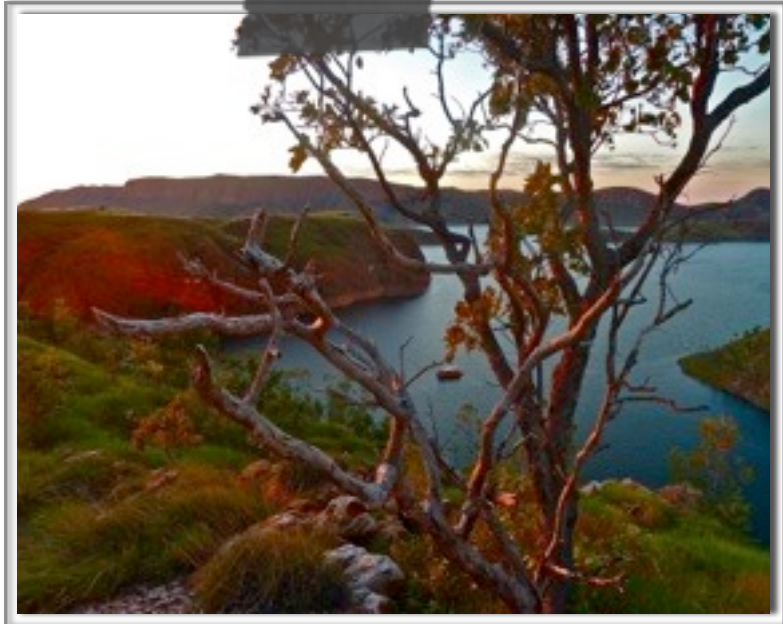


OUTBACK ADVENTURE

NOWAK TRAVELOGUE | APRIL, MAY | 2012

Lake Argyle to Kununurra

After arriving at the caravan park on Lake Argyle we took one look at the view from the infinity swimming pool and decided to stay a couple of nights. The pool was perched on the top of a hill. The azure lake and steep, rusty, but imposing hills, made an unbelievable backdrop. Absolutely glorious. Heather quickly leaped in to cool off. I took photos of her as the evening light faded (at 5.30pm!!!). The next day we took a 3.5 hr sunset boat ride on the lake (another highlight) and then drove on to Kununurra to do shopping and work out what to do in this place. Not much it seems.



Kings in Grass Castles Drowned

Lake Argyle occupies the site of Argyle Downs Station. This property was the WA home of the famous Durack family -- Irish immigrants of the 1850s who grew to become the biggest land owners in Australian history. The family sold the station in the 1950s. The current owners had the misfortune to have their lease extinguished and the land resumed for the lake. Most of the original homestead was saved from the water and re-erected on higher land. This only happened because of local volunteers who wanted to save this piece of history. The



government had no interest in it. Unfortunately, the water rose more quickly than expected and much of the place was lost. It was fascinating to visit this fabulous old house. It contained some of the brick-a-brac that had been saved. It was a typical colonial house with thick stone walls, wide verandah and high ceilings.

Interestingly every room had an outside door or a window.



COOLING OFF? Having a pool in a caravan park is fairly common place - fantastic to jump in and cool off when the temperature is high. But having an infinity pool with a superb view over a lake is unbelievable.



ROCK WALLABIES? With distinctly short ears and a longer and more busy tail, the rock wallabies we saw were really agile and at ease on the rocky outcrop near the shore. It's only enemy is the olive python.



CROC FASCINATION How was his cheeky guy! Our guide has trained some fish to come to a point in the lake. A local croc has decided that it is a good lunging point also. It was fascinating to watch him - mouth open - expecting a fish to simply jump in.

SUNSET BOAT TOUR



LAKE ARGYLE

We were told not to miss the sunset boat tour on Lake Argyle. It was great advice. The tour guide was informative and most interesting. He showed us the usual freshwater crocodiles, rock wallabies and a small number of birds. The bird numbers apparently grow later in the dry season. We also saw lots of fish in a quiet cove when our guide threw bread from the boat.

The scenery was vast. The lake just seemed to go on and on. The peaks of the mountains cast shadows over the water. He stopped to give us an opportunity to swim. Needless to say, the two Nowaks did not take up the opportunity! Back on land however, there was no opportunity for the kind of walking we like -- relatively flat! No bike riding tracks either but horse riding was available. Heather decided she was going to keep that until she gets into the Kimberly proper.



The Ord River Scheme



The Ord River Scheme is well known, but we were truly amazed by the size of the dam. It is spectacularly beautiful and home to much wildlife. It's main purpose is to provide water for agriculture. Over the years many crops have come and gone -- cotton and rice being two. The main items of interest now seem to be sandlewood and fruits - like rock melon. Interestingly, one of the reasons for the failure of many of the crops has been the difficulty of accessing the large markets. Another was diseases that can easily reach the coast from Asia.



FACTS ABOUT LAKE ARGYLE

Number of freshwater crocodiles?

30,000

Number of years to build it?

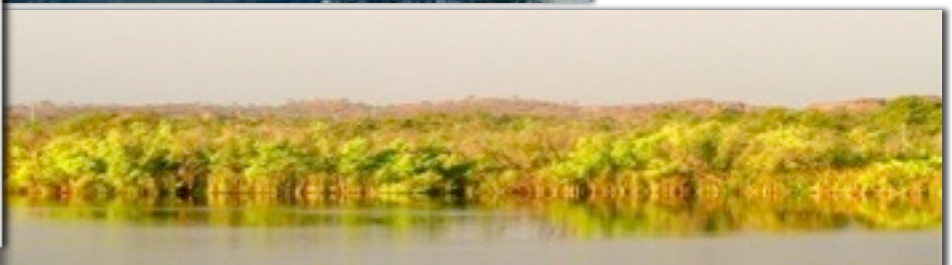
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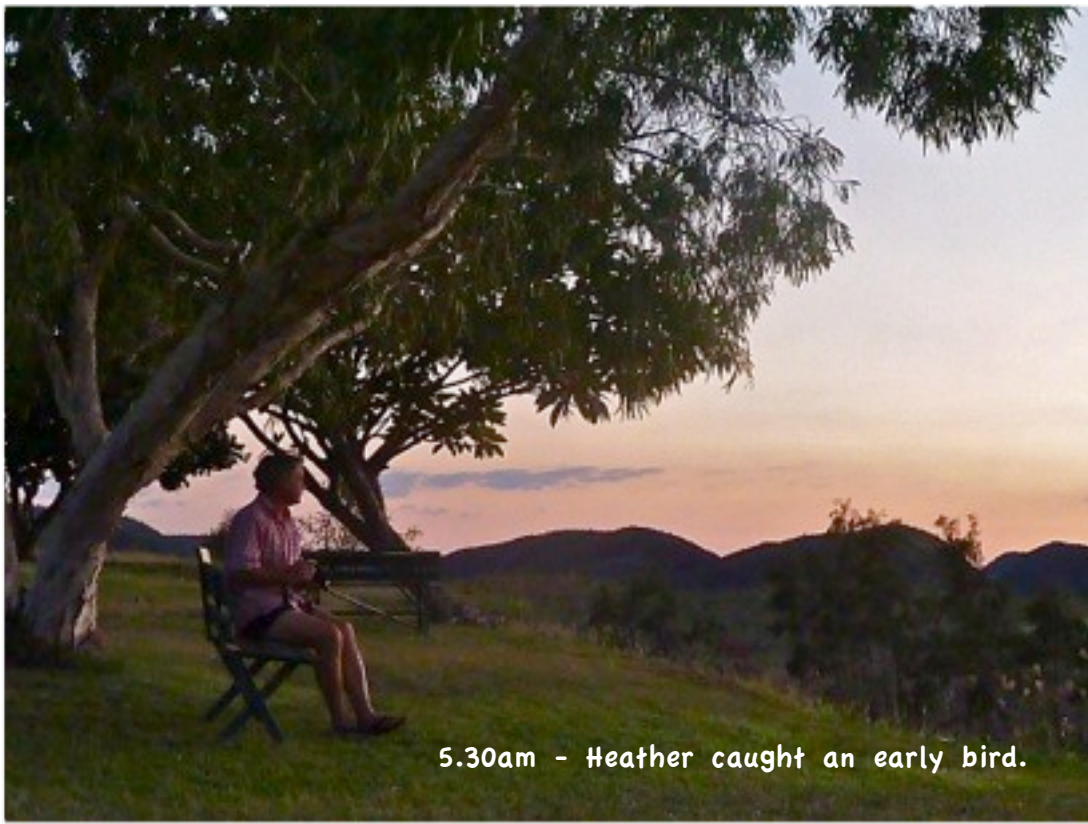
How much water?

21 Sydney Harbours

How big?

70 x 45 kms





5.30am - Heather caught an early bird.

