

SAVANNAH GUIDES

Communicator

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Savannah Guides School

Townsville, 27-30 October

Climbing the Peak of Tour Guiding – best practice and ongoing development

The 40th Savannah Guides School will be held in Townsville, Queensland, a city in the savannahs. The growth of this dynamic tropical city has included many aspects of sustainable environmental management that has enhanced its natural environment. The city's environs are dominated by its tropical savannah setting and the mighty Ross River, with ready access to the Great Barrier Reef.

The Savannah Guides School will focus on tour guiding practices, and we will have numerous workshops to build the skills of new and experienced guides. The majority of the school will be field based, showcasing the areas natural attributes. Workshop presenters include local experts and Savannah Guides members, and there will be elements directed at guides and business managers. For the first time the school will be held to coincide with Ecotourism Australia's International Conference. The 14th International Ecotourism Conference will be held in Townsville from 30 October to 3 November. Both organisations have a long standing history of cooperation and overlapping goals, and the timing of the events will enable members and participants to attend both programs in part or in full. The programs are complementary and provide unprecedented opportunities to learn and network with a wide range of participants

SAVANNAH GUIDES

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 organisations 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.



September 2006

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Kakadu Culture Camp

The Kakadu Culture Camp is located at Djarradjin (Muirella Park Campground) and is owned and operated by the Hunter family from Kakadu National Park. The camp was established as a place where Bininj (Aboriginal) people could live and work, and share their culture and traditional heritage with tourists from around the world.

The Hunter family is Fred, Jenny and Douglas; all born and bred at Madjinbardi (Mudginberri Station) on the edge of the famous Magela wetlands in what was later to become Kakadu. Their clan is Bolmo Deihdrungie; and they are traditional owners of country covering areas in the freshwater reaches of the East Alligator River.



Fred and Jenny have been working as Kakadu Park Rangers since they left school; while Douglas is a carpenter with Warnbi Aboriginal Corporation.

At the Kakadu Culture Camp you can spend an evening with a local Bininj (Aboriginal) family sharing culture. The camp features a guided bushtucker walk and a three course traditional campfire dinner including barra and buff cooked on the coals, followed by hot damper with home-made bush jams and cream, tea and coffee. Hear the legend of Warramurrungundji, Creation Mother for the Kakadu and West Arnhem Land people.

Find out about bush tucker and traditional plant use and learn about basket weaving and the didgeridoo. You'll also gain an understanding of how Park Rangers and Bininj manage salt water crocodiles and other animals in the World Heritage Area.

The guides are local Aboriginal people who are also Kakadu Park Rangers.

Kakadu Culture Camp operates the only night time boat cruise in the World Heritage Area on board a specially designed 20 seat boat complete with high safety rails all the way around.

Cruise Djarradjin Billabong and spotlight for the myriad of Kakadu wildlife that comes alive after dark, including crocodiles birds, dingos and wallabies and even barramundi in the shallows with our under water spotlight!

Deluxe safari tents are being constructed now and will be in place in April 2007.

'Your true commitment to Savannah Guides and its beliefs

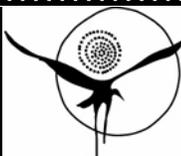
is not judged at Schools

but by your actions in the field long after the euphoria

of a School has past...'

Bram Collins, Savannah Guide

PDIS
port douglas
internet services



TOURISM NT
NORTHERN TERRITORY
AUSTRALIA

Where else but
QUEENSLAND

TOWNSVILLE Savannah Guides School - Contributors

Senator Ian Macdonald: A Queensland Senator with long standing involvement in environmental and conservation issues, including service as Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation.

Townsville City Council: Generous support from the council includes presentations and coordination by Councillor Ann Bunnell, Townsville Deputy Mayor; and Greg Bruce, the council's Environmental Management Services Manager. **John Courtenay:** The founder of Savannah Guides, John has implemented destination development projects including the Savannah Way and is an Honorary Member of Savannah Guides.

Gianna Moscardo: Associate Professor at James Cook University, Gianna's doctorate focussed on visitors' decision making and learning in interpretive settings. She has had a continuing interest in understanding visitors and how they react to interpretation.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority: Principal adviser to the Commonwealth Government on the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Reef HQ is GBRMPA's marine interpretation centre.

Peter McLeod: Known to many Savannah Guides from the Qantas Founders Museum in Longreach, Peter is now the Business and Facilities Manager of the Museum of Tropical Queensland, and has generously supported the Townsville School.

Pop Sullivan: Pop's dynamic interpretation has charmed many customers. He is now developing a cruise operation on **the Ross River Dam in association with NQ Water.**

Glen Murphy: Glen is a Strength & Conditioning Coach for the NRL team, the Toyota Cowboys, who reached the 2005 NRL Grand Final. **John Young:** Cinematographer, naturalist John has been capturing Australia's wildlife on film and tape for over 20 years. His principal area of interest is Australian birdlife and he's one of Australia's leading authorities on this subject.

Savannah Guides Sponsors Brolga Awards

This year Savannah Guides is sponsoring the prestigious the NT's Brolga Awards for Tourism Excellence. We will be offering as a prize, free registration at a Savannah guides school for the winner of the category "Outstanding Interpretive Guide". This Award recognises the personal and professional contribution, throughout their career, of a person employed in the tourism industry as a guide enhancing client experience of the tourism product.

Since this category was introduced it has been won by 4 individuals who are accredited with Savannah Guides, Annette Cook (Odyssey), Brendan Bainbridge (Venture North), Mick Jerram (Gecko) and Mike Ostwald (Mary River Park). The awards will be presented in Alice Springs on Saturday, 2nd December 2006. Details of the awards and how to enter can be found at: www.tourismnt.com.au/nt/nttc/brolga_awards or by contacting Jill Morris at Tourism NT on 8999 3808 or Jill.Morris@nt.gov.au

Individual Members of Savannah Guides Limited are hereby advised of the following meetings that are to be held during the forthcoming Savannah Guide School in Townsville.

AGM NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of Savannah Guides Limited shall be held at 11:00 hours on Friday 27th October 2006 the Flinders Room, Ibis Hotel, 12-14 Palmer Street, Townsville,

GENERAL MEETING

The General Meeting of Savannah Guides Limited will be held at 08:30 hours also on Friday 27th October 2006 at the Flinders Room, Ibis Hotel, 12-14 Palmer Street, Townsville.

Nomination for Election to the Board of Savannah Guides Limited

All ordinary individual and special members of Savannah Guides Ltd are entitled to nominate their colleagues for election to the Board at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting to be held at Flinders Room, Ibis Hotel, 12-14 Palmer Street, Townsville, Qld. on Friday 27th October 2006 at 11:00 hours.

There are four (4) Board positions for which you may wish to nominate an eligible member (if you are nominating more than one person, please photocopy this form). Any Nominee must agree and sign the Nomination Form (below) as must the Nominator and a Secunder. If, due to distance/time difficulties it is not possible for all persons to sign the Nomination Form, a fax or email FROM EACH PERSON supporting the nomination will be accepted, provided all three are received by Friday, 13th October 2006 in accordance with Article 45(b) of the Constitution.

The current Board composition and circumstances for the purpose of the election at the AGM are as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Status of Office tenure</u>	<u>Availability</u>
President	Mick Jerram	Retains Board membership	Continuing
Vice-President	Evan Tandy	Retiring from Board, vacates position	Not Available
Secretary	Vicki Jones	Resigning from Board, vacates position	Not Available
Committee	Joe Lockyer	Retiring from Board, vacates position	Continuing
Committee	Jodie Tanswell	Retains Board membership	Continuing
Committee	Pauline Rayner	Retires as interim member (replaced Greg Johnson)	Not Available

Please send completed nomination form by 13th October 2006 to: The Secretary, Savannah Guides Ltd PO Box 701 NIGHTCLIFF, NT 0814 Fax: 08 8985 3894 E-mail: info@savannah-guides.com.au

Your nomination form may be sent without a seconder's signature, in which case a seconder will be sought from the members at the AGM.

Tropical Savannas CRC - notes

Plant harvest opportunities for indigenous communities

Small-scale Commercial Plant Harvests by Indigenous Communities reports on work with Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory to explore the feasibility of developing small-scale enterprises based on harvesting plant material in remote Aboriginal communities. Authors, Julian Gorman (CDU) and Peter Whitehead (TS-CRC) identify potential plant products using botanical advice in consultation with Indigenous communities. Case studies look at bushfoods, customary foods for sale within communities, live plant trade, arts and craft, as well as novelties and educational items for the tourism market.

Visit: <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/AFT/04-148.pdf>

Summary at: <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/AFT/04-148sum.html>

TOPICAL SAVANNAS CRC - notes

COMPILED BY FRAN BANCROFT, JULIE CROUGH, KATE O'DONNELL AND PETER JACKLYN.

FOR CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS GO TO OUR CALENDAR SECTION:

<http://www.savanna.cdu.edu.au/news/calendar.html>

West Arnhem Land Fire Management Agreement

On Wednesday, 23 August, an agreement was announced between Darwin Liquefied Natural Gas (DLNG), the Northern Territory Government, the Northern Land Council and Aboriginal Traditional Owners in which

Indigenous land managers in Western Arnhem Land will draw on funding of just over \$1 million from DLNG over the next 17 years to manage wildfires more effectively. By implementing patchy burns across the landscape the aim of the funding is to better protect the Arnhem Land plateau from the

wildfires that occur late in the year by breaking up the fuel available for these destructive fires -- limiting wildfires will in turn reduce the emission of greenhouse gases from that landscape. Reducing emissions in this way from the west Arnhem Plateau will offset greenhouse gas emissions from the Liquefied Natural Gas plant at Wickham Point. The TS-CRC will be contracted to monitor and report on greenhouse gas emissions during the agreement. The CRC already helps Arnhem Land fire managers monitor fire activity through the NAFI website and by providing fire maps in other formats. Research coordinated by the TS-CRC and involving CSIRO, Bushfires NT, AGO, DNRETA, and WA DLI has underpinned the feasibility of the agreement. Limiting wildfires will also help conserve environmental and cultural values of the Plateau that are equivalent to those in the adjacent World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park. Among the most significant outcomes of the agreement should be the economic and social benefits for the indigenous communities involved in the fire management.

For more information contact Jeremy Russell-Smith on Jeremy.russell-smith@nt.gov.au Full story on the staff website at: http://savanna.ntu.edu.au/internal/newsletters/ts1/ts102/west_arnhem_l_fi.html

NAILSMA Biosecurity Report

Australia is currently free from numerous diseases, pests and weeds that are endemic in many countries round the world. However, increased illegal fishing and unauthorised land incursions taking place in northern Australia, and the change in regional distribution of pathogens and vectors due to global climate change, all pose serious Biosecurity threats to Australia. This report examines the threat of further distribution of existing diseases such as dengue fever, Ross River fever, Japanese encephalitis, malaria and Leishmaniasis. It also looks at the potential of illegal fishers introducing highly pathogenic avian influenza to Australia, via the chickens that they carry onboard their vessels.

The location of remote Indigenous communities within northern Australia and Indigenous land and sea management practices place Indigenous peoples in a crucial position that enables them to detect illegal foreign fishers, and identify notifiable diseases and invasive alien species at an early stage. Therefore, a successful, integrated approach to maintain Australia's biosecurity requires Indigenous communities to be centrally involved in biosecurity strategies in northern Australia.

Go to <http://www.nailsma.org.au/publications/biosecurity.html>

More information: Joe Morrison, Executive Officer, NAILSMA, Email: joe.morrison@cdu.edu.au

Road Forward Clear To CYPDA



The Cape York Peninsula Development Association Inc. (CYPDA) has recently undergone expansion, to meet the growing needs of Cape York residents and businesses, with the appointment of new staff in the three key roles of Natural Resources Management Coordinator, Office Manager and Communications Manager.

Brian Benham brings a wealth of experience and contacts to the role of Natural Resource Management Coordinator and takes a hands-on approach to working with communities. Brian will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of several projects in 2006 including the Cape York Feral Weeds and Animal Program, Sustainable Fire Management Project, Coastal and Marine Project and the Turtle Nest Predation Monitoring Project.

Trish Butler who joined in late August as Office Manager was previously in a similar role with the Gulf Savannah Development Association and has already improved business systems.

MaryBeth Gundrum, Communications Manager, who is seconded from Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service for one year, joins with more than 15 years of experience of working with communities on Cape York and in Torres Strait with various organisations in the areas of health, education and environment.

On 30 September last year, CYPDA signed a new four-year contract with the Queensland Department of State Development which provides the stability for the Association to take a longer term and more strategic approach to working with the state government agencies and business interests to improve the quality of life for residents of Cape York.

Joy Marriott, President of CYPDA says the Association is looking to working more closely with the tourism industry, "Tourism provides employment opportunities and brings economic benefit to Cape York Peninsula communities. With the additional staff, we hope to work more closely with the industry to deliver much needed tourism projects and infrastructure to the Cape".

The Annual General Meeting for CYPDA is being held in Weipa on 22 September, 2006 and interested members of the public are encouraged to attend.

THE CROCODILES ARE CRYING

Endless visions fill my head – this man – as large as life
And instantly my heart mourns for his angels and his wife
Because the way I see Steve Irwin – just put everything aside
It comes back to his family – it comes back to his pride

His animals inclusive – Crikey – light the place with love!
Shine his star with everything he fought to rise above
The crazy-man of Khaki from the day he left the pouch
Living out his dream and in that classic 'Stevo' crouch

Exploding forth with character and redefining cheek

It's one thing to be honoured as a champion unique
It's one thing to have microphones and spotlight cameras shoved
It's another to be taken in and genuinely loved

But that was where he had it right – I guess he always knew
From his fathers' modest reptile park and then Australia Zoo
We cringed at times and shook our heads – but true to nature's call
There was something very Irwin in the make up of us all

Yes the more I care to think of it – the more he had it right
If you're going to make a difference – make it big and make it bright!

>>> Yes - he was a lunatic! Yes - he went head first!
But he made the world feel happy with his energetic burst

A world so large and loyal that it's hard to comprehend
I doubt we truly count the warmth until life meets an end
To count it now I say a prayer with words of inspiration
May the spotlight shine forever on his dream for conservation

...My daughter broke the news to me – my six year old in tears
It was like she'd just turned old enough to show her honest fears
I tried to make some sense of it but whilst her Dad was trying
His little girl explained it best...she said "The crocodiles are crying"

Their best mate's up in heaven now – the crocs up there are smiling!
And as sure as flowers, poems and cards and memories are piling
As sure as we'll continue with the trademarks of his spiel
Of all the tributes worthy – he was rough...but he was real
As sure as 'Crikey!' fills the sky

I think we'll miss ya Steve...goodbye

RUPERT McCALL 2006

15th August 2006 **Angel Ride**

The Angel Ride journey came to an end on Saturday 5th of August at the Savannah Way “zero-peg” in Cairns, North Queensland. Having ridden over **3,200kms** on horse back John and Anna rode back into civilisation in what was almost an unnerving experience!

JOHN & ANNA ON CAIRNS ESPLANADE WITH GAV & RASTAS



The last stretch of the journey has seen John and Anna pass from Georgetown across the Great Dividing Range past Mount Surprise to Mount Garnet. Both the scenery and the weather was a stark contrast to the start of the trip back in March in Broome. Heavy rain, wind and bitter cold were things the Angel Ride crew were definitely not used to. During a two day camp the weather was cold, wet and miserable; so much so that they were persuaded into making a substantial investment in Driza-Bone oilskins for the journey ahead! Leaving Mount Garnet their route took them through Ravenshoe and its lush world heritage listed rainforest surrounds, through Herberton and onto Atherton – a real shock to the system – what seemed like a massive town with heavy traffic and fast driving, certainly not a town accustomed to horses riding down the main street. Then onto Mareeba where they camping overnight at the Mareeba Rodeo Ground were then escorted by the local Pony Club to Kuranda. On the day before the final ride into the centre of Cairns John and Anna made the winding trek down from Kuranda flanked by 3 police escort vehicles and John’s Dad, Mike (who had flown in from Darwin especially to meet them), driving the support truck. At the end point John and Anna were met and congratulated by the Mayor of Cairns, the Founder of Angel Flight Bill Bristow & wife Wendy, Rob Giason CEO of Tourism Tropical North Qld, Kate Sutcliffe CEO of the Savannah Way and a large number of family and friends including John’s folks Mike & Gina, Anna’s folks Alan & Marlene and sister Lucy (who flew out from England), John Colless whose assistance in organising the finale in Cairns was invaluable, Bruce Melbourne their fantastic media advisor and diarist & wife Sylvia, and many more who had travelled from near and far.

A FEW WORDS FROM BILL BRISTOW – ANGEL FLIGHT FOUNDER

Covered: 3,200+ kms Still to go: 0 kms The media response after the arrival in Cairns was sensational!

John and Anna made the news here in Australia (including Channel 7, 9, 10 & ABC evening news and all of the weekend papers) and internationally – front page in the UK and coverage on the BBC News, Belgian News and more! Some of the more out-there coverage included The Mumbai Mirror, The China Post, The Brunei Times, plus papers in Germany, Switzerland, Finland, New Zealand, Denmark and the USA. The Times Magazine has an article in this week’s edition!



Although their journey is at an end it is not too late to donate!

Many friends have asked me if they can still donate online and the answer is **YES!** We will not cut off the donations until we at least reach the target of \$10,000. We still have a little way to go. If you haven’t yet been online to donate to Angel Flight please do so now so we can wrap this up!

Donate at www.angelride.info. Or send cheques: To: Angel Ride , c/- PO 120 CMB19 , Virginia NT 0822

Black fellas and white fellas - we still need that story

by [Janice McEwen](#) Arts Hub Australia Friday, August 11, 2006

“When we heard about the stockmen walking off Wave Hill we were in a drovers’ camp in Queensland. We came in for our tucker and Mum had been listening to the ABC news and she told us ‘The black fellas have walked off Lord Vestey’s station’. We thought they’d end up in jail. But they didn’t. We were glued to the ABC for the next nine years”.

For Kev Carmody, the co-writer with Paul Kelly of *From Little Things Big Things Grow* (the song which has helped keep this important story alive), the memory of that August day in 1966 is still vivid and the promise of the Wave Hill Walk Off continues to be significant for all Australians. For him that significance is “the realisation by non-Indigenous Australians that this struggle transcended the issue of wages and was for the return of their land, which for the Gurindji stockmen and their families as for all Aboriginal people is the source of our culture, spirituality and identity. It is also the recognition that we had a historical, sovereign right to that land.”

Kev will be performing at Kalkaringi on 18th and 19th of August this year when the communities of Kalkaringi and Daguragu with supporters from all around the country will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk-Off with the 40 Years Freedom Day Festival.

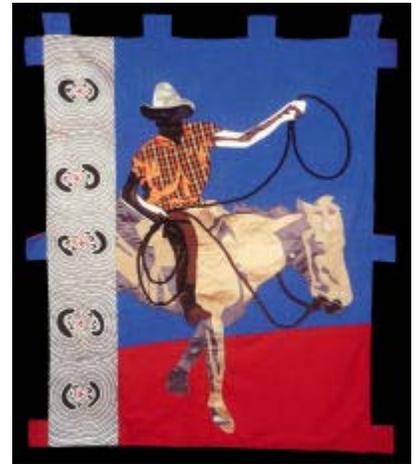
The festival commemorates the strike by the Indigenous pastoral workers of Wave Hill station, led by Gurindji leader Vincent Lingiari, which was very much the beginning of the land rights movement in Australia. And, as Indigenous leader Pat Dodson puts it, “Lingiari started us on the road to reconciliation”.

Although seen initially as a strike for wages and living conditions, the struggle of the Gurindji was essentially about the issue of access and rights to their own traditional land. After nine years of intense struggle they were finally given the title to the land in an official handover ceremony by the then Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam in August 1975.

“Freedom Day” is celebrated annually in the Kalkaringi and Daguragu communities, about 800 kilometres south of Darwin. This year, the 40 Years Freedom Day Festival will be a special event marking this important anniversary, and to honour and recognise the vision, determination and hope of Vincent Lingiari and the stockmen and their families.

This festival of arts and culture in the widest sense of the words begins on Friday 18 August with a Community Freedom Day BBQ in the Victoria River bed (the initial camp of the Gurindji after the Walk Off). The festival will also feature important Indigenous ceremony and traditional dancing, exhibitions and sales of artwork by local artists, speeches and discussions, tours of the Walk Off sites, displays, a collaborative art project, films, an exhibition and sale of student artwork from Kalkaringi Community Education Centre. Indigenous contemporary dancer Gary Lang is taking workshops with young people in the community and will perform at the festival. The set of beautiful commemorative banners created by the community with Joanna Barrkman and Chips Macinolty for the 30th Anniversary Celebration will be on display.

The two Freedom Day Concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings will feature national and local performers including Kev Carmody, Warren H Williams, Mary G, Nokturnal, Nabarlek Band, Shellie Morris and local Aboriginal bands the Lazy Late Boys and Yartulu Yartulu.



A banner created to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk-Off and the 40 Years Freedom Day Festival. [Photo: Courtesy, Top End Arts Marketing]

Like Kev, the other performers I've talked to express their sense of being honoured to take part in this historic festival and are quick to point out that the Wave Hill Walk Off is significant for all Australians. As Vincent Lingiari put it "We want to live in a better way together. Aboriginals and white men. Let us not fight over anything. Let us be mates."

Important guests at the festival will include some artists coming home to their country who are Gurindji descendents of some of the many children stolen from the community and these include singer June Mills, and artists Brenda Croft and Eddie Kitching.

Many other visitors are long term friends of the community. These include Gabi Hollows, Founding Director of the Fred Hollows Foundation who worked with Fred Hollows in the community in the 70s; the Hon Les Johnson AM who was Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in Gough Whitlam's 1975 cabinet and organised the moving symbolic handover ceremony when Gough Whitlam poured a handful of soil into Vincent Lingiari's hand; Graham Paulson the first Aboriginal ordained Baptist minister who worked with the people at Wave Hill from 1970 to 1975; author Frank Hardy's son Alan Hardy and daughter Shirley Hardy-Rix who will be bringing copies of the timely new edition of their father's classic story of the Walk-off, *The Unlucky Australians*.

VIPs attending the festival include Federal Labour politicians Peter Garrett, and Warren Snowdon who is the local member, and Northern Territory politicians including Chief Minister Clare Martin and many members of her cabinet and party. Unions NT are organising buses from Darwin out Kalkiringi for the event. The Liberal and Country Liberal Party are notable for their total absence.

Another VIP, songsmith Ted Egan the writer and performer of Gurindji Blues who is now the enormously popular Administrator of the Northern Territory and who will be visiting in his official capacity and as a long time friend of the people of Kalkaringi and Daguragu, puts the significance of the event this way,

*Poor bugger me, Gurindji
Me bin sit down this country
Long time before the Lord Vestey
All about land belongin' to we
Poor bugger me, Gurindji.*

In a moving tribute to Vincent Lingiari Ted Egan says "When the definitive history of Australia is written, there will be many Prime Ministers who won't rate a single line, but the name Vincent Lingiari will be there. Future Australians will know of and hopefully revere the simple, dignified stockman who took on the combined wrath of the Australian Government and the Vestey's empire in England, on the grounds that he wanted to be treated like a human being, not a dog. It was he who led the 1966 walk off from conditions approximating slavery on Wave Hill station. It was he who put the words "land rights" into the Australian vernacular. It was he who said we should all be mates. It was he who graciously offered friendship to all, when he finally won the battle to have his people recognised as the traditional owners of the land he inherited from his ancestors. What a mighty man, old Julama."

According to another popular performer at the festival, Mary G. "This is not Aboriginal history this is Australia's history and ordinary Australians Citizens standing for their rights.

"The public announcement of the way business is done with Aboriginal people set the precedent in Australia by the actions of the late and great Vincent Lingiari and the Gurindji people of Wave Hill. The walk off, was in fact the walk on, in exposing Australia's shameful attitude towards Aboriginal Australia.

"Sadly very little has changed in terms of attitude to wards its own Indigenous people. But I am proud to be invited to be there amongst not only the spirit of the vent but among the spirit of those gone who stood up for our rights. I am so proud and honoured. To perform there is the greatest opportunity for me".

According to Central Australian band Nokturnl, who will also perform in the Freedom Day Concert, “Our music makes a lot of statements, often expressed quite cryptically, about the history of Australia and the violence and oppression of Indigenous people. Actions like those of the stockmen and their families who walked off Wave Hill Station are necessary for our salvation to take place – they’re an important and necessary thing not only for Indigenous people, but for all Australians”.

Kev Carmody describes the threats to land rights, the changes to industrial relations legislation and the demise of Aboriginal representation as “another tidal wave sweeping over us” but draws inspiration from the coming together of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in events like the 40 Years Freedom Festival as opportunities to find a new way forward.

As his song says:

...this is the story of something much more

How power and privilege can not move a people

Who know where they stand and stand in the law.

For more information about the Wave Hill Walk Off and the 40 Years Freedom Festival visit www.freedomday.info

Janice McEwen

Janice McEwen is the Indigenous Arts Marketing Officer for Top End Arts Marketing.

iam@topendarts.com.au

<http://www.topendarts.com.au>

Frogs - Did You Know ?

Excerpt From Frogwatch <www.frogwatch.org.au>

- Secretions from the Golfball frog contain a very strong adhesive. Aluminium cans glued together with the secretions cannot be pulled apart with your hands.
 - Cane toads can be poisoned by Lavendar beetles
- Frogs absorb water through their skin and do not have to drink water like humans do
- The Northern Territory Frog (also know as Monsoon frog) *Sphenophryne adelphe* breeds by laying its eggs in leaf litter rather than water. The young emerge from the eggs as frogs having spent the entire tadpole stage in the egg. The Male frog stays with the eggs as they develop.
- About 30% or 1/3 of our frogs burrow into the ground to avoid hot dry times. Some remain buried for long periods until the next rains.
 - Green Tree frogs have been known to live for 23 years (in captivity)
- Frogs have many glands in their skin that secrete fluids. Some of these contain substances to keep the frog moist, other contain poisons to protect the frog. You should always be careful if you handle a frog. Wash your hands, you never know what the secretions may contain.
 - Frogs breathe through their skin and so may absorb atmospheric pollution.
- Frogs eat lots of insects, some species specialising on particular prey items. One [Cyclorana Cryptotis](#), ([Hidden-ear frog](#)) had 249 termites and 2 small beetles in its stomach



- Cane Toads lay large numbers of eggs, many more than our native species. Cane toads lay up to 50,000 eggs, ten times more eggs than our native species such as Cyclorana australis (Giant Frog) approx 5000 eggs or Litoria caerulea (Green Tree Frog) 2000 eggs. Cane toad eggs are laid in strings and can be removed from water relatively easily. This may be one way to help limit toad numbers in your neighbourhood
- An observation on the toxicity of L. dahlii on potential predators. While tracking L. dahlii at Howard river during May 2002, it was discovered that the transmitter signal was received from inside the belly on a young Varanus panoptes. After monitoring the panoptes for 4 days it was observed that the goanna showed no ill effect from the toxicity of dahlii.
- Australia has over 180 species of native frogs, more than Europe and North America combined. They are spread across all habitats, even the arid areas where burrowing frogs go underground to avoid the hot dry times.
- Dahl's Aquatic frog appears to be able to handle Cane Toad toxin. They can eat young toads and Toad tadpoles without dying!!
 - Amphibians evolved over 350 million years ago and were ancestors to the dinosaurs.
- There are more than 5,300 species of amphibians around the world. There are others yet to be described.
- Amphibian means "dual life" and is derived from the greek word "amphibia" meaning both, and "bios", which means life.

Great news - the Carpentaria Ghost Net Program is the joint winner of the prestigious environmental Banksia Environmental Award for Water

Check it out on <http://www.banksiafdn.com/index.php?page=282>

The Carpentaria Ghost Net Program is based in Karumba and involves coastal communities in the Gulf of Carpentaria (across Queensland and the Northern Territory). The program is currently funded by the Natural Heritage Trust Program. To date the rangers have removed 5,148 metres of net thus preventing them re-entering the ocean and continuing their killing spree. For more information about ghost nets and the issue go to: <http://www.ghostnets.com.au/>

The Banksia Awards over the last 17 years have recognised many valuable Australian's for their tireless efforts in making a positive difference to our environment. Leading by example, the finalists and winners of the Banksia Environmental Awards have inspired and motivated other individuals, organisations and companies across Australia to take up the vision, pursuit and practice of environmental excellence.

This is great news for the communities of the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Natural Heritage Trust Program.

If you wish to send Riki Gunn the coordinator and the team a congratulatory note, please do at riki@ghostnets.com.au.

Noeline Gross, General Manager, Northern Gulf Resource Management Group