

BUSH TELEGRAPH

August, 2003

We have had some wonderful safaris since our last "Bush Telegraph" although the Bali Bombing resulted in the cancellation of a really exciting trip. Although a few safaris had fewer than we could have catered for most ran at (or close to) full capacity.

Our Intrepid Guides: *GO BUSH* is privileged to be guided by some of Australia's best naturalists and guides. What adds to the excitement and interest of any travel is making wonderful discoveries that the others may overlook. Our intrepid guides not only ensure safarists don't miss such treasures, but also educate us with their encyclopaedic knowledge. They deserve our highest accolades. We thank them all.

Thailand-Laos: Having been besieged with more applications for our 2001 Thailand-Laos trip we again offered it for January 2003. Then the Australian Government warned people against travelling to Thailand. This caused some withdrawals making the whole trip unviable. Our safari was headed north well away from the main population centres and popular westerner tourist destinations in the north of the country.

Since the cancellation we have had many inquiries about when we would run another trip. January is the optimum time to visit Northern Thailand when it is pleasantly cool and dry but we are committed to a safari for students from an Oregon University next January. We could offer it in January 2005 if enough people express an interest by 30th April. Anyone interested in this safari should return the brochure coupon nominating "Thailand Laos 2005". All such respondents will be advised directly by 31st May date and price details if we decide to proceed with Thailand again.

Blue Mountains: We had a great Bush Christmas in the Blue Mountains last year. Happily neither the fires (which had been savage in November) nor the drought interrupted our schedule. The only dislocation was rain on the last day. Even Sydney-siders who are surrounded by the Blue Mountains World Heritage area would be amazed at aspects they would discover on this safari. We are

considering offering another Blue Mountains trip before we utter our last "All Aboard!"

Tasmania: While Tasmania is experiencing a tourism boom, numbers for our Tasmanian safari were very light this year. This didn't prevent our small group having a wonderful time enjoying its exhilarating wild and rugged scenery. We have conducted safaris to explore Tasmania's World Heritage values every year since 1989. Although lower numbers will stop us offering a safari there next year, Tasmania hasn't fallen off our agenda and we will continue to campaign to protect its natural wonders.

Shark Bay & Wildflowers: The incredible biodiversity of the Southwest (one of the hottest spots for biodiversity in the world) has always been a passion for John. It hasn't been fully appreciated by Australians. It contains twice as many plant species as Queensland's Wet Tropics. However most of the plants are not as large and as grand as the giants of the rainforest and their value is being ignored. Although the heathlands of the South West have been overlooked for inclusion on the indicative list of Australian World Heritage sites, John is pushing to bring them to the attention of the relevant government agencies even if we aren't revisiting this area in 2004.

Top of Australia Cruise: Although our 2003 cruise is still months away it we were overwhelmed by applications before we had even established that the "*M.V. Alita*" would be our vessel of choice. It has berths for 20 safarists plus crew. This is probably the best value cruise in Australia covering the wonderful diversity of Cape York Peninsula and the Great Barrier Reef as it zig-zags between Cairns and Thursday Island and returns. The heavy demand means that we will again be offering the same cruise in 2004. Having done the trip many times previously at the same time of the year when the Coral Sea is at its most benign, we are eagerly anticipating these forthcoming cruises. It is the best time of the year to explore these remote and unspoilt marine and terrestrial wonderlands.

GO BUSH Safaris (ABN 41 053 411 706) Australia's World Heritage Area Specialists

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Let us take you up country and show you the bush

Bush Telegraph August, 2003

The 2004 Program

Australian Environmental Festival: Last year we announced that we were actively planning to stage Australia's largest environmental event since the Franklin campaign in 1983. It was planned to hold this event in August, 2004. Regrettably this has had to be deferred because we haven't yet been able to overcome the threshold issue. \$30,000 is needed to establish a professional Secretariat. There is a strong coalition of Queensland environmental groups ready to lend their support in non-monetary ways but none can provide the seed cash necessary to get this ambitious project started. We are still optimistic that there may be a breakthrough and that the event could go ahead in 2005 in the Brisbane – Sunshine Coast area. The Festival will be something like the Olympic Games with many events inspired by the environment occurring simultaneously. It would feature arts, science, and advocacy. Once the Secretariat is in place the festival's own momentum should see it succeed.

The good news is that because the Australian Environmental Festival which will place heavy demands on John's time won't occur in 2004, we won't cut back. We offer seven safaris next year.

More "All Aboards!": We are already committed to four safaris which don't appear in the 2004 brochure. Three of these are for University students. This is despite our plans to enable John to give more time to his conservation activities. Given the progressive deterioration in both Australia's and the Earth's environment, we feel that it is urgent that more in the community should be taking a more active role in this sphere in the best interests of future generations. More people need to consider what kind of environment that our children and grandchildren will inherit, rather than how much wealth they may receive. More people need to consider the quality of life we are bequeathing future generations.

Kakadu in the Wet: Many people are already anticipating this very popular safari with Ian Morris. Our safarists are amongst the privileged few who see a much greener Kakadu. They also experience the excitement of the Monsoon which helps create Kakadu's remarkably biodiverse environment.

Lord Howe Island: While this safari provides more physical activity than any other, it also offers the most comfort. It also provides John with an opportunity to monitor the changes occurring on this World Heritage island Paradise for which he has developed a Management Strategy. Seeing the island on the first nine days of May each year is like using a time lapse camera to monitor developments on this beautiful island.

Kimberley Adventure: Despite being our most challenging safari we are reluctant to give up this great annual adventure and the opportunity it provides to renew our friendships with many Kimberley personalities. However there is a question-mark over how long we may be able to continue to offer this. It is on though in 2004!

Wet Tropics: One of John's on-going projects involves his support for the Cape Tribulation Research Station. The Tropical Rainforests and Reef Safaris provide him with an annual opportunity for him to see the progress Hugh Spencer and station volunteers are making as well as to indulge in renewing old friendships and exploring this tropical wonderland.

Fraser Island: Last year while most of Australia was in drought our Fraser Island safari was being drenched. It rained on eight of the nine days but it didn't dampen anyone's spirits. We only seemed to sing and laugh more. In addition to our core safari business, Fraser Island takes up a major part of John's time, being his life-time project. He has had the opportunity though to share his passion with many wonderful and interesting people. In addition to our whale watching safari in August he will be accompanying three other groups there in 2004.

Uluru and the Red Heart: With the addition of the Kimberley's Purnululu, Australia now has 15 World Heritage sites. It isn't possible for us to run safaris to each every year and as a result for too long Uluru couldn't be fitted in despite our great desire. While we have reluctantly cut out some of our favourite destinations for 2004, we are pleased to include Uluru for the first time in years.

We hope that you enjoy your travels, (real or in reminiscence) in 2004.

John Sinclair & Sharan Daly