



Australian Government
Director of National Parks

MEDIA RELEASE

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TOURISM FIRST FOR KAKADU CULTURE CAMP

A tourist camp in Kakadu National Park today became the first 100% Aboriginal-owned business to be awarded the highly regarded Savannah Guides tourism accreditation.

In a ceremony in the park tonight, Kakadu Culture Camp joined a network of tourism businesses across northern Australia that have been declared Savannah Guides Sites, recognising their commitment to conservation and the high standard of cultural experience they provide to visitors.

Kakadu National Park Manager, Glenn Meade, celebrated with the Camp's owners at the accreditation ceremony tonight. He said the Camp has undergone a rigorous peer testing regime to qualify, culminating in their final assessment at the latest Savannah Guide school, which was held in the park this week.

"I am delighted to see Kakadu Culture Camp achieve Savannah Guides accreditation - to do so in their first 12 months of operation certainly sets the bar high," Glenn said.

"As one of the major sponsors of this week's Savannah Guide school we are very pleased by the enthusiasm it has generated in the park. It has allowed a number of Aboriginal tourism enterprises to showcase their product to their peers, and inspired some to consider attaining accreditation through Savannah Guides."

Savannah Guides Manager, Rick Murray, welcomed Kakadu Culture Camp as the first Aboriginal-owned accredited member.

"Kakadu Culture Camp have worked hard to achieve this goal. The pathway to becoming a Savannah Guides Site involves considerable commitment, including participation in three Savannah Guides schools in locations right across northern Australia," Rick said.

"The key tour guides of the business also undergo a rigorous peer assessment. Andy Ralph and Jenny Hunter from Kakadu Culture Camp have made this journey with us and we welcome them as the first Savannah Guides Site in Kakadu."

Jenny Hunter, one of Kakadu Culture Camp's owners and a key tour guide, said it was really great to pass all the rigorous tests and become accredited with a professional network of guides.

"Being the first Bininj (Aboriginal) enterprise and the first tour operation based in Kakadu makes this all the more special," Jenny said.

Jenny's brother, Fred Hunter, is a co-owner and guide at the Camp. He congratulated Jenny and her partner Andy Ralph on their success.

"Jenny and Andy have worked really hard for this and it brings a lot of expertise to our operations, something you can only get from training with proficient guides at the top of their game. We hope it rubs off on the rest of us and soon we'll all be Savannah Guides," Fred said.

Last year, the Australian Government made \$150,000 available for indigenous tourism businesses in the Park as part of the \$1.77 million in funding to accelerate the implementation of Kakadu's Shared Vision for Tourism. Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) also contributed \$50,000 to the fund.

Kakadu Culture Camp received a grant of nearly \$50,000 to help them diversify their product offering and install safari tents, which were used for the first time this week to accommodate guides at the school.

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