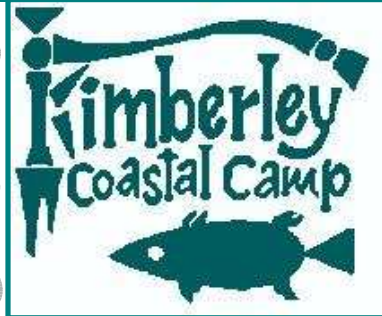


Dec 06



THE SEASON ENDS

The build up has certainly arrived. The temperature increases a little each day – and so does the humidity. It's wonderful to notice all the changes as the environment responds. There are shoots on the boab trees, the tropical trees like mangoes and paw paws look to set to colonize us, and the wildlife are a little more active.

We've spotted the odd snake and our resident python Ollie has made a few appearances. Rocky has devised a permanent drip in to the bird bath which George, our wild dingo thinks is his personal water dish. Recently we noticed a mangrove fantail – a new arrival as pockets of water dry up, and the bird bath attracts more and more visitors. There seems to be some invisible pecking order, a time for wrens, a time for honey eaters and so on. Like a miniature replica of a morning at the Ganges.

TRAVELS AND CELEBRATIONS

Speaking of the Ganges, Rocky and Bella are off to India this wet season. A month of lurid sights and smells and wonderful street food to inspire entrees around the campfire next season. Don't panic though; Bella's famous tapas will still be on the menu. They will also be spending a few months in Fremantle with family. Liz and Rocky are now grandparents for the 3rd time as of last month. Congratulations to Emma and Iain. Congratulations are also in order to Pat and Richard who spent their wedding anniversary under a boab tree on a star studded Kimberley evening in August. Never ones to miss an opportunity for a celebration, we lit candles and devised a seven course meal consisting largely of all the wonderful fish they caught that day. 47 years and still looking in love. Salute.



CHANGES IN THE WEATHER

With the cooler nights in the middle of the year and less need for the whirr of ceiling fans in The Shed we took a dining table outside and ate mudcrabs al fresco. Hours later we were still there with Andrea Bocelli crooning to a million stars. We loved it so much it's now a regular feature.

FISHING

It's been a sublime season for fishing - well it's always good, we know – but the run-off from a bumper wet season kick-started the barra closely followed by the bottom fishing and pelagics. See Rocky's separate fishing notes for more details.

THE KITCHEN

Activities extended to bread making one morning during the season. Guest Rob was complaining that his bread was just a bit hit and miss. We talked about where he might be going wrong but it was far more fun to throw a bit of flour around the kitchen. We have since received photos of the bread that he now effortlessly whips up and those loaves would look right at home between the pages of Vogue entertaining.



MARINE LIFE

Fishing was suspended on a number of occasions as we were sidetracked by a pod of pilot whales. Suzi was among those lucky enough to spend a magical half hour or so with the whales playing within touching distance of the boat

ROCK ART

Rocky and Bella spent a few days with our guests Ross and Robyn exploring this rich country in a Robinson 44. Looking for new art sites in a chopper, sure beats wading neck high in spinifex. Happy to report that a new Bradshaw site was indeed found and another exciting-looking overhang was spotted as we took off. It's all on the GPS and we plan to walk there next season, so let us know if you have a desire for exploration and adventure.



IN THE MEANTIME

... may our lightning Gods the Wandjinas do their thing over the Wet and we wish you a safe and peaceful festive season! Kind regards from Rocky, Bella and the KCC Crew.



PICNICS – yes, food again

Despite trying different locations, nothing beats the day trip to Steephead, trolling a few lines around the magnificent icon and then Rocky doing his magic, cooking fish on the coals. Sally and Steve found the trolling was quiet but the day was in her full splendour. Steve caught a beautiful Coral Trout, which we kept for another meal or back up in case we didn't get the desired Queen fish for the coals. As Steve wryly pointed out "it's not a bad day when plan B is a coral trout".

