



ethical adventures 2021

... to inspire

Ethical Adventures - ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

What a year. Like everyone else we have been muddling through the world of COVID and our new reality in both our personal and professional lives. The highs and lows we know that we have had are the new norm. The lows we all know about. These are the cancellations, closures, sad stories and death rates here and around the world. With such widespread negativity there are going to be times when we feel down and struggle to see light ahead. We certainly have had those moments, sometimes prolonged. However into that darkness shines friends, family and professional relationships that ground us in a sense of right and the promise of a better future or at least a shared sense of struggle which reminds us that we are not alone and therefore have help in the struggle ahead. For us we have also had the highs of the absolute abundance of great people we have had the opportunity to share our time with on our tours and experience over the past 12 months. In making this ebook we were able to relive some of the fun times and quiet conversations with many of you and overwhelmingly these have provided a positive energy force which now powers our thoughts and actions for the future ahead.

So, right here and now we wish to say thank you to all the brave, considerate and patient people who graced us with your presence. We hope that as you e-thumb your way through this book you get some of those positive vibes back and are reminded that the world is still beautiful and life can still be fun and rewarding.

This is our present to you.
We wish you all the best in the times ahead and hope to cross paths

with you all again sometime.

Cheers and warmest regards,

Tracey, Isabella, Spencer & Rob







Nourlangie Rock, Kakadu



Sunset on Nourlangie
Kakadu National Park



Nourlangie Rock - In the central north area of Kakadu about 40 minutes south of Jabiru can be found Nourlangie Rock. For cultural accuracy Nourlangie actually comprises two areas with distinct names. Firstly there is the upper section known as Burrungui and then there is the lower level known as Anbangbang. The name Nourlangie came about after a misunderstanding between local aboriginal people and those tasked with naming the sites back in the day. Apparently the name Nourlangie should have been applied to the nearby sloping rock formation now called Nawurlanja. Regardless the name has stuck ! The site became one of the more popular to be visited by early tourist and westerners after both scientific expeditions into the region in the 1940's and filming of Sir David Attenbrourough's BBC documentary in the 1962 'Quest under Capricorn'. Sadly this increased notoriety resulted in some theft of items from various sites as well as damage to the some areas. During this period was also the most recent rock art paintings undertaken by a traditional custodiam of the area. Sadly today all the traditional custodians of the Nourlangie Rock have passed as so responsibility falls on neighboring clans of the same nation.



Rock art of Nourlangie
Kakadu National Park

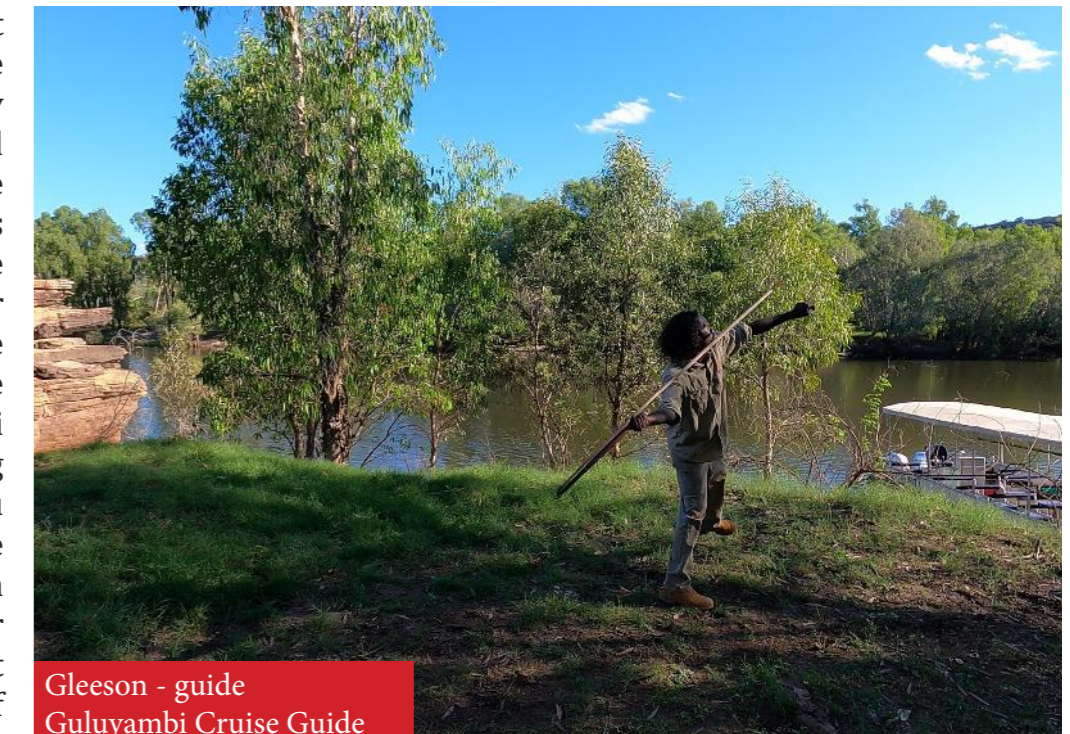
Guluyambi Cruise, Kakadu



Gleeson - guide
Guluyambi Cruise Guide



Guluyambi Cruise, Kakadu - Departing from the upstream boat ramp near Cahills Crossing the Guluyambi Cruise is the best cultural experience in the Kakadu. The guides hail from nearby communities and outstations with many being part of the traditional custodian clans across the region. For almost 2 hours you will cruise the notorious East Alligator River learning much about life in this wild part of Australia as well as about your guide on the day. The experience includes demonstrations in spear throwing and other useful plants and materials as well as general discussion about the area and all that live in it. A feature of the trip is a short walk on the Arnhem Land side of the East Alligator River. From the Guluyambi Cruise you will step ashore into Arnhem briefly and wander along the sandy banks of the East Alligator River. During the walk you will get the chance to admire the ancient features carved into the rock surfaces and cliffs as well as some local examples of Western Arnhem Art. There is plenty to look for. Also take time to look for crocodiles. The NT is home to the biggest population of wild salt water crocodiles in the world. As the largest and most aggressive of the extended crocodile family.



Gleeson - guide
Guluyambi Cruise Guide



Arhem Land
Sadstone formations

Estuarine Crocodiles
East Alligator River



Guides on the cruise also produce paintings, craft and tools such as spears, fire sticks. Working under the shade of paperbark trees next to the river they are here for most of the year producing and selling them direct to guests. Some of these guides also moonlight as movie stars !

Cruises usually depart at 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm from May to October. Typically they end before the wet season (Nov /Dec) begins and resume in February as a combination tour (Magela Creek cruise and Ubirr Rock visit).

This activity is included in our 'Colours of Kakadu- 2 day tour and the 'Flood Country' - 1 Day trip to Northern Kakadu. The East Alligator



Guides & Craft
Kakadu National Park

Arnhem Land



Cahills Crossing
Kakadu / Arnhem Land

Arnhem Land Tours
Top End Day Tours



Arnhem Land - Declared an aboriginal reserve in 1931 it covers around 100,000 km² and extends from the Western Gulf coast (in the east) to the East Alligator River in the west and south for 500 to 600 km. Being so vast it incorporates a wide diversity of ecosystems and biodiversity as well as a plethora of rock art sights, languages and cultural identities. Operating tours and organising visits to Arnhem is subject to special permits and regulations. These have become more difficult in the age of COVID and the perceived increased susceptibility of indigenous people to the virus. In this space most of 2020 and 2021 have been closed to touring with some companies closing up and potentially moving operations away. Historically ethical adventures has worked closely with 'Top End Day Tours' who offer day tours and charters into Arnhem Land (when it is open). A long running and passionate provider of experiences in the region we look forward to continuing that relationship into the future.

Check out www.topenddaytours.com.au



Arnhem Land Art Site
Top End Day Tours

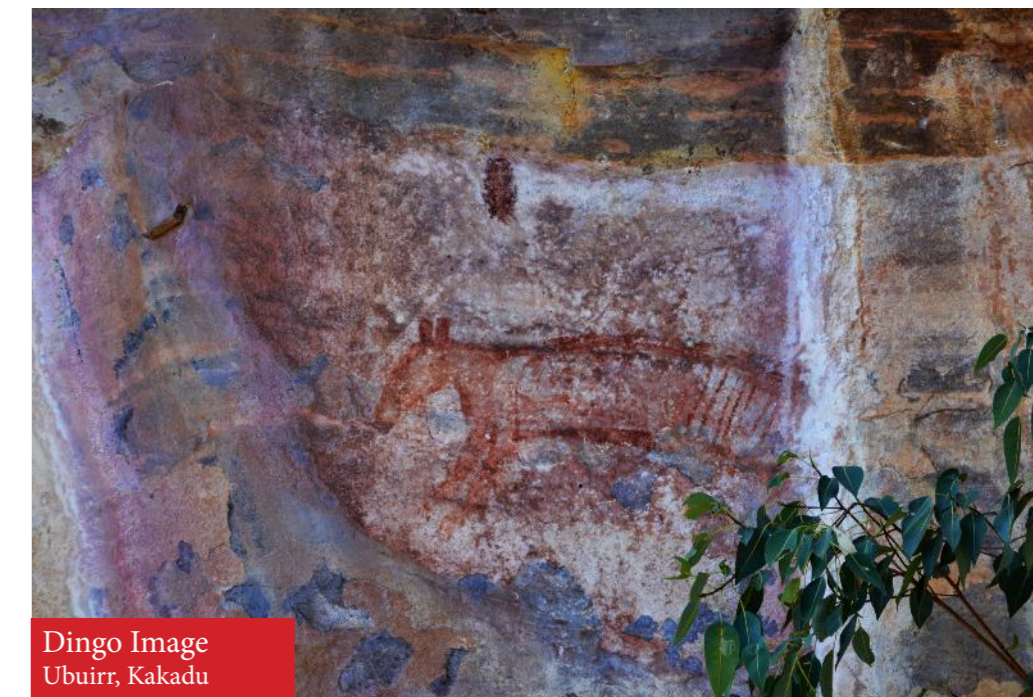
Ubirr, Kakadu



Sandstone Outliers
Ubirr, Kakadu



Ubirr is an ancient sandstone outlier found in the northern section of Kakadu about 35 minutes from Jabiru. It is the physical remnants of the erosional processes which have played out in the region over the last 500 million years. In more modern times it has been along term site of use by generations of indigenous people over the ages and now displays significant examples of Western Arnhem art including the x-ray and naturalistic, styles as well as Mountford figures and more. Dating of mud wasp nests which overly the art in the complex reveal that some of the art is indeed older than 16,000 years. The traditional custodians of the Ubirr area are the Gagadju people with the late Big Bill Neidje being instrumental in opening the area to non aboriginal people and helping to bring his culture to all. It is recommended that people who visit the area take the time to read 'Kakadu Man' which is about big Bill prior to arriving. To wander the galleries will take a minimum of 30 minutes or as much as a lifetime. Regardless it is a perfect spot to dwell and ponder things bigger than oneself. Nadab lookout is the place for this.



Dingo Image
Ubirr, Kakadu

Yellow Waters Cruise, Kakadu



Sunrise Cruise
Cooinda, Kakadu



Yellow Waters Cruise, Kakadu -Yellow Waters is the non aboriginal name given to a billabong in the central part of Kakadu due to the tepid colour which sometimes can be seen in the water. Tannins from vegetation are the cause of this colouration. Yellow Waters is connected to the South Alligator River and a transition pathway for rainfall which has fallen high up in the Arnhem Escarpment 150 kms away. Known by the aboriginal name of Ngurrungurrudjba it is a focal point for wildlife, fishermen, nature lovers and people seeking a quiet spot. It is also an area of high value to the local aboriginal people as well with many food resources being able to be sourced from there. Visitors also can bring their own boats and try their luck at catching the elusive Barramundi or a spot of wildlife viewing as well. For organised cruises, these run throughout the year and feature both sunrise and sunset options as well as regular departures throughout the day. These are offered by Kakadu Tourism from nearby Cooinda Lodge. A shuttle service runs between the lodge and the boats however guests can also make their own way to the boats. During high water levels the cruises begin from nearby Home Billabong



Misty Morning
'Colours of Kakadu'

Warradjan Culture Centre, Kakadu



Bush Tucker
Magpie Geese



Warradjan Culture Centre is located 2 km from Coinda Lodge in central Kakadu. Warradjan is actually the name of the Pig Nosed Turtle which can be found in the region. The building was built to resemble this elusive animal also. Included in the centre are many stories from local traditional custodians, cultural information and also historically relevant points of interest such as the Buffalo and Cattle industry, Often during the dry season (May to September) there will be local aboriginal woman doing fibre work demonstrations with options for a hands on go for visitors also. On occasion there may also be some food preparation activities being undertaken such as plucking Magpie Goose and getting it ready for the camp fire. It needs to be remembered that traditional fibre work was women's work and as such men typically did not undertake that role. This however does not apply to not aboriginal male visitors and is one of my favorite activities to do when it is available.



Fibre demonstration
and participation

Kakadu Air Scenic Flights, Kakadu



South Alligator Flood Plain
by Kakadu Air



Image supplied by Kakadu Air

Kakadu Air Scenic Flights - Kakadu Air are 1 of 2 aviation touring businesses in Kakadu. They provide services from Cooina and Jabiru throughout the year and specialize in light wing aircraft. Flight times typically vary from 30 to 60 minutes depending on the season and weather aspects. During the dry season 30 minutes is the preferred flight which covers large areas of the escarpment and out onto the floodplains that cover most of the coastal and riverine areas. During the Wet Season it is definitely worth doing the 60 minute flight that takes in the magnificent waterfalls of the central region of Kakadu. These are Twin Falls and Jim Jim Falls. Iconic, thundering, raging torrents of water rushing down of the ancient escarpment. Plane capacities vary from 3 to 12 depending on craft used. Hint: take a frozen bottle of water with you to act as both a drink and a cooling device.



Twin Falls
By Kakadu Air

Image supplied by Kakadu Air

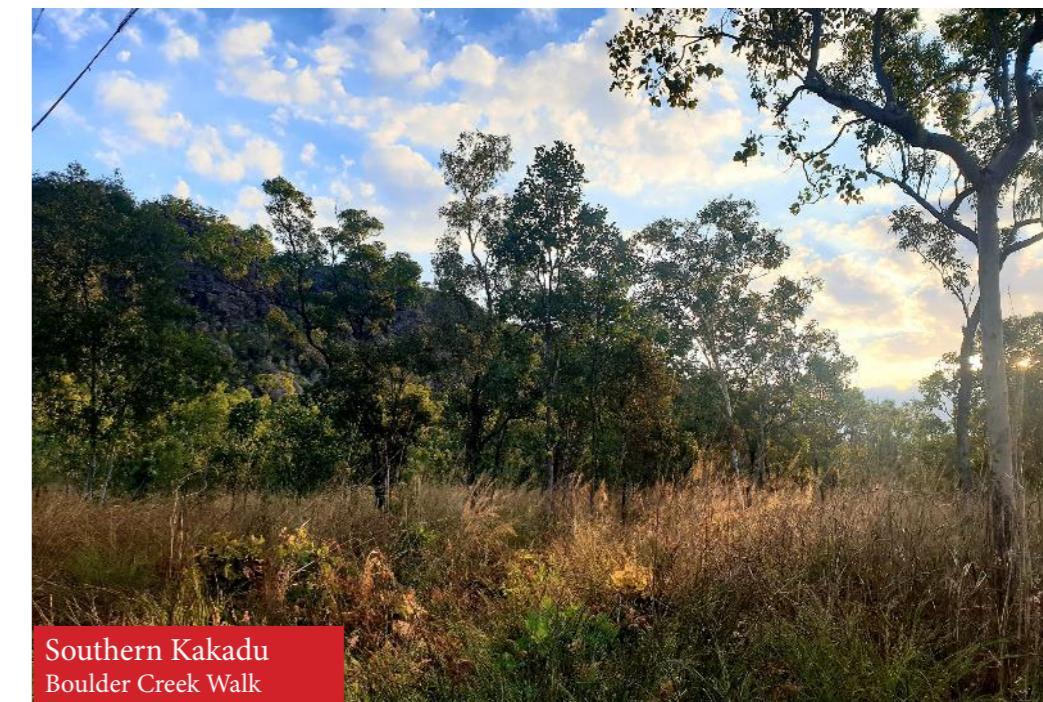
Yurmikmik Walks, Kakadu



Southern Kakadu
Yurmikmik Walk



Yurmikmik Walks - Found in the southern part of Kakadu the Yurmmikmik Walks are a collection of walks varying in length and difficulty from a few kilometres to almost 7.5 km round trip. These include the Yurmikmik Lookout Walk, Boulder Creek Walk and Motor Car Falls Walk. These are particularly good to do in the wetter part of the year as they offer swimming opportunities to the adventurous. Sadly there is some history of flash flooding and fatalities associated with that so care and vigilance needs to be taken. Throughout these walks there is ample time to view the magnificent geology of the region which features escarpment as well as outliers and get those panoramic views that inspire. Late afternoon is also a special time to be out there as the sinking sun brings our the ochre hues of the sandstone. Keep an eye out for abundant bird-life in the valleys, woodlands, monsoon forest pockets and more and be sure to sit for a moment and ponder it all.



Southern Kakadu
Boulder Creek Walk

Wangi Falls, Litchfield National Park



Wangi Falls
View from platform



Wangi Falls - Wangi Falls is for many the best and easiest waterfall to access and enjoy in Litchfield Park. Found on the western edge of the Tabletop Range only an 80 minute drive via the back road from Darwin. Features of the site include: A modern café (for the essential latte), Wifi (for the Internet addicts), Toilet block and change rooms FREE gas BBQ's and picnic areas, Hardened path to the waters edge Stairs and railings into the water AND ... A MASSIVE CLIFF FACE WITH TWIN WATERFALLS !!!! A HUGE SWIMMING (about 120 metres across) AND WALLOWING AREA.

There is a moderate hiking option which goes around and over the waterfall area in a loop track which is fringed by a pocket of monsoonal rain forest with abundant wildlife in the canopy. Plenty of Agile Wallabies, birds and fish in the water make this a great place for everyone. Also you might see the occasional fresh water crocodile.



Wangi Falls
Grassed area

Wangi Falls
Dry Season



Wangi Falls
Wet Season



Tabletop Swamp, Litchfield National Park



Swamp Mahogany
Lophostemon lactifluis



Tabletop Swamp - A very much under appreciated gem within Litchfield is Table Top Swamp. Serene views through paperbarks with the sounds of woodland birds in the tree canopy adding the sound track to the zen like experience of sitting quietly, patiently by the waters edge. Being an isolated water hole at the top of the Tabletop Plateau there is zero chance of crocodiles and also tends to be low on the mosquito list of places to hang out as well. The wetland periodically dries up which seems to be dependent on whether there is rainfall in September or not or if the wet season has been particularly meagre in water offerings. Surrounding the wetland are concentric circles of vegetation communities: Open woodland, iron woods / syzgiums, palms, swamp mahoganies/ iron woods/paperbarks, paperbarks, water plants. These various assemblages offer diversity for the animal life that abounds here. Besides being a magnificent place to relax, eat lunch or enjoy a snack it also is essential for recharging the ground water that ultimately flows over Wangi Falls. Without the swamp Wangi Falls would be in jeopardy late dry season.

Reeded water level
Tabletop Swamp



Spangled Drongo
above wetland



Option lunch spot
Feb to April



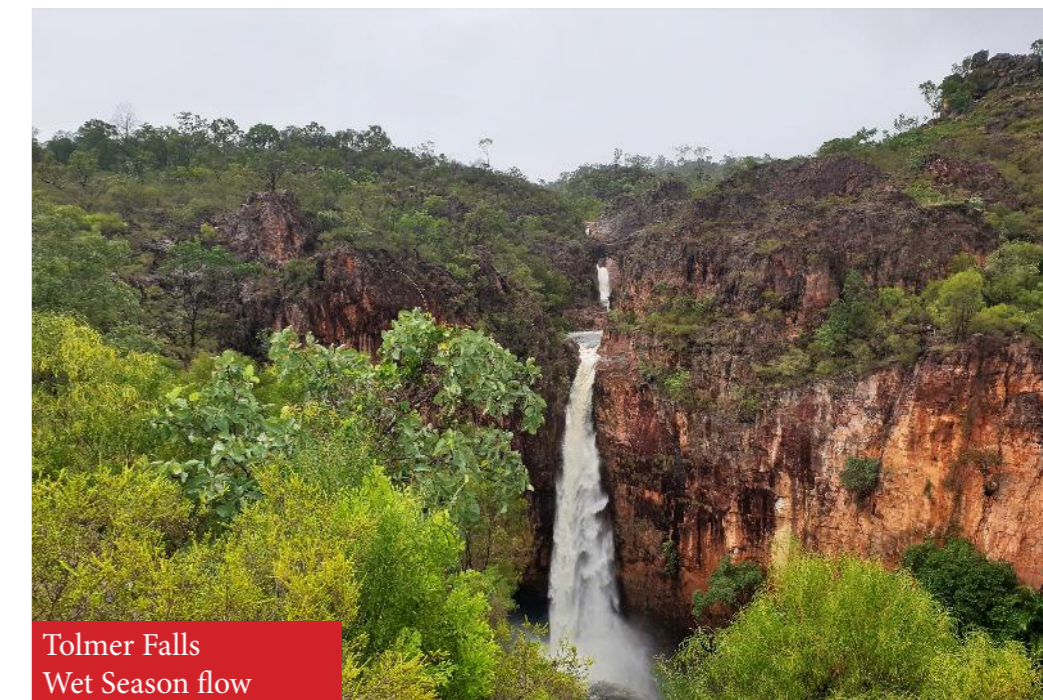
Tolmer Falls, Litchfield National Park



Tolmer Falls
Looking South



Tolmer Falls - At around 100 metres above the surrounding plains Tolmer Falls is the tallest waterfall in the park. Fed by a small catchment of only around 4km long it is the one to respond quickly to large storm events and also quick to return to base level flows. Looking towards the falls one can see the ancient archway that spans the upper section of the gorge area which is the remnant of what was once the bedrock of the creek itself. 100's of millions of years have sculptured the predominately quartzite / sandstone rock into the spectacular vision we see today. Looking to the right and in to the distance gives the sense of what the 'outback' is all about. Large spaces of wildness and a sense of adventure and possibly hardship for those who think to venture into its heart. Multiple creeks, hills, gullies and environments separate you from the edge of the world but for those up to the challenge you would find yourself near the township of Daly River if you managed to trek the 60 km or so to the landmark township. The best time to attempt that ... well, that would depend on your skill set :) Good luck



Tolmer Falls
Wet Season flow

Tolmer Falls
Dry Season Flow



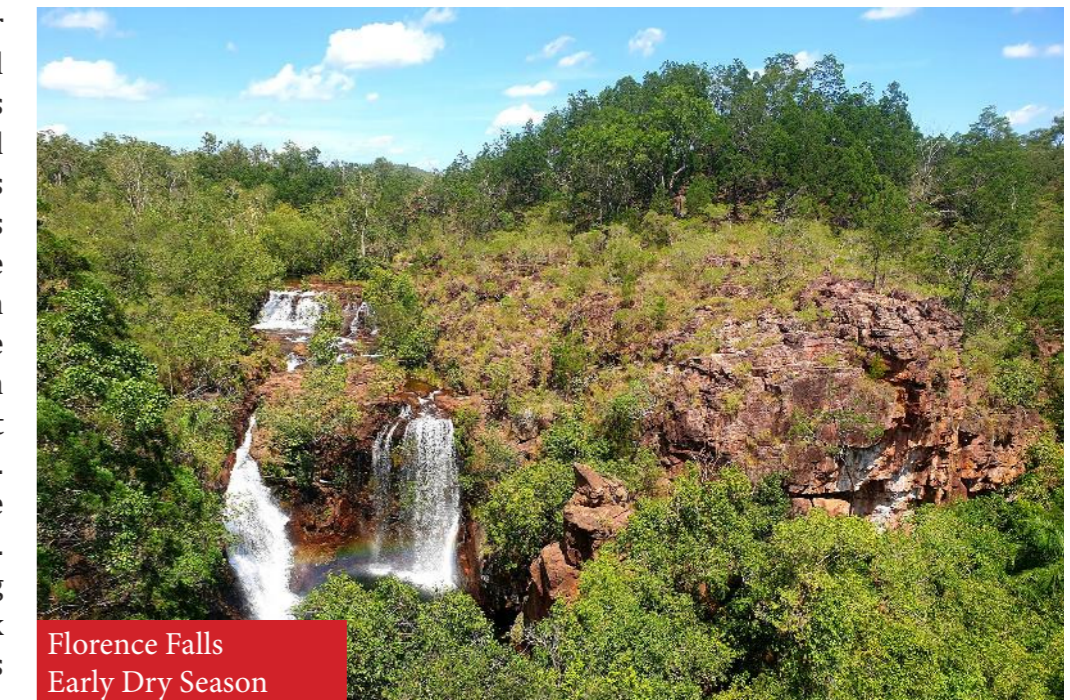
Florence Falls, Litchfield National Park



Florence Falls
Swimming



FLORENCE FALLS - Open all year with only minor closures after major rainfall events this is a cornerstone of the Litchfield swim scene. At around 16 metres in height it is a quaint, personal waterfall. The swim area is about 40 metres across to the waterfall itself. Surrounded by wonderful boulders and tress it is great for those times of the year when visitation is not going to love it death. Early dry season and wet season are the times for this. Under the water there is also plenty to appreciate with multiple species of fish including Sooty Grunter, Spotted Gudgeon, Ell Tailed Catfish and more wee ones that don't mind cleaning skin of shins and feet !! N the middle area of the pond there are a number of submerged boulders which are ideal for sitting on and just relaxing and looking at the waterfall it self. To find these and also to see the fish one should bring some goggles. This makes all the difference. For the good swimmers there is also the option to get up behind the right had waterfall and stand on small ledges. These allow the chance to get a waterfall massage ... to die for. Departing Florence Falls is best done via the Shady Creek Walk. A 1 km paved trek which takes in some great monsoonal forest s well as open woodlands before landing back at your starting point above the falls.



Florence Falls
Early Dry Season

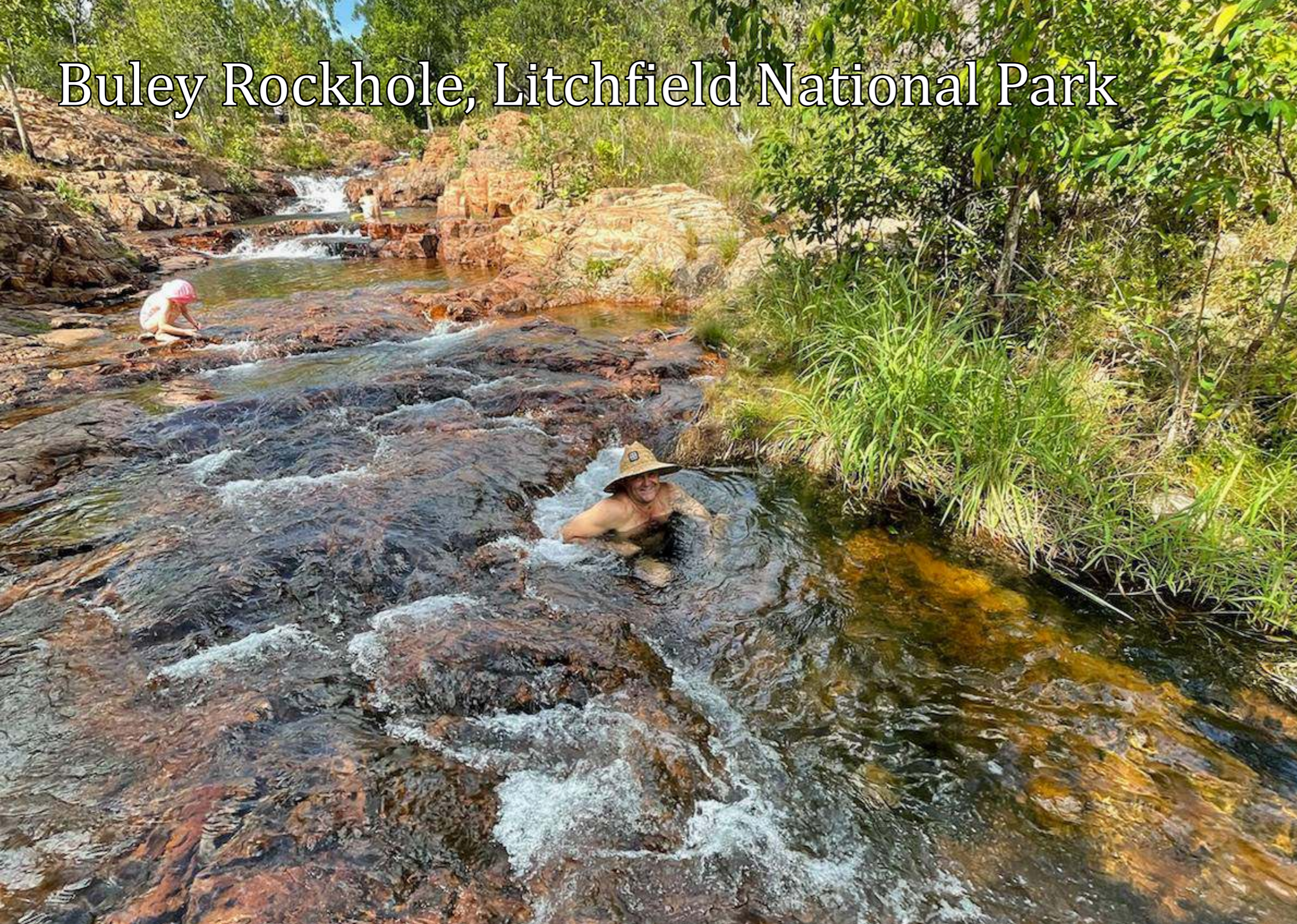
Florence Falls
Sitting in front of the falls



Florence Falls
Wet Season Flow



Buley Rockhole, Litchfield National Park



Buley Rockhole
Top Level of Buley



Buley Rockhole - Named after Norman Buley who in 1920 lead a Government prospecting party through the area. Found on the eastern side of Litchfield 1.7 km upstream of Florence Falls it is the closest swimming hole in the park form Darwin coming in from Batchelor. Buley Rockhole is actually a short series of rockholes connected by small rapids. Seasonal changes to the hydrological regime of the area has meant that the water holes themselves are constantly undergoing change with grinding by pebbles and rocks continuing the process of deepening the rock holes. Also, in 2011 a large flow event scoured the vegetation and soil from the upper most area of the series leaving behind bare stone. This makes it a perfect spot to lounge about or just sit under ad shady tree and cool down. This event also resulted in a slight change in water direction depriving the top waterhole of regular flow. Today this upper waterhole is only used during the wet season and early dry when the water is fresh. At the bottom level of Buley is the massage. Lean back and let the worlds worries wash away or relax in the quiet lowest pool.



Buley Rockhole
Top to bottom

Buley Rockhol
Upper Hole



Buley Rockhole
Lowest Pool



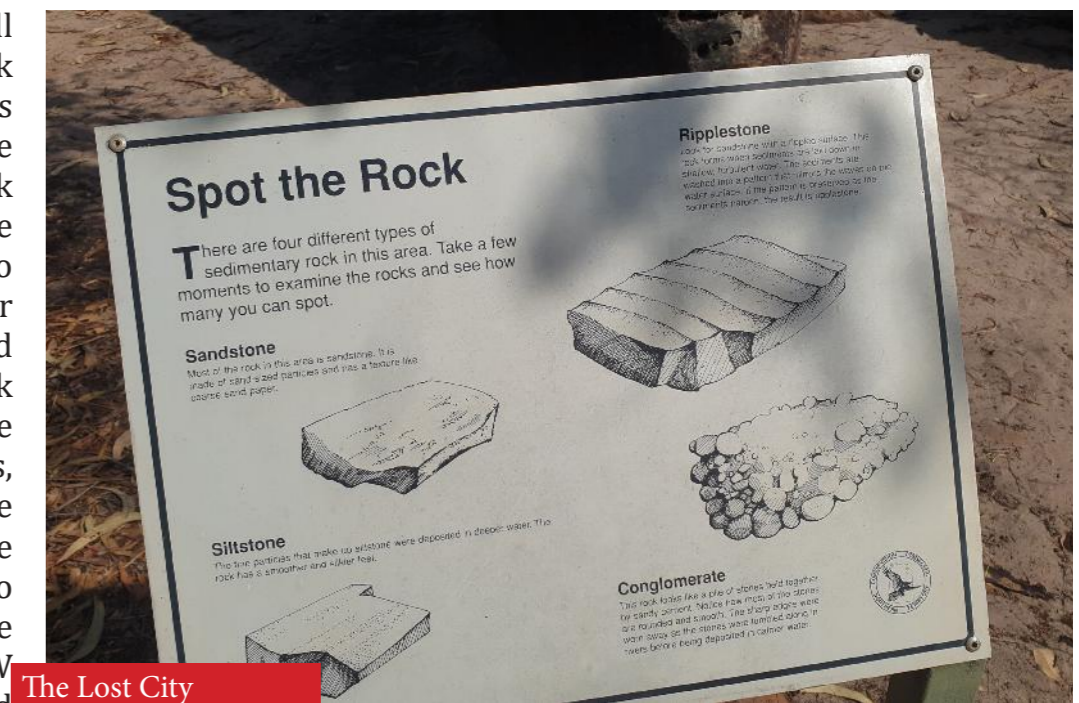
The Lost City, Litchfield National Park



The Lost City
4 WD access road



The Lost City - Between Tolmer Falls and Florence Falls you will find the turn off to the Lost City, accessed by a 10 km gravel track suitable for 4 WD vehicles without a caravan. The Lost City contains excellent examples of the weathering characteristics of the dominate sandstone in the area. Regular line of weakness within the rock structure make it easier for it to be eroded and worn away by the elements along straight lines and planes. This in turn lends itself to the formation of blocks and columns. Put enough of these together and you get a mini city ! There is a nice walking track around and through the site as well as tables to enjoy a picnic or a break. Look carefully at some of the rocks and you may see the history of the formation of Litchfield presented there. Conglomerate sediments, ripple marks, fine grade mud stone and sandstone all represent the history of not just this site but much of the Top End. One of the nicest moments one can have is to bush walk from Tolmer Falls to the Lost City. Emerging from the trackless grassy woodland into he space where these massive monoliths stand sentinel like is a WOW moment. This is a medium grade hike. Budget for a 10 km round walk.



The Lost City
Rocks of the City

Regular weakness planes in sandstone rocks
Lost City, Litchfield National Park



Sandstone Archway
Lost City



Termites of Litchfield



Sunrise on Termites
Magnetic Termites



Termites of Litchfield - "Architects of the outback", "Top End Cows", "White Ants", "You little bastards" ... are some of the names which Termites have been called. Regardless of what you might think of them they are an incredibly important animal and KEY to the continued balance environmental functioning of most Top End ecosystem. Between the 250 or so different species found in the NT they perform a number of essential services for the environment and humans. Firstly they are the primary decomposer of organic material such as leaf, wood, detritus etc. By breaking this down they then provide nutrients for further plant growth. IN the very poor soils of the Top End this is a major plus. Termites also sacrifice themselves (unwittingly as it is) for the greater good and provide a massive injection of protein into the food web at a time of the year when many creatures are both very hungry and looking to stock up to have a family. For many new kings and queens their reign is over before it begins. Of course there is also the influence on ground water which can not be overstated. With the majority of termites living in the ground, creating holes, tunnels and macropores they effectively increase the porosity of the soil to the point that they have in some places been responsible for up to 30% of the water that goes into the ground water ... pretty important when everything runs on ground water for 7 months in the Top End. Given there are around 250 different species in the NT they are quite a common site but none more so than the Cathedral Termites and the Magnetic Termites.



Termites of Litchfield
Cathedral Termites

Top End Seasons



Top End Seasons
Fire Season - floodplain



Top End Seasons - The weather of the Top End is complex and so to just refer to the Wet Season and the Dry season is a long way from being accurate over the full year ... however as two most influential components of the Top End weather we address them here. Just about everybody focuses on the wet season and the dry season. To be clear the WET SEASON does not mean it is humid all day, then rains and then repeats. It just means that it is the season for heavy rainfall and the occasional cyclone. In fact some of the nicest days for temperature and comfort can be experienced in the wet season. During this period (Dec to April) there is also another added bonus of perhaps being lucky enough to witness a Top End storm which brings with it the spectacular lightening shows. A true bucket list experience. During the dry season (May through September) humidity is low, sunshine is high and rainfall is extremely limited. Great times for getting out and about and doing some off road stuff or adventuring. The dry season is also the burning season where every man and his dog thinks it is a good idea to set fire to the country. Over burning and burning at the wrong time of year is the major cause of biodiversity decline in the Top End. It is also the busy time of the year with most tourist coming during this time.

Top End Seasons
Fire Season - inland



Hiking in Litchfield



Hiking in Litchfield
Infinity pool - February



Hiking, Litchfield National Park - Litchfield offers some of the best options for hiking in the Top End. Only an hour from Darwin by sealed road you will find everything from easy short walks of a few hundred meters right through to trackless multi day adventures. Litchfield is dominated by the Tolmer Range which provides plenty of ravines, gullies and gorges matched up with spectacular views in all directions if you are up for the walk. At present there is a 39 km loop walk on the plateau with associated access walks coming and going from key locations such as Florence Falls, Wangi Falls, Walker Creek, Green Ant Falls and Cascades. By the time you add it all up it is getting closer to 65 km in total. This Tabletop Look Track is closed from about October to May due to the danger of storms, flash floods, heat stress. For the experienced walker however permits can be applied for through National Parks to allow hiking in these periods. In fact some of the best hikes are done in the Wet Season months of Jan, Feb, Mar when there is plenty of grass and swim spots. Another great aspect of hiking here is to be able to do a good solid day hike and then come back to camp for a medical G&T !

Hiking in Litchfield
Tabletop Track



Hiking in Litchfield
Tabletop Track - July



Hiking in Litchfield
Trackless - February



G & T Time
All year

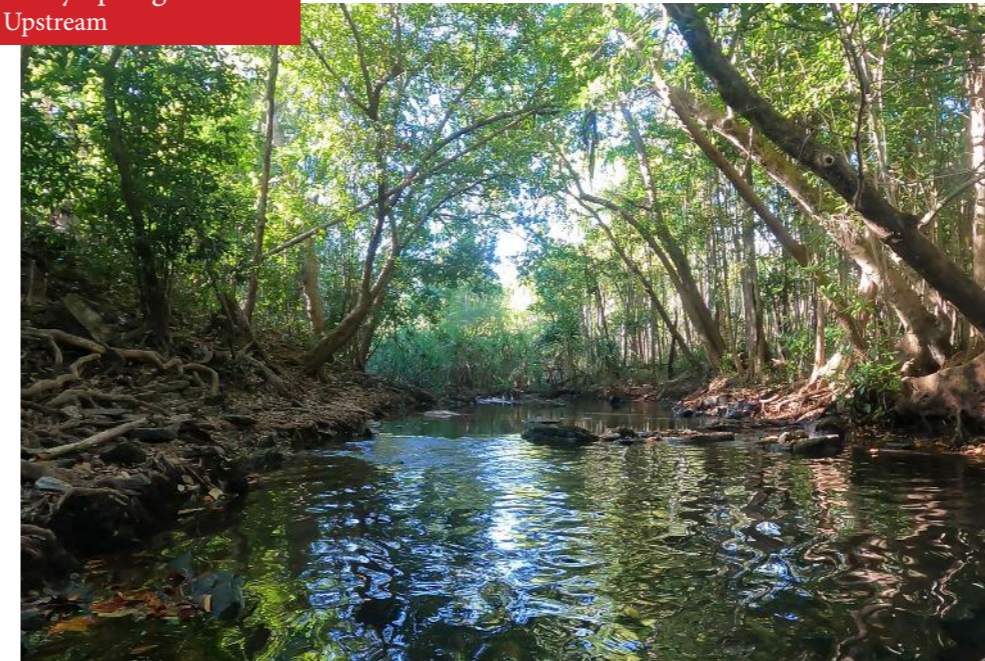


Creek Crossing
February

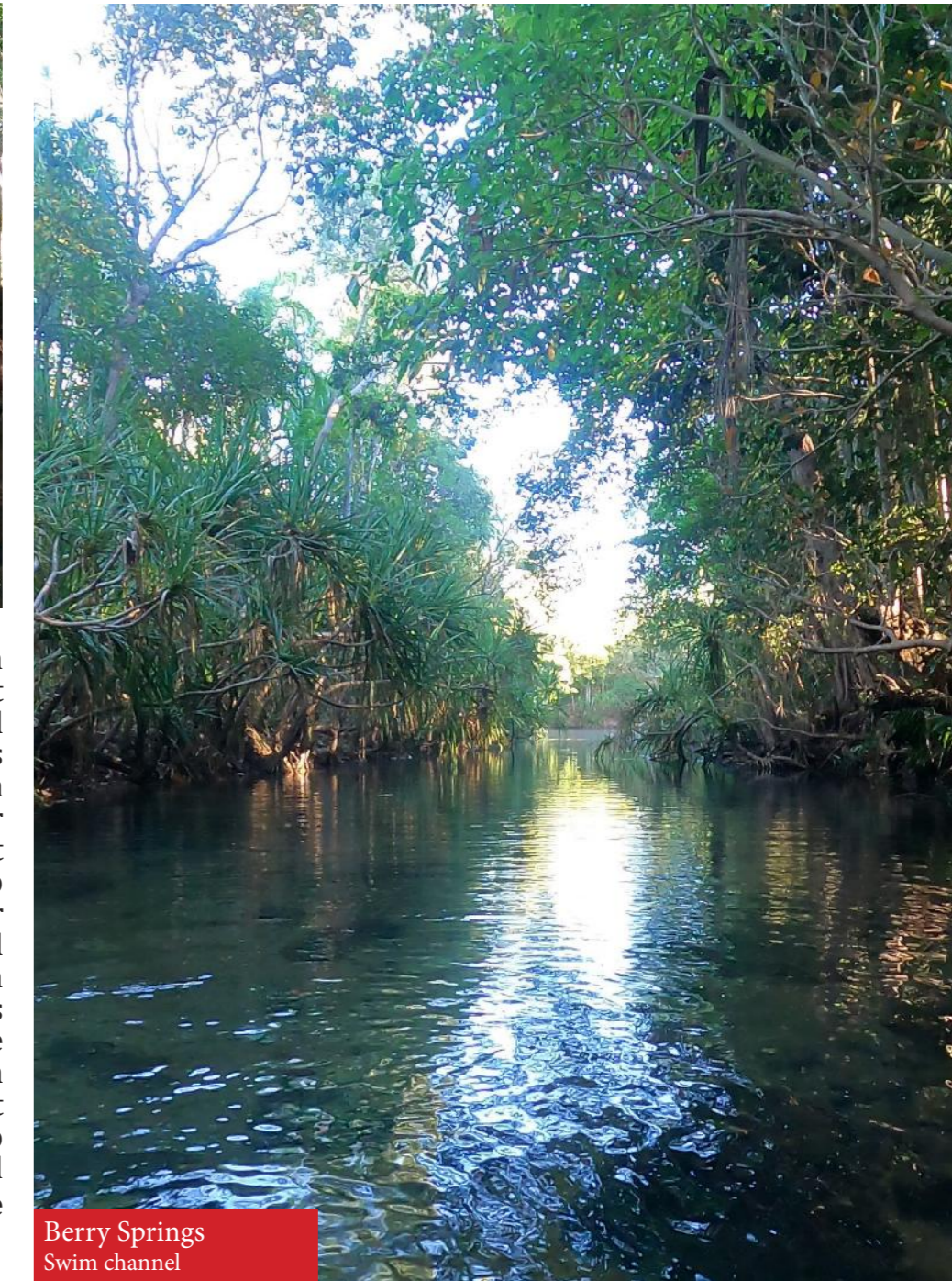
Berry Springs



Berry Springs
Upstream



BERRY SPRINGS - What used to be the best kept secret in plain view is slowly getting out into the broader public mind. And that is ... Berry Springs. A small creek fed by partially geothermal heated springs that feature a shoulder high cascade that provides the ultimate in water massages ! 45 min south of Darwin the area is well and truly accessible for most people on holiday however timing is the key thing. Being so close and awesome means that it does pack out with people for most of the day. If you manage to find the sweet-spot then Berry Springs will stay with you forever for its warm inviting water, aquatic fauna and general ambiance. And did i mention the massage ? One of the things to remember with this natural wonder is the heavy reliance on ground water reserves and there by ground water use and abuse. There have been some moves to stem the rapidly expanding reliance on ground water in the area for new housing development however the commitment to this ebbs and floes with political empathy. For those wanting to come and enjoy it we need to keep the focus on 'sustainable' natural resource management practices and policies around that. Get active and help save places like Berry Springs.



Berry Springs
Swim channel

Fogg Dam



Magpie Geese
Anseranus semipalmata



Fogg Dam - The must see wildlife viewing spot close to Darwin. Known to have at least 239 birds frequent throughout the year it is high on the list of all bird watchers. Crocs, Buffalo and plenty of other wildlife found in numbers there.

MAGPIE GEESE - One of the iconic bird species of the Top End. Once found throughout the wetlands of Australia their strength in numbers is now largely reduced to the floodplains and wetlands of the Top End. Habitat destruction and shooting for food and game has pioneered this contraction in numbers.

COMB CRESTED JACANA - Also known as the JESUS bird for their ability to walk on water. This ecclesiastical ability is divined unto them via their freakishly long toes which allows distribution of their mass across a larger surface area and allows them to walk on lilly pads. This female Jacana is also accepted as a strong womans rights campaigner through her predilection to having a harem of up to 10 males waiting on her beck and call.



Comb Crested Jacana
Irediparra gallinacea

Green Tree Ants
Weaver ants



Image taken by Boon Pin

Arboreal Termitaria
Nasutitermes sp.



ARBOREAL TERMITARIA - Home to arboreal termites this tree mound made from clay, poop and termite spit from the monsoonal ground below is a safe haven for this endemic species. Like all termites though, everything wants to eat them, the sun wants to cook them and humans want to kill them. Sad life ! To make matters worse they also have to share their homes on occasion with the Forest Kingfisher. See below.

FOREST KINGFISHER - Striking blue, black and white birds common around waterways and wetlands. Eating insects, aquatic animals and small land animals these little buggers are quite successful. Mating for life and always looking out for a places to raise the next round of squawkers they have no trouble head butting the arboreal termitarias until a suitable dwelling results. See small hole in mound above.

GREEN TREE ANTS (GTA) - Looking into the trees of the Top End and often you will see small balls of leaves all wrapped together. These are the homes of the weaver ants (GTA). Full of vitamin C and bad manners be prepared for non-lethal attacks if you annoy them !



Forest Kingfisher
Todiramphus macleayii

Whistling Ducks
Dendrocygna arcuata



Sacred Lotus
Nelumbo nucifera



WHISTLING DUCKS - Happy on land just wandering around the Wandering Whistling Duck gets its name from the whistling sound it makes when it flies. Found in large flocks often just sitting next to the water.

SACRED LOTUS - Found throughout the Asia's' and Australia this common and spectacular water plant draws admiration throughout the year. Flowering on mass decorating wetlands and billabongs, providing abundant food and sanctuary for many and generally being awesome. The hydrophobic lily pad surfaces complete the show with superlative images of water droplets refracting the early morning sun rays to all corners of the earth.

GREAT EGRET - The largest of the egret family found marauding the water edges and grassy plains this king of the avian world does tend to take things a bit more casually. Generally spending long periods in stillness and meditation as it waits for the sacrificial fish, insect, frog ... to offer itself up.



Great Egret
Ardea alba

Mertens Water Monitor

Varanus mertensi



Golden Orb Spider

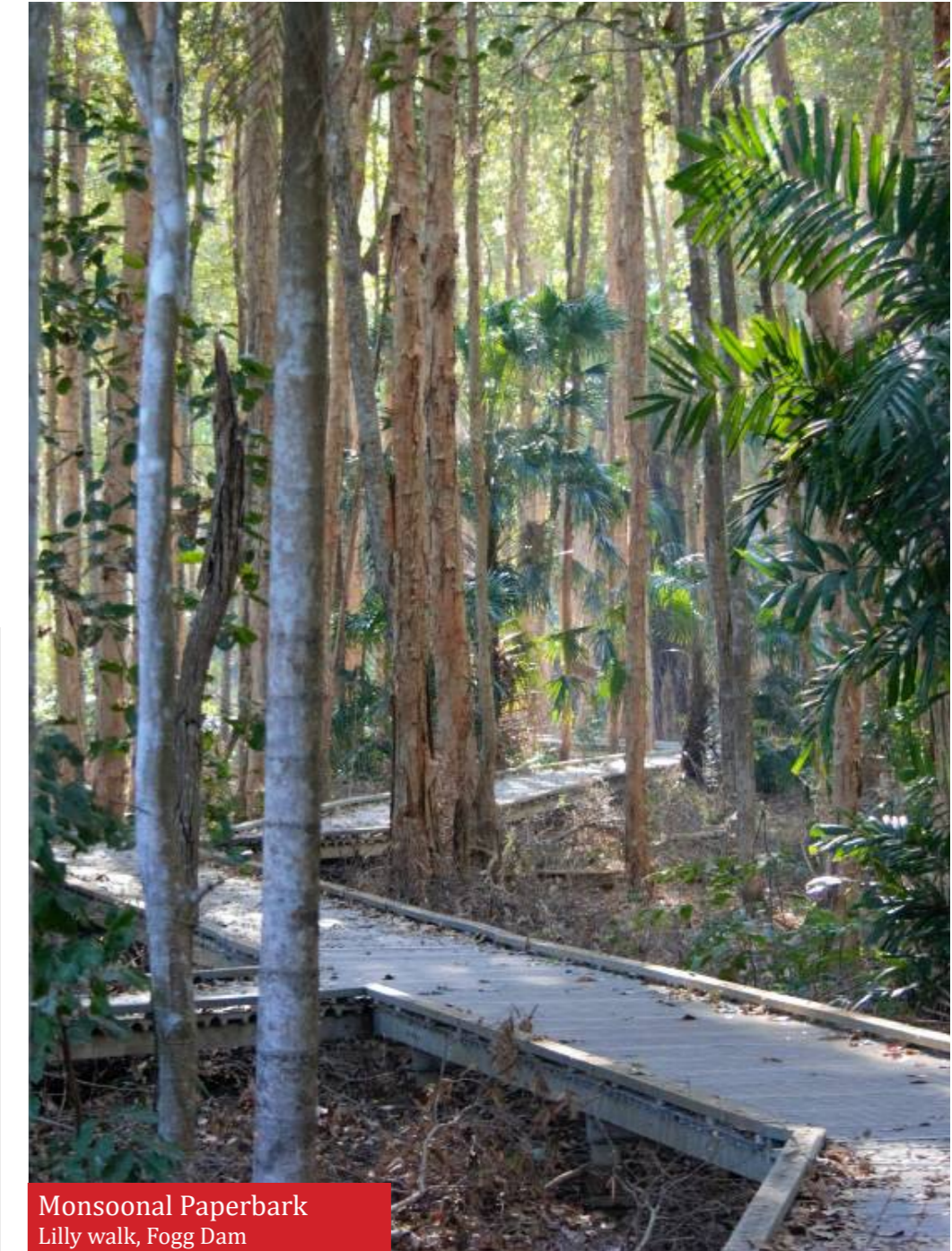
Nephila insignis



Mertens Water Monitor - Can be seen regularly around Buley Rockhole, Florence Falls area as it looks to sun itself or pick up the easy meal from leftover lunches. Usually feeds on frogs, small fish, carion, insects and even digs up eggs of turtles. Harmless except when confused and may run up your leg / tree for safety using its sharp claws in the process. Admire but dont interfere.

GOLDEN ORB SPIDER - Although big and slightly scary looking bohemouth is the gentle female queen of the arachnid universe. Although essentially non-venomous to humans, getting up to about 12 cm total diameter they do pose some natural hurdles for the diminutive male come breeding time (as he is only about 6 mm long). Getting the job done and getting away without being eaten is always going to be a challenge. Keep an eye open for the golden webs they weave in moist forested areas.

MONSOONAL PAPERBARK FOREST - small pockets of monsoonal forest found across the Top End. About 15,000 such pockets with various forms of dominant species. See here is wetland fringing foret around Fogg Dam.



Monsoonal Paperbark
Lilly walk, Fogg Dam

Outback Night Sky
Litchfield National Park



Image taken by Boon Pin

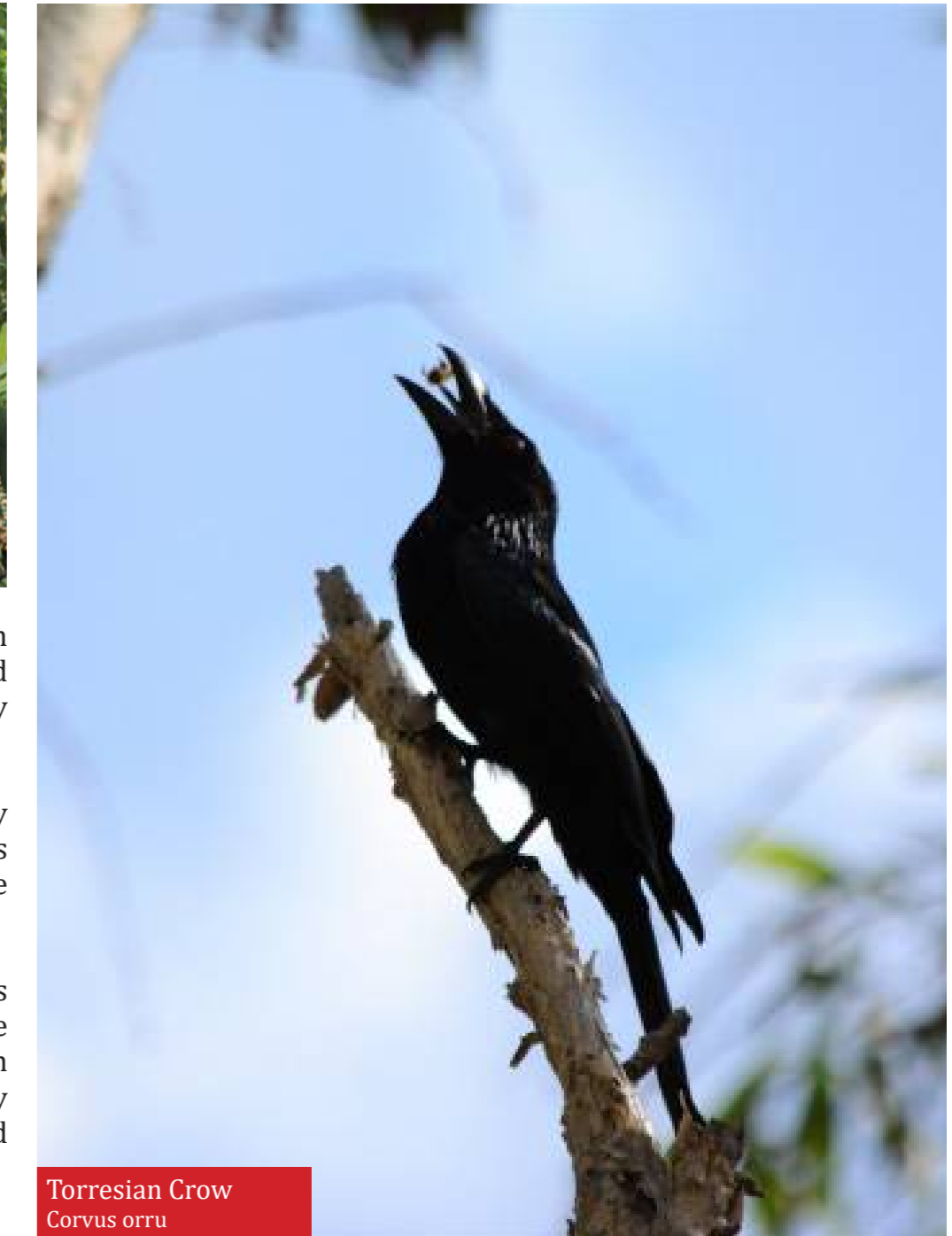
Rainbow in forest
Territory Wildlife Park



OUTBACK NIGHT SKY - The Milky Way in all its glory complete with shooting star as seen during one of our night walks in Litchfield National Park. Perfect place to reconnect with nature and get away from the race.

RAINBOW IN FOREST - Well worth the walk around is the Territory Wildlife Park. Home to many endangered and threatened animals of the Top End this is the perfect family day out or for wildlife enthusiast in general. 45 min south of Darwin. Shuttle it!

TORRESIAN CROW - This glossy black knight of the bird world is found in woodlands, forests, road edges ... just about everywhere where food in its various forms presents itself across northern Australia. Distinguishing feather shuffle on landing gives it identity away otherwise tricky to tell apart from other crows around Australia.



Torresian Crow
Corvus orru

Australasian Darter
Anhinga novaehollandiae
Anhingidae



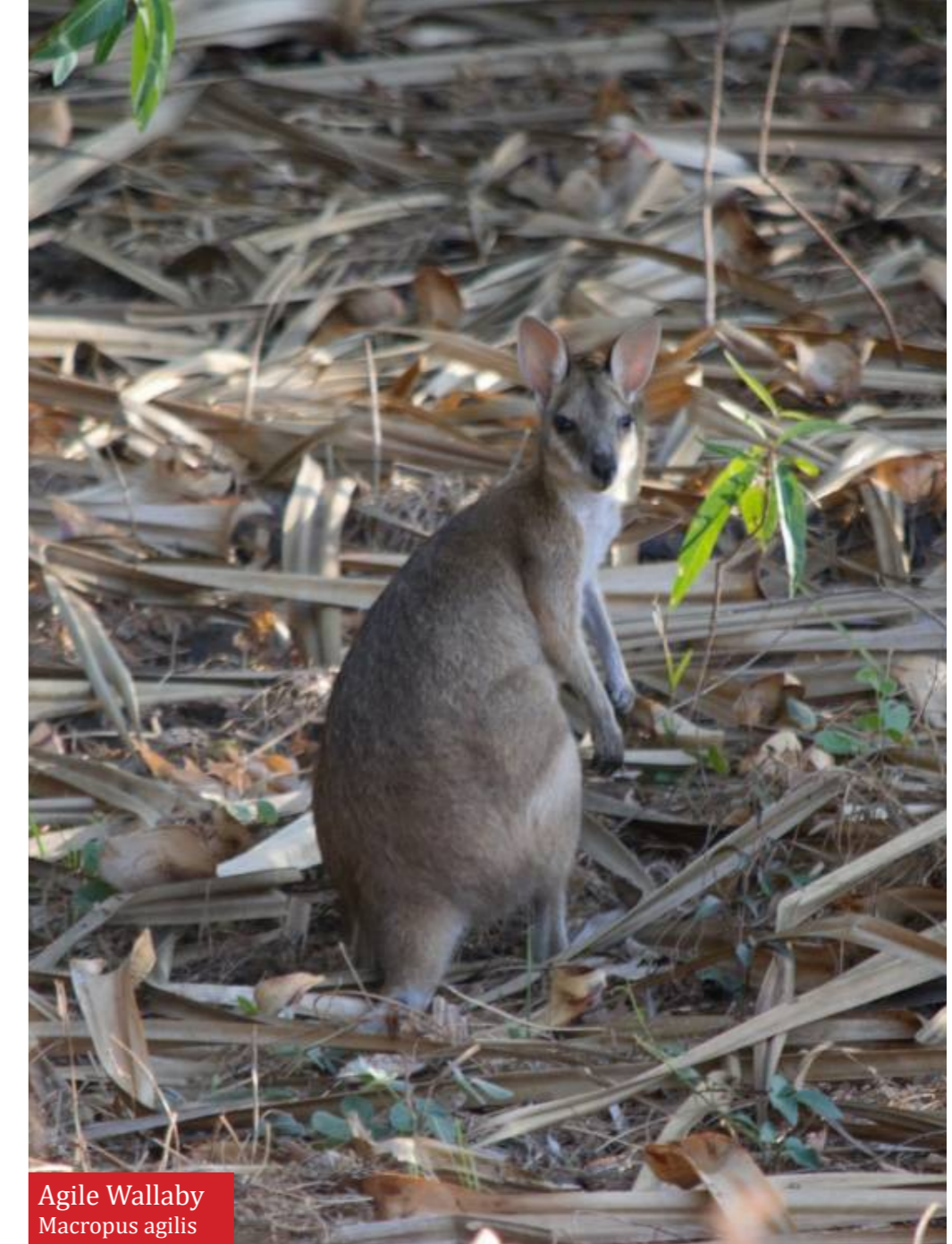
Black Necked Stork
Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus



AUSTRALASIAN DARTER - Here we see a male in profile sitting on his usual spot looking over the scene. Ready to dive under water to spear his prey. Small fish are the order of the day with small fish eaten underwater whilst larger specimens are thrown in the air and eaten backwards so as not to get fins stuck in the throat.

BLACK NECKED STORK - Formerly known as the Jabiru (and still is by those less anal) this majestic bird makes meals of small crocodiles, snakes, fish and all things yummy in the shallow water ways. Nesting high up in the trees it commands a great view of its domain. Unfortunately the removal of tall trees around Australia has reduced their domain greatly.

AGILE WALLABY - Plenty of these little hopping critters getting around the Top End wetland margins and roadways. Being diminutive in stature th males still get to about 150 cm but females and young are measuring in at much less than this. Their skittish personalities mean they are unpredictable near roads so take care. Near Darwin they are common around Corroboree, Fogg Dam and Batchelor.



Agile Wallaby
Macropus agilis



Mangrove Crab
Neosarmatium australiense



SUNRISE OVER PLAINS - The only way to start your NT adventures.

MANGROVE CRAB - Many crustaceans abound across the coastal areas of the Top End. In fact crabs such as these do a lot for recycling organic material and aerating the mud in which they live. Of course most people are interested in mud crabs which can get about to about 30cm across !!!

MANGROVES - Mangroves in the NT account for 35% of Australia's mangroves. The importance of these communities is massive. Besides being a nursery for fish, crabs, birds etc they also stabilize the coastal areas, trap sediments from going out to reefs and killing them and essentially reclaims land. Slow growing and susceptible to climate change we are now seeing 1000's of km of coastline being killed due to sustained elevated water temperature.



Mangroves
East Point Reserve

Ethical Adventures NEWS - ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

NT Environmental Threats

There are unfortunately many environmental and cultural stresses playing out across the Top End in those places that we visit. Of those we are focusing our energies around include:

1. Gas exploration using unconventional methods (FRACKING).
2. Biodiversity decline due to rampant fires throughout the year.

FRACKING

In 2018 Northern Territory Government lifted the moratorium on UNCONVENTIONAL GAS exploration in the NT. This moratorium was in place due to massive public outcry against the fracking industry and an overwhelming desire to keep the NT healthy and look at alternative ways to power society and move towards a sustainable future.

The lifting of the moratorium meant that this year further exploration was conducted and now late in the year actual drilling for production. The land area open for production and exploration is approximately 51% of the entire NT land area.

Public acceptance of the industry is still very low whilst so far some of the 'non negotiable' conditions set by the inquiry to maintain environmental and social integrity are being negotiated and usurped.

Thankfully local action groups such as Frack Free NT and Protect

Country are keeping the pressure on also.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ?

1. Take action by signing a [pledge against Origin Energy](#). Origin are the biggest fracking company targeting the NT, yet they tell folks in other parts of Australia that Origin is all about renewable energy.
2. Like and follow the ['Don't Frack the Territory' Facebook page](#).
3. Continue to voice your desire for renewable energy options in any forums that you are part off.



Ethical Adventures NEWS - ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire management can be an emotive topic. With the recent memory (2019) of fires which rampaged across many parts of Australia's it continues to be a difficult technique to apply effectively both politically and environmentally. There is a perception that the fire management regimes tend to be unduly influenced by environmentalist advocating for no burn or less burns. This in turn has led to large buildup of fuel loads. Sadly this is both inaccurate and dangerous.

It is inaccurate as simply advocating for something does not often result in successful outcomes. There are certainly those that want no fire management however these are in the minority. Most advocate for informed, well managed system of burns suitable for the environment being managed. This being said the common reasons that hinders / stops controlled burning from being undertaken include (but not limited to):

- Lack of resources to safely and effectively conduct such burns
- Suitable weather conditions to allow for safe burns
- Right time of year / season to do the burns
- Adequate knowledge around the ecosystem to be burned

In the NT where much work and effort is directed into controlling the seasonal wild fires there is still acknowledgment that resource managers are losing the battle. Widespread late season fires continue to happen destroying habitat and wildlife and in some local ecosystem change.

As is the case elsewhere in Australia most fires are deliberately or recklessly lit by humans. One of the exacerbating factors for Top End fires is the presence of introduced pasture grasses such as Gamba Grass. The

much higher intensity of fire coupled with its invasiveness have made it a serious issue where it occurs. It is also a highly transportable species such that the potential for large scale impacts and infestations across the whole Top End are serious.

Although the NT Government has pledged to fight the Gamba Grass pest their \$500,000 to be spent across the Top End is paltry when you consider that for Litchfield Park alone they need \$20 million to eradicate it and then ongoing funds to keep it out.

At this point we are committed to maintaining the public profile of the FIRE issue across the Top End in our media and tours. Also meetings with public officials to highlight the importance of the benefits of acting now on this issue is ongoing. We would ask our guests to also apply pressure where they can on their representatives to better fund and manage our natural resources.

Grass Fire
Litchfield National Park



Our Experiences

Day Tours

- [Litchfield](#)
- Kakadu - [Flood Country | East Alligator Rivers Region of Kakadu](#)
- [Wildlife & Environments](#)
- Darwin City - [Brunch by the Beach](#)

Multi-Day Experiences

- 2 Day Kakadu - [Colours of Kakadu](#)
- 3 Day Katherine / Mataranka - [Cowboy Country](#)
- 3 Day Camping Litchfield - [Awaken in the Wild](#)
- 3 Day Litchfield & Kakadu- [Best in the WET](#)

Also available for private charter throughout the year.