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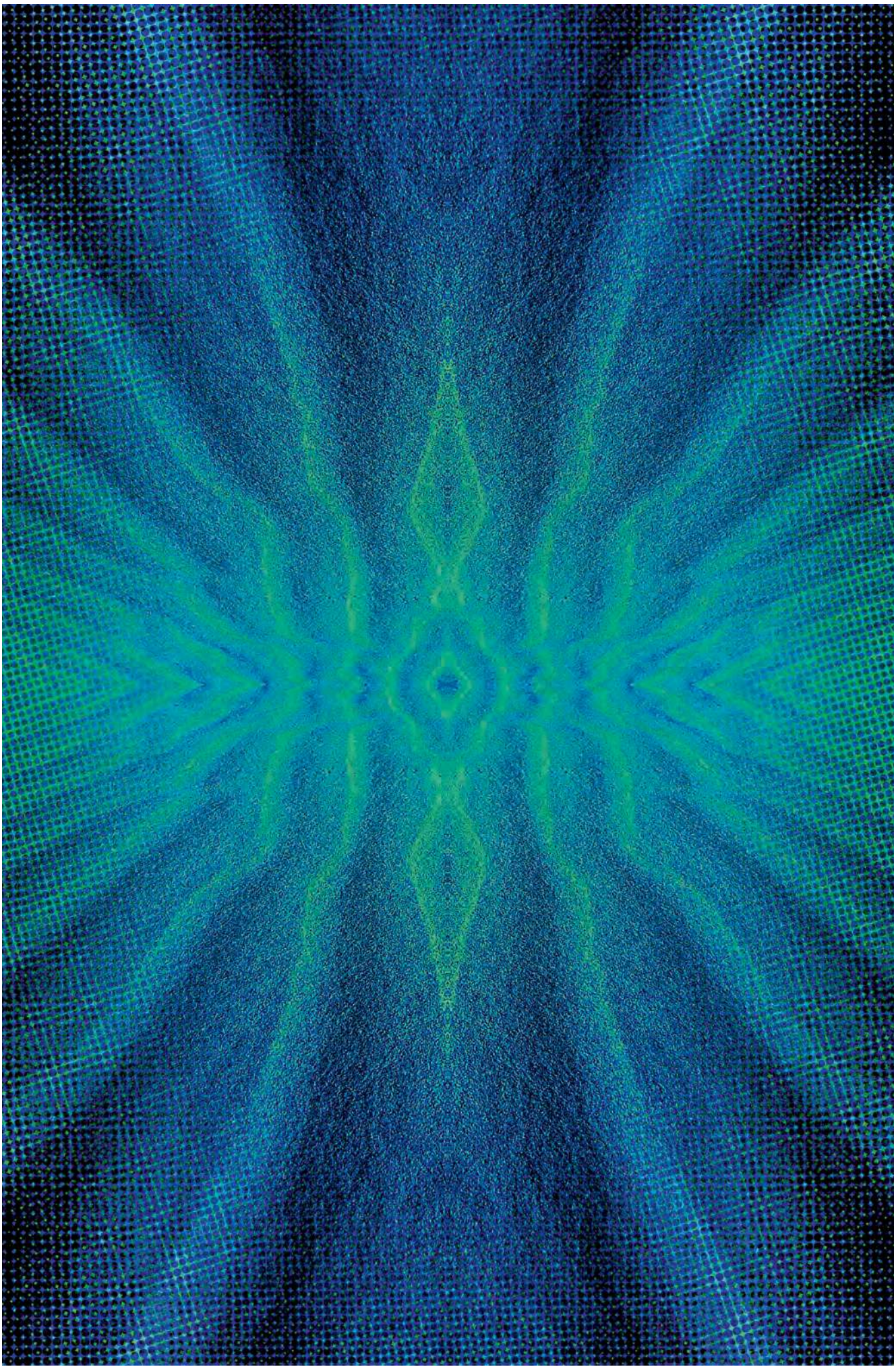
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TO INFINITY AND BEYOND

In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.
– Desiderius Erasmus, *Adagia*

Time is the substance I am made of. Time is a river which sweeps me along, but I am the river; it is a tiger which destroys me, but I am the tiger; it is a fire which consumes me, but I am the fire.
– Jorge Luis Borges, *A New Refutation of Time*

On the road, where change is continuous and visible, time is not; rather it is something the rider only infers. Time is not the traveler's fourth dimension - change is.
– William Least Heat-Moon, *Blue Highways*

There are concepts and words which live only, truly, in the experience of living them: sky means nothing to the blind; symphony nothing to the deaf; infinity nothing to the sendentary.

The gift and the curse of the peripatetic is the firsthand experience of the endlessness of the world. It isn't just the effortless curve of the horizon, the way it slouches just out of reach, or the depthlessness of the blanket of the night, which tugs at that knot in your stomach if you lie back and clear your mind, and you can almost feel yourself falling into its cold embrace.

It is something else that occurs along the byways of adventure: the slow burnishing of your understanding of change, of what it means, of its ultimate monarchy.

The idea that we might imagine infinity is fraught with its own epistemological borders and wastelands: bounded by our skulls, how might our consciousness conceive of something that is, by its nature, unbounded?

And yet, if there is a portal into infinity that exists within this universe, it is within our minds. In a sense, our creativity is nothing more than the external infinity of space folded back on itself to mirror the universe within us, to continually expand within the fractal kaleidoscope of our dreams unenendingly, outside of time and space.

Every coastline is immeasurably long, and every coastline we imagine is just as infinite, ever-changing, and impossible to gauge.

The depth of the well of our consciousness is just as bottomless as the night sky, just as unfathomable, just as infinite.

We are each a pearl in Indra's net, reflecting and containing every other pearl, as they each reflect and contain us, without paradox.

We are greater than oceans, larger than the sky, and yet mere drops, mere motes. Our retinas divide the world into outer and inner, yet we are not the centre: every pearl of the net is the centre, and none are.

Sensing the interconnectedness of everything directly, without the filter of duality, language or expectation, is the only way.

The sensation of warm water over our skin is as indescribable as that of touching the entire universe at once with your mind, and yet both are so simple in the moment, both akin to slipping back into the womb: one of the body, one of the mind.

Though he may not see, the blind man can see his own infinity, it stretches as far inward as our sky stretches outward, and is no less deep, for infinity knows no direction.

But the man who has not wagered everything upon his doorstep, who has not reckoned with the horizon - while his mind may run deeper than any well - without the rhythm of the road, without the long-focus of the night sky, his dreams will be painted against the dome of his skull, not drilled into the infinity of his soul.

Because wondering, and wandering, are not so very far apart where souls are concerned.

– Carlisle Rogers

LEFT: Our particle selves. (Rogers)

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4WD Touring AUSTRALIA
LIVING THE DREAM

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FADE INTO YOU

CARLISLE ROGERS



Hunting with snares, like playing poker and shooting sunsets, seems to be as much about luck as anything else.

But if you place a snare somewhere without game, away from a run, it might sit there until it rots away. If you play a good hand of poker badly, or play a bad hand well, you can shiver off the effects of luck pretty quickly.

Photography is a lot like a card game, or catching game. You try to be in the right place at the right time. You try to have your tools in order. You try to understand the subtleties of nature.

But most importantly, you are patient and you pay attention. Because the moment is as fleeting as a hare through tall grass, as effervescent as the flicker of an opponent's eye in our poker game. The best we can hope for, is to catch those moments.

LIVING THE DREAM



Another lefthander, another sunset, another bleary day spent chasing the ends of the earth.

Maybe there are better colours than aquamarine and dusky hot pink against each other in infinite depth. Perhaps there are better places than this cliff jutting out into the eastern boundary of the Pacific Ocean, tripping up groundswells that have travelled halfway around the earth just to peel down this line and disappear into oblivion.

And it might be possible to spend your time better than plying these waters for waves, for fish, for meaning itself. But most days, that's a hard wager.

– Carlisle Rogers

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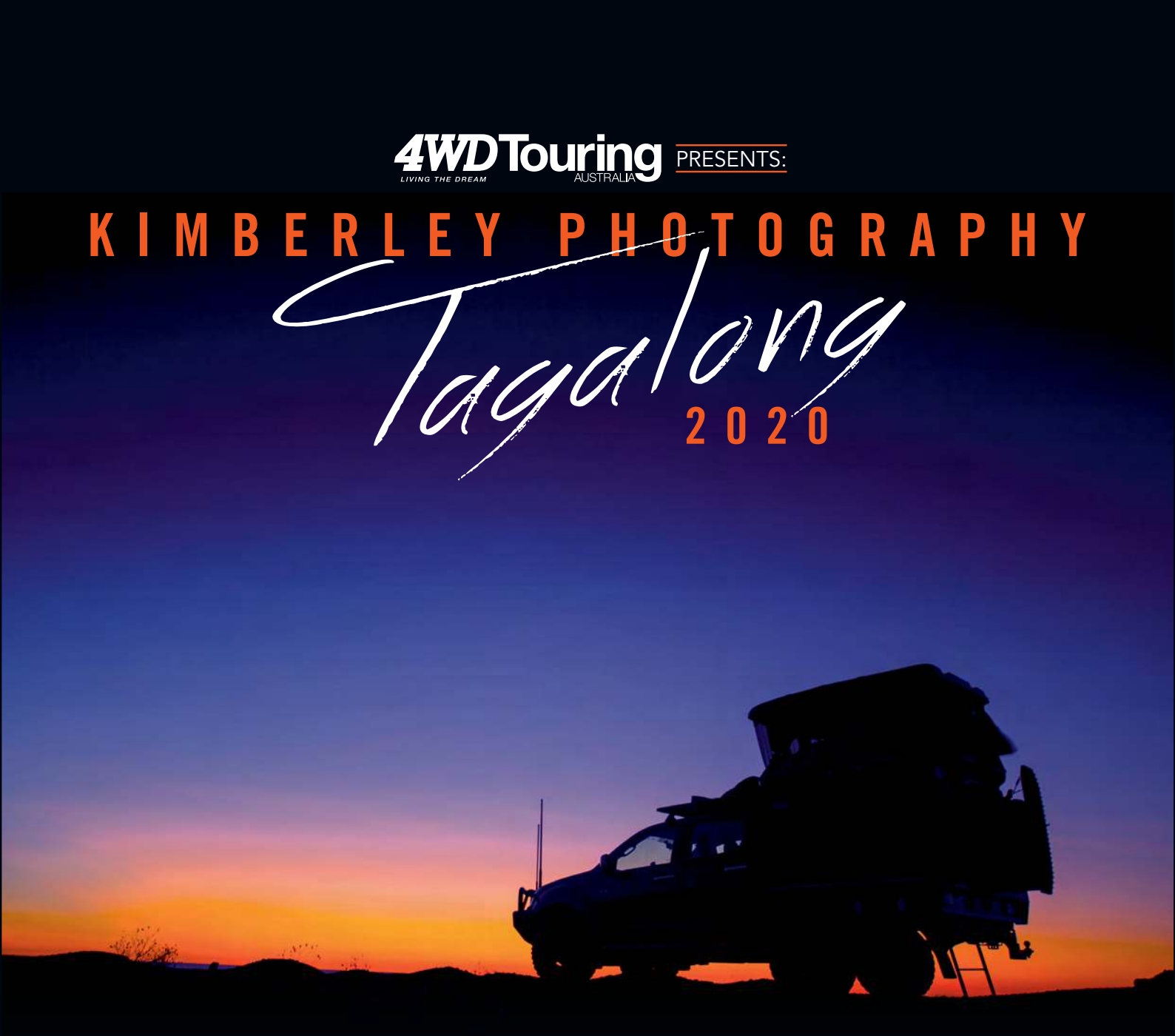
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PRESENTS:

KIMBERLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Tagalong

2020



"My goal for this trip is for everyone to go home with a really amazing photo they can proudly hang on their wall."

– Carlisle Rogers

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ELEMENTAL

The Kimberley contradiction.

SEAN SCOTT

How can a place be so distinctive, when the elements that put it together are so wildly varied?

Take note of Sean Scott's forensic photographic trip to the trippiest spaces in the northwest …

Over the coming pages our correspondent brings us hazy horses and helicopters, black tyres that bullroar through pink bulldust, green freshwater pools, blue and white saltwater tidal flats, and the fire-and-ice Milky Way galaxy.

Despite all the differing moods, every single photo in Sean's spread is distinctly Kimberley.

It's a fitting kick off to an issue where we look at a very special corner of the planet – where visual contradictions and colour clashes come together to create an incredible elemental Frankenstein.

THE CROSSING: Ivanhoe Crossing used to be on the main drag between Kununurra and Wyndham. These days it's in flow all year round. It is controlled by the dam on the Ord River and is a prime spot to wet a line or just give the underbody a bit of a rinse.





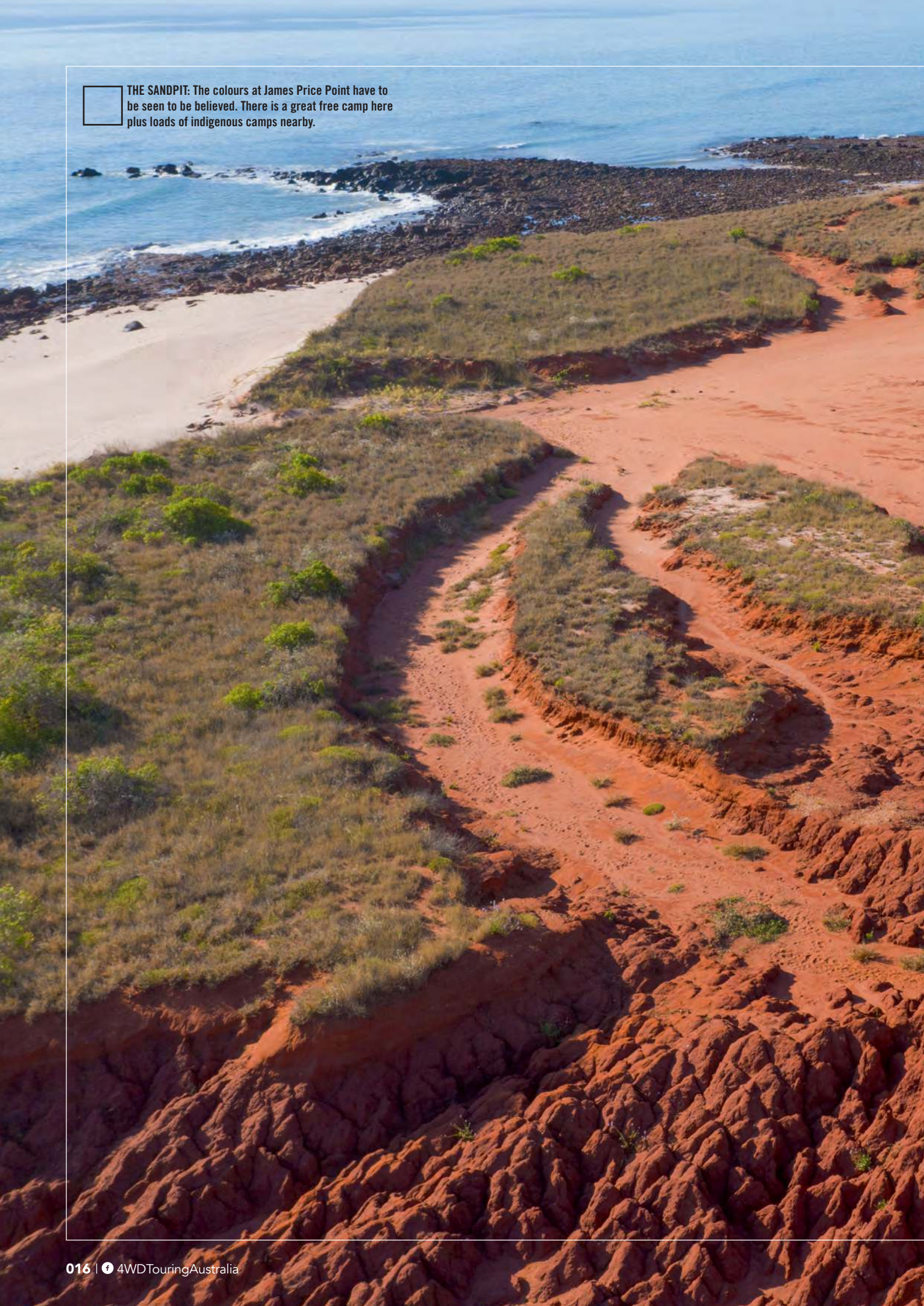
› **EMMA GORGE** would have to be one of my favourite swimming holes in the East Kimberley. You'll find it on the Gibb, at El Questro Station. It's easy to get to, and you can choose from camping options or luxury tents when it comes time for some shuteye. Insider tip – there's a warm water feed to this lake, on the right hand side as you enter the pool. It can be quite chilly in the winter so it's a nice way to ease into it.





^ **THE MUSTER:** Heading towards Purnululu campground on dusk, we spotted helicopters close to the road. We soon worked out that they were mustering cattle onto a waiting truck. Right on sunset, this made for one of the best shows we've ever witnessed in the NW. We pulled the caravan up and sat there in awe as the boys did their work.





THE SANDPIT: The colours at James Price Point have to be seen to be believed. There is a great free camp here plus loads of indigenous camps nearby.





CYGNET BY NIGHT: Camping out near the draining tidal banks of Cygnet Bay on the Dampier Peninsular. The landscape changes here every few hours. The fishing here and the night skies are as good as I've seen anywhere.

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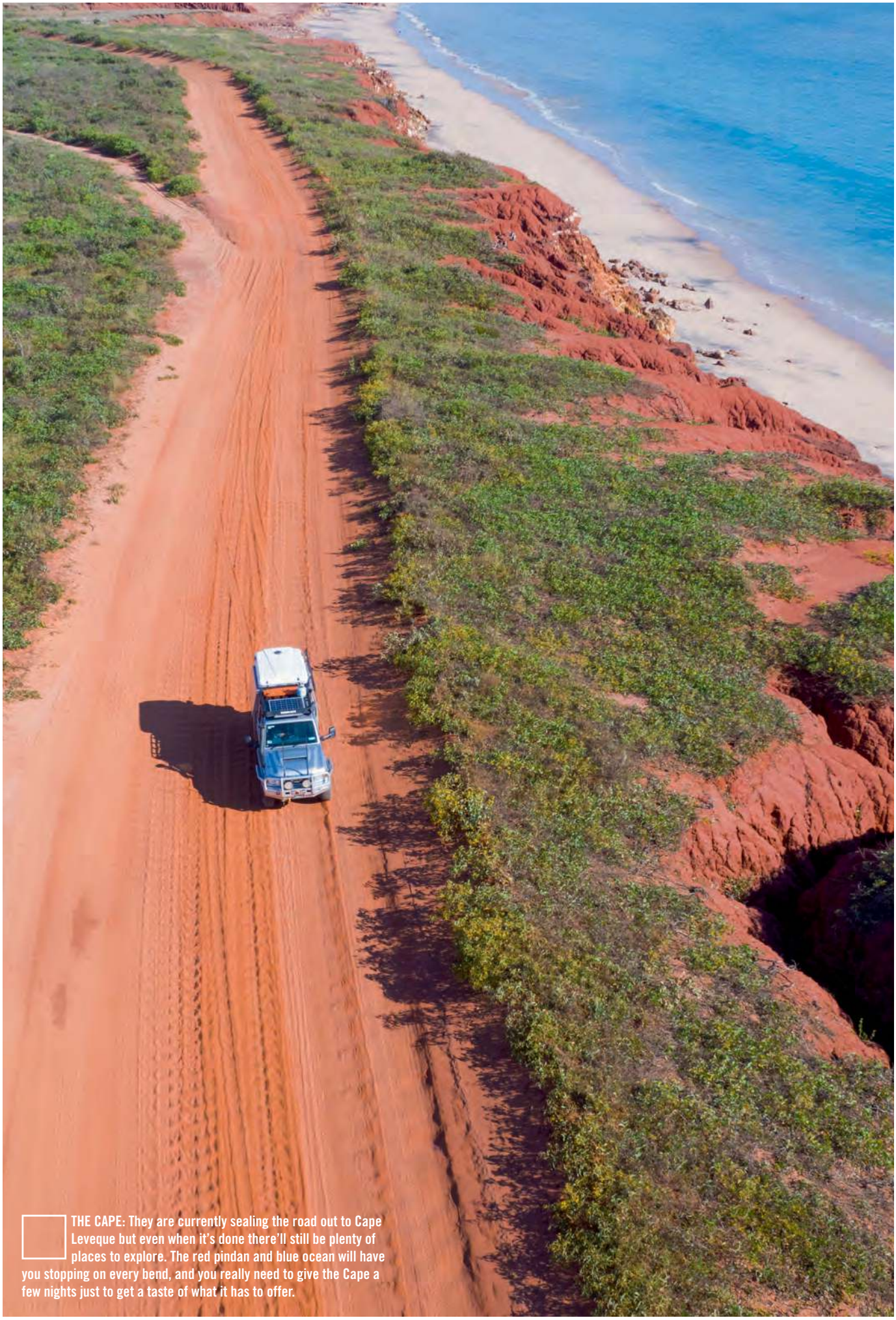
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Main photo credit: Carlisle Rogers



THE CAPE: They are currently sealing the road out to Cape Leveque but even when it's done there'll still be plenty of places to explore. The red pindan and blue ocean will have you stopping on every bend, and you really need to give the Cape a few nights just to get a taste of what it has to offer.

CYGNET BAY

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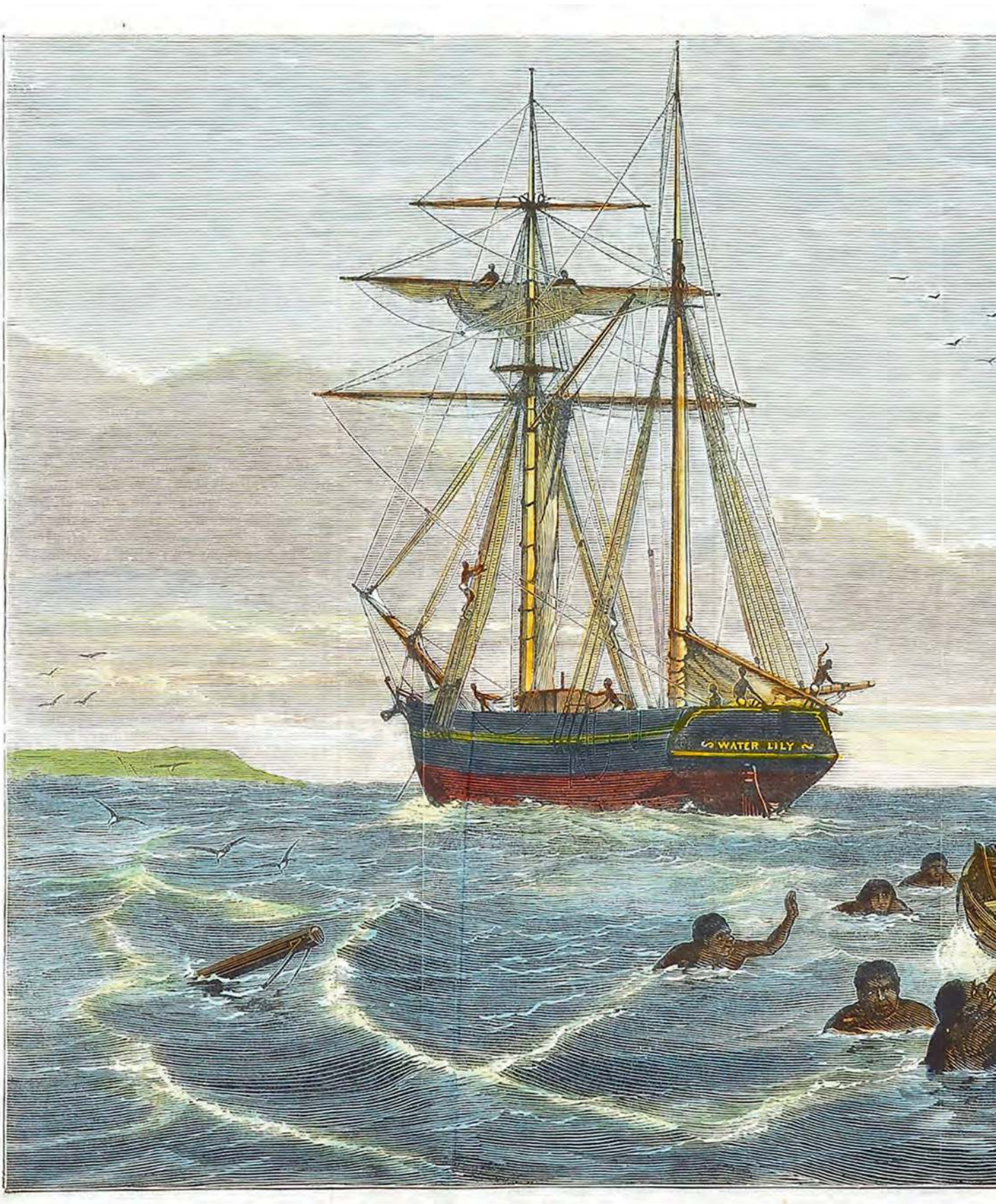
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WATER LILY

PEARLS, DRUGS & FISTICUFFS

THE FORGOTTEN ASIAN RIOTS OF THE KIMBERLEY.

JIMMY O'KEEFE



For a while there, Broome was as much a southeast Asian town as a northwest Australian one.

For centuries the Bardi of the northwest had been peacefully trading with Sumatran and Javanese boats, and the Chinese too because, hey, the Chinese are everywhere.

This connection became even more evident when the pearl boom went into overdrive in the 1900s, with 70% of the Dampier Peninsula's population being Asian.

Roebuck Bay became home to international workers and desperados trying to make a quick buck, as well as colonial government officials trying to tax the hell out of them. It was a Graham Greene novel come to life. A humid pressure cooker of conflicting interests, where something was about to blow.

After Japanese and Aboriginal workers had exhausted all the pearl shells in shallow water, pearlers needed to be based on boats for longer periods of time, further out to sea.

And this is when the Timorese, the Javanese, and the Filipinos arrived and got to work. In 1913, there were 400 pearling boats mining the horizon.

Things were desperate out there on the water, so much so, that each cyclone season, when all the boats had to come to shore for a couple of months, tensions would flare on land between the different nationalities.

According to *Kimberley Australia* the pearlers would hit Broome's Chinatown and start "piling into the opium dens, brothels and gambling houses, the alcohol and the steamy nights of the northwest fuelling the swearing and bickering that often times erupted into violent clashes in the dusty streets."

There was animosity from the other Asian divers towards the Japanese who seemed to be running the place with an iron fist, and for the first twenty years of the 20th Century a handful of serious race riots broke out.

The *Kimberley Society* recalls: "The 1920 riot involved around 2000 men and began with fighting between Timorese and Japanese.

"Armed groups attacked one another at intervals over several days, and the riot ended only after the Riot Act was read, literally. This time 64 were wounded; four Asian men were killed in the fighting; and one police officer, Inspector Herbert Thomas, died of apoplexy."

Broome is still a base for transient international visitors – in vans rather than pearl luggers these days – although few look capable of starting a riot, most barely look capable of opening a twist-top. *4WD*

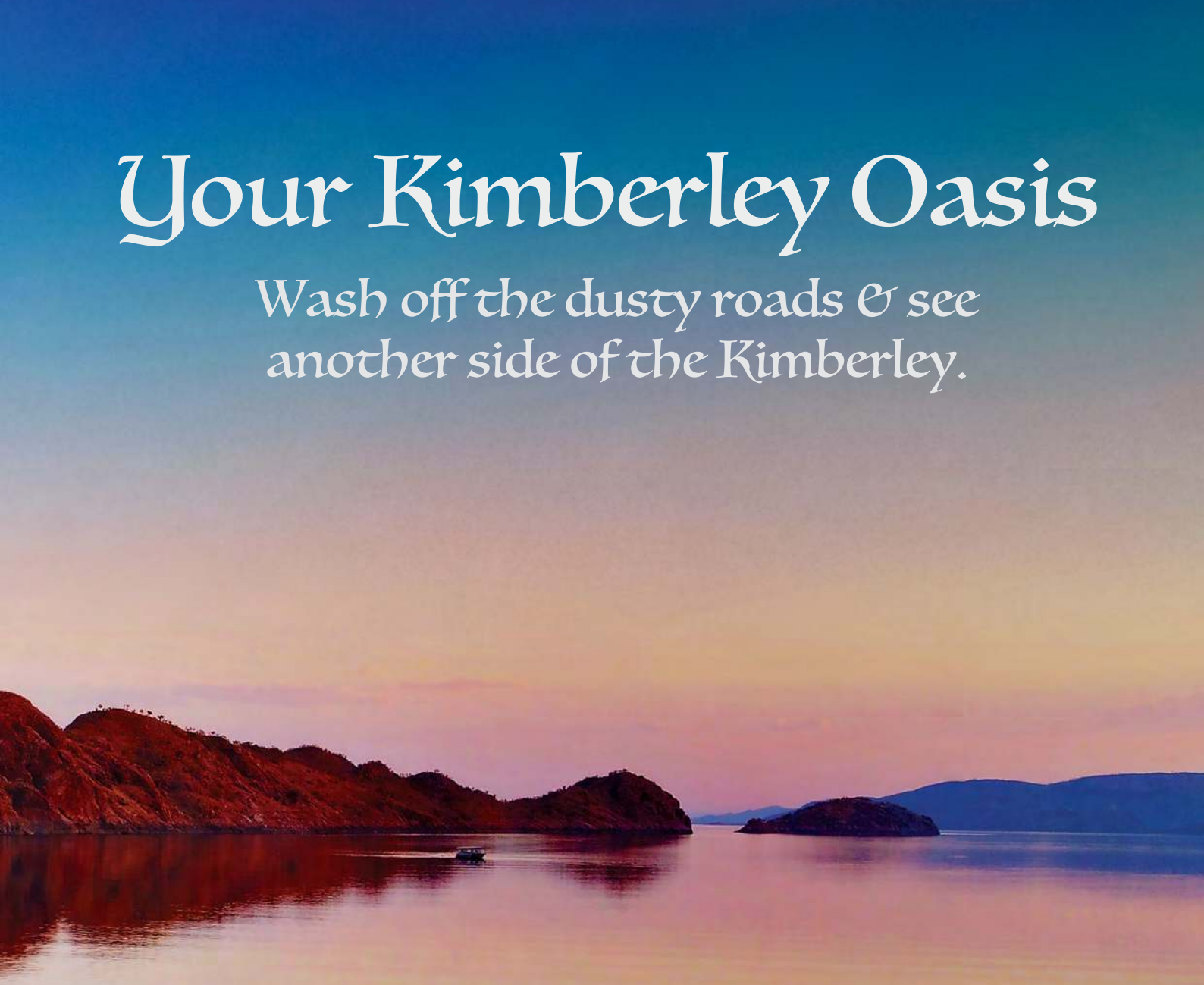
Back in the pearling days it was every nationality for themself, as depicted in this pic of Sumatrans turning on their British boss. We strongly recommend checking the history of Asian interaction when you get to places like Kalumburu and Broome, especially seeing as there are a dozen regional capital cities (including Jakarta and Denpasar) that are closer to Broome than Perth is. **(C) National Library of Australia**



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CARLISLE ROGERS

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As a photographer, I like to think that, in some way, I'm carrying on the work of 1,600 generations, with a few more colours in my palette.

The urge to capture the world, to share it, to catch lightning in a jar, seems exacerbated by travel – where the beauty of the world shines more distinctly through the sheer fabric of experience.

In the Kimberley, I can truly live my dream: to travel, to adventure and to try to capture it all on film as best I can.

I've always tried to share the experience too, in the pages of this magazine and on the TV screen. Now I get to share it more directly, with our Kimberley Photography Tagalongs. Now I get to show people, right there, with the crisp smell of burned grass in the distance, the tide rising on the Pentecost River, or a jabiru loping along mud flats about to take off in a slow motion dance of feathers and improbable flight, just how beautiful this place is.

And I get to help them capture these moments better, out on the road, in one of the most breathtaking landscapes on the planet.

The 11 days of the tour fade into one another: lakes, rivers and waterfalls alternate with boab-laced creek beds and towering massifs of rain-washed black limestone and blush-coloured sandstone gorges.

The Gibb River Road is a mere 600km long, but it cuts through a landscape so compelling, so brutal, I can't think of a better place to help people develop their skills behind the camera while having an epic adventure.

One of my favourite things to capture out here is the night sky. Far from any city lights, you can watch the moon rise like a yellow fire through distant boabs here. You can watch the Milky Way set behind the brow of a gorge while new stars rise behind you from the horizon.

I love helping people learn how to tell a better story through the lens. After all, that is what is driving us, at a primal level, to ever push the shutter button down in the first place. That is one of the things that seems to mark us as human, as it always has. We are storytellers, and the camera is just one more voice, one more language.

If I can lead someone to create something truly beautiful, with their own hands and their own camera, something they can hang on their wall and look back at, as a mnemonic for the adventure, a reminder of the hazy, halcyon days out there on the track, on the edge of a gorge, staring down into a plummeting waterfall, then my mission has been accomplished. *4WD*

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The goal with the Gold Standard is to save you time, energy and money.

We want to help you avoid the pitfalls of your next Kimberley pilgrimage.

Hey, you might only do it once, and you don't want to waste your time with second-rate mobs.

So, here we go, here's your spotlight on ten Kimberley icons. Featuring everything from station stays to holiday parks, this is a guide that's built to cover the full gamut of experiences and budgets...

Au 03.2020
KIMBERLEY
GOLD STANDARD

CAPE LEVEQUE
Cygnet Bay



GO NORTH YOUNG MAN, to the tip of the Dampier Peninsula and hang a hard right in the direction of Mission Bay, here you'll find Australia's best known pearl farm and a springboard to so much more.

Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm has been a must-stop for decades for all who ply the western flank of the Kimberley, either by 4WD or by boat.

It's a destination that has it all, and that's before you even start touring the irredescent waters of the Buccaneer Archipelago.







THE SETTING: The peculiar tidal flow at King Sound has made it the ultimate place to cultivate pearls since chancers arrived here 140 years back. Here at 'lands end' you'll find one of the most famous pearl farms anywhere on earth, though these days it's often overshadowed by its tours and accommodation options.

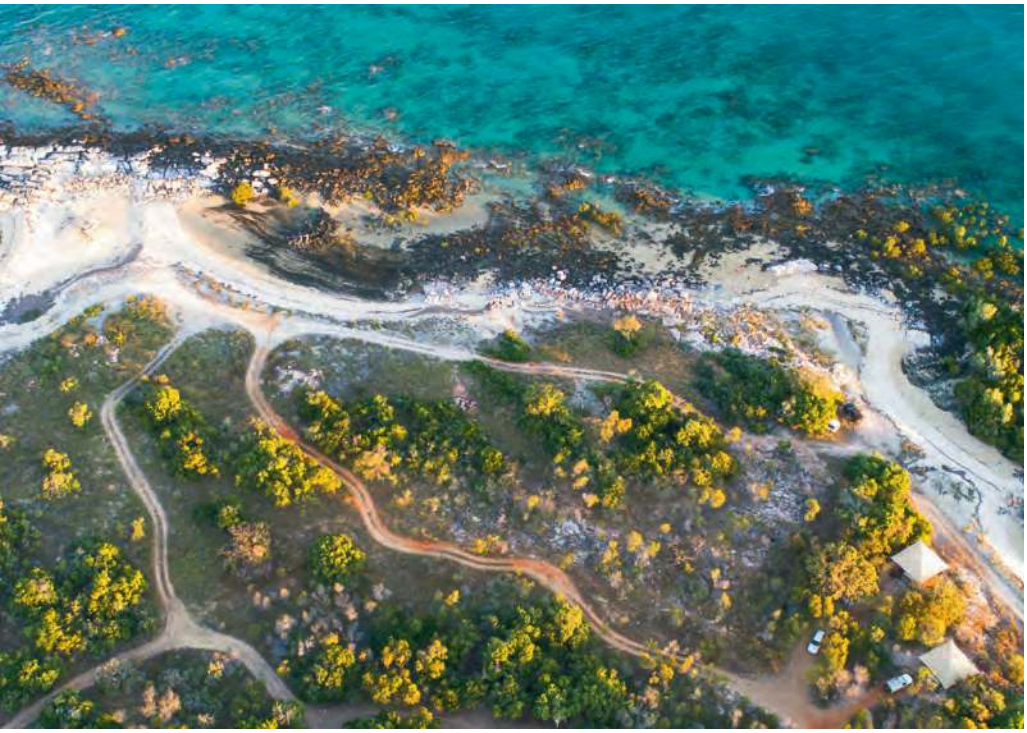
THE STORY: The pearl farm was founded by Dean Brown in 1946. Dean was navigating the Kimberley coast in a wooden lugger when he discovered the secluded and unspoilt beauty of Cygnet Bay along with the precious gift of the *Pinctada Maxima* pearl shell.

This is where his pearling dream was realised, with the creation of the first Australian owned and run South Sea pearl farm, before this only the Japanese had the expertise to culture pearls. Dean's son Lyndon, was the first non-Japanese to successfully culture pearls and to do so in a commercial manner.

With the same respect and connection to the sea, the Brown family are proud custodians of their grandfather's 70-year legacy. As one of only three remaining pearl farms in the Broome area – the Browns are proud to welcome you into their family story and share in the rich history of the area.

THE ATTRACTION: The tours at Cygnet Bay are put together with the same meticulousness that they bring to their pearling operations. They have a range of time-proven experiences that will see you really involved with this particular nook of the Kimberley. They've gained a nationwide rep, especially for their giant tides and Waterfall Reef Sea Safaris. Our enduring favourite each time we've been through here would have to be the 'Sunset In Style' tour.

THE DRIVING: Are you kidding, this is the Dampier Peninsula! If you can't find epic beach runs and challenging corrugations









to get your wheels dirty out here, then you might need to pack it in. And this is your last chance to do it, with the paved road being opened at the end of 2020.

THE ACCOMMODATION: Master Pearler's Private Retreat: The original family homestead offers complete seclusion and privacy on its own elevated headland.
Safari Tents: Nestled between the foreshore and remnant Kimberley rainforest are ten comfortably appointed safari tents (with newly renovated deluxe versions installed last year).
Pearlers' Shacks: Stay in the self-contained heritage buildings used by early pearlers.

THE DINING: Visit the licenced restaurant for brekky, lunch or dinner for a good feed, cold beer or even just a dip in the only pool on the peninsula. Insider tip: try the local specialty of pearl meat, fresh from the farm.

THE CAMPING: Campsites are limited so are well worth booking in advance. There are less than ten sites but they are powered and secluded in a shady alcove.

THE X-FACTOR: The Australian Pearling Story starts with the local Bardi Jawi people. Discover the ancient art of 'Riji' pearl shell carving with Bruce Wiggan's beautiful artwork on display and for sale from the farm gallery, or join Terry Hunter on his Borrgoron Coast to Creek tours to share in his family connection to country at Cygnet Bay.

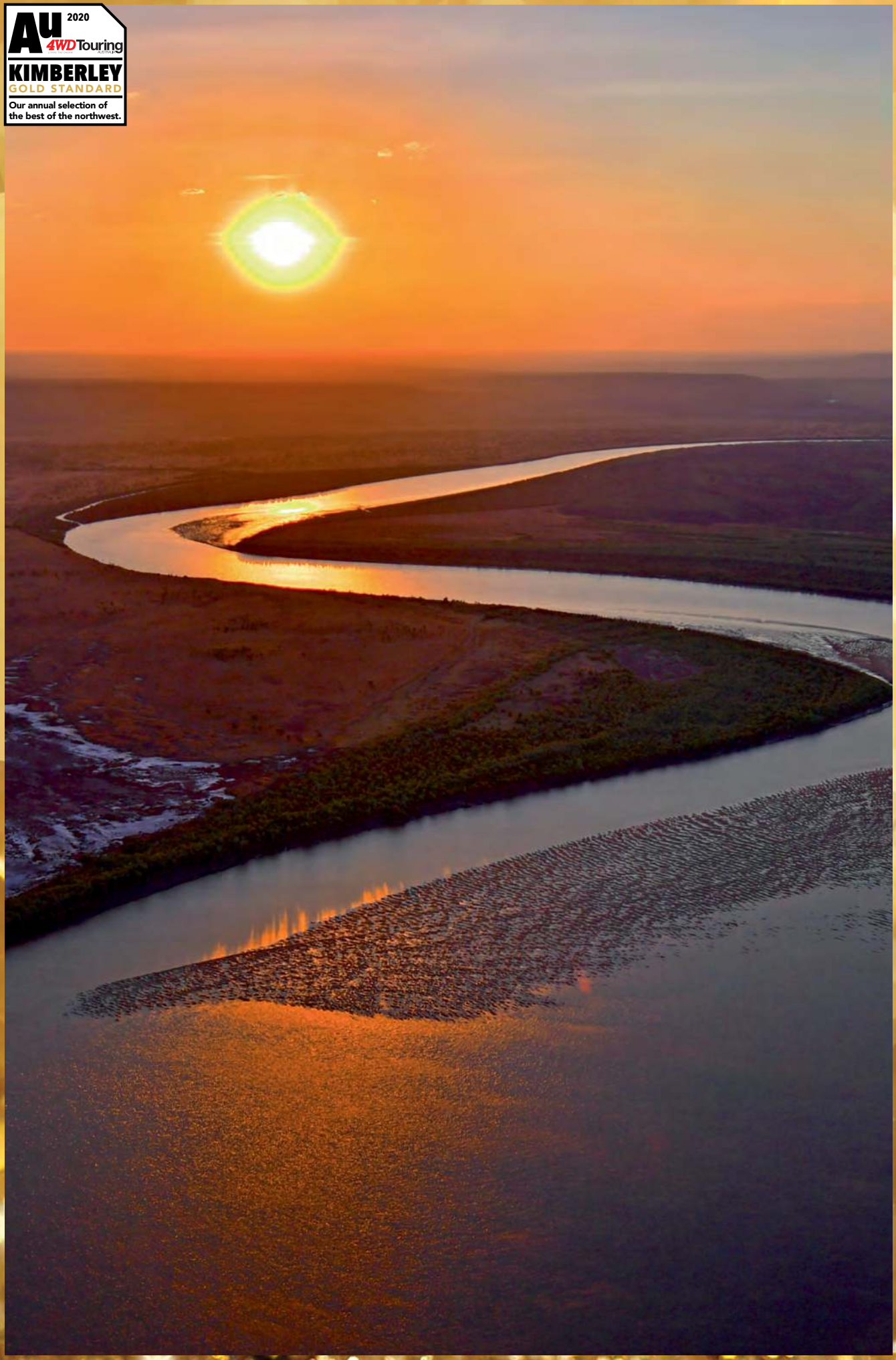
THE MUST-DO: A must for all who make the drive out here? You need to find out how the harvesting process works, otherwise known as their 'Discovery Tour'.

DETAILS:
www.cygnetbaypearlfarm.com.au
(08) 9192 4283

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DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO

Kooljaman



The Dampier Archipelago is the west wing. It's the arm that flutters on the Kimberley's portside with a colour clash of red shoreline and lime ocean.

At the very tip, you'll reach Cape Leveque, and Kooljaman Wilderness Camp, a legit touring icon, and a final destination where tourers feel like they've made it to paradise and can take it all in.

This is Bardi Jawi country and the rare experience that any 4WDing tourist can engage in here with the locals simply cannot be done anywhere else in Australia.





THE SETTING: You've made it. After a bumpy couple of hours in the saddle, the iconic red Cape Leveque Road deposits you at the gates of paradise, right here at Camp Kooljaman.

Cape Leveque deserves every bit of its wrap as one of Australia's favourite remote coastal destinations, and Kooljaman is the shining gem in the Cape's crown.

Sublime beaches are adorned with rustic beach huts, all the mod cons you could desire, and all bathed in that indescribable Kimberley light. Take me to Kooljaman!

THE STORY: The local Bardi Jawi people set up shop here at the tip of the peninsula eons ago, and they've developed a culture in tune with the marine ecosystems they interact with daily.

Kooljaman is regularly held up as a prime example of indigenous tourism done right. The camp is owned and run by the local communities who form the board. The managers and staff are friendly and their welcoming vibe is infectious.

THE ATTRACTION: The cultural tours are on another level. The tour guides Bundy, Brian Lee, and Bolo Angus, draw on decades of lived experience plus the knowledge of ancestors to impart some real wisdom on visitors.

Learn to identify seasonal bush fruits, then take a crash course in traditional fishing and mudcrabbing methods before putting your skills to the test and whipping up a sensational fresh caught seafood feast.

THE DRIVING: Seriously, some of the best beach runs anywhere. Take Brian Lee's cultural tour and follow his trusty HiLux through the dunes, deep into Bardi Country and explore the hidden reaches of Hunters Creek.

THE ACCOM: Deluxe Safari Tents: Perfect for couples. Complete with king size bed, gas BBQ, private ensuite and spacious balcony with uninterrupted views.











Family Safari Tents: Spoil yourself and family. Awesome views, ensuite, decks, one queen bed and two singles.

Ensuite Cabins: Ideal family option with queen bed plus three singles and an extra trundle. All set in a private bushland setting.

Beach Camping Shelters: Get your Robinson Crusoe on. These beach shelters are simple but elegant and allow you to get back to basics with a million dollar view.

Camping: Powered and unpowered sites to match every camper's needs.

THE DINING: At Raugi's Restaurant experienced chefs marry modern culinary techniques with local ingredients to create distinct Kooljaman feasts. Midweek pizza + live music is a specialty.

Pro Tip: Try the barra. But if you want to match it with a crisp glass of sauv blanc, you'll need to bring your own, this being a 'dry' region. BYO is welcome.

THE CAMPING: For our money, you just can't beat a couple of nights in a Beach Camping Shelter.

Each shelter has palm frond walls and roof with a sand floor, private fire pit with a night's wood supply, picnic table, outdoor freshwater shower and a view you'd mortgage your left kidney for.

THE X-FACTOR: The locals are full of fantastic stories. Make the effort to join them on the 4WD, cultural and fishing tours and you'll be brimming over with new knowledge bites to drop on your mates and family back home.

THE MUST-DO: If you're any way piscatorially inclined, get out there for a day's fishing on the good ship *Oolard,* or try a daytrip out to Sunday Island. Almost within casting distance of the shore, the skipper will have you stuck into shoals of coral trout, blue line emperor and perhaps even a feisty Spanish mack.

DETAILS: www.kooljaman.com.au
(08) 9192 4970

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PURNULULU
Aviair/HeliSpirit

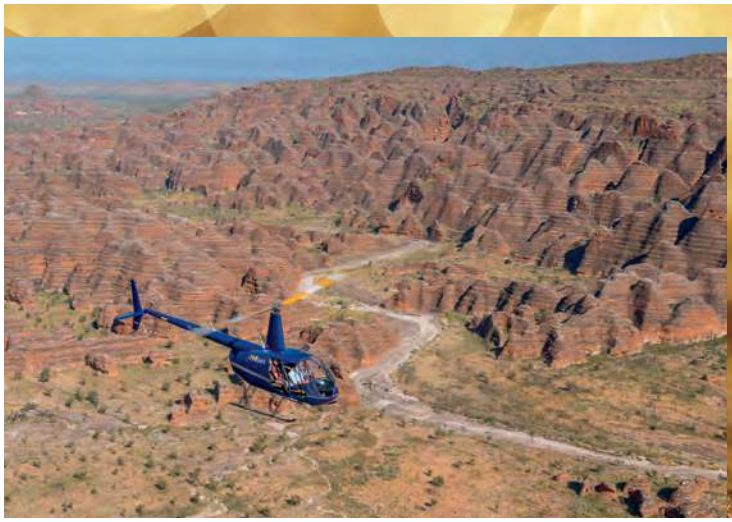




Search the earth for a more exotic natural marvel than the Bungles. You might come up with that bottomless sinkhole cave in Borneo, maybe the lagoon at Bora Bora, but when you see the Bungles up close not much can compare.

These pine-cone shaped pyramids sit at the heart of any East Kimberley mission, a natural axis from which other geographic marvels and adventures seem to rotate.

While those who do the drive-then-walk option won't be disappointed, when you catch the Bungles from the sky, you'll be left speechless by the cluster of stone beehives that are crosshatched by shimmering Picaninny Creek.





THE SETTING: The Bungles have a dreaming history that goes back 20,000 years, with the egg shaped mountains being sacred to both the Djaru and Kija people. For the last 30 years AviAir have been taking people over this land. These days they offer a range of flights and tours, from half-hour flights to custom 'glamp-over' trips that last a couple of days.

THE STORY: Being wedged up in a remote national park on the Northern Territory border meant that the spectacular stone stadium didn't reach the western world until 1983(!). AviAir began not long after, with a combined team of Kimberley aviation experts.

THE ATTRACTION: They've built up a reputation for tailored air safaris and fly/drive/boat tours from the Bungles to Lake Argyle, Mitchell Falls, King George Falls and the Argyle Diamond Mine. Too many options to list, it's best to check their site.

THE DRIVING: A lot of folk drive the corrugated East Spring Track off the highway, which can turn the road into a dustbowl at the wrong time of day. But if it's not too busy, the view from the windscreen at ground level can be pretty epic in its own right. HeliSpirit's chopper tours leave from Bellburn Airfield in Purnululu NP.

THE ACCOMMODATION: For something special, check in on the 'glamp-over' tours for a full luxury experience that will fly you to a whole bunch of East Kimberley gems and secret safari tents over a few days.

THE X FACTOR: AviAir know these skies better than anyone, with tourist flights being only part of their business. They are also responsible for essential services, emergency extractions and mail delivery.

THE MUST DO: Because the Bungles are located in the vast Ord River catchment area, it makes sense for them to unite the Bungle Bungles and Lake Argyle together on combined air and boat tours. The plane makes it to the boat in time for sunset too.

DETAILS:
Aviair www.aviair.com.au
1800 095 500
HeliSpirit www.helispirit.com.au
(08) 9168 1101

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EAST KIMBERLEY

Home Valley Station



Just beyond Australia's most iconic underbody rinse – the Pentecost Crossing on the Gibb – you make a hard right turn and enter a stunning new world. This is the turnoff to Home Valley Station.

After days bouncing in the saddle, you start to think that not much has ever changed on the 700km stock route old stock route. The views are as stunning as the corrugations are unforgiving.

But there is a historical haven, one of Australa's biggest stations, where you can ease your road-weary ailments, overnight, and then come out swinging with a whole series of super adventures, from whitewater boating to the best helifishing in Australia.

It's not hard to find, it's one of the biggest cattle station's on the planet, and never has a station had a more apt name, because at all times it feels like you're home.





THE SETTING: At the foot of the towering Cockburn Ranges you will find touring nirvana. This is where the modern 4WDer can gain access to a private world of adventure, albeit a big private world, given that it's Australia's fifth biggest cattle station. It's a playground like none other; whether you want to fish for plentiful barra, relax and soak up the wild scenery, or get inspired by the living Aboriginal history.

THE STORY: Home Valley has a strong connection not just with the European settlement of the region, but also to the ancient civilisation of the local Aborigines. The development of tourism at Home Valley Station has worked hand in hand with an onsite training academy designed for indigenous locals.

THE ACCOMMODATION: It's been a simple path to success for Home Valley Station, they are driven by one overarching mission statement – providing anyone who sets foot on their property with the ultimate outback experience. And the accommodation across the station provides options for tourers who might have a very different idea of what the ultimate outback experience is.

At the luxury end of the scale you'll find the renowned **Grass Castles** on Bindoola Creek.

Then there are the **Guesthouse Rooms** that act as a bush getaway for couples and families.

Then there's the safari-style **Eco Tents**, that are pitched to those seeking an intimate natural retreat.

THE CAMPING: If star-side sleeping is more your bag, Home Valley is famed for having the Gibb's two best camping setups, at either the Station Campground or the Pentecost River Bush Camp. If we don't have to do any on-the-road editing while we're in Home Valley, this is our usual go-to.

THE X-FACTOR: There's one particular foray that we are ensnared by every time we visit, and that's the Pentecost River fishing tours operated by the boys at Northbound Charters. In no small part due to getting your catch cooked by the expert chef back at The Dusty. If we're travelling with our better half, we'll also tick off the Sunset Tour, which is set off by sparkling wine and canapés.













THE CONNECTION: Home Valley Station is owned by the Indigenous Land Corporation and they have long championed sustainable employment for locals from the area.

THE MUST-DO: A new inclusion into the mix. You. Have. Never. Done. A. Pub. Crawl. Like. This. That's right, a heli pub tour of the East Kimberley, starting in Kununurra, before touching down at The Dusty to swim, eat lunch and imbibe in an amber refreshment or two. From there, the flying pub crawl continues; to El Questro Station, then onto the Hoochery Distillery. The crawl is a collab with Helispirit, so you know the tour is just guaranteed to be one of the best days of your life.

CONTACT:
(02) 8296 8010
www.hvstation.com.au

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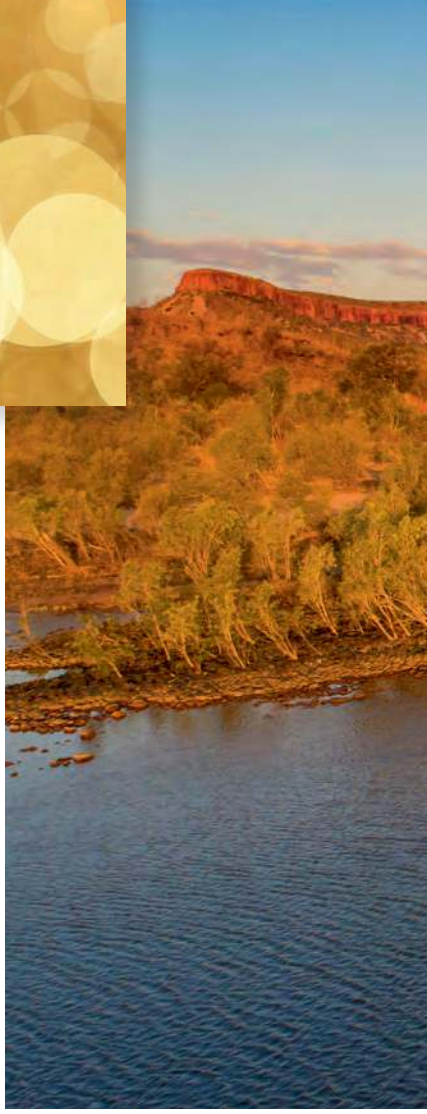
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KUNUNURRA

Kununurra Country Club



If you're talking about launch pads to adventure, no place can hold a candle to Kununurra, where you can easily shoot off into 1000 different East Kimberley directions.

This is Northwest delta country, where the land is governed by life-giving rivers that crisscross through stunning country in the form of gorges, waterfalls, lakes, jungle and savannah.

Kununurra is the opposite bookend to Broome in the west, and it's a town that's always got an incredible vibe because it's either the start or end of every 4WDers' pilgrimage. Either way, people are smiling in Kununurra.







THE SETTING: This year represents a hat-trick of Gold Standard gongs for Kununurra Country Club Resort. And deservingly so, because there are few places that make 4WDers as welcome anywhere in Oz. As far as word of mouth goes, this place is always talked about glowingly when you bump into other tourers along the Gibb. It's all about ease here, and it's the perfect base for deeper missions to the Ord River's reaches, or Purnulu NP.

THE STORY: Even though it's the largest outpost between Broome and the Top End, Kununurra is still only home to 6000 people and retains an idyllic village vibe. It's a relatively new town too, created to service the damming of the Ord River some 50 years back: the result of this being Lake Argyle and decent year-round irrigation.

THE ATTRACTION: Kununurra is the axis, from whence all East Kimberley adventure branches from. And right at the heart of this axis, you'll find this place – centrally located to everything in Kununurra, but the layout of the resort is such that your room is still surrounded by a green and blissful privacy. It's the ultimate place to kick back, switch off your odometer-weary bones, and plan your next foray.

THE DRIVING: If you threw a dart at a map of the best offroading in Australia, the bullseye would land squarely at the Country Club. All of the Kimberley's greatest hits are nearby; the stations, the rivers, the lakes. If you zoom out slightly, you'll also see you're right on the NT border, should you want to chase northern jungles; and just a couple of hours from the Canning Stock Route, should you want to chase empty deserts.







THE ACCOM: The reason the Country Club has been a winner for so long is due to the uncomplicated, luxurious and modern rooms, surrounded by native tropical gardens. The spacious rooms are also drenched with hyper-chilled air-con. Though most of the rooms are King and Club sized, there's also a selection of rooms configured for families and, if you have strange numbers and strange touring buddies, there are triple-share options, interconnecting rooms, whatever you're chasing.

THE X-FACTOR: As far as the best eating in the East Kimberley goes, few places have as strong a rep as Kelly's Bar & Grill, and it just so happens to be on premise here at the Country Club. Sure it's well priced and the food is next level, but the experience is magnified because you're on a shaded deck overlooking the swimming pool.

THE DETAILS:
www.kununurracountryclub.com.au
(08) 9168 1024



Au 03.2020
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DERBY
Yeeda Station



The real Kimberley – the cattle, croc and station country – can be found, ready to access, just an hour or two inland from Broome.

The Great Northern Highway will take you to the Derby region, to the mighty Fitzroy River, which, when it's swollen from rain, is Australia's largest.

This is a land as untouched as it is uncompromising, so if you're planning on finding out a little more about this place, you can drive straight into the heart of it, with direct access to Yeeda Station, the working cattle station just past the famous Willare Bridge.

THE SETTING: Yeeda Station is 150 clicks east of Broome, and encompasses the mouth and the endless coastal plains of the Fitzroy River. This is a property that has it all, where you can cut the tethers of responsibility, and plug into a stunning new reality that beckons you constantly from your windshield and your tent zipper.

THE STORY: Yeeda was settled 140 years ago, and remains as the oldest running cattle station in the Kimberley. The property was wisely positioned along a series of old stockroutes, first sheep, then cattle, that were driven across the floodplains to the Derby meatworks and beyond.

The historical station was once part of the Sir Sidney Kidman empire and changed hands several times over the years before being picked up at the turn of the millenium by Jack and Vicki Burton, and now Yeeda Pastoral Company. In recent years they've opened the station up for travellers and haven't looked back.

THE ATTRACTION: This has been one of the hardest sections to write. I mean, what can't you do here, it's a blank canvas for offroad adventure. You can fish for barra in isolated river reaches, you can pull in a haul of muddies, you can go croc spotting. You can hike through trippy backdrops and drive through virgin 4WDing terrain. You can even focus on the heavens above, with peerless bird watching opportunities, or you can even organise a heli tour of the region. That said, a lot of folk are quite happy with the view from the sprawling swimming pool back at base camp.









THE DRIVING: Guests might only have been invited onto the property in recent years, but word is getting out fast. As a guest here, you have access to looping tracks through quintessential Kimberley terrain. And don't think it's all of the axle-breaking variety, not too far from the station there are couple of gentler drives.

THE ACCOM: Like everything else at Yeeda, it's pretty special. The highlight here being the epic glamping set-up. Private eco tents (with en-suites!) are close to the facilities of the homestead, swimming pool, etc. Each glamping tent is up off the ground, with its own deck looking out over a sleepy mob of wallabies. Gourmet meals are also available from their kitchen as the camp host is a French Chef, and his wife a pastry cook.











THE CAMPING: The powered tent and van sites here are kid friendly and bathed in shade. Due to the station being family-owned, they understand what pilgrims are seeking in a Kimberley campsite and will do anything to customise your trip. If you have a bigger group and it's a special occasion you can even get them to cater a gourmet long-table dinner.

THE X-FACTOR: This is sacred land. The traditional Fitzroy owners include the Nyikina and the Warwa peoples, who laid down roots here some 40,000 years back. The locals call the place 'Mardoowarra' – a place where the river and its floodplains are of great spiritual and medicinal significance.

THE MUST-DO: Head towards the mouth of the Fitzroy, here you're as good a chance as anywhere in the deep northwest to land a metre-plus barra. Yeeda's private barra holes are famed all over the Kimberley.

THE DETAILS:
www.callofthekimberley.com.au
(08) 9192 8854

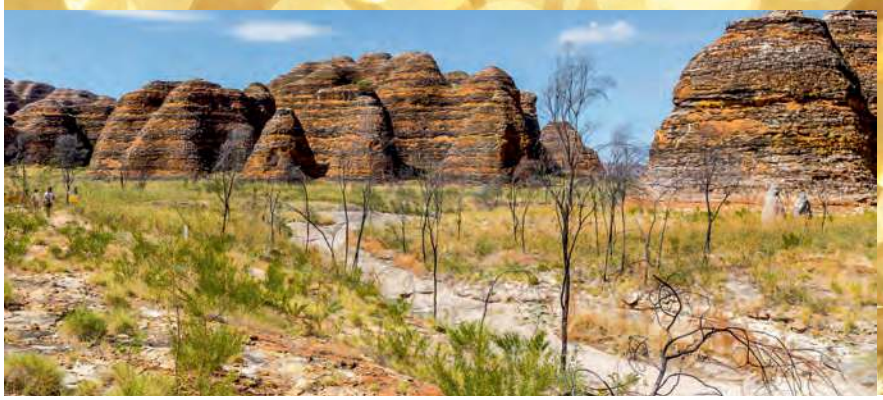


Welcome to 'big river country', which is what Kununurra translates to in English.

This is Australia's most fertile delta, and the Mirrawong people named it because it's where the rampaging Ord River blasts through the countryside in spectacular fashion … Everything from the sprayed cliffs of Black Rock Falls and Andy's Chasm to the quieter reaches of Valentine Springs, Molly Springs and Middle Springs.

And they're all handy to the town itself, which is why people don't tend to just pass through – they tend to stick around, they tend to take a look around. Of course the other liquid attraction can be found at another legendary location known as 'The Pub'.





THE SETTING: The Pub is as old as the town. Since the Ord was dammed to form Lake Argyle 50 years ago, this pub has been the meeting point for tourists, truckies farmers and adventurers. To be known as an iconic East Kimberley 'Station of the Cross', you have to have more than a functioning beer tap.

THE STORY: Since this watering hole opened in the 1960s, it's been a central hub of the town, providing food, grog, and entertainment. And, since way back then, top quality accommodation as well.

THE ATTRACTION: All the attractions of the East Kimberley, and the entire Ord system are within grasp from your base at the Hotel Kununurra.

THE DRIVING: Take the trip out to Wyndham. It's a rough old 100km but when we did the drive last year, we couldn't believe we hadn't done it before. Plenty going on out here, best checked out from Five Rivers Lookout, with its sweeping panorama over the meeting of the Ord, Pentecost, King, Forrest and Durack Rivers, before they all flow out into the sea.

THE ACCOM: The Pub has two enduring hallmarks that are known to all who pass through the East Kimberley. First off, personalised hospitality; and secondly, they cater to the room requirements of all touring parties. It's not rocket science, but few have achieved the rep these guys have in delivering comfortable lodgings across all budgets, from their single and twin rooms, to their recently refurbished premium suites.

THE X-FACTOR: The Pub is also home to Zebra Rock restaurant, which has become the go-to after spending the last month living out of a tent. Everyone from grey nomads to backpackers get gussied up up for an evening's dining on the likes of Barramundi Bisque and dinosaur-sized t-bones.

THE MUST-DO: Just minutes away you can check out Mirima NP, where you'll find the little-known 'Mini Bungles', pint-sized sandstone domes similar to those found in Purnululu.

THE DETAILS:
www.hotelkununurra.com
1800 450 993

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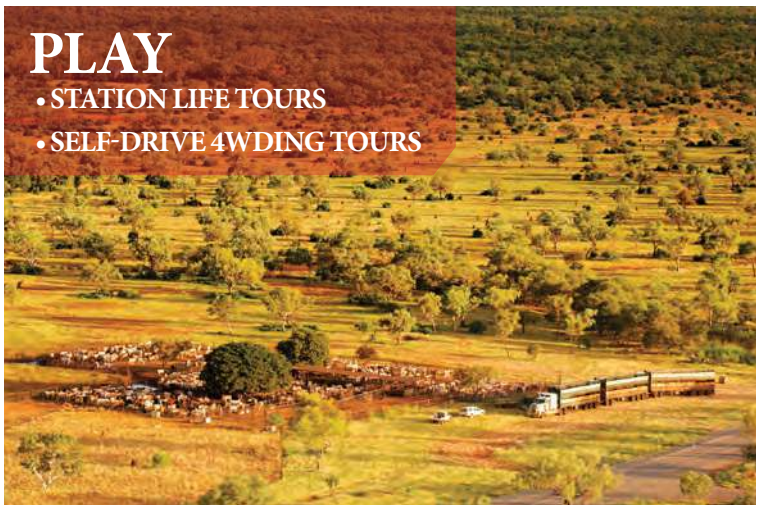
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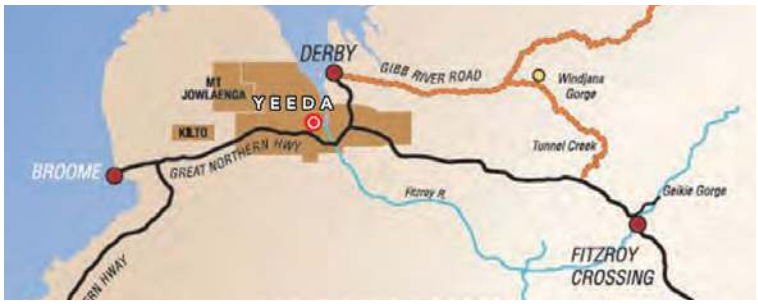
- BARRA FISHING
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CABLE BEACH

RAC Cable Beach Holiday Park



Even if you've seen it in footage your whole life, still expect to be floored when you first clap raw eyeballs on Cable Beach. It's considered one of the World's Top 10 Beaches for good reason.

The camels, the crystal clear water, the beer o'clock serenity… yep, the Kimberley might be the only place on earth where the gateway is just as stunning as the rest of the journey.

It's where you'll either be a) planning your pilgrimage, or b) successfully at the end of your trip, collapsing into the chalk white sand of one of Australia's coolest historical towns.

The hardest thing you'll have to do is leave, because you'll think surely the rest of the Kimberley can't be any better than this, and for some people this is as far as they get.





THE SETTING: Just a short salty stroll from the gleaming white expanse of Cable Beach, one of Australia, nay, the world's, most coveted stretches of sand, you'll find little reason to change out of your boardshorts.

After bumping across the Gibb's million corrugations, this is your chance to chill.

THE STORY: Cable Beach has been attracting travellers of all stripes to its luminous shores since Broome first made it onto a map. In fact, the gleaming white strip of sand earned its name after the telegraph cable laid between Broome and Java, deep beneath the Indian Ocean, way back in 1889.

The bone-white shores and soft red ochre cliffs are known to send visiting photogs into fits of frenzied delight. Mind you, that's only if they can manage to drag themselves from lazing on the beach or beneath the swaying palms by the resort pool.

THE ATTRACTION: Location, location, location!

Over the road from the best strip of sandy real estate in town, the RAC Cable Beach Holiday Park is one of nine RAC Parks & Resorts properties dotted between WA's most iconic destinations.

The park is just a kilometre from the lively local restaurant precinct and just a seven-minute drive to the bustling heart of Broome.

With all the facilities you could want on hand, the scenery and a balmy tropical climate through the entire touring season, you'd be mad not to take the opportunity to stop and recharge your batteries.

THE DRIVING: 4WDs are permitted on Cable Beach 'north of the rocks' with vehicle access provided at Cable Beach Road West. The flat sandy expanse is spot-on for low tide forays and offers one of the best beach driving backdrops in WA.

THE ACCOM: Suit yourself. Seriously, there's something for everyone at this place.

Two Bedroom Cabins: A roomy two bedder was our choice when dropping past for a couple of nights last year with film crew in tow and a bunch of electronics to charge. Sleeps up to six.









Studio Cabins: Ideal accommodation for couples and singles. Treat yourself to a night or two in a proper bed under air con.

POWERED VAN SITES: Number one choice for self sufficient travellers, who want to post up in paradise without the price tag.

Talking of great value, lay-by payment plans are available and RAC members save 20%. There are even pet friendly sites available.

THE DINING: The park is just a 10-minute stroll from Cable Beach's cosmopolitan foodie strip. You won't struggle to find top tier coffee options, or fantastic brunching, and lunching.

THE CAMPING: Shady, spacious sites are suitable for camper trailers, caravans and even motorhomes. All in close proximity to the amenities block, laundry, camp kitchen and barbeque areas.

THE X-FACTOR: Broome in general, and Cable Beach in particular, feels like an exclamation mark on any proper Kimberley journey. You've seen the sites, survived the long days in the saddle, now drink in the beauty and get your Zen on.

THE MUST-DO: Visit Gantheaume Point. It's at the southern end of Cable Beach and marked by a lighthouse. The rocky headland is the pre-eminent local whale watching possie, plus at low tide you can check out the 130-million year old dinosaur footprints.

DETAILS:
www.parksandresorts.rac.com.au
1800 871 570

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BROOME
Moonlight Suites



When it comes to places to base yourself, Broome is a town of two beaches. First off there's Cable Beach, where it's camels and white sand. Not far away you have Roebuck Bay, where the sand is crayon red and the water looks dizzier and fizzier than lime cordial

The bright sea at Roebuck Bay is also alive, with rare snubfin dolphins and dugongs, and it has rightly received Marine Park status.

Enter the Moonlight Suites, where you can inhale one of the finest bay views in the Kimberley from your room, from the lawn, or from the gargantuan swimming pool.

If that's not enough to have you booking a room, there's this, it's right next door to a brewery.



THE SETTING: To put it simply, Roebuck Bay is a visual marvel. Its crescent and red cliffs fan down a wind-protected expanse, and due to the big tides, every time you look out at it you notice something different. The bay is sacred too, and it also goes by the name of Yawuru Sea Country.

THE STORY: Roebuck Bay was named after the ship William Dampier steered into paradise, back at the turn of the 18th Century. But the bay had been well utilized for food and fun for eons by the Jukun and Yawuru people.

THE ATTRACTION: Moonlight Bay Suites have a well-deserved reputation as a perfect vantage to explore Broome. The Suites are within snatch-strap swinging distance to the Sun Picture Theatre, Courthouse Markets, China Town, Pearl Luggers, and the Bird Observatory. That's if you can pry yourself from the tranquil grounds of the resort.



THE DRIVING: Probably the best, and most leisurely sunset drive in all of 4WDing is still just minutes away at Cable Beach.

THE ACCOM: It's not just the lush grounds and the location, Moonlight Suites also have the full gamut of accom options. There are 1 & 2 bedroom fully self-contained suites, a 28m pool, poolside BBQs, a restaurant, and even an onsite day spa.

THE X-FACTOR: The staff here go the extra yards! Touring 4WDers are a big part of their customer base and they're ready to help in any way to make your Kimberley mission is a successful one; whether its checking in at 2am, or offloading some luggage for a couple of day. Even after we checked out, they gave us access to another guest room so we could have a shower before our next marathon drive to Port Hedland.

THE MUST-DO: We guarantee this fact goes someway towards the success of Moonlight Suites – it's across the road from Matso's Brewery. Take it from us, while you can have a whale of a time and still just walk home, don't do it on the night before you leave.

THE DETAILS:
www.moonlightbaysuites.com
1800 818 878



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Au 03.2020
KIMBERLEY
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LAKE ARGYLE

Lake Argyle Resort



Now we're getting into the seriously exotic… because you have never seen anything quite like Lake Argyle.

The eastern flank of the Kimberley is dominated by the Ord River delta, and the successful damming thereof, into the other-worldly reservoir of Lake Argyle.

You can trace the fertile headwaters of the Ord itself, into a world of scarps, jungle, savannah and wetlands. Or, you can visit the bizarre, colourful mountain range that seems to have slipped into a still lake.

While the surface of the lake might be placid, the action nearby certainly is not. This is a hotbed of adventure for 4WDing, walking, and most spectacularly, by boat. To take all this in, it's not hard to see why Lake Argyle Resort is the logical basecamp.



THE SETTING: Why is this giant lake so bizarre looking? Because many moons ago, some actual geniuses were sick of seeing all the Ord's monsoonal rains washing out to sea each year, and they decided to dam the basin. In doing so they were able to use the rainwater for irrigation throughout the rest of the year. As far as successful nation building projects go, it's right up there with the Snowy Hydro Scheme. It made the region around the lake a fertile place for farmers, and also for modern explorers.

THE STORY: The world's biggest diamond mine is not far away, and travellers couldn't resist giving Lake Argyle Resort the title of 'Jewel of the Kimberley'. And it's a title deserved on its own merits. The resort hang-glides above the mirrored lake, and takes in the wild colourshow, that stretches from primary to pastel colours throughout each day. The resort is also set within the Mirriwung Gajjerong dreaming history. At 50, 000 years, it's one of the oldest cultures on earth.

THE ATTRACTION: The Sharpe Family has been exploring their backyard since the dam was built 50 years ago. They set up Lake Argyle Tours to share their experiences, and have honed these tours in the decades since. The tours are all killer, no filler. You want a lunch tour or sunset tour? Or perhaps a float plane or a chopper is more your style? On our last trip we got our heart rates up with a canoe trip.

THE ACCOM: Options here are varied and all spectacular. Here are just three of them…

Lake View Grand Villas: Sprawling new 4-bedroom villas overlooking the lake.
Lake View Villas: One and two bedroom units overlooking the lake.
Studios and Cabins: Private, air-conditioned bungalows.

THE CAMPING: We've worked closely with these guys for a decade, simply because the place has it all. We've lived it up, up in the Villas when we've needed to treat ourselves, and we've stayed in the Caravan Park when we want to catch the world's best star show. And both experiences are equally rewarding. Why? Because the 5ha camping area is flanked









by hills and shaded from the harsh western sun that can make other campsites in the Kimberley an ordeal in the afternoons. You also have access to the restaurant and bar.

THE X-FACTOR: Durack Homestead. It was rescued, moved brick by brick before the valley was flooded in the 1970s

THE MUST-DO: As far as life-affirming experiences go, they don't come more stunning than the famous infinity pool. We did the Kimberley from Broome westward, and talked about hitting the pool for probably about six hours of that travel time. And then we spent about six hours in the pool when we finally made it. Well maybe not six hours but enough to have our skin prune up enough to resemble a mud terrain tyre.

THE DETAILS:
www.lakeargyle.com
(08) 9168 7777

2020 4WD Touring Australia

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03.2020

KIMBERLEY GOLD STANDARD

HALLS CREEK
Kimberley Hotel



Historically, Halls Creek is the East Kimberley's great intersection of roads, tracks, people, and migrating animals.

It's also surrounded by a series of natural wonders including the Bungles, Sawpit Gorge, Palm Springs and China Wall.

And this where the Kimberley Hotel comes in. As a place where you can crash in comfort and easily reach out in the direction of wherever it is you're going next, be it shorter localised trips or as part of a serious larger odyssey to Katherine, Alice Springs or Wiluna.







THE SETTING: Originally an old Aboriginal trading junction, the town now sits where the Savannah Way meets the Tanami Track meets the Canning Stock Route. Good luck finding a better geo-located base for serious 4WDing anywhere on the planet.

THE STORY: Like a lot of historic outposts, Halls Creek's background is in gold. In the 1880s, thousands of desperados rolled into this crossroads. While the nuggets ran out in a couple of years, the diggers liked the place that much they stayed and built a town.

THE ATTRACTION: The Kimberley Hotel is an oasis in an otherwise rugged landscape. It has all the modern conveniences one could ever want at an oasis; a colonial style sports lounge, saloon bar, cocktail bar, restaurant and pool.

THE DRIVING: Most who hit Halls Creek are on a mission to see Wolfe Creek Crater via a corrugated trip out to the meteorite pit. But there's other highlights close to town as well, like the eerie 'Kimberley Stonehenge' known as Walls of China. We came out here in a heat wave this year, so the best natural attraction while we were in town was the sprawling swimming hole at Sawpit Gorge.

THE ACCOM: The Kimberley Hotel is just by the local airport and 500m from the town centre. It offers stylish Kimberley accommodation and boasts the largest motel units in the region, so if you like a little breathing space you won't be disappointed. The room setups can be customized too, no matter what formation you're travelling, be it a group of touring families, or you're just riding solo.

THE X-FACTOR: Most tired 4WDers credit the layout of the hotel as a big bonus of their stays here. It's all set amid shady gardens, with wide verandahs and pathways that connect each room to the reception complex.



THE MUST-DO: Just out of town, you can take a dip by way of a hot, bumpy road to the cool, calm waters of Palm Springs. The springs are shrouded in jagged palm fronds that give the pools a trippy 'oasis' look.

THE DETAILS:
www.kimberleyhotel.com.au
1800 355 228


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CANDID CAMERA

We're living in the era of the dash and reversing cam. Get acquainted with the best on the market.

PAT WILLIAMS

Dash cams are one of those accessories that you don't really need, until one day when you really, really do.

Once mostly the preserve of Russian motorists well versed in capturing grainy acts of onroad lunacy, personal dash cams have well and truly made the mainstream.

With the advent of accessible 4K video tech and a steadily increasing demand, you're now getting a whole lot more pixels for your buck than even a few years ago.

On top of this, most quality units on the market in 2020 are GPS-enabled, allowing incident geo tagging, on screen speedometer display, speed/ red light camera warnings and more.

Top brands like Uniden are offering WiFi enabled units that allow direct footage transfer to your smartphone via an app. They've got large inbuilt LCD colour screens, parking modes plus impact and motion detection features.

Seriously, you'd be mad not to protect yourself with real evidence in the event of an on or offroad incident. Dash cam footage can also be very useful when it comes to expediting insurance claims.

They other major development in the vehicle camera world in recent years is the aftermarket reversing cam.

Sure, these things have been around in one form or another for ages, but as with dash cams, the quality has come a long way and you're now able to get a lot of bang for your buck. Quality units are now available from ARB, Uniden, Navman and Garmin.

We took a deep dive into the world of onboard dash and reversing cams and put together a shortlist of nine feature-packed, ultra high quality units from the most reputable aftermarket tech players in the game.

UNIDEN IGO CAM 85R

The black box.

- Detailed footage with up to 4K resolution on the front camera, plus full HD (1080P) on the rear.
- Ultra wide 160-degree lens ensures you capture all relevant detail.
- Supercapacitor provides better battery life.
- Backup power to ensure any recording in progress is safely stored.
- WiFi connectivity allows easy transfer and preview on your smartphone.
- 2.4" LCD screen with large speedometer display.
- Red light and speed camera alert function.
- WDR function balances light on high contrast days and at night.
- Inbuilt GPS provides video geotagging function.
- 3-Axis G-Sensor shows direction of impact in the event of a collision.
- Inbuilt sensor detects sudden vibration and wakes cam from hibernation.

RRP $349.95

www.uniden.com.au



UNIDEN DASH VIEW 30R

Dual protection.

- Capture accurate and detailed footage with up to 2.3K resolution on the front camera plus full HD (1080P) on the rear.
- Built-in dual band WiFi with smartphone app for Fast App Cam.
- Red light and speed camera alerts.
- Parking mode with inbuilt sensor detects sudden vibration and wakes cam from hibernation mode when parked to record for a limited time.
- Optimise night vision and low light recording with WDR and Smart One Touch Function.
- Comes complete with 32GB MLC High Endurance MicroSD memory card plus hard wiring kit for parking mode.
- Backed by Uniden's two-year warranty.

RRP $499.95

www.uniden.com.au



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- SD card backup for storage and seven days cloud backup for the life of product, with longer cloud-based storage plans available.
- Thermo Sense function detects heat and movement.
- Weatherproof and lasts up to 90 days on standby mode.
- Two-way talk and siren alert.
- Remote viewing via smartphone app with smart notifications and live camera viewing.
- Backed by Uniden's 12-month warranty.

RRP $649.95

www.uniden.com.au



ARB REVERSING CAMERA + MONITORING SYSTEM

Eyes on the back of your head.

- Improved visibility when towing caravans and trailers or reversing any 4WD in tight circumstances.
- High-resolution 3.5" OLED screen plus inbuilt speaker.
- Auto activation feature when in reverse gear, plus manual activation via handy rear view mirror positioned button.
- Quality CMOS camera with 160-degree wide-angle lens.
- Camera dustproof and waterproof to IP68 rating.
- Comes with license plate mounting bracket.
- Compatible with Hema Navigator system.
- Backed by ARB's three-year warranty.

RRP $479

www.arb.com.au



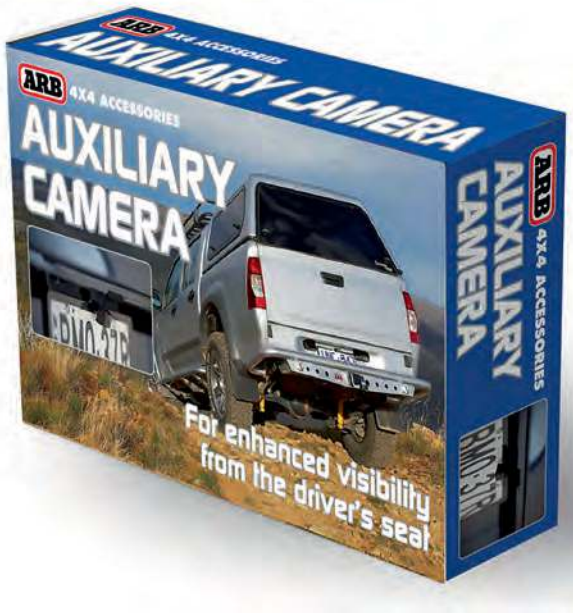
ARB AUXILIARY CAMERA

Seeing double.

- Quality CMOS camera with wide-angle 160° lens.
- Dustproof and waterproof to IP68 rating.
- 6.5m cable allows versatile mounting options for all 4WD vehicles.
- Comes with handy license plate mounting bracket.
- Backed by ARB's three-year warranty.

RRP $149

www.arb.com.au



ARB INFRARED AUXILIARY CAMERA

Tactical tech.

- Provides up to 10m vision in dark conditions.
- Fully compatible with ARB reversing camera systems.
- Quality Sony CCD imager with inbuilt microphone designed for effective operation in all environments.
- Heavy-duty mounting bracket allows camera to be rotated up to 120 degrees.
- Strong, powder-coated aluminium housing.
- Dustproof and waterproof to IP68 rating.
- Backed by ARB's three-year warranty.

RRP $239

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- MicroSD card expansion capability.
- 3-Axis G-Sensor shows direction of impact in the event of a collision.
- Backed by Navman's two-year warranty.

RRP $479

www.navman.com.au



NAVMAN

Gotcha front & back.

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- Navman's EzyShare system allows footage to be instantly uploaded to your phone via WiFi for safekeeping.
- Monthly safety camera updates.
- Advanced Driver Assistance Systems including forward collision and lane departure warnings.
- GPS-tagged video that records your position
- Backed by Navman's two-year warranty.

RRP $599

www.navman.com.au



GARMIN DASH CAM 65W

Compact, discreet, quality.

- 180° field of view ensures you capture the details that matter.
- High quality 2.1 megapixel camera with 1080p video capture that works in low light conditions.
- Forward collision and lane departure warnings plus red light and speed camera alerts.
- GPS-enabled automatic incident detection function.
- Voice command function allows you to start/ stop audio recording on the go.
- Wirelessly syncs with your smartphone via WiFi.
- VIRB mobile app.

RRP $349

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SPEARED

Under water fish wrangling.

PAT WILLIAMS CARLISLE ROGERS

Spearfishing has got to be the most polarising method of securing a haul of fresh fillets there is.

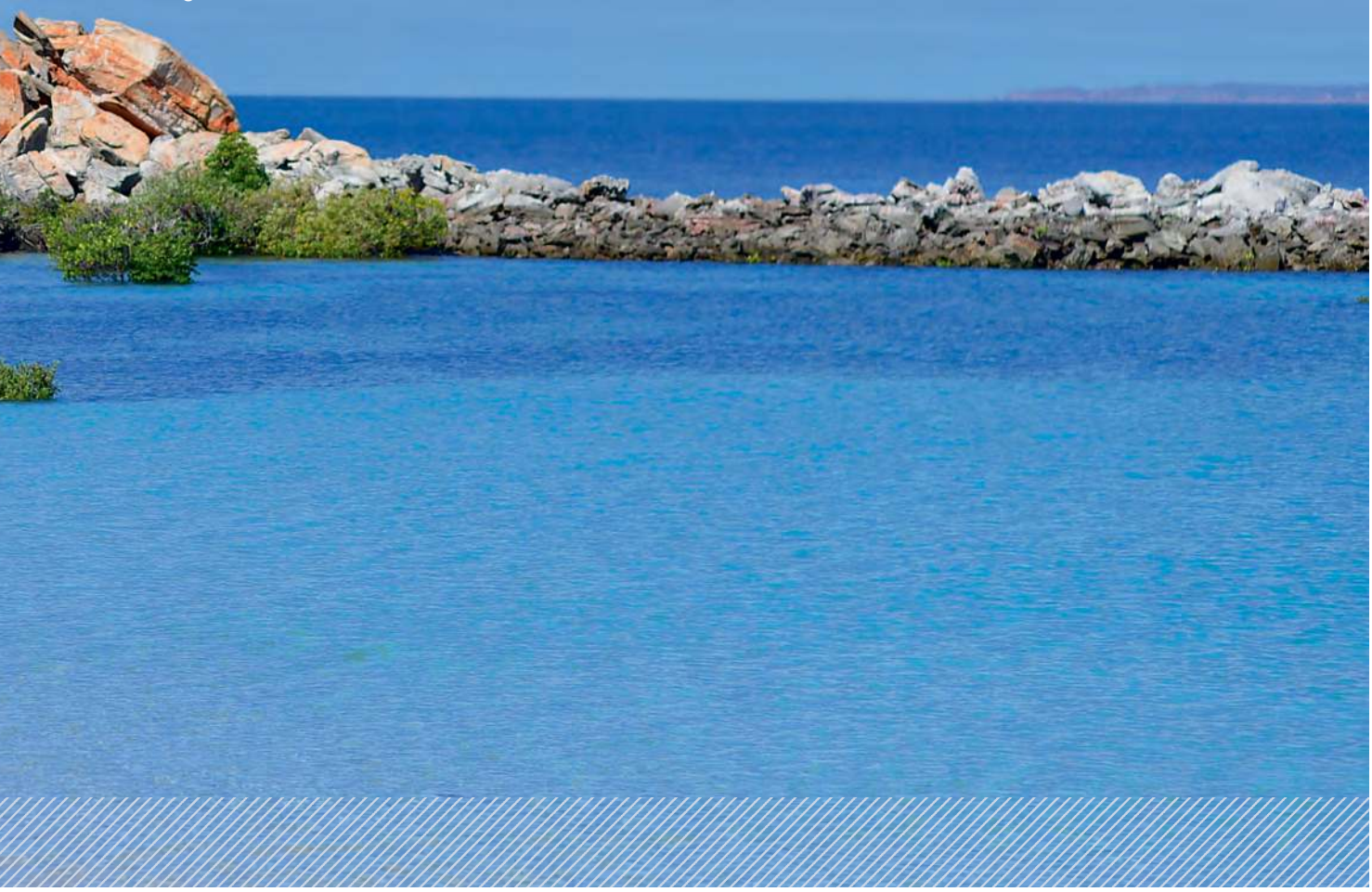
Some unfamiliar with the subsurface arts may have preconceived notions that spearing fish is somehow 'cheating' or 'not playing fair'.

This couldn't be further from the truth and almost anyone who's tried their hand at spearing or been introduced by someone more experienced drops any prejudices quickly.

Looking at it from an ethical perspective, spearfishing has got to be the most sustainable method of meat-gathering there is. It's totally selective, there is zero bycatch and almost zero impact on the marine environment, other than extraction of a highly targeted catch.

From an individual perspective, there's nothing easy about spearing either, as those new to the sport learn immediately.

It requires skill and fitness to consistently bag quality fish by spear, plus a set of brass balls to dive beneath the surface and suddenly give up your place at the top of the food chain.



THE LEARNING CURVE

The high degree of difficulty that's intrinsic to spearing ensures that success is extra rewarding when it does come.

Safety is the most important lesson that newby spearos need to stamp into their brains, and the best way is to commit to only hitting the water with a dive buddy; someone to watch your back and help make calls regarding conditions

Shallow water blackouts are a real threat even to experienced divers, and you've only got a short window to react and evade brain damage or even drowning if a blackout occurs.

It's ultra important to recognise the signs of a blackout and to watch your dive buddy's back at all times, particularly if you're both still learning the ins and outs of the sport.

Researching your dive spots prior to getting wet is another important factor for those learning the ropes. The most crucial aspects are easy, safe access to and from the water.

Many newcomers start out in calmer waters around jetties and within protected bays, before advancing to more exposed open ocean spots fronting headlands and over reefs and wrecks further offshore.

A dive knife strapped to your belt or ankle is a key bit of kit, not only for dispatching your catch, but as a last resort for freeing yourself if you were to ever find yourself tangled up in a speargun line, other rope or netting while underwater.



REGULATIONS

Spearfishing is highly regulated around the entire country; ensure that you're well aware of local regulations, as fisheries officers don't care about ignorance of the law.

A valid fishing license for the state you're fishing in is usually required, a fisheries officer may want to see your license if encountered before or after your session.

Spearfishing is generally not allowed in closed bodies of water such as rivers and estuaries, but is allowed in the open ocean, such as over deep-water reefs or in front of rocky headlands. Make sure that you're aware of any marine parks in the areas that you're fishing.

Make sure that you're aware of local bag and size limits for your catch, as well as any species that are specifically banned for spearfishing, such as eastern blue groper in New South Wales.



OPENING SPREAD: Kooljaman's fluorescent shores make ideal training grounds for young spearos.

THIS SPREAD: Bluebone are one of the most coveted reef species for those plying the inshore waters of the Kimberley and the rest of the country's Top End.



BUILD YOUR SKILL SET

Fitness is the fast track to feeling at ease under water and boosting your skill set.

The stronger your swimming and the better you get at managing air, the better your diving will become and before you know it you'll be able to stay under water longer, stalk fish and start getting some runs on the board.

Any sort of cardio work helps to some degree, but there's no substitute for simply getting out regularly and spending more time in the water.

Visibility is another crucial slice of the game; you'll never spear a fish you can't see.

It's definitely worth finding some clear water to practice in. Learn which factors affect the visibility at your local spots, and learn to time your sessions to coincide with favourable conditions.

Although it sounds counterintuitive at first, you'll quickly come to appreciate how much easier spearfishing becomes with dive weights. While strapping heavy lead weights around your waist might sound like hard work, it actually makes things far easier as you'll find you're no longer expending as much energy to swim deep and stay down there.

You end up expending less energy, burning through less oxygen while getting further. Your catch rate will shoot through the roof once you can comfortably spend a couple of minutes beneath the surface on a single breath.

Spend a little bit of time ironing out the basic snorkeling techniques to de-fog your mask and clear your snorkel and you'll quickly feel a lot more comfortable in the depths.

AIR SUPPLY

Nothing but practice will get you to the point of easy three-minute plus breath holds that a lot of salty longterm spearos seem to execute with such ease. But there are a few things you can do to get comfortable for longer stints beneath the waves.

A quality pair of dive fins is another essential item that allows you to move around smoothly while conserving oxygen and energy.

Staying warm in a quality wetsuit, while actively focusing on moving slowly and keeping your heart rate low will all help you to feel comfortable for longer and increase your maximum breath hold time fairly quickly.

Once you're at a point where you can stake out a spot on the bottom behind a rock or structure for a minute or two and wait for a fish to come along, you've got a massive advantage over those who patrol from the surface and have to chase down any fish they spot.



ABOVE: Bardi elder Bundy with a solid diamond scale mullet speared in calf-deep water.

IDEAL CONDITIONS

GOOD VISIBILITY – time your trips to avoid periods following big swells or heavy rainfall, both of which can stir up silt and reduce visibility for days.

STRUCTURE – look for spots that have defined structure to hold fish, such as coral reefs or the front of rocky headlands. You won't find many fish over the top of a barren sandy expanse.

ACCESS – look for a spot with a safe area to get in and out. If you're diving in the open ocean, you need to be very aware of what the swell is doing, as this can make accessing many spots unsafe. Be aware of the tide and what it's doing, as some spots are only accessible for a few hours of the day.

GEARING UP

Some old school guys will tell you that it's worth taking baby steps and learning to shoot with a hand spear before progressing to a speargun.

There's some truth in this, but you're also certainly at a huge advantage the moment you invest in a proper spear gun. You're looking at around $300 for a good quality gun.

On top of this, there are at least a couple hundred bucks worth of accessories required before hitting the water.

Unless you're plying tropical waters, you'll notice that your body temperature tends to drop pretty quickly when diving. This is due to the fairly low level of energy expended while cruising along the surface. If you're only in the water for short stints, you can get away with using a 3/2mm steamer, although most divers tend to go for a 4/3mm.

If you're hunting in cooler waters way down south, or like to spend hours in the water at a time, you may need to invest in rubber booties and a hood to keep your body temperature up.

A high quality mask and snorkel is absolutely necessary. Don't bother with the cheap department store specials, head straight to your local dive store and pick out a tempered glass mask with quality matching snorkel.

Keeping a perfect seal between the mask and your face is the key to keeping water out. Shaving your face right before leaving home and applying Vaseline to your cheeks immediately before putting on your mask is a handy tip that will improve your comfort in the water and keep visibility at a maximum.

A belt with a dive knife and a couple of dive weights attached are the final bits of kit you need to get started. You can probably start with two dive weights, but might want to add one or two more depending on your body weight and the buoyancy of your wetsuit. More experienced divers will want to invest in a buoy and line to keep fish while in the water.

The best way to try your hand is to tag along with a more experienced crew, you'll probably end up a little out of your comfort zone at first, but that's the quickest way to learn. 4WD




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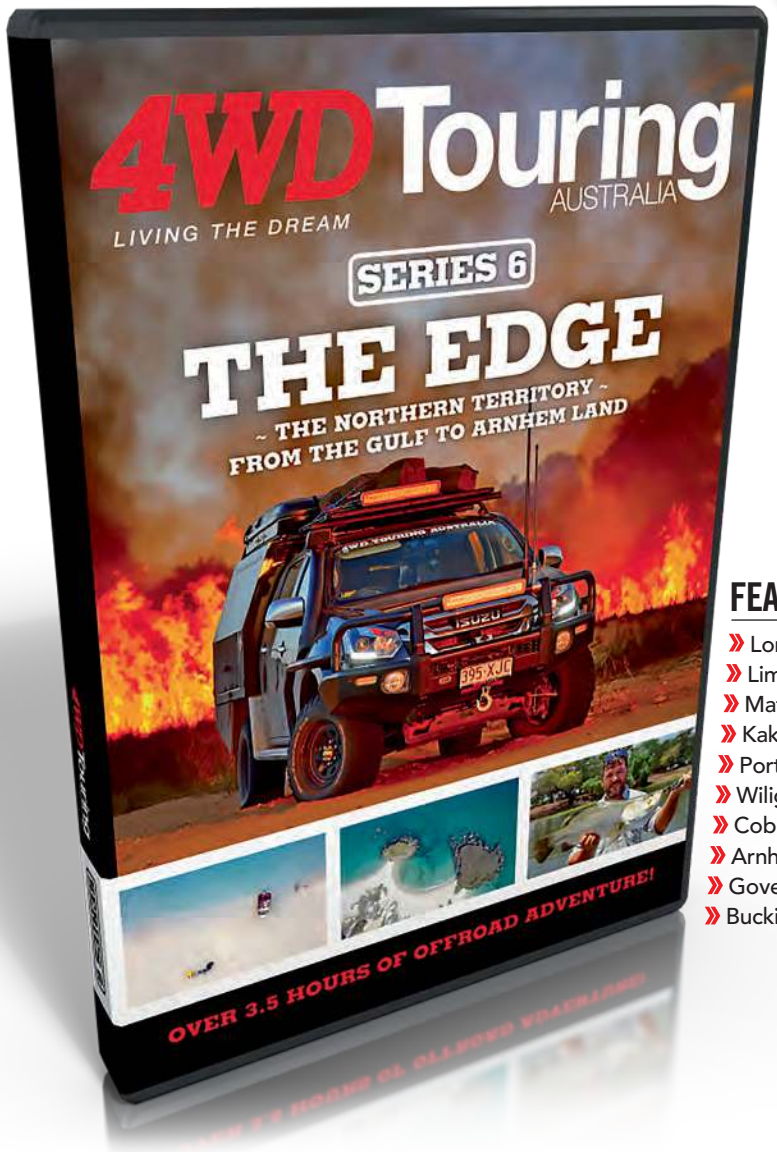




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KOOLJAMAN CREEK WARRIORS

Bardi boys living it up in god's country.

PAT WILLIAMS



When you peel your eyelids open from the sea bluff at Camp Kooljaman, you'll have to blink 100 times to convince your brain that it's not short circuiting.

Did someone bump the saturation up a couple of stops?

You'll watch a technicolour sea lick ancient cliffs' wounds while Humpbacks blow liquid confetti puffs out on the horizon.

The crisp, crystalline strip between ocean and earth ebbs and flows with the tide, a malleable marker between worlds. Two that merge as one, here at Kooljaman.

The Bardi mob knows a good thing when they see it. They've called the Dampier Peninsula home for eons. "Kooljaman" is the Bardi word for Cape Leveque, 220km north of Broome, right here, past the dinosaur footprints, at the end of the earth.




LAKERS
24

The Bardi are ocean people and they enjoy blessed lives here, on the fringe of land and sea.

Cape Leveque is one of the most objectively beautiful places on the globe. Its marine life is an embarrassment of riches, so it's little wonder the mob stuck around for 1000s of years.

These days Kooljaman is a wilderness camp at Cape Leveque, owned and operated by the Bardi, and right at the top of clued-in visitors' itineraries.

One reason you should make the effort to visit this magical corner of the Kimberley is that Kooljaman is regularly held up as an example of indigenous tourism done right.

The locals have hung onto their traditions, their knowledge of the land, the ocean, and they're only too pleased to impart a little wisdom on the willing.

Elders Brian Lee and Bundy have spent so much time stalking the bounty of the sea from these beaches and creek banks that they know the rhythms of the ocean like an old soulmate. Surely there's a little salt water in those veins.

You haven't seen the Kimberley 'til you've seen Kooljaman, and you haven't really seen the place 'til Bundy or Brian give you the lay of the land.





HUNTERS CREEK TAGALONG TOURS

Choose your own adventure on the banks of Hunters Creek, with Brian Lee, one of the Kimberley's most colourful characters, as your guide.

One of the most popular tours with 4WDers, you'll meet Brian and perhaps one of his grandsons or younger relos up by Reception, and follow along behind his trusty HiLux as he leads the way through the dunes and deep into Bardi country.

You'll get have the opportunity to learn to identify and taste seasonal bush fruits while Brian regales you with a local's perspective on the history of the area.

Stories of the ancient people that walked these landscapes and the characters that started white settlement on the peninsula are interspersed with a smattering of tall tales and plenty of laughs.

Once you make it down Hunter Creek, you'll get the opportunity to learn traditional fish spearing and mudcrabbing techniques. While you might not be a crack shot with a spear on your first attempt, Brian's done this a million times and a tasty haul of fresh fillets and hefty muddies is all but guaranteed.

The tour concludes under a shady tree where the spoils of the creek are cooked up traditional style on an open fire and eaten bare fisted. Now that's livin'!

REQUIREMENTS

- Own 4WD vehicle is essential
- Depart reception 8:30am, return 3:00pm

BRING: Hat, sunnies, sunscreen, swimwear and plenty of drinking water.

ADULT: $130
CHILD (4-14): $65





BUNDY'S CULTURAL TOURS

Bundy's been doing his thing at Kooljaman since way back, and he knows these parts better than anyone.

He runs a series of different tours that are perfect for the whole family, and you're guaranteed to learn a thing or two. The Bush Tucker Tour is a top option if you're pressed for time, but if you can spare half a day, the Coastal Adventure Tour offers some jaw-dropping insights.







BUSHTUCKER TOUR

Departs Kooljaman reception 3:30pm, runs for one hour.
ADULTS: $45
CHILD (4-14): $25

COASTAL ADVENTURE TOUR

Learn the region's history and the local Dreamtime stories.
Go spearfishing and catch your own mud crabs to cook on the beach.
ADULTS: $98
CHILD (4-14): $45

NIGHT FISHING TOUR

Catch tropical species including bluebone, coral trout, rock cod, blue line emperor and calamari squid.
Learn traditional spearfishing methods
Tour runs for two hours, own 4WD vehicle essential.
BRING: Insect repellent, drinking water, clothes that can get wet.
ADULTS: $98
CHILD (4-14): $45



THE ROAD IN

The Cape Leveque Road unfurls vertically up the Dampier Peninsula, over 200km, from Broome to Cape Leveque. The final stretch is sealed tarmac, but the bulk of the route is corrugated dirt punctuated with shifty orange sand blows.

A project to seal the entire road was signed off in 2018 and work is currently under way, so you really need to get in this year before the dirt disappears.

The turn off to Cape Leveque Road is a few kilometres out of Broome, and a run up to the tip can take anywhere between two and three hours, depending on your tolerance for being rattled around like the contents of a paint shaker.

The majority of punters follow the Cape Leveque Road from Broome directly to Kooljaman, but if you have the time to poke around, there are a handful of turn offs en route that are absolutely worthy of a visit.

Beagle Bay is the first Aboriginal community you'll pass. There's no accommodation here, but it's worth stopping for a squiz at the Sacred Heart Church. The temple was built by a group of German missionaries and the altar is lined with mother of pearl shell.

Middle Lagoon is a touch further along, and a ripper spot to pull up stumps for a night or two. It's got a holiday resort vibe, a beautiful calm lagoon that's safe for swimming, fishing opportunities locally plus a handful of self contained cabins available for hire.

Lombadina is a little further north and the last community you'll pass before Kooljaman. There's fuel available, plus comfortable accommodation and established tours if you want to break your trip and stop for another night.

One Arm Point is a few kilometres part Kooljaman and worthy of a daytrip at least. There are a couple of great fishing tours offered, plus a visit to the local aquaculture hatchery is another interesting diversion. *4WD*

DAY DREAMS

PACK THE 4WD AND HIT THE ROAD

PAT WILLIAMS

CLARENCE TOWN, NSW

PICS TOURISM NSW



Clarence Town is a tiny village stretched across the rich river flats of the Williams River in the upper Hunter. While there's not a whole lot going on in town, that's exactly why you come here.

A little under 200 clicks north of Sydney and just 50km northwest of Newy, somehow this spot feels a billion miles from anywhere. The Williams River Caravan Park has a stack of flat, grassy waterfront sites to pitch up on, and all the facilities you need for a stress-zapping weekend away in the bush.

There's driving options aplenty in most directions, with the Chichester State Forest's gnarled logging tracks and Barrington Tops National Park's lush hills less than 100km inland past Dungog and Gresford.

Bass fishing is the main game in town and there's no shortage of them in the Williams' rich waters. Whether you stalk via paddle power or tinnie and outboard, you shouldn't have any trouble tempting strikes from the feisty olive green natives.









STUFF TO DO

Chichester State Forest's southern boundary is only 70km to the north of Clarence Town. Access is via the Allyn River Road.

The Williams River is one of the healthiest native bass fisheries in the Hunter region and anywhere in range of Sydney. While most fish are on the smaller side, their solid numbers make for a very viable proposition on trolled medium divers, surface lures, spinnerbaits, soft plastics and flies.

IMPORTANT INFO

Just under 200km north of Sydney, access is via the M1. After turning off the highway at Raymond Terrace, follow Raymond Terrace Road, Woodberry Road and Clarence Town Road into town.

Available at the Williams River Caravan Park, with powered and unpowered sites plus a selection of onsite caravans and cabins. All facilities are provided including shower and toilet blocks, picnic tables, bins and drinking water. Unpowered sites cost $25 per night.

Available in Raymond Terrace and Newcastle, or further inland at Dungog.

www.visitnsw.com

THE OTWAYS, VIC

PICS TOURISM VIC

The Otways are a Vicco state treasure and a summertime escape via the Great Ocean Road. It's a rite of passage for Melbournian 4WDers.

A 185-hectare swathe of bushland within the Otway Ranges lies under the protectorate of the Great Otway National Park. It's situated within the Barwon South West region of Victoria, about 150 clicks to the southwest of Melbourne.

The park's home to a fistful of bellringer campsites and an arvo drive through the densely wooded network of tracks is a surefire fix for whatsoever ails you.

If you don't mind mingling with the tour groups and international visitors ogling the sights along the Great Ocean Road, you owe it to yourself to venture out from the park's bounds to cop an eyeful of this bonafide wonder-world.











STUFF TO DO

The Otways Drive is one of Victoria's great scenic drives. The 240km journey follows mostly unsealed roads and dirt tracks, taking in the best of the Otways.

Kicking off at Anglesea, the first 100km winds through unsealed tracks to Beech Forest, skirting several impressive waterfalls en route. The track then leads to the spectacular Triplet Falls, on an hour-long loop through ancient rainforest and on to Apollo Bay, Cape Otway and back to Anglesea.

The Great Ocean Road is the heritage-listed strip of bitumen that stretches from Torquay to Allansford along the Vicco coastline. This is a legit national classic that's bound by some of the most striking coastal landscapes you'll lock eyes upon anywhere.

While not a 4WD adventure as such, the vibrant natural scenes more than make up for the lack of low-range action and your camera will get a workout.

IMPORTANT INFO

The Great Otway National Park is just inland from Victoria's southern coast, approximately 150km southwest of Melbourne.

Is allowed at a number of campsites within the park, including Aire Crossing and Aire River, Beauchamp Falls, Bighill Track, Blanket Bay, Johanna Beach, Lake Elizabeth, Parker Hill and Stevensons Falls campsites. Campsites are open and closed seasonally and must always be booked in advance – head online to the Victorian Parks and Wildlife site for more information and to make bookings.

Fuel is available at Torquay, Lorne and Melbourne.

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

HARTZ MOUNTAINS, TAS

PICS TOURISM TAS



Whether you're a multigenerational Taswegian or an interstate blow-in, the Hartz Mountains National Park deserves a looksee if you find yourself posted up in Hobart town.

Just 100km from Tassie's big smoke, it's possible to drop by for a daytrip, although there's plenty to occupy you for a weekend span at the very least.

Being positioned so close to the state capital, the park is a popular spot for mainlanders looking to dip their toes into the Tasmanian wilderness and it's a highly rated springboard for longer-term ventures deeper into the Tassie wilds.

There's a selection of driving routes through the park that'll help provide the lay of the land, and if you're a bushwalker, you absolutely won't leave disappointed.

You'll want to ensure the camera batteries are charged to the brim before setting out, and don't forget to pack the fishing gear as there are some monster trout to be wrangled from the icy Huon River.









STUFF TO DO

All driving within the park is of a gentle nature, suitable for any 4WD or AWD vehicle.

Trout fishing is popular in the nearby Huon River. The primary target in the Huon is big brown trout, although it's possible to catch rainbows down here too.

If you're after a light stroll, the Waratah Lookout, Arve Falls and Lake Osborne walks can all be completed in less than an hour.

For the athletes amongst us looking for more of a challenge, try the Hartz Pass or Hartz Peak walks. Both are longer loops that'll keep you busy for at least four hours.

IMPORTANT INFO

The Park is 80km southwest of Hobart and can be reached in around an hour from the capital.

There are no camping facilities provided within the park, although bush camping is allowed. The nearby Tahune Forest Reserve has a campground equipped with composting toilets, picnic tables and fire rings. Park entry fees of $24 per vehicle apply.

Available in Hobart.

www.parks.tas.gov.au

DUNNS SWAMP, NSW

PICS TOURISM NSW

While the naming committee ain't winning any prizes from NSW Tourism Board marketing execs, perhaps they're smarter than they let on and were simply trying to throw the hordes of potential visitors off the scent of this stunner of a spot.

Dunns Swamp sits 270km northwest of Sydney, on the western fringe of the Wollemi National Park and is around four hours drive from Sydney CBD, depending on holiday traffic, the state of the M1's never-ending road work projects, et cetera.

There's plenty to do all year round at Dunns Swamp, with quality facilities provided, 80-odd campsites, a couple of legit 4WD tracks to traverse, and paddle-powered adventures on tap in the unsullied headwaters of the Cudgegong River.

Close enough for an overnight jaunt if you're super keen; Dunns Swamp is ideally positioned for a long weekend mission out of Sydney.











STUFF TO DO

Possible in the Dunns Swamp area, although the unsealed road leading into the Gunguddy Camping area is 2WD accessible. There are some interesting tracks to poke around within the nearby Coricudgy State Forest.

Are all possible within the headwaters of the Cudgegong River, which has been dammed by the Kandos Weir to create a calm, peaceful waterway.

Is the number one way to get the lay of the land while burning off a few extra happy hour calories. Start off at the track that follows the weir and be rewarded with a ripper view of the pagoda rock formations below.

IMPORTANT INFO

250 clicks northwest of Sydney and 30km east of Ryleston. Access is via the Great Western Highway and the Bells Line of Road.

Available at the Ganguddy Camping Area. 80 campsites are available for a fee of $5 per adult and $3 per child per night. Basic facilities including picnic tables, barbeques and composting toilets are provided.

Available at Ryleston, Mudgee and Lithgow.

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

COOKING IN TOTAL FIRE BANS

After one of the driest summers and worst fire seasons in recent memory, most of us are plenty familiar with total fire bans being enforced in our National Parks and State Forests.

Bans on open fires are pretty easy to understand and comply with, but after a long day on the tracks, big dog's still gotta eat, right?

The rules regarding cooking vary from state to state, so best to brush up on the particulars in your locale. In WA, open fires are a no-go, but gas barbeques are OK so long as flammable materials have been cleared from the area and they're operated by an adult with a fire extinguisher on hand.

Gas barbies can be operated under the same rules in Victoria, whereas in New South Wales they're only allowed to be operated within 20m of a permanent residence, so are out when camping in the scrub. Time to resort to pre-made sangas or break out the salads and cold cuts. *4WD*

ASK THE EXPERT

YOUR CAMPER TRAILER, MECHANICAL AND 4WD QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

ROOF RACK WIRING

Hey Adam,
I'm fitting a light bar to the roof of my 200 Series, and I see you've done the same to yours. Mine is the exact setup, with the Rhino Rack 'Pioneer Rack'. How did you run your wires, mate? I want to keep mine looking neat as well.
Many thanks,
Carl.

Hi Carl,
There are a few ways people run them on the 200 Series. Some run them along the side of the windscreen. They bring the wires in through the bonnet and under the plastic trim and then push them into the side of the windscreen. There is a little channel that runs off for the window rubber and then up onto the roof rack.

I ran mine through the vehicle; then up and out through the trims on the top of the tailgater, under the tailgate seal; then onto the roof rack. I ran the power from a Narva fuse box wired to the main battery (as I will mostly use it when driving).

The main thing is to have them fused properly so if they short it won't cause a problem.

Hope that helps you Carl.
GO NUTS!
Adam

35 INCH TYRES

G'day Adam,
I'm building up my GU Patrol at the moment and I'm thinking of putting on 35" tyres. I just bought it and it currently has the standard size. What kind of things could I expect if I go up to a size like that? I have heard that it can affect braking.
Thanks mate,
Val.

Hi Val,
Adding larger tyres to any rig will affect the vehicle in more ways than you think.

Acceleration and braking will be affected. Not only braking on the road but also braking and especially engine braking when going down steep hills. By fitting larger tyres you're actually changing the ratios.

How does it affect braking? Well, the centrifugal force of the larger tyre alone takes a lot more effort to stop its rotation. In theory, you would need to increase the diameter of the disk rotor to increase braking, but there isn't a kit that does this that I know of for the Patrol anyway.

The other thing that is also affected is the speedometer. It will throw it out so you will have to run a GPS to confirm your speed. Marks 4WD Adaptors have electronic boxes you can fit that will correct the speedo accuracy.

After fitting larger tyres, a differential ratio change can help to bring your gearing back close to standard. This will fix your acceleration and engine braking down hills and will also bring back your speedo as long as it can come back to a factory ratio.

A differential specialist will be able to help you with this.

Also remember that tyres this size will likely make the vehicle unroadworthy so you will need to check with your state's authorities for the legalities and also your insurance company.

I do believe you will find it hard to get it engineered and legal with 35" tyres.

Hope that helps,
GO NUTS!
Adam

OFFROAD WHEEL LIFT

Adam,
I keep lifting a wheel when 4WDing which causes me to lose momentum. I drive a Patrol. What can I do to try to keep pushing forwards?
Thanks in advance,
Rob.

Hey Rob,
There are two or three things that you can do.

Longer travel will actually help to keep wheels on the ground, so fitting longer shock absorbers will help. But doing this will mean other modifications will also be required.

The coil springs could come out of position so coil retainers may be required. Plus you have to think of longer bump stops and brake hoses, etc. I would strongly suggest talking with a supplier that could give you a full kit.

You could always fit a set of diff lockers, that way, when engaged, the wheel on the ground will still have drive.

The other thing Patrol owners do is shim up the rear differential. This makes it much stronger and will still provide drive to one of the rear wheels that are on the ground.

In my opinion, a set of lockers will work great.

Hope that helps.
GO NUTS!
Adam *4WD*



Adam Adler runs the online aftermarket store **www.nutsabout4WD.com.au**.
As well as his own mechanical workshop **www.admmotors.com.au**
Got a question for Adam? Email him at **adam@nutsabout4wd.com.au**

GOING CLEAR

Repairing radiator and condensor blockages after serious offroad work.

ADAM ADLER

ONE THING WE ALWAYS NEED TO BE AWARE OF IS KEEPING THE RADIATOR FREE FROM GUNK WHEN 4WDING.

I have had a handful of customers drive through mud holes and block their radiators.

I've also had one customer – who recently fitted a new alternator – drive through mud, block his radiator, plus the mud ruined his new alternator.

Removing the radiator is one thing that can be done, and it can be flushed through. However, in front of the radiator sits the air conditioning condenser. It almost looks like a radiator. It needs airflow to pass through it because it is also a heat exchanger.

To remove this is a lot harder, as it requires the air conditioning gas to be removed and requires it to be re-sealed and re-gassed once refitted…

One of my customers recently brought his 200 Series in for a service. He has recently retired and plans on heading up north with his van in tow. We checked it over and found not only the radiator to be blocked but the air conditioning condenser to be badly choked as well.

We removed the radiator and tried to push a hose through the condenser but after closer inspection we found that it was blocked with grass. We could not budge the grass. There was no choice but to replace the condenser.

We had the system de-gassed and removed the condenser. It was only once removed that we saw just how bad it was – the grass was embedded into the fins of the condenser.

We were able to wash out the radiator and get that clean. We sourced a new condenser and fitted that back up. Then we refitted the radiator and had the air conditioning system re-gassed.

Once we had finished the job, the radiator was working well but the air conditioning system was working colder than ever.

We already have bullbars, spotlights, winches, and everything else that we put in front of the radiator, the last thing we need is another restriction, and another potential cause of overheating.

GO NUTS!

Adam 4WD



Adam Adler runs the online aftermarket store **www.nutsabout4WD.com.au**. As well as his mechanical workshop **www.admmotors.com.au.**
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1. Once the radiator was removed, we could move the grass quite easily.

2. The grass was super thick along the radiator.

3. The air conditioning condenser was a different story. It gets hit with everything. The grass had embedded itself into the fins. At least 50% of it was blocked.

4. The engine bay of the 200 Series after we had removed the radiator and the condenser. Evidence of the grass every-where. It's crazy how something so simple can cause so much havoc.

PEEL THE BURN

Campfire banana pancakes

LISA HUGHES

Roll out of your swag and catch the aroma of sizzling pancakes mingling with wood smoke and a pot of coffee on the boil and you just know it's gonna be a good day.

Whether it's because we're keeping the waistline in check, or simple time constraints, pancakes aren't a regular weekday brekky staple for most of us.

But there's absolutely no better time to treat oneself to a bit of good living than when parked out bush, a million miles from alarm clocks, 9am meetings and school drop-offs.

The team are all well onboard with the notion of breakfast being the most important meal of the day. Plus, there's no more effective remedy for rousing mattress-loving editors and cameramen from their swags than the scent of a wood-fired AM fry-up.

When this little zinger of a recipe slid into the *4WD Touring* camp cooking department's inbox courtesy of mag reader and campfire gourmet Lisa Hughes, you know it was barely two days before the boys were sizzling up a batch, parked beachside after getting skunked on an attempted pre-dawn fishing sesh.



Lisa reckons she perfected the recipe for this breakfast bonanza on weeklong school holiday camping trips with the kids and their cousins in tow, with a few picky eaters to please. And we reckon that is the ultimate recipe proving ground.

INGREDIENTS

- One ripe banana
- One egg
- Cup of flour
- Cup of milk
- Two tablespoons brown sugar
- Half a cup chopped walnuts
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch of baking powder
- Teaspoon of cinnamon
- Butter for cooking
- Maple syrup to serve

METHOD

1. Mash your banana in a mixing bowl with a fork, before cracking in your egg, adding milk and mixing until smooth
2. Add your cup of flour, brown sugar, salt, cinnamon and baking powder to the bowl and mix thoroughly
3. Toast your chopped walnuts in a skillet with a little butter and then set aside
4. Melt a knob of butter and thoroughly coat inside of skillet
5. Maintain a medium heat and pour about half a cup's worth of batter into the centre of skillet before sprinkling a handful of toasted walnuts on top
6. Cook for a couple of minutes until bubbles appear all over, before flipping and cooking until both sides are golden
7. Add more butter and cook the rest of your batter mix
8. Serve with a few slices of banana, chopped walnuts and a splash of maple syrup.4WD









GOT A RECIPE?
WIN AN EVAKOOL ICEBOX!

Are you an outback masterchef who happens to be sitting on a culinary goldmine?
Of course you are, and we want you to reveal your secret campfire classics, right now. When you forward us your finest camp oven prescription you can win this Evakool 50L icebox worth $199. **Send your simple, delicious recipes in to us at letters@4wdtouring.com.au and our favourite each month (as gorged upon by the Associate Editor) will be published right here for all the world to enjoy, and will also win you the world's greatest icebox.**



SEA TO SUMMIT

WATERCELL X - 10L

CARLISLE ROGERS

Throughout human history, progress, the evolution of thought, has occurred in two ways: creation and improvement.

The wheels on our vehicles are a combination of both the invention of the wheel and a thousand little improvements over the last five millennia.

Sea to Summit has developed a new take on the water bag, perhaps the first method for storing water that mankind stumbled across, which brings this ancient technology right into the 21st century.

Everything about the Watercell X range feels 'space age', from the tough RF-welded 400D Nylon shell (lined with TPU) to the soft-feel plastic of the cap and fittings.

Designed to store water efficiently, the first thing that struck me when I first filled it up was the internal baffling, which holds it's shape into a handy rectangle, instead of letting it sag out into a bulbous sphere like most other storage bags.

The cap features an innovative custom flow control and with the included shower attachment, it becomes a lot more than just a canteen.

The adjustable webbing strap wrapped around the bag is easy to adjust to different lengths, and feels well-designed and expensive in your hands.

I reckon my touring setup is going to have a couple 20L bags for the floorboards behind my seats and a 10L bag for hikes and showers for the kids. It's a great, flexible way to keep water handy, and while it sits on the shoulders of giants, it is a great leap forward in touring water storage that is perfect for our age.

For more information visit www.seatosummit.com






WATERCELL X
10L 340 fl oz
SEATOSUMMIT

HARDWIRING A DASH CAM

Disclaimer: It's not hard at all.

PAT WILLIAMS

We really immersed ourselves in dash cam tech this month, and published a shortlist of our nine favourite onboard cam options on page 68. They're one of those bits of tech that have become ubiquitous in the modern world.

As the tech has improved, resolution has gone way up, handy features like GPS speed tracking have been added and prices have plummeted.

They can help tremendously when establishing fault for onroad incidents and can help fast-track insurance claims.

The list of features that these modern units are packing is seriously impressive. Spend the time to select a unit that suits your needs, then hardwire it to your rig in eight easy steps so you can set and forget.

(*NOTE: Some dash cams will come with a wiring kit, these are easily available to purchase separately online.)

POSITION YOUR CAM: Sounds straightforward, but take a moment to try a few different positions. The most common are directly mounted to your dash, or below your rear view mirror.

It's a good idea to mount your cam within arm's reach of the driver's seat and you want to ensure it's not obstructing your view of the road.

Make sure to mount on a part of the windscreen reached by the wipers. Otherwise rain and mud splatters can obstruct recording.

FIND YOUR FUSE BOX: On the underside of your dash, on either driver's or passenger side. You'll be running a power cable from wherever you end up mounting your cam down to this fuse box.

ROUTE YOUR POWER CABLE: If you choose to mount your cam straight to the dash, you could go the easy route and simply run your power cable under the dash mat. For a neater installation, you can tuck the cable into the headliner around your windshield.

In some vehicles it may be necessary to remove the A-pillar cover to route the cable. This is straightforward and the cover should simply pop off and the cable can be neatly run alongside existing wires within the A-pillar.

You'll then want to route the cable around the side and behind the rest of the interior panels down to the fuse box.

LOCATE A 'SWITCHED' FUSE: The fuses in your fuse box either always have power 'constant' or only receive power when the vehicle is switched on 'switched'. You can check which is which by using a circuit test light or a multimeter.

You want to select a 'switched' fuse to connect your dash cam to, so that it automatically switches on when the vehicle is started, and switches off when you turn the vehicle off.

INSTALL ADD-A-FUSE CIRCUIT: Making sure that your vehicle is turned off and keys are removed from ignition, use a pair of pliers to remove the 'switched' fuse you identified earlier.

Install the fuse that you just removed into the add-a-fuse circuit in your dash cam installation kit. You then want to plug your add-a-fuse circuit into the empty spot in your fuse box that you just removed the fuse from.

WIRE TO GROUND: You now need to ground the other end of your installation wiring kit to your vehicle. There's usually at least one obvious grounding point located nearby to the fuse box. You'll want to remove the bolt and add the ground lug from your installation kit.

TIDY UP: With everything connected, it's time to tidy up the job. Use a cable tie to bundle excess power cable together. Then secure wiring to a solid mounting point either up beneath the dash or behind the kick panel using more cable ties.

TEST TIME: Time to stick the key in the ignition and kick her over. If you've managed not to screw anything up, your new dash cam should blink to life and begin recording.

Time to refit interior panels, crack a beer, pat yourself on the back and call the missus over to admire your handy work. 4WD




Uniden

TOURING CALENDAR

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE COUNTRY
MARCH 4 – APRIL 4
CATHY ANDERSON

March 2-June 14

NT: TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL

- This film fest celebrates and showcases the outstanding short film, TV and video productions from the NT, capturing the stories, culture and landscape of this iconic region.
- Held at various iconic locations across the NT including Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Katherine Gorge.

www.nttravellingfilmfestival.com

March 7

VIC: RED HILL SHOW

- Held at the showgrounds on Arthurs Seat Rd on the Mornington Peninsula, this fun event will feature displays of cattle, sheep, alpacas, poultry, rats and working dogs - and a grand parade!
- Pavilions will be filled with flowers, fruit, vegetables, cooking, homemade wines, craft, photography, art and more.

www.redhillshow.com.au



March 13, 14 and 15

NSW: WAGGA WAGGA OUTDOOR ADVENTURE LEISURE EXPO

- Held at the showgrounds, the Expo features the latest model caravans, campers, motorhomes, boats, kayaks and camper trailers.
- Outdoor living demos, show specials and free onsite parking.

www.homeshowexpos.com.au

March 14

SA: PENONG CUP

- This tiny township on the Nullarbor Plain comes alive with an annual not-to-be-missed horse race day.
- There's country racing, hospitality tents and a fashion at the races parade.

www.theracessa.com.au

March 14

NT: TOP END MUD RACING

- Get dirty at Howard Springs near Darwin as VW Beetles and high-powered Top Gun vehicles race along a course through deep mud and water.
- Food and bar facilities available.

www.temra.com.au

March 21-22

NSW: YASS SHOW

- This popular show is in its 157th year, and will this year feature a shearing competition, yard dogs, wood chopping, vintage and veteran cars, show jumping and livestock pavilions.
- There will also be the annual pet competition and the Yass Dog Show.

www.yassshow.org.au

March 21-22

TAS: JEWELLERY, GEM AND MINERAL FAIR

- Come and see beautiful and amazing pieces of jewellery, plus gem, minerals and fossils from Tasmania, mainland Australia and around the world.
- Across both days there will be lapidary machinery displays and children's gem sieving and gold and gem panning.

www.devonportlapidary.com



March 26-29

QLD: FEAST OF THE SENSES

- Far North Queensland's premier tropical food event showcasing the region's amazing produce.
- Held at Innisfail, it features food events, farm trails, art and photography displays and a huge market day.

www.feastofthesenses.com.au



March 27-April 5

NSW: ORANGE FOOD WEEK

- Orange Food Week is Australia's longest running regional food festival, celebrating the region's diverse and high quality food and wine.
- The 10-day community festival showcases farmers, chefs, cooks, restaurateurs and caterers, held at various events.

www.orangefoodweek.com.au





Cathy's always tuned in to the bush telegraph, keeping tourers aware of unmissable events.

March 7

SA: STANSBURY SEASIDE MARKET

- Head to Stansbury on the east coast of the Yorke Peninsula for these fab markets featuring fresh oysters, preserves, pastries, jewellery, plants, toys, clothes, fishing equipment, wines, oils, candles and more.
- There are also plenty of scenic picnic areas nearby.

www.stansburysa.com

March 7-9

TAS: STEAMFEST

- Held at Sheffield, this is one of the biggest collections of working steam machinery in Australia.
- Blacksmith displays, steam train rides, vintage cars, kids vs steamroller tug-o-war and entertainment.

www.steamfesttasmania.org.au

March 12-14

VIC: MOYSTON SHEEPDOG TRIALS

- The Grampians town of Moyston is home to the oldest annual sheepdog trials in Victoria.
- The event mirrors tasks working dogs would complete on a farm, and there are plenty of refreshments on offer for spectators.

www.visitgrampians.com.au



March 14

QLD: BARCALDINE RACE DAY

- Don't miss all the action of outback racing at this fun-filled event held in central Queensland.
- There's also Fashions on the Field, a jumping castle and playground for the kids, and kiosk and bar are available.

www.outbackqueensland.com.au

March 14-15

WA: MANDURAH CRAB FEST

- The largest free community event in WA, this fest attracts more than 120,000 people from all over the country.
- Live music, performances, competitions, cooking demonstrations, celebrities and CRABS!

www.crabfest.com.au



March 22

VIC: SHEPPARTON ALBANIAN HARVEST FESTIVAL

- This fun festival showcases the Albanian culture unlike any other event in the country with traditional folk dancing, an Albanian band and DJ, and activities for the entire family.
- Held at the showgrounds, there's also a fruit and vegetable market, Albanian food, BBQ and drinks available.

www.greatershepparton.com.au

March 22

TAS: DEVONPORT MOTOR SHOW

- Start your engines – this show features hot rods, vintage, classic, modern and modified cars as well as motorcycles.
- Competitions, trade and food stalls and entertainment.

www.devonportmotorshow.com



March 23-27

SA: DRY LAKES SPEED WEEK

- If you feel the need for speed, head to Lake Gairdner in the remote SA where cars, motorbikes and trucks will compete for land speed records.
- Attracting competitors from all over the world, this is an amazing sport, and this location allows you to get up close to the machines and the teams.

www.dlra.org.au

March 28

WA: TOODYAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

- Enjoy a vibrant day of music from multiple genres, with something sure to entice all lovers of music.
- The festival will be held at Duidgee and Stirling Parks, with St Stephens Church showcasing choirs and instrumentals.

www.toodyaymusicfest.com

March 28, 29, 30 and April 1

NT: ADELAIDE RIVER MARKETS

- These great local markets are held in Glen Huitson Park in the heart of Adelaide River.
- Held every Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Wednesday in the 'dry', the market has stalls with handmade craft including knitted chooks, crocheted hand towel and caravan napkin holders, to preserves, cakes, second hand books and frozen seafood.

Phone: 0459 082 084

April 4

QLD: EUMUNDI MARKET

- Step into an ever-evolving collaboration of talented locals seeking to share their gifts with the world - and pick up a bargain at the same time!
- There's handcrafted furniture, homewares, artworks, ceramics, cutting-edge fashion and jewellery, fresh produce and gourmet delights.

www.eumundimarkets.com.au

ROADKILL

FROM THE GLOVEBOX OF CARLISLE ROGERS



THE DOORS OF PERCEPTION // ALDOUS HUXLEY



Mescaline, the first psychedelic, and the inspiration behind the first book on the psychedelic experience, if you discount the *Tibetan Book of the Dead.*

This book is the peculiar result of the meeting of an Oxford-educated philosopher with one of the primordial psychedelic molecules.

If psychedelics had a family tree, there would be two trunks: phenethylamines and tryptamines, with mescaline and DMT being our Eve and Adam, respectively. While the summer of love was LSD-powered, with some octane enhancement by psilocybin, it was mescaline, and Huxley's fascination with William Blake's idea that our consciousness might be filtering reality considerably, reducing the infinite to a palatable scale, which ultimately opened the doors to psychedelics for the modern world.

When he read about some Canadian researchers working with mescaline in the early 1950s, he volunteered himself as a test subject.

The book is his trip report and reflections on the experience. Published in 1954, it predates R. Gordon Wasson's Life magazine expedition to partake in magic mushroom ceremonies in Mexico by two years. It is hard to imagine that Wasson was not aware of Huxley's work.

While much was brewing in the world of psychedelics concurrently, LSD had been discovered a decade earlier and was slowly seeping into the consciousness of the underground via psychology undergrads and the CIA's MKULTRA program, this book was to prove to be a watershed moment. If it did inspire Wasson, and Wasson's work certainly inspired many, many scientists and artists, including Tom Robbins, Timothy Leary, the Beatnicks, then Huxley didn't just experience the opening of the doors of perception, as Blake had hypothesized, he opened them for generations beyond.

IN ABSENTIA // PORCUPINE TREE



Porcupine Tree has always been the perfect musical mulatto: a cocktail of Floyd, Tool, Blind Melon and Placebo.

This is probably the album that most plays out like a time capsule of 2002.

It hasn't aged quite as well as some of its inspirations, but in a way that's OK. It stands as a worn, weathered milestone of where we were almost two decades ago, musically speaking.

It wavers between the ultimate fan album of everything else that was swirling around sonically at the time, pieces of Shannon Hoon and Maynard melting into the sauce between more grandiose moments - its honesty maybe the thing that, ironically, holds it back the most, and yet its what makes the album still hold up so well now.

It's funny how synthesis works, though. I remember listening to *Happy Endings* by The Phoenix Foundation the first time and feeling like it was a mixtape of unreleased tracks by Pink Floyd, T Rex and Nick Drake. Now, I just hear that perfect album for what it is, an ode to what made it possible, in its own voice.

And I think *In Absentia* is sliding through that for me now, that process of becoming its own album, rather than the slivers of pastiche I can still faintly hear.

The arrangements are very reminiscent of Blind Melon's sophomore album, *Soup*, while the vocals slip and slide back and forth between Shannon Hoon's croon and Placebo's whine. The guitar paces between Floyd-esque acoustic arpeggios, Tool's strained cadence and the pure sludge of what was leftover from grunge by 2002.

It's a good album for the road, though, and bears repetition, bears looking into a little more deeply each time. 4WD

LETTERS
YOUR WORDS,
YOUR RIGS,
YOUR PRIZES.

READER RIGS

Jerico P. nabbed the top slot in this month's Readers Rigs comp after appealing to the judges' old school sensibilities with some shots of his clean 80 Series LandCruiser build.

The HDJ80R VX Sahara is built for pure touring and has some serious performance upgrades beneath the bonnet. The 1HDT powerplant is fitted with a custom built injector pump matched with ADS injectors, while the rebuilt bottom end features ceramic coated pistons, allowing a maximal output of 300HP, while currently tuned down to around 200HP.

Further upgrades include the Radius Fabrications stainless steel four-inch inlet and outlet airbox, GTurbo Grunter Extreme turbo running 25PSI, Safari front-mount intercooler with custom pipe work, Nomad valve body plus Moonlight Fabrications four-inch stainless steel snorkel.

Jerico's factory twin locked Cruiser absolutely loves the rough stuff. It's had a three-inch Tough Dog suspension upgrade in order to make way for a set of 33" Goodyear Wrangler muddies to boost clearance and make light work of pretty much any terrain it encounters.

It's been fitted with a Superior Engineering reinforced front axle housing, Carter lift pump and Mark's part-time 4WD kit. A TJM steel rear bar with spare tyre swing and work light is matched with an ARB Deluxe front bar, ARB side steps and brush bars plus a Runva 12K winch.

A dual battery system powers all the touring essentials while a set of five gauges have been wired up to monitor the big Cruiser's vitals. A pair of Stratos aftermarket front and passenger seats has been installed along with an ARB awning and a custom storage system in the rear.







Hema maps WINNER!





WIN

RECKON YOUR RIG COULD WIN?

Send us a shot of your rig and tell us why it's awesome, and you could WIN some Hema Maps to keep you out on the tracks, Living the Dream! So tell us your story, and send in your pics to: letters@4wdtouring.com.au.

Hema maps



GET IN TOUCH

SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH US! Has something crazy happened to you on the road? Is something grinding your gears? Or do you have a question for Carlisle and the team? We want your thoughts on all things 4WD and touring! Send in your pictures and email your stories to **letters@4wdtouring.com.au** (letters may be edited for publication).









RUNNER UP



Tim Murray's 2015 model Isuzu MU-X LS-T scored the runner up spot this month. Tim picked his Isuzu wagon up new a few years ago, in need of the extra seats for his growing family.

Being a diesel mechanic by trade, Tim has always been comfortable on the tools and has completed almost all modifications on his MU-X himself, as he keeps his eyes on the prize of setting it up for longterm touring duties on remote trips to Cape York, Arnhem Land, the Simpson Desert and the Victorian High Country.

First order of business was to have an Old Man Emu twin-inch suspension upgrade fitted up in order to make way for a set of steel rims shod with Kumho muddies.

An ARB compressor with front air locker was installed for offroad duties, while a TJM bullbar with 12K winch, custom rocksliders, custom rear bar with dual wheel carriers, LSD rear diff and a custom three-inch exhaust upgrade were all fitted by Tim.

Next on the agenda were upgraded Munji intercooler pipes, an ECU=Shop touch combo, GME 80 channel UHF radio, 2x3m awning, a hidden switch panel in top centre of the MU-X's dash, plus a pair of Cobra HID spotties and a 30" LED lightbar.

As the build takes shape and some more long range touring missions are planned, Tim reckons the next mods on the agenda are fitment of a rear locker, a single storage drawer with drop down fridge slide, a dual battery system, full length flat roof rack and a 270-degree awning.

OUT HERE ... LIVING THE DREAM

Hey guys,

I've been following some of the build up articles on Adam's LandCruiser, as I've just bought a pretty clean 200 Series myself and looking at setting it up for proper touring duties over the rest of the year.

I remember reading about a spotlight and lightbar combo that he fitted up in a recent article but can't find my copy of the mag. There's so many lights on the market these days to choose from, and I remember the set he fitted up looked good on the 200 Series and he said he had plenty of customers happy with the performance long term.

Can you let me know the brand and model of the lights he fitted up if you have the info handy or are able to check with him?

Many thanks guys, love your work!

Damian Thomas

G'day Damian,

Yeah Adam's build is coming along nicely, the 200 is looking shmick. He's been a fan of Narva lights after fitting them on previous vehicles and for customers, so wanted to stick with the same manufacturer.

He fitted a pair of Narva Ultima 215 lights with the blue insert above the bullbar, as he likes the sturdy housing and the way they're designed to disperse heat for improved efficiency.

He also fitted a pair of Explora lightbars side by side on the front of his roof rack, and plans to add a pair of Narva work lights on the sides of his roof soon for a quick camp lighting fix.

Hope that helps mate, and best of luck with the 200 build. Send us some pics once you've got the ball rolling!

Cheers

The *4WD Touring Australia* team *4WD*

SUIT OF ARMOUR

Why top quality bar work is non negotiable.

ADAM ADLER

Every year our family does a quick trip to Mt Baw Baw for the snow season. If the snow is good Nicole and I get a quick ski in, but, if not, it turns into a relaxing weekend anyway.

Usually the drive up is uneventful, except for one year when it dumped heavily. Even with chains on, we still couldn't get up, so we had to leave the cars in a car park at the bottom of the hill. My wife and I are the only ones that have 4WDs the other two cars in our convoy were sedans...

Our recent trip again confirmed the importance of bar work when travelling out bush. We always head up on a Friday evening. Alain, my father-in-law, was again driving up his Honda Accord.

On the way up from Neerim, he hit a small deer. The Honda had a small dent in the left front quarter panel, which I will be able to pull out myself, but if they'd hit it head on it could have been a different story.

We have recently fitted up the ARB scrub rails to my 200 Series and also the Kaymar rear bar. It's funny how a trip like this confirms the need for bar work.

I have never had scrub rails in any of my other 4WDs but it was one of the first things I put on my list for this build. The extra protection to me is essential. I know that it's a matter of time before that kangaroo jumps out in front of me. We have had plenty of trips up to Eildon where we have had a few close shaves.

With my old Patrol, the tyres came out to the edge of the vehicle, in line with the sliders I had fitted, so when I was driving ruts I found it pushed the body of the Patrol away from the edges of the dirt.

With the 200 Series, the tyres do still sit inside. The way I see it, the scrub rails will not only help with animal strikes but it will keep the 200's body away from the sides of the tracks and help to stop guard damage.

It also makes the 200 a lot wider, which helps with two things: a) My wife is scared to drive it, and b) those grannies at the shopping centre won't be able to dent the guards. It really is a win win.

The Kaymar rear bar is cool, I have fitted it up with two jerry can holders on the passenger side and the spare wheel holder on the driver's side.

Whenever I am out and about I always take too much water but in the Patrol I found it took up valuable space inside the 4WD so to be able to carry the water on the rear bar will work great.

Having the spare on the rear not only gives me a place to hang one of our Nuts Rear Wheel Bags but it also gives me a place to carry a set of Maxtrax and gives me more clearance.

In future I would like to fit up a long-range tank, so having the spare on the back of the bar now frees up space to fit a large tank when I am ready.

I know I am dragging on a bit when I say this but the build is really coming together now!

GO NUTS!

Adam *4WD*



4WD Touring's resident mechanic is building his ultimate touring rig, and he's taking us along for the ride.



1.



2.

GET TOURING READY WITH RHINO-RACK

The days are getting cooler and highways and campgrounds around the country are clearing out – sounds like prime time to hit the road.



If you're anything like us, you take a look at the pile of gear in the garage that you were planning on packing, and end up scratching your head wondering how the hell that's supposed to fit in the back of the fourby…

Well, that's what roof racks are for. If you're smart about it, there's not much you can't cart about on the roof of your rig, provided you're equipped with the right racks and fittings, that is.

Whether you're looking to ferry about a pair of mountain bikes or kayaks (or even the kitchen sink), you can bet that Rhino-Rack has a specialised carrier system.

Kayak carrier RRP from $205
Bike carrier RRP from $141
Batwing or Sunseeker awning RRP from $302
www.rhinorack.com.au





ARB LONG RANGE TANKS FOR D-MAX & COLORADO

Drive a D-MAX or a Colorado and have large scale touring aspirations?

You're in luck. Offroad aftermarket juggernaut ARB recently announced the launch of their 140L Frontier long-range fuel tank to suit both popular utes.

The tank is manufactured from a high tech cross linked polymer in order to deliver a brutish strength and resilience, while simultaneously providing a significant weight reduction over similar steel tanks.

The UV stable plastic material ensures these tanks can handle whatever you're likely to throw at 'em, and will survive in the most hostile environments.

Most importantly, from a touring perspective, bolting a new Frontier tank to your pride and joy offers a whopping 60L fuel capacity increase over the OE tank, which amounts to some serious mileage.

Fitting one of these units means the difference between carefully calculating distance between stops and limiting how long you spend deep in remote country, and true peace of mind on and offroad.



Additionally, you'll be able to avoid topping up at the most pricy, remote stops where fuel quality can be an issue. So over time you'll end up saving coin too.

RRP $1215

www.arb.com.au



STAY SAFE WITH MICHELIN

With Easter school holidays just around the corner, Michelin's safety PSA still rings true.

BFGoodrich's parent brand released their 'Safety When It Matters Most' campaign back in December.

The goal being to influence a good chunk of the touring masses to be aware of tyre safety over congested holiday breaks.

Whenever there's increased traffic on the blacktop, the smart money says it's wise to keep your wits about you and take preventative measures to avoid catastrophe.

The campaign focuses on ensuring you've got the correct tyres fitted to your vehicle, checking for wear and tear, and making a point of monitoring tyre pressures regularly before hitting the tarmac for long haul sessions.

Michelin Australia's Swaroop Tulsidas added, "If you can't remember when you last checked the health of your tyres, now is the time for a safety check at your local Michelin dealer."

You can view the video campaign on the Michelin site and check out their tyre range while you're there.

www.michelin.com





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ZAP TRANSMISSION WOES

Transmission heat build up can be caused by a stack of different factors ranging from driving style to tow load, terrain, low fluid level or a slipping clutch...



It can be a tricky issue to diagnose on the fly, and a costly one to resolve after the fact.

Prevention's always preferable to cure, thus fitting either an analogue or digital transmission heat gauge makes good sense.

At least this way you can identify excessive heat from the get-go and take action before things go haywire.

Wholesale Automatics stocks a range of quality heat gauges to fit popular 4WD makes and models including Toyota LandCruiser 200, 100 and 70 Series and Prado 150 Series vehicles, as well as Isuzu D-MAX utes and MU-X wagons.

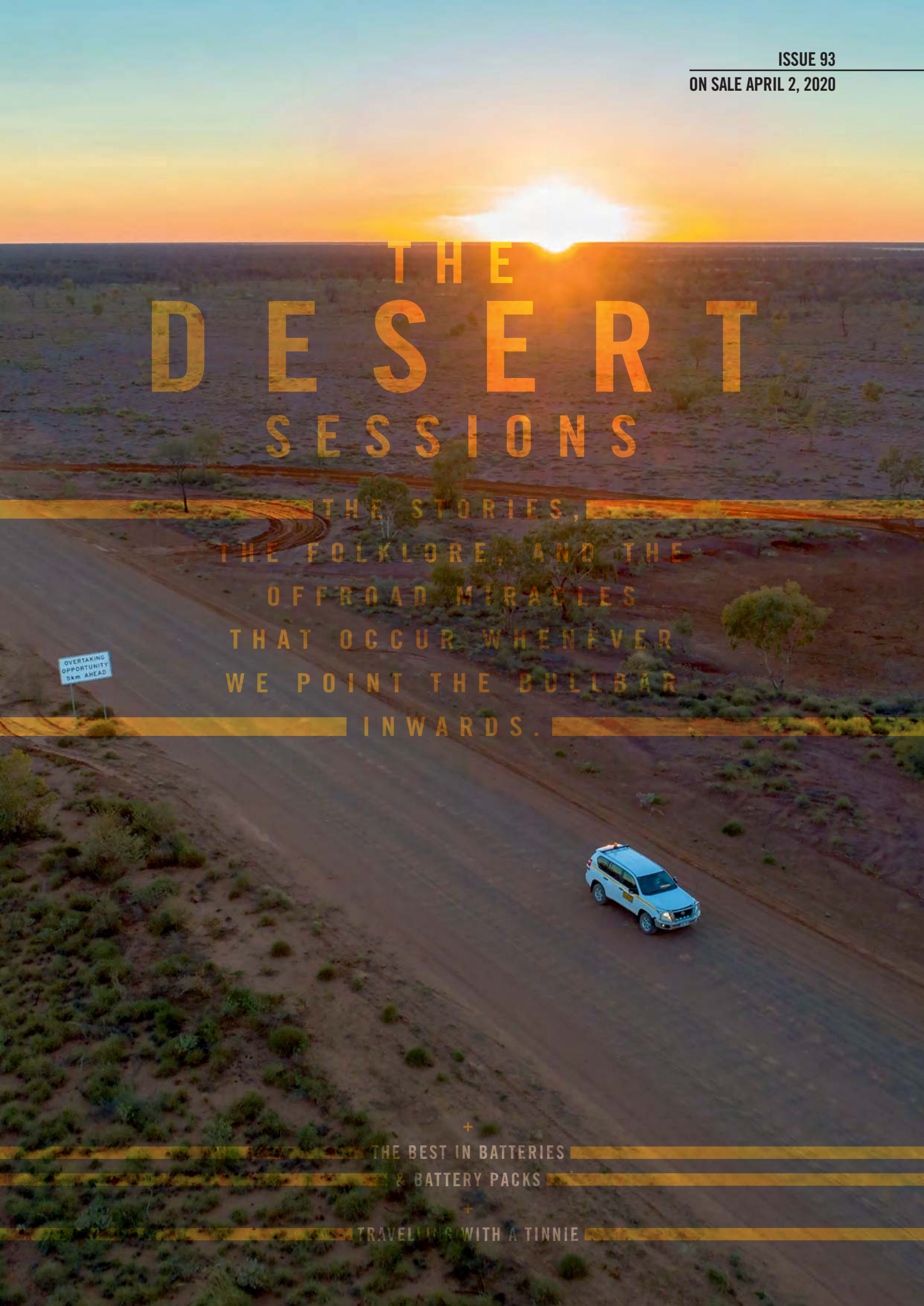
The gauges are available as DIY kits if you're handy with a spanner, otherwise professional installation is available via a nationwide dealer network.

Check out Wholesale Automatics' site, along with their range of transmission oil cooler kits, torque converter lock up kits and Nomad valve body kits.

www.automatictransmission.com.au *4WD*



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ON SALE APRIL 2, 2020



THE DESERT SESSIONS

THE STORIES, THE FOLKLORE, AND THE OFFROAD MIRACLES THAT OCCUR WHENEVER WE POINT THE BULLBAR INWARDS.

+

THE BEST IN BATTERIES & BATTERY PACKS

+

TRAVELLING WITH A TINNIE



You can't improve on perfection.

REDARC Dual Battery Chargers, now with mounting brackets allowing for easier installation.

Trusted for its Australian design and tested for our unique conditions, the BCDC Dual range continues to set the industry standard. Available in 25, 40 and 50amp models with features that make them the most advanced in the market and always ensure fully charged batteries. The newly released brackets can be front-fitted to existing mounting points in many popular 4WD models allowing for cooler airflow, ensuring optimal performance. All this with REDARC's respected nation-wide back-up. You can trust REDARC... No bull. Visit redarc.com.au/bcdc for all the details.

THE POWER OF REDARC 40 YEARS SINCE 1979

RA4375

TOYOTA

HILUX. UNBREAKABLE.
AT HOME OUT HERE



Undeniably tough and meticulously designed, the nation's favourite WorkHorse has been serving the rural Australian community for over 50 years. HiLux lives up to its unbreakable heritage, legendary reliability and exceptional build. When it comes to tough Australian conditions, the Toyota HiLux is in a class of its own.

OH WHAT A FEELING