



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

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## **NEW TRAINING COURSE TRANSFORMS CITY SLICKER TO 'OUTBACK JACK'!**

Thousands of Aussies are choosing to holiday at home this year. Many will venture into the outback on a 4WD camping adventure for the first time and one local tour operator is worried about their safety.

Jeremy Perks, Director of award-winning touring and training company, Global Gypsies, is concerned that a number of these novice travellers will get into trouble if they aren't properly prepared and carrying the right equipment for outback conditions.

"It's great that Australians are discovering their own backyard, but independent travellers heading into the outback need to have some basic bush knowledge and 4WD skills before they venture into remote areas. Too often we read about outback tragedies that could have been prevented with proper preparation," he says.

"Because of the proliferation of travel information and DIY itineraries available on the internet, people become over-confident. They underestimate the challenges and hardships they will face on an outback adventure and try to tackle off-road expeditions without the help of a tour guide or other experienced person. They forget that once you leave built-up areas and bitumen roads and 'hit the dirt', there are no hotels, restaurants, fuel stations, phones, mechanics or friendly roadside services to help you out. You're on your own and you need to know what you're doing and to be self-sufficient," says Jeremy.

"We want travelers to enjoy the outback as much as we do, but without some bush skills and adequate preparation, novices can find themselves in some extremely serious situations and put themselves and their families at risk. At the very least, they are likely to either get bogged then not know how to recover their vehicle safely or correctly; become stranded because they are unable to make basic vehicle repairs or haven't brought the right spare parts; blow all their tyres due to incorrect inflation; damage their vehicle by driving at incorrect speeds for the conditions or not conducting daily vehicle checks; tow camper trailers on unsuitable tracks damaging both the trailer and the environment; lose their way, suffer from dehydration; panic in emergencies; or not know what to do if someone suffers illness or injury. The list goes on."

Jeremy says that because of his company's concern for the safety and well-being of these novice travellers, Global Gypsies has developed a unique training course called "***City Slicker to Outback Jack***".

Over 2½ days, this intensive, live-in educational course covers such topics as basic bush mechanics, basic bush survival skills, preparation and planning for extended outback journeys, 4WD training and towing training. The program emphasises hands-on practice and includes demonstrations, discussions, a fun bush survival game and plenty of time for questions.

Instead of a traditional classroom, the course is held in a bush setting two hours from Perth, is self-catering (morning & afternoon teas are provided) and includes camping fees, a comprehensive workbook and expert tuition by Jeremy.

Jeremy has over 20 years' outback touring and 4WD experience in both Australia and Africa and was an officer in the elite branch of the South African Defence Force (similar to SAS). He is a qualified mechanic (petrol and diesel), a former Tour Guide of the Year with national eco-accreditation and holds a Certificate in Workplace Training & Assessment (TAE) and a remote area first-aid certificate.

The inaugural "**City Slicker to Outback Jack**" course was held in February. Two of the participants, D'Arcy Holman and Belinda Bailey of Wembley who plan to go travelling into remote areas independently said, "It was a great investment to ensure our enjoyment and safety. It's the best classroom ever – under the gumtrees! Jeremy and Jan know what they're doing; we learned heaps and it was lots of fun!"

The next course will take place from May 29 – 31, 2015, and costs \$599 per person with a maximum of 12 students. Participants need to provide their own 4WD vehicles with vehicle-mounted UHF radio; tent; camper trailer (if they want to do the towing training segment); food, drinks & fuel.

**For more details visit [www.globalgypsies.com.au](http://www.globalgypsies.com.au)  
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