

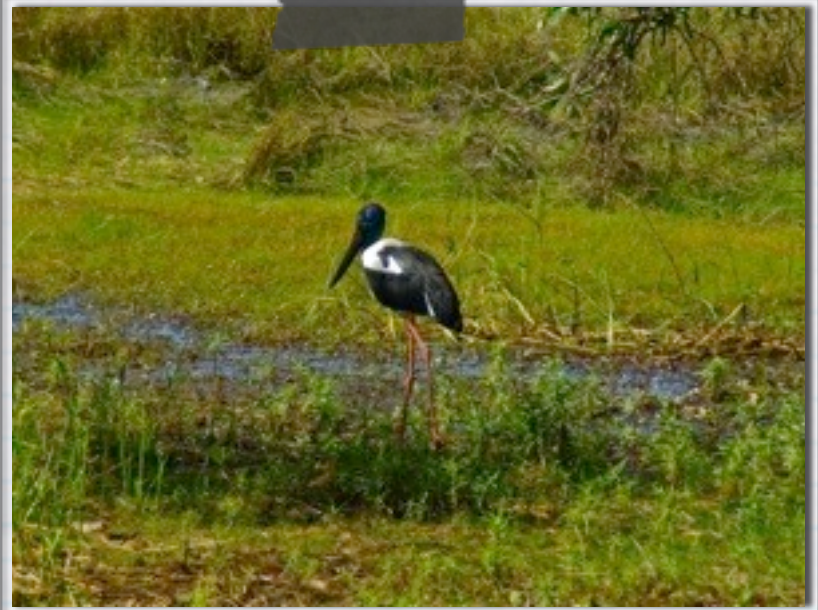
OUTBACK ADVENTURE

NOWAK TRAVELOGUE | APRIL, MAY | 2012

Travel Memories

There are treasured moments on every trip that stay with you forever - moments that "make" the trip. Here are a few from the last couple of days.

...the brilliant olive python slithering quickly across our path, its sibling, further on, head raised and eyes focused, oblivious to the swerve of our car; the single dingo standing motionless in the scrub on the side of the road; the lone Jabiru high up and handsome on its bright orange stilt-like legs, eyes focussed and body frozen for a second as we drove slowly past; hundreds of butterflies swarming low around us as we disturbed them at the waterhole; and, finally, the most wonderful - the sea eagle swooping down right in front of us to snatch a small fish from the flooded causeway. Unfortunately for it it dropped the fish but flew back to its perch in the trees on the other side of the river. Magic moments, memories stored away to be related later when asked "how was it?" Only two of these experiences were captured on film.



Disaster Averted

We were enjoying a quiet moment with the butterflies at the water hole. We had ridden there over a rough bush trail, after enduring a very dusty, corrugated, 26km road. We were suddenly interrupted by a young family. "Are you the owners of the missing back window? We saw the window on the road some 5kms back on the road." Our tranquil thoughts ceased. We

immediately sped off. I was in such a hurry that I came a cropper on the track. We jumped in the car and dust billowed behind us and filled our windowless A-Van. Some 5kms back we came across our lonely back window. It was thankfully intact even though a little scratched. With a little DIY, and the help of a fellow camper, I was able to reattach it while Heather cleaned up. Phew!



KEEN SNAPSHOTTER? There are lots of opportunities to take photos. For every 100 I take, there are 2-3 worth keeping. I really enjoy the challenge of capturing the moment.



GRASS? Look at the size of the grass!! I thought Rhodes grass was long. Nothing compared to this. No wonder the aborigines burned the grass at the end of the wet season. When this dries out it is lethal.



OUR PUNY RIG We are amazed to see the size of the "rigs" on the road and in caravan parks. - huge 4WDs and serious off road caravans compared with our midget Avon. Mind you, our petrol economy is so much better.

LITCHFIELD VS KAKADU



People often compare the two. We think they are totally different and cannot be spoken of in terms of -- "this one OR that one"

The spots in Litchfield that are accessible by tourists are mainly places where water falls down from the escarpment and creates lovely cool pools. Most of the major attractions were accessible by 2WD vehicles.

Kakadu, has escarpment country and some waterfalls, but the main theme here is the wetlands and rock art. About half of the main attractions are accessible via 2WD. To really see Kakadu you need a serious 4WD or go on the tours that take you to these out of the way places. Most such trips do not start until June at least. It depends upon the conditions. Even many of the places we could access, were not yet open for walking -- too much water around. The lesson I suppose, is, if you want to do a lot of walking, don't go until about June. The bird watching will be better then also. Apparently, as the water dries up, the birds flock to the remaining water. And that is exactly what the tourists do too. From June till August tourist numbers rise dramatically.



Number of kilometers we have traveled to date

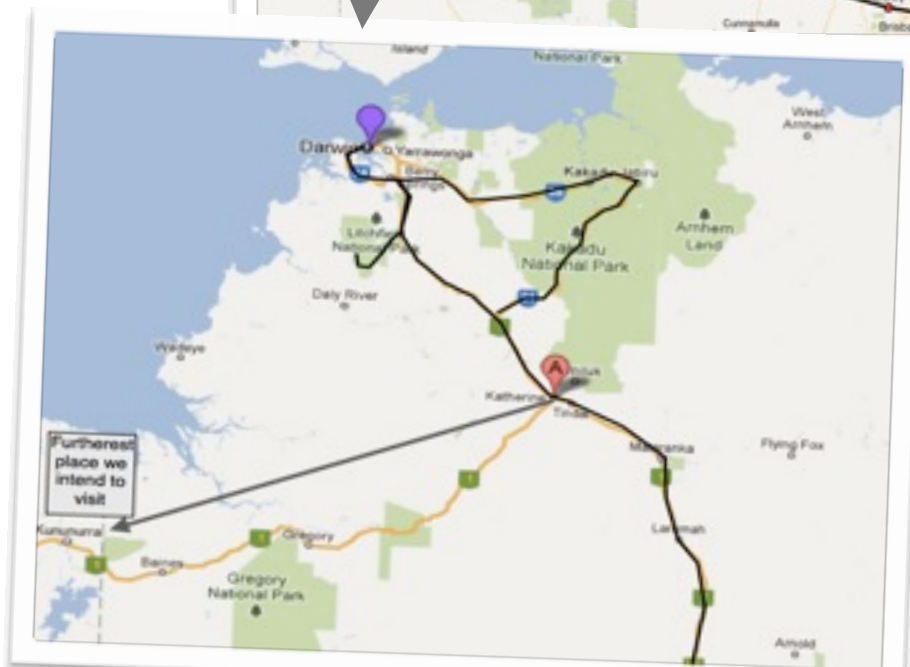
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Number of days on the road

23

Number of days to go

36



Have bike will travel.
ANYWHERE.

