



# ADVENTURE UPDATE

## Christmas 2010



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

*Holland Track Reports \* Chinese Firecracker \* Caravans & Wildflowers \* Incredible Kenya \* Christmas Wishes & more!*

### HO-HO-HOLLAND TRACK!

This year's Holland Track Expedition was so nice we decided to do it twice! We were given an amazing 'farewell' full-page write-up in a Perth newspaper, *The Sunday Times*, by one of our favourite journalists, Lloyd Marshall, who was moving interstate. As a result, we got more bookings than we could handle on our annual 4-day Holland Track mini-adventure. What to do?? Run a second one! So Jeremy & Rebina did just that & both tag-along-tours were absolutely fantastic!

Because it was our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of touring this historic track, to make things even more special we arranged for talented bush poet, Bill Gordon, to join the group & give a recital of much-loved Aussie bush poetry around the campfire with the stars twinkling overhead. What a memorable experience! Bill had a great time, too, & even wrote a poem about the time he spent with us! If you'd like a copy please give us a call or view this newsletter on our website at [www.globalgypsies.com.au](http://www.globalgypsies.com.au).

Thanks to Tour #1 participants Gabrielle Burrup & Jo Bussell; Kelvin, David & Malcolm Hicks; Martin Jones & Mary Barton; George & Lee Lenyk; Ross McGillivray; Kaye & Jessica Petterson; Winston & Libby Sparrow; David & Anne Williams, Nigel Wright & Ian Jones & Janet Farr. Janet, an entomologist with DEC, was thrilled to sight a rare & endangered sun moth (*Synemon nupta*) during the tour.

And thanks to our intrepid (and patient!) Tour #2 participants Eddy Haro; Hector & Meeryn Hay; Frank & Janet Hutchison; Simon Newton; Ron & Ken Trafford; Ken & Jeanette Webb; Colin Willis & honorary gypsy Charlie Gilbert. It was a pleasure to have you all along! And huge thanks to sandalwooder John Holland who cut the track through dense bush over 100 years ago making the tour possible for us modern-day adventurers!

### CHINESE FIRECRACKER!



We escorted our second group to China for an 18-day tour in September & it was a real firecracker! Joining us on our Oriental experience were Denis & Lynne McLeod; Simon & Anne Newton; Kim & Aileen Swarbrick; and Chris Thomas & Naomi Roydhouse.

In addition to the mind-blowing highlights of the Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors, panda sanctuary & Yangtze River cruise, it was the first time we had visited the western province of Yunnan & we fell in love with it! The fascinating culture, mountain scenery, delicious food, local colour, entertainment, warm friendly people – just everything pressed our buttons. And what really impressed everyone throughout the tour was the professionalism of the Tour Guides – they were absolutely brilliant wherever we went. Most gypsies spent some time in Shanghai afterwards visiting World Expo. Wow! When the Chinese do something they sure do it right! What an undertaking & how well it was done. All in all a great trip – thank you, China, & thank you gypsy travelers!



### CRAZY FOR KENYA!

When we unexpectedly had a private tour cancelled which left a gaping three-week hole in our calendar in August 2011, we initially went into panic mode. Then we thought, "Hey! This is an opportunity to offer something really exciting in this time slot - a tour that everybody loves!" So that's how we squeezed an unscheduled visit to Kenya into next year's touring calendar! But that's not the end of the story...when we announced the 'surprise safari' to our clients by email, the response was so overwhelming that we ended up with more people than places! After fielding numerous disappointed phone calls from clients who missed out, we scratched our heads again and said, "So why not run two safaris to Africa back-to-back!" And then (just like Noah's Ark) there were two! Now there are only a few places left on the second safari so if you're keen to join us please get in touch ASAP. The dates are *July 23 – August 5, 2011* & we promise it'll be the best holiday you'll ever have! We'll be spending 10 days in Kenya's fabulous Masai Mara, Aberdare, Nakuru & Samburu national parks, followed by three days on the exotic spice island of Zanzibar off the Tanzanian coast. What a trip! Be still my beating heart!



And for the first time, we're running the tour as a joint venture with our friends at *Coates Wildlife Tours*, one of Western Australia's most respected tour operators & travel agents who, like us, are a small, family-owned business with a loyal client base. As is happening with clothing, groceries, music & just about everything else these days, with so many 'big boys' muscling their way into the tourism industry & squeezing out the little guys, we thought it made sense to combine forces with a small, reputable operator with a similar product range & business philosophy to our own. Here's to many more joint ventures!

### TOUR GUIDE TRAINEES HOT TO TROT



Our most recent Tour Guide trainees were hot to trot through the bush when they attended our accredited, introductory *Tour Guide Training Course* in December. After a half-day theoretical session at Murdoch

University (our course co-sponsor), the group spent 1½ days at Willowbrook Farm in Gin Gin learning the basic principles of guiding. Well done Linda Deutsch; David Fox-Spencer; Shane Kennedy; Lance McDonald; Claire Vander Linden & Harold Walter - you'll all make great Guides! Also a big thanks to tour operator *Adventure Wild* who generously provided a 4WD safari truck for the weekend & sent experienced guides Clare Seabrook & Greg Thomson along to do a refresher!

## FUN AT THE 4WD SHOW!

We always have a stand at the annual Perth 4WD Show but this year we had our best response ever. In addition to participating in the Motor Trade Association's 'passport' promotion by donating a free 4WD training course, we also gave away a separate 4WD course to visitors to our stand. The lucky winner was Robin Rose of Waterford who is going to enjoy his prize in January – congratulations, Robin!

The Show is consistently good for us in terms of building brand awareness & as an indicator of market trends, so we were interested to analyse the results after the event. Normally bookings come in weeks or months after the Show, but this year a lot more customers wanted to make a firm commitment on the spot for 4WD & caravan tours or 4WD & towing training. We also noticed an increased presence of exhibitors promoting caravans & van-related products.

With the Aussie dollar so high, we expected a quiet year for our tag-along-tours with people preferring to travel overseas. So the huge level of interest in our escorted outback safaris - particularly our new caravan/motorhome safaris - caught us by surprise. This seems to buck reported tourism trends but it's great to see so many Aussies choosing to take self-drive holidays with us to explore their own country. Thanks, folks, for your support! We look forward to seeing you all on a tour or training course soon!

## CALIFORNIA DREAMING

Thanks to our long-time travel partners RAC WA, our *California Dreaming Motorhome Safari* is coming together nicely. There have been delays in announcing pricing due to some slow responses 'Stateside', but we are definitely on track to 'get those wagons rollin'



in September 2011. We will lead 12 hired 26-foot motorhomes on our 'wheely big adventure' through South-western USA to such iconic destinations as LA, the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Zion, Las Vegas, San Francisco & Big Sur & we can hardly wait!

Already a number of places are tentatively reserved, but if you're keen to hit the road with us then express your interest pronto so that we can add you to the list...but wait - there's more!!

The response to our first overseas motorhome safari has been so positive that we've decided to run another one in 2012, this time to – *Alaska!* We're making a list (♪...and checking it twice, gonna find out who's naughty or nice...etc ♪) of keen Eskimos, so if this expedition sends icy shivers up your spine then please give us a call!

## PUTTING THE BITE ON MOSQUITOS!

We recently heard about a clever way to put the bite on mosquitoes. Apparently the mouthwash, *Listerine*, is a terrific mozzie repellent! You just fill a spray bottle with it, squirt it around you & the little demons disappear! We haven't tried it ourselves so don't know how well it works, but at least if the mosquitoes do still bite you they'll have sweet-smelling breath!

## CRUISE THE KIMBERLEY IN STYLE ON TRUE NORTH

If you're thinking about taking a luxury cruise on the award-winning *True North* through the remote & magnificent Kimberley region of Australia's northwest, remember that if you book your cruise through Global Gypsies you'll save hundreds of dollars! The purpose built *True North* explores the upper reaches of shallow river systems & wilderness areas accessible only by water while you're pampered with gourmet meals & five-star service. For details visit <http://www.northstarcruises.com.au>.

## A BLOOMING GOOD CARAVAN SAFARI!



We love running our 4WD tag-along-tours & have several great expeditions planned for next year (*Tracks of Len Beadell, Kimberley Explorer, Canning Stock Route, Coral Coast Tropical Adventure* and *Holland Track*), but our caravan & motorhome safaris are becoming almost as popular! Last year we ran two escorted, self-catering caravan/motorhome tours - *Karijini Rocks & Wildflowers*. Now just about everybody who visited Karijini with us has booked on the next Wildflower Tour & vice-versa!

On our *Caravan Wildflower Safari* in September (sponsored by *Crikey Camper Hire*), our happy little convoy covered over 1700 kms in 10 days through WA's blossom-rich Midwest. Thanks to Tony & Sue Heatherbell; Bob & Jan Pearce Bill & Marion O'Neil; Steve & Debbie Pleysier; John Webb; Lloyd & Pam Webb & Colin & Lisa Willis for making the tour such great fun! Also accompanying us was Jenny Rose, an aptly named wildflower enthusiast & honorary gypsy, who provided flower identification & botanical knowledge. We visited such blooming hotspots as Western Flora Wildflower Farm (where we spent time with renowned botanist Alan Tinker), Coalseam & Kalbarri National Parks, Morawa, Canna (where we discovered a near perfect wreath flower), Mount Magnet & Kirkalocka Station (where we sighted the unique *grevillea kirkalocka* & a new species, *banksia rosserae*). We enjoyed 4WD outings, towing seminars, 4WD "Girlspeak" presentation, star-gazing session and a tyre-changing demo (which came in very handy later on!). Jeremy also made some mechanical repairs to a caravan with wheel bearing problems with valuable assistance from Steve. There were also special Welcome and Farewell Dinners & a number of fun activities including a games night, "Open House" viewings & "Pot Luck Suppers" We even raised over \$300 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service through a series of 'fun fines' for such crimes and misdemeanours as forgetting to travel with headlights on, being late for sundowners & wearing gaudy dressing gowns. Ha ha! What a hoot!

## DON'T MISS THE FIRST GYPSY TOUR OF 2011!

Kicking off our 2011 touring calendar, the *Southern Oceans-White Beaches Caravan & Motorhome Safari* hits the trail on March 1. Beginning in Esperance & ending in Albany, this 10-day fun-filled, self-catering adventure will explore the pristine beaches & rugged cliffs of the wild southern coast under the guidance of WA's best towing trainer & former Tour Guide of the Year – Jeremy! There will be several two-night stops with plenty of time to fish, swim, relax, enjoy optional 4WD outings & meet new friends with similar interests. Sponsored once again by *Crikey Camper Hire*, this scenic, magical tour will prove once again that "Life's a beach when you travel with the Gypsies!" Book your place today!



## FESTIVE WISHES

The chubby guy in the red suit is about to arrive & we can't believe another year has whizzed by. We hope you've had as much fun as we have & that 2011 will bring you & yours happiness, peace & prosperity. We also hope we have the pleasure of your company on a tour or training course next year & thank you for your loyalty and support over the past 12 months. Have a fantastic holiday season & we look forward to seeing you soon! Best wishes & happy travels from

Jan + Jeremy



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