



ADVENTURE UPDATE

September 2010



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

*This issue: 2011 Tours * Memories of Kennedy, Canning & Kimberley * Winnies in the Wilderness * Exotic India * USA * New Driving Courses & more!*

GYPSIES GEAR UP FOR 2011!!

As we write this by 'bush telegraph', we're meandering through country roads in Western Australia on a wonderful **Caravan Wildflower Safari** (details in next issue) - just one of the many fabulous experiences we've been fortunate enough to share with our clients this year. And we're now finalizing our **2011 Tours Calendar** so get out your diaries and lock in the dates!

Due to customer demand, we're introducing several new self-catered safaris for **caravans, motorhomes & camper trailers** next year. We hope you'll join us on such goodies as the **Southern Ocean White Beaches Safari** (March); **Coral Coast Tropical Adventure** (April); **Karijini Rocks Caravan Safari** (May); and a second **Caravan Wildflower Safari** (October).



For keen four-wheel-drivers we'll be offering our traditional catered & escorted 4WD tag-along-tours to the **Kimberley** (June) & the **Holland Track** (November), plus our first-ever outback adventure retracing the **Tracks of Len Beadell** in July (robust off-road camper trailers are also welcome.)

All these tours will be escorted by former Tour Guide of the Year & leading 4WD/towing trainer, Jeremy Perks. Catering on 4WD tours is provided by our experienced Safari Hostess, Rebina Criddle, who'll dish-up a variety of 1000-star meals. Yummmm!!

And, of course, there's our challenging, self-catered 4WD expedition along the **Canning Stock Route** led by intrepid & experienced Tour Guide Charlie Gilbert who knows the Canning like the back of his hand & we'd love to have you along! Dates to be advised.



We'll also be running a second **Karijini Outback Photo Safari** with professional photographer **Dale Neill** in May. Happy snappers will meet us in Newman in northwest WA & travel by coach to all the photogenic hotspots for expert tuition & practice under Dale's expert guidance. Catering & camping gear is included.

And let's not forget our fantastic **overseas adventures** which we run in conjunction with RAC Travel! If you watch the Commonwealth Games in October you may start wishing you could visit **Exquisite India** - the exotic ancient land of mystery & history. Well, come with us in February 2011!! We'll use local guides, stay in quality accommodation & travel by



travel by coach to such magical destinations as the Taj Mahal, Amber Fort, Rajasthan, Gandhi Museum & a tiger reserve! There will also be cooking & tie-dye lessons, cultural events, elephant rides, Bollywood movies & more! Limited places are still available & it will be a marvelous experience!

Then there's our **California Dreaming Motorhome Safari** in September 2011 when we'll hire a convoy of motorhomes & explore Southwest USA for three weeks. **WHEW!!**

We'll be updating our website soon with all our 2011 tours so please check it out. And with people booking their holidays so far ahead & with our numbers always limited, we recommend that you get your name down early!

CROCODILE ROCK IN THE KIMBERLEY!

The Kimberley always manages to weave its magic on visitors. This year's expedition was no exception, and even though unseasonal rain interfered with our itinerary a little, we outsmarted the weather by arranging an unscheduled visit to Cape Leveque and a stopover at Middle Lagoon with its white beaches & steep ochre cliffs.

Jeremy & Rebina were joined by Rebina's mum & dad Lindsay & Marilyn Criddle, Brian & Elaine Embleton, Trevor & Robin Fildes, Ron & Marie Langhans, Alan & Sandy McGregor, Max Williams & Lynn Fisher, Jack & Robin Zanetti & passenger Wendy Franklin.



Highlights of the tour included optional flights over the Mitchell Falls, a fascinating briefing about life on Drysdale Station by Joanna, a memorable walk through Tunnel Creek and 4WD'ing to the Bungle Bungles. A special Kodak moment happened while we were enjoying our sundowners at Home Valley

Station on the banks of the Pentecost River with the exquisite Cockburn Range as a backdrop. "Charlie" - the huge resident alpha male crocodile - cruised past to check out our party! Crocodile Rock indeed!!

**ATTENTION! NEWBIE CARAVANNERS!
NEXT CARAVAN CONFIDENCE CONVOY
NOVEMBER 27-28, 2010!**

NOW HEAR THIS! CHICKS RULE @ 4WD COURSE!



We were very impressed recently when a team of extremely capable ladies from government agency, Australian Hearing, signed up for a Basic 4WD Training Course with us. The six girls frequently drive to remote indigenous communities to conduct hearing tests and

recommend & provide hearing equipment so they needed to learn how to handle their hired 4WD's safely and responsibly. With excellent instruction from Senior Trainer Richard Nicholls, we are pleased to report that all the participants passed with flying colours.

Hearing Australia Area Manager Sally Regan said, "Everyone learned a lot, built their confidence levels and enjoyed the day immensely. The trainers were excellent and I would highly recommend the course to anyone planning to drive in remote areas." HEAR! HEAR!!

NEW DRIVER TRAINING COURSES

And while on the subject of driver training courses, in addition to our Basic & Advanced 4WD Training Courses, we've recently introduced two new accredited courses designed mainly for the mining & resources sector. They are *Low Risk Driving Behaviour - TLIC107C* (defensive driving on a variety of terrains including gravel); and *Operate & Maintain a 4WD Vehicle - RIIVEH305A*. We're getting some great feedback on our corporate 4WD training courses so please tell your friends in the business world!

KENNEDY MEMORIES

The Kennedy Range in northwest WA is a perennial Gypsies' favourite – we love the isolation, rock formations, colours and tranquility of this remote national park due east of Carnarvon.



For the past two years we've run 'discovery' tours when we explore different parts of the ranges & report our findings back to DEC. This year we explored both old & new ground before finishing up with some lazy days at Quobba Station on the beautiful Coral Coast.

Highlights included visiting Bidgemia Station for the first time; the warm reception we received at Mt Sandiman Station (hi kids!); the views looking east from the top of the escarpment; the early morning outing to the east side of the Kennedys to watch the sunrise; exploring the new walk trail to the top of the escarpment recently completed by DEC; and the discovery of a different track down the western side of the ranges that we'd been hoping to find. Our happy group comprised Bob Brealey, Judy & Gerald Cook, Anne Grey & Cath Hartley, Bill & Marion O'Neil (again!) and passengers Lois Seaton & Helen Stanton. Thanks everyone, it was a top trip!

WINNIES IN THE WILDERNESS!

The Winnebago Club has been contracting us to lead their safaris for several years now. We've escorted their organised tours through WA, Tassie & Northern Territory & they've all been great experiences. But the safaris are always a challenge because of the size - not just of the vehicles, but of the number of participants!

The tours can attract anywhere from 12 to 20 'Winnies' on their excursions each measuring 8 meters or more – that's almost half a kilometre of metal parked nose to tail, or almost 4 kms of non-stop motorhomes when on the road! So imagine our surprise when this year's Club Safari to Kakadu National Park attracted a whopping total of – wait for it – 31 WINNEBAGOS and 65 participants!!! Yikes! That's enough people to populate a small town! Maybe it could be called Kakadulie, or Winnie-peg, or Motoropolis! The trip was a great success & the only noticeable after-effects were a few more grey hairs in Jeremy's beard!

Just FYI, a pre-requisite for any Tour Guide leading tours through Kakadu is obtaining a special permit & accreditation for the park - a fairly lengthy & complicated process. Having now got this under our belts, we're thinking "What a waste not to use it!". So we're considering running a caravan/motorhome/camper trailer tour of our own in 2012 which would begin & end in Darwin & travel through Kakadu, Litchfield, Katherine & hopefully Arnhemland. Any interested Gypsies out there? Let us know if this tour makes your toes curl! And by the way, no crowds! We'll only be taking a maximum of 10 caravans, motorhomes or camper trailers!

BANNING ON THE CANNING

It was a case of banning on the Canning when the Calvert Ranges were closed to Canning Stock Route travelers this year. The traditional owners, the Martu people, took this action after thoughtless visitors allegedly damaged rock art, trespassed on sacred sites & pocketed souvenirs'. Shame on you whoever you are – you've messed things up for everyone! We modified the itinerary on our annual 20-day Canning Stock Route Expedition to accommodate the closure by substituting a three-day visit to the Bungle Bungles at the end of the trip. You've always gotta have "Plan B"!

Thanks to our courageous travelers Roland & Marg Bishop, Jim & Vicki King & Ruth & Adrian Phelps. And a round of applause to our intrepid Tour Guide, Charlie Gilbert, who after three Canning tours with Global Gypsies must have more diesel than blood coursing through his veins & enough sand in his shoes to fill a desert! Charlie's already looking forward to running our 2011 CSR adventure & we'd love to have you along! We only take small groups so get in quick!

RECOMMENDED READING & VIEWING

We're currently reading *"Elephant Destiny – Biography of an Endangered Species in Africa"* by Martin Meredith. It's riveting but heartbreaking stuff about man's relationship with these marvelous creatures over the centuries. Worth a read but have some tissues handy!

Worthwhile (but scary!) viewing on the net is a documentary narrated by geneticist & naturalist David Suzuki about genetic modification of trees. If GM is of interest to you then check out this film clip - <http://www.mefedia.com/watch/25978940>.

GREAT IDEA FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

Thanks go to one of our clients on a recent caravan safari who told us about "Glad Ice Cube Bags". What a great idea! These teeny plastic pockets come in a flat sheet which you simply fill with water, freeze, then pop out individually as needed. Saves space, keeps things cold in your esky or fridge without making a watery mess if they melt, you can use the packs more than once, and you get nice cold drinks as well. Okay, so they may not be the most environmentally-friendly product on the planet, but what a convenience for the Mobile Domestic Goddess!

PARTNERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

We'd like to take a moment to thank the various organisations who share our love of the outback & support & partner Global Gypsies in a number of cross-promotions. They include RAC Travel who assist us with our overseas tours, Crikey Camper Hire who provide caravans and/or camper trailers for us to tow on our caravan safaris, ARB (WA) & CAMEC who are currently distributing discount vouchers to their customers for our 4WD & towing courses and Coromal & George Day who provide caravans for our weekend towing training courses. Good on you guys & thanks very much!

Until next time, happy travels from -



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GLOBAL GYPSIES TOURS & TRAINING

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