



GYPSY ADVENTURE UPDATE

June 2015

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BANDICOOTS, BOODIES & BIG EARS!

Our annual 'voluntour' Science Safari at Lorna Glen which we run in conjunction with the Department of Parks & Wildlife Services was another resounding success! Thanks again to Keith Morris & his team for their fabulous scientific input & to our tireless, generous & enthusiastic 'voluntourists' – Brian & Glynne Beaver; Michael & Sally Lumsden; Gerhardt & Aileen Strumpher & Joan Ward. (Our commiserations to John & Heather Richardson who had to cancel at the last minute when John discovered he couldn't bounce).

The group enjoyed 10 busy days of capturing, processing & releasing over 500 birds and animals including mulgaras, boodies, bandicoots, & hopping mice. And then there were the cameo appearances in the Lorna Glen Film Festival courtesy of the nocturnal 'critter cams'! **GOTCHA!!** Check out this busted brushtail possum & busy bilby!



Apart from the thrill of releasing the animals (oh what a feeling!) & the diverse research activities, it was the first time that aerial drones (multi-rotor & fixed wing) had been used to photograph the area – it was fascinating chatting with the operators & watching them in action. Other highlights included the delicious catering provided by our Safari Hostess, Jo Clews, & the scientists' warped & wonderful sense of humour - you kept us all in stitches!

More news to bring a smile to the dial is that at the end of the tour we donated \$1500 to DPaWs' Operation Rangeland Restoration Project from tour proceeds! Thanks everyone!

Now we're looking forward to our second conservation & research Science Safari of 2015 which will take place at the Perup Sanctuary near Manjimup in October. It's great to know we can give clients such a good time while making a genuine difference to the environment!

RECOMMENDED READING & VIEWING

There's so much to enjoy at the moment that we don't know where to begin! So snuggle up in this wintry Aussie weather - in no particular order we highly recommend:

Books: *The First Fleet* by Rob Mundle – a fascinating account of the transport of the first convicts to Australia & their settlement in NSW.

Kerry Stokes: The Boy from Nowhere by Andrew Rule. Driven & ambitious, yes, but quite a contrast to the late Alan Bond.

Hack Attack: How the Truth Caught Up with Rupert Murdoch by Nick Davies. The title says it all. Riveting reading.

Magazine: *20 Living Legends of the Bush* (available from newsagents or from R.M. Williams on-line) – nice gift!

TV Shows: *The Killing Season* – classy three-part documentary about the Rudd/Gillard fiasco & the conga-line of dagger wielding polis.

Life on the Reef – magical doco with spectacular footage & excellent narration. Convinces you (if you're not already a convert!) how important it is to protect & preserve the largest living thing on the planet & one of the most beautiful creations you'll ever see.

Movie: *Wild Tales* – in the style of "Crash" & "Babel", this series of vignettes will make you laugh out loud at the darkly humorous plots of rage & revenge (Spanish with subtitles).

'SILK ROAD PART 2' – WE'RE RARING TO GO!!

Pack your bags! We're completing the Great Silk Road Safari in September 2016! After careful consideration & lots of conversations with our friends in Turkey, we are pleased to announce that our Silk Road Safari Part 2 is definitely a goer! We're currently fine-tuning details for a spectacular itinerary that starts in Van in eastern Turkey (with an optional pre-tour visit to Gallipoli), then follows the ancient trade route through to Ankara & Istanbul stopping in such magical spots as Cappadocia & Mt. Ararat. We'll then jump countries & keep the historical theme going by flying to the gorgeous Greek Island of Crete which is rich in mythology & was the centre of Minoan civilization 4000 years ago.



We'll visit scenic Santorini just for the sheer decadent pleasure of it - ouzos at sunset for everyone! Then we'll spend two days in Athens visiting such icons as the Acropolis & Parthenon before breaking a few plates at our Farewell Dinner. Our visit might even help the Greek economy, too!

Initially we were considering chartering a yacht through the islands but this became too expensive & difficult to arrange so instead we'll use a combo of planes & ferries. We're hoping that a number of gypsies who have joined us on our previous Silk Road Part 1 Safaris will sign up to complete this wonderful Part 2 journey! It's taken awhile to give birth to this baby but it will definitely be worth the wait!

THE KIMBERLEY CALLS!

It's been too long between visits & the Kimberley is calling! With such a full tour calendar we've found it hard to fit the Kimberley in for the last couple of years, but we keep getting requests to run a tour there so it's gonna happen in August 2016! It will be a 16-day, self-catering, 4WD tag-along expedition led by Jeremy & Jan & visiting all the top spots, starting in Derby & ending in Broome. We're really looking forward to getting back to this part of the world & hope we'll have the pleasure of your company on this long anticipated return visit!

WE KNEW IT! TRAVEL IS GOOD FOR YOU!

A big insurance company recently did some research to find out how travel affects your health. We loved the results!

- Men who took regular vacations reduced the risk of heart attack by 32%.
- Women taking regular holidays reduced the risk of heart attack by 50%.
- Women who don't take holidays are twice as likely to suffer from depression than those who do take them.
- 63% of couples believe that travelling helps them to stay together longer.
- 86% of people who travel say they have a positive outlook on life.

So what are you waiting for? Book a Global Gypsies tour today! Here are just a few to choose from...☺

UPCOMING GYPSY JOURNEYS!

- **Perup Conservation & Research Safari** : Oct. 18 – 25
- **Holland Track Expedition**: Oct. 29 – Nov. 2 – a joint venture with RAC Travel
- **Wildflower Caravan Safari**: Oct. 2 – 12 – another joint venture with RAC Travel - we do love working with them!
- **Dogalong Tour**: November 19 – 22 (to Manjimup & the forests)
- **Brilliant Bight Expedition**: Feb 4 – 17, 2016 (nothing to do with the Dogalong tour!)

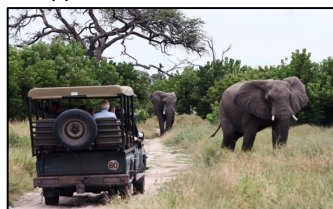


- **Back to Botswana Safari**: March 20 – April 2, 2016 (see details below!)
- **DPaWs Science Safari**: April/May 2016 (dates & venue TBA)
- **Holland Track Expedition**: May & November 2016 (dates TBA)
- **Canning Stock Route Expedition**: July 2016 (dates TBA)
- **Kimberley Explorer**: August 2016 (dates TBA) – see previous article!
- **Silk Road Safari Part 2**: September 2016 (dates TBA)
- **Exotic Marigold India Tour**: February 2017 (dates TBA)
- **Canada/Alaska**: June 2017 (work in progress!)

Keep an eye on our website & check out our quarterly e-newsletters – we add new adventures to our tour calendar all the time!

BACK TO BOTSWANA & AN AFRICAN 'HARAMBEE'!

Exciting news! Plans & prices for our next African safari are now finalised! We're heading *Back to Botswana* from March 20 – April 2, 2016. We were originally hoping to go to Namibia as well, but we scrapped that idea because it was going to be WAY too costly!



Our revised, awesome & affordable itinerary will take us to the magnificent Okavango Delta, Savute & Chobe National Parks (chock full of animals!) & the exquisite Victoria Falls. We'll stay in quality lodges & an authentic mobile safari camp – just like Karen Blixen & the Great

White Hunters of days gone by. Great news is that it is the same price as our 2014 safari AND previous gypsy clients receive a \$100-off loyalty offer! Numbers (as always) will be strictly limited & this tour will fill quickly. So don't monkey around! Request a tour flyer today!

Talking about things African, the WA Soroptimists Club is organising a Christmas in July 'harambee' (Swahili for fundraiser!) & we'd love to see you there! It'll be an evening of fun, food & music on Saturday, July 4th. Cost is just \$25 a head & the money raised goes to a very worthy cause – it will help the niece of our favourite Botswana-based Tour Guide to complete her degree in the male-dominated field of metallurgy studies. Go girl! Clients on our last Botswana safari started the ball rolling in 2014 & now this clever young lady is almost across the line to graduation! Please give her a helping hand! Call us for more details about this party with a purpose!

VIRTUAL CANNING REPORT!

Our intrepid Canning Stock Route explorers are still out on the track so this is a virtual report from Kunawarrtji, but so far all the news is good & the weather is perfect. The vehicles are behaving themselves & the humans are having a ball! We'll include a full trip report in our next e-newsletter so keep your eyes peeled! Next year's Canning Stock Route Expedition will happen in July 2016 & we already have several keen starters. So don't delay! We only take 10 vehicles on this life-changing adventure – make sure one of them is yours!

4WD, TOWING & OUTBACK SKILLS TRAINING

Between running our "City Slicker to Outback Jack" course & our 4WD & towing training courses, we've been busier than mice in a cheese factory! Our thanks to Richard Nicholls & Eddy Tamlin, our fantastic 4WD & towing instructors for doing such a great job! And thanks to all our 'students' who have been so eager to learn these important skills & have given us such positive feedback!

TOUR GUIDE TRAINING COURSE RETURNS!

Since the mining bubble burst we've had lots of inquiries about our Tour Guide Training Courses. So we've decided to bring them out of the cold store & run one from November 27 - 29! This unique, hands-on weekend course covers such topics as interpretive presentation, duty of care, risk management, dealing with emergencies, leadership skills, cultural considerations, environmental responsibility, conflict resolution, employment opportunities, starting your own business & more. The price is \$599 per person which includes three lecturers over 2½ days, camping fees, meals, non-alcoholic beverages, workbook, GST, certificate of attendance & bronze lapel pin. Book your place today & tell your friends & family! WA needs more great guides!

WEDDING PROPOSAL IN THE WILDERNESS!

We've just celebrated a wonderful first-ever event on a tour! Alex Koelman (42) & Michele O'Brien (37) of West Leederville, WA, who have been together for seven years have come on several gypsy tours & training courses. In May they joined us for the RAC/Gypsies **Holland Track Expedition** & when the convoy reached Mt Holland (which was on Michele's birthday), Alex took her on a walk to the top. And then - *surprise!* - he proposed & presented her with a sapphire engagement ring! How romantic! They are a lovely couple & we wish them all the best. And this was just **one** of the highlights of that terrific trip!



Those of you who follow our progress will know that on the last few Holland Track adventures the weather has been less than kind to us! Well, maybe because there was romance in the air Mother Nature smiled on us this time – the weather was great! Hooray! This meant the convoy could get some challenging 4WD practice by tackling the toughest part of the track between Emu Rocks & Mt Holland. Jeremy was pleased because he didn't have to implement "Plan B" which he's had to do in the past if it's been very wet – the route's not nearly as exciting! The walks were fabulous & the special Farewell Dinner at Cave Hill with white linen & candles was an event to remember. Thanks to David Bicknell, Max & Margaret Thomas, Yvonne Stickman, Joan Ward, Safari Hostess Jo Clews and, of course, the happy couple, for making it such a top tour!

Until next time, happy travels from –

Jan & Jeremy



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