



ADVENTURE UPDATE

2014 Bumper Christmas Issue



GLOBAL GYPSIES PTY. LTD.

* Another Dogalong Tour * Outback Jack Course * 4WD Show * Queen of the Caravans *
* Science Safari * Recommended Reading & Viewing * Holland Track Report * Upcoming Safaris & more! *

BARKING UP THE RIGHT TREE! DOGALONG TWO!

People & puppies had such a great time on our first ever Dogalong Tour in November that we plan to make the safari an annual (animal?) event! For those of you who really wanted to join us but couldn't make the November dates - **SIT!** Write this down now! The dates for our next Dogalong Tour are **March 5-8, 2015**, & we'd love to have you & your best friend along for four days of fun, friendship & furry frolics.



With Dawn Newman, Chris Murray, Lynn Fisher & Max Williams, we spent four fabulous days in the forests of Southwest WA exploring Manjimup & Pemberton, walking the pooches on dog-friendly forest tracks & taking them swimming in puppy-playful places. We based ourselves at gorgeous Fonty's Pool caravan park, visited local attractions such as the farmers' market, truffle farm, wineries & bakeries & just generally had a howling good time.

You'll really be in the dog-house if you miss the next tour! And to get your tail wagging faster, we've even reduced the price! To book your place or for more de-TAILS, put your paw here:
<http://www.globalgypsies.com.au/tours/Australian/Dogalong-tour/>

FROM CITY SLICKER TO OUTBACK JACK!

Planning an extended outback journey with friends or family? Not sure if you've got the skills & experience to tackle the challenges of remote area travel safely & confidently on your own? Then, our fantastic new two-day training course is for you! This unique & practical weekend training course will be held in a bush classroom two hours from Perth. It will be self-catering and will include two full days of intensive remote area training by award-winning Global Gypsies Director Jeremy Perks; caravan park/camping fees for two nights; morning & afternoon teas & a workbook. It's the only one of its kind & you'll find it invaluable. The course will cover five important outback-related topics – basic bush mechanics, basic bush survival skills, planning & preparing for extended outback journeys, basic 4WD training and an optional towing training session for those with camper trailers. The emphasis will be on hands-on practice & there will be plenty of time for questions & discussion.



Participants should arrive on Friday evening so they can start making their 'transition' from *City Slicker* to *Outback Jack* bright & early on Saturday morning. We'll only take 12 students & half the places are already gone! The normal price is \$750 + GST per person, but if you're reading this newsletter you're entitled to 'mates' rates' of \$600 + GST per person (\$660), or a special \$1300 per couple (inc.GST). BYO 4WD vehicle with UHF radio; tent or camper trailer, food, drinks & fuel. Instructions on where to meet, what to bring etc. will be provided on confirmation of booking. So what are you waiting for? Grab your Akubra & your RM Williams boots & crack the whip, mate! Book your place today!

FUNNIEST (AWAY FROM) HOME VIDEOS!

On one of our recent Canning Stock Route expeditions, we all had a good laugh watching determined gypsies Graeme & Sue Hughes trying to pack away their portable shower tent. The paparazzi were videoing the battle so (nice guys that we are) we just had to post the clip on our youtube & facebook pages! For a chuckle visit <http://youtu.be/xuJcRvNL7qM> or <https://www.facebook.com/globalgypsies?ref=hl>. And if you haven't 'liked' our facebook page yet, please do so!

RECOMMENDED HOLIDAY READING & VIEWING

With lots of books & movies being released at the same time as Santa's reindeer, there are heaps of goodies to watch & read over the holidays. Here's our recommended list:

Films: *"The Water Diviner"* - Russell Crowe's latest epic about Aussie diggers, Gallipoli, love, war & the whole damn thing.

"Unbroken" - another war-related flick (is this a trend?) about a courageous American WWII POW directed by Angelina Jolie. She does a top job telling a great story & lots of it is filmed in Oz.

"Interstellar" - we're not sci-fi buffs but really enjoyed this scary peek into the future after we've trashed our own planet & are looking for a new home in outer space. Amazing special effects, top acting & a whole new take on ghosts! **Boo!!**

Books: Richard Flanagan's new, award-winning *"The Narrow Road to the Deep North"*, based on his father's WWII POW experiences. Heavy going but worth the weight. (What? Another war story?)

"Kerry Stokes: The Boy from Nowhere" - a tell-almost-all- biography about our local rags to riches squillionaire, written by crime reporter & 'Underbelly' author, Andrew Rule. Put your feet up & enjoy!

BACK TO THE CANNING!



Yep! We're heading back to the Canning Stock Route & you're invited! From June 10 – 30, 2015, we'll be tackling all 51 wells from Wiluna to Halls Creek & we'd love to have you along! Many people don't realise how scenic & diverse the Canning is & what a fascinating history it has. When you experience the CSR with Jeremy as your guide, you'll see the best of this 100-year old stock route as it winds & bumps its way for almost 2000 kms through the heart of the outback.

We cross three deserts, tackle over 1000 sand dunes, camp beneath silent starry skies & enjoy wonderful camaraderie amongst our small group. Magic! But this expedition isn't for sissies! You need a robust 4WD with tough suspension & high clearance & (for environmental reasons) we take no trailers. We hold a comprehensive Pre-Departure Workshop & give you a Pre-Departure Kit to prepare you for your adventure. You can also take a 4WD training course or our new Outback Jack course if you'd like to feel more confident before setting out! To get a taste of what's involved, ask for a free copy of our *"Planning for the Canning"* fact sheet, Places are strictly limited on this challenging self-drive 4x4 tour along 'the loneliest 4WD track in the world'. So if the CSR is on your bucket list - & it should be! - then join us as we conquer the Canning - independent but not alone.

WE'RE GONNA BE POLE DANCERS!

Yikes! In less than a month we'll be dancing with the Happy Feet crowd down at the South Pole! Yep, we'll soon be leaving for the Antarctic where we'll spend two weeks on a scientific research vessel cruising from the tip of Argentina to the Antarctic Circle. During our journey we hope to see penguins, whales, birds, seals & mind-blowing ice scenery. It will be one of the most unusual expeditions we've ever been on & certainly the coldest! We'll probably freeze our flippers off! Those Global Gypsies beanies will really come in handy down there! We can't wait to tell you all about our adventures when we get back so stay tuned for our next newsletter. *Brrrrrrrrrr-illiant!*

HOLLAND TRACK #2 REPORT

The Holland Track is one of our favourite 4WD destinations but for the past couple of years, no matter when we scheduled the tour, the weather kept giving us a beating! (What did we do in our past lives? Are we being punished for having too much fun? Or is it that pesky climate change that the polliwogs keep telling us doesn't exist?). Whatever, we must have done our penance 'cos it seems we are now back in the golden good books! On our recent November trip we had a healthy mix of rain, wind & (hooray!) glorious sunshine!

Once again we ran the tour in conjunction with our friends at RAC Travel. A lovely group of people joined us on this five-day mini-outback adventure traveling from Hyden to Coolgardie on the 100-year old track. Thanks to Pattie Barber & Neal Crocker; Penny & John Bates; Michael Cowie & Athena Daly; Jerry Flewers; Etienne & Johanna Fourie; Jim & Pat Jordan; Lee & Katrina Manchester; Lou & Melodie Symes; Lloyd & Pam Webb; Joan Ward (all from WA); & Hank Verweij & Woutrina Blom from The Netherlands – you were all great company! And a bouquet of wildflowers to our talented Safari Hostess, Jo Clews, who is living proof that 'an army marches on its stomach'!



We had a heap of fun & also some exciting adventures! The action started when one very unlucky driver was cursed with not one, not two, but **THREE** irreparably shredded tyres within half an hour due to some very sharp & pointy mallee roots. OMG! That's gotta be a record! Under Jeremy's supervision, everyone pitched in to help. The damaged wheels were removed & the vehicle was stabilised. Then, as there were no spares which fit this particular model, two good Samaritans (thanks Lou & Melodie!) volunteered to drive to Kalgoorlie to get the damaged wheels repaired or purchase new ones. Neither of these options was available; instead, they returned to camp the next day with three *borrowed* wheels! These were duly fitted & the stranded vehicle & its happy occupants completed the tour with the rest of the group. In Kal we returned the borrowed wheels, collected & fitted the new ones (they had been shipped all the way from Perth!) & farewelled our band of gypsies. The story had a happy ending, but everyone agreed that the experience really demonstrated the value of traveling in a convoy with a qualified mechanic & with the wonderful help & support of caring new friends. Fantastic effort, everyone!

The next RAC/Gypsies Holland Track Expedition will take place from **May 21 – 25, 2015**, with another tour planned for November 2015. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment! And bring plenty of spare tyres!

FUN AT THE 4WD SHOW!

Thanks to everyone who popped in to our Stand at the Perth 4WD Show in November. More than 32,000 people attended the show & it felt like just about all of them came to see us at some point! There was heaps of interest in our towing & 4WD training & our outback tours. And lots of loyal gypsies came in just to say hello! We're now getting ready for the Caravan & Camping Show in March 2015 which should attract even bigger crowds. It's Showtime, folks!

QUEEN OF THE CARAVANS!

As a company we've always thought it's important to put something back into the tourism industry. Over the years both Gypsy directors have served on numerous Boards & committees. Jeremy's been on the Board of the 4WD Industry Association, Tour Guides Association, Forum for Advocating Cultural & Environmental Tourism & has been the small tour operator representative on the State Government's Tourism Industry Reference Group, while Jan has served on the Tourism Council Board, the Hospitality Training Board & the Nature Based Tourism Advisory Committee. Our latest involvement is Jan joining the Board of the WA Caravan Industry Association. There are so many challenging issues facing our industry & it's good to be involved. What with tours, training & talkfests, we're busier than blowies at a barbie!

DON'T MISS THESE AWESOME UPCOMING TOURS!

* **Science Safari:** April 28 – May 7. Make like Dr. Doolittle & work with the animals! On this special, guided & catered outback 'voluntour', you'll work with research scientists from WA's Department of Parks & Wildlife to help conserve & rehabilitate such native WA 'critters' as golden bandicoots; boodies; mulgara; brushtail possum & bilbies. We'll also undertake bird netting & bird banding & learn about the important conservation efforts being undertaken in WA to preserve & re-populate our precious & endangered flora & fauna. Partial proceeds donated to **Operation Rangelands Restoration** to help fund DPaw's important ongoing research activities. Check the website for more information.

* **Silk Road Safari Part 2:** September 20 – October 16. Join us as we complete the final leg of this exotic journey by land & sea! This 26-day expedition takes us from Van, Turkey, to Athens, Greece, & includes a week-long cruise on the Aegean in a massive private yacht. Wow! Top that!

Other tours on our future "Live Your Dream" bucket list are:

- **Back to Botswana:** March/April 2016 (details TBA)
- **Beautiful Bhutan 2016:** August/Sept 2016 (details TBA)
- **North to Alaska:** May/June 2017 (details TBA)
- **Discover Croatia:** August/Sept 2017 (details TBA)

THANK YOU & HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We'd like to say a HUGE thank you to our loyal clients, partners, suppliers, business colleagues & our incredible staff – Peter, Wally, Richard, Eddy & Jo - who have made the past year so successful & such a joy for us. We hope you all have a fabulous festive season & an absolutely fan-bloody-tastic 2015! Best wishes & happy travels from –



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