

# PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A HOLIDAY OF FUN AND ADVENTURE THAT IS... **TAGALONG TOURS** OF AUSTRALIA

[www.tagalongtours.com.au](http://www.tagalongtours.com.au)

Hello Everyone,

Our tours are well and truly over for another year and the Northern Australian wet season is almost upon us. This year the Wet looks like it will come early with the mangoes already thick on the trees. The fruit bats are noisy and fat, and the green tree frogs are making a racket every night with their mating calls.

It's a good time to reflect on all the fun we had during 2013.



## **Making tracks in the Desert**

Our tours began way back in April with our east west Simpson Desert crossing, and continued into May with another crossing of the Desert from the west. There were some memorable vehicle recoveries in the sand dunes along with a few running re-



## **Shearing shed at Cordillo Downs**

pairs along the way. One particular recovery in the notorious soft dunes just west of Poeppel Corner, included



## **Ghost gum near Burke's Gravesite**

nearly all of our tagalong group, as well as the occupants of two other vehicles travelling in the opposite direction. We thought it was fitting that we named that sand dune Bob's Dune, in honour of the culprit. One thing that all of our desert travellers this year will never forget, was the millions of flies that descended upon us every moment of the day. It was only after about 7.00pm each day that we were able to cook and eat our dinner. Lunch was another story. You had to attempt to eat a sandwich under a fly net, which became a fashion accessory that had to be worn every day of the tour. We welcomed back some old

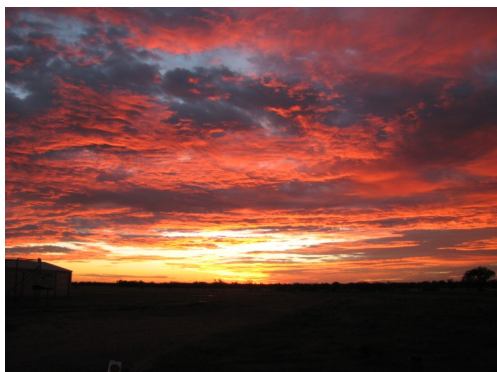


## **Sunset on Chambers Pillar**

tagalong friends on the Desert tours as well as meeting some new ones. We saw several dingoes and camels along the way and the weather was kind to us for most of the time. In Birdsville however, there was a mix of wild and windy conditions in April and steady rain in May. The section of the tour south from Birdsville to Innamincka in May was particularly memorable

## **Newsletter December 2013**

with all seven vehicles on the tour skating and sliding in the red mud for the best part of a full day. The only thing that took our mind off the track conditions that day was the 5 degree temperature that evening at Mulga Bore. When we finally arrived in Innamincka there was a lot of interest from the locals in our mud cov-



## **Magnificent sunrise at Noccundra**

ered vehicles. The fantastic sunrises and sunsets in the Simpson Desert were once again a special treat for the photographers. On reflection, I would have to say that the west-east trip was marginally easier than the east-west crossing, although as a result of the extra traffic using that direction with some no doubt towing trailers, the pot holes and scallops travelling west-east were considerably worse. Our Simpson Desert Tours are becoming very popular as more people want to experience the remoteness and the brilliant night skies out there.



## **Tagalong Group at the Dig Tree**



Our tours to Cape York this year were very popular once again, with our semi catered and fully catered packages giving our customers the choice they have been looking for. Dave, our



**The Rare Palm Cockatoo**  
tour guide & expert bush chef was kept busy feeding the hungry mouths that followed him around the Cape on his fully catered tours. Also we have extended our semi-catered tours to 18 days now, with a few extra rest days



#### **Limestone Cave near Chillagoe**

included. This has allowed the people on these tours to spend a bit more time enjoying their surroundings at the special camp sites that we have



#### **New Thursday Island Ferry**

selected. On the fully catered tours our customers have the choice of a 12 Day, a 16 Day, or a 20 Day Tour. There are free days on all of these tours as well. Vrilya Point, on the west coast of Cape

York, and Chili Beach on the east coast have been added this year to some of the itineraries and from the very positive response from our customers, they will definitely be staying as highlights on our Cape York tours. The log bridge that we have to cross over to get into and out of Vrilya Point also adds a little more adventure to the tours.

The usual suspects on the Old Telegraph Track were up to their old tricks



#### **Log Bridge at Crystal Creek**

again, with Palm Creek remaining the most daunting crossing. A few of the other crossings were chopped up pretty badly as well, after several vehicles went through them on various variety bashes. The southern entrance to Cockatoo Creek was particularly rough during this year, but with time and patience, we were able to successfully get all of our tagalong vehicles across. We enjoyed fine weather for the most part with only a few showers spoiling the party. I clearly remember one night at Eliot Falls in July where we were all bunked down by 7.30pm due to a persistent shower. I suppose it was not a bad place to nod off to sleep with the rain gently drumming on our tents. We are pleased to have had a fairly trouble free season as far as our



#### **Saltwater Crocodile in Lakefield N.P.**



#### **Crossing Canal Creek on the OTT**

tours were concerned. There were no trucks getting sunk in the Jardine River this year, no serious break downs and most importantly no injuries or illnesses. We are really looking forward to next year and we hope that you will join us in the bush on one of our tours.

All the very best for the Festive Season and make sure that you get out and enjoy this beautiful country of ours.

Cheers,

Paul Stafford.

## **2014 TOUR DATES**

### **SIMPSON DESERT**

#### **12 Day Semi Catered Tours**

**11.04.14 - 22.04.14**

**02.05.14 - 13.05.14**

### **CAPE YORK**

#### **18 Day Semi Catered Tours**

**01.06.14 - 18.06.14**

**06.07.14 - 23.07.14**

**10.08.14 - 27.08.14**

**14.09.14 - 01.10.14**

#### **12 Day Fully Catered Tour**

**06.06.14 - 17.06.14**

#### **16 Day Fully Catered Tour**

**08.07.14 - 23.07.14**

#### **20 Day Fully Catered Tour**

**11.08.14 - 30.08.14**

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