

SAVANNAH GUIDES



Protectors and Interpreters of the Outback

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME: 1 AUGUST 2007

REVAMPED SAVANNAH GUIDES NEWSLETTER

We are happy to provide you with our new look newsletter to keep you abreast of all the up to date Savannah Guides news.

This newsletter published in the new format will be distributed twice a year with all the updates about Savannah Guides activities and schools.

We encourage you to let us know if there is anything in particular about the Savannah Guides you would like to hear in the newsletter.

Savannah Guides are on the ground every day across the tropical savannahs of Australia and look forward to sharing with you natural history happenings and ecological news along with current issues on the ecotourism front occurring across the wonderful environment that they call 'the office'.

In this issue you will find all the information about the forthcoming Savannah Guides school in Cape York. This will be a school on the move providing the opportunity to explore the Cape York over

five days whilst participating in sessions and activities with expert natural historians and scientists from the Cape York area along the way. Planning is well underway and we acknowledge our Significant Sponsors for their contribution, allowing us to put together such an interesting schedule in a dynamic format.

As was introduced last year at the Townsville Savannah Guide School the Annual General Meeting is again scheduled at the beginning of the school.



Savannah Guides and Kakadu National Park Staff at a planning meeting at the Kakadu National Park Savannah Guides School April 2007.

NEXT SAVANNAH GUIDES SCHOOL - CAPE YORK

Savannah Guides, the internationally acclaimed not-for-profit "Protectors and Interpreters of the Outback" organisation are holding their next Guide School, themed "Opportunities and Threats in Cape York", on **Cape York,**

Far North Queensland from 29th October to 2nd November 2007.

Planning continues apace for the upcoming School and it is looking like one you shouldn't miss. We gratefully acknowledge our Significant Sponsors,

Tourism Australia and Tourism Queensland for their contribution to making this event possible.

The official School Opening will take place in the North Queensland town of Laura at the Quinkan and Regional

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“OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS IN CAPE YORK”

Cultural Centre where a 'Welcome to Country' will be conducted by the Traditional Owners. The Mayor of Cook Shire, Councillor Bob Sullivan, will also welcome us to the Shire at this time. We have invited the Hon Peter Beattie, Premier of Queensland to open the event.

The large and shady back patio of Alan Wilson's Laura Cafe will be our venue for lunch and the General and Annual General Meetings, and by 4.30pm we will set out on the one-hour drive to Jowalbinna Rock Art Safari Camp, operated by Wilderness Challenge and in line for and in line for accreditation at this School as a Savannah Guides Site.

One of the features of this School will be the daily 'Discovery Walks' where specialists or enthusiasts on the topics of birds, plants, reptiles, insects, geology, etc. will lead groups of interested participants on a short (around 1 hour) walk to see what's in the immediate area. The walks will be offered both late in the afternoon and early morning at each of the School's overnight locations, and School participants keen to learn more about these areas are encouraged to participate.

Some of the 'leaders' of the Discovery Walks so far committed are:

John Beasley – Kuranda-based author of plant guide books

Dr. Gay Crowley – ecologist and conservation manager and Biodiversity Information Officer with the Tropical Savannas Co-operative Research Centre.

Steve Hannaford – herpetologist who has worked at 11 different zoos in Australia and PNG

Jack Hassenpusch – naturalist and founder of the Australian Insect Farm at Innisfail

Scott Templeton – well-known Cape York amateur bird lover and photographer and DPI Senior Operations Officer

During the pre-dinner drinks period Savannah Guide Bram Collins of Undara Experience will lift our spirits with one of his typically inspiring talks on the subject of 'Opportunities and Threats to Savannah Guides', and an after-dinner presentation by Joc Schmeichen, Senior Research Fellow in Indigenous tourism at Charles Darwin University, on Australian Aboriginal Rock Art should captivate anybody and everybody with an interest in this topic, especially while here in one of the world's recognised great rock art regions.

As is usual at Savannah Guides Schools, this will be followed by in-house activities which typically include recognition of newly accredited Guides and Enterprises.

'Discovery Walks' will be offered again on Tuesday morning for those willing to have a quick breakfast, followed by a guided tour to one of Jowalbinna's nearby Rock Art sites. Accompanying us on this tour will be A/Prof. David Johnson, Adjunct Senior Principal Research Fellow at the School of Earth Sciences at James Cook University. David will give us an overview of the geology of Cape York from the top of the escarpment, a theme he will expand on in a presentation back at Jowalbinna just prior to our departure from this wonderful site.

We will leave Jowalbinna shortly after midday with a packed lunch for consumption en route, and will make our first stop at Windmill Creek where we just might be lucky enough to spot the rare and endangered Golden-Shouldered Parrot. Scott Templeton will be our

expert guide on locating any Golden-Shouldered Parrots in the area. One of the major threats to this unique parrot is vegetation thickening and this topic will be outlined for us by Prof. David Gillieson, Professor of Geography, Tropical Environment Studies & Geography with James Cook University and a recognised expert in the field of vegetation thickening.

From Windmill Creek we head to Lotus Bird Lodge, idyllically situated beside a permanent lagoon that by this time of the year should provide the bird lovers among us with an abundance of bird species to observe. Prof. David Gillieson will be one of the leaders on our 'Discovery Walk' this afternoon for those interested in learning more about 'vegetation thickening'. Of course there will be groups out looking at the birds, trees, insects and reptiles too so there should be something to suit everybody.

After dinner tonight, Dr. Gabriel Crowley, Biodiversity Information Officer from Tropical Savannas CRC, will give a talk on the centre's web site and how we can access relevant information that we as guides would find very useful. Given any time constraint we may have, Dr. Crowley will also give a presentation on her research into the Golden-Shouldered Parrots found around Artemis Station.

More 'Discovery Walks' will be available on Wednesday morning after which we'll depart from Lotus Bird Lodge at the relatively late time of 9am to make our way to Musgrave Roadhouse for morning smoko. Musgrave is the site of the only Cape York telegraph station building still standing in

**SIGNIFICANT
SPONSORS OF
THE CAPE YORK,
FAR NORTH
QUEENSLAND
SAVANNAH
GUIDES SCHOOL**



**CAPE YORK
SCHOOL DATES
29TH OCTOBER
TO
2ND NOVEMBER
2007**

“OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS IN CAPE YORK”

Following smoko we continue on to the central Peninsula town of Coen, 110 Km north of Musgrave, where we will be honoured again with a 'Welcome to Country' at the Wunthulpu Cultural Centre. We will have time to tour this centre and be tempted perhaps to invest in some of the art on sale there. A visit to the fascinating Cape York Heritage Centre, housed in the relocated and refurbished Mein Telegraph Station building, will follow then it's time for lunch at the Wilderness Cafe.

After our lunch break we will drive a further 20-odd kilometres north to Biosecurity Queensland's Coen Information and Inspection Centre where Scott Templeton is the DPI Senior Operations Officer. We'll have smoko here and Scott will talk to us about the risks to Australia's economy if devastating pests and diseases such as foot and mouth disease, black sigatoka and red banded mango caterpillars, which are all on our northern doorstep, ever manage to get into our agricultural lands.

From here we travel a further 45 Km to Archer River Roadhouse where we will be over-nighting. Set on the south bank of this beautiful river in shady surroundings, the roadhouse is the last stop for fuel and food before the western Cape York mining town of Weipa, and the last opportunity to refuel before reaching Moreton Telegraph Station if heading to Cape York. More opportunities for discovering what's in the local area will be offered at Archer River with Discovery Walks this afternoon and tomorrow morning.

An 8 am departure on Thursday will have us reach Moreton by 10 am, just in time for smoko. This morning a prior lease-

holder of Moreton and one-time Cairns-based tour operator, John Hardacker, will talk to us about the history of the telegraph line and this station in particular. In the hour before lunch Ian Bell will talk to us about his work with endangered turtle populations on western Cape York beaches.

After lunch will be a presentation on pest plant identification by Rebecca Yarrow, a field officer with the Queensland Dept. of Primary Industries who will explain how plants material can be collected for identification. Collecting kits will be handed out to the School participants for a field exercise later today. Following Rebecca's presentation will be John Clarkson, Principal Botanist with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, and a long-time supporter of Savannah Guides, who will give a talk on the threatened plants of Cape York Peninsula. After John's presentation we will have the chance to test our plant collecting skills with the kits that Rebecca distributed, and a workshop will be conducted afterwards to assess the plants collected.

Discovery Walks will be available again this afternoon before the evening meal and the usual Savannah Guides activities.

Friday is the last morning of the School and is usually a bit low key after the previous evening's socializing and fun and frivolity. Planned for this morning is a presentation on feral pigs and the problems they pose to Australia's domestic animal health, followed by a fly-in visit by the Royal Flying Doctor Service who will conduct a field day from 10am to midday. Plans are underway to develop presentations and workshops that will help us to understand just what a vital service to rural Australia

the RFDS is and guarantee a positive outcome for both our organizations. More on this exciting section of the School will be published as options are assessed.

The School will be officially closed following this relatively leisurely but most informative morning, and after lunch participants will leave for their various destinations having made lots of new acquaintances and with lots of new information to digest and pass on to their customers and guests.

This School will be quite different from previous Schools in some vital ways, including that it is the first to run for 5-days thereby allowing us to experience much the area has to offer.

Please keep in mind the following points:

Our programme has us visiting a number of locations along Cape York Peninsula and large distances will be covered in the course of the School

Because there is essentially only one road into and out of Cape York, we will be travelling over our own tracks on the return to Cairns.

The School is scheduled to close at lunchtime on Friday the 2nd of November, and the vehicles being provided by Wilderness Challenge and Oz Tours will be setting out as soon after lunch as practicable for the return trip to Cairns. As this requires a good 12 hour drive from Moreton, an overnight stop at Musgrave Roadhouse has been scheduled for the safety and comfort of all those in the vehicles, and is included in the Registration Fee for these participants. The vehicles should be back in Cairns in the early afternoon on Saturday the 3rd of November.

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The possibility exists for participants wishing to be in Cairns by Friday night to join a QantasLink flight from Weipa late on Friday afternoon. This flight is however often heavily booked so early reservations are essential.

The School will finish at Moreton Telegraph Station so if you want to visit Australia's most northerly mainland point and perhaps the Torres Strait islands; you'll need your own vehicle and extra time. Some participants have already planned for this. You should allow approximately 6 hours for a comfortable journey from Moreton to 'The Tip', but there are also some wonderful camping locations along the way.

For updated information on the school click here on the [Savannah Guides Schools Updates link](#).

Or contact us by email on info@savannah-guides.com.au or telephone 08 8985 3890.



ECOTOURISM AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE MELBOURNE AND VICTORIAN REGIONAL LOCATIONS FROM 19 TO 23 NOVEMBER.

Ecotourism Australia has confirmed an impressive line-up of top speakers and a stimulating program of workshops for its 2007 national conference to be held in Melbourne and Victorian regional locations from 19 to 23 November.

Keynote speakers will include Tony Wheeler, founder of Lonely Planet books; Dr Graeme Pearman who was Chief of Atmospheric Research at CSIRO between 1992–2002 and was science advisor to Al Gore during his recent visit to Australia; and Darrell Wade, CEO of Intrepid Travel a pioneering adventure travel company that now takes 50,000 travellers to over 90 countries every year.

CEO of Ecotourism Australia, Stephen Pahl, urged all those interested in being part of the current debate on travel, environment and climate change to save the conference dates and register for more details.

“This is the largest and most credible line-up of travel, environmental and ecotourism experts to gather together anywhere in Australia this year and will be a unique opportunity for exchanging ideas and plans for the future,” Stephen said.

“In addition to environmental and travel industry speakers, we will bring together government ministers and state tourism office representatives to consider the challenges facing ecotourism and the sustainability of the tourism industry.

“There will be plenary sessions to be held in some of Victoria’s best eco destinations and a full day of workshops for tourism operators who want to enhance their ecotourism business.

“This is a pivotal point, not just for the future of Australian tourism but also for the future of many of our most treasured natural environments.

“Decisions being made now will have an impact for generations and we intend that the Ecotourism Australia Conference 2007 will provide a forum to consider the issues in depth and for experts from related fields to cross-fertilise ideas,” Stephen said.

The Conference is sponsored by Tourism Victoria, Parks Victoria and Department of Sustainability and Environment and there will be an attractive program of social and travel opportunities allowing delegates to network and to discover the ecotourism attractions of Victoria.

For more details, visit www.ecotourism.org.au/conference/expressions.asp and register your interest.

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NORMANTON - CROYDON - NORMANTON

**NEW
TOURISM AUSTRALIA
CHAIR
APPOINTED.**

Mr Rick Allert AM, will become the new Chair of Tourism Australia, replacing Mr Tim Fischer AC.

Tourism Minister Fran Bailey said with his strong business experience, Rick Allert was an ideal choice to take Tourism Australia forward.

"Rick Allert will bring a strong commercial focus to the Board of Tourism Australia, with more than 40 years of business experience, including Chairing one of Australia's largest companies," Fran Bailey, Minister for Small Business and Tourism, said today.

"Rick Allert has a long-standing association with the tourism and hospitality industry as Chair of the Voyages Hotels and Resorts, the National Wine Centre and Southcorp.

Rick Allert's appointment will commence once he has finalised his existing commitments. His term will expire on 30 June 2010. In the interim, Tourism Australia's Deputy Chair, Mr Andrew Burnes, will be acting Chair.

Fran Bailey also announced the Board appointment of Grant Hunt, former CEO of Voyages Hotels and former General Manager of Marina Mirage Gold Coast. Grant Hunt, a Gold Coast resident, has excellent experience in eco-tourism and Indigenous Tourism.

Fran Bailey thanked Tim Fischer for his term as Chair, describing him as "almost a tourism icon himself" and bringing "his own individual brand of enthusiasm in his mission to tirelessly promote Australia."

Fran Bailey also thanked outgoing director Wayne Kirkpatrick for his excellent contribution to the Board.

**NATIONAL TOURISM
PARTNERSHIPS ACTION
PLAN LAUNCHED**

The Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF) Australia's Natural Tourism Partnerships Action Plan was launched by Federal Small Business and Tourism Minister Fran Bailey at the National Tourism and Transport Climate Change Forum in July.

TTF Australia Managing Director Christopher Brown called for a new partnership between the tourism industry, tourism authorities, park managers and the conservation sector to reduce red tape and encourage investment in better park facilities and new visitor experiences.

Key findings of the Action Plan include:

- New, innovative park visitor experiences are needed to ensure Australia stays competitive with other destinations such as New Zealand, South Africa and North America
- There is a lack of coordination between governments and tourism conservation agencies on tourism planning and marketing for parks
- Park agencies lack sufficient funding for increasing conservation, climate change adaptation and visitor management costs
- Private sector investors are interested in investing in and operating park infrastructure, visitor experiences and conservation services through Natural Tourism Partnerships
- Visitor entrance and usage fees provide a valid source of revenue for conservation in most park system and can provide a visitor management tool
- More effective marketing strategies are needed to market park tourism visitor experiences, build tourism revenue for parks and manage visitation.

**WA STATE OF THE
ENVIRONMENT REPORT
RELEASED**

The biggest environmental challenges for Western Australia are preventing the loss of biodiversity, halting the degradation of inland waters, and addressing global pressures such as climate change and the growing consumption of natural resources, according to the state's 2007 State of the Environment report.

The report, released by the Environmental Protection Agency, identifies 34 environmental issues of importance to Western Australia. These issues have been prioritised by the EPA ranging from 'top priority' to 'low priority' issues.

The State of the Environment Report: Western Australia 2007 can be viewed at www.soe.wa.gov.au

**QUEENSLAND QUOLL
SURVEY**

Dr John Winter is part of a team studying what has happened to northern quolls over the last 76 years since the introduction of the cane toad. They are doing a survey of current quoll populations as well as anecdotal evidence from places where they have become extinct.

Northern quolls are identifiable by their small size and bushy, black tails. The tiger quoll is larger and has a spotted tail.

If you have seen quolls in your district or within travels in Queensland please contact the team.

Email: jw.winter@bigpond.com
Tel: (07) 4097 0048.

CAPE YORK AND TORRES STRAIT DRAFT TOURISM PLAN

A draft action plan to tap into the enormous tourism potential of Cape York and the Torres Strait released today will also have significant economic benefits for the two regions.

Tourism Minister, Margaret Keech, said the Cape York and Torres Strait Tourism Development Action Plan, once fully implemented, would deliver economic, social and environmental benefits for Indigenous Queenslanders living in the region.

"A priority will be the generation of opportunities for locally-owned and managed sustainable businesses and partnerships with existing tourism operators, while at the same time preserving and protecting local culture, traditions and environmental values," Mrs Keech said.

"The draft plan was developed after extensive consultation with the tourism industry and Cape York and Torres Strait communities.

"A major focus is to increase the involvement of the local Indigenous peoples in all facets of tourism in Cape York and the Torres Strait.

"All 145 actions in the draft plan are important to the long-term sustainable development of tourism in the regions, and should be viewed as a package of linked and coordinated initiatives.

"However, several key actions will provide the impetus for the successful implementation of all actions.

"We will be working with communities, agencies and industry to identify bush camping and other ecotourism opportunities across the Cape, including in national parks."

Mrs Keech said the draft plan provided a framework to identify and progress a range of sustainable Indigenous tourism opportunities in the Cape, including:

- redeveloping the Pajinka Wilderness Lodge site to assist the Injinoo Aboriginal Corporation address basic infrastructure needs for the site;
- assist the Mapoon Aboriginal Community to enhance the turtle conservation project through marketing and expansion into sport fishing accommodation; and
- development and promotion of the Mitchell River Loop Road for the Kowanyama and Pompuraaw communities as a Cape York touring experience.

"The Cape York and Torres Strait Action Plan is an important initiative of the State Government's \$48 million, 10-year Queensland Tourism Strategy (QTS), dedicated to securing the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the State tourism industry's future," she said. "Under the QTS, significant focus has been placed on the importance of Queensland's unique natural and cultural assets.

"Through the development of this new action plan, we are ensuring Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait tourism has a significant role in the State's second largest export market."



NORTHERN AUSTRALIA LAND AND WATER TASKFORCE

Part of the *National Plan for Water Security*, this taskforce will examine the potential for further land and water development in northern Australia, in a manner that is ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable.

In the coming months the Taskforce is planning to visit a number of locations across northern Australia, including Darwin, Cape York and the Kimberley, to access local experience, skills and knowledge. The Taskforce will also be calling for public submissions.

There is a growing interest in the resources of northern Australia, but there are also significant gaps in our knowledge that need to be filled.

Also newly established is the Northern Australia Land and Water Futures Assessment, a five-year multi-disciplinary research programme to run in parallel with the Taskforce.

NEW GENERATION ECOGUIDE PROGRAM LAUNCHED BY ECOTOURISM AUSTRALIA

Ecotourism Australia has launched the national Eco Guide Program, an innovative new innovative certification program for the Australian guiding industry, and individual guides.

The new program includes the *Guides of Australia* national guide accreditation, along with the new Eco Guide certification, providing guides with a convenient 'one stop shop' method of gaining both the EcoGuide and Guides of Australia (GOA) certification in one convenient application process.

EcoGuide now offers Australian guides a highly innovative, portable national credential, including new criteria related to safety, OHS and risk management, customer service, Indigenous culture, group management, minimal impact guiding principles, and ongoing professional devel-

SAVANNAH GUIDES BRONZE SPONSORS



LAND CARE QUEENSLAND ON-LINE BOOKSHOP

Landcare Queensland has launched a new publication service for Queensland and beyond. The on-line bookshop will provide publications related to working and playing in the natural environment. Members of Landcare Queensland receive a discount. Membership to Landcare Queensland is \$20 a year.

Go to: www.landcare.org.au/Bookshop

PREMIERE OF ROGUE

Described as a massive iconic adventure film – a monster movie; the world premier of the horror film *Rogue* was screened last night at the Deckchair Cinema in Darwin .

Director Greg McLean's reputation for making nerve-jangling films has certainly been proved in his previous film *Wolf Creek*. This time the audience will follow the predicament of a collection of interesting characters on a river cruise set in the Top End. Their boat is rammed by something from below. The tour is interrupted and they become stranded on a tiny mud island. As night falls, the group slowly realise they are being stalked by a huge saltwater crocodile.

Rogue will open in USA later this year in cinemas across the country simultaneously and is a tremendous opportunity to show the beauty and wilderness of the Top End. Those whose interest is piqued enough by the stunning scenery to visit the Northern Territory are sure to keep Savannah Guides on their toes with nervous questions about how close to reality is the storyline portrayed. It is hoped the 7.5m killer croc star will attract visitors to the Northern Territory rather than frighten them off.

Andy Ralph, Savannah Guides Site Interpreter at Kakadu Culture Camp has made his claim to fame as being the body double tour boat driver for the beautiful local tour boat guide (Radha Mitchell) in the making of the film. Kakadu Culture Camp's tour boat Susanne also has a starring role.

Perhaps the film lends itself to training exercises for Savannah Guides in group dynamics and leadership at the next Savannah Guides school!

TOURISM AWARD ENTRIES

Savannah Guides this year will be vying for state and territory tourism awards in Queensland and Northern Territory seeking recognition of our organisation in North Australia's savannas.

Entries this year are being submitted for Queensland Tourism awards, Tourism Tropical North Queensland Awards and Northern Territory Brolga Awards. These awards recognise and encourage tourism businesses that strive for excellence in every area of their operation. Savannah Guides works hard pursuing its mission and working with many of Australia's leading tourism, environmental and community organisations.

Submitting an entry to these awards is a worthwhile exercise in self reflection on how the organisation is currently running and who knows, perhaps the hard work put in by all members

KAKADU NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2007—2014

is now available. The plan will guide how Kakadu National Park is to be managed over the next seven years.

See for a pdf version click here [Kakadu National Park Management Plan 2007-2014](http://www.geocities.com/nfieldnaturalists/casuarina_coastal_reserve_plants_screen_ver.pdf)



Darwin based guides might like to know about the tree guide prepared by NT Field Naturalists for Casuarina Coastal Reserve. The leaflet includes photos and locations of some of the distinctive top trees. A copy of the leaflet is available online at:

http://www.geocities.com/nfieldnaturalists/casuarina_coastal_reserve_plants_screen_ver.pdf

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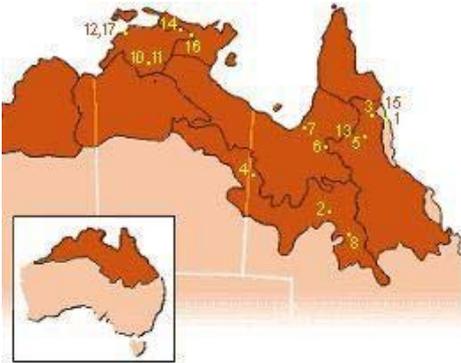
SAVANNAH GUIDES

PO Box 71
NIGHTCLIFF NT 0814

Phone: 08 8985 3890

Fax: 08 8985 3894

E-mail: info@savannah-guides.com.au



SAVANNAH GUIDES



Protectors and Interpreters of the Outback

Savannah guides is a network of professional tour guides with a collective in-depth knowledge of the natural and cultural assets of Northern Australia.

It is a not-for-profit company with enterprise and individual members. Savannah Guides works with Many of Australia's leading tourism, environmental and community organizations to pursue its mission.

Being an economically sound, community based, professional body maintaining high standards of: interpretation and public education—Training and guiding leadership—Natural and cultural resource management and through the promotion of ecologically sustainable tourism principles, enhances regional lifestyles and encourages protection and conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the Tropical Savannas of Northern Australia.



BIRD LIFE INTERNATIONAL—RIO TINTO

Founded in 1901, Birds Australia is a national organisation dedicated to the conservation, study and enjoyment of Australia's native birds. Birds are very useful environmental indicators as they are visible, well studied, ubiquitous and their numbers reflect environmental change. We are working with Birds Australia to identify Important Bird Areas (IBAs) for Australia.

The Australian IBA programme is part of an international initiative to identify important areas for bird conservation. The programme will inform the way that conservation efforts are prioritised, including:

- Identifying priority areas for land and environmental managers, in both the government and private sectors
- Providing a focus for on-ground works such as fencing, revegetation and wetland restoration
- Identification of areas for further community involvement
- Potential sites for regional business development, for example, through avitourism (bird tourism) activities

Rio Tinto has worked in other areas of the world to identify IBAs as part of its global partnership with BirdLife International. Birds Australia (BirdLife in Australia) and Rio Tinto are establishing an Australian partnership to assist with the regional development of IBAs. The IBA programme has already been piloted in north Queensland. It will be rolled out in Australia on a volunteer basis by members of Birds Australia regional groups and other members of the community. Our partnership is seeking to support the IBA effort by:

- Coordinating all IBA activity through the appointment of a dedicated project officer
- Developing procedures and a tool kit for IBA identification and documentation
- Incorporating IBA data onto the Birds Australia and BirdLife International websites
- Assisting Birds Australia to map and publish all Australian IBAs over a period of three years

With involvement from Rio Tinto businesses, the partnership programme will also make a contribution to the implementation of Rio Tinto's Biodiversity Strategy in Australia. Through the partnership with BirdLife International, 43 Rio Tinto Group operations participate globally in an annual Bird Watching Event, which aims to raise awareness of birds and biodiversity at our sites. The Bird Watching events have been extended to deliver environmental education programmes to local communities. In Australia, up to ten events are held each year and these will continue in addition to the IBA activities.

