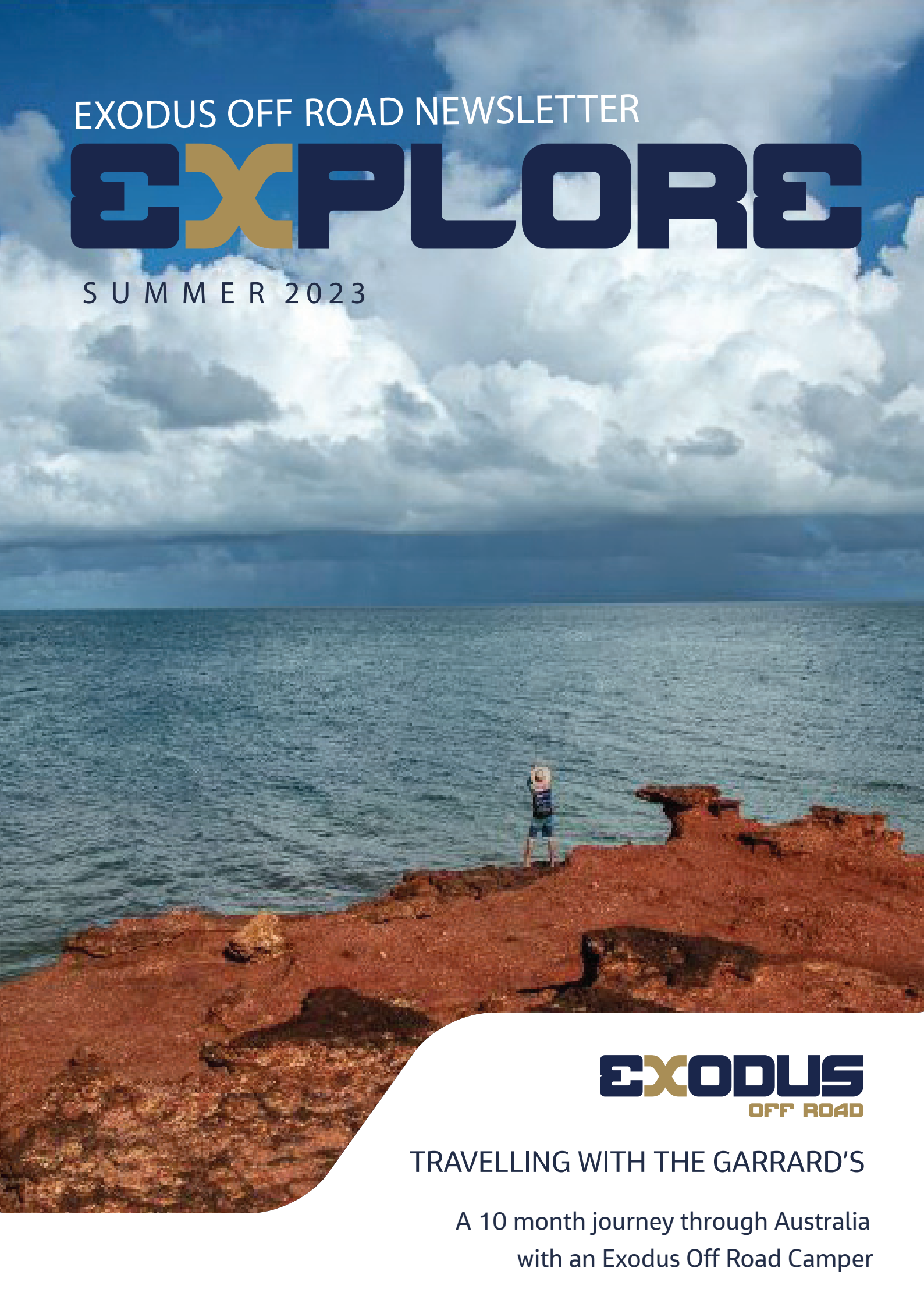


EXODUS OFF ROAD NEWSLETTER

# EXPLORE

S U M M E R 2 0 2 3



**EXODUS**  
OFF ROAD

TRAVELLING WITH THE GARRARD'S

A 10 month journey through Australia  
with an Exodus Off Road Camper

# GETTING READY

## CHOOSING OUR CAMPER WHY THE EXODUS 16?

ISAAC AND BONNIE GARRARD ARE BOTH LIFETIME CAMPERS, COMING FROM A FAMILY THAT HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED THE MANY GREAT CAMPING SPOTS ALONG THE NSW NORTH COAST, BASED OUT OF THEIR HOMETOWN OF FORSTER IN NSW.

After early experiences with tents the couple started out with a Lifestyle sidefold softfloor, which is still in the family, having been sold on to a brother. "We had that for a fair few years, and it was a great camper," explained Isaac, "there were a couple of things with this older style of camper that we felt could be easier. Our first soft floor camper trailer did us well but then the children came along and our easy set up didn't seem that easy anymore. We thought we would upgrade into something a little more suitable for long term travelling with the kids."

"It was harder and took longer to set up. It's great now to just open the door, pop the top of the Exodus and everything is done, clothes are put away and beds are ready to be sleep in. It's a personal thing, I suppose, but we didn't want a caravan because we still want to have that capacity to go offroad. It's easy to tow – I mean, we took it up the Telegraph Track, so if you're keen enough it has the capability to go to those sort of places, and it's still a case of just opening the door and there everything is, just where you left it."

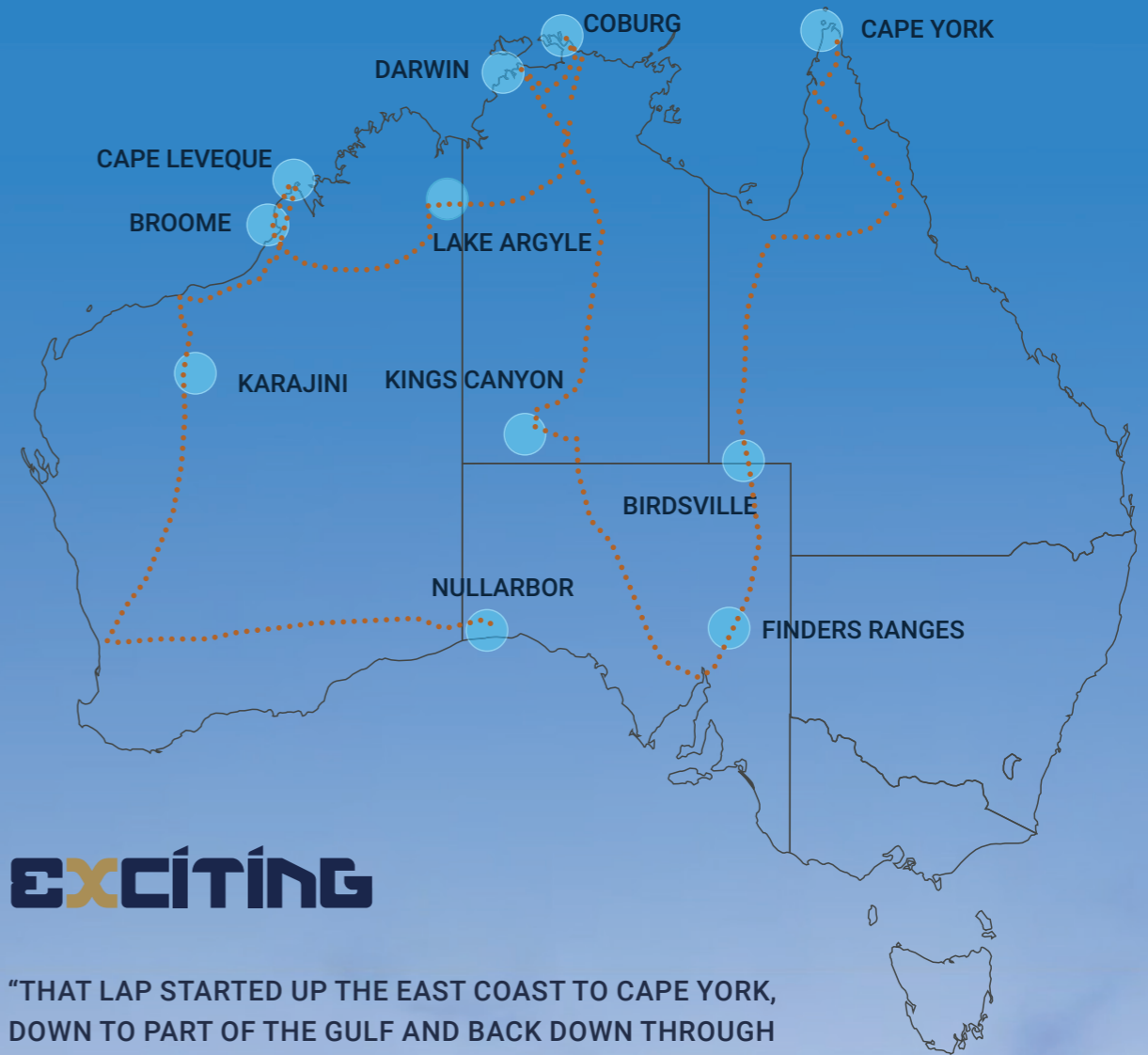
"It's not just the Tele Track," added Bonnie. "It's also all those corrugated tracks. You know that when you open the door everything's going to be in its place, nothing's broken." "We put it through its paces over a lot of dirt roads and it handled everything," concluded Isaac. "You see a lot of people broken down, with axles and other bits coming off their vans, mostly damaged by the vibrations of the corrugated roads, but the Exodus is built for that sort of travelling and they come through it with ease."



We put a list together of what we wanted out of our camp set up.

- To still feel like we were camping
- Kitchen outside
- Easy to set up and pack down
- Able to tow anywhere
- Airbags
- Running water AND Diesel hot water system
- Ample storage
- Comfortable and all set up beds and no need to make bed when setting up.

"The Exodus range stood out to us because it ticked all the boxes for us. It is easy to set up and pack down, the kitchen is outside, quality and well designed. But the things that really sold us was the strength of the full fibreglass shell, the ease of the ensuite pod, and the plumbing system with the external draw."



## EXCITING

"THAT LAP STARTED UP THE EAST COAST TO CAPE YORK, DOWN TO PART OF THE GULF AND BACK DOWN THROUGH BIRDSVILLE FOR THE BIG RED BASH, BACK TO THE COAST THEN ACROSS TO THE FLINDERS RANGES AND THAT PART OF THE WORLD, THEN UP THROUGH KINGS CANYON, THROUGH TO DARWIN, COBOURG PENINSULA, ACROSS TO LAKE ARGYLE AND BROOME, TO CAPE LEVEQUE AND PENDER BAY THEN ON TO KARAJINI AND BACK ACROSS THE CONTINENT VIA THE NULLARBOR. IT WAS AN AWESOME TRIP THAT'S REALLY IMPRINTED IN OUR MEMORY," ISAAC EXPLAINED.



# LIFE ON A STATION



“TO GET TO THE STATION WE HAD TO DRIVE 70KMS OF CORRUGATED DIRT ROAD, NOTHING UNUSUAL FOR US AS OUR VAN IS VERY CAPABLE”

ON OUR TRAVELS, WE HAVE DRIVEN THROUGH A LOT OF RURAL AREA, WHERE THERE IS A WHOLE HEAP OF NOT MUCH AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE. I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT TO MYSELF I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE ON THESE LARGE STATIONS.

We had an opportunity to experience life on a station and it was a real eye opener I now have a different view of all this land and it excites me because it may not look like much from the road, but there is so much to see and do.

We contacted a working station in a very remote part of the Northern Territory and asked if we could come out and stay for a few nights to see how the station runs, we were excited when they replied to our email welcoming us to visit. We were a little nervous to go out and stay at the station as this is something we have never done and had no idea what to expect. To get to the station we had to drive 70kms of corrugated dirt road, nothing unusual for us as our van is very capable. The landscape was very dry as we are currently at the end of the dry season. When we got to the station we were welcomed by Dave the Station manager and his partner Clarissa, they gave us many options of places to camp and we chose a little spot by a shallow running creek, perfect for the kids.

The first afternoon we were invited for drinks with all the workers, this was a great way to meet everyone and we instantly felt at home. This is where we met an inspiring young station hand Phoebe, Phoebe is the kind of girl who just gets in and gives anything a go from door hanging to catching Buffalo. I automatically assumed Phoebe had grown up on a station, oh how I was wrong. Phoebe grew up in Christchurch New Zealand she met a girl that boarded at her school whose family ran a station, Phoebe visited the station one day and fell in love with the lifestyle and I can see why.

On our second night, everyone from the station including us were invited to the neighbour's place (about an hour drive) for a BBQ, we got to the neighbour's station and the station owner Danny was trying to get in contact with the young station hands that

had left earlier that afternoon with fishing rods and raffles set for a fun afternoon of fishing and hunting.

Danny tried to contact them on the 2-way to get them to come back for the BBQ but failed to contact them, so he just got in his helicopter flew over the area they were, and managed to get their attention and they were back in no time. Danny invited us to go for a walk behind the homestead and right there we found an amazing bit of paradise, two heavily flowing waterfalls, Pandanus trees and greenery overhanging a beautiful creek. Just remember we are in the dry season so to see greenery and water like this is amazing. Not only was the scenery great the people were too, we met people from surrounding stations and everyone had a different story to tell, such a fun filled night.

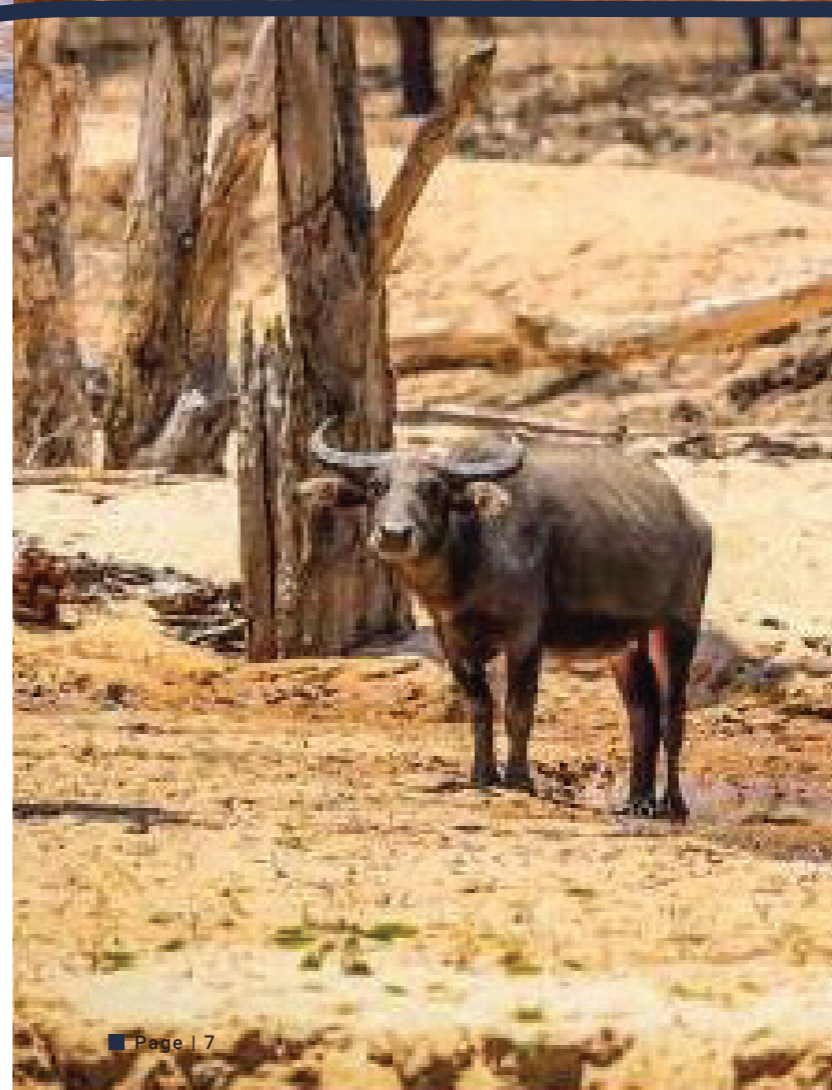
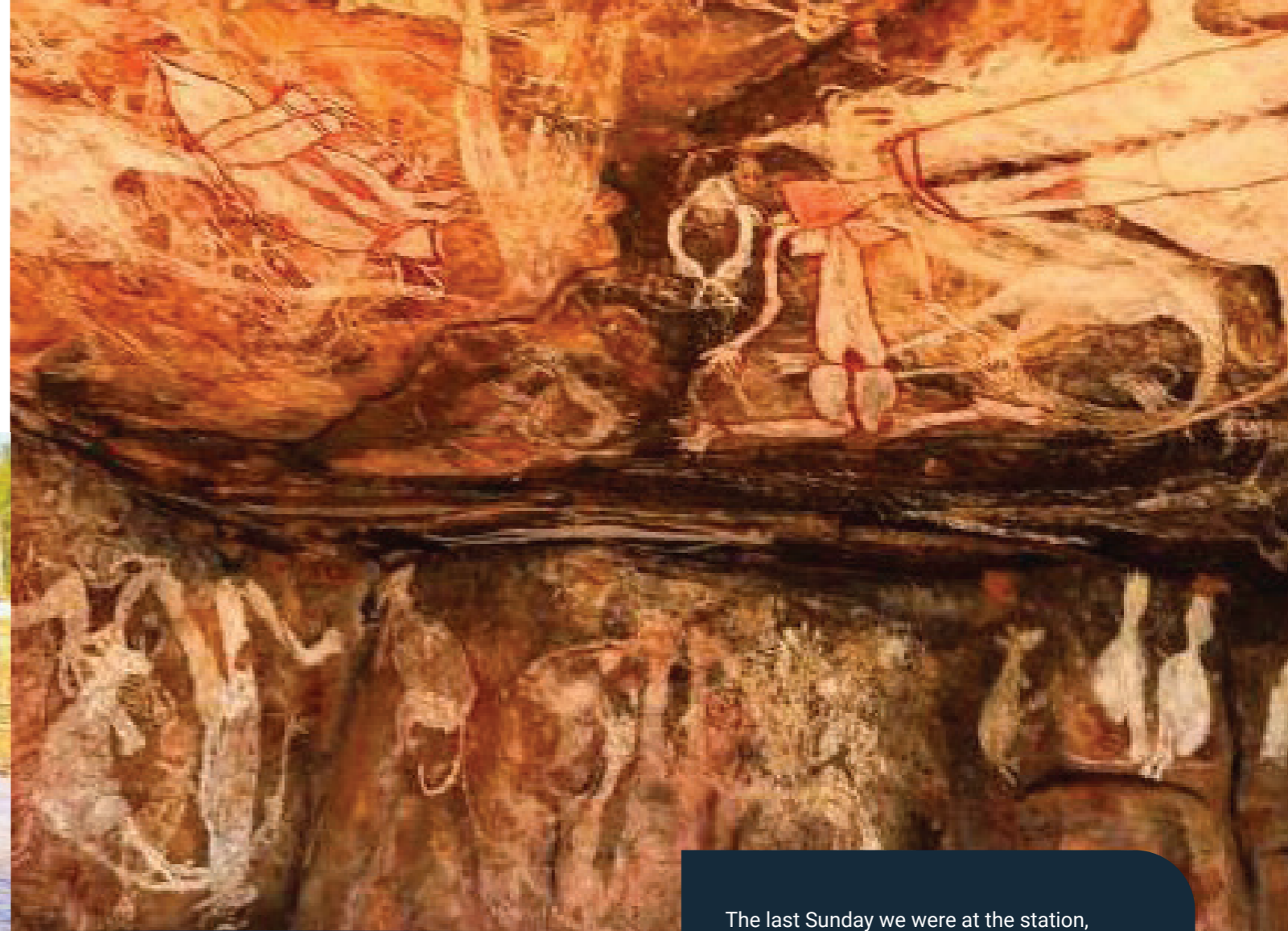
# Exploring The Outback



## UNEXPECTED

Dave gave us a map of the property and we were allowed to explore as much as we liked, so over the next few days we explored the other side of the station, where there were many beautiful sand bottom flowing creeks we enjoyed as a family. The number of animals we spotted while exploring were incredible, we saw kangaroo's, cattle with their calf's, bulls, donkeys, wild buffalo, and wild bulls.

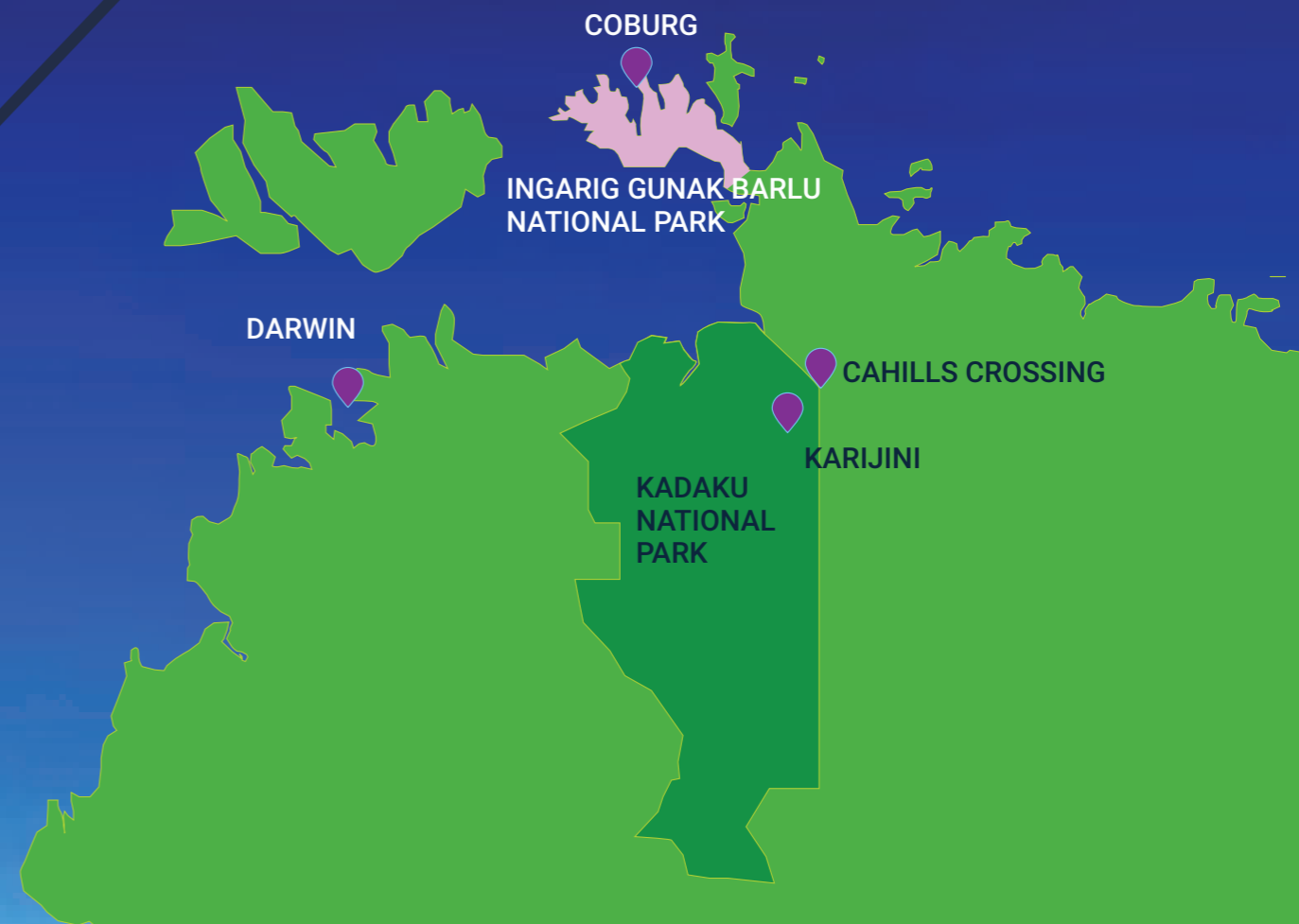
Dave and Clarissa went above and beyond to show us the station and the hidden secrets of it, they picked us up in a safari looking vehicle for a drive to look at Aboriginal rock art on the station. I felt like a little kid exploring the cliff faces looking at the paintings and thinking how the aboriginal people had lived in this diverse landscape during the different seasons.



The last Sunday we were at the station, Phoebe and a couple of the station hands asked us if we wanted to go to their swimming hole with them. This was a great way to spend a Sunday we took some beers down and relaxed by the creek and jumped off the rocks. The kids had a ball getting the waterlilies out of the creek and creating crowns and bracelets with them.

Everyone on the station made us feel so welcome and made time for our girls with, pats of the four day old puppies, horse rides and quad bike rides. The station workers loved spending time with our kids because they reminded them of their children, nieces and nephews they have back at home, so our stay at the station didn't just benefit us it benefited the station, being so remote they don't get many visitors. So, if you have been thinking about doing something similar, I say give it a go, you will be surprised with what you see and the people you meet. Next time we are driving in these rural areas I will be thinking about the good times we had at the station,

# STRANDED INGARIG GUNAK BARLU NATIONAL PARK



We did a trip up to Cobourg Peninsula, Northern Territory – Garig Gunak Barlu National Park for a week on the beach fishing, and exploring this pristine part of Australia. The white sand beaches and the turquoise colour of the water blew us away, not to mention the amazing wild life that surrounds this area. If you are into adventure and fishing this is the place for you.

The adventure starts on the way to Cobourg, to get there you will need to drive through Kakadu National Park (about 250kms from Darwin) across Cahill's crossing into Arnhem Land through 300 plus kilometres of corrugated dirt road. If you can handle that you are in for a reward. Before starting your adventure to Cobourg, a permit needs to be approved and acquired in Darwin by Park's and Wildlife

Commission Northern Territory a permit for a week cost us \$232.10 this includes camping (dump toilets and hot showers, not that we need hot showers this time of year). Just make sure you have enough fuel, water and food with you to last you the whole time you are there, the last fuel stop before hitting the corrugations is, Jabiru. Apparently in the peak season obtaining a permit can be difficult as they only let a certain number of people in the national park at any one time. Coincidentally the only other campers in the National Park were Complete Campsite Exodus 14 owners, Heather and Steve, who have travelled from Victoria to Cobourg every year for the last 6 years.

On our way along the corrugations only 10 kilometres from camp we noticed the van was leaning over

to one side, we got out to check and discovered we had a punched airbag in the trailer. After doing the number of kilometres and corrugated roads as we have, you are bound to have something go wrong. We crept to camp and set up for the week, Alan the Ranger was very helpful and assisted us with getting in contact with Complete Campsite and organising a new air bag to be flown in to the National Park.

Our part arrived the day it was planned to, thanks to the team at Complete Campsite. Being so remote it's good to know we can rely on Complete Campsite's after sales team to get us out of trouble. After installing the new airbag, the next day we drove back to Jabiru with no worries, ready for the next adventure.

# A typical day at Coburg

## EXQUISITE

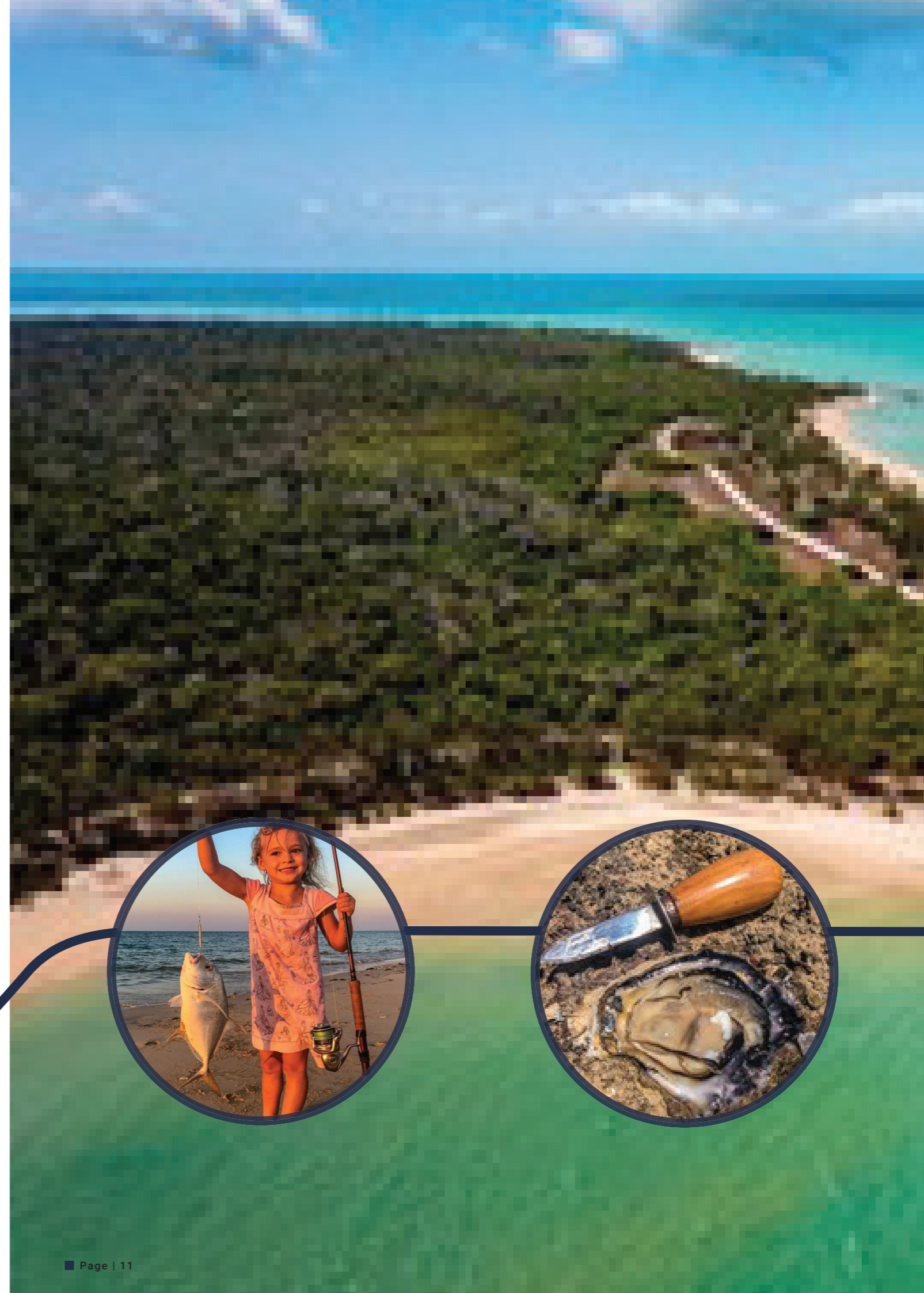
An average day at Cobourg, we would take a drive down the coast track during low tide and check out the turtles and other sea life hanging in the bays. We also would go to the rocky points and search for oysters and crabs Alan say's "if you can't get an oyster there is something wrong, they don't run away from you". We got plenty of oysters, they were massive and tasty. As for crabs, we were not very successful!

During high tide, we would fish off the beach and rocks, we caught Trevally, and Queen fish. For some reason Isaac, thought Trevally wasn't a very good eating fish and threw a few back, before Alan told us it's a great fish to eat. We cooked some up and were disappointed we threw so many back, they were beautiful coated in flour, pepper and salt, and cooked on the BBQ.

Sunsets on the beach in the afternoon were spectacular but the best part of the day was driving over the croc crossing of a morning

and see how big the croc slides are, coming out of the creek to the beach from the night before. We first thought the sign was a joke until we saw the crocodile tracks and the crocodiles. Speaking of animals in the night, there were many fresh tracks and signs of Banteng around our camp and on the road each morning, but we never saw one.

Our part arrived the day it was planned to, thanks to the team at Complete Campsite. Being so remote it's good to know we can rely on Complete Campsite's after sales team to get us out of trouble. After installing the new airbag, the next day we drove back to Jabiru with no worries, ready for the next adventure.



# BRAVING THE OLD TELEGRAPH TRACK

We completed the whole telegraph track towing the Exodus 16. It became very stressful at times the feeling of achievement and relief once we hit the Development Road was incredible.

We left from Bramwell Station after a night of live music and a monster feed and headed to the beginning of the Tele Track, Palm Creek. The year before took us an hour a vehicle to get out of this creek. This year we found what some people call the chicken track, we still had to track build to make sure the van would not hit the embankment on the side of the track and winch out. Once we got up there I was feeling pretty confident we will get through the Tele Track no worries.

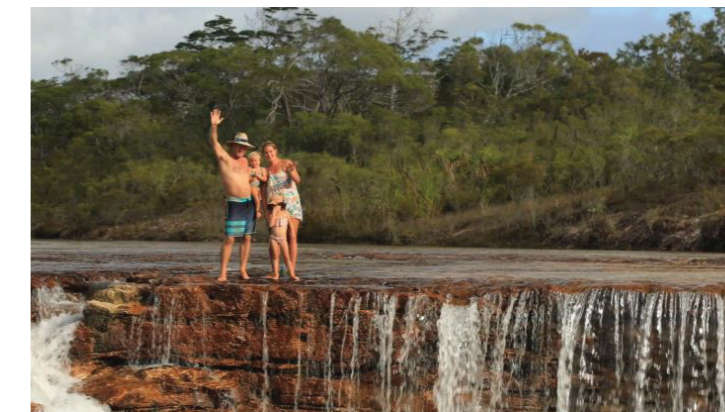
A couple of creeks in and we meet some young guys that had broken down, they did a little bush mechanics and they were off again. Moments later another vehicle comes through the creek and rolls his trailer. After seeing that my confidence diminished, it was a reminder how easy it is for something to go wrong.

We pulled up camp at Dulhunty River the first night. Beers and wine by the clear, flowing river was a great way to finish up an exciting day.

The next day, the track out of Gunshot looked difficult to get out, the shovel and winch would be needed again, but our biggest worry was that tree over hanging the creek looked a little low. We had to do a couple of airbag adjustments on the trailer and dig a little hole to get under the tree. The atmosphere was so good as everyone pitched in to lend a hand and took us at least half hour to get through the track. We were exhausted by the end of it so we set up camp. We were glad we did because the creek there is beautiful to swim in

Although Gunshot was amazing we packed up ventured off to my favourite part of the Tele track, Sam's Creek. The water in Sam creek is crystal clear, with an amazing little waterfall. We set up camp for a couple of nights so we could explore Elliot, Twin Falls and Fruit Bat Falls, we were so lucky to have Fruit Bat Falls all to ourselves.

The last day was going to be the toughest day on the track, we went through some difficult creek crossing that day - Cockatoo Creek, Mistake Creek and Cannibal Creek.



*The Old Telegraph Track (OTT) with its deep creek crossings and steep and slippery river banks.*

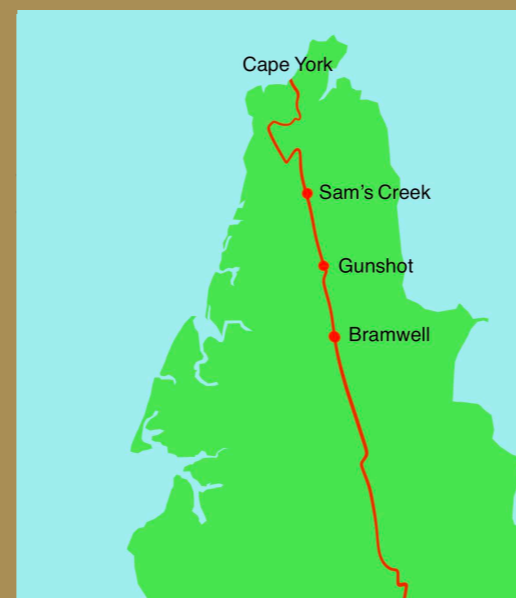
*The OTT follows the original telegraph line through the Peninsula, and for much of the Cape's history was the only available route. The Overland Telegraph Line was once the only method of communication for those living on the Cape York Peninsula.*

*The Telegraph operated from 1885 until 1962 with just two wires sending morse code via repeater stations, old homesteads, along the way.*

*The line was upgraded to radio in WW2 and was still used for telephone cable until 1987 when it was finally dismantled.*

*The OTT is a rough road and accessible only during the dry season. The river and creek crossings provide most of the challenge throughout the Cape.*

## EXTREME



# SHARE YOUR STORIES

Whether you are on the road for a weekend, weeks, or months please tell us how you (and your Exodus) are travelling. You can post on the [Complete Campsite Owners Australia Group](#). You can email some words and images to: [David@bwcy.com.au](mailto:David@bwcy.com.au)

Thank you to Isaac and Bonnie Garrard for sharing their inspiring stories, memories and magnificent photographs. If you want to know more about Isaac and Bonnie Garrard's travels around Australia, you can visit:

Facebook: [CruisenaroundAus](#)

Instagram: [@cruisen\\_around\\_aus](#)

**David, Scott, Colin and the Exodus Off Road and RVR team.**

