



ADVENTURE UPDATE

April/May 2011



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

*This issue: Lake Eyre by Air * Special Gold Class Movie Night * Motorhome Safaris * Kenya * Canning Stock Route * Len Beadell & more!*

SEE LAKE EYRE BY AIR!!

They say every cloud has a silver lining...well, in the case of Cyclone Yasi & the recent floods, possibly the only good news for naturalists is that the rains have filled Lake Eyre almost to bursting! For a few short months, the desert will become a floodplain covering an area larger than Belgium – an event that is expected to attract birds, wildlife – and lots of enthralled humans! And to give outback tragics the unique opportunity to get a bird's eye view of this amazing phenomenon, Global Gypsies clients & friends can choose from TWO exciting fly-over tours!

The first is a special 'quickie' 3-day aerial adventure in a chartered Fokker 50 aircraft offered in partnership with Australian Air Holidays. Departing from Perth, we stop in Kalgoorlie, spend two nights in Coober Pedy & visit Birdsville. En-route, flying 'low & slow' you'll admire flooded Lake Eyre & its tributaries, William Creek, Madigan Gulf (site of Donald Campbell's land speed record), Warburton Grove, Goyder's Lagoon, the Simpson Desert, Wilpena Pound & the Flinders Ranges.

On the evening of Day 3 you'll disembark in Adelaide to join a Qantas flight back to Perth. There are two departures only - September 16 and October 21. With meals, transport, accommodation & a number of tours & activities included, the price is \$2,875 per person (twin/share).



The second tour will be five days of aerial outback magic beginning & ending in Adelaide with a bit more time to enjoy the view! Meet up for a Welcome Dinner & overnight at a city hotel, then depart for Olympic Dam the next day to board a light aircraft for Lake Eyre & the flight of a lifetime!

You'll fly over the famous Birdsville Track, Coopers Creek, Moomba & spectacular Coongee Lakes with a lunch stop in Innamincka before overnighting at the legendary town of Birdsville. You'll spend the next day leisurely flying over the Simpson Desert, Goyder's Lagoon, admiring Lake Eyre & its tributaries & stopping for lunch in Oodnadatta before overnighting at William Creek. From there you'll fly over the Painted Desert then stop in Coober Pedy for a tour & lunch. Then it's back to Olympic Dam to change planes & head back to Adelaide for your final night at a city hotel.

We're arranging this second adventure with our friends at Coates Wildlife Tours & there will be several departures over the next few months while the lake's in flood (minimum numbers apply). The first tour is from July 23 – 27 & the cost is \$3410.00 per person, twin share, including meals, transport, accommodation, tours & activities. Whichever option you choose – don't miss seeing this incredible natural wonder by air! Give us a call today & spread your wings!

RAINED OUT!

Speaking of water, we're sorry to report that we had to cancel our *Coral Coast Tropical Adventure* 4WD tag-along-tour planned for April. We were concerned that the roads would be just too wet, and clients weren't keen to travel to the region till things had dried out a bit. We apologise for any inconvenience that this caused – we hope to run the tour again next year – weather permitting!

JOIN US ON A CARAVAN & MOTORHOME SAFARI!

Hey nomads! If you're keen to join a convoy to exciting destinations but want to travel in the comfort of your caravan or motorhome, we've got several great tours for you to choose from! Our *Karrijini Rocks Caravan Safari* departs in May; our *Caravan Wildflower Safari* hits the road in October; and our *California Dreaming Safari* (using hired motorhomes to explore the Southwestern USA) departs in September. There are still a few places available on these top tours & we'd love to have you along!

Next year we're planning to visit Kakadu & already have a long list of interested gypsies for the safari. We also hope to tour Alaska (again using hired motorhomes & working in conjunction with the RAC). If any of these great adventures get your wheels spinning, please contact us for more details!



**ATTENTION! NEWBIE CARAVANNERS!
NEXT CARAVAN CONFIDENCE CONVOY
IS ON MAY 28 – 29, 2011!**

SPECIAL GYPSIES GOLD CLASS MOVIE NIGHT!

We hope you'll join us for a great night out at a luxurious *Gold Class Movie Evening* arranged especially for Global Gypsies clients! On **Monday, August 29**, Jan & Jeremy are hosting a private showing of the new Aussie film about the legendary canine of the Pilbara – the adorable "*Red Dog*". It's getting rave reviews & was filmed in the rugged countryside we know & love around Karrijini National Park. Starring an irresistible red kelpie & up-&-coming (human!) Aussie actor Josh Lucas, it's the story of an amazing pooch that nobody owned but everybody loved. *Red Dog* travelled around the Northwest for several years hitching rides, having adventures & making new friends. If you love the Northwest & love animals, this film's for you - it's really heart-warming (or should that be heart-worming?). There will be drinks & yummy snacks before the movie, then a light supper & drinks served as we enjoy the film in comfy 'lazy boy' chairs in our private Gold Class cinema. Numbers are strictly limited & tickets are \$75 each on a first-come, first-served basis. Remember – August 29, Events Gold Class Movie Complex, Innaloo, 6:30 p.m. Bow-**WOW!** Book now!

WA CARAVAN & CAMPING SHOW

Our joint stand with Caravan Industry Association (WA) at the recent WA Caravan & Camping Show once again attracted a huge amount of interest – it felt like just about everyone from the 45,000 total crowd stopped in to chat at some point over the four days of the Show! Thanks to those of you who popped in to say hello – it was great to catch up!

RETRACING THE TRACKS OF LEN BEADELL

In July we'll be running a brand new expedition through the desert - the "Tracks of Len Beadell Expedition". This fantastic 14-day 'discovery' tour will begin in Kalgoorlie and end in Wiluna traversing the Anne Beadell Highway, Connie Sue Highway and the Gun Barrel Highway. But don't be fooled by the term - 'highway' - the tracks are rough and corrugated and suitable for robust 4WD's and off-road camper trailers only!



For those of you who may not be familiar with Len Beadell, he's a legendary outback figure who's been called "the last true Australian explorer". A talented surveyor, roadbuilder, bushman, artist and author, Len was responsible for opening up over 2.5 million square kilometers of the last remaining isolated desert areas of central Australia in the 1940's and 1950's. We'll only be taking a small convoy on this tour so get in quick! To read more about Len Beadell, visit the website run by his daughter, Connie Sue, at http://www.beadell.com.au/lb_ourprods.html.

IT'S A TOUGH JOB BUT SOMEBODY HAS TO DO IT!



At the end of April the courageous Editor of this newsletter will embark on an extremely challenging & physically demanding outback adventure....a week luxuriating on the majestic Kimberley cruiser *True North!* Yep, while the Easter Bunny is delivering chocky eggs

around Perth, Jan will be swanning around paradise exploring magical parts of the northwest coast accessible only by sea in this fabulous award-winning boat. Starting in Wyndham & finishing near Broome, this green-with-envy cruise will visit such jaw-dropping destinations as Tranquil Bay, Koolama Bay, King George Falls, Cape Londonderry, Mitchell Falls and Hunter River. Jan's difficult assignment will be punctuated by fishing expeditions, picnics, heli rides, sun-baking, beachcombing, swimming (in croc free zones!), rock art viewing, star-gazing and no doubt plenty of eating & drinking! And it's all in the line of duty - we encourage so many of our clients to travel on the *True North* that we figured we just had to experience it for ourselves. Like we say, it's a tough job but somebody has to do it! See our next newsletter for a full report on Jan's week of nautical decadence. And for more information about Kimberley cruises on the exquisite *True North*, check out <http://www.northstarcruises.com.au/aboardTrueNorth.asp>

TALKING TRASH!

With airlines responsible for producing about two percent of the world's CO2 emissions, the major players are looking for innovative ways to reduce the levels and increase fuel efficiency.

Word has it that Qantas is considering using garbage to produce its own fuel and that the flying kangaroo has partnered with US-based energy producer Solena Group "to investigate the feasibility of a waste-based aviation fuel production plant in Australia."

Using Solena's patented plasma technology which converts biomass into clean renewable energy, the plant would use agricultural and industrial waste including Qantas' generated waste to create synthetic aviation biofuel. The production facility which would be carbon-neutral is projected to annually reduce the airline's carbon footprint by 555,000 tons a year - equal to taking 48,000 cars off the road. If it happens, the initiative could bring Qantas closer to meeting industry targets of being carbon neutral by 2020.

DIY ON THE CANNING? NO THANKS!

We're hearing about more & more inexperienced 4WD'ers trying to tackle the Canning Stock Route on their own rather than joining a convoy led by an experienced Tour Guide. It could be false economy 'cos any money you might save at the outset will soon be gobbled up if you damage your vehicle & need to be towed out or experience any of the other myriad problems a challenging expedition like the Canning presents. Plus you'll miss out on learning about the history of the track & you've got no professional back-up if things go wrong - mechanical, first aid, bush survival skills - the list goes on. So please think again before you set out on "The Loneliest 4WD Track in the World". Why not travel safely & with confidence on a Global Gypsies tour - independent but not alone!

This year our terrific 20-day self-catering Canning Stock Route Expedition runs from August 7 - 27 going from Halls Creek to Wiluna. Vehicles must be robust and reliable and carry two spare tyres. For communication purposes, a vehicle-mounted two-way radio with externally mounted antenna is mandatory - BYO or hire one from us at special rates. Complete details & suggested packing list will be provided at the Pre Departure Workshop & in your Pre Departure Kit.

Your Tour Guide will be Charles (Charlie) Gilbert, a Senior Tour Guide with Global Gypsies and an experienced outback traveler and four-wheel-driver. He knows the Canning well, has some great bush yarns to tell & makes a pretty mean damper! And remember that if you take a 4WD course with us before you depart, you'll save \$100!!

HOT HOTEL TIP

We came across this nifty piece of travel advice we thought we should share. When leaving a hotel, some savvy travelers take their magnetic room key card with them or destroy it rather than returning it to the reception desk. Why? Because key cards often contain personal information which may not get erased till the next room guest checks in. This means anyone can access your private details for illicit purposes in the meantime. Another option is to erase the info from your key card with a magnet before returning it to the desk.

VIVA SOUTH AMERICA

Hooray! South America is back in our sights! After the tremendous response we've had to our Kenya safaris that we're running in conjunction with Coates Wildlife Tours, we're teaming up with them again to offer a spectacular tour to South America in September/October 2012!

We'll be visiting Macchu Picchu, Lima & Cuzco in Peru, then head for a rumble in the jungle along the Amazon River in Ecuador for some wildlife viewing before taking an optional tour to the Galapagos Islands! Jeremy & Jan will escort the tour along with experienced local English-speaking guides. Hey amigos! Get your name down early for this one!

Until next time, happy travels from -



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