



GYPSY ADVENTURE UPDATE

December 2018 - Christmas Issue!



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

* Holiday Gift Ideas * Dirk Hartog Science Safari Report * 4WD Insurance * CSR 2019 *
* Dutch Treat * NEW! Heritage & Homesteads Tour * 4WD Renters Beware * The Road Trip State *
* Silk Road Safari * Holi Festival 2020 India Tour * Northern Lights * Remarkable Russia * Looking for Mummy & more!

GIFTS WITH SANTA'S STAMP OF APPROVAL!

If you're looking for some unique & practical travel-related Chrissie presents, how about a gift voucher for a towing or 4WD training course? A Gypsy beanie, a towing-training DVD or an autographed copy of *How to Be an Award-Winning Tour Guide*? You can get all these goodies at the Global Gypsies department store (just like Aldi's but a bit smaller). And if you're into 'bling', we've got just the thing! Well, WE don't, but our lovely friend & loyal client Donna Slessar does! Check out her gorgeous bespoke jewellery on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/shimmysister51>. **BLING IT ON, SANTA!**

DIRK HARTOG ISLAND REVISITED



Some people think of reindeer at this time of year, but not us! We think of bandicoots, boobies, dibblers, lizards & ospreys & so do the enthusiastic 'voluntourists' & scientists who joined us on our second wonderful **Science Safari** to Dirk Hartog Island!

Situated in WA's Northwest within the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, the island played an important role in WA history - Dutch explorer Dirk Hartog first landed on the island over 400 years ago! DHI also has a reputation as a favourite fishing, swimming & four-wheel-driving spot for adventurous holiday-makers.

But now it's famous for something completely different! Over the past decade DHI has been transformed into a conservation & rehabilitation area for hundreds of endangered indigenous animals. In a project known as "*Return to 1616*", the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions has eradicated feral goats & cats then relocated, nurtured & monitored hundreds of happy little native animals to the island who are now thriving in their safe surrounds.



The DBCA team supervising scientific activities was led by Dr Saul Cowen (Project Leader) ably assisted by Mark Cowan, Judy Dunlop (shown holding Sandy Inland Mouse & Ash Grey Mouse), Aline Gibson Vega, Keith Morris, Janet Newell, Kelly Rayner, Lucie Scheelen & Colleen Sims - their titles & experience are too extensive to list!

Our dedicated group of 'voluntourists' comprised Michael Bradley; Brian & Glynne Beaver; Ross Bunney; Wayne & Jill Fairclough; Anne Gilkes; Chris Lowry; Sandra Maynard & Jane Fenwick; Gerhardt & Aileen Strumpher; Judy Williams; Tour Guide Jeremy Perks & Safari Hostess Jo Clews. Together the hard-working teams set traps, captured, identified, 'processed' & released a total of 501 mammals & reptiles; performed radio-tracking & monitoring activities & recorded reams of important data. They also had a lot of fun, enjoyed delicious catering & visited the island's many scenic attractions.

In addition to the animal interaction, highlights included dinners beneath a glorious full moon; crossing to/from the island in a barge; finding a nest of newly-hatched kestrel chicks; identifying plants & animals new to the group; coaxing Gypsy & our heavy catering trailer up a huge sand hill; & visiting the Cape Inscription Lighthouse 402 years to the day that Dirk Hartog first set foot on the island. To top it all off, at the end of the safari, we donated \$2000 from tour proceeds to the DHI Restoration Project! Thanks everyone for making this such a great experience - also thanks to Kieran & Tory from DHI for looking after us so well. Happy scientists, happy gypsies, happy critters!

4WD TOURING INSURANCE

If you've been banging your head against a bullbar trying to find insurance to cover you when travelling round Australia in your 4WD, stop it before you go blind! Check out 4x4 Club insurance at www.club4x4.com.au/insurance/4x4. We've got no vested interest here, we're just tired of hearing about insurance companies who won't cover 4WD tragedies who have a travel addiction! Good luck!

HEY! JUST ONE PLACE LEFT ON THE CANNING!



We've just had a very late cancellation & we now have **ONE LAST PLACE** left on our awesome Canning Stock Route Expedition. Beginning in Wiluna & ending in Halls Creek, this mother of all outback adventures is happening from July 3 - 23, 2019. Don't miss out on this lucky break! Book the last place in the convoy here:

<https://www.globalgypsies.com.au/tours/Australian/Canning-stock-route-Expedition>

MINI-BOOM TURNS 4WD TRAINING INTO GOLD

Boom? What boom? Word is there's a mini-mining-boom happening in our vast State but we're never sure until we see the evidence for ourselves. Our gauge is how many 4WD training inquiries we receive from mining companies! From getting heaps of bookings a decade ago, we've had doodly-squat for the past three years. Now suddenly, 4x4 training is back on the radar. This is good news for the economy & for trainers like us. A big difference now though is that many companies have stopped offering 'accredited' courses because of the excessive costs & admin involved in becoming a Registered Training Organisation, particularly if the course content is basically the same. So it looks like our instructors may soon be spending more time up north - definitely a golden (or maybe iron-clad?) opportunity!

DUTCH TREAT



As we write this, our convoy of Dutch clients is in the Barossa Valley & about halfway through their marathon self-drive expedition from Darwin to Sydney. Organised by JP Ponte of Fivesenses Expeditions, our business partner in Rotterdam, the tour takes in as many highlights as you can squeeze into 30 jam-packed, long-driving days - Kakadu, Kings Canyon, Uluru, Lake Eyre, Oodnadatta, Arkaroola, Flinders Ranges, Barossa, Kangaroo Island, Adelaide, Great Ocean Road, Victorian high country, Blue Mountains & more. No tenting or camp-cooking for these folks! Accommodation is at such top hotels as Longitude 131, The Louise & Southern Ocean Lodge with wining & dining at such 5-star restaurants as Rick Stein's, Brae, Tetsuya's & more. The participants are quite well known in The Netherlands so, like the dentist in the TV ads, we can't show you their faces! We'll settle for this cheeky shot instead!

NEW!! WA HERITAGE & HOMESTEADS TOUR!



We're always looking for somewhere different to take you & something new to show you! And our research says you want tours that are a little bit shorter with a little more comfort, so we've tried to combine all that into our brand new **"Heritage & Homesteads Tour"**! This relaxed, fun & relatively short outback adventure will happen from June 8 – 18, 2019. It will be self-catered & self-drive & will meander convoy-style through WA's Midwest & Goldfields. 4WD's, tents, camper-trailers or robust off-road caravans are welcome.



The itinerary includes historical attractions, traditional heritage-style homesteads & some scenic spots new to us. We'll explore the Aurora Ranges for the first time; share an indigenous cultural experience with our friend Mick Hayden from Njaki Njaki Aboriginal Tours in Merredin; admire Antony Gormley's eerie sculptures in Lake Ballard; visit Hoover House & museum (pictured above); relax at Niagara Dam; & visit such rustic towns as Coolgardie, Ora Banda, Boulder, Leonora, Sandstone & Cue - each with its own fascinating stories to tell.

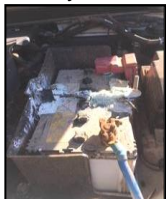
The Welcome & Farewell Dinners are on us & our last night will be a special one! We'll be staying at heritage-listed Melangata Station Homestead near Yalgoo. Designed over 100 years ago by famous Priest/Architect Monsignor John Hawes, today it is owned by our



multi-talented Safari Hostess Jo Clews. Jo will give us a tour of her beloved property before treating us to a special home-cooked Farewell Feast! Details of this top new tour will be available soon but numbers will be strictly limited so express your interest now!

HIRING A 4WD VEHICLE? RENTER BEWARE!

After some disastrous experiences with ill-equipped & poorly maintained hired 4WD's both here & overseas, we're often horrified at the low standards & lack of customer care exhibited by some of the vehicle hire companies – even the well known ones! Check out the innovative battery handiwork (below left) & the filthy mess left around a jack (centre). We've also seen vehicles sent out on the road with the wrong sized jack (or no jack at all), flat spare tyres, torn awnings, broken chairs, empty water tanks, missing equipment & useless fridges & stoves. The moral of the story? Triple-check EVERYTHING before you accept delivery of the vehicle; document & photograph issues or damage; ensure that the company fixes any problems **before** you drive away & if necessary, insist on a replacement vehicle!



The good news is that there are three suppliers that we'd be happy to stake our name on! So much so, that we're setting up a special page on our website to recommend our faves & to answer the many queries we receive from clients & the general public about where to hire a reliable 4WD for an extended outback tour.

Our gold medals go to Perth-based **Allstar Campers** (Nic & Emma Box) & **RedSands Campers** (Adam Sands). Also to **Totally Campers** (Melbourne-based Ester Maas & Rene van Zuijlen) who are brokers & have access to quality vehicles all around Oz. Well done you guys!

IT'S OFFICIAL! WA IS THE ROAD-TRIP STATE!

Tourism Western Australia has finally caught up with us! In their latest advertising campaign, they've officially named Western Australia as *"The Road Trip State"*! TWA is encouraging visitors to take self-drive adventures to many of the magical places we've been telling you about for ages. It's a great idea, but as always, the government-funded campaign is not without controversy. Many tour operators, including us, are concerned about the lack of safety messages in the campaign, particularly as it's aimed at overseas drivers who are unfamiliar with the outback, the distances involved & remote area driving conditions. Check it out for yourself & see what you think:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-19/tourism-campaign-sells-western-australia-as-road-trip-state/10396856>

NEWS ON UPCOMING TOURS!



We're just about to launch the flyer for our **"Holi Festival & Tiger Tour"** to India in 2020. For those of you on the interested list, sorry (*sari?*) it's taken so long but we wanted to make sure it was perfect before we sent it out! Lining up all the dates working backwards from a once-a-year festival held at full moon in

a remote desert village was tricky! But we've got it sorted now with our trusted local operators & will be sending out flyers & taking bookings soon! Don't miss this exotic adventure escorted personally by Jeremy & Jan!

* Talking about big cats, our **Treasures of Tanzania** safari next August is as full as a lion's tummy! We can't wait to go!

* There are now just TWO places remaining on our exciting **Silk Road Safari** happening from August 9 – September 3, 2019. Beginning in Xian, this mystical journey follows the ancient trade route from China to Kyrgyzstan & Uzbekistan ending in the legendary city of Tashkent. The package includes quality accommodation, transport & meals; professional local guides & an insight look at Central Asia's history & culture. For details, download the tour flyer here:

<https://www.globalgypsies.com.au/tours/International/Silk-Road-Safari>

* Hate to be a pain in the borealis, but our **Northern Lights, Orcas, Reindeer & Huskies Tour** in November 2020 is fully booked. It's never too late to get on the wait list though!

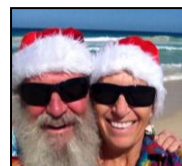
* We're working on an amazing itinerary for a discovery tour to **Russia in 2021** which will include the famous trans-Siberian train ride! To join Jeremy & Jan for blini, caviar & vodka, send us an encrypted non-collusive message now!

* We're looking for mummy! Well, several of them hopefully! We're keen to visit **Egypt** in 2021 & want you to join us! No firm plans yet but please send us your expressions of interest – if enough keen gypsies respond then we'll make it happen! (P.S. This is not a pyramid scheme.)

After all those shocking puns, we'll sign off for this year by sending you our thanks for your support along with our very warmest wishes for a safe, peaceful & happy holiday season.

Until next time **HO-HO-HO** & happy travels from

Jan & Jeremy



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