



# ADVENTURE UPDATE

## Christmas 2007



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

*This issue: Tassie Devil \*Holland Track Heroes \*Jandamarra \* Kenya & Greece\* Safari Guide Workshop \*Christmas Wishes and more!*

### JEREMY TURNS INTO A TASSIE DEVIL!

After spending almost six weeks in Tasmania, Jeremy's just about turned into a Tassie Devil! He was down there to lead two back-to-back motorhome safaris in November, one for NRMA (Sydney's version of RAC/AAA) and another for the Winnebago Club. The treks were extremely successful and the groups visited such spectacular destinations as Devonport, Launceston, Port Arthur, the Gordon River, Cradle Mountain, Freycinet National Park, Bruney Island, Sarah Island, Strahan and of course, Hobart.

For those of you who haven't been to Tassie, it's one of the most beautiful states in Australia with a cool climate, a dark history, fascinating wildlife (check out the white wallaby below which is only found on Bruney Island off the east coast where it has no natural predators!) and exquisite wilderness areas.

The Winnebago trek saw 22 of the mammoth homes-on-wheels winding their way through Tassie's tiny roads and squeezing into the local caravan parks. Quite an achievement! We were honoured to be asked to lead these tours and hope to repeat the exercise next year for these organisations.



The NRMA once again also appointed us to lead their annual caravan trek through WA which ran in October. Twelve vans joined in the fun enjoying such highlights as Kalgoorlie, Esperance, Albany & the south coast with a grand finale at Harvey Dickson's wild and crazy country arena.

In addition to meeting some great new friends on these treks, we were also privileged to work with "Tail End Charlies" Paul & Sandi Bowerman from RAC(WA), Carl Wilkens from NRMA (NSW) and Winnebago PR & Marketing Assistant Kelly Baines. Our best wishes go to Kylie Elliott from NRMA who not only gave birth to the Tassie trip, but also gave birth to her first bub! (We should add that she wasn't on safari at the time!!).

And to add a personal note (and one of which we are extremely proud!), while in Hobart, Jeremy spent time with his cousins, Jenny & (Dr) Denzil Miller. They were celebrating quite a remarkable achievement – Denzil, who is head of the 24-nation Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, had just been awarded the prestigious 2007 Duke of Edinburgh Medal for outstanding service to the environment for his work in the Antarctic! The medal was presented by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus of WWF International, at a special ceremony and private lunch at Buckingham Palace. Congratulations, Denzil, what an honour! Mind if we bask in your reflected glory?

### JANDAMARRA COMES OUT OF HIDING!

Some of you may already know the legend of Jandamarra, the Kimberley Aboriginal tracker who became famous in the 1890's for resisting white settlement. He was asked to track down some of his own people for alleged crimes, but instead, he rebelled, shot a policeman, released his 'rellies' from prison and hid out in a cave at Windjana Gorge/Tunnel Creek in the Kimberley area of WA's Northwest. He evaded capture for many months but was betrayed, then discovered and shot by the authorities. Over the years he gained celebrity status and on our Kimberley trips we always visit his well concealed 'hideout'.

The Perth International Arts Festival has brought Jandamarra's story to life in a new stage play which promises to be quite special. So we purchased a block of 20 tickets so that Perth-based gypsies can learn a bit more about this outback legend. Should be a great night out and one of several 'social' events we plan to organize this year. Keep your eyes open for the next gypsy outing, folks!

**ATTENTION!! NEW CARAVANNERS!  
NEXT CARAVAN CONFIDENCE CONVOY IS ON  
FEBRUARY 17-18, 2008!  
BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!**

### INTERNATIONAL ESCAPADES



We no sooner put our proposed *Incredible Kenya* and *Mediterranean Magic* (Greece) tours on the 2009 calendar than the phones started running hot! We've just finalized the itineraries, dates & prices for both these wonderful small group adventures so if you're keen to find out more please get in touch!

Both tours will be personally escorted by Jeremy & Jan & include 3-4 star accommodation, transport in quality vehicles, most meals, plenty of activities and a bevy of amazing sights and experiences. The Kenya safari in August 2009 will visit such famous parks as Masai Mara, Samburu and Nakuru with an optional side trip to the exotic island of Zanzibar.



On the Greek getaway in May 2009, we'll spend a week on the mainland visiting sites of historical significance, then a week soaking up the atmosphere of the picture-postcard beauty of the islands of Mykonos & Santorini. Those of you who have already expressed interest will receive the flyer by post or email in the New Year. And if you're tempted to come with us, just ask us to send

you a copy! Get those passports & cameras ready, folks, cos in the next couple of years, we're off to see some of the most exotic spots in the world! We've even got Antarctica in our sights!

## HOLLAND TRACK HEROES!

Going bush is wonderful, but you do have to be prepared to brave the elements. Our recent Holland Track Expedition during wildflower season was terrific with top scenery, a great group and yummy meals. BUT, while we were exploring, Western Australia decided to turn on one of its worst-ever storms! With its gale force winds & driving rain, the storm devastated several Margaret River vineyards and trashed buildings in SW towns. And there we were halfway between Kalgoorlie & Wave Rock while Mother Nature did her darndest to tear our catering trailer awning to pieces and blow our little campsite into kingdom come! Well, in true gypsy fashion, we not only survived but we had a marvelous time in spite of the weather!

With seven vehicles & two passengers traveling in the escort vehicle, we had a full and happy house. Thanks to all the gypsies who joined us on this challenging, if somewhat soggy expedition – Kay Andrews, Felicity Carlin, Ken & Dianne Desmond, Frankie Drake-Brockman, Jane Fenwick, Chris & Anne Johnston, Noreen Leyden, Val Milne, Max Williams, Bob Perks (no relation) and PHD student Yamini Narayanan who was doing a tourism research project. You were excellent company and good sports! Particularly Yamini who had never even camped before! Talk about baptism by fire, or should that be baptism by water?

Memorable highlights included our first night at Emu Rocks, the view from Mt. Holland, the walk up Cave Hill & camping there for the first time (we usually use Victoria Rock), and Rebina's secret 'potjie' (pronounced poi-key) bush casserole. Our group also did a good deed – we discovered that vandals had destroyed the fence & entry way to Thursday Rock so we got busy making repairs. Good work, everyone!

It was on this expedition that with the encouragement of our Safari Hostie Rebina, our 'bolshy' band started agitating for us to run an impromptu trek along the Great Australian Bight in 2008. So we quickly put together an itinerary & sent out an email to the participants and to our client data base. Incredibly, within two weeks the trip was completely booked out with a waiting list!! Our "Brilliant Bight Tour" departs in March and we can't wait! Thanks for the suggestion folks!

## OH BUGGER! IT'S BOOKED!

Our trips really are starting to fill up early now and we're delighted with the response. But our apologies to those of you who have tried to book on our Brilliant Bight expedition and our Kimberley Explorer Tour, only to find out that there are no spaces left! However, the good news is that there are still a couple of vehicle spots available on our **Kennedy Ranges Discovery Tour** and it promises to be a ripper! Taking place from July 10-21, it will start & finish in Carnarvon. On this brand new exploratory safari we'll make one or two base camps & venture out each day to exciting new destinations on the west side of the range including a 'rekkie' along the top. Price is \$1350 per person plus participatory catering cost of \$40 per person per day.

## PIRATES ON THE HIGH DVD'S!

We've heard of pirates on the high seas, but pirates of our DVD's? Well, believe it or not, that's what happened to us! It seems that somebody has been selling our caravan training DVD illegally on e-bay! Trying to prosecute them would cost a fortune, but we did contact the perpetrators & threatened legal action. Their site was taken down the same day, but we have no way of knowing how much they made from their little scam or how much it cost us in lost income! Now that video piracy has affected us personally we'll be much more aware of it in the future. Should we be flattered that they think it's worth risking a jail sentence to learn how to tow a caravan???

## SENSATIONAL SAFARI GUIDES!

What a great bunch of 'students' we had on our December Safari Guide Workshop! As usual, we held a half-day tutorial at Murdoch University (who sponsors the course), then took off for Lake Brockman/Logue Brook Dam near Pinjarra for 1½ days of hands-on practical tuition. Sadly for us this will be the last time we can use this venue for our guide training as it will soon be closed for recreational purposes, so we made the most of our time there. We had beautiful weather and spent an extremely pleasant night under the jarrah trees with a cheerful campfire, a delicious meal prepared by the 'students' and lots of shared information.



Thanks everyone for your enthusiastic participation and we are sure you'll all make great guides! Joining us on the course were Brett Arundel, Ray Carter, Keith Conner, Fettes Falconer, Ken George, Alan Hubbard, Rowan Robertson, Ron Stroet, Pam Vassi and Jade Guiliano who came all the way from Melbourne to attend.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

It's that time of year again for us to thank all of you - our valued clients, employees, suppliers, friends, family and industry colleagues – for your support and loyalty. We love what we do, but it wouldn't be possible without each and everyone of you. Thank you so much for being a part of our gypsy family!

We hope you have a peaceful and happy holiday season and wish you all the best for the New Year. We look forward to seeing you soon and to sharing more wonderful experiences with you in 2008 and beyond.

Until next time, happy travels from –

*Jan & Jeremy*



## GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY LTD

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