

OUTBACK ADVENTURE

NOWAK TRAVELOGUE | APRIL, MAY | 2012

Kimberleys

Most towns we visit we try to be thorough; so many things to see, except in Kununurra.

Kununurra is the capital of the east Kimberley; the town's population is more than 75% aborigine.

Prices were poison so dinner was beans on toast; next day we ambled on up along the north coast.

Parrys Billabong and wetlands - a bird watchers dream; where stork, parrot, diver and geese frolic on stream.

Further on to Australia's last frontier; tin shanty Wyndham, much history, much beer.

The croc farm's commentary was croc full of "charm"; the guide ensured visitors came to no harm.

His medical advice included a novel cure; Gravox, the best solution cause it thickens runny manure!

After a lengthy delay a plane flight was sorted; but after 3 takeoff attempts the whole thing was aborted.

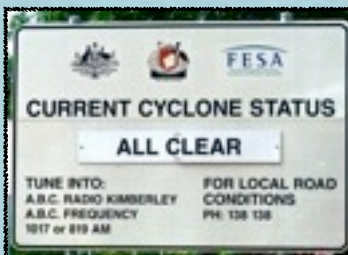


Flight over Bungle Bungles

I had originally left this space for photos and description of the flight we had booked over the Bungle Bungles which included a landing on Lake Argyle. I dosed up on ginger tablets because I wanted to enjoy this trip. Unfortunately it did not happen. We did our safety checks, boarded the plane with 2 other passengers and taxied out on the water but after the third attempt to take off the pilot realised there

was not enough wind and the floats had too much suction on the water. We will try again early tomorrow morning.

I will be very tired tomorrow because Kununurra has TV reception (only ABC and SBS) and, thankfully, I will be able to watch my football. Last year, at this time, we were in Ullapool Scotland where I watched the FA Cup final with rowdy pub locals.



CYCLONE COUNTRY No doubt, this type of sign is regularly seen by residents of the north and west. It was a novelty for us to see - especially since it said that we were "all clear".



GREAT SOUTHERN HIGHWAY? The only supposed "great" thing about this HIGHWAY was that it was badly corrugated, covered in bull dust and did not lead to anywhere.



CANE TOADS They have finally made it to the Kimberleys and everyone is asked to do their part to stop their spread by picking them up and placing them in this box. Heavens knows how much crap will be beaten out of them later.

CROCODILE FARM



WYNDHAM

We have seen our fair share of crocs in the wild up here but decided to scare ourselves once more by visiting the Wyndham Crocodile Farm. The commentary by the guide was a highlight. He knew every animal by name and told us about their individual habits and past history. His most vicious and unpredictable female crocs he named Thelma and Louise and the large males have equally distinct names such as Evil. His insights into crocodile behavior were very informative. The farm is a "prison" for rogue crocs who have had a criminal past. Their illegal activities included a fond taste for blue healer dogs and kids ponies. They are never to be let loose or they may "re-offend".

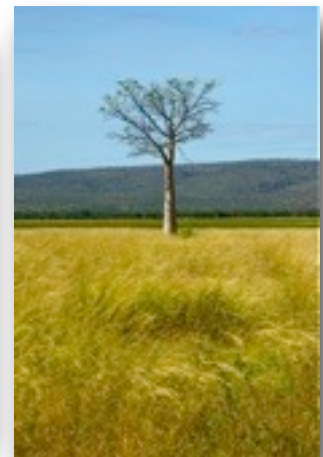
Over 1000 crocs are bred each year. Their skins are bound mainly for the French market - especially their soft underbelly. They are made up into expensive handbags and shoes.

Our guide took great delight in showing us the "cone of silence" - a device he shoves onto the crocs bottom jaw if they rush him. It was full of teeth marks. An earlier model was totally bashed in.



PARRY BILLABONG WETLANDS

On the road to Wyndham from Kununarra we happened upon a dusty road to Parry Billabong. We followed it and came across a large expanse of wetland which we could see from a rise in the road. We followed the road to the water's edge and spent some time in a bird hide watching a variety of birds interacting. Finally, when it was time to move on, I heard a blood curling scream. I thought it was a very raucous bird, but soon discovered a distraught and shocked Heather recovering from almost putting her hand on a snake. It had been entwined around the railing. Both the snake and my wife took some time to recover.





On the road to Wyndham



Mirima National Park



Mirima National Park



Mirima National Park - a mini Bungle Bungles



Sunset from our van in Kununurra