

SAVANNAH GUIDES

Communicator



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Welcome to our December Newsletter!

I don't know about you, but Di and I are still coming down from the amazing Burketown Field School. Yagurli Tours, Gangalidda Garawa Rangers, the Carpentaria Land Council and Burke Shire Council really looked after us during our stay. Some people said "That was the best School ever" ... and they had been to quite a few! Under the stars on the vast Burketown Salt Pans we proudly accredited two Indigenous Guides as Savannah Guides. A big Savannah Guides Welcome to Rodney and Brenton!



Meanwhile on the other side of the World ... three adventurous ladies have just had the time of their lives at Ulovane Environmental Training in South Africa having sampled Trails & Tracking, Birding, Marine and Safari Guide training ... and taking thousands of photos! You too should consider taking advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity? 2018 details are inside!

Welcome to our new EcoGuide and Supporters readers. Let's keep connecting

and encouraging others to experience the amazing benefits and networking opportunities of Savannah Guides!

Wishing you and yours a fabulous Festive Season!

Mick Clark

President
Savannah Guides



INSIDE ...

- 2018 Field Schools Announced!
- Welcome New Members
- Burketown Field School!
- Awards Awards Awards!
- Member Profile
- EcoGuideNews
- Australasian Bird Fair
- Snakebite Update

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.



Burketown Field School 19-22 October 2017



Mick & Murradoo Yanner Jr playing with pythons!



Anneliese getting up-close and friendly with a juvenile crocodile



Fishing expert Rod pulling in a fabulous stingray!



In the shade of Escott Crossing Murradoo Yanner Snr shares stories and some didge music.



Cruising on the Albert River



SMILE ... Group Shot!



Alex & Linda on the Saltpans



The Savannah Guides Field School in Burketown welcomed 54 Participants including 21 Indigenous Rangers and Coordinators from Burketown, Normanton, Cape York and The Kimberley, many of whom have attended Savannah Guides Field Schools before.

The theme of this Field School was "Indigenous Rangers and Tour Guides" with a major focus on the new Burketown Indigenous tourism venture, Yagurli Tours.

Highlights included:

One whole day centred on the delivery of the Yagurli Tours product range, showing aspects of their Town Tagalong, River Boat and Fishing tours. Participants were split into three rotating groups so everyone experienced each of the tours. The coordination of this field trip day was outstanding and showed many logistical considerations that have come from Yagurli Tours' experience in hosting visitors and events. It was a great example to all who participated in "how to do it".

On two of the evenings a very special tour opportunity was arranged for ten people only on each trip. Names were drawn out of a hat. Participants went crocodile spotting and catching on the Albert River after dark with the Gangalidda Garawa Rangers. Some amazing stories were told about these evenings!

Our last evening was a barbecue dinner on the Burketown Saltpans including bush tucker and fish that was caught on our Yagurli Tours day. After an incredible sunset, newly accredited Savannah Guide, Rodney Kum Sing gave us a Stargazing Presentation which included Indigenous stories. Two huge telescopes were set up for our participants to view the planets and stars. It was an evening that will never be forgotten.

Two of the younger Rangers presented on reptiles of the area and brought in specimens for us to view including a juvenile crocodile, python and turtles. Their expertise in this area was evident and participants gained new insights into some key species.

A field trip to Woods Lake saw the Rangers explain and demonstrate some aspects of their work: seasons; fire regime; weed control; feral animal trapping and biodiversity surveys. This was incredibly informative and led to discussions and comparisons within our group.

Our open floor discussion "Indigenous Tourism Development – Challenges and Achievements" on Saturday was very worthwhile, as we asked all participants to share their experiences in developing and delivering cultural tourism.

We learnt about Migratory Waterbirds and the Flyway Network Site at Tarrant with major input from Roger Jaensch, who together with Ivor Davies, led our early morning optional Birdwatching and Bird Guiding sessions. Thank you gentlemen.

There was a general guiding skills session including how to present yourself, eg: voice projection, body language, choice of words, presentation and grooming etc.

In a great moment for Savannah Guides, two Yagurli Tours guides were assessed and accredited as Savannah Guides. We have been working with Yagurli Tours for over a year, helping to develop Operational and Interpretive Plans. This long term relationship has been a great two way partnership and we will all be seeing a lot more of the Yagurli Tours team into the future.

Extra special thanks to Rachel and Marnie and the entire Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. Their work behind the scenes was nothing short of incredible.





Geoff in a smiling competition
with this little bloke!



Jen, Ange & Phil on the Saltpans!



Our Classroom!



Traditional Jam Session!

"One of the best Schools ever!"



Incredibly informative afternoon at Woods Lake with practical demonstrations



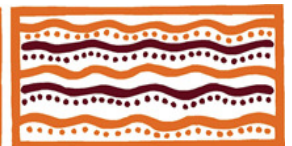
A Happy Crew on the Albert River



Checking out the Telescopes!



Gerry & Bill Catching Up!





Andrew & Kelston



Out and About on the Yagurli Tours Town Tour



Keen Twitters!



The Artesian Bore - A Birding Hotspot!



Harold & Rod kept reeling them in!



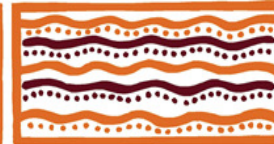
Wil in his element with Murrando!



Di & Rod on the Saltpans!

Burketown Field School

19 - 22 October 2017



OUR NEXT SAVANNAH GUIDES SCHOOL

will be held in ...

Carnarvon Gorge, Queensland
22-25 March 2018

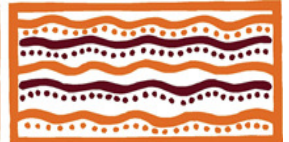
Join us for four days in the field
at this incredible location!



**This promises to be an amazing Field School exploring ecology through deep observation.
Everyone is welcome to participate with Simon Ling and Michelle Whitehouse from
Savannah Guides Enterprise Australian Nature Guides**

Accommodation and Camping options are both available.

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



AND THEN ...

Kakadu National Park, NT
26-29 April 2018

**We hope you can join us for one or both Field
Schools ... you will not be disappointed!**



We will catch up with our Northern Territory mates during this Field School, and if you haven't been to Kakadu for a while, this will be a great way to see it!

Come along and see a different part of northern Australia ... 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/>



Welcome to the Team!

Rodney Kum Sing - Yaguri Tours

Rodney is a proud Gangalidda man and has lived in Burketown for most of his life. He likes fishing, hunting, camping and practicing his culture. Rodney is passionate about showcasing the natural allure of his traditional lands in the lower Gulf. As the Manger of Yagurli Tours, he plays an important role in leading the charge to further open up the Gulf to the benefits of a thriving and sustainable tourism industry. Rodney constantly strives to be the best he can be and he plans to use his training and experiences as a Savannah Guide to build on his own local knowledge and training. Rodney has had a long involvement in various economic development projects in the lower Gulf region. He believes that Indigenous owned and operated local tourism ventures provide the best opportunities for local people to secure both economic development and sustainable environmental management in their communities.



Rodney aspires to continue to create and develop employment opportunities for his mob in the lower Gulf region. Rodney is honoured to play a part in helping to secure a better future for his people.

Brenton Yanner - Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers

Brenton has worked with the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation since 2009 and is currently the Head Ranger of the Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers in Burketown. As a traditional owner of Burketown, he cares very deeply about managing the land and sea country in the lower Gulf region. Brenton appreciates the importance of being a Savannah Guide and actively strives to use his local knowledge and training to better develop and showcase his region's natural beauty and tourist attractions. He hopes to collaboratively build on that knowledge and experience alongside the Savannah Guides. As an Indigenous Ranger and local tourism operator, Brenton is able to provide a unique and valuable insight into the natural allure of the lower Gulf region. Brenton enjoys fishing, hunting, camping and practicing his traditional culture.



Congratulations to these talented and valued new Members!

Jason Schwerin - Undara Experience

Hi - I'm Jason and I'm 51 years old. I was born in Toowoomba where I have spent the majority of my life with the exception of 1½ years in Nanago and 9 years in Brisbane. I enjoy playing golf and my wife and I love caravanning. I started my working life in a hardware store before becoming a Glaziers Assistant. After 5 years I commenced working within Juvenile Detention, progressively working my way up the ranks. 16 years of shift-work takes its toll on one's health so my wife and I started up our own maintenance business which we successfully ran for 3 years. After that I became a Maintenance Supervisor at a Retirement Village and after 10 months was offered the Site Managers role. I was in this role for 8 years during which time I completed my Diploma in Management. For a long time my wife and I were grappling with the idea of taking the gigantic step of travelling and working around Australia. We commenced our trip on 28 May 2016 travelling with a group of friends for 5 months through central Queensland, the Gulf, Northern Territory and the top end of Western Australia. In Exmouth we found a job Relief Managing at a caravan park on the Cape Range side of Exmouth. Next we Relief Managed a Caravan Park in Killarney which gave us the opportunity to catch up with family and friends. It was here that we saw the advertisement seeking staff for the 2017 season at Undara Experience. We jumped at the chance as it was something completely different. We commenced at Undara on 17 April and loved every minute of our time in the outback. Becoming a Tour Guide was an experience I am grateful to have been given. During our 7 months at Undara I was able to attend a Savannah Guide Field School, I passed my Peer Assessment and am now an accredited Savannah Guide and proudly wear my Savannah Guide Patch!



Queensland Tourism Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to Simon & Gaye Terry from Savannah Guides Enterprise Cobbold Gorge who scooped up two Awards:

GOLD AWARD for Hosted Accommodation and a **HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARD** for Tourism Attractions !



TNQ Tourism Industry Excellence Awards

These Awards were held in Cairns during our Burketown Field School. Our Manager, Russell Boswell is also a Board Member of Tourism Tropical North Queensland and he was able to make a very important announcement regarding one of the Winners who was at the School.



Bram Collins with his Dad, Gerry Collins

Outback Queensland Tourism Awards

SAVANNAH GUIDES ENTERPRISE SCOOP AWARDS!

Fabulous News and Congratulations to these Enterprises:

- Outback Aussie Tours who won best "Tour & Transport Operator"
- Australian Age of Dinosaurs who won best "Major Tourist Attraction"
- and MORE APPLAUSE for Simon & Gaye Terry who won "Best Outback Pub" for Goldfields Hotel, Forsyth and "Hosted Accommodation" for Cobbold Gorge!



The Outback Aussie Tours Team!



Naomi Miles, Business Development Manager, Australian Age of Dinosaurs



Glenda, Cath, Kim, Gaye and Simon



Undara Experience Managing Director, Bram Collins was a major award winner. A tourism industry veteran, Bram won the Outstanding Contribution by an Individual category for his "commitment to the development of quality guiding across Northern Australia."

After a standing ovation, Bram made a passionate speech including paying tribute to his Father, Gerry Collins, who was also present and a former winner of that very same Award.

CONGRATULATIONS BRAM!



BIG NEWS ... On 1st July Savannah Guides commenced operating the EcoGuide Program in Australia. This is Ecotourism Australia's national nature-based tour guide accreditation program and will deliver great new benefits for EcoGuides and grow the links between nature-based Tour Guides around Australia.

Savannah Guides already operates the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program so this opportunity is a natural fit, along with growing partnerships with other nature / culture sector guide groups. Savannah Guides is creating a network of hundreds of nature based guides and partnerships supporting Tour Guide professional development, careers and lifestyles.

Benefits include Regional Workshops and Field Schools, Training Programs and Resources, and National Communication Links. We will keep you in touch with developments.

Savannah Guides wishing to become an EcoGuide receive a discounted Application and Annual Fee and the process has been streamlined to take into account your status as a Savannah Guide and the Peer Assessment process you successfully completed to achieve this.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THESE NEW CERTIFIED ECOGUIDES

Ben Abedi, VIC	Nygell Allan, QLD
Mikako Charkisky, QLD	Amy Effeney, QLD
Stephen Grainger, QLD	Dylan Jones, NSW
Ena Ladd, QLD	Fiona McTavish, QLD
Miwako Shimamura, QLD	Genichi Shiroto, QLD



The crew from Tall Ship Adventures during their Onsite Assessment!



TALL SHIP ADVENTURES DAY SAILING
Derwent Hunter

The Captain's Log

11 October 2017

We're becoming EcoGuides!

The business was one of the first in the Whitsundays to achieve Certification as a whole, and now we are taking steps to ensure all our staff have EcoGuide accreditation too!

Why? Because we cherish our natural environment, want to protect the Great Barrier Reef and its inhabitants, and share our knowledge with our guests.

EcoGuide Certification is a national program, recognising guides who deliver an authentic, environmentally responsible and professional experience. The program is owned by Ecotourism Australia and operated in Australia by Savannah Guides.

What does it entail?

The Certification process is quite in-depth. Our guides have to undergo a written and in-person assessment of both generic and eco-specific guiding skills such as:

- knowledge of the tourism industry;
- roles and responsibilities of a guide;
- communication skills;
- safety and risk management;
- group management;
- developing and delivering tour activities;
- content knowledge;
- minimal impact principles;
- a commitment to ongoing professional development, and
- respecting Indigenous culture

The whole certification process can take up to a year to complete, but our crew are steaming ahead. We have already completed the written assessments, and had the onsite assessment this week too.

Since this newsletter was published, all four applicants have successfully completed all tasks and all are now CERTIFIED ECOGUIDES!

Congratulations Tall Ship Adventures!



The Winner of The Val Speedie Outstanding Tour Guide Award **is ... Angela Clucas!**

At the Burketown Savannah Guides School when my name was announced as the recipient of the 2017 Val Speedie Outstanding Tour Guide Award I could not have been more surprised and it took a while for the shock to subside and the reality to sink in. I am hugely honoured to have been thought worthy of this wonderful recognition by those who nominated me and those who supported that nomination and I sincerely thank everyone involved in the process.

As a tourist, I had been impressed by the Savannah Guides I had encountered whilst travelling, so looking for a career change, I approached Savannah Guides in 2013 to discover what it takes to become a tour guide and I was overwhelmed by all the encouragement I received at my first Savannah Guides School in Alice Springs. Since then I have attended more schools, studied a lot, made wonderful friends and the ongoing generous support and encouragement from Savannah Guides has continued solidly.

Enormous thanks go to Rod & Michelle Low Mow for taking the risk of employing a complete novice guide in 2015, giving me the opportunity to pursue a dream and taking the time to steer me in the right direction to help develop my guiding skills season by season at Adels Grove.

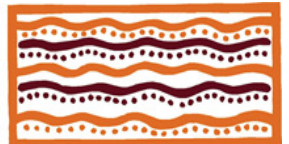


Very special thanks also to Russ and Sam Boswell who took me under their wing right from the start and have always been there at the end of the phone to talk over questions or issues any time. Other particular Savannah Guides who have inspired and helped me to become a guide worthy of the Val Speedie Award include Mick Clark, Alan Smith, Steve Grainger, John Warren, Lee Hayter, Nev Prentis, Rick Edwards, Mark Pugh, Gerry and Bram Collins, Phil Clucas, also Friends of Savannah Guides, Robin and Maddy Gentle, who have been extremely supportive colleagues and Schalk and Candice Pretorius, along with their incredible Ulovane team, who opened my eyes to what is possible. Thank you all so much for being outstanding role models who have nudged me to work hard and continually learn, grow and improve. I feel exceedingly humbled to receive this honour and will always strive to live up to the reputation of the esteemed lady that this award commemorates.

Angie Clucas

EcoGuide Workshop in Adelaide

Ecotourism Australia and Savannah Guides held a workshop for South Australian tour guides at the Adelaide Zoo after the recent Global Eco Conference. Ice breakers, Storytelling, The Chinese Visitor and EcoGuide assessment process was covered before some high quality interpretation from Adelaide Zoo guides Brett Haby and Rose Richards focusing on the neighbouring environment and the zoo's iconic Pandas. Enthusiastic participants came from Adelaide Zoo, National Parks (DEWNR), Kangaroo Island and even Port Augusta.





El Questro is located 100 kilometres west of Kununurra on the Gibb River Road in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

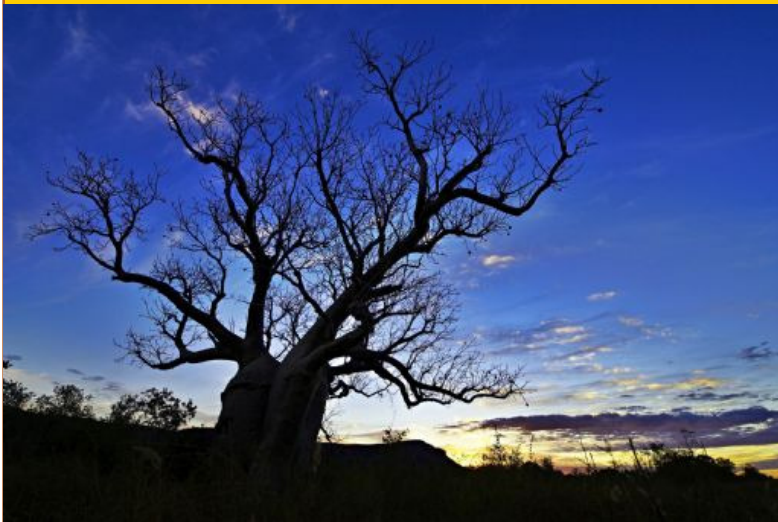
Initially only cattle were farmed on the million acre station but in the early 1960's some attempts were made to grow Townsville lucerne, corn and vegetables which were sold to the Ord Irrigation Scheme workers.

In 1991 a wealthy young English entrepreneur, Will Burrell bought the run down station and along with his Australian girlfriend Celia Shelmerdine, developed El Questro into an internationally renowned tourist destination.

These days thousands of visitors come to enjoy the stunning spring fed waterfalls accessed by deep sandstone gorges, challenging 4WD tracks that lead to amazing lookouts, exciting Barramundi fishing trips, helicopter flights, soak in the thermal waters of Zebedee Springs or just relax under a Boab Tree.

Three resorts offering different levels of accommodation ensure that all guests can come and enjoy the natural beauty that El Questro has to offer. For those who choose to bring their own accommodation, a large campground with modern amenities, shop and bar are located at the Station Township. El Questro is one of those must visit places if you're touring around the Kimberley.

www.elquestro.com.au



SAVANNAH GUIDES



Enterprise

Huntsman Spiders

Australia's huntsman spiders are the most interesting of their family, and deserve their place in the pantheon of Australian wildlife.

There are currently 1,207 species of huntsman spider in the Family Sparassidae, out of the total 45,881 described spider species worldwide. It is estimated that there are 155 huntsman spider species found throughout Australia.

Tropical Queensland's *Holconia hirsuta* is one of the fastest spiders recorded in the world and runs 42 body lengths per second compared to Usain Bolt's sluggish 5.2 body lengths per second.



WHAT AN IMPACT WE CAN ... AND DO MAKE!

Received via email on 24 August 2017 ...

Hi Russell,

Getting this newsletter reminds me to send you an email saying how impressed I was with the three Savannah Guides we had guided tours with during my partner and my recent (5+ weeks) trip to Cape York. From memory we had Savannah Guides at Undara, Cobbold Gorge and somewhere else (!). They were all excellent and I have just one suggestion. I think each guide should tell visitors what this "Savannah Guides" thing is - maybe a couple minutes at the beginning or end of their tour - as most people don't have a clue and I think would find it really interesting to know how it works and why they belong.

I must say that some of the [non-Savannah] guides I had elsewhere were noticeably less trained and skilled ... is it time to replicate the model further south???

Hope you are well.

Betty

Enterprise Member "Outback Aussie Tours" featured in the Aug/Sep 2017 Edition of "The Road Ahead" ... have a read ...



DAY ONE

Depart Roma Street Station in Brisbane on the Spirit of the Outback. Taking around 25 hours to travel 1320km to Longreach, this train doesn't break any speed records but is considered by many travellers to be Queensland's last great rail journey.

DAY TWO

Longreach is the ideal outback base for soaking up the history and heritage of this amazing region. Visit Camden Park Station, a cattle property and homestead close to town, to talk to friendly owners the Walker family and discover what it means to live and work in the west.

DAY THREE

Pick up a hire car early from Longreach airport and head for Winton (179km) on the Matilda Highway. Dinosaurs are all the go here and your first stop should be at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum

of Natural History. The museum recently opened Dinosaur Canyon, an impressive facility set in an ancient landscape that features full-size and beautifully crafted dinosaur replicas. While in Winton, take a sunset guided visit to Rangelands, a mesa just outside of town which offers impressive views and interesting geological formations.

DAY FOUR

Start early to drive the three hours to Barcaldine. A very pleasant place for a picnic in natural surroundings is Lara Station and Wetlands, about 30km out of town on the Blackall road.

If there was a street tailor-made for a pub crawl, it would be Barcaldine's Oak Street, which has five pubs within paces of one another. Also on Oak Street is the distinctive Tree of Knowledge memorial outside the railway station, an icon of the Labor Party and Trade Unions.

Another must-visit is the Barcaldine Radio Theatre on Beech Street. This gem has a 90-year history and shows movies most Friday and Sunday nights - admission is only \$8 and tea or coffee just \$1.

DAY FIVE

If you set off for Longreach (107km) early, you will have enough time to take in at least one of the town's two major attractions - the Qantas Founders' Museum and Stockman's Hall of Fame - before dropping off your hire car and catching a mid-afternoon Qantaslink flight home. You'll need at least an hour or two to see the Qantas Founders' Museum at Longreach Airport. The museum restaurant/cafe serves excellent lunches. The Stockman's Hall of Fame is an outback icon, located opposite the airport. There is a very enjoyable stockman's show at the hall during the late morning in the tourist season.

HITTING THE ROAD WILL NEVER BE THE SAME ONCE YOU'VE TRAVELLED WITH A SAVANNAH GUIDE. JANE HODGES GOT ONBOARD WITH OUTBACK AUSSIE TOURS.

A FIVE-DAY, LEGENDARY

Longreach and Winton Tour with Alan 'Smitty' Smith, owner-guide of Outback Aussie Tours, is a unique experience. Smitty has been guiding people around Queensland's outback from Birdsville to Cape York for the past 29 years, providing expert knowledge of the area's natural and cultural heritage, the roads, the locals and even where to get a great cocktail.

The outback is where a small group, guided tour comes into its own. There's time for questions and special requests and each day the area's natural, pioneering and Indigenous history unfolds. Enjoy great food and

company, explore breathtaking outback landscapes and soak up the tranquillity of this ancient landscape.

Take a seat in Australia's largest classroom at the Longreach School of Distance Education, join a guided jett tour at the Qantas Founders Museum and explore the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame. Relax with a beer on the Thomson River Drover's Sunset Cruise, followed by Smitty's Outback Dinner and Show.

"Every person takes something different away that is their own memory of one of Australia's most special places," Smitty said.

outbackaussietours.com.au



Join Outback Aussie Tours on their Legendary Longreach and Winton tour and experience some of the best outback Queensland has to offer. Visit the Qantas Founders Museum, Stockman's Hall of Fame, Australian Age of Dinosaurs and more. Enjoy a relaxing Drover's Sunset Cruise, followed by Smitty's famous Outback Dinner and Show. For details about this package, call RACQ Travel on 1300 188 713.

AUG/SEP 2017 THE ROAD AHEAD 25

"GULFLANDER" WET SEASON SHUT-DOWN PERIOD 2017-2018



The Last scheduled Gulflander service for 2017 will operate as follows:

Wednesday 13th December 2017 departing at 8:30 am Normanton to Croydon

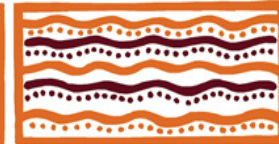
Thursday 14th December 2017 departing at 8:30 am Croydon to Normanton

The Gulflander service will resume in 2018 as follows

Wednesday 14th February 2018 departing at 8:30 am Normanton to Croydon

Thursday 15th February 2018 departing at 8:30 am Croydon to Normanton

The resumption of Gulflander services is dependent upon favourable weather conditions.





MEMBER PROFILE

Lee Hayter

A direct descendant of The First Fleeters, Lee has Sydney in her blood. Her happy-go-lucky nature initiated her business name, *She'll Be Right Tours*, for her guiding adventures.

Lee is an experienced guide and trainer at Taronga Zoo and Western Plains Dubbo and of course, has explored the savannah landscape.

She is also a guide for the City of Parramatta Council, including delivering nature tours for those new to the community and eager to understand the Australian bush.

"I remember growing up, playing outdoors all the time. We had a creek running behind our property and I would go exploring for hours. Just being in nature. Listening and watching. I used to dig up funnel web spiders and observe them. How I was never bitten I'll never know!"

After completing Year 12 at Marsden High School, Lee went straight into an apprenticeship.

"I was hired as a Hand and Machine Compositor/Typesetter and stayed in that trade for 16 years until I decided to redirect my career somewhere more exciting. So I started at Taronga, worked through a diverse series of roles and completed my Zoo Keeping Certificate III. I specialised in Cephalopods for my Husbandry Manual.

My main focus at the zoo has been managing volunteers and as part of the role, leading tours. Working closely with Media Relations, some highlights were escorting high profile VIPs including Jane Goodall, Bette Midler, Brad Pitt, Jackson Brown, John Fogarty, Crosby Stills and Nash, Rick Springfield, Billy Crystal and my favourites, The Doobie Brothers, to name a few. I was invited to their concert with backstage passes. Well, you could imagine the excitement when I rocked up with my partner Grae, who is also a musician.

That leads me into my other side venture – playing bass guitar when I'm not guiding. Since 2000, we've had a family trio called *Something Else* working mainly at clubs and functions.

I was always seeking professional development and in 2014 I learnt about Savannah Guides from a previous zoo Manager. The upcoming Field School was to be at El Questro and I remember feeling anxious and worried to attend and it was hard for this city chick to get there. I waited until the following year and attended the Undara Field School. It was the most welcoming and fun experience. I was hooked! By the next Field School at Adels Grove I presented on Interpretation, in Broome was accredited and at Cooktown I became a Board Member. I'm loving the experience and being able to contribute to an organisation I truly believe in."

Lee has a Certificate IV in Guiding, Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and Certificate III in Tourism. She's serving her second year as Savannah Guides Board Member and has attended guide training schools from the Wet Tropics to Ulovane in South Africa.

Ask Santa to take a look at CSIRO Publishing for some great resources:

Field Companion to Mammals of Australia, Edited by **Steve Van Dyck** \$45

Bird Minds - Cognition and Behaviour of Australian and New Zealand Birds, by Gisella Kaplan \$45

Australian Grasses, by Nick Romanowski \$29.95

www.publish.csiro.au



CSIROPUBLISHING



NIJINDA DURLGA (TARRANT) FLYWAY NETWORK SITE

During our recent Burketown Field School we saw some very interesting presentations on the East Asian-Australian Flyway. Of particular interest was the role that Burketown's newly designated 'Tarrant' shore region and the local Indigenous rangers are playing in shore bird survival through habitat preservation and public education.

Flyways are broad corridors used by migrating birds. For waders (shorebirds), eight flyways have been defined in the world. Three flyways are important for migratory waders in the Asia-Pacific region. These are (from East to West), the Central Pacific, the East Asian-Australasian (the one where we see our shore birds from), and the Central Asian Flyways.

Australia has many international agreements to help manage and preserve the flyways, the three most important ones are with Japan, Korea and China. Volunteers and Government departments are involved with shore birds and their habitat preservation.

While the exact numbers of waders in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway are unknown there are probably a minimum of 4 million migratory waders. Within Australia there are estimated a minimum of 1 million resident waders and a minimum of 2 million migratory waders that visit our shores each March to September, the birds non-breeding period.



Far Eastern Curlew

Roger Jaensch, Ornithologist, focused on the largest of these birds, the Far Eastern Curlew and the smallest, the Red-necked Stint in his presentation. We were lucky enough to see both of these birds during the Field School. Roger was also kind enough to make himself available throughout the Field School for bird identifications which were always accompanied by full professional interpretation. He also conducted many impromptu micro training sessions notably to and from, as well as at, the town's famous Artesian Bore and Wetlands.

Sightings of the Long-toed Stint, Swinhoe's Snipe, Rufous-throated Honey-eater were highlights as well as sessions trying to sort out those pesky waders from each other.

Thanks Roger!

Good links to follow-up for those interested:

<http://awsg.org.au/flyways/>

<http://www.eaaflyway.net/migratory-waterbirds-in-eaaf/key-species-of-eaaf/>



Red-necked Stint





2018 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 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? Ulovane 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.

REQUIREMENTS? Fit and Healthy ~ Positive Attitude ~ A Thirst for Learning ~ Valid Driver's License
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 any topic.

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.

2018 DATES:

18 February – 18 March 2018 / 13 May – 10 June 2018

12 August – 09 September 2018 / 04 November – 02 December 2018

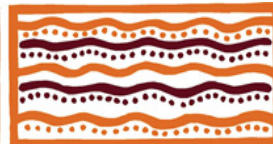
COST:

Approximately AUD 3420.00 (subject to currency fluctuations)

Includes 4 weeks accommodation, meals, books and field trips.

Fifteen Members and Friends have already taken advantage of this amazing opportunity in 2016 and 2017. We'd be happy to share their experiences with you.

**ASK NOW ABOUT YOUR
AFRICAN EXPERIENCE!**
info@savannah-guides.com.au





Tour Guide Program

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. Two recent 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 the Daintree Rainforest in October and another is scheduled for February 2018.

2017 also saw the introduction of Completion Days – 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!

More details at: <http://savannah-guides.com.au/professional-development/wet-tropics-tour-guide-program/>

FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF SAVANNAH GUIDES FOUND ...

Russell met John Clark, a Founding Director of Savannah Guides, at a Chillagoe Workshop he attended earlier this year. Now with Kowanyama Aboriginal Land and Natural Resources Management, John is a proud Ewamian man and Grandfather. He was born at Cobbold Gorge and grew up in Mt Garnet. Later moved to Kowanyama and has been instrumental in Ranger work there.

He established Ranger Training at Cairns TAFE with Viv Sinnamon. John also helped establish the Mitchell River Catchment Group. It was only a brief chat, but John is thrilled at the enormous difference Savannah Guides makes to northern Australia and was very proud to have been a part of its very beginnings!

MORE HAPPY TRAVELLERS

Received via email on 07 August 2017 ...

Recently we toured the northern outback regions of Queensland. We really appreciated the work of the Savannah Guides at:

Undara Lava Tubes

Cobbold Gorge

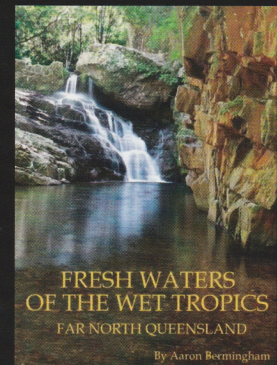
Boodjamulla / Lawn Hill

And Carnarvon Gorge

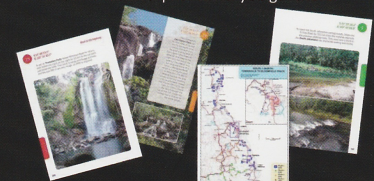
The sharing of knowledge about geology, flora, fauna and history was extensive, interesting, and very respectful of the Indigenous history and current presence.

Thank you.

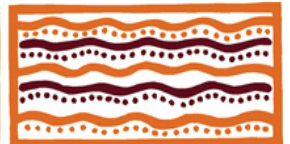
Dorothy and Russell Allison,
Adelaide, SA



The Wet Tropics is a world heritage area covering almost 900,000 ha between Townsville and Cooktown in Far North Queensland Australia. This book features 203 different sites in this area including waterfalls, mountain streams, major rivers, lakes, swamps, swimming holes, and all types of fresh water that is easily accessible to the general public. With maps and GPS settings, it shows how to reach these places and over 300 beautiful images show what to expect when you get there.



For more information and sales go to
www.freshwatersofthewettropics.com



AUSTRALASIAN BIRD FAIR & WILDLIFE EXPO

The Australasian Bird Fair held in Sydney this year, provided a platform for birdwatchers, researchers and conservationists to connect, share knowledge, plan trips and tours and discuss all things birds and wildlife. Many exhibitors came from around Australia and other regions, including Mongolia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and New Zealand.



Steve Grainger with Costa Georgiadis, host of ABC's TV's Gardening Australia



Savannah Guides!

Lee Hayter, Steve Grainger, David Mead and Mick Jerram

Savannah Guide Lee Hayter who lives in Sydney visited the Bird Fair and caught up with Savannah Guides Members and Exhibitors including Mick Jerram from Gecko Canoeing and Trekking (www.mickjerram.com), David Mead from Great Northern Tours (www.greatnortherntours.com.au) and Steve Grainger from Tropical Treks Guided Bushwalks and Birdwatching (www.tropicaltreks.com.au).

The Bird Fair was a successful event, even with the cold and rainy weather as birders are an intrepid lot! The next Bird Fair will be held in 2019.

Some Interesting Facebook pages:

ABC Far North
The Wilderness Society
Visit Capricorn Region, QLD



The North West Star
Birdwatching Tropical Australia
Australia's North West

CAPRICORN CAVES FOSSIL TOUR!

Travel back in time on a fossil tour at Capricorn Caves. Discover the secrets entombed in these caves over millions of years with our expert palaeo guides. All of these fossils are new to science and represent one of the most unique records from tropical Australia. Discover hidden fossil treasures from an ancient reef to an ancient rainforest on a working palaeontology excavation with your magnifying glass. See fossil skeletons of strange marine creatures that lived before the time of the dinosaurs. Discover the giant beasts we call megafauna along with the cute, the bad and the bizarre creatures that roamed The Caves region hundreds of thousands of years ago. Imagine a killer marsupial 'lion' dropping from the trees or coming face to face with a giant venomous goanna. Encounter the Tasmanian tiger and meet our big-eyes bushy-tailed rabbit rat scientifically named after Capricorn Caves. Hear their stories of extinction and survival whilst wondering what our future may be.

See more at: www.capricorncaves.com.au/tours/

SAVANNAH GUIDES

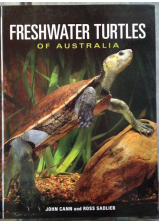


Enterprise



UPDATE FROM THE ...

2018 will kick off with a blockbuster 16 February Meeting with special guests John Cann and Ross Sadlier, recent publishers of the new edition of "Freshwater Turtles of Australia". A book about the life of John Cann himself should also be published by then. If you would like to order copies of these books, please contact Mike Anthony on capeherp@hotmail.com. The AGM will also be held on this evening.



CHECK THIS OUT!

Kuranda-based photographer, Greg Watson shares this story ...

"The culmination of a forty year dream-to have in my hands a mature Japanese Giant Salamander. It weighs 21kg! That's a 21kg SALAMANDER!!! It was like holding a slimy alligator.

I was EXTREMELY fortunate to be able to do this for a few short photos as they are strictly a no-touch animal in Japan. Very few people get to do this (legally). Several long discussions were required for this to take place. With this momentous event my quest to see the "big five" of herpetofauna in the wild has come to a gratifying conclusion. Leatherback Turtle, Reticulated Python, Komodo Dragon, Estuarine Crocodile, Tuatara and now this amazing creature.



Photos of habitat and it situ wild specimens, from youngsters to one as long as this, can be found in the Japan Gallery of:

www.gregwatsonphotography.com.au

Feel free to throw this all over the internet, I am proud and grateful."

Greg Watson

KAKADU / KIMBERLEY SENIOR GUIDE WANTED



Life's An Adventure is a dynamic company specialising in award-winning walking tours throughout Australia. We are seeking a guide to join our Northern Territory / WA Team for a guiding role for our 5 Day Kimberley and Kakadu Walks from May to end of August 2018.

This position would suit someone based in Darwin with an outgoing personality, good people skills, a can do attitude and fantastic organisational skills. The role will involve guiding, logistics for our 5 Day Walking Tours in NT and WA staying in 3-5 Star accommodation mostly.

You must have:

- Qualification in Certificate 3 or 4 in Outdoor Recreation or Guiding
- Remote or Wilderness First Aid Certificate
- Outgoing Personality and Excellent People Skills
- Good Communication Skills
- Organisational Skills and Ability to use ones initiative
- Flexibility / Adaptable Attitude to unforeseen circumstances and changes of plan
- Sense of Humour and a Can Do Attitude
- Driver's License (preferably LR) and PPV License NT

This is a permanent position for a fixed period of four months with the option to continue working with us for the Eastern states season from September to April.

Please send your Application with photo and a covering letter why you would be perfect for the role to:

mark@lifesanadventure.com.au

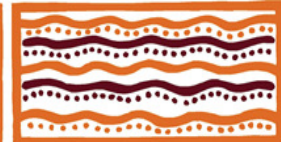
AUSTRALIA'S BIODIVERSITY ONLINE

Flora of Australia is the definitive catalogue of plant taxonomy (the names of plant species and their relationships to each other), originally printed as a collection of volumes. Taxonomy, though, isn't some static, unchanging field. Our knowledge of the Plant Kingdom family tree grows each time a new study is published.

Now **Flora Australia** is available online, with around 14,000 profiles including information on 'nomenclature, distribution maps, images, biodiversity data, and identification keys'.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/flora/main/>

The **Atlas of Living Australia** is a platform for biodiversity data. Explore regions, species and much more! See <https://www.ala.org.au/>



Burketown Field School

19 - 22 October 2017

~ The Official List of Birds Spotted ~

Birds in Italics were spotted between Georgetown and Burketown

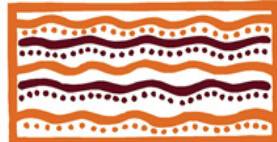
1	Apostlebird
2	Babbler, Grey-crowned
3	Bee-eater, Rainbow
4	Bittern, Black
5	Bowerbird, Great
6	Brolga
7	Budgerigar
8	Bush-hen
9	Bustard
10	Bustard, Australian
11	Butcherbird, Pied
12	Buzzard, Black-breasted
13	Cockatiel
14	Cockatoo, Red-tailed
15	Cockatoo, Sulphur-crested
16	Coot, Eurasian
17	Corella, Little
18	Cormorant, Little black
19	Cormorant, Little Pied
20	Coucal, Pheasant
21	Crake, Baillon's
22	Crane, Sarus
23	Crow, Torresian
24	Cuckoo-shrike, Black-faced
25	Cuckoo-shrike, white-bellied
26	Cuckoo, Brush
27	Cuckoo, Channel-billed
28	Cuckoo, Shining Bronze
29	Curlew, Bush-stone
30	Curlew, Eastern
31	Darter
32	Dollarbird
33	Dotterel, Black-fronted
34	Dotterel, Red-kneed
35	Dove, Bar-shouldered
36	Dove, Diamond
37	Dove, Peaceful

38	Drongo, Spangled
39	Duck, Australian Wood
40	<i>Duck, Freckled</i>
41	Duck, Pacific Black
42	Duck, Pink-eared
43	Duck, Plumed Whistling
44	Eagle, Little
45	Eagle, Wedge-tailed
46	Eagle, White-bellied Sea-
47	Egret, Cattle
48	Egret, Great
49	Egret, intermediate
50	Egret, Little
51	Emu
52	Fairy-wren, Red-backed
53	Fairy-wren, Variegated
54	Falcon, Black
55	Falcon, Brown
56	Falcon, Peregrine
57	Figbird, Australian
58	Finch, Double-bared
59	Finch, Zebra
60	Flycatcher, Leaden
61	Flycatcher, Paperbark
62	Flycatcher, Restless
63	Friarbird, Helmeted
64	Friarbird, Little
65	Friarbird, Silver-crowned
66	Frogmouth, Tawny
67	Galah
68	Godwit, Black-tailed
69	Goose, Green Pygmy
70	Goose, Magpie
71	Grassbird, Little
72	Grebe, Australasian
73	Greenshank, Common
74	Gull, Silver



75	Hardhead
76	Harrier, Spotted
77	Heron, Great-billed
78	Heron, Nankeen night
79	Heron, Pied
80	Heron, Striated
81	Heron, White-faced
82	Heron, White-necked
83	Honey-eater, Black-chinned
84	Honey-eater, Blue-faced
85	Honey-eater, Brown
86	Honey-eater, Dusky
87	Honey-eater, Rufous-throated
88	Honey-eater, White-gaped
89	Honey-eater, White-throated
90	Honey-eater, Yellow
91	Honey-eater, Yellow-tinted
92	Ibis, Australian White
93	Ibis, Glossy
94	Ibis, Straw-necked
95	Jacana, Comb-crested
96	Jacky Winter
97	Kingfisher, Azure
98	Kingfisher, Forest
99	Kite, Black
100	Kite, Black-shouldered
101	Kite, Whistling
102	Knot, Red
103	Koel, Common
104	Kookaburra, laughing
105	Lapwing, Masked
106	Magpie-Lark
107	Magpie, Australian
108	Mannikin, Chestnut-breasted
109	Martin, Fairy
110	Martin, Tree
111	Mistletoebird
112	Moorhen, Dusky
113	Nightjar, Large-tailed
114	Nightjar, Spotted
115	Orieole, Olive-backed
116	Osprey, Eastern
117	Owl, Barn
118	Pardalote, Striated
119	Parrot, Red-winged

120	Pelican, Australian
121	Pigeon, Crested
122	Pigeon, Spinifex
123	Pipit, Australian
124	Plover, Grey
125	Plover, Oriental
126	Pratincole, Australian
127	Pygmy-Goose, Green
128	Rail, Buff-banded
129	Raven, Australian
130	Reed-warbler, Australian
131	Rosella, Pale-headed
132	Sandpiper, common
133	Sandpiper, Marsh
134	Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed
135	Sandpiper, Wood
136	Shelduck, Radjah
137	Shrike-thrush, Grey
138	Sittela, Varied
139	Snipe, Swinhoe's
140	<i>Songlark, Rufous</i>
141	Sparrow, House
142	Sparrowhawk, Collared
143	Spoonbill, Royal
144	Spoonbill, Yellow-billed
145	Stilt, Black-winged
146	Stint Long-toed
147	Stint, Red-necked
148	Stork, Black-necked
149	Swallow , Welcome
150	Swamphen, Purple
151	Swan, Black
152	<i>Swiftlet, White-rumped (Australian)</i>
153	Teal, Grey
154	Tern, Gull-billed
155	Tern, Whiskered
156	Triller, Varied
157	Triller, White-winged
158	Turnstone, Ruddy
159	Weebill
160	Whimbrel
161	Whistler, Rufous
162	Willie Wagtail
163	Wood-Swallow, Black-faced
164	Woodswallow, White-breasted



EASTERN BROWN SNAKES

Eastern Brown Snakes regularly come into contact with humans.

Between 2005 and 2015, eastern browns were responsible for 17 of the 23 snake bite deaths in Australia, with most victims dying from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest or bleeding on the brain.



Of the 296 eastern brown snake bites in that period, 18% caused acute kidney injury, and other ongoing complications were common.

Although they typically only inject a small amount, hatchling eastern brown venom is capable of killing an adult, so being bitten by a small snake does not mean it is harmless.

Adding to the difficulty, eastern browns range from red-brown to black or grey, can be striped, mottled or have a reddish band behind the head, and can look very similar to other harmless species.



RFDS UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR TREATING SNAKE BITES

Do NOT wash the area of the bite or try to suck out the venom. It is extremely important to retain traces of venom for use with venom identification kits.

Do NOT incise or cut the bite, or apply a high tourniquet. Cutting or incising the bite won't help. High tourniquets are ineffective and can be fatal if released.

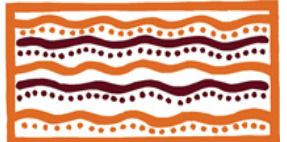
Do bandage firmly, splint and immobilise to stop the spread of venom. All the major medical associations recommend slowing the spread of venom by placing a folded pad over the bite area and then applying a firm bandage. It should not stop blood flow to the limb or congest the veins. Only remove the bandage in a medical facility, as the release of pressure will cause a rapid flow of venom through the bloodstream. A compression bandage can all but stop the flow of poison and can buy a bite victim hours.

The RFDS (Royal Flying Doctor Service) no longer advises bite victims to attempt to identify the snake after a paper published in the Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) in July found that snake identification was unreliable for people presenting to hospital with bites. Staying in the area after an attack can be dangerous.

Recent advances in medication mean any snakebite can now be treated with a generic polyvalent anti-venom.

Do NOT allow the victim to walk or move their limbs. Use a splint or sling to immobilise all limb movement. Put the patient on a stretcher or bring transportation to the patient.

Do seek medical help immediately as the venom can cause severe damage to health and even death within a few hours.



WORLD TOURISM DAY

Queensland's peak industry body for Queensland, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC), celebrated World Tourism Day announcing the 2017 QTIC Prize for Innovation in Tourism.

Brisbane-based scientific benchmarking, certification and advisory group, EarthCheck took out the award for its Building Planning and Design Standard to assess tourism project impacts.

The Australian Age of Dinosaurs and Capricorn Caves were announced as runners-up and will each receive mentoring and advice through TAFE Queensland's Building Better Business program.



Australian Age of Dinosaurs' David Elliott, EarthCheck's Melinda Watt, Kate Jones MP, Capricorn Caves' Ann Augusteyn and QTIC's Daniel Gschwind

AIRLINE FLIES ENDANGERED TURTLE BACK TO CAIRNS FOR CARE

If only this turtle could talk - it would have a shell of a tale to tell!

"Olive" travelled 2400km to get back to Cairns on Thursday courtesy of a commercial Qantas flight and a horde of passionate animal lovers.

The endangered Olive Ridley species normally lives off Cape York but was found floating more than 20km off Sydney.



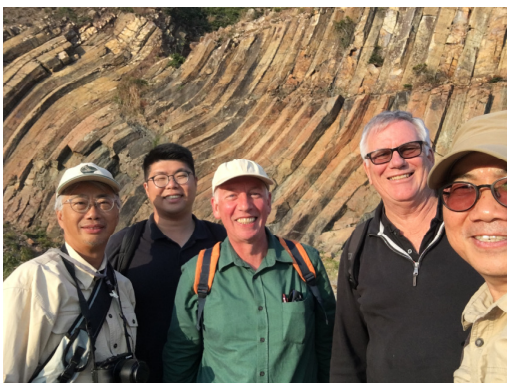
Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre co-ordinator Jennie Gilbert said Olive would surely have died had she been left at sea and was suffering 'floaters syndrome' which prevented her diving under the water for food. She said incredibly someone had found the reptile and taken her into Taronga Zoo with staff quickly recognising it as an endangered species way outside its usual turf.

Calls were made to Qantas and environmental authorities in Queensland and New South Wales, and the plan was set in motion with the airline agreeing to fly Olive home for free.

EcoGuides in Hong Kong!

The first EcoGuides in Greater China were accredited at a recent ceremony in Hong Kong. Ecotourism Australia has a partnership with Hong Kong Traveller, an Ecotourism Training Organisation, to deliver the program across China.

Savannah Guides Manager Russell Boswell joined Ecotourism Australia CEO Rod Hillman for the ceremony and workshops with Hong Kong Traveller representatives including



Director Steven Cheung and General Manager Derek Tse.

EcoGuides Francis and William led a stimulating tour of Hong Kong's High Island Global Geopark, and a celebratory dinner with the China program's Advisory Board and Assessors toasted the activation of a great partnership.

ecoguide
AUSTRALIA
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GUIDE



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



QUEENSLAND
NATIONAL PARKS
keep DISCOVERING



Queensland Government

The Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service



Australia's Adventure Drive



Where



are you?

What is happening in your world?

What new resources have you discovered?

Where are you now?

Great Image?

Amazing Story?

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE send to:

info@savannah-guides.com.au

RESOURCES

CALL OUT ...



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!

IT'S NEVER
TOO YOUNG
TO START
TEACHING
CULTURE



Catch us on



See you at our
Kakadu and/or
Carnarvon Gorge
Field Schools!

DETAILS WILL BE EMAILED TO
YOU AND AVAILABLE ON OUR
WEBSITE EARLY IN
THE NEW YEAR!



The END!

