

Episode 259

Saturday 29 November 2008

Summer Series Apollo Trek Special

Dean Miller and Taryn Onofaro

Dean and Taryn took off in an Apollo Motorhome – the six-berth EuroCamper – exploring Tropical North Queensland at their leisure.

Contact Apollo Motorhome

www.apollocamper.com

1800 777 779



Ellis Beach

First stop was Ellis Beach, one of those places where the rainforest quite literally meets the sea. Here you'll find world-heritage listed wet tropics to the west, Double Island towards the horizon, and in between, a kilometre-long strip of white sand that's only about 20 minutes drive north of Cairns.

Ellis Beach Leisure Park is the only place in the far north where you can pitch a tent or park your van right next to the sand. It's a tidy park with all the essentials – powered and unpowered sites, neat oceanfront bungalows for hire, pool, BBQ, laundry, a well-stocked kiosk and the Ellis Beach Bar and Grill right across the road.

Fishing at the southern rocks is a popular pastime with locals. Dean fished with Matt from Bransford's Bait and Tackle in Cairns.

Contact Ellis Beach Oceanfront Bungalows & Leisure Park
www.ellisbeachbungalows.com
1800 637 036

Mareeba

MakoTrac is an amazing, international standard go-kart track just outside Mareeba.



MakoTrac's immaculate mobiles are Swiss-made and there's a range of six different gradings. Every driver starts on the standard 5.5 horsepower and must satisfy strict speed and handling requirements before graduating to the next level. The top of the range kart is the Gold Star - 50 horsepower. It can reach speeds of up to 160 kph and those skilled enough get to do it all on the adjoining 1300 metre international standard race track.

At the other end of the spectrum, check out the speed-restricted Bambini karts, which are custom-made for four to six year olds.

Contact MakoTrac
www.makotrak.com
07 4092 5788

Innot Hot Springs

Innot Hot Springs is a whistle-stop kind of town west of Ravenshoe. But bubbling beneath its surface are veins of natural mineral water, which in turn are corralled into six different thermal pools at the Hot Springs Leisure and Health Park. The Springs are renowned for their healing properties and in the 19th century, were bottled and sent to Britain for the aristocracy to bathe in.

The van park here is also the home of professional sports masseuse Leanne Atkinson who offers visitors relaxation massage, Bowen therapy and remedial deep tissue massage.

Contact Innot Hot Springs Leisure & Health Park

www.innohotspringspark.com

07 4097 0136

Undara Experience

Undara Experience is an Aussie resort like no other. Set in thousands of hectares of Savannah woodlands, Undara Experience offers a range of accommodation from campsites and van sites to permanent tents and restored railway carriage cabins.

The heart of the resort is the Lodge, where meals are served day and night on the deck. Breakfast is an Aussie bush barbecue.

Visitors generally travel to this outback gem to tour the Undara Lava Tubes within the National Park. The result of a volcanic flow around 160,000 years ago, the tubes form an extraordinary underground experience. The tubes are the oldest in the world and are considered a true geological marvel.

Every October, the Undara Experience hosts 'Opera in the Outback' in the outdoor amphitheatre. With a bush backdrop and the stars for overhead lighting, 'Opera in the Outback' has become a social must-do on the North Queensland arts calendar.

Contact Undara Experience

www.undara.com.au

1800 990 992