

DICK LANG'S BUSH PILOTS' NEWSLETTER, March 2017.

Welcome to your news of the Outback and adventure!

Rev. 68

728

Department of Wildlife & National Parks
01-03-1999
GABORONE BOTSWANA

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
FAUNA CONSERVATION ACT
(Cap. 38:01)
PROFESSIONAL HUNTER'S LICENCE
(not transferable)

1. In terms of section 31 of the Fauna Conservation Act, a licence is hereby issued to DICK LANG of PO BOX 1519 GABORONE to act as a professional hunter from 21-1-1999 to 31st Dec 1999 subject to the following conditions:

(a) Valid for operation in areas, concessions
(b) owned or leased by Afro-Trek (Pty) Ltd
(c) as Hunter Grade I

2. This form is valid until 31st December, 1999

Fee paid: P 700
Receipt issued cheque no. 000080
Date 21-1-99

J. Malote
Signature of Licensing Officer

Department of Wildlife & National Parks
01-03-1999
GABORONE BOTSWANA

A GREAT WHITE HUNTER BASED IN ADELAIDE?

The above licence is true, but there is a small story behind it.

When we first started our African Safaris in the early 1990's, we camped out in tents amongst some very dangerous animals.

Other safari companies had occasional safari clients killed each year, but that news never made it here, unless it was an Australian.

Right from the start, I felt a very strong responsibility for our passengers, to keep them safe in this beautiful, but dangerous, environment. So I carried very heavy armament – an elephant gun and a powerful revolver. This was legal in Zimbabwe, but not in Botswana, where a guide was not allowed to carry a firearm! The Botswana Govt. clearly valued its animals over its tourists!

If I wanted to carry my elephant gun for client protection, I had to pass a Professional Hunters Licence! And so began a two year examination course, studying and testing. It was fascinating. Amongst the many examinations, there was a slide examination of forty birds and an exam of thirty different birdcalls.

We had to show our ability to track an animal – and had to identify 20 different

poo droppings (Africa is a land of animal droppings!) I remember that the only way to tell the difference between a hartebeest rounded dropping and a giraffe rounded dropping was that one was flat on the bottom, after falling from a great height!

I was asked to return to Botswana by the National Park Service to lecture to the guides there on bushcraft.

This Professional Hunters Licence allowed me to carry an elephant gun legally, to protect our passengers.

Although it was brought out many times when threatened, I never fired a shot in anger or killed an animal.



This short story was to show the lengths we go to, to protect our passengers – whether it be in Africa, Papua New Guinea or the wilds of Australia.

P.S. I believe that I was the only registered African Big Game Hunter to live in Australia.

P.P.S. These days, the only danger we face is a 'cougar' that has had too much to drink!

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Our company contributes to the running of the most remote, wildest cultural shows in PNG. How did this happen?

We have been taking people to these world class unusual shows for forty years – but in 2006, we ventured much deeper into the isolated wilds of the high mountains and discovered the Enga-Wabag gathering. There were 10-20,000 locals and we were the only white people in a vast sea of locals. It was stunning and mind-boggling. This was a living, breathing display of the wildest people in PNG, showing their ritual dances. We were so impressed that we became sponsors and have been returning ever since.

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE NEWS AND FLIGHTS AROUND THE OUTBACK FOR 2017.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
EVERY CORNER A NEW WORLD!



A friend John, walks to a magnificent waterfall, a short trek from our beautiful lodgings on the top of the ridges in Tari.



And these are the deluxe huts which look down 1,500m into the spectacular Tari Valley.

There are only six seats left on this remarkable adventure, departing Adelaide on August 5.

The fare is \$10,990 (twin share), \$11,990 (single). We will offer \$400 off per couple, if booked by March 20!

We also see many of the great highlights of PNG including **Pt Moresby** (a beautiful city), **Madang** (one of the world's most beautiful harbours), **Goroka**, **Mt Hagen**, and **Tari**, in the Highlands. Two other special features are a stay in a Bird of Paradise Lodge and a stay on the top of the mountains in deluxe native huts, in luxurious growth, surrounded by Birds of Paradise (pictured above).

At the Enga-Wabag Sing Sing, you will be one amongst thousands. It is so remote. Part of your fare will go towards the health and education of these proud, but isolated people.

Although close to Australia, it is a whole world away culturally. An amazing experience, which you will never forget!

A PICTURE IS WORTH -



What a beautiful smile from a young villager, who is so proud of his culture - a lovely, friendly people.



This very proud and fierce warrior from Hela with his intricate headdress, made of everlasting daisies and the raggiana Bird of Paradise, would rarely leave his remote, isolated high Valleys of Enga.

Two generations ago, his people would have fought neighbouring tribes to the death. You are as much of interest to him as he is to you. You will see many hundreds like this, all competing for their own tribe. However, they are all very protective of you at their SingSing.



Our drive into the mountains is so remote and so wild! Here a tracked vehicle, like a tank, takes over from a 4WD truck to haul goods further towards our destination.

A THOUSAND WORDS, PNG



The famous Mudmen of Asaro (Goroka Show). These heavy, cumbersome clay masks are meant to represent ghost figures to scare off enemies. The warriors all move in a very slow, menacing ritual dance which is also quite threatening. Another amazing sight in PNG.



You have heard of them and seen them on TV. But come, sit and photograph these rare beautiful birds in the wild, only metres from you. **Join us on Aug 5 on this exclusive and wild adventure.**

ZERO TO HERO: A




■ A Japanese fighter pilot and a traditional hunter from the Tiwi Islands – two young men from two very different cultures.
■ In an extraordinary twist of events, these two lives would be fatefully brought together during the bombing of Darwin in 1942 – 75 years ago today.
■ One man would go down in folklore as a legend, while the other would die in a lonesome internment camp far from his homeland. TAMARA HOWIE writes.

HAJIME Terashima was destined to go down in history as the first Japanese pilot to land in Australia. It was a beautiful day for the young man on the island of Darwin, Northern Territory, on Sunday, February 15, 1942. The Japanese Zero fighter plane was seen in the sky, and the young man was seen in the distance. He was a traditional hunter from the Tiwi Islands, and he was seen in the distance. He was a traditional hunter from the Tiwi Islands, and he was seen in the distance.

SAFE: Petty Officer James Kennedy, who was the first Australian to see the Japanese Zero fighter plane, is seen in a photograph. He was a traditional hunter from the Tiwi Islands, and he was seen in the distance.

WAS PROBABLY ESCAPED: A photograph of a Japanese Zero fighter plane, which was seen in the sky during the bombing of Darwin in 1942. It was a beautiful day for the young man on the island of Darwin, Northern Territory, on Sunday, February 15, 1942.

FATEFUL AMBUSH



UNDER ATTACK: Bomber attacks on Darwin in February 1942. A Japanese Zero fighter plane is seen in the sky during the bombing of Darwin in 1942. It was a beautiful day for the young man on the island of Darwin, Northern Territory, on Sunday, February 15, 1942.

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LAND ON THESE ISLANDS - SEE THIS MONUMENT ON OUR KIMBERLEY SAFARI

The above article appeared in the "Sunday Mail" on February 19. It is an interesting story of a Tiwi Islander Matthias, who helped capture the first Japanese POW in Australia. Armed only with his tomahawk, he pretended it was a revolver (see photo) and apprehended the Japanese Zero pilot, Hajime.

Our 11 Day around Australia Kakadu/Kimberley flight, calls in to the remote Tiwi Islands in the Arafura Sea. We are welcomed with a "traditional smoke ceremony and dance".

The Tiwi people enjoy a different and isolated lifestyle. Their culture is strong and vibrant – and we get to visit their practising Art Centre and Cultural Museum. Two days earlier on our safari in the Centre we visit a Western Desert Aboriginal Community to view the culture and lifestyle. **The comparisons are very interesting and the art is very different** – one a desert culture, the other a saltwater culture.

The next day, on our Kimberley Safari we stay at Home Valley Station in the Kimberley, which is a funded 'Station Stay' to train and assist young aboriginal people with hospitality training. These three visits will give you an interesting introduction to the widely varied Aboriginal people of Australia.

We spend time in the wilds of Kakadu – including a stunning boat trip across the Wetlands to view prolific birdlife – and we get a great view of Aboriginal Rock Art. Later in the trip, we fly over the Bungle Bungles, fly over the Horizontal Waterfall and visit one of the most magnificent gorges of the Kimberley – Windjana. This

This great gorge pales in comparison with the sheer depth and beauty of Australia's deepest gorges in Karijini. (Enjoy a luxury tented experience here!)

Two great departures: JUNE 2, JULY 6. FARE: \$10,490 twin share, \$11,990 single.



HISTORY OF OUR KIMBERLEY
 In 1978, we first explored the Kimberley. It was wild, raw country and untouched by tourism. **We became the first safari operator to work along the Gibb River Road – a wild experience.**

This exciting adventure took 28 days from Adelaide to Adelaide. What an incredible difference today when we fly around in 11 days – the amazing part is that we see more, go to more places and travel further in 11 days in the plane than we did in the 4WDs in 28 days.

And the greatest benefit? We don't use swags anymore – just four star accommodation and deluxe wilderness camps! Kakadu-Kimberley changes every year. Do yourself a favour and complete your Australian education!

Departs June 2, July 6 - both great trips.

THE MAGNIFICENT SEA EAGLE



Experience Australia's Diverse and Majestic Bird Range in the Kimberley and Kakadu.

We frequently see the unusual and proud brolgas, the solitary jabirus, Black Breasted Buzzards and, of course, the majestic White Bellied Sea Eagle. Your flight around Australia should give you many and varied experiences – these wonderful birds being one small part of a large nature picture. Come along while the weather is pleasant on June 2 or July 6. **(Bring a charger for your camera!)**



Our mate Don Rowlands, from Birdsville, checks out pelican chicks in the desert. Please note that you may not see the same numbers.

THE GREAT OUTBACK FLIGHT – 3 DAYS TO SEE THE BEST

*“A wonderful bird is the Pelican.
His bill can hold more than his belican.
He can take in his beak
Enough food for a week!
I’m damned if I see how the helican?”*

**Who wrote this? You may be surprised.
See the last page for answer.**

We have three flights for your memorable adventure into the Outback. All of these flights have Lake Eyre – a glistening sea of white salt crystals, the giant Marree Man, Birdsville and Innamincka as their core destinations. (Please read the great article below about Madigan, of Lake Eyre fame). Each of these trips do have quite different itineraries to choose from. Whichever you choose, you will have a new and great adventure.

TRIP 1: 3 DAY LAKE EYRE BIRD FLIGHT

There have been small annual floods through the central deserts, which have led to local explosions of water birds in remote locations. Enjoy the Marree Man, Lake Eyre and Birdsville, before overnighing at the remote outback pub near Betoota. The next day is a drive through the desert country to a remote waterhole festooned with birds. In the afternoon, fly to Innamincka for the Burke and Wills saga and a trip to local waterholes for more birdlife.

DEPARTS: April 3 and May 2.

FARE: \$2,690 (twin), \$2,840 (single).

TRIP 2: 3 DAY GREAT OUTBACK FLIGHT

See the amazing icons of our Outback – Marree Man, Lake Eyre, Birdsville, Outback rivers, Longreach with the, then Burke and Wills’ Dig Tree Stockman’s

Burke and Wills’ Dig Tree Stockman’s Hall of Fame, Qantas Museum, the amazing Channel Country to Innamincka. A long, interesting and memorable flight.

DEPARTS: April 7; May 5, 24; June 30; July 19; August 24; Sept 30.

FARE: \$2,690 pp (twin), \$2,840 (single).

TRIP 3: 2 DAY LAKE EYRE, BIRDSVILLE, INNAMINCKA FLIGHT.

In a memorable 2 Day Flight, cross much of the Outback, to the famous Burke and Wills’ Dig Tree in Queensland, overnight on beautiful Coopers Creek at Innamincka. See the remote Coongie Lakes, then historic Birdsville. Fly down the length of white Lake Eyre to the Marree Man, along the Flinders Ranges to Adelaide. A great two days!

DEPARTS: Apr 29, Jun 26, Jul 22, Sept 2.

FARE: \$1,890 (twin), \$1,990 (single).

A TRUE ANTARCTIC HERO – SOUTH AUSTRALIA’S MADIGAN



Cecil Madigan, face covered in ice, Antarctica

CECIL MADIGAN.

There can be few men of the calibre of Adelaide’s Cecil Madigan.

Most know of Sir Douglas Mawson, South Australian leader of the 1912 “Australian Antarctic Expedition”.

(He featured on the old \$100 note). Mawson selected Adelaide’s Cecil Madigan as his 2.i.c. and meteorologist.

More successful in Antarctica than Mawson, he served in WWI and WWII, then spent considerable time exploring Central Australia. He explored Lake Eyre in 1929 using aircraft to assist. One of the largest parts of Lake Eyre - Madigan Gulf - was named after him. In 1939, he led a commendable scientific expedition across the Simpson Desert. (A memorial to this expedition stands across from the Birdsville Hotel).

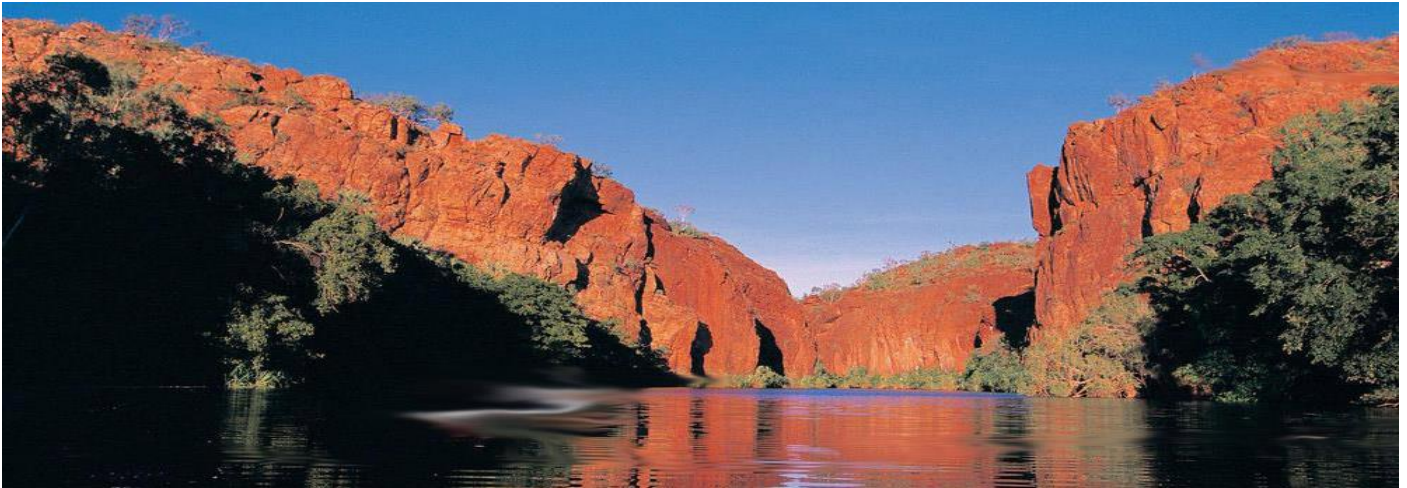
Recently, my wife Helen gave me a copy of “Madigan’s Account: The Mawson Expedition” (Wellington Bridge Press), transcribed by Julia Madigan.

This interesting diary of Cecil Madigan’s had the serious proviso that it should not be published “for at least a hundred years” for fear of offending Mawson’s family. Madigan wrote scathing and highly critical accounts of Mawson and his leadership and his loss of two men whilst they were in Antarctica.

It is a most interesting book and mature aged people could associate with the writings of a young Madigan. Whilst repetitive, it gives an honest insight into the minds and effort of Australia’s first Antarctic Expedition under Mawson.

See Madigan Gulf, flying over Lake Eyre on our 2 & 3 Day Air Safari and visit his monument at Birdsville.

CAPE YORK – AUSTRALIA’S TROPICAL WILDERNESS AND THE TIP!



CAPE YORK – A splendid adventure

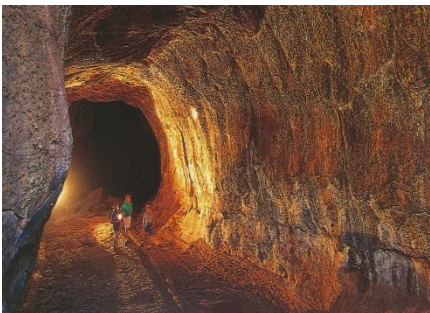
in a very hard-to-reach part of Australia. There are very many interesting and varied goals, including ‘The Tip of Australia’ (see happy passenger below), historic Cooktown, Torres Strait, Undara Lava Tubes, the World Heritage Site at Riversleigh Fossil Field, the Dinosaur Stampede and, of course, the magnificent Lawn Hill Gorge (above). Read on about the many snippets of interest on your Cape York Safari.

BRUSH TURKEY OF CAPE YORK



This elusive Brush Turkey was photographed near ‘The Tip’. In the dense rainforest leading to the Tip, we may also see the giant mounds of the rare jungle fowl. Another spectacular sighting would be the Palm Cockatoos, Australia’s largest cockatoo.

UNDARA LAVA TUBES



Near Croydon and formed by hot flowing lava, these tubes are huge and must be experienced to be appreciated.

THE RUSSIAN GUNS



Installed near the Tip on Thursday Island in 1892, we visit this fort set up to defend the Torres Strait and Australia from the danger of the Russian Invasion!

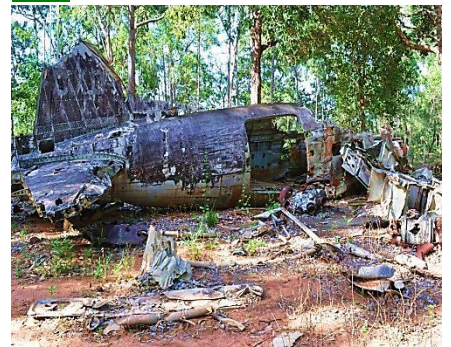
THE PITCHER PLANT



The amazing carnivorous ‘Pitcher Plant’, near ‘The Tip’. It has a nectar-like secretion which attracts insects into the hollow, with the lid closing. The secretion then dissolves the insect to feed the plant. This one has only been seen by us in Cape York.

THE CAPE YORK EXPERIENCE IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM ANYWHERE ELSE IN AUSTRALIA! COME AND TRY IT!

DC-3



The sad remains of a military C-47 (DC-3) which crashed approaching the Bamaga Airstrip, near The Tip, on May 5, 1945, so close to the end of WWII.



Made it to the TIP! John, one of our happy friends, has achieved his goal.

CAPE YORK is very different to other parts of Australia. There is so much to see and do.

There are limited seats available on May 15 and June 18 – a great time to travel there. It is an 8 day flight with a fare of \$7,790 (twin share), \$8,790 single.

Please call for a brochure and your place on a memorable holiday.

A MEDICAL HAND FOR YOU?



Some of you may remember our youngest son, Clayton, who helped us on some of our early safaris. He also helped drive our safaris in Africa.

Clayton is now a Plastic Surgeon, specialising in hand surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, which includes treatment of skin cancers and melanoma.

He has a friendly, approachable and very professional manner and is now a partner in DEXTRA SURGERY (formerly Sach Day Surgery), 341 South Terrace, Adelaide, phone 8223 7870.

In addition, Clayton also consults at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and privately at Gawler and Minlaton.

Please mention that you know us, as an introduction to Clayton.

AN INTERESTING HISTORY

In 2009, we updated and purchased a Beechcraft King Air Super 200. Having searched the world, we decided on N469JB in Texas. It had special extras to make a great aircraft.

On researching, we found that it had belonged to Air Greenland as OY-NUK, working in and around the North Pole. This company did survey work counting polar bears! It was then sold to U.S.

A doubtful history followed involving drugs, South America and money laundering. The aircraft was seized by the Sheriff, put up for public auction and purchased by Century Turbines of Texas!

We refused to purchase it, thinking it had carried drugs, but

DICK LANG'S BUSH PILOTS

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AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST CHARTER AND SAFARI COMPANY



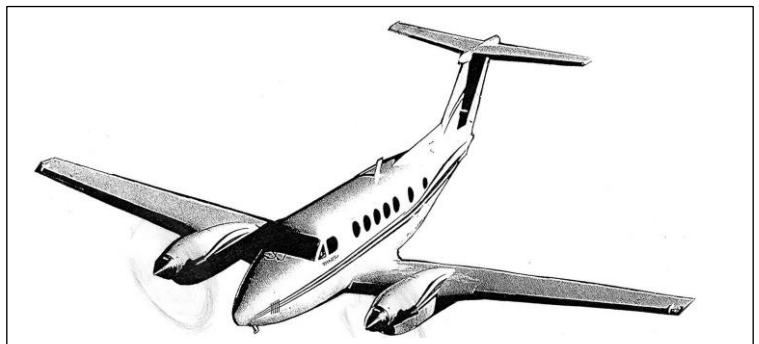
were told that it was seized at purchase by the syndicate – so we went ahead and purchased it. The top photo shows VH-ODI at Christmas Island in the Pacific (yes, there are two Christmas Islands) where I had flown from USA to refuel. This spot is one of the lowest on earth, only half a metre above sea level.

VH-ODI has completed 7 years of successful operation with us.



The bottom photo shows VH-ODI at Strahan in Tasmania – this represents pole to pole – an amazing life for an aircraft, from chasing polar bears to landing in the deserts of Australia. How versatile. Many of you have flown in our comfortable, aircon, pressurised King Air. Now you know its history!

AND THE PELICAN? - Not Hilaire Belloc as many would think, but actually humourist Dixon Lanier Merritt who was Editor of a Nashville (USA) newspaper....."how the Helican!"



Thank you for your interest. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards, Dick & Helen Lang