

SAVANNAH GUIDES

Communicator



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

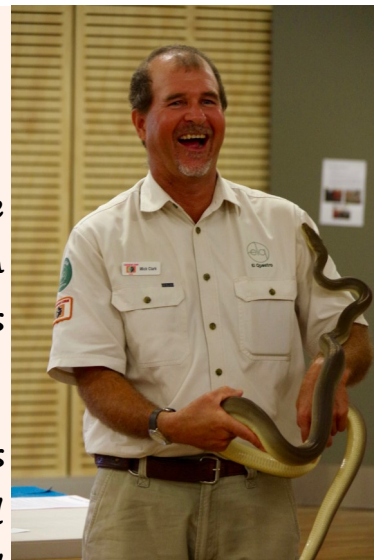
JUNE 2018

Welcome to our May Newsletter!

And ... Happy 30th Birthday to Savannah Guides!

May should see most of our readers getting stuck into the beginning of, hopefully, a brilliant tourism season in northern Australia as people from the cold southern states head north for the Winter.

This Newsletter is jam-packed with fascinating nature bits and pieces, from weather patterns to birds, dolphins and even flies ... plus loads of pictures from our two Field Schools earlier this year ... Carnarvon Gorge and Kakadu National Park!



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!

INSIDE...

- Field Schools Announcements
- Welcome New Members
- Member Profile
- EcoGuide Update
- Australia: Land of Birds
- El Nino and La Nina
- Flies are Awesome
- Savannah Guides turns 30!

Wishing you all a cracking 2018 and hopefully we'll meet at a Field School in the near future!

Mick Clark

President
Savannah Guides



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

Happy 30th Birthday to all our Members past and present. Savannah Guides celebrates 30 years of continuous success in 2018. From humble beginnings in Queensland's Gulf Savannah in 1988 Savannah Guides has grown to be the industry leader in tour guide training and tourism services. A huge thank you to all our early Members and founders for having such foresight in establishing this wonderful organisation.

It was a flying start to the 2018 season with two jam-packed Field Schools held recently at Carnarvon National Park in Central Queensland and Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory. These field schools offer attendees great opportunities to mix with other guides and like-minded people, the collective knowledge is immense and the learning opportunities are boundless. Organising these workshops involves a lot of time and energy. My personal thanks to all involved who have generously donated their precious time, in particular Simon Ling, Michelle Whitehouse and Vicki Jones for Carnarvon Gorge and Andy Ralph, Pauline Rayner and Ben Humphries for Kakadu. Special mention to our highly organised Managers Russell and Sam Boswell for piecing them all together so they both ran smoothly.

I would briefly like to mention the passing of Life Member Gerry Collins, one of our founding fathers and owner of Undara Experience. Gerry's contributions to Savannah Guides especially in those early years was visionary, valuable and greatly appreciated. My warmest wishes go out to the Collins family.

At our recent Carnarvon Gorge Field School, and as part of our 30 Years Anniversary Celebrations, an Appreciation Award was presented to Russell and Sam Boswell for the enormous efforts and contributions they offer to Savannah Guides. Congratulations to you both and thank you for all your hard work. A big thank you as well to Ange and Phil Clucas for organising this award and to Lee Hayter for her under the radar work in keeping us all informed.

But wait there's more ... one of the highest accolades was awarded to Russell Boswell at the Kakadu Field School. CONGRATULATIONS Russell for being presented with Life Membership of Savannah Guides. Russell's outstanding commitment and continual enthusiasm over many years has helped Savannah Guides grow from strength to strength, well done Russ! Can't wait to see your Certificate hanging proudly on your wall.

Hoping you all have a successful 2018.

Mick Clark

President
Savannah Guides Limited



Welcome to the Team!

A very warm welcome to our newly accredited Savannah Guides:

Mindy Bambrick	Capricorn Caves
MJ Iverach	Kakadu Tourism
Chase Johnson	Wildlands Wetlands Safaris
Steve Lippis	Australian Age of Dinosaurs
Tanya Mellar	Australian Age of Dinosaurs
Alex Mudryk	Adels Grove
Denis Prendergast	Undara Experience
Lucas Zielke	Capricorn Caves



*A huge shout out and mega Congratulations to **Lee Hayter** and **Ange Clucas** for their tireless efforts and commitment to Savannah Guides ...*

*We were thrilled to promote these two lovely ladies to **Senior Savannah Guide** at our Kakadu Field School.*



Mick and Ange



Mick and Lee



Chase and Mick



Steve and Tanya



Denis and Steve



Steve and Lucas



Mick and MJ



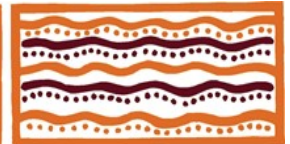
Alex and Steve



Mindy and Steve



Steve L and Steve G



Carnarvon Gorge Field School

22 - 25 March 2018



"The Interpretation Training was very Beneficial"



Wow! It's hard to believe that two months have passed since Australian Nature Guides hosted our very first Savannah Guides Field School. A year ago, when we first put our hands up to host, we knew we were committing to a huge amount of planning and preparation, but recognised that this would be an amazing opportunity to showcase our values, knowledge, skill, business, and products in the place we know best - Carnarvon Gorge.

Sam and Russ shepherded us to the point where we had an itinerary, dates, venues and presenters. The Field School was open for bookings and quickly sold out! Shit got real! There was no turning back!

On Wednesday 21 March a sea of Savannah Guides in sock protectors (about 50 in reality), descended upon Carnarvon Gorge. Luckily, the bar was fully stocked, ready for our arrival.

The overarching theme, "Ways of Knowing & Interpreting Nature", was explored over the following four days with a range of interactive workshops such as turning curly questions into teachable moments, basic geology skills and an introduction to plant physiology. All of which were very well received.

Some energetic souls tackled Boolimba Bluff, which meant climbing almost one thousand stairs to take advantage of a spectacular viewpoint over Carnarvon Gorge and surrounds. We may have huffed and puffed, but it was worth every step. Others opted for a gentler walk up to the Lodge Lookout, which offers fabulous views of the sandstone cliffs illuminated by the morning sun.

One whole day was dedicated to exploring the Gorge itself, visiting the Art Gallery, Ward's Canyon, Amphitheatre, and Moss Garden along the way. As is often the case, Savannah Guides asked a lot more questions than the general public, so we definitely did not make it back on time, making for a fairly tight turnaround.

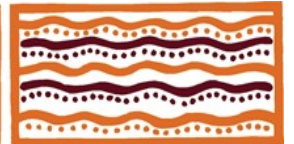
Then, it was party time! To celebrate the 30th Birthday of Savannah Guides, we turned the clock back to 1988, donned our best 80's outfits and danced the night away. Everyone looked fabulous, and it was clear some had put in huge effort! Some familiar faces turned up including Elvis, George Michael, and even the classic Rubik's Cube made an appearance. A great night was had by all.

Thank you, everyone, for participating so enthusiastically. We look forward to hosting another school in the future, but perhaps give us a few years, it sure has taken its toll!

For those of you who missed out this time around, please know that you are always welcome to visit us here at Carnarvon Gorge. We'll show you around.

By Michelle Whitehouse, Australian Nature Guides







"Inspirational and Engaging!"



Carnarvon Gorge Field School

22 - 25 March 2018



OUR NEXT SAVANNAH GUIDES FIELD SCHOOL

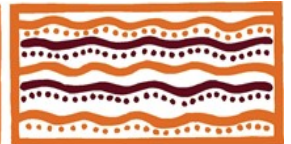
will be held at ...

Fitzroy Crossing, The Kimberley
4 - 7 October 2018



Explore the spectacular Kimberley with Indigenous Guides ...
Geikie Gorge, Windjana Gorge, Tunnel Creek and Mimbi Caves!
An amazing four days in some of the most fascinating country in northern Australia!
Everyone is welcome to participate.
Accommodation and Camping options are both available.

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



AND WE KICK 2019 OFF WITH ...

Capricorn Caves, Queensland 28 - 31 March 2019



**We will catch up with our 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/>



Tourism NT Activity



Cooinda Lodge

Yellow Water Sunrise Cruise



Ubirr Rock

Kakadu Field School 26-29 April 2018

Interpreting Kakadu



Bowali Visitor Centre



The Power of Storytelling



Five Top Tips for Tour Guides



Guluyambi Cultural Cruise

Kakadu Tour Guide Course



Kakadu Billabong Safari Camp



Nourlangie Rock



Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre



Kakadu Bush Tucker



Jabiru's Tourism Future



Mercure Crocodile Hotel



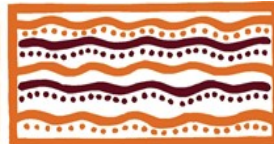
Managing Crocodiles in Kakadu



The African Guiding Experience



Evening Crocodile Monitoring on Yellow Water



Vale Gerry Collins

Victor Gerald (Gerry) Collins was born in Cairns Hospital on 24th of July 1937.

Gerry attended boarding school at All Souls in Charters Towers from 1948 - 1953 and Toowoomba Grammar School until the end of 1954 when he transferred to Gatton College to study a Diploma of Agriculture and Stock, which he really enjoyed.

The birth date of 24/7 seemed to suit Gerry, because he was someone who didn't let the grass grow under his feet. Gerry went to Sydney to learn to fly in 1958. After gaining a private pilots licence, he went into the stock camp at Spring Creek for a short time before he and his brother David moved to Echo Plains, a small block of 1300 acres on the Tully River, purchased for tropical pasture development for the purpose of finishing bullocks bred at Spring Creek.

After 18 months Gerry returned to Spring Creek as Head Stockman. He was a good leader of men, working with them and enjoying time off with them. Whilst there he was able to continue to grow his love of horses and country racing, becoming a very handy jockey, winning many good races at country race tracks, particularly Oak Park and Mt Garnet. He went on to serve as a Committee Member of several Race Clubs.

Gerry met his wife of 54 years, Gillian Symes Warner of Cairns, in 1963. Marrying on 3rd January 1964, the young couple moved into a nice little new cottage on Spring Creek, built for them. Fast forward 40 or 50 years and when visiting Spring Creek, Gerry and Gillian still used to stay in that same cottage. Children, Nicola and Bram arrived over the next two and a half years and in 1967 the young family moved to Rosella Plains, where they lived until it was sold in 1988.

That was an action-packed twenty years for Gerry. He was one of the pioneers of aerial mustering. He served on the Etheridge Shire from 1969 to 1987 including nine years as Deputy Chairman. He became very active in Agripolitics chairing a number of State and Federal bodies.

In 1988 the family partnership decided to sell Rosella Plains and develop a tourism enterprise around the Undara Lava Tubes. The Undara Experience began decades before Rosella Plains was sold and it was driven by Gerry's burning desire to protect the unique biodiversity in, and immediately adjacent to, the Undara Lava Tubes. In developing his vision of the best way to protect whilst sharing this unique treasure with visitors, Gerry heard about a group of people developing an organisation called Savannah Guides, which he immediately joined as their vision as an organisation completely embodied what he was trying to achieve with Undara Experience. His development of Undara Experience opened new challenges and he soon found himself serving on the Boards of various Tourism Industry Organisations like Savannah Guides, a group that has grown from humble beginnings to be now widely recognised across the industry for its standards of excellence. Savannah Guides became a critical part of the Undara business from its inception through to present day. Gerry served for many years on the board of Savannah Guides and went on to become one of the organisation's first Life Members. He was awarded an Outstanding Contribution by an Individual Award at the local Townsville, Cairns & Queensland Tourism Awards as well as being awarded an Order of Australia Medal. At each of these ceremonies his contribution to outback tourism through his involvement in Savannah Guides was recognised. Gerry received Life Memberships from many of the organisations he served but it was his recognition from Savannah Guides he was most proud of.



Bram Collins with his Dad, Gerry Collins

He also wove his passion for family history into the Undara story. Gerry wasn't just totally focused on business. He devoted a lot of time and thought to his family, especially the nine grand children, whose progress through school and development as young adults, he followed closely. They, in turn, thought the sun shone out of "Dee Dar" and so it did.

His absence will be felt by many, but we will be comforted by knowing that he had achieved a great deal in his life time, was very content with where he was in his life and he passed away at peace with himself, his family and many friends.

Gillian, Nicola, Bram and families wish to extend their gratitude for the huge support they have received since Gerry's passing and in particular to those Savannah Guides who attended the funeral and who participated in the Guard of Honour for Gerry.



Australia: Land of the Birds

Australia is home to about 830 species – more if you include neighbouring islands – nearly one in 10 of the world's 10,000 or so living bird species. About 45% of these are endemics, found nowhere else.

We are lucky to have two of the world's largest and heaviest birds – the flightless cassowary and the emu – which are perhaps the most superficially similar to birds' dinosaur ancestors. And related flightless ratites were probably already common across the ancient supercontinent of Gondwana long before Australia split from Antarctica and South America.



Regent Bowerbird



Eclectus Parrot

Three groups of birds found widely worldwide – parrots, pigeons and songbirds – evolved in Australia, which explains why the former two are so diverse and abundant here.

Parrots, with their cacophonously noisy calls, immediately stand out to first-time visitors to Australia. They are so species-rich in Australia that – as biologist Tim Low notes in his book "Where Song Began" – New South Wales alone has almost as many parrots as the continents of Africa and Asia combined.

The songbirds are an enormous group of living birds, comprising about 5,000 species, such as the robins, mockingbirds, jays and thrushes of the northern hemisphere, and the magpies, bowerbirds and lyrebirds of Australia.



Lyrebird



Red Wattlebird

Throughout the 20th century ornithologists believed many bird groups evolved in the north, only later spreading to Australia. But songbird fossils were eventually found here that were up to 54million years old – much older than those found elsewhere in the world. Research also shows that the greatest genetic diversity of songbirds is found in Australia. Songbirds began to diversify in Australia 33million years ago but did not begin to spread beyond our shores for another 10million years.

The unique nature of Australia's eucalypt and paperbark forests has also shaped bird evolution. Gum blossoms, for example, provided a resource for great numbers of nectar-feeding honeyeaters. And as Low also points out, the presence of much nectar as a jealously guarded resource may be why so many Australian birds are raucously noisy – species such noisy miners, rainbow lorikeets and various wattlebirds. Australian birds generally are very noisy, even non-nectar feeders such as magpies, kookaburras and some cockatoos.



Superb Fruit-Dove



Southern Cassowary

There are many other ways in which Australian birds are unique. Many have power as "ecosystem engineers", exerting profound impacts on their habitats. Pigeons, fruit doves and cassowaries are all vital to spreading the seeds of fruit trees; lyrebirds reduce bushfires by frequently turning over leaf litter and effectively creating firebreaks; and huge numbers of birds are important pollinators.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/dec/01/birds-australia-world-greatest-diversity>



SAVANNAH GUIDES LIFE MEMBERSHIP

awarded to

RUSSELL BOSWELL

Our Kakadu Field School held a lot of surprises for many of us, but the person who was most surprised of all was our Manager, Russell Boswell when he was awarded Life Membership of Savannah Guides in appreciation of years of dedicated service.

There was a lot of applause, a lot of laughter and some tears as Russ sat in the "hot seat" while many Members offered their thoughts on this amazing gentleman. It should be noted that in the 30 year history of Savannah Guides, Russell is

the sixth Life Member.

The Official Speech, given by President, Mick Clark is below:

I would like to Congratulate you on receiving this Award for Life Membership of Savannah Guides.

Your outstanding contributions of time and energy are greatly appreciated by the entire Membership.

Let's look back at some of yours and your then employer Wilderness Challenge achievements and valuable contributions throughout your Savannah Guide history. Unearthing these facts took some degree of behind the scenes effort by your lovely wife Sam usually whilst you were away on Savannah Guides business.

In 1996 Wilderness Challenge became a Savannah Guide Accredited Preferred Operator.

In 1997 Russ was accredited as a Roving Interpreter.

In October 1998 Wilderness Challenge became a Master Operator and Tom Warnes became President.

April 1999 saw Russ become a Savannah Guide at the Normanton / Croydon School.

In October 1999 Tom Warnes is re-elected as President and Russ was elected as Treasurer.

In October 2000 Tom and Russ go to London when Savannah Guides Limited wins The British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Award for Tourism Organisations.

Russ is elected President of Savannah Guides in 2002 and holds the Presidency until 2004.

In February 2010 and still current Russell became the Manager of Savannah Guides.

There are many other notable achievements such as Winner of the Wet Tropics Management Authority Cassowary Award, Chair of Guiding Organisations of Australia and other Committees and Committee Member of all sorts of associations.

Russ I often hear from Members that their first impression of you is what makes their decision to join Savannah Guides ... your professional and easy going nature is a most valuable asset.

As Manager of Savannah Guides you hold a large responsibility in the day to day affairs of the business, your performance is always of the highest standard which shows in delivered outcomes time and again. Your endless enthusiasm, energy and professionalism is a driving force in the success of Savannah Guides.

As President and on behalf of the Members of Savannah Guides please accept this Life Membership Award for your outstanding efforts over many years.



Back in Cairns Russ sat down with Andrew James, Savannah Guide and former Journalist ...

Savannah Guides, it's about the story and but this story is about Russell Boswell. The recent Kakadu Field School was full of highlights but none more surprising for the Savannah Guides Manager who was given the highest of accolades, Life Membership.

30 years ago the Savannah Guides concept was born and it was only a year later the future "lifer" became involved with the movement. He said, "Life Membership is incredibly humbling given the array of leaders and characters who have been through Savannah Guides. There are few acknowledgements in life that would top it."

Russell left Sydney with his future father-in-law, Tom Warnes, to trek up to the far north and beyond. Could he say no? Perhaps not, after all he was dating Tom's daughter, Sam. But it was this changing life experience that has brought him to where he is now, managing Savannah Guides with Sam.

People who meet Russell have this instant rapport with him. His beaming smile, along with his gentle nature and that little giggle somehow captures those who are engaged in conversation with him. But it is his unassuming manner, assertiveness and measured dialogue that makes one listen.

1989 was his first venture into tour guiding up into Cape York. This seemed a natural progression for him. Back in Sydney, Russell remembers his first taste of adventure running barefoot as a kid through the bush and creeks. He then became involved with Scouts, thus planting a seed for his future destination. His school teaching days, running a small business, being involved in inbound tourism and experiencing the taste of tour guiding to the Blue Mountains put him in good stead in working as a tour guide across the Top End of Australia.

In this period, Tom Warnes had come across Savannah Guides and according to Russell it was everything that Tom valued. At this point-in-time there were no mobile operators but that soon changed and the era of Roving Interpreters was born.

Russell was working for Tom in the Savannah country and said Savannah Guides represented what he thought tour guiding and tourism should be. "It was grounded in genuine people, often small businesses, people who were truly in touch with the land and the culture around them," he said.

The partnership with Savannah Guides and friendships grew. The values of the organisation, "Protectors and Interpreters of the Outback", were cemented in him. The movement started to gain momentum.

In 1994, Russell became a Roving Interpreter. For 15 years Russell was interpreting the outposts of Cape York, Gulf of Carpentaria and The Kimberley. But with a young family there were pressures in being away for extended periods of time. It was at this time he became involved with TAFE, teaching those who wanted to become a tour guide. But during the holidays he would take tours.

By the late 1990s Russell became involved at an organisational level becoming a Board Member and volunteering more of his time to Savannah Guides. He is quick to deflect focus from him recognising the efforts of Jim Fitzgerald, Rick Murray and Vicki Jones who also performed casual management contracts in this era.

Naturally the next course of direction for Russell was to engrain himself in the organisation. The love affair has not ended. In 2010 the organisation took another direction. Along with his partner, Sam, they took on the Management Contract and are "determined to build the organisation and make it of a scale that could make a bigger difference to tour guides, operators and to extend its message, but also make it more viable". He is determined for the organisation to grow and along with Sam's help they manage Savannah Guides part time. Sam is quick to point out Russell's dedication such as staying up at times until 2am performing the role he loves. Part time?

Savannah Guide Field Schools is where he finds some of his greatest satisfaction. He is truly overwhelmed when people are getting involved. Russell said, watching those having "self realisation and opening incredible new opportunities" is truly moving.

But for Russell being awarded Life Membership "it's a new motivation". "It's another step, another achievement Savannah Guides has enabled me to reach. I hope I can influence others to put in more and get out more from this amazing organisation."

Since Russell's involvement in management there has been changes. Site and Roving Interpreters are no longer, the rigid uniform concept has been relaxed and there is an encouragement of "Friends of Savannah Guides" to join. Arguably, the foundation has been laid for the future and for the survival of Savannah Guides.

It is no secret that this organisation aims to be leaders in Australia's guiding movement and this helps drive Russell's motivation. "It's all about the people, to grow and do great tourism, work together, respect the land and our heritage," he said.

From humble beginnings Savannah Guides is a movement that now stretches from Cairns to Broome. Who is the constant behind the organisation? Russell Boswell, a well deserved new Life Member.

ANDREW JAMES - May 2018



Savannah Guides Limited continues to operate the EcoGuide Program in Australia. This is Ecotourism Australia's national nature-based tour guide accreditation program and delivers great new benefits for EcoGuides, growing the links between nature-based Tour Guides around Australia.

Savannah Guides also operates the Wet Tropics Tour Guide Program so EcoGuide 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 Guide Members 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

Jonathon Cross	Queensland
Jun Mikami	Queensland
Bryce Ponsford	Northern Territory

Mick visits Phillip Island

On a recent visit to Phillip Island Nature Park in Victoria, Savannah Guides President Mick Clark met Kate Adams the Visitor Experience Manager, Ashley Reed, Senior Ranger and Angela Szeitli, Duty Manager of the Phillip Island Penguin Parade to discuss their requirements for EcoGuides and how the Program can support their Professional Development Program. The visit included behind the scenes visits of two of the park's great visitor experiences - a guided tour with Ash around the Koala Conservation Centre and with Angela to see the Penguin Parade.

Phillip Island Nature Park has over 50 Guides and boasts the highest number of EcoGuides at one attraction – 16! This world class facility is very popular with international guests wishing to experience Australian wildlife up close, especially as it is only 90 minutes from Melbourne.



Mick Clark and Ash Reed in front of
200 Plus year old Manna Gum outside of Koala Conservation Centre



Meet *Polperro Dolphin Swims*

A Guiding Light



Port Phillip Bay covers an area of almost 2000 square kilometres and is the heart of the world's most liveable city. For too long the vibrant diversity of the Bay's marine life has been a well-kept secret, even the locals are surprised by the aquatic wonderland on their doorstep. But that is changing as more and more people take the plunge.

The southern Mornington Peninsula was initially a seaside retreat that catered for holiday-makers from Melbourne who would venture down to breathe in the salt air and picnic or stroll along its' sandy beaches. Today people travel from all over the world, many attracted to the Bays' southern reaches by what lays beneath its surface. This area is one of the few places where it is possible to come face to face with playful Australian fur seals and the only one which offers the opportunity to view and swim with the unique Burrnunan dolphin. Other accessible marine icons include the weedy sea dragon (Victoria's aquatic fauna emblem) and nesting colonies of the Australasian diving gannet.

Polperro Dolphin Swims has been at the forefront of getting the word out on the Bay. It is a family owned and operated eco-tourism operation with over 30 years' experience specialising in dolphin and seal swims, reef snorkels and environmental education.

In the 1980s it was engaged by *Port Phillip Bay Dolphin Research Group*, now known as the *Dolphin Research Institute*, as a research vessel. The first dolphin swims were conducted on their behalf by *Polperro* and its' crew. They continue to use the same modest timber vessel to conduct operations that generations of dolphins have come to know.

The *Polperro* team could see the potential for this form of cetacean-based tourism to burgeon and for the associated impostos on the Bay's dolphins to grow with it in an unchecked fashion. For this reason, they lobbied for reforms in the legislation pertaining to the management of dolphin swims to ensure that the dolphin's welfare remained the primary consideration of government and became actively involved the legislative process to ensure a level of protection that promoted the prospects of the dolphins' future viability.



They agreed to be bound by a voluntary code of conduct while awaiting the legislative change necessary for a permit system and witnessed how the management of the industry evolved from essentially nothing, to voluntary codes, regulations with no limits on permit numbers, regulations with limits on permit numbers, and finally a system that limits the time spent around dolphins on a tour and the number of approaches that a tour vessel can make on a tour and on any given day. The system has been altered to minimise disruptions to the dolphins' daily lives and to manage the impacts tourism activities might have on their energy budgets.

Although they are a commercial tourism operation, the underlying ambition of *Polperro Dolphin Swims* has always been a commitment to the protection of Port Phillip Bay's marine environment and its' dolphin and seal populations.

Polperro's senior tour leaders were among the first to undertake the process of becoming qualified EcoGuides through *Ecotourism Australia*. 'Conservation through education and interpretation' is a driving philosophy and during tours they encourage their passengers to feel a sense of stewardship for the Bay and its' marine life and to involve themselves in conservation initiatives. *Polperro Dolphin Swims* hosted renowned oceanographer and *National Geographic's* explorer-in-residence; Sylvia Earle. Her message was simple - 'there is no better time.'



This is something they try to impress upon their guests. Doing something can be as basic as drinking tap water or taking reusable bags when doing the shopping and they also provide guidance to those wanting to do more.

Polperro is aided in its' efforts to convey this message by the Bay's natural wonders and also the collective experience and accumulated knowledge, motivation, commitment and enthusiasm of the crew.

Despite having a couple of the world' most charismatic animals as the main attraction, *Polperro's* crew are often considered by passengers to be one of the most enjoyable aspects of the trip. Having a dedicated and professional crew with a sound grasp of the principles of environmental sustainability enhances their ability to provide their passengers with a quality experience that matches the splendour of the natural attractions being showcased.

Polperro believe that the process of fulfilling the criteria for the EcoGuide accreditation aids it in their mission to make their tours not only environmentally informative, but also environmentally supportive and ensure that their operating practices are consistent with the environmental messages being delivered. That is, they are seen to 'walk the walk' and not just 'talk the talk.'



Celebrating 30 Years

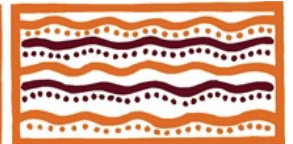
Savannah Guides Limited was founded in 1988, so as part of the Carnarvon Gorge Field School, we celebrated with a 1980's Theme Fancy Dress Party! Everyone embraced the theme ...

There were many fluoro lycra-clad Olivia Newton-John "Physical" Clones, Elvis was in the building and we were reminded of those 80's crazes, the Rubiks Cube & The Mullet! Manager Russ even arrived wearing the original, all green Savannah Guides uniform from 1988!

The Board decided that this was the perfect occasion to formally acknowledge all the hard work that Russ and Sam put into the organization, way above and beyond ordinary expectations. As a result they were called up to the "hot seat" and presented with an etched glass Appreciation Award by the Board Members who were present - Steve Grainger, Vicki Jones and Lee Hayter.

Candles were blown out on the birthday cake and after dinner there was much fun and frivolity as the 80's music was cranked up and the dancing began!

HAPPY 30th BIRTHDAY SAVANNAH GUIDES!



MEMBER PROFILE

Steve Grainger

I was born and raised in Melbourne, Victoria, coming to Queensland in 1975 and joined the Queensland Police Service. I completed 21 years service in North Queensland towns, including Mount Isa, Camooweal, Hughenden, Cairns, Townsville, Coen and Palm Island. I resigned in 1996. I have had a long association with the bush, being the son of a rabbit hunter. My father taught me a deep respect for all living creatures and that the people of this great land are intrinsically joined together with each other, the landscapes, flora and fauna and cultural backgrounds. After leaving the police I embarked on various private enterprises including Commercial Fishing, Restaurateur, Charter Boat Owner/Operator and Wholesale Seafood Businesses.

In 2010 I decided on a career change at the youthful age of 54. I had finally relinquished all business enterprises and needed a change. My partner Winnie was working for a Tour Operator in Port Douglas and her keen eye saw that I seemed a little lost and bored. She found Savannah Guides Limited on the web and sent a link by email to me, saying "have a look at this". As a result I spoke with Russell Boswell and asked if I could attend a Savannah Guides School in Atherton. He said that would be fine and welcomed me to the organisation. My interest then rolled onto another School in Darwin and Enrolment in the Certificate IV for Tourism (Guiding).

After an Oz Tours familiarisation tour to Cape York with Savannah Guide, Michelle Edwards, I knew then that I had made the right decision to be part of an organisation of passionate people. Tour Guiding is what I wanted to do! She was brilliant, very professional and I was impressed!

One of the most memorable trips with Oz Tours was with a group of people from an extraordinarily varied background. I thought they might not gel, but I was wrong. A couple who had been dating for a short time but were obviously very much in love, were set up by some of the group. Whilst on Thursday Island they had picked up some costumes and asked me to perform a surprise marriage on the beach. I said, "I think I have the same powers as a Ship's Captain to marry. Tour Driver, same thing. No problem!" I married them at sunset on the beach at Punsand Bay, Cape York. It was a fitting end to a great tour.

I have worked with great tour companies like Oz Tours Safaris, APT and Wilderness Challenge on Cape York and in the Gulf Savannah which I have thoroughly enjoyed, every day thinking, why I hadn't done this before now. I guess it's never too late. Winnie and I now own and operate our own tour business, Tropical Treks Guided Bushwalks and Birdwatching, based in Noosa Heads. I am now a Senior Savannah Guide and Board Member of Savannah Guides Limited, continuing to learn and share my knowledge with others. My other accreditations now include Certificate III (Guiding), Wet Tropics Tour Guide, EcoGuide, Wilderness First Aid and Swift Water Rescue Technician. I intend to keep learning.

Friends have asked why I don't retire and go travelling. I say, "I travel everyday as a Tour Guide and I have no plan to retire!"





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



Five Reasons Flies are Awesome (despite being really annoying)

Sure, flies are a nuisance, but they could in fact be seen as the true heroes of the Aussie summer.

Why flies swarm when it's warm ...

Summer means a population boom because of a complex interaction of winter rainfall, availability of food sources and increasing temperatures. Insects are ectothermic, or "cold-blooded", meaning their body temperature depends on the external environment. So in summer an increase in temperature typically correlates with an increase in insect activity. Many insect species emerge from a winter resting phase in spring and summer to begin their winged adult life stages. These highly mobile, hungry, sex-obsessed young adults are the ones that interact with us over summer. Imagine "schoolies" week for insects, lasting an entire three months. Now that we know why they bug us in summer more than other months, it's time to ask: *Flies, huh, what are they good for?*



Smooth Pollinator

Flies are actually the unsung heroes of pollination, pollinating plants at least as well as any honeybee might. Honeybees actually pack the pollen away in special baskets on their legs which mean the pollen grains are not available for pollinating the next flower. Flies don't have the baskets, so all the pollen that gets stuck on the hairs on their body is available to pollinate the next flower. Recent research from University of New England shows the common blow fly can carry more pollen stuck to its body than a honey bee. And it's not just the food on the table you have flies to thank for. Flies also help to pollinate hops in beer, apples in cider and grapes in wine. Cheers!

Flies for Food

Researchers have demonstrated that black soldier fly feed could partially or completely replace conventional agricultural feed. Studies have shown that this feed is suitable for the diet of chickens, pigs, alligators and farmed seafood such as blue tilapia, Atlantic salmon and prawns with no adverse effects on the health of these animals.

Eat Shit and Fly

Flies quite literally eat poo but they also clean up other waste too, helping clean-up after us humans. They can eat our household waste and divert it from going into landfill. The black soldier fly, for example, can have up to 600 larvae, with each of these quickly consuming half a gram of organic matter per day. This small family can eat an entire household green waste bin each year. Flies act as scavengers consuming rotting organic matter so we don't have to deal with it which is a very important role in the environment. If it wasn't for flies, there would be rubbish and dead animal carcasses everywhere. Flies turn poo and rotting carcasses into stock feed, and live bird, frog and lizard food for free. Pretty cool if you think about it.

Medical Maggots

Maggots can be used to treat gangrenous wounds without using antibiotics, first recorded in the American Civil War. Sheep blowfly larvae can be used to treat diabetic ulcers, bedsores and other wounds by applying them to infected area. The larvae eat the infected tissue, cleansing the wound with their antibacterial saliva and speeding up new tissue growth. Do not try this at home though. Patients that undergo maggot treatment are supervised by "maggot nurses" who monitor the progress of the insect wound cleaners. And after they've done their work, the larvae simply fall out.

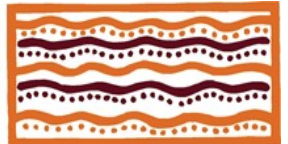
They're Bootiful

Some flies are downright gorgeous. Take, for instance, the *Lecomyia notha* soldier fly from Queensland. Its exoskeleton is shining purple, and looks a bit like an opal galaxy. A few years ago an Australian fly expert named a fly with a bright, golden abdomen *Plinthina beyonceae*, after none other than Beyoncé!

So next time you go to pull out the swatter, spare a thought for the many awesome things flies and all insects bring to the ecosystem.



By [Nikki Galovic](#), CSIRO, January 2018



Savannah Guides in Cambodia!

Savannah Guides was invited to speak at the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia, 6-9 March 2018.

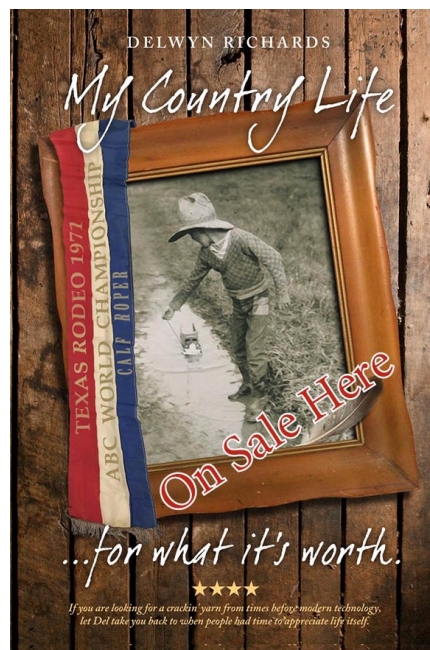
The purpose of the conference was to share ideas for effective guiding particularly in developing destinations. Practical guidance from international presenters fostered greater professionalism for the guiding sector.



Savannah Guides President Mick Clark spoke twice at the Conference about Savannah Guides, firstly our Code of Conduct and how important it is for professional tour guides and tour operators to abide by these rules.

Mick's second presentation was to showcase Savannah Guides as an excellent example of a working model which has served us well for 30 years. This presentation generated interest amongst the ASEAN conference, and many delegates approached Mick to learn more about how Savannah Guides operates in Australia.

Mick's attendance at Siem Reap would not have been possible without the invitation and support of Professor Bill Carter from University of Sunshine Coast QLD and the Ministry of Tourism in Cambodia. Bill is an ongoing supporter of Savannah Guides, encouraging our connections with Asian tourism representatives.



This book has been written for country men and women alike wishing to rekindle memories from their years past. Few country men have done so, therefore our "life" history has all but disappeared.

The author who has filled many roles on the land over a lifetime, has interviewed many in the quest for their "hands on" experiences ...

As children many had memories of The Second World War and were motivated in relating their stories of those grim times building a fabric of information not before published.

This volume is laced with bush humour, written as a record of time.

Features 138 images, 318 pages and 122,000 words.

Cost \$55.00 including postage.

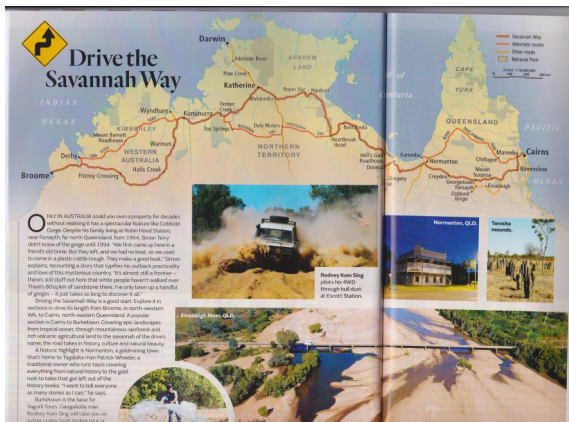
Contact the author, Del Richards, a Savannah Guides Buddy!

Telephone: 07 4094 1199

Email: info@finefeathertours.com.au



Many Enterprise Members and Savannah Guides featured in several articles in “Australian Geographic” Mar-Apr 2018. Grab a copy if you can and have a read ... here are a few of the twelve pages!



RAINFOREST PLANT IDENTIFICATION SHORT COURSES

The Australian Tropical Herbarium and the Wet Tropics Management Authority annual Plant Identification Short Courses will be held in the Daintree on Cairns Show Day weekend (**20-22 July**) and in the beautiful mountain village of Paluma, about 60 kilometres north of Townsville (**23-25 November**).



These courses are of interest to Rangers, School Science Teachers, State and Local Government Land Managers, and anyone with an interest in the Wet Tropics' incredible biodiversity.

Please contact stuart.worboys@jcu.edu.au or call 4232 1837.

Key to Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants Edition 6, available FREE online at <https://www.ath.org.au/australian-tropical-herbarium/research-and-programs/online-keys-to-australian-tropical-rainforest-plants>



WET TROPICS

TOUR GUIDE PROGRAM



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 March featuring Mandingalbay Yidinji Ancient Indigenous Tours at East Trinity Reserve. 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!

Two Savannah Guides Enterprises made it!

"Six Bucket-List Adventures that get to the Heart of our Captivating Interior"
as featured in a recent Qantas Inflight Magazine



KATHERINE, NT DREAM BOATING
ALLOW At least three days
BEST TIME August to September
Paddling 40-plus kilometres along the river system in Katherine, about 300 kilometres south of Darwin, might sound like an action-packed trip, but it's a surprisingly serene adventure. "It's isolation offered in a unique way," says Mick Jerrom, owner of Gecko Canoeing and Trekking. "You're in the wilderness. Where we go, we rarely see anyone else." Accommodation is in simple by the river. "We camp on white sand beaches with shallow, clean water that you can drink or cool off in." If you're thinking, "Aren't there crocs up there?" the answer is yes — but on a tiny not where you'll be drinking and eating. You can expect to see myriad birdlife and fish, paddle past turtles and spot wallabies and wallaroos on the banks of the river. You'll float through channels fed by springs and creeks and cruise by powerline forests and rocky outcrops.

YOU WON'T FORGET The sense of peace that comes from drifting through this tranquil tropical savanna river system.

NEED TO KNOW You don't have to be an experienced paddler; the team will instruct you and help where necessary. Swaps, sleeping bags and all meals are included. Trips run from May to September.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE Take a boat cruise to the stunning Ntali Gorge.



CENTRAL WEST, QLD THE BONE COLLECTORS
ALLOW Seven days
BEST TIME May to June
For three weeks of the year, the Australian Age of Dinosaurs museum in Winton offers Dig-A-Dino trips, where enthusiastic excavators can play paleontologist in the area's prehistoric fossil-rich fields. What draws people to Winton in Central West Queensland, almost 900 kilometres west of Rockhampton, is not so much the digging though finding a bone is pretty cool but rather the camaraderie that's formed out in the field. The museum's dig coordinator, Judy Elliott, describes it as a team experience with an atmosphere like a family get-together. It all takes place on the vast, open plains of local sheep and cattle properties, which, depending on rain, could be bare golden earth or blanketed with grasses and wildflowers. There's no experience necessary and you can dig as much or as little as you like. You can try washing and plastering the specimens or "doing the gigaw" (a euphemism for fitting the pieces of dinosaur bones together).

YOU WON'T FORGET The thrill of the chase. It's slow, considered work but, says Judy, "There's the excitement of the find and in knowing that what you unearth is so old." If you do uncover a bone, offer a word of thanks to the paleontology gods. One "digger" (a repeat digger) worked for four years before finding one.

NEED TO KNOW Digs are fully catered and accommodation is twin-share, often in old shearer's quarters. There are just 39 spots a year. 2019 bookings will open at the end of this year's schedule (around August) but you can register now to go on the waitlist.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE Leave time to drive a few hours south to Opalton, where you can fossick for opal. Australia's national gemstone. You'll need a permit, which you can get at the Winton Visitor Information Centre (experiencewinton.com.au).

MORE australianageofdinosaurs.com

Congratulations Gecko Canoeing and Australian Age of Dinosaurs!



El Niño and La Niña

ENSO is the El Niño- Southern Oscillation - the changing surface ocean temperature patterns in the Pacific Ocean. When the central and eastern equatorial Pacific is warmer than normal, it is called El Niño, "the little boy" in Spanish; conversely, when it is cooler than normal, it is called La Niña, or "the little girl." These two children are responsible for changes in our weather patterns every two to seven years. They make tweaks in the Pacific Ocean temperatures, wind and clouds that have enormous effects on the rest of us.

La Niña: The Little Girl that brings Floods and Cyclones to Australia ...

In the neutral phase, the winds are blowing from east to west across the Pacific Ocean. But when La Nina visits, about once every two to seven years, she hitches a ride with those trade winds, and makes the winds blow stronger from the Americas to Australia, across the Pacific Ocean. This wind glides above the ocean and takes some of the surface water with it, on a journey to Australia. Being on top of



the ocean, this surface water is warm, because it's been heated by the sun. That means that we start to see warmer than usual waters in our oceans around Australia and Indonesia. Warmer waters bring more evaporation, which leads to more condensation, which leads to (you guessed it), more clouds and rain. You can thank Niña for floods and more tropical cyclones during this part of the ENSO cycle.



El Niño: The Little Boy who brings Bushfires and Heatwaves to Australia ...

El Niño is the opposite. Niño arrives when the winds from the Americas weaken from east to west which means warm water begins to gather in the Americas and doesn't make it to Australia. Warm surface water that is normally being pushed across to the west (Australia's east coast), is now staying in the east side of the Pacific Ocean. Suddenly the Americas have warm water, and Australia and Indonesia are both left with cold water in the surrounding oceans. This means there is less evaporation, less condensation and less rain. This means an increased risk of droughts, heatwaves and bushfires in north eastern Australia. In North and South America El Niño causes the opposite – floods and more cloudy days.



Niño has been responsible for the weakest and least active tropical cyclone season on record, prolonged heatwaves across Australia during Autumn 2016, and the worst coral bleaching even on record for the Great Barrier Reef. You may have also heard of Ash Wednesday in 1983? That occurred during El Niño too.

However no two El Niño or La Niña events are exactly the same, and these climatic changes (ie: drought, or floods) may sometimes even happen without El Niño and La Niña. See whether you're in an El Niño or La Niña phase on the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website and check out their ENSO alerts every

two weeks. By understanding ENSO, you can better understand the climate in Australia, and different trends that are happening around the world.

From Rachael Vorwerk December 2017



Wildlife Tourism Conference Tasmania 28-31 October 2018

Wildlife Tourism Values and Challenges:
Balancing the Needs of Wildlife,
Tourists, Operators and Residents



Details:

<http://www.wildlifetourism.org.au/registration-wildlife-tourism-conference-tasmania-2018/>

Shane Ross, a Friend of Savannah Guides, has been swept up in Africa and has some great footage as well as tour operating to see the Great Migration.

"After 3 years travelling Africa and collecting over 200 hours of footage, I've finally produced my first video! Check it out here, I promise you'll LOVE it!"

See: <https://www.facebook.com/shanerossphoto/videos/1837959942923031/>



FOR THE KIDS ...

Flies are just like us – they spend the entire day buzzing around with their friends and get pretty tired at bedtime. Before sunset, a sleepy fly will find a sheltered place to rest under leaves, twigs, and branches, or even in tall grass or under rocks. They need good grip because they often sleep upside down. If they sleep on the ground, they could get eaten by a hungry bird, marsupial, or frog.

Like us, flies will often nap in the shade of a tree to escape the afternoon heat. If they stayed out in the sun too long, they'd get very thirsty, overheat and would ... well ... drop like flies!

Mosquitoes are a type of fly with adapted, super-sensitive eyes and antennae to see in the dark. Only female mosquitoes bite us - they need the protein in our blood to ripen their eggs. All the males are peaceful vegetarians that prefer a sugary drink like flower nectar.



Did you know that without flies, there would be no chocolate? This is because the only known pollinator of the cocoa plant that gives us chocolate is a tiny fly, about the size of a pin head.

<https://theconversation.com/au/topics/curious-kids-36782>



Modern humans left Africa much earlier

By Pallab Ghosh, Science, BBC News January 2018

Researchers have identified the remains of the earliest known modern humans to have left Africa.

New dating of fossils from Israel indicates that our species (*Homo sapiens*) lived outside Africa around 185,000 years ago, some 80,000 years earlier than the previous evidence (details appear in the journal *Science*).

The new scientific dating evidence raises the possibility that modern humans interacted with other, now extinct, species of humans for tens of thousands of years. It also fits in with recent discoveries of remains and genetic studies that also indicate an earlier departure from Africa. In the last few years, discoveries of modern human fossils from China dated to between 80,000 and 120,000 years ago suggest early waves of migration pushed further into Eurasia than previously supposed.

In addition, genetic studies have turned up signs of early interbreeding between African humans and our evolutionary relatives, the Neanderthals in Germany over 219,000 years ago, and in Siberia about 100,000 years ago. However, the early excursions into Eurasia by African *Homo sapiens* are generally thought to have ended in extinction. Findings from genetics and archaeology suggest that present-day people living outside Africa trace their ancestry to an exodus just 60,000 years ago. Most DNA studies have failed to find evidence of these older migrations in our genes.

Fossils thought to be early versions of *Homo sapiens* in Morocco have been dated to about 315,000 years ago, and it's possible that future discoveries might push the date back even further.

After Kakadu...

Savannah Guides Mick Clark, Geoff and Dee Stephens and Friend of Savannah Guides Di Hudd stopped in to tour the wetlands with newly accredited Savannah Guide Chase Johnson on her very cool airboat. This is a terrific insight into a rich natural and cultural environment.



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**



Australia's Adventure Drive



**WE NEED
YOU**



What is happening in your world? **Amazing Story?**

What new resources have you discovered?

Where are you now? **Great Image?**

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE send to:

info@savannah-guides.com.au

I don't know much about
birds but I can easily
identify the husband in
this picture



RESOURCES

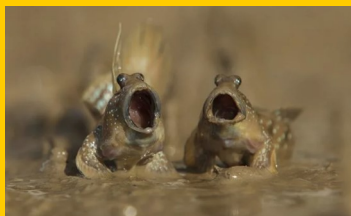


We'd like to build the guiding content resources on the Savannah Guides Website to help support our Members. Please let us know if you have any documents relating to flora, fauna or landscape topics, appropriate cultural information, local heritage or other commentary content.

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!

**See you at our
Fitzroy Crossing
and / or
Capricorn Caves
Field Schools!**



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



Catch us on



The END!

