



# GYPSY ADVENTURE UPDATE

July 2013



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

\* *Science Safari Report* \* *Adventures on the Canning* \* *RAC Partnership* \* *Be a DEC Camp Host* \*  
\* *Whale Song Caravan Safari* \* *Buy Cool Gypsy Stuff* \* *Botswana* \* *Vietnam* \* *Antarctica* \* & more! \*

## WHO EVER KNEW SCIENCE COULD BE SUCH FUN?

Attention budding scientists! We ran another fantastic Science Safari with our friends at the Department of Environment & Conservation (now known as the Department of Parks & Wildlife) in April. We spent a busy week up at Lorna Glen Nature Reserve just east of Wiluna trapping mulgaras, tracking bilbies, observing & recording a variety of birds, plants, trees & digging mammals – oh, & having lots of fun, terrific bush walks & great meals, too!



'Voluntourists' Julie Calcutt, Darryl & Sue Hart, Ross McGillivray, John & Heather Richardson, Jenny Rose & Tom Seaman (all from WA) got up close & personal with a bevy of furry, feathered & leafy friends as they rolled up their sleeves & pitched in to help the scientists with DEC's Operation Rangelands Recovery Project.

The expedition was led by Keith Morris, Senior Principal Research Scientist & Program Leader of DEC's Fauna Conservation Program ably assisted by his enthusiastic team comprising Dr Tamra Chapman & researchers Judy Dunlop, Martin Dziminski, Fiona Carpenter, Mark Blythmann & James Sansom. Meanwhile the catering team of Greg & Choccy Thomson did a superb job of filling our tummies & keeping our energy levels up for the numerous tasks we had to perform.

Highlights included Dr Chapman adding a world-first (!) tracking & monitoring achievement to her impressive list of credentials while the rest of us experienced dozens of 'feel good moments' as we did our bit to help with WA's rehabilitation & conservation efforts. Two special 'critter' memories include searching for the elusive night parrot & the capture & release of "Fatso", the mulgara with the biggest bum in the west! (If you'd like to read silly poems about Fatso & the night parrot, we'll be happy to send you copies!).



We were also proud to present Keith with a surprise "Big Bandicoot Cheque" for \$4000 raised by our Science Safaris. The funds will help DEC with their Operation Rangelands Recovery Project & will be used to purchase tracking collars for dingo research. Thanks everyone for a great trip, for your generosity & for your commitment to nature & conservation!

We're planning to run another Science Safari with the DEC team to Rudall River National Park in May 2014. It will be the first time DEC has researched this area & we will combine exciting scientific exploits with a challenging, catered 4WD tag-along-tour. Places will be strictly limited & dates & prices will be available soon. Express your interest early for this unique, critter-friendly outback adventure!

## MUMBLES TAPS OUT ANTARCTIC WISH LIST!



Brrr! We're busy compiling our list of interested Gypsies for a possible trip to Antarctica in January/February 2015 but we still need more cool dudes to make it happen. If the South Pole has been on your bucket list for awhile & you'd like to join us on this Happy Feet expedition, please let us know ASAP!

## A WHALE OF A CARAVAN SAFARI!



Fancy a leisurely caravan & motorhome safari to WA's exquisite, pristine, southern beaches this spring? Then join us in October on our inaugural *Whale Song Safari* – it will be an incredible experience! You'll travel with a convoy of like-

minded adventurers to spectacular places & we know you'll have a whale of a time! Over 12 days, we'll visit some of the best whale-watching spots in southern WA – on both land & sea - as we follow the annual migration of these marvelous creatures along our spectacular coastline. The safari will start in Esperance & end in Dunsborough & will include a complimentary whale-watching cruise, tour of the Albany whaling station, talks by experts, campground fees, Welcome & Farewell Dinners, group 4WD outings, pot-luck suppers & lots of other fun activities! Please visit <http://www.globalgypsies.com.au/tours/Australian/Whale-Song/> for more details. *Thar she blows!*

## BUY COOL GYPSY GEAR AT GREAT PRICES!

Did you promise to love, honour and e-bay? Good, because now you can order your Global Gypsies merchandise online! We're clearing our shelves of old stock & are selling off 20+ polo shirts & about a dozen fleecy vests & jackets at great prices! These quality embroidered items are ideal for Christmas or birthday gifts or just to remind yourself of the great time you had with us on tour! Embroidered polo shirts are going for just \$15, fleecy vests just \$25 & long-sleeved jackets just \$35 (plus \$5 postage per item). Email us to see if we have your size & we'll take your order on the spot!

## YO!! GET YOUR GLOBAL GYPSIES BEANIE!!



We love the outback, but we don't love freezing our ears off on chilly nights & frosty mornings! So we've introduced fabulous new Global Gypsies beanies! Now we can all have warm ears, warm heads & warm memories!

The soft, anti-pill, black fleece fabric is embroidered with a cheerful, campfire-orange Gypsy logo & one size fits all. They look great, too – the epitome of Safari Chic, dahling! These little beauties will go quicker than hot damper from the camp oven! To order your gypsy beanie, just send us \$10 (plus \$5 postage) with your details!

## A WILD, WET RIDE ON THE CANNING STOCK ROUTE!

We were prepared for just about anything on our Canning Stock Route Expedition – except for the rainiest May in history! We had a full contingent of fantastic, fun-loving & adventurous clients from all over Australia – John & Bev Duff, Eddie Haro, Ken & Kim Morgan, Bill & Mas O'Neill, Bert & Kerrie Roberts, Peter & Kerry Scott (from WA); John Elias & Christine Bross (NSW); Damian Hope & Kate Johnstone (Tasmania); Richard & Sue English (Queensland); & father/daughter team Jake & Joanne Vanderstok (ACT & NSW). What a great group – thank you so much everyone for joining us!

We kicked off with a terrific welcome dinner at Gunbarrel Laager campground near Wiluna & went on to conquer Wells 1 to 39 with no major mechanical problems – only a couple of flat tyres, a few loose bolts & other bits & pieces shaken up by the corrugations & a cracked back window that we repaired with a rubbish bag! Everyone handled the dunes & 4WD challenges like true 'pro's' & had prepared themselves well physically, mentally, mechanically & logistically to tackle what's been called "The Loneliest 4WD Track in the World". Well done, folks! You were all heroes!



Many people assume the CSR is visually boring, but they couldn't be more wrong. The scenery was stunning - a striking contrast of rugged brown hills, blue skies, red earth, golden spinifex & bright green plant life. The lush oasis of Durba Springs in particular was just breathtaking & we had it all to ourselves – how lucky was that! We enjoyed wonderful bushwalks, rock art viewings, history lessons, happy campfires, freshly baked dampers, bush yarns, drovers' poems & even some original bush poetry! (Ask us for copies!).

We also did some tidying up along the way picking up other travellers' rubbish & mess - shame on you, piggies! And all of us were so impressed with the work that Trackcare has done out there with bush loos, maintenance of wells & general TLC that we decided to raise some money for the cause. Thanks to our clients' generosity & a Gypsy donation we'll be sending Trackcare a cheque for **\$1000!**

We were all having an amazing time & loving every minute of it, but then ominous storm clouds started forming on the horizon. One night it started to rain & then it just kept on coming down. We discovered later that Broome received more than 200mm in 24 hours & that most roads in the Pilbara & Kimberley were closed for several days.



There are 51 wells along the Canning - we got about 2/3 of the way, but gave up our quest when we reached Lake Tobin just before Well 40. To our dismay, it was a deep, muddy quagmire & the rain was still falling. Had we continued, we might have been bogged there for weeks with no way out. So our trusty Tour Leader put safety first & reluctantly instructed the convoy to make a U-turn. He led the group back to Well 33 & the safety & shelter of the tiny Aboriginal community of Kunawarritji where we hunkered down for two days until the roads opened & we could make our way back to civilization. It was a *HUGE* & inspiring adventure and, in spite of the rain, was one of the best tours we've ever run.

## WELL, WELL, WELL! A MINI-CANNING TOUR!



Our recent experience on the Canning just goes to show that you should never under-estimate the powers of nature, nor should you ever venture into the outback on your own. But as the wise men say, every cloud has a silver lining!

Because we couldn't complete the entire Stock Route, in addition to the normal 2000 km, 51-well, south to north Canning Expedition that we'll

be running in 2014 from Wiluna to Halls Creek, we're also going to offer a **MINI-CANNING TRIP** from Halls Creek south to Kunawarritji then on to Newman. First option will go to this year's gypsies wanting to finish their journey, but then we'll open it up to other folks keen to get a taste of this great outback adventure. Details will be available soon.

## LIVE YOUR DREAM IN AFRICA OR ASIA!

Grab your passports & get ready for two amazingly different gypsy international adventures - Botswana & Vietnam! As some of our loyal clients are now unable to join us on our fabulous *Back to Botswana Safari* next March, a few select places have become available. We'll be staying at luxury safari lodges, will go on an exciting mobile safari just like the Great White Hunters & will see more animals than you can poke a lens at! We'll soon be opening this tour up to the general public so get in quick before these places go!

We'll also be finalizing details of our trip to Vietnam in the next few weeks & will be emailing flyers to everyone on our 'interested' list. If you haven't got your name down yet, say "Good Morning, Vietnam!" & contact us now!

Both tours will be personally escorted by Jeremy & Jan along with English-speaking local guides. As always, well-planned itineraries, quality accommodation, most meals & lots of great activities will be included. *Yippee – let's go!*

## WANNA BE A CAMPGROUND HOST?

If you're of a certain age, volunteer campground hosting at one of WA's magnificent national parks could be a great way to cruise into your retirement. There are over 50 fantastic parks to choose from & you get to experience the great outdoors 24/7 – how good is that? So if you love the bush & like working with people, camp hosting could be just the thing - & you'd be helping loads of other folks enjoy their holidays, too! For more information, phone the WA Department of Environment & Conservation on (08) 9334 0251 & ask them for a copy of the Campground Hosting booklet & application form or visit [www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net).

## GYPSIES GET RAC STAMP OF APPROVAL!

We're proud to announce that RAC (WA) has asked us to run several tours with them as joint venture projects. The RAC is keen to encourage more of their members to 'go bush', but also want to ensure they are in safe hands when they do so! Together we'll be offering a weekend 4WD outing this October, a 4WD Holland Track trip in autumn 2014 & a caravan/motorhome safari to Karijini in spring 2014 – watch this space! Thanks for your confidence, RAC!

Until next time, happy travels from –

*Jan & Jeremy*



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

## GLOBAL GYPSIES TOURS & TRAINING

PO Box 123, Scarborough, WA, 6922.

Email: [admin@globalgypsies.com.au](mailto:admin@globalgypsies.com.au)

Phone: (08) 9341 6727.

Web: [www.globalgypsies.com.au](http://www.globalgypsies.com.au)

<https://www.facebook.com/globalgypsies>