



# ADVENTURE UPDATE

April 2007



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

*This issue: Karijini EcoRetreat Chooses Gypsies \* National Caravan Safaris \* Upcoming Tours \* Towing Training \* Mystery Artist \* and more!*

## KARIJINI ECO-RETREAT CHOOSES GYPSIES!

In what we believe to be an industry first, Australia's newest and largest remote area eco-retreat has appointed a professional touring and training organisation to create and manage a specially designed Tours Program for their clients. And guess who they've chosen? Correct!! Global Gypsies!!



*Karijini EcoRetreat*, which opened just this month, is situated in the heart of majestic Karijini National Park near Weano and Joffre Gorges. It has 60 safari-style tents, a restaurant, caravan sites and a campground. Access is by road (it's approximately 1300kms from Perth and 1000kms from Broome) and by air, with regular flights into

Newman, Paraburdoo and Exmouth and hire cars available from these airports. It is the first accommodation (other than camping) to be developed inside the park and is expected to attract thousands of new visitors to Karijini each year.



Our role is to create and develop a range of specially designed tours, recruit and train Tour Guides and get the tours program up and running. As the retreat is owned by the Gumala Aboriginal Corporation, we hope to be able to include a large

cultural component in the tours. It's an incredibly exciting project and a unique opportunity to develop from scratch what could become the best tours program in Australia. We hope to see you up there soon! We'll also be running a motorhome safari up that way later this year – read on for details!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!



Our Bush Birthday Safari celebrating Global Gypsies' tenth anniversary was fabulous! Over the long weekend in March, our happy group spent a wonderful & relaxing three days enjoying the delights of the Sterling Ranges, drinking champagne, enjoying the pool and just chilling out. We had perfect weather, great company and an all-round

terrific time, including a very special Birthday Bush Feast with white linen, candles and heaps of balloons! Thank you everyone for joining us and here's to the next ten!

## SO WHO'S THE MYSTERY ARTIST?

Ok, come clean! Who's the talented mystery artist who sent us the clever coloured sketch just after Christmas? Instead of 4WD's on a tag-along-tour, it shows "Gophers" – those mobile machines for oldies - all traveling in convoy led by a very decrepit looking Tour Guide! We love it and have had it framed! So whoever you are, you closet Picasso, many thanks! And please own up so we can thank you properly! You've also given us a great new business idea – how about "Gopher Tag-a-long Tours"???

## MORE MAMMOTH CARAVAN SAFARIS!

Just when we thought it was safe to put our feet up, we've been appointed to lead four more mega-safaris for caravans! After last year's successful National Caravan Safari Trails Project where we led 18 vans on the incredible "Wildflower & Goldfields Trail", we were asked to lead two more treks this year by NRMA (who have taken over the project).

The first mega-safari in October will re-trace last year's steps in WA, while the second in November will explore the wilds of Tasmania. There are also four other treks on the eastern seaboard being run by our mates in NSW. For more information, ask us for a brochure, or contact the NRMA on 1800 228 517 or [mynrma.com.au/safari](http://mynrma.com.au/safari).

The ink was barely dry on that contract when we were approached by the National Marketing Manager for Winnebago – those lovely luxurious motorhomes on wheels – they really are as big as some people's city homes – and even more luxurious!



It seems the company has run annual safaris for motorhomes for some time and this year they want to use our services to lead the pack! So we'll head off with a convoy to the Pilbara (Karijini) in September then take another group

Through Tassie in November! You don't need a Winnebago to participate, but you must have a motorhome – sorry, no caravans on these expeditions. More details will be available soon, but to register your interest just give us a call!

## DO THEY STILL SHRINK HEADS IN BORNEO??

Well, do they? And are there cannibals there? We hope not, but if you'd like to find out for yourself, why not join us on our next wild and crazy adventure to one of the world's most exotic destinations – our spectacular "Jungles of Borneo" tour in 2008!

We're still finalising the dates, itinerary and prices, but we do know this much...it will be approximately 14 days, probably in September next year, it will be personally escorted by Jan & Jeremy, and we'll only be taking a small, fortunate group. We're working with a Sabah-based business associate who runs an eco-lodge in the heart of the jungle and we'll be staying there for three days checking out the wildlife and soaking up the atmosphere.

We'll see orangutans and beautiful wild birds and stay in cabins in the jungle. We'll visit Mt. Kinabalu, take some lovely walks and stay in a 'longhouse' on the river with local villagers.

Then at the end of our adventure we'll spend two days on a tropical island in a marine park where we'll go snorkeling and swimming in the crystal clear water, beach-combing or just relaxing. Are you tempted? If so, get in quick – our China tour was booked out before you could say chop suey.

Register your interest now for a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore this magnificent, unspoiled destination with people you know and trust.

## DON'T MISS THESE OUTSTANDING OUTBACK TOURS!!



### **Kimberley Tag-a-long Tour**

June 14 -28. Places are still available on this great 4WD adventure into the incomparable Kimberley region. This 15-day self-drive Broome-Broome expedition is run by our mates at Getabout Adventures & takes in all the highlights. \$1208 per person (driver & passenger) – self catering.

### **Rudall River Expedition**

June 19 – July 2. Passenger seats are fully booked but limited places are still available as self-drive tag-a-longs. This amazing journey led by Jeremy Perks explores Australia's second largest national park in remote northern WA. \$1350 per person; optional participatory catering at \$35 per person per day is recommended.

**Alice Springs 4WD Outback Safari** – two departures available in August – Kalgoorlie to Alice Springs, or Alice Springs to Kalgoorlie. Passenger seats are fully booked but some places are still available as self-drive tag-a-longs. Led by Jeremy Perks, these expeditions take you to the heart of the scenic Red Centre traveling along the Great Central Road. \$1350 per person, optional participatory catering is recommended.

**Holland Track Expedition** – October 25 – 29: Limited passenger seats & tag-along spaces are still available, but be quick! One of our few short safaris, this magical tour exploring the 100-year old historic track from Hyden to the Goldfields is always a winner. Led by Jeremy Perks, it's guaranteed to be a memorable bush experience! Just \$450 per person, optional participatory catering is recommended.

## RECOMMENDED READING

After living in Australia for ages, we thought it was about time we read *"The Fatal Shore"*, by Robert Hughes. If you haven't ever waded through it, you'll find it incredibly interesting – it explains the convict heritage of Australia in an honest, but fairly brutal fashion. Not the kind of stuff they taught in history classes, we're sure! But if you've visited Port Arthur or any of the other early prisons, the story really comes alive. Disturbing but fascinating reading, particularly if you're an 'import' and want a different insight into the early days of your adopted country.

Another fascinating book is *"Death of a River Guide"* – a most unusual novel by a Tassie author named Richard Flanagan. Telling the story of a doomed whitewater adventure on the Franklin River in the Tasmanian wilderness, this well-researched novel is so well written, it even reads like a river flowing. Very clever, but again, quite disturbing as it uncovers the main character's past through a series of flashbacks as he lies trapped beneath a waterfall, and simultaneously delves into Tasmania's history and its controversial relationship with the indigenous people. Neither are particularly uplifting books, so to keep from reaching for the razor, we went to see *"Happy Feet"* and danced the whole way home!! Nothing like keeping a bit of balance in your life!

## ARE YOU INTO BIO-DIESEL YET?

We've taken the plunge, and whenever we can, to do our bit for the environment we fill our trusty Landcruiser "Gypsy" with bio-diesel. Available from Gull Service Stations, it's an 80/20 mix, and although it's not suited for some vehicles (particularly older ones), we've had no problems with it, and Jeremy says he even prefers it!

The experts say it's cleaner, more efficient and actually better for your engine. We found that Gypsy ran a bit rougher for the first few fills, but once her system got used to it, she seems happy as a pig in an orchard! We'd be interested to hear your feedback & experiences with bio-diesel.



## Putting Your Big Tow in the Water!

We've had a range of vehicles on our towing courses ranging from horse floats to camper trailers to A-Vans and even a Winnebago. But the most challenging towing training course to date was for a government department. They had purchased a new 18 metre rapid response boat and they needed accredited training for the staff who would be towing it. In a series of occasionally watery sessions, we completed the task and received a big thank you from the client.

## DVD CONTINUES TO SELL ITS SOCKS OFF!

Our caravan training DVD continues to sell quicker than hot-cross buns at Easter. It's now been snapped up by RAC (WA) who are selling it at all their outlets and gave it a terrific write-up in the last issue of "Road Patrol". Then HBF got into the act with a big article about caravanning and a generous promotion for the DVD in their "Outlook" magazine. As a result, two of our favourite clients became famous! Bill & Marion O'Neil, who have been on numerous outback 4WD safaris with us, recently purchased a caravan and took our towing training course. Once they completed it, they were up & away, and HBF conducted an in-depth interview with them about their experiences 'on the road'. What a lovely article – and such nice celebrities! Well done, folks! Can we have your autograph?

## TIPTOE THROUGH THE TULIPS

Hands up who's seen the beautiful tulips in Holland? Well, as of next year, we'll be bringing the tulip-lovers to Australia! We've just signed a contract with a major eco-tour company in the Netherlands called Fivesenses to run a series of self-drive, fully-catered outback safaris for their clients over the next two years. There will be a marathon 26-day Kimberley excursion starting in Alice Springs in August 2008, and several other tours thereafter to the Canning, the Top End and possibly Cape York. There have always been a large number of Dutch tourists visiting Australia and they tend to be quite adventurous. We're just delighted there are going to be even more of them now and that we've been selected to show them our wonderful country!

## CHINESE TAKE-AWAY

In just a few months, we'll be heading off with a band of very excited gypsies on our *"Secrets of China"* tour. We'll be cruising on the Yangtze, seeing the Terracotta Warriors, the pandas and the Great Wall, and soaking up as much culture as we can. We are so looking forward to this Oriental adventure and this peek behind the Silk Curtain. Gee, we have a lousy job, but then somebody has to do it!! Until next time, happy travels from -

Jan + Jeremy



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**PO Box 123, Scarborough, WA, 6922. Phone: (08) 9341 6727. Fax: (08) 9205 1330**

**Email: [info@globalgypsies.com.au](mailto:info@globalgypsies.com.au) Web: [www.globalgypsies.com.au](http://www.globalgypsies.com.au)**

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