



Australian Government  
Director of National Parks

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Tourism awards for Kakadu operators

Kakadu tourism businesses have won three prizes in the prestigious 2008 Northern Territory Tourism Awards - the Brolgas.

The three winners are all either Indigenous-owned or focus on promoting Indigenous culture and experiences in Kakadu National Park.

Lord's Kakadu and Arnhemland Safaris took out the prize for best *Heritage and Cultural Tourism*, Gagudju Crocodile Holiday Inn (owned by the Gagadju Association and Indigenous Business Australia) led the way in *Standard Accommodation* and Sean Arnold of Kakadu Animal Tracks Safari won the category *Outstanding Interpretive Guide*.

The awards were presented at a gala ceremony at the new Darwin Convention Centre on Saturday night before 400 people representing the cream of the Northern Territory tourism industry.

Kakadu supports over 100 tourism operators and businesses and is a major drawcard for visitors to the Territory. Two additional Kakadu operators - APT Group-VIP Tours and Connections-Northern Territory Tours - also took out awards for their work across the Territory.

Kakadu's new Shared Tourism Vision, which has a strong focus on promoting Indigenous culture and experiences, has led to strong visitation in recent years, growth in Indigenous businesses and tourism excellence.

Director of National Parks Peter Cochrane congratulated the winners on their achievement.

"I am delighted to see the award for *Outstanding Interpretive Guide* going to someone who has long experience working in the park and has also completed the park's tour guide training course," Mr Cochrane said.

"Kakadu has led Australia in developing the first nationally accredited tour guide training course.

"All Kakadu tours must now employ professionally-trained guides. These guides offer visitors new levels of visitor safety and informed commentary on Kakadu's World Heritage landscapes, plants and wildlife and rich Indigenous culture."

As part of a new brand strategy, Kakadu will continue to develop and promote culturally appropriate tourism experiences that provide insights into the 50,000 year old living culture of this World Heritage-listed park.

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