

OUTBACK ADVENTURE

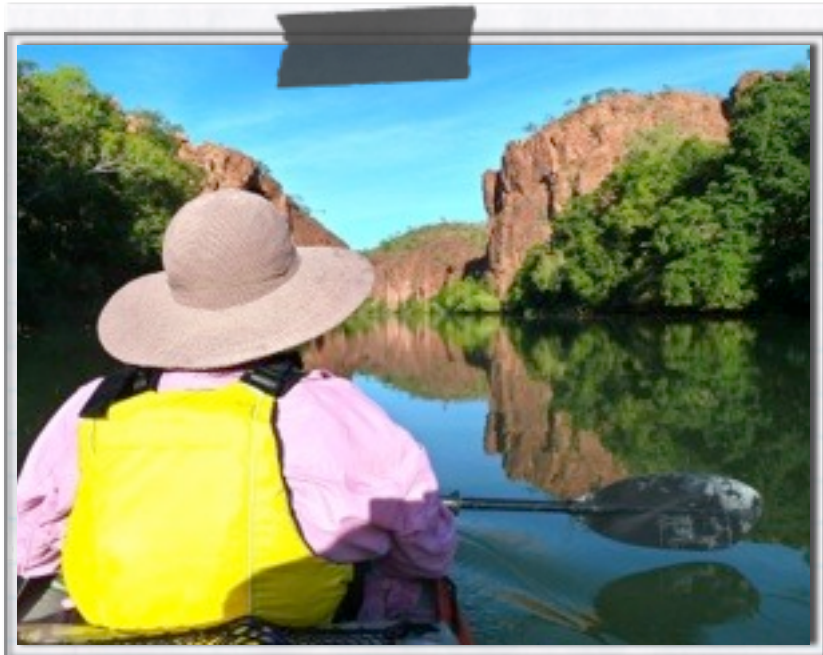
NOWAK TRAVELOGUE | APRIL, MAY | 2012

Lawn Hill

Lawn Hill appears on the map to be “a little out of the way” but according to all reports its a trip worth taking. The gorge was reported to be breathtaking, and, more importantly to us, navigable by canoe. Since our blowup kayak had not yet seen the light of day on this trip, this appealed to us.

After overnighting at at Camooweal we decided, against advice, to take the shortest route via an unmade road. This would save us over 380kms. Much to our surprise the first 50kms of this road was bitumen. Unfortunately the remaining 100km of dirt and dust made up for it. After fording 3 shallow streams we arrived at Adel's Grove caravan park. This park is the hub of Lawn Hill - it provides ample shade and hot showers, but no electricity.

We camped for the night and rose early for an exciting morning ride on the water. We were not disappointed. The Gregory River had cut its way through the escarpment especially for us to enjoy. Seeing the imposing gorge up close and personal by kayak was a highlight of our trip. Gliding quietly up the 2 gorges was absolutely wonderful. At the end of the first gorge, we had to decamp and carry the canoe around the small waterfalls that are the dividing line between the gorges. I managed to fall into the water when trying to get back into the canoe. After the cooling dip we continued on our way none the worse for wear. Luckily we had a waterproof bag for our keys and camera.



Adel's Grove

After the heat and the dust of driving, the cool shade of Adel's Grove caravan park was something we needed. When the sun beats down it can get quite oppressive without a tree to hide under. Adel's has plenty of trees to nestle under but no readily available taps. We really needed to wash the filth off our van and the car. Then again it may have been silly to clean up because 80km of unmade road will beckon us when we leave this

place. We had briefly considered the rough camping grounds at Lawn Hill Gorge itself (\$10 per night) but we opted instead for the shade at Adel's. However at \$35 per night this caravan park is expensive, especially considering that it has no electricity. We have gas for cooking and the fridge and solar for lights, so we can do without power. Next time maybe it will be the gorge national park camping ground.



DISTANCES After traveling 8500kms of bitumen to date we have become a bit blasé about a 500 kilometers or so dash between outback towns. However, dirt roads are not so easy. Even a short distance is hard work.



DRINKING WATER We are advised not to drink the river water. It will not kill you but because it runs through lots of limestone it makes you thirsty - lots of naturally added calcium carbonate. - interesting.

RIVERSLEIGH

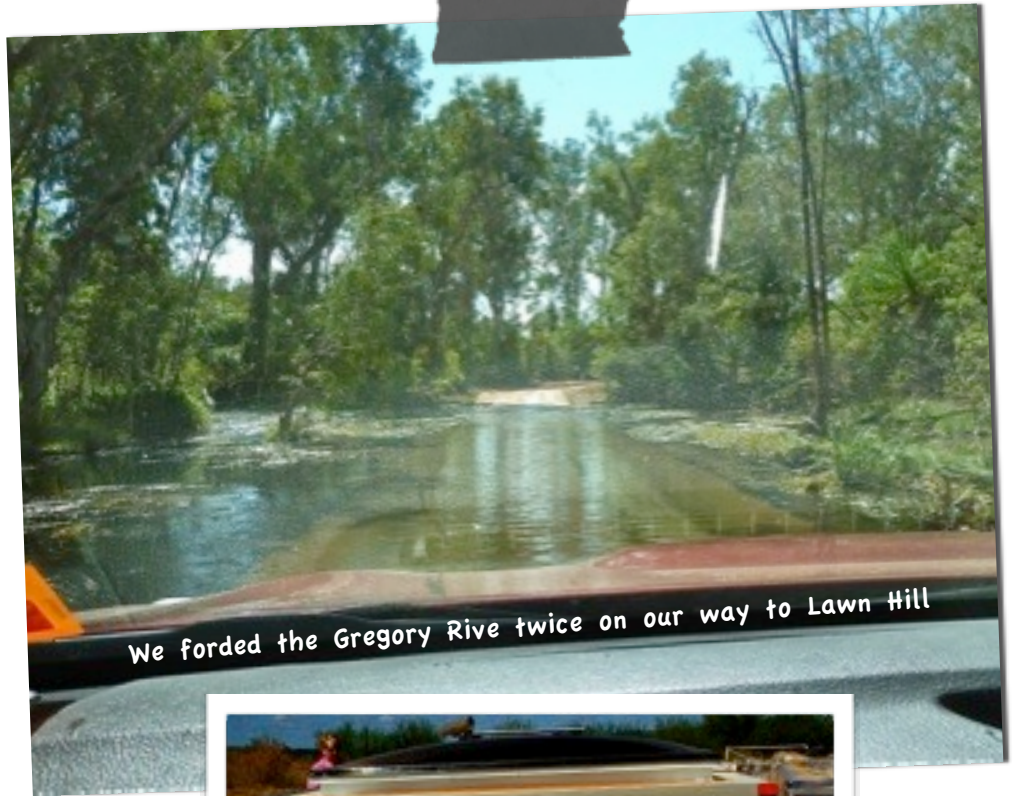
DINOSAURS



Riversleigh is a World Heritage listed place. When we came across it on our way to Lawn Hill it looked to us like another one of the "dinosaur" sites we had seen near Winton. The short walking trail had places where bones could be seen embedded in hard rock. Mere mortals like us would have easily missed this had it not been for the signs. We had intended to take a tour and learn more, but surmised that this was all the tour would probably show us anyway - therefore saving \$90 each.



Overland Tracks



We forded the Gregory Rive twice on our way to Lawn Hill



