



ADVENTURE UPDATE

July 2007



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

*This issue: Rudall River Drama * Caravan News * Kimberley 2008 * Corporate First Aid Training * Karijini Rocks! * and more!*

DRAMA IN RUDALL RIVER!

Our recent Rudall River Expedition was packed with excitement, thrills and drama! For the first time ever we were stranded in the outback due to the unseasonal rains. In hindsight, it actually added to the adventure, but at the time there were a few tense moments while we stretched food supplies, got a client back to Perth early due to a family emergency, and helped clients make international air connections. This is what happened...

After a very chilly, windy start in Newman (down to freezing overnight), the weather warmed up and we spent some beautiful days and nights in the desert. For the first 12 of the 14 days, our intrepid group (Sandra, Jane, Britt, George, Charles, Terry, Irene, Kelvin, Noreen and our international visitors, Hans & Ingrid) had a fabulous time getting back to nature, staying in bush camps in Rudall, taking walks and admiring Desert Queen Baths, Carrawine Gorge and Warrawagine Station. We visited Marble Bar, then at Mt. Augustus we had lovely surroundings, lots of happy campers, a full moon overhead – and in fact, it was a BLUE MOON – the last one till 2010! It really was the perfect outback setting.



We traveled on to the Kennedy Ranges for our final night. But then the rain started. And it rained and it rained and it rained. And then the road to Carnarvon was closed. And we found ourselves stranded for two additional and unexpected days 250 kms from Carnarvon.

Our Safari Hostess, Rebina, performed numerous 'loaves & fishes' tricks with our dwindling food supplies and with contributions from everyone's private stashes. Feeding 13 people for two extra

days from our rapidly depleting catering trailer was a real challenge - but, as usual, she worked miracles!

The trip also tested our emergency response capabilities and we passed with flying colours. Before the rain descended, one client had to leave the trip early due to a family emergency back home. We solved that crisis via sat phone (albeit with only intermittent reception due to dodgy satellites!) and with a hastily arranged flight from Port Hedland back to the Big Smoke. But then we faced another tricky situation when, with the two-day delay, our internationals traveling in our escort vehicle had to get back to Perth to catch overseas flights! Many sat phone calls later, we arranged for them to fly from Carnarvon to Perth instead of driving back with us, then we waited and hoped that the road would open in time! Finally the water level dropped, the road opened and we got through to Gascoyne Junction. Only to be met with another crisis!

The river was still in flood and the crossing was closed! We camped on the riverbank and the next morning – bless their hearts – the Shire came through with a front end loader to clear the sand & debris for us! Thanks guys! We hit the road to Carnarvon and with just hours to spare we put Hans & Ingrid on a plane to Perth just in time to catch their international flight. Whew! What an experience! But it just goes to show that it's best to travel in a group led by an experienced Tour Guide like Jeremy. And if you've got to be stranded, we couldn't have asked for a better bunch of people! Thanks everyone & here's to some wild & wonderful memories!

KARIJINI ROCKS!



Meet Rob Fullagar, the principle Tour Guide at the new *Karijini EcoRetreat*. Rob and a team of four other professional guides, hand-picked by Jeremy Perks, are doing a fantastic job up at the new luxury eco-friendly camp in Karijini National Park in northern WA running the Tours & Activities Program. Here's just a sample of what's been developed so far at this fabulous outback hideaway:

Joffre Falls Bushwalk - leisurely 3-hour morning 'soft' adventure' exploring the area within a 5km radius of the camp. Learn about the flora and fauna, the geology, the culture, listen to the birds, get back to nature and enjoy lovely Joffre Falls – you can even hike down to the bottom if you're keen! \$20 per person.



Karijini by Starlight – a 90-minute evening fantasy for stargazers and romantics! Admire the twinkling canopy of stars above Karijini and learn about the night sky. Check out the Milky Way or look for a shooting star and make a wish! \$20 per person.

Self-Drive 'Tag-Along-Tours' – Join our resident Tour Guide and a small convoy of intrepid adventurers on a self-drive 'tag-along-tour'. Explore the spectacular gorges in the park - independent but not alone! Picnic lunches available. Two-way radios provided. Minimum 3 vehicles. \$60 per vehicle (half-day); \$100 per vehicle (full day).

Karijini for Kids (K4K) – educational and fun, hands-on activities designed especially for kids during school holidays including:

Bushbabies (ages 5-11) – an inter-active introduction to the bush and the wonderful creatures who live there. \$10 per child.

Retreat Junior Rangers Club (ages 12 – 16) - basic bush survival and safety skills for kids who want to learn more about the great outdoors! \$20 per child.

Private Guided Tours - our expert Tour Guides can conduct private tours on request, or provide professional on-board commentary for organised coach or 4WD tours visiting the park. Please ask for a personalised quotation.

Sunset over Karijini – the perfect way to end your day in Karijini! Order a chilled drink from the bar and take a short stroll to our special sunset viewing area.

Plans are underway for challenging extended treks, cultural activities, passenger tours of the park, adrenalin-packed abseiling outings and more! So get yourselves up there as soon as you can!



YOU **MUST** COME TO BORNEO!!

We only mentioned our upcoming *Jungles of Borneo Tour* once in our last newsletter. We haven't advertised or promoted it anywhere else. Yet already the tour is half-full!! We think that's fantastic, but we now only have 7 places left! If you fancy seeing orangutans like this cute little guy in the wild, (he better watch out or Angelina Jolie will adopt him!), staying in eco-cabins in the jungle, relaxing in a swish tropical hotel on the beachfront,

admiring the unique flora and fauna, visiting Mt. Kinabalu, taking some lovely walks, staying in a 'longhouse' on the river with local villagers and 'vegging out' on a tropical island at the end of the tour with a mask & snorkel, then you just HAVE to come with us on this once-only adventure!

Happening from September 6 – 17, 2008, this exotic 12-day experience promises to be one of our best ever. Personally escorted by Jan & Jeremy, it costs just \$3600 including board, lodging and internal transport (plus airfare). So don't monkey around! Make your booking today!

SNEAK PEEK AT OUR AWESOME 2008 TOURS!!



Kimberley Explorer

WOW! For the first time in four years Jeremy's leading another tour to the Kimberley! We'll only take 10 vehicles, and already half the places are booked! Dates are August 3-18, 2008, and we'll be visiting all the top spots. Price is \$1800 per person with optional participatory catering for \$35 p.p. per day. Limited seats for passengers.

NEW!! Kennedy Ranges Discovery Tour – We love the Kennedy Ranges but so far we've only explored a small section on the eastern side. On this brand new safari we'll discover this scenic, ancient & remote mountain range together! We'll make one or two base camps & venture out each day to exciting new destinations on the west side including a 'rekkie' along the top of the range. What an adventure! Not recommended for soft-road vehicles or kids under 14. It'll be 12 days in July (dates TBA) starting & finishing in Carnarvon. Special 'discovery' price of \$1350 per person with optional participatory catering for \$35 p.p.p.d. Limited seats for passengers.

Holland Track Expedition – 2008 dates TBA: Limited passenger seats & tag-along spaces available on this annual favourite. One of our few short safaris, this magical tour explores the 100-year old historic track from Hyden to the Goldfields. Led by Jeremy Perks, it's always a memorable bush experience. Just \$450 per person, plus optional participatory catering. **P.S.** Two spots are still available on this year's trip from October 25-29!!

BIO-DIESEL FEEDBACK

In our last issue we mentioned that whenever we can, we do our bit for the environment by filling our trusty Landcruiser "Gypsy" with bio-diesel. We asked for your feedback about bio-diesel and received two very interesting comments. Don Hanran-Smith thinks it's great and runs it in his Citroen C5 with good performance, lower cost and lower fuel consumption. But Arthur Hill warns that some warranties can be jeopardised by using bio-diesel. He says that if you have a 'newish' vehicle you should check with the manufacturer to see where they stand on the use of alternative fuels before filling up to ensure that your warranty isn't affected. Thanks for your input guys, we're sure our readers will find it useful.

GOOD NEWS FOR WA CARAVANNERS!!

Western Australian caravanners are rejoicing – in its last budget, the State Government FINALLY exempted caravans & camper trailers from stamp duty! Hooray and about time, too! This brings WA into line with the other States, can save caravanners thousands of dollars, and will put an end to the (illegal) practice of people driving to other States to purchase their vans in order to avoid paying the duty, which was having a negative impact on local manufacturers and dealers. Inquiries about the changes should be made to the Office of State Revenue on 08 9262 1100, or the Caravan Industry Association on 08 9240 8208.

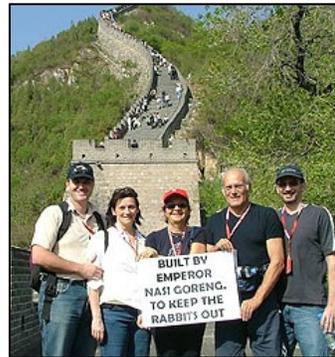
**ATTENTION! NEWBIE CARAVANNERS!
NEXT CARAVAN CONFIDENCE CONVOY IS ON
AUGUST 25-26, 2007.
BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!!**

ALL STITCHED UP WITH FIRST AID TRAINING!

We're delighted to announce that we've come to a special private arrangement with St John Ambulance (WA) which enables us to provide accredited First Aid Training to corporations, clubs and groups.

Using one of their best trainers (who happens to also be a close friend and fellow Tour Guide!) and with access to all the excellent St John's facilities, we are now able to offer this invaluable service in addition to our existing recreational or accredited 4WD and towing courses. We've run several first aid sessions already – some as a combined first aid/4WD package - and have more booked in the months ahead. So if anyone you know in the corporate world is thinking about getting their employees trained in First Aid, please send them our way.

CHINESE CHUCKLES



Everyone is **SO** excited about our imminent departure on our *Secrets of China Tour* on August 31st! We held a really fun Pre-Departure Workshop at our favourite local Chinese Restaurant in May to meet everyone – what a great group we have joining us! Then some wag sent us this photo in anticipation! Read the sign carefully!

Those of you who watch commercial TV in Australia will think it's a hoot!

Until next time, happy travels from -



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