Fauna & Landscape; Presenting the World Heritage Area as a Cultural Landscape and Commentary Excellence. A Field School was held in October featuring The Cassowary Coast. Stay tuned for the late 2018 dates of our Wet Tropics Tour Guide Field School and Workshops.

Completion Days have also been introduced — these days are free of charge and are set aside for Guides who have partially completed their Wet Tropics Certification and just need to finalise Workbooks and perform their Field Assessment. You don't necessarily have to wait for a Completion Day though ... contact Russell (0408 772 513) to arrange the final elements of your Wet Tropics Tour Guide Certification!



Tour Guide Program



Vale Ann Augustyn

By Jordan Wheeler

Ann Augusteyn was born in Halesworth, a small town in England, to Leslie and Marjorie Copping. Her life was simple, growing up in a country town during the post war era. Throughout her childhood she showed great sporting prowess and represented her county in hockey and tennis. Ann was also a very diligent student and achieved academic excellence through hard work and dedication, a trait that continued throughout her life. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and completed a certificate in education before commencing a new life abroad where she met the love of her life, Ken. Together they worked, Ann as a teacher and Ken as a foreman on a gas plant and travelled extensively throughout Canada and Europe before eventually marrying in England in 1971 before moving to Australia in 1973. Ann was the very proud mother of 3 children, John, Robert and Helen and Grandmother to Katie, Jade, Jake, Riley and Elise.



In June 1988, an article appeared in the Courier Mail that Batman was selling his caves in Rockhampton. This was the year Brisbane hosted the World Expo and the people of Queensland were looking for new adventures. The advertorial caught the attention of a young Augusteyn family. Ann, a high school history teacher and her husband Ken, a plumber, seeking a new challenge packed their whole world up into a car and drove north for Rockhampton to take over the only privately-owned show caves on freehold land in Australia. Ann and Ken knew nothing about tourism and even less about caves, but they had energy, determination and with Ken's skill set across all trades they had what it took to make a mark on the industry.

The local community was initially apprehensive that someone from the city had bought the caves and wondered what the future was for Olsen's Caves but that did not deter Ann and her family. They were determined to execute a plan to make the caves a premier tourist attraction. Ken began working on the infrastructure of the property while Ann took on everything else. She did the marketing, ticket sales, cleaning and to top that off was the sole tour guide.

For the next 20 years, they focussed on the development of the property. Their business plan was to generate enough income to reinvest in maintenance, new facilities, conservation and sharing the natural wonder with the world.

These achievements had made Ken and Ann very proud, however nothing more so than making Capricorn Caves wheelchair accessible. In 1992, carrying in 6 tonne of timber and 3 tonne of steel, they worked to minimise impact on the caves and maximise views for visitors, becoming the most accessible cave in Australia.

Ken's health declined after years of hard work and in March 2008 was pushed up the ramp that he had constructed to attend his son John's wedding in the Cathedral Cave. 10 days later he passed away leaving behind a remarkable legacy and a tourist operation completely in the hands of Ann.

From this point, Ann never took a backward step, she became a community leader and well respected within the local tourism industry, developing Capricorn Caves not only into a leading show cave but one of the leading tourist attractions in the country.



The driving force behind why Capricorn Caves became such a successful operation under Ann's guidance was the culture of family that she built. The staff of the Capricorn Caves have been extremely privileged over the years to have travelled across Australia and Internationally with Ann as part of Savannah Guide Schools and ACKMA conferences. This was when Ann truly came to life. The morning of a trip away with staff her excitement could be likened to that of a giddy school girl. She would hug everyone, dance and have a smile from ear to ear. Often on these days she forgot to eat breakfast out of excitement. She took these times to get to know really know staff (and often find out more than they meant her too...) but she loved the stories.

Ann also loved a party. A glass (or bottle) of red, good company and a dance floor. She was always first on the dancefloor and last to leave, happy dancing away by herself if no-one joined her. Her energy for life was contagious and it was impossible to spend time with her without catching her enthusiasm.



Ann has been a huge supporter of Savannah Guides over the years, not only hosted a school but attended every year since joining. She has also driven her staff to become the passionate guides they are, becoming the organisation with the most Savannah Guides in Australia. With another guide school planned for Capricorn Caves next year, we will be doing our best to honour everything that Ann was passionate about.

If you asked Ann what legacy she would've like to leave behind, there would be no mention of her ability to build a business from the ground up. No mention of a mother of 3 who worked 24/7 for decades in an industry she initially knew nothing of. No mention of, becoming one of the most respected women, not in the industry, but in the entire region. It wouldn't be money earned or awards or recognition. Ann's legacy is in the caves.

Under the watch of Ann, the Capricorn Caves, who had 4 visitors on the day she took over, have become a location where people travel from around the world to appreciate.



Overseeing the scientific research, of what has become an internationally significant fossil site, will allow education to occur for so many future generations. Wheelchair access means no-one will ever miss the opportunity to take in the beauty of the Cathedral Cave again. Ann's legacy is not in what she has done for herself but what she has provided for future generations, long after we are all gone.



SAVANNAH GUIDES



Protectors and Interpreters of the Outback

Training Portfolio 2019-20

Savannah Guides is Australia's leading Professional Development provider for Tour Guides. We are a not-for-profit network of Tour Guides and Operators focused on best practice and mutual respect.

Our Members include experts in a wide range of fields that can deliver tailored training options for Tour Guides and Operators on a contracted basis. We provide ongoing support and tourism industry network linkages.

Delivery Methods

- Onsite around Australia in scheduled training blocks
- Before/after our regular Savannah Guides Field Schools, EcoGuide Workshops or Wet Tropics Field Schools
- Remotely using Savannah Guides' Workbooks and Resources, with email and phone support as required
- Hosted visits to Cairns or other centres incorporating "behind the scenes" industry visits
- Partnerships with employers and Registered Training Organisations



Tour Guide Certification

Certification options are available for Tour Guides:

- **EcoGuide Certification:** acknowledged around Australia as the professional benchmark for nature and culture Tour Guides. It is mapped from the Certificate III in Guiding but does not include the issuing of that qualification, making it an accessible and cost effective process that can be used by employers and workplace supervisors to drive and reward skills and knowledge.
- **Savannah Guides Accreditation:** the award-winning program for Tour Guides and Tour Operators in Australia's Tropical Savannahs across the north of the continent.
- **Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program:** developed in partnership with the Wet Tropics Management Authority, this maps accredited units in Flora/Fauna/Landscape, Cultural Heritage and Tour Commentaries, with specific content around the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Accredited Training

Savannah Guides partners with numerous Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) to deliver units and qualifications under the Australian Tourism and Hospitality Training Packages. Statements of Attainment and Qualifications are issued by the RTO. In most cases the RTO's scope also includes Hospitality, Land Management or other Training Packages that can be combined with Tourism / Tour Guide Training. Many students are eligible for subsidised training.

Available Qualifications include:

- SIT10116 Certificate I in Tourism (Australian Indigenous Culture)
- SIT20116 Certificate II in Tourism
- SIT30116 Certificate III in Tourism
- SIT30316 Certificate III in Guiding



Tour Guiding Units of Competency combine into a Skill Set of any size:

SITTGDE101	Interpret aspects of local Australian Indigenous culture
SITTGDE301	Work as a guide
SITTGDE303	Lead tour groups
SITTGDE304	Prepare and present tour commentaries or activities
SITTGDE305	Develop and maintain the general and regional knowledge required by guides
SITTGDE306	Research and share general information on Australian Indigenous cultures
SITTGDE307	Prepare specialised interpretive content on flora, fauna and landscape
SITTGDE308	Prepare specialised interpretive content on marine environments
SITTGDE309	Prepare specialised interpretive content on cultural and heritage environments
SITTGDE401	Coordinate and operate tours
SITTGDE402	Manage extended touring programs
SITXHRM301	Coach others in job skills
SITXHRM401	Roster staff
SITTPPD401	Package tourism products
SITTPPD402	Develop interpretive activities
SITTTOP301	Load touring equipment
SITTTOP302	Provide outdoor catering
SITTTOP401	Allocate tour or activity resources
SITTTOP402	Set up and operate a camp site
SITTTOP403	Operate tours in a remote area

Non-Accredited Training

Savannah Guides delivers non-accredited training based on over 30 years of tourism industry experience in developing some of Australia's most awarded tourism businesses and products. These programs feature real-life examples and practical tools to build skills and deliver concrete outputs.

Savannah Guides issues certificates acknowledging achievement in the following Topics Areas:

Tour Guiding Topics

Who are Your Guests? Guests' Cultural Differences Planning Your Tour Deciding on Content From Ranger to Tour Guide Speaking in Public Confidently Your Guiding Personality and Story Managing your Energy Storytelling Interpretive Techniques Building Guest Interaction Body Language Tips Vocal Skills and Speech Habits Social Skills Risk Management Tour Legalities	Group Management Environmental Impact Customer Service Dealing with Difficult Guests Assessing Your Guiding Performance Flora, Fauna and Landscape Overview The Science of Rock Art Telling Cultural Stories Photos for Guests and Social Media Walking Tours Bird Guiding Star Gazing Geology Basics Australia's Natural History Seasons and Cycles Researching Local History
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Business Development Topics

Establishing a Business Planning Your Business Financial Management Basics Operational Effectiveness Experience Development – Tours Experience Development - Accommodation Experience Development – Attractions Site Development and Management	Developing Operational Manuals Developing Guide Training Manuals Building Your Networks Market Ready / Export Ready Marketing Strategies Website Basics Digital Marketing Basics Providing Visitor Information
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All Topics and Delivery can be tailored to your needs.

For further information please contact Russell Boswell: M: 0408 772 513 E: info@savannah-guides.com.au

www.savannah-guides.com.au



10 Ways To Be A More Sustainable Guide

By Hirani Kydd, Tour Guide and Savannah Guide Director

These days the word sustainability gets thrown around a lot. As Savannah Guides we strive to be "Protectors and Interpreters" of the Outback, which means we need to take care of the place so it's there in the future; we need to be sustainable.

There are plenty of things we can do to help protect the many wonderful places we work in, as well as the world in general. This is just a quick list of a few easy changes we can all make:

- 1) Take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints. We've all heard it, and hopefully we're all doing it.
- 2) Go one step further and reduce your footprints. Walking tracks and pathways are put in for a reason so stick to the path. The more people who go off track, the more damage there is done. This is especially important in sensitive environments. The flow on effects from people jumping the fence can include reduced vegetation and unnatural erosion.
- 3) Still on the "leave nothing" theme ... take your rubbish with you, and if you see someone else's rubbish, pick it up too (if practical). I strive to pick up at least one piece that isn't mine each day.
- 4) Reduce your disposables. Reusable coffee cups aren't just a fad, and it's not hard to wash up a few mugs at the end of the day (or to get customers to wash their own). This year I took REAL cutlery with me on tour and refused the plastic forks on behalf of passengers when we got salad packs etc for lunches. Most of them were actually pretty happy to use metal rather than flimsy plastic to eat with too. I still haven't found a practical solution for the takeaway containers the salads come in, but I'm sure we'll get there eventually!
- 5) Don't stack rocks ... and don't let your customers do it. There's plenty of environmental disturbance happening already, why create more? It may seem minimal, but when you move rocks around, you destroy something's home. You also spoil the view for the next person.
- 6) Educate yourself about what the local issues are in your area. Are there any endangered species? Are there any mining interests? Where does any litter flow to during rain?
- 7) Be eco-sunsafer. There's some evidence that certain chemicals used in some sunscreens, like oxybenzone and octinoxate, may be harmful to coral reefs, and scientists have also found build ups of these chemicals in certain fish communities. There's even some research to suggest these chemicals are hormone disruptors in humans! So think about what sunscreen you use, and where the water you're swimming in flows to. Could you reduce the need for so much sunscreen by wearing a rash vest?
- 8) For those that drive, reduce your fuel consumption, and by default, reduce emissions. Don't be a lead foot. Accelerating and breaking steadily will use less, and cruise control on nice bits of highway can help too. I know people want aircon, but leaving buses running for extended periods will also use extra fuel, so don't idle for too long.
- 9) Reduce your water waste by limiting your shower time, and encouraging the same in others. If you've got a bus to wash, don't get too excited with the hose. Wet it down, give it a scrub, then rinse it (and be careful what chemicals you're using). Think about how you store your water. If you're not going to drink it all before it goes warm and you pour it out and refill with chilled stuff, do you really need that much in the bottle? Of course if you're hiking, take appropriate amounts.
- 10) Finally, don't be afraid to talk about the big issues. We're here to help protect the environment and show people why they should appreciate it. You don't have to bore people with a lecture, but if you can positively change the perspective of just one person, you've changed the world a little bit.



Savannah Guides Limited operates the EcoGuide Program in Australia. This national nature-based tour guide accreditation program delivers great benefits for EcoGuides, growing the links between nature-based Tour Guides around Australia.

Savannah Guides also operates the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program and of course the original Savannah Guides accreditation, with discounted articulation available between all programs. Just ask if you feel your career could benefit through an additional credential.

Savannah Guides is also working in several regions developing tailored programs for specific situations. Together these programs create a network of well over 500 nature and culture based Tour Guides and many leading Tourism Operators involved in professional and personal development.

The benefits for everyone include access to Regional Workshops, Field Schools, Training Programs and Resources, job links and a National Communication network.

How can you connect more with these opportunities and help us build the professionalism of Tour Guides across Australia?

**Savannah Guides was recently a Finalist in the Queensland
Outdoor Recreation Federation's Outdoor Awards for
Outstanding Achievement (Organisation)**

Check out a range of handy
resources about any outdoor
activities at qorf.org.au



CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE NEWLY CERTIFIED ECOGUIDES

Vincent Antony	Victoria
Cristene Buckland	South Australia
Karen Ellis	South Australia
Jonathan Graham	Northern Territory
Jacinta Harders	South Australia
MJ Iverach	Northern Territory
Chase Johnson	Northern Territory
Andres Lukac	Queensland
Emma Luscombe	South Australia
Tom Nixon	Victoria

CONGRATULATIONS CALYPSO STAR CHARTERS!

Calyпсо Star Charters is an Advanced Eco-Certified adventure tourism business in Port Lincoln and a proud Climate Action Leader, offering two of the most exciting marine adventure tourism experiences in the world—Shark Cage Diving with Great White Sharks and Swimming with Sea Lions! They have six EcoGuides on staff and are constantly looking for Professional Development opportunities.

In the recent South Australian Tourism Awards they won three awards for Adventure Tourism, Tourist Attractions and People's Choice!





2019 AFRICAN EXPERIENCE!



JOIN 4 WEEKS OF SOUTH AFRICAN FIELD GUIDE TRAINING

Savannah Guides has developed an unprecedented professional development opportunity for Australian Tour Guides, Operators, Rangers, Protected Area Managers, Researchers and their partners. This unique Savannah Guides program is made possible with our partners Ulovane Environmental Training. This is not a course – it is a taste of four different environmental tour guide courses. No pressure, just the immersion!

A PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL JOURNEY

A life changing experience, sampling environmental training in South Africa's Eastern Cape. Observe an array of wildlife (including over 200 birds for the dedicated). Train with local and international students in engrossing field-based activities. Work with expert trainers in a range of habitats. Learn about wildlife, guiding in Africa, land management, protected areas and reserves. Share memories with the friendly Ulovane team. Experience a special time in Africa.

WHERE does the training take place?

- Ulovane Reserve, beside Amakhala Game Reserve: <http://ulovane.co.za/about/camp-facilities-location/>
- Much of the practical side of the course takes place in Amakhala Game Reserve www.amakhala.co.za
- A range of nearby reserves and habitats are also used.
- The closest city and airport is Port Elizabeth.



WHAT are the Requirements?

- Fit and Healthy ~ Positive Attitude ~ A Thirst for Learning and Adventure
- You do not need a study visa. You may enter on a Visitor's Visa, issued on arrival in South Africa.
- Participants are invited to prepare a 30 minute presentation for Ulovane students on a topic of their choice (environmental, tourism, guiding etc).

2019 Dates

- Arrive 17 February – Depart 17 March 2019
- Arrive 12 May – Depart 09 June 2019
- Arrive 11 August – Depart 08 September 2019
- Arrive 03 November – Depart 01 December 2019



COST includes:

- ✓ All transfers during the different weeks, including two airport transfers
- ✓ Accommodation for the duration of the four week course in a shared room (2 - 3 students per room), with ensuite bathroom. Bed linen, towel, a cupboard, a desk and a chair is provided
- ✓ All meals during the four week course
- ✓ Game drives, walks and other field trips
- ✓ Reference Books: Tracks and Signs Field Guide + Southern African Mammals Field Guide + Two Oceans Field Guide + Roberts Birds of Southern Africa
- ✓ Uniform Items: 2 x Ulovane Polo Shirts + 2 x Collared Ulovane Shirts + 1 x Cap + 1 x Polar Fleece Long Sleeve Sweater
- ✓ All practical and classroom activities and tuition
- ✓ Mobile phone reception at camp (MTN or Vodacom work best) and Wifi (weather permitting!)
- ✓ All of this for approximately AUD \$3715 (AUD \$928 per week)! Subject to Currency Exchange Rates.
- ✓ Please check with your accountant – this may be a tax deductible expense for many participants.



WHAT to expect at Ulovane Campus:

- There are usually two courses running at a time, with each group being 5 - 16 people, so it's a friendly scene at Ulovane camp. The campus has safe walking areas, social dining and recreation rooms.
- Pack extra goodies and be prepared. Supermarket delivery twice weekly. BYO alcohol.



WEEKLY EXPERIENCES:

Week 1 – Your South African experience will kick off by joining the Track and Sign evaluation week of the Trails Guide Course. This is an extremely interesting week where the learners will be tested on their Track and Sign Identification skills. Master Tracker, Louis Liebenberg, will conduct the evaluations which are always humbling and tremendous learning experiences. You will receive a great insight as to what is included in the qualification and life as a Trails Guide in Africa.

Week 2 – Join the FGASA Level 1 learners during their Week 7 of a 10 Week Introductory Guiding Course. These students will be well on their way in terms of their overall knowledge, understanding and guiding skills and will start refining their driving and guiding skills to prepare for their practical drive assessments with real guests the following week. See what is involved in the Level 1 Qualification and vehicle based safaris. The main focus of this week will be African Mammals.

Week 3 – In Week 3 you will join the first week of the Marine Guiding Course. The focus will be an overview of many different marine and coastal environments, climate and oceans around South Africa. You will undertake a range of field trips to gain a greater understanding of different marine and aquatic environments and interact with the Marine Guiding students to sample the life of a Marine Guide.

Week 4 – For your final Week you will join the first week of a Bird Guiding Course. This will focus on introducing students to the amazing birdlife in the coastal and thicket environments of South Africa. The week will consist of early morning field trips finding as many species as possible as well as classroom sessions researching these birds in more detail regarding feeding, breeding and general behaviour. Your final week will give you an understanding of what is involved in being a Bird Guide in Africa.



HOW do I sign up?

Further details and application packs are available from: info@savannah-guides.com.au

- All Applications and Deposit Payment should be made through Savannah Guides.
- AUD 300.00 deposit required to secure your place. This is non-refundable.
- Balance of payment of ZAR 34,830 (approximately AUD 3715) is payable to Ulovane Environmental Training two months prior to your commencement date and is non-refundable. Should you cancel due to unforeseen circumstances you should be covered by your travel insurance.

TRAVEL Arrangements

- Savannah Guides can recommend Port Elizabeth hotel accommodation, pre/post Addo Elephant Park touring and a travel agent for airfares and Travel Insurance if required.
- Arrival: An Ulovane representative will pick you up at Port Elizabeth on Sunday at 1:00pm.
- Departure: Will be on Sunday from the Campus at 9:00am and an Ulovane representative will ensure you get to Port Elizabeth airport on time for your departing flight.



BE A PART OF THE 2019 AFRICAN EXPERIENCE!

info@savannah-guides.com.au

Savannah Guides and Ulovane Environmental Training

Information Pack 2019



2018-19 BOARD AND MANAGEMENT SAVANNAH GUIDES LIMITED



Left to Right:

Hirani Kydd (Oz Tours Safaris, Cairns, QLD), Rick Edwards - Vice-President (Oz Tours Safaris, Cairns, QLD), Russell & Samantha Boswell (Managers, Cairns, QLD), Mick Clark - President (Ellenbrae Station, The Kimberley, WA), Steve Grainger (Tropical Treks, QLD), Vicki Jones - Treasurer (Red Dirt Tours, Winton, QLD), Leanne Hayter (Taronga Zoo, Sydney, NSW), Ivor Davies - Shadow Board Member (Undara Experience, North QLD).

Not Pictured: Andrew James - Shadow Board Member (Oz Tours Safaris, Cairns, QLD)

Savannah Guides Uniform Item Price List

Hat Band	\$ 11
Savannah Guide Patch (Large or Small)	\$ 15
Savannah Guide Pin	\$ 15
Name Badge	\$ 20
Sock Protectors	\$ 25

Savannah Guides Membership Price List

Friend of Savannah Guides (Individual Employed by SGL Enterprise)	\$ 50
Friend of Savannah Guides (Individual)	\$ 90
Friend of Savannah Guides (Enterprise)	\$215
Savannah Guide	\$105
Senior Savannah Guide	\$205
Retired Savannah Guide	\$ 80
Special Member	\$105
Enterprise Membership	\$500

EcoGuide Price List

Application	\$130
Annual Membership (Discounts apply for many already accredited Guides)	\$ 99
EcoGuide Pin-On Badge	\$ 15

What is ...

www.xeno-canto.org



xeno-canto is a website dedicated to sharing bird sounds from all over the world.

Whether you are a research scientist, a birder, or simply curious about a sound that you heard out your kitchen window, we invite you to listen, download, and explore the bird sound recordings in the collection.

But xeno-canto is more than just a collection of recordings. It is also a collaborative project. We invite you to share your own bird recordings, help identify mystery recordings, or share your expertise in the forums. Welcome!



SAVANNAH GUIDES MEMBERS ARE ...

TOURISM AWARD WINNERS!

QUEENSLAND TOURISM AWARDS



Cobbold Village won Gold for Hosted Accommodation and were inducted into the Tourism Hall of Fame



Capricorn Caves won Gold in the Tourist Attraction Category

NORTHERN TERRITORY BROLGA AWARDS

Rick Murray (Retired Savannah Guide) won the Tourism Minister's Perpetual Trophy. HUGE Congratulations Rick!

Rick Murray has been actively involved at the coal face of nature based tourism for over 30 years, jointly pioneering experience based minimal impact tours with Odyssey Tours & Safaris. Rick has served on a number of boards including Tourism NT, Kakadu Tourism Consultative Committee, Kakadu National Park Board of Management, Nitmiluk Tours and Ecotourism Australia. His company Middlestar is currently providing mentoring services to several Aboriginal owned small businesses in the NT.



OUTBACK QUEENSLAND TOURISM AWARDS

Cobbold Village	Hosted Accommodation
Cobbold Gorge	Tourist Attraction
Adels Grove	Caravan and Holiday Parks



Outback Aussie Tours Tour and Transport Operator



Rod Low Mow (Savannah Guide) won the Vince Evert Award for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Rod, owner and operator of Savannah Guides Enterprise Adels Grove is known for his favourite saying, "Welcome to my Backyard". Rod's passion for showing off Outback Queensland has only grown stronger over the years and he remains a proud Savannah Guide.

Congratulations



Bird Guiding & Bird Watching ...

What's the Difference?

By Ivor Davies, Senior Savannah Guide

Clearly one is a Profession, the other is a Hobby.

One is about providing a service where the customer's needs are paramount the other is about meeting your own needs.

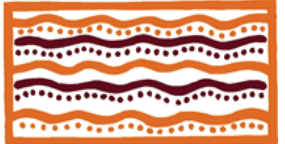
Bird Watchers are commonly involved in community likeminded groups. They visit both local and far-flung places to pursue their interest. Some are Citizen Scientists contributing to the body of professional knowledge, blogging new sighting's or experiences and are generally quite active in the birding community. Others just enjoy watching birds and finding new birds, sharing their interests with family members and friends or sinking their time into photography. While others will plan their holidays around finding that missing bird from their Life List.

Bird Guides are professionals who protect and interpret nature and all things birds. Our job is to find, see, observe, identify, interpret habits and habitats and to protect environments for birds. Remember, Professional Guides have the same Aims and Best Practice Guidelines no matter what they are guiding. To be a good Bird Guide here are some great pointers:

Preparation:



- Know Your Group - School Kids, Novices, Interested Non-Expert Birders etc.
- Carry a Professional Kit: Binoculars; Bird Field Guide or two; Notebook and Pen, Carry Bag; List of Common Birds for the Area; First Aid Kit.
- Pick your Ground – a comfortable area.
- When Presenting or Talking ensure you face the sun or lights, not your guests.
- Introduce Yourself, Wear a Name Badge, Introduce your Topic
- Explain any Housekeeping – Toilets, No Littering, Hat, Duration of Session, What to do if they lose the Group, Can they hear and understand you?
- Be aware of any Impairment Issues and make allowances for them – hearing, sight, walking etc.
- Always use an Interpretive Guide / Bird Book. Hold the Book open and facing your customers when interpreting.
- Involve your customers in the Interpretation Process. Remember that the Experience is for them, not for you to show how good you are.
- Encourage Questions.
- Use an Icebreaker. I ask where people are from, have they used binoculars before, are they Birders, introduce them to others in the group, ask children's names (generally children under 9 years old cannot use binoculars therefore care needs to be taken to keep these children interested).
- Ask if anyone has a specific aim for their tour eg: to see a specific Bird?
- Start by showing all participants how to focus binoculars using one eye at a time and the two focusing spindles (close right eye – use centre focusing spindle. Then change eyes and use the right dioptic to gain a focus. Use centre spindle for focusing from then onwards.
- Check that guests wearing glasses have their binocular sighting cups rolled or twisted in. Out for non-spectacled guests.
- Advise your Group what you will be doing – Introduction to Binoculars, Bird Observing, Bird Identification using the Field Guide.
- Understanding what "GISS" is (General Impression of Size and Shape—pronounced "jizz") and understanding a little about bird habitats and feeding preferences.
- Then demonstrate how to sight a bird with binoculars by looking at the subject first and then bringing the binoculars up to your eyes. If no bird can be seen, move binoculars up slightly.



During The Tour Itself:

Prepare for a Theme so that you can “hang your story together.” An example could be to discuss Habitats and Behaviours of Birds or Bird Sight and Behaviours or Season Changes and Migration / Flyways or Conservation.

Explain that birds are in every part of the ecosystem not just in a tree. Encourage participants to chat, point, and share their sightings. Ensure that all participants get some of your time. When moving your group:



- Talk – Walk – Stop and Talk – Walk – Stop and Talk and so on. If you are asked a question whilst walking please do not answer it there and then. Advise the enquirer that you will answer the question at the next stop. At the next stop tell the group that the question was and what the answer is. The same holds true for walking or driving tours.
- Beware of changing ground and weather conditions.
- Do not lose anyone in the group, count regularly.
- Stay within your allotted tour time or check with guests to extend (only if that's possible for the majority and your schedule).
- Plan for a change of habitats.
- Encourage group observations, checking that the whole group gets a sighting, where possible.
- Use your book to identify every sighting, show guests what is being seen and heard.
- Introduce diagnostics. Ask guests what they are seeing, ask questions eg: “what colour eye ring are you seeing”, “what type of habitat are we in” etc.
- Use your Field Guide to check identification options.
- Demonstrate how to observe a bird and describe what is seen.
- When a bird is identified provide some interesting interpretation on its habits, habitat, migration, flyways etc.

- Look at and involve your group members.
- Be Enthusiastic.

Concluding Your Tour:

- Thank Your Participants
- Provide a list of the birds seen
- Get their contact details for your employer
- Seek feedback by way of a Feedback Form
- Provide participants with on-sell opportunities at your employers shop, another tour, another Park or another birding opportunity etc.



A good group size is 5 – 12 people

Tours are generally 1 – 2 hours unless you have Experienced Birders

Please Do Not:

- Talk about how good you are
- Take guests away from your employer
- Criticise another Guide, Operator, Park Official or Policy
- See a bird and just call out its name and leave it there
- Walk and Talk
- Negate a customer's question
- Get sucked into being dominated by a single guest
- Allow a guest or guest's child to spoil a tour for other guests



Photography for Bird Guiding is a Core Skill for Birding Guides also, but that is for another Article!



The Ongoing Work of Savannah Guides is generously supported by the following Corporate Partners



QUEENSLAND
NATIONAL PARKS
Keep DISCOVERING



Queensland Government

The Department of Environment and Science
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
& BUSINESS ADVISOR



Australia's Adventure Drive



LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

Through our ecotourism networks we have come across a fascinating operator in Bhutan: Dzombaling Tours & Trek . Check out www.ecotoursbhutan.com for more information and stunning images!



Tips for Tour Operators

Facebook Group: Tour and Activity Owners Worldwide
www.travelbusinesssuccess.com
www.rezdy.com/blog/5-trust-building-tips-for-tour-operators/

Online Travel Agency News: Booking.com has recently acquired Fareharbour, and Trip Advisor has bought Bokun, meaning that accommodation and activity bookings are increasingly becoming more integrated. Changes to commissions are anticipated.

What is happening in your world?

Amazing Story?

What New Resources have you Discovered?

Where are you now?

Great Image?

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE

Share with: info@savannah-guides.com.au

We'd like to build the guiding content resources on the Savannah Guides Website to help support our 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!

RESOURCES



CALL OUT ...

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**See you at our
Capricorn Caves
Field School!**

**DETAILS WILL BE EMAILED TO YOU AND
AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE
VERY SOON!**

