A group of people, mostly older adults, are gathered on a sandy beach. Some are waving their hands. A semi-transparent dark grey text box is overlaid in the center of the image. In the top right corner of the image, there is a small blue square with a white question mark. In the bottom right corner, there is a larger blue square with a white play button icon.

201408 Cape York

Our 4-wheel drive bus left from Cairns to Port Douglas, Daintree NP, Cape Tribulation, Bloomfield Track and Cooktown. Then north-west to Laura, Lakefield NP, Lotus Bird Lodge (surely the highlight of the trip), Coen and Weipa with bauxite mine. From Weipa north on the Telegraph Track past Batavia Downs, Moreton Telegraph Station, Fruit Bat Falls (good swimming spot) and Bamaga. Then to the Tip (the northernmost point of mainland Australia). We returned to Bamaga via Somerset Beach with Memorial to Kennedy and group photograph. The bus returned to Cairns while we went to Thursday Island with the Green Hill Fort and Gab Titui Cultural Centre. We visited the pearl farm on Friday Island and went to Horn Island to explore World War 2 remains and join our plane back to Cairns. Many thanks to John and Maxine our driver and guide team.



Day 0 Cairns Hinterland Tour

The day before our Cape York adventure we took a bus trip to see the hinterland near Cairns. Our first stop was at Lake Barrine with lots of wildlife, flowers and trees. Next we visited a small area of rain forest with the spectacular Curtain Fig Tree at Yungaburra and the nearby Millaa Millaa falls. Our last stop was at Paronella which has seen better days.



From Gillies Lookout near Bangarra



Lake Barrine



Lake Barrine



Lake Barrine duck



Lake Barrine



Lake Barrine



Lake Barrine



Lake Barrine



Lake Barrine turtle and eel



Lake Barrine Tearooms



Lake Barrine Tearoom Gardens



Lake Barrine Tearoom Gardens



Lake Barrine Tearoom Gardens



Curtain Fig Tree near Yungaburra



Curtain Fig Tree near Yungaburra



Curtain Fig Tree near Yungaburra



Millaa Millaa Falls



North Johnstone River Lookout



Paronella Park waterfall



Paronella Park waterfall



Paronella Park gardens



Paronella Park building



River at Babinda Boulders



Day 1 Cairns Tour

On our first day we met up with our fellow travellers and then explored Cairns with its lovely Botanic Gardens. The Cairns Harbour, close to our hotel, experiences lots of tourists boarding boats bound for various parts of the nearby Great Barrier Reef.



Cairns Harbour reef boat



Cairns Harbour reef boat



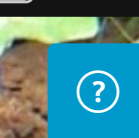
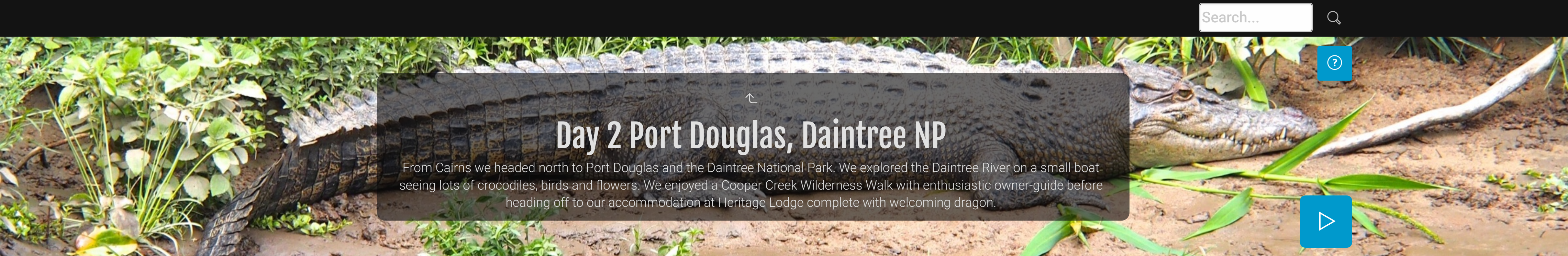
Cairns Harbour reef boats



< Day 0 Cairns Hinterland Tour



Day 2 Port Douglas, Daintree NP >



Day 2 Port Douglas, Daintree NP

From Cairns we headed north to Port Douglas and the Daintree National Park. We explored the Daintree River on a small boat, seeing lots of crocodiles, birds and flowers. We enjoyed a Cooper Creek Wilderness Walk with enthusiastic owner guide before heading off to our accommodation at Heritage Lodge complete with welcoming dragon.



Port Douglas view from Flagstaff Hill



Port Douglas Flagstaff Hill



Port Douglas flowering tree



Port Douglas



Port Douglas



Port Douglas



Port Douglas



Daintree River



Daintree River small crocodile



Daintree River bird



Daintree River larger crocodile



Daintree River



Daintree River small crocodiles



Daintree River larger crocodile



Daintree River



Daintree River flower



Daintree River epiphytic fern



Cooper Creek Rainforest Walk bush tucker



Cooper Creek Rainforest Walk ant nest



Cooper Creek Rainforest Walk



Cooper Creek Rainforest Walk



Cooper Creek Rainforest Walk



Cooper Creek Rainforest Walk



Cooper Creek Rainforest Walk



Thornton Beach crab trails



Thornton Beach crab trails



Thornton Beach



Thornton Beach



Thornton Beach



Boyds Dragon at Heritage Lodge



Heritage Lodge creek



Heritage Lodge creek



Heritage Lodge creek

Day 3 Cape Tribulation, Bloomfield Track, Cooktown

We then head north on the Bloomfield Track via Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield and Wujal Wujal. The bridge had just reopened which saved us a long detour. The short walk to the Wujal Wujal (Bloomfield) Falls was well worth it. Continuing north we stopped at the Lions Den Hotel and the Black Mountain Park. Finally we reached Cooktown with its Cemetery, Botanic Gardens and sunset view from Grassy Hill.



Bloomfield Track near Cape Tribulation



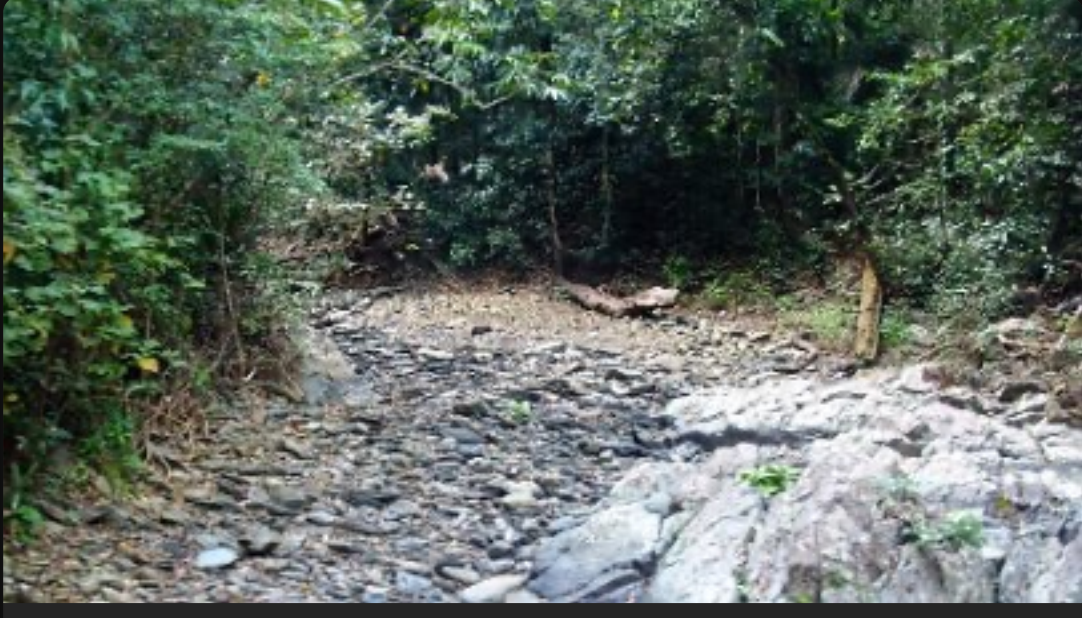
Bloomfield Track near Cape Tribulation



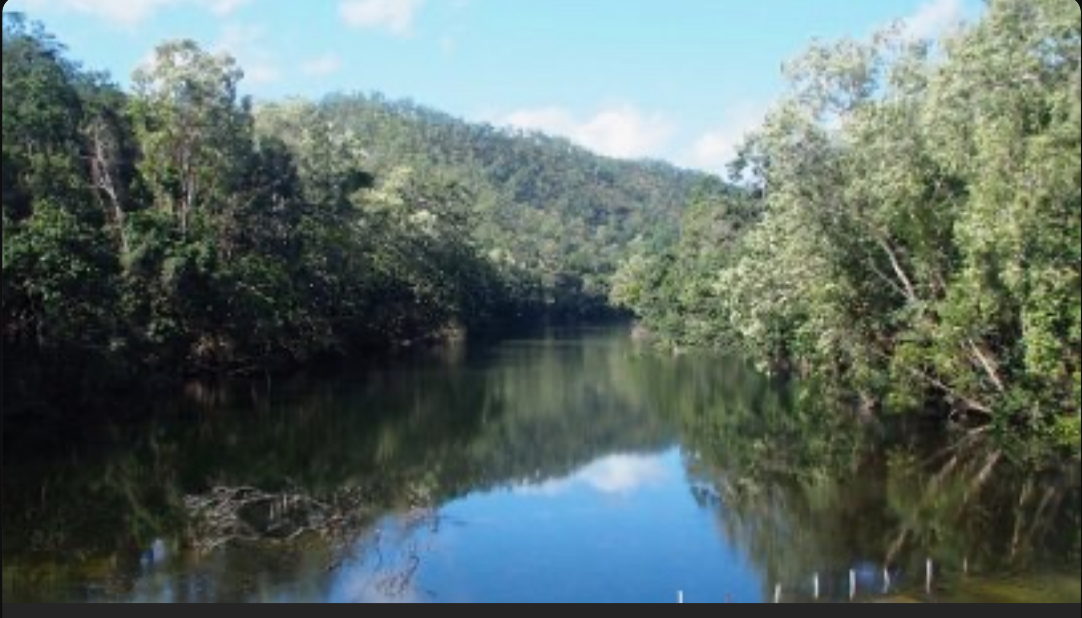
Bloomfield Track near Cape Tribulation



Bloomfield Track new bridge



Bloomfield Track dry creek crossing



Bloomfield River old river crossing from new bridge



Wujal Wujal tree



Wujal Wujal (Bloomfield) Falls



Wujal Wujal (Bloomfield) Falls



Wujal Wujal (Bloomfield) Falls



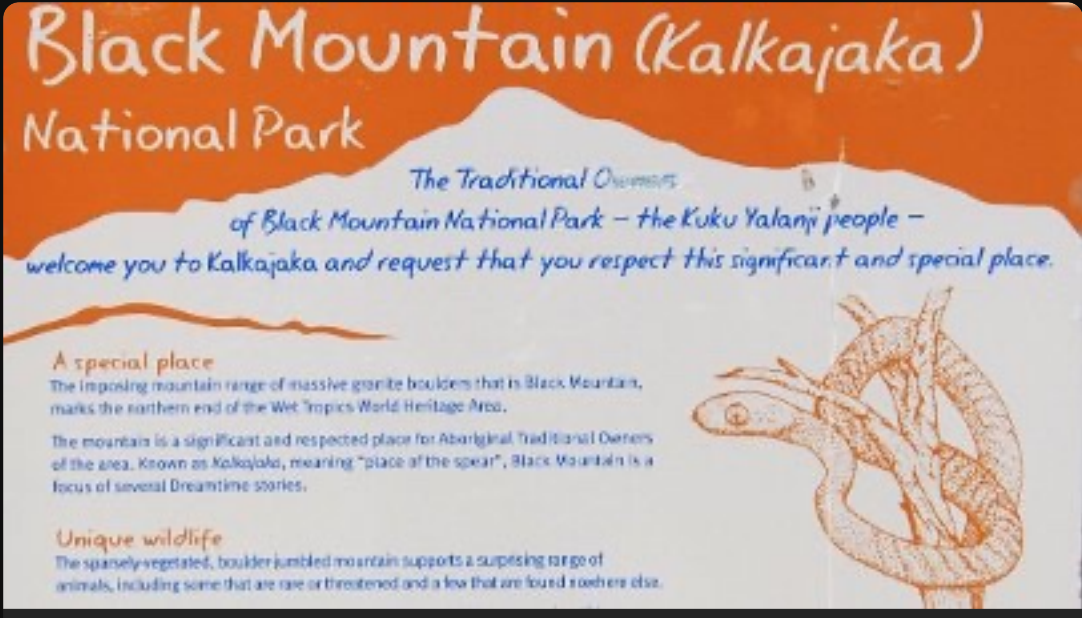
Hanging plant at The Lions Den Hotel



The Lions Den Hotel



Black Mountains black granite hills near Cooktown



Black Mountains sign



Black Mountains black granite



Cooktown Cemetry memorial to French sailors



Cooktown Botanic Gardens



Cooktown Botanic Gardens



Cooktown Botanic Gardens



Cooktown Botanic Gardens



Cooktown Botanic Gardens



Cooktown view



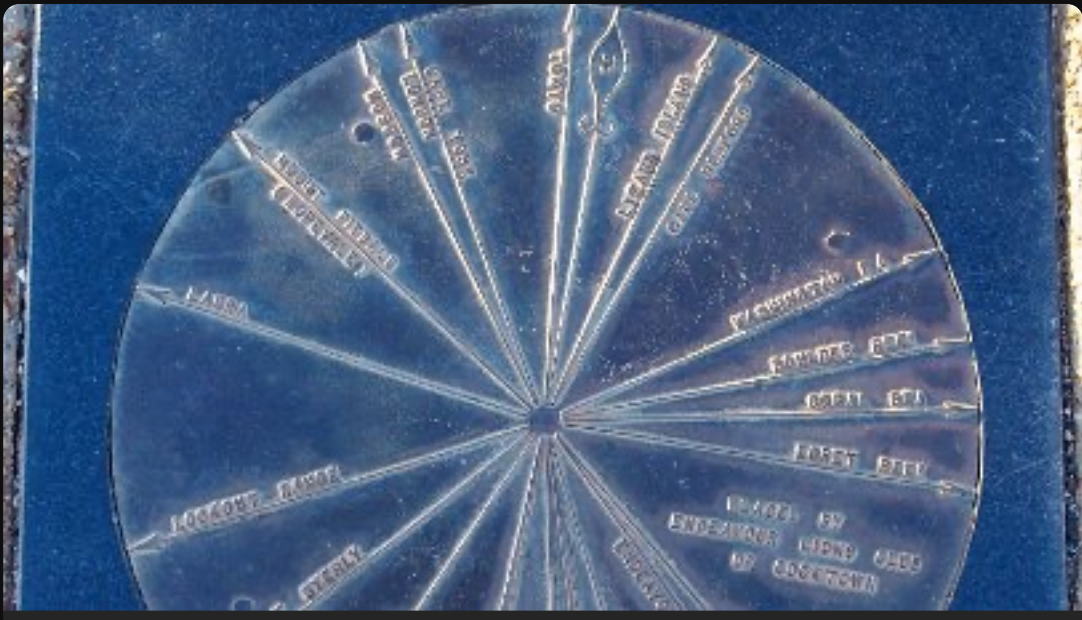
Cooktown view from Grassy Hill



View from Grassy Hill to reefs



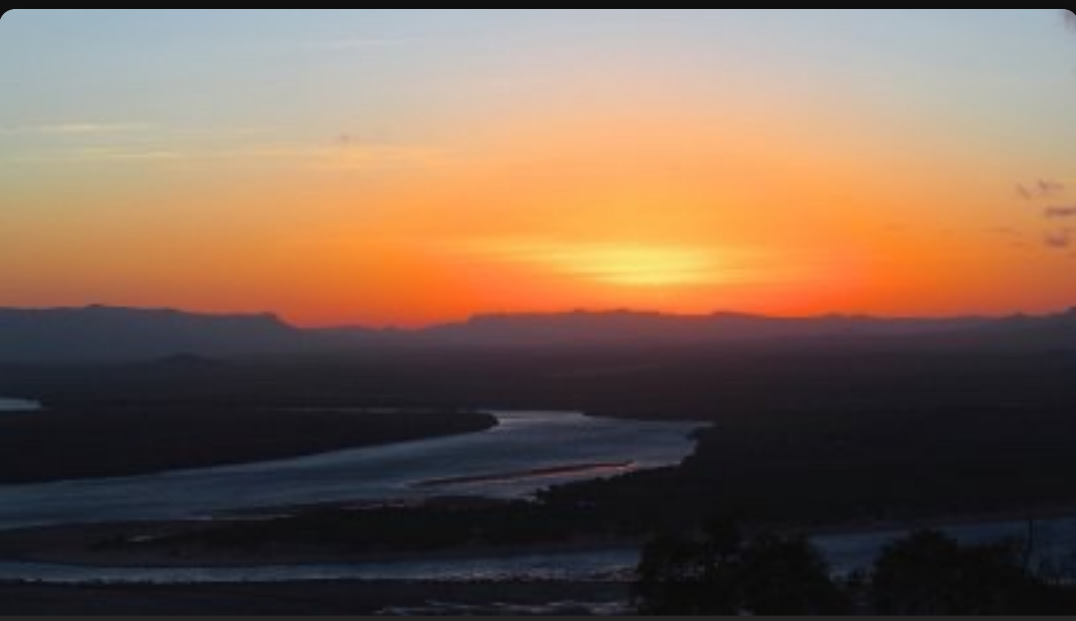
Grassy Hill Lighthouse



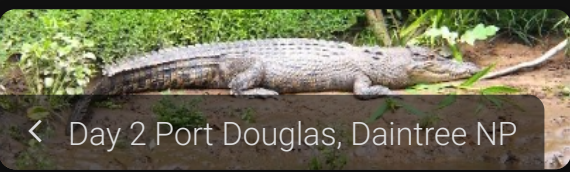
Grassy Hill directions sign



Sunset from Grassy Hill



Sunset from Grassy Hill



Day 2 Port Douglas, Daintree NP



Day 4 Laura, Lakefield NP, Lotus Bird Lodge

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Day 4 Laura, Lakefield NP, Lotus Bird Lodge

Today we head northwest to the Old Laura Station and then to Split Rock. A short walk up to the aboriginal rock site at Split Rock was very rewarding. Then we passed White Lilly and Red Lilly Lagoons where we saw jabiru and brolgas. Our accommodation for the next 2 nights was at the Lotus Bird Lodge. Our stay at the Lodge was surely the highlight of our Cape York trip.



Kalpower crossing of Normanby River



Old bridge remains at Kalpower crossing of Normanby River



Old Laura Station mango tree



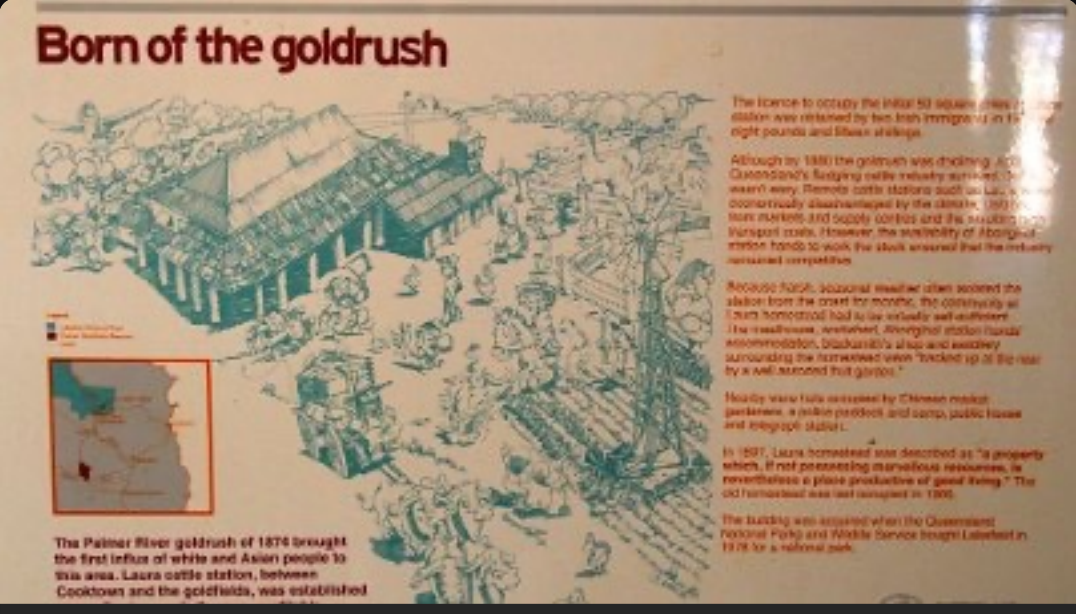
Old Laura Station water tank stand



Old Laura Station building, mango tree and old truck



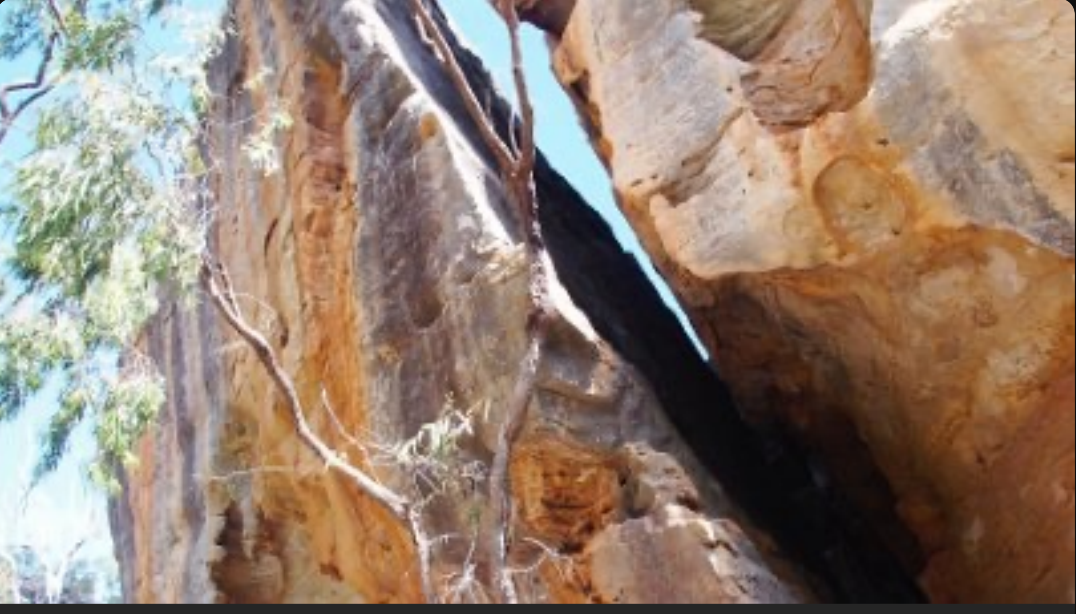
Old Laura Station main building



Old Laura Station sign



Split Rock aboriginal rock art site



Split Rock aboriginal rock art site



Aboriginal rock art at Split Rock



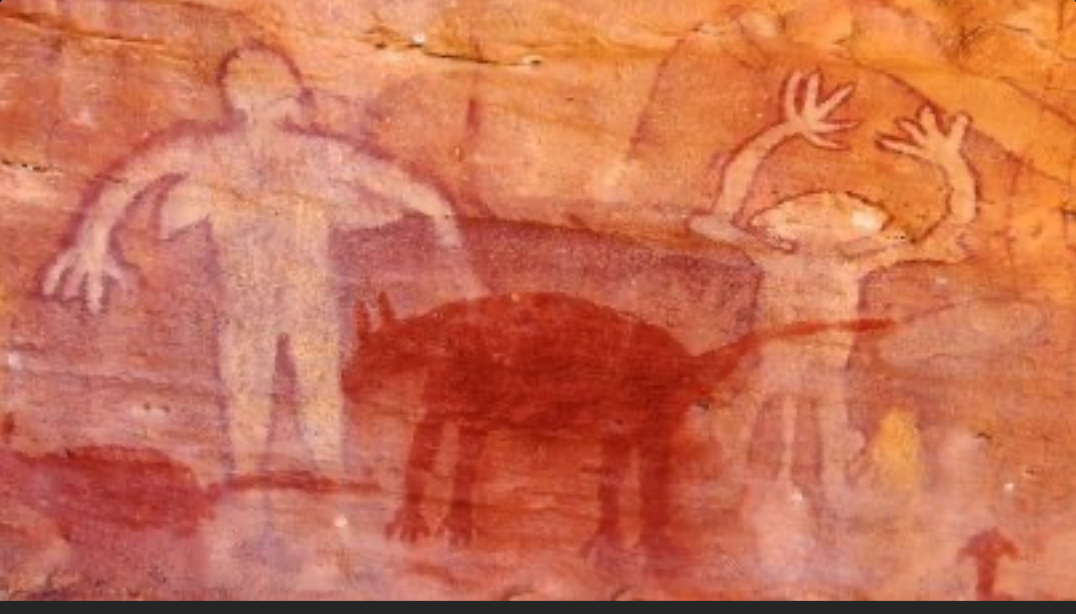
Aboriginal rock art at Split Rock



Aboriginal rock art at Split Rock



Aboriginal rock art at Split Rock



Aboriginal rock art at Split Rock



White Lilly Lagoon



White Lilly Lagoon



White Lilly Lagoon



White Lilly Lagoon



Red Lilly Lagoon jabiru



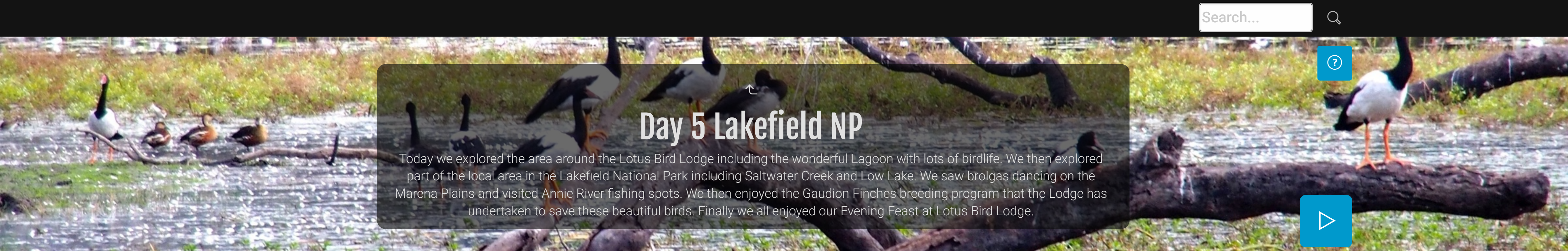
Red Lilly Lagoon brolgas



Red Lilly Lagoon brolgas



Red Lilly Lagoon brolgas



Day 5 Lakefield NP

Today we explored the area around the Lotus Bird Lodge including the wonderful Lagoon with lots of birdlife. We then explored part of the local area in the Lakefield National Park including Saltwater Creek and Low Lake. We saw brolgas dancing on the Marena Plains and visited Annie River fishing spots. We then enjoyed the Gaudion Finches breeding program that the Lodge has undertaken to save these beautiful birds. Finally we all enjoyed our Evening Feast at Lotus Bird Lodge.



Lotus Bird Lodge cabins



Lotus Bird Lagoon



Lotus Bird Lodge dining, kitchen and office



Lotus Bird Lagoon bird



Lotus Bird Lagoon blue kookaburras



Lotus Bird Lagoon



Lotus Bird Lagoon



Lotus Bird Lagoon birds in flight



Lotus Bird Lagoon birds



Lotus Bird Lagoon birds resting



Lotus Bird Lagoon birds in flight



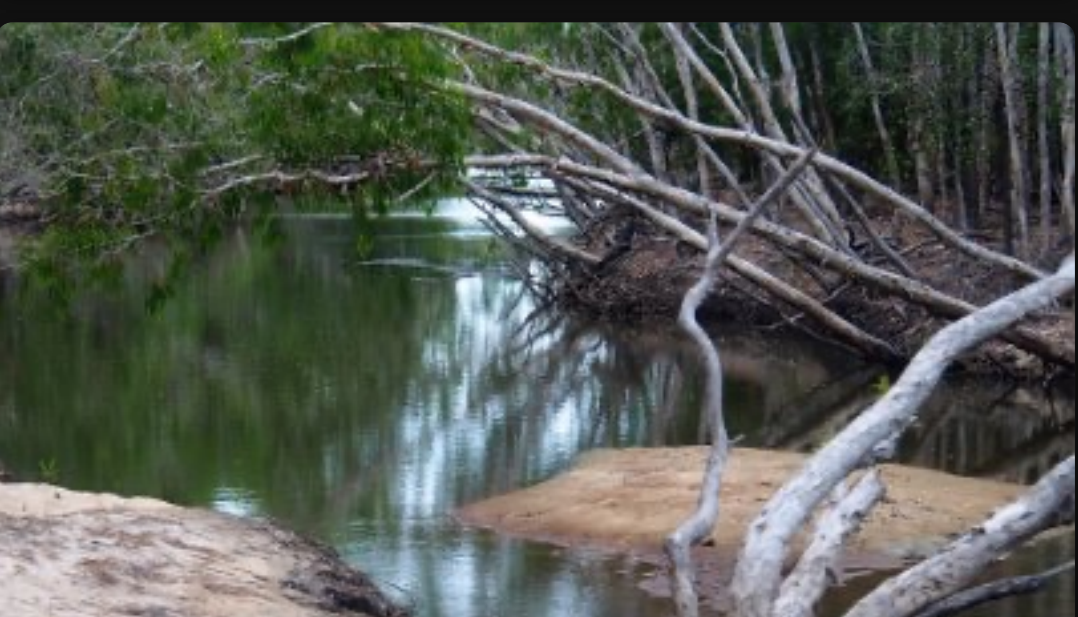
Lotus Bird Lagoon



Lotus Bird Lagoon birds



Lotus Bird Lodge cabins



Saltwater Creek



Kapok tree with flowers and seed pods



Kapok tree with flowers and seed pods



Termite mound



Low Lake



Low Lake



Marena Plains brolgas



Marena Plains brolgas



Marena Plains brolgas



Marena Plains brolgas



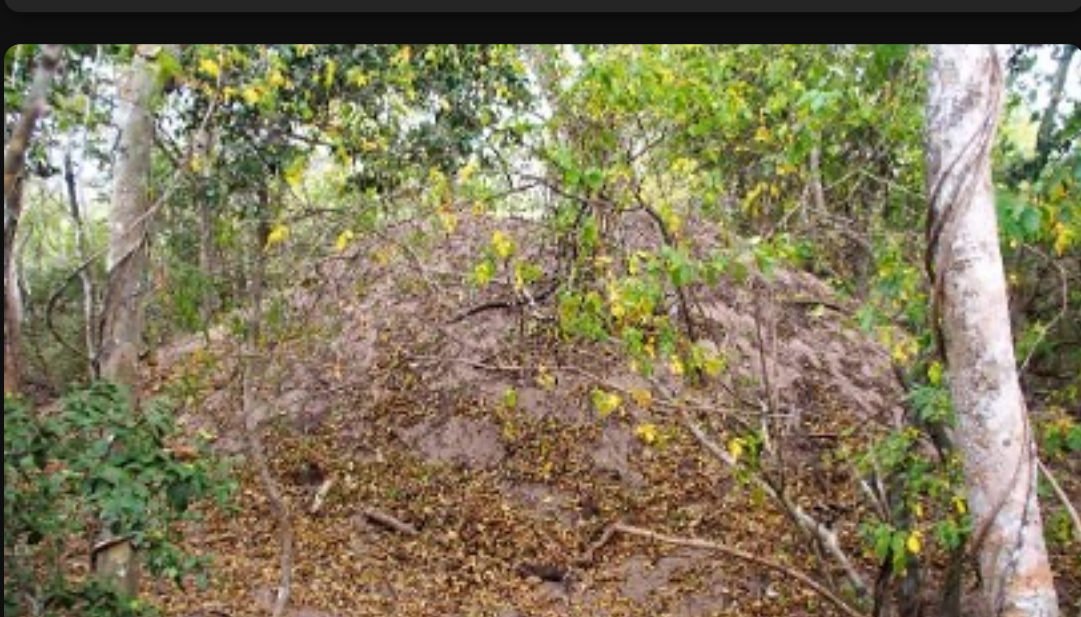
Annie River



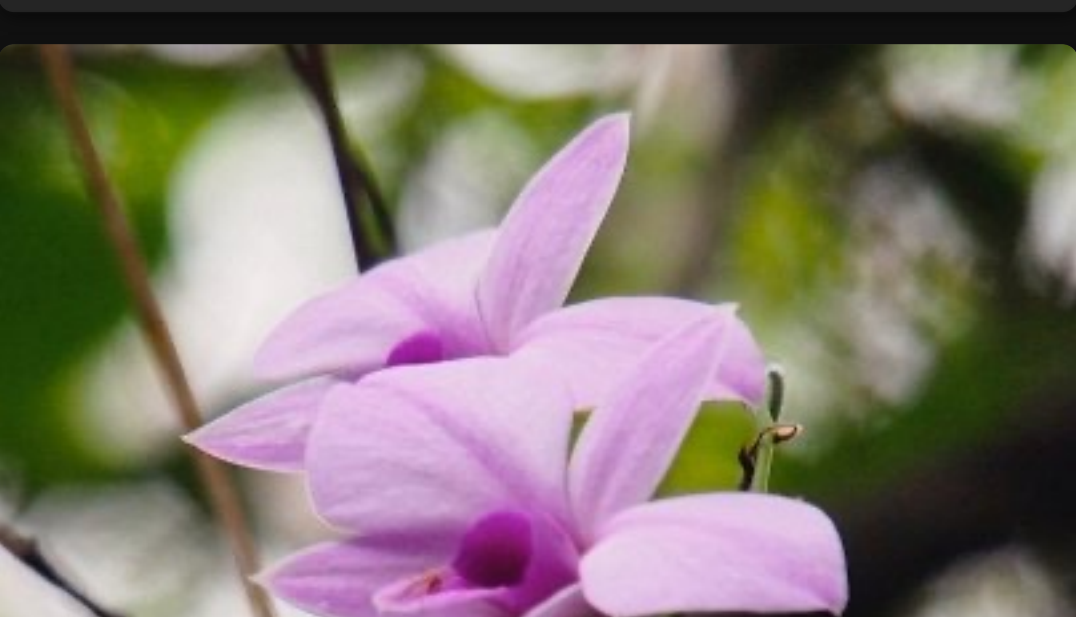
Annie River safety ladder



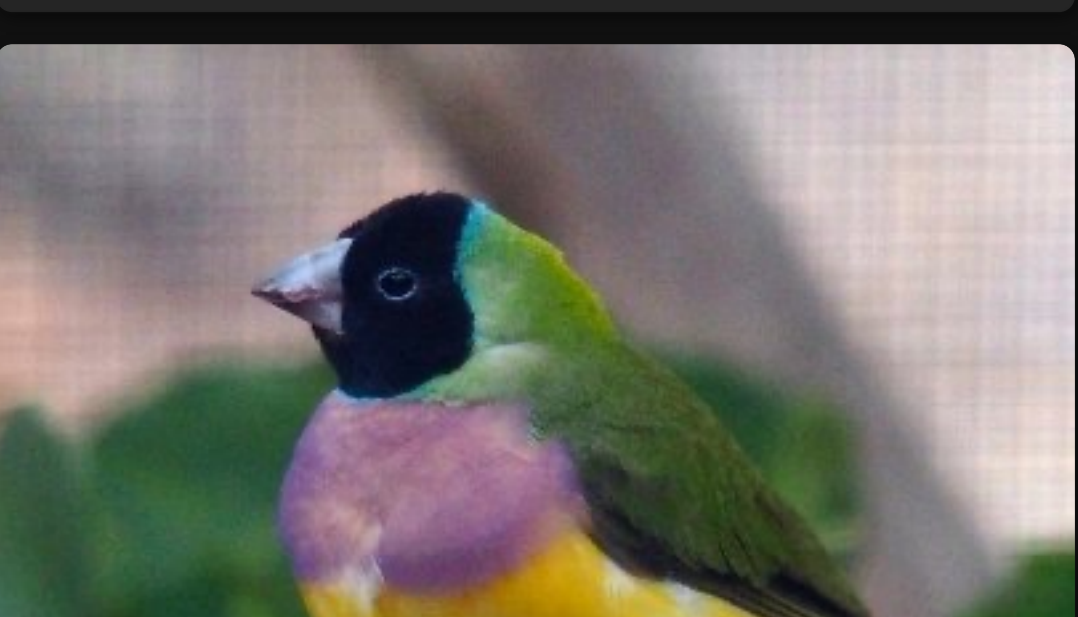
Annie River campsite



Bush turkey nest



Cooktown orchid



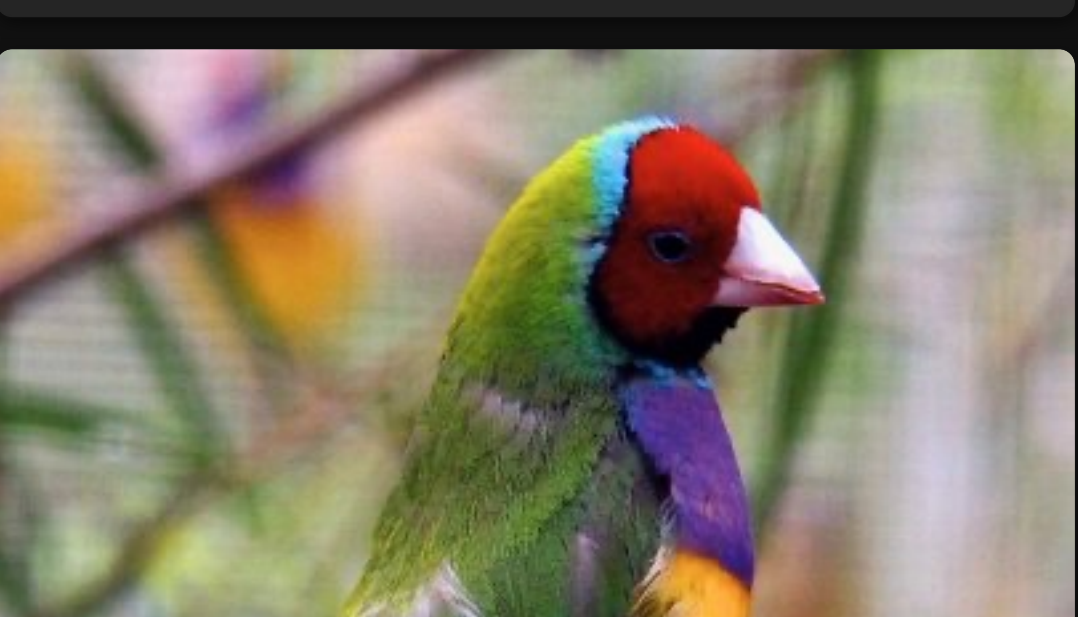
Gaudion Finches breeding program



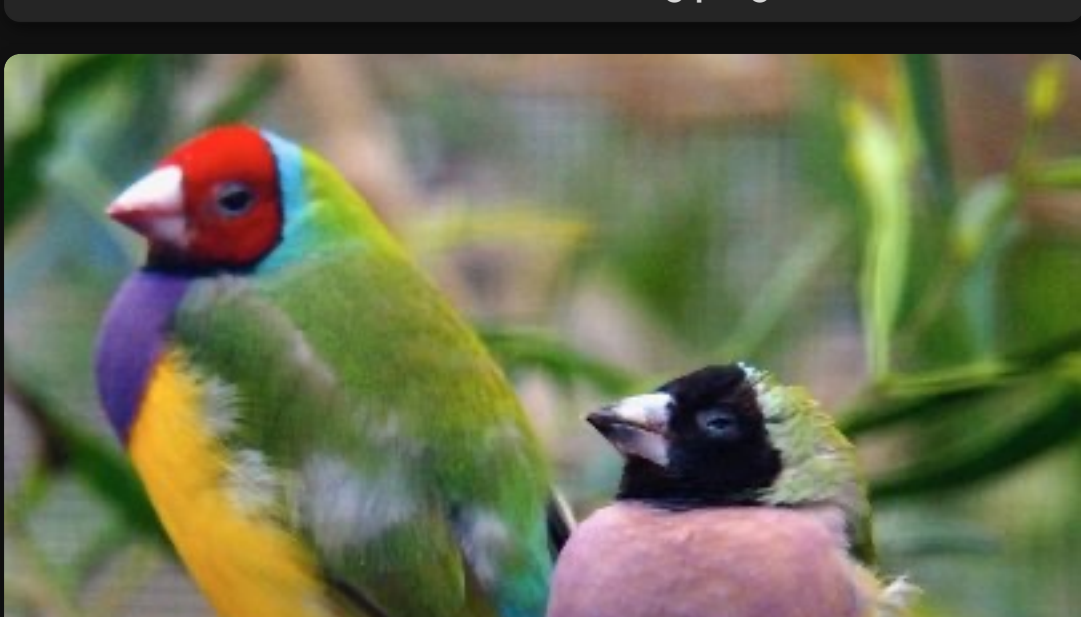
Gaudion Finches breeding program



Gaudion Finches breeding program



Gaudion Finches breeding program



Gaudion Finches breeding program



Kangaroos at Lotus Bird Lodge



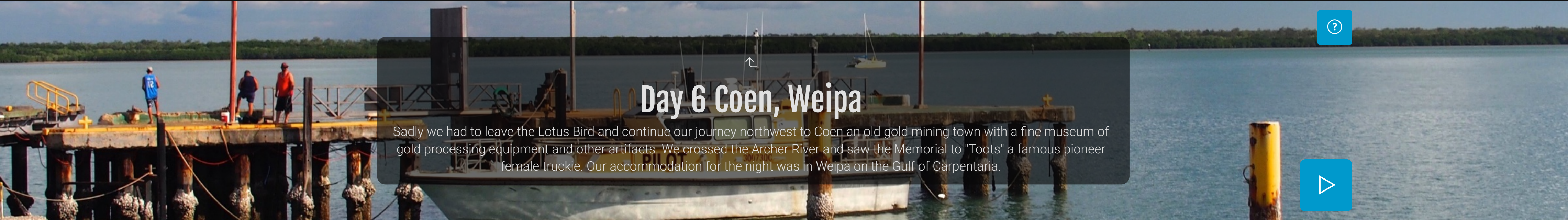
Kangaroos at Lotus Bird Lodge



Kangaroo at Lotus Bird Lodge



Evening feast at Lotus Bird Lodge



Day 6 Coen, Weipa

Sadly we had to leave the Lotus Bird and continue our journey northwest to Coen an old gold mining town with a fine museum of gold processing equipment and other artifacts. We crossed the Archer River and saw the Memorial to "Toots" a famous pioneer female truckie. Our accommodation for the night was in Weipa on the Gulf of Carpentaria.



Musgrave Roadhouse and old Telegraph Station



Graves at Musgrave



Bower bird nest at Coen museum



Museum at Coen (old gold mining town)



Museum at Coen (old gold mining town)



Museum at Coen (old gold mining town)



Museum at Coen (old gold mining town)



Museum at Coen (old gold mining town)



Archer River crossing



Archer River above the crossing



Archer River crossing



Archer River below the crossing



Archer River crossing



Memorial to "Toots" pioneer truckie



Bush orchids at Weipa



Bush orchids at Weipa



Hibiscus at Weipa



Weipa Harbour jetty



Weipa Harbour



Green ants on fence at Weipa



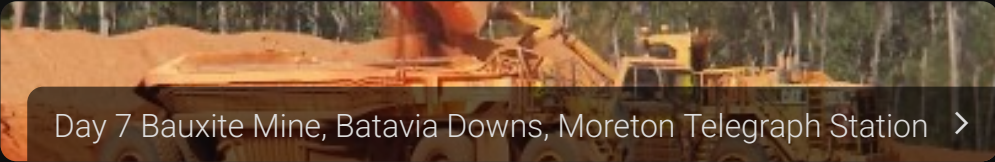
Green ants on fence at Weipa



Sunset at Weipa



< Day 5 Lakefield NP



Day 7 Bauxite Mine, Batavia Downs, Moreton Telegraph Station >

Day 7 Bauxite Mine, Batavia Downs, Moreton Telegraph Station

Today we visited the bauxite mine at Weipa and enjoyed lunch at Evans Head (where a large branch just missed falling on our bus). We headed east back to the main north road at the Toots Memorial. We then headed north along the line of the old telegraph crossing the Wenlock River with flood sign high in the tree. Our accommodation was at the Moreton Telegraph Station on the banks of the Wenlock River.



Weipa Bauxite Mine



Weipa Bauxite Mine



Weipa Bauxite Mine



Weipa Bauxite Mine



Weipa Bauxite Mine



Birdlife at Evans Head, Weipa



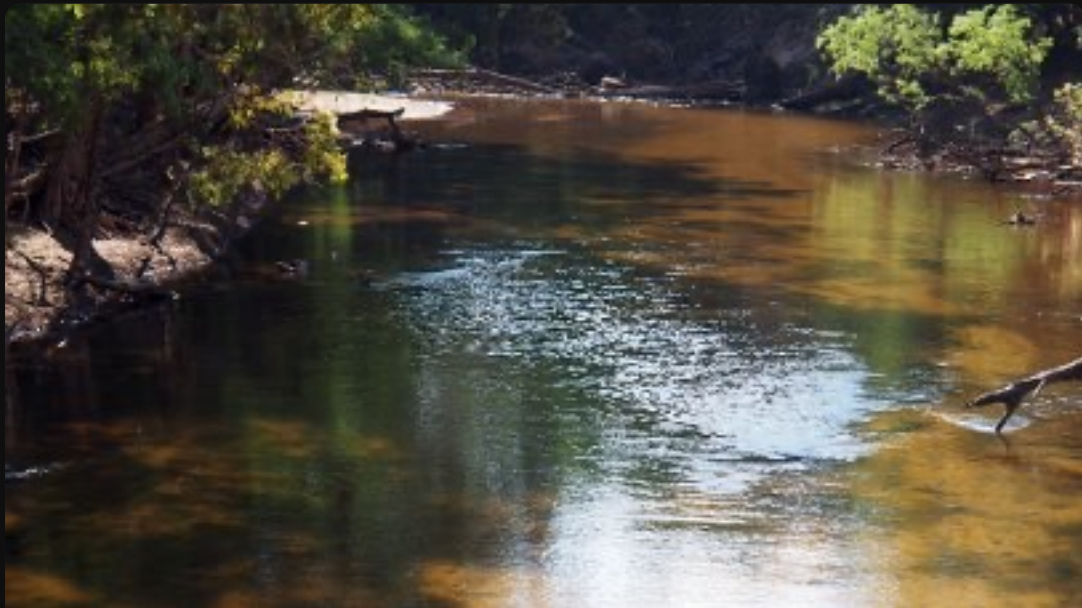
Evans Head, Weipa



Wenlock River with flood sign



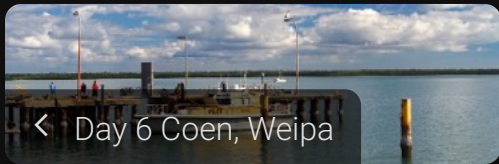
Our bus crossing the Wenlock River



The Wenlock River



The Wenlock River



Day 6 Coen, Weipa



Day 8 Moreton Telegraph Station



Day 8 Moreton Telegraph Station

We explored the area around the Moreton Telegraph Station at Barra Hole and at Caves Creek. There are lots of interesting flowers and trees in the area as well as small billabongs. We then headed over to the (international) airport with its population of large termite mounds. That evening some were involved in the Great Moreton Scrabble Challenge.



Wenlock River at Barra Hole



Wenlock River at Barra Hole



Caves Creek



Tent accommodation at Moreton



Getting ready to go exploring by Polaris at Moreton



Flowering Trees at Moreton



Flowering Trees at Moreton



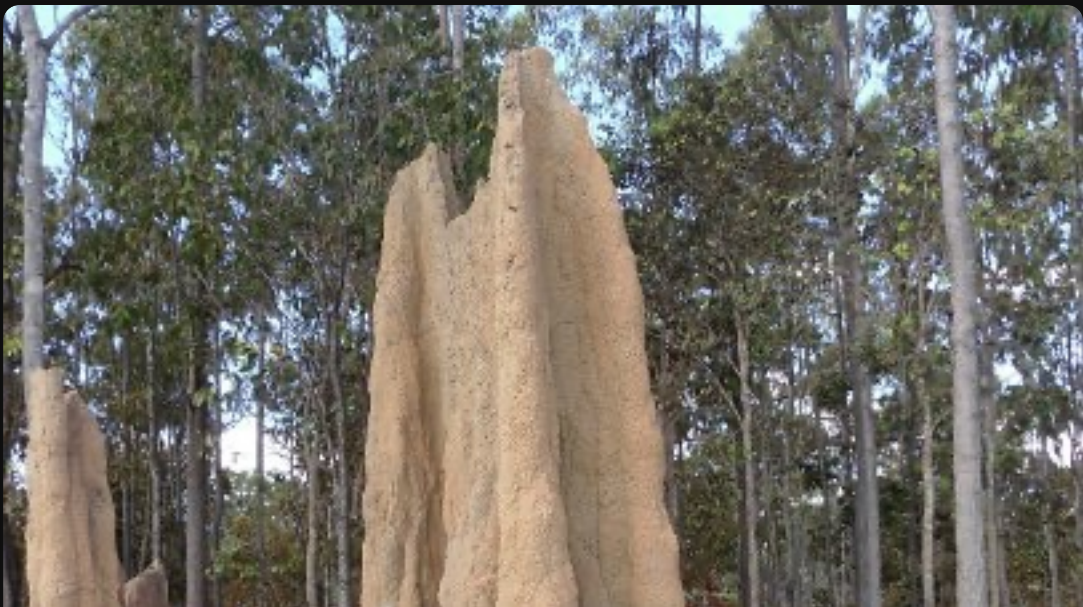
Caves Creek with a reflected guide



Caves Creek with a reflected guide



Billabong at Moreton



Termite mounds plus people



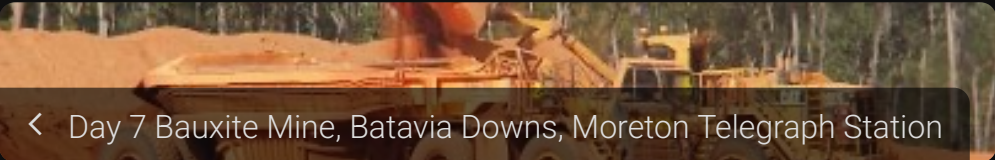
Termite mounds with Anne and Dave



Termite mounds plus people



The Great Moreton Scrabble Challenge



< Day 7 Bauxite Mine, Batavia Downs, Moreton Telegraph Station



Day 9 Telegraph Track, Heathlands, Fruit Bat Falls, Bamaga >

Day 9 Telegraph Track, Heathlands, Fruit Bat Falls, Bamaga

We continue north along the Telegraph Track past Bramwell Station (with more termite mounds). We stopped at Camp 84 of the Kennedy Expedition with tribute. Our next stop was at Fruit Bat Falls a lovely spot with good swimming. Finally we crossed the Jardine River using the vehicle ferry and headed into Bamaga for our accommodation for the next 2 nights.



Telegraph Track near Bramwell Station



Bramwell Station road sign



Examining termite mounds at Bramwell Station



Examining termite mounds at Bramwell Station



Lost any vehicle plates?



Kennedy Expedition tribute at Camp 84



Flowering shrubs at Camp 84



Flowering shrubs at Camp 84



Fruit Bat Falls



Fruit Bat Falls



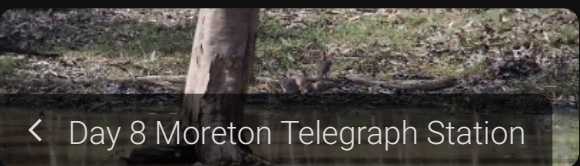
Fruit Bat Falls with swimmers



Fruit Bat Falls with swimmers



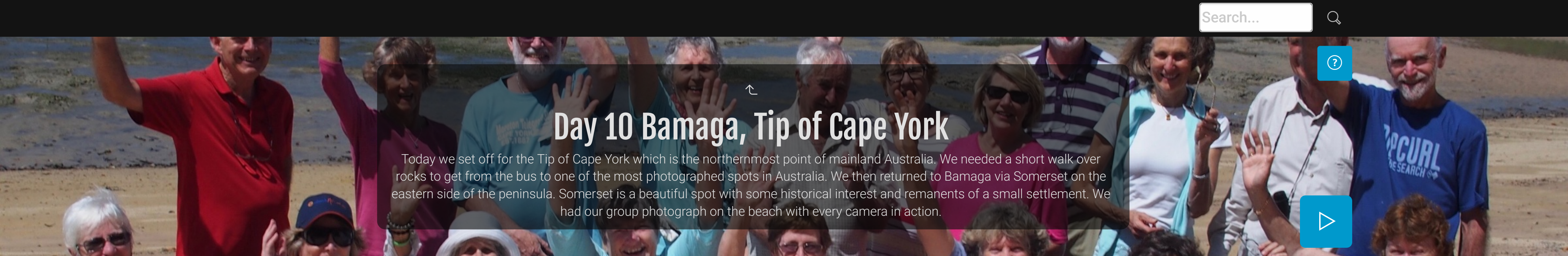
Jardine River Ferry



< Day 8 Moreton Telegraph Station



Day 10 Bamaga, Tip of Cape York >



Day 10 Bamaga, Tip of Cape York

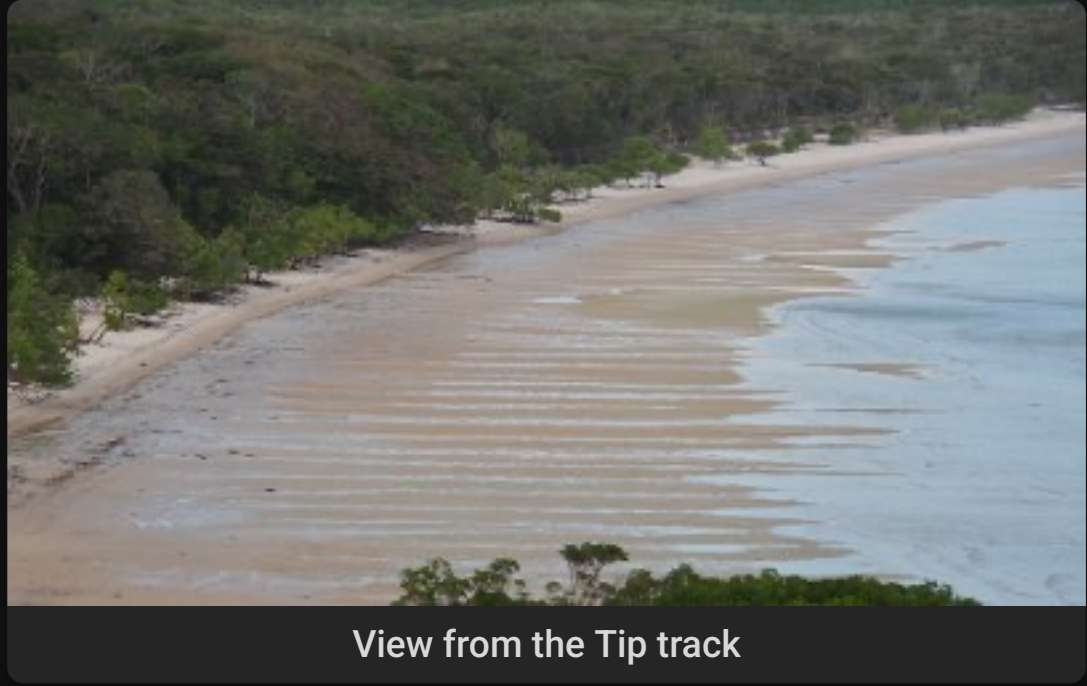
Today we set off for the Tip of Cape York which is the northernmost point of mainland Australia. We needed a short walk over rocks to get from the bus to one of the most photographed spots in Australia. We then returned to Bamaga via Somerset on the eastern side of the peninsula. Somerset is a beautiful spot with some historical interest and remnants of a small settlement. We had our group photograph on the beach with every camera in action.



Setting off for the Tip



View from the Tip track



View from the Tip track



Directions from the Tip



Some of our mob at the Tip



Bill at the Tip



Anne and Dave at the Tip

[Bill? photo]



View from the Tip track



View from the Tip track



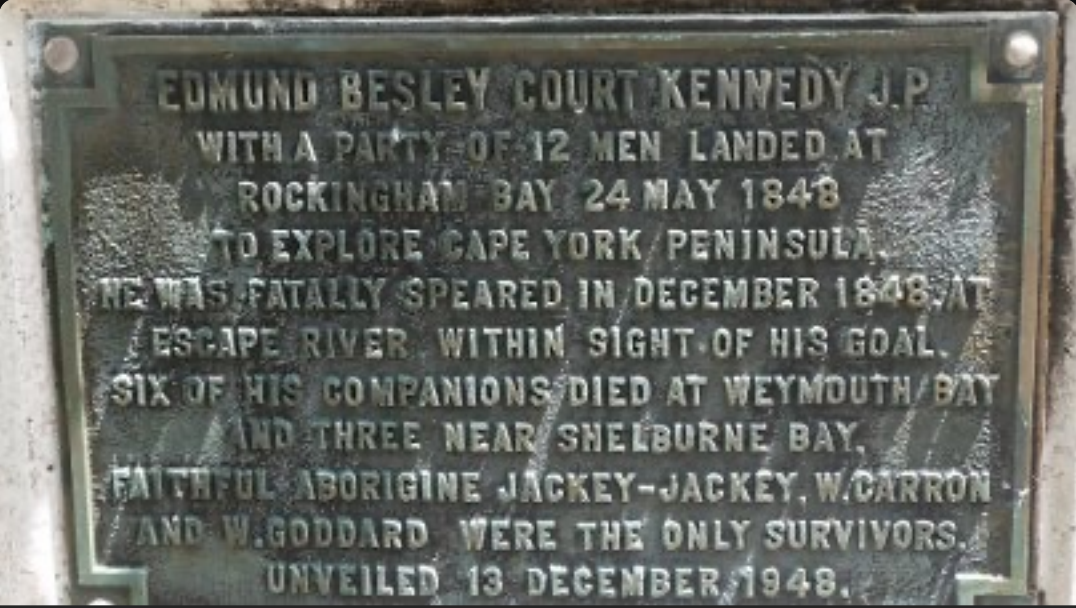
Somerset beach and ferry for Albany Island (background)



Somerset beach with some of our mob



Somerset beach mangroves



Kennedy Memorial plaque at Somerset Beach



A Somerset grave



A Somerset grave



Somerset cross



Somerset canons



Somerset flowers



Somerset flowers



Somerset flowers



Somerset flower



Somerset flowering tree



Somerset beach coconut palm



Somerset beach collector



Inquisitive goanna at Somerset graves



Inquisitive goanna at Somerset graves



Bush Turkey at Somerset Beach

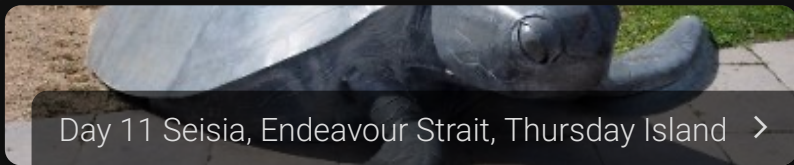


Our mob at Somerset Beach

[Driver John photo]



< Day 9 Telegraph Track, Heathlands, Fruit Bat Falls, Bamaga



Day 11 Seisia, Endeavour Strait, Thursday Island >



Day 11 Seisia, Endeavour Strait, Thursday Island

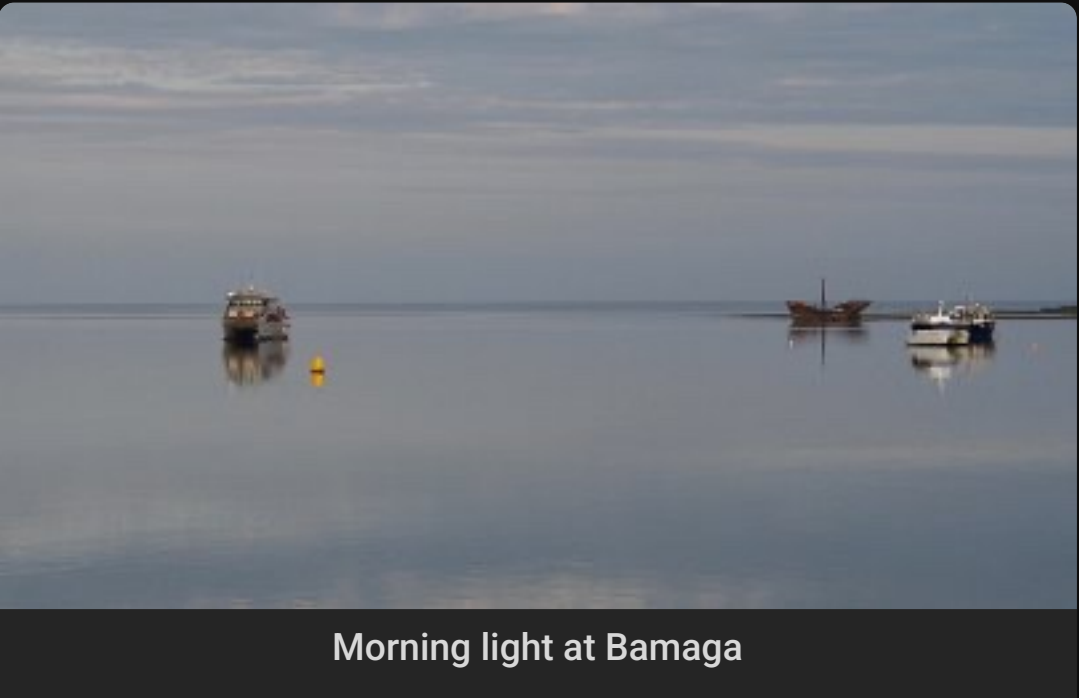
We had an early ride to Seisia where we left John to drive the bus back to Cairns while we headed across the Endeavour Strait and past Prince of Wales Island to our destination on Thursday Island. We visited the Green Hill Fort, of strategic importance for Torres Straits defence, and were lucky to get a small boat ride to Friday Island with its wonderful pearl farm - great presentation and lunch.



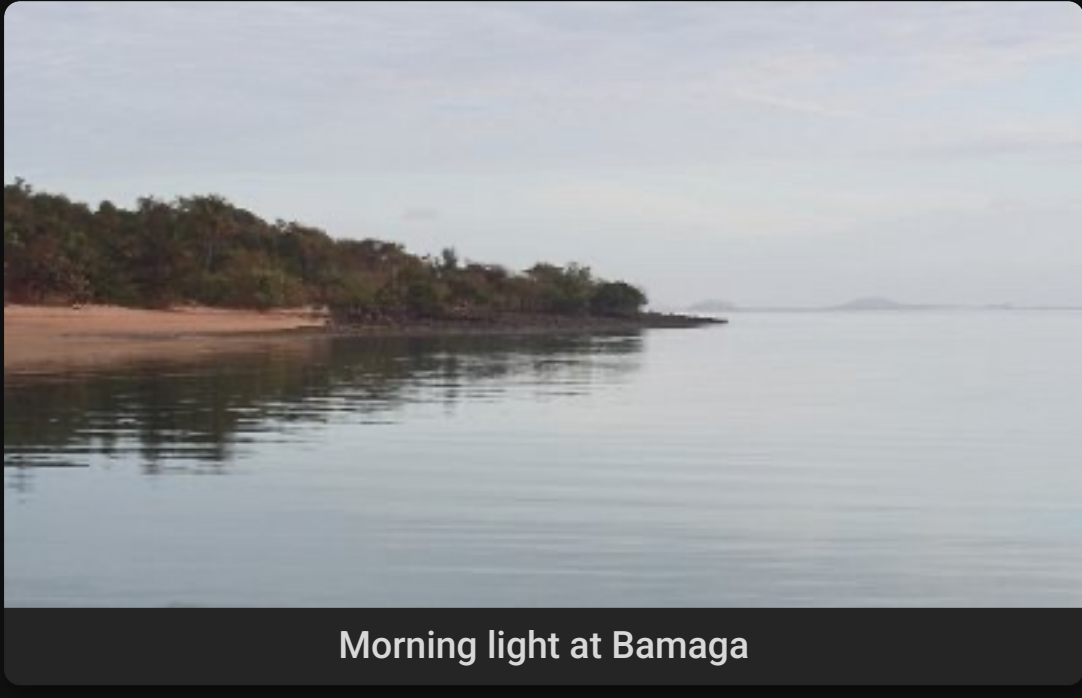
Our intrepid driver and guide with our bus - just before John drove the bus back to Cairns



Morning light at Bamaga



Morning light at Bamaga



Morning light at Bamaga



Our ferry from Bamaga to Thursday Island



Arriving at Thursday Island wharf



Arriving at Thursday Island with view of Gab Titui Cultural Centre



Arriving at Thursday Island with view of town centre



History Walk along foreshore of Thursday Island harbour



Turtle sculptures on History Walk along foreshore of Thursday Island harbour



Turtle sculpture on History Walk along foreshore of Thursday Island harbour



Part of History Walk along foreshore of Thursday Island harbour with Green Hill Fort behind



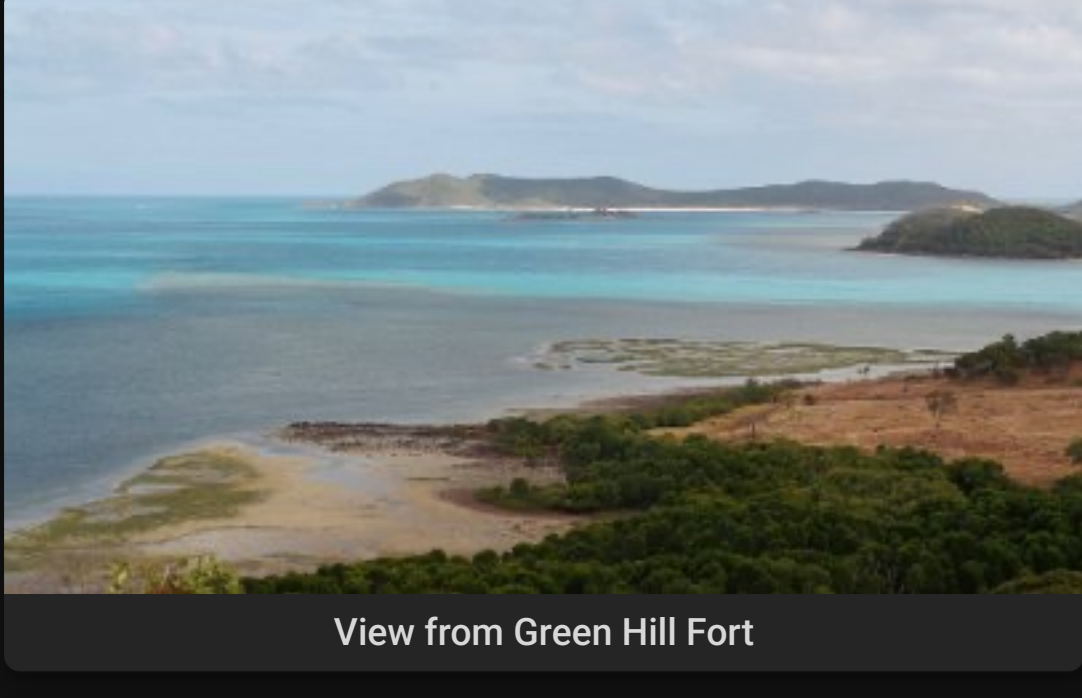
Flowering tree on Thursday Island



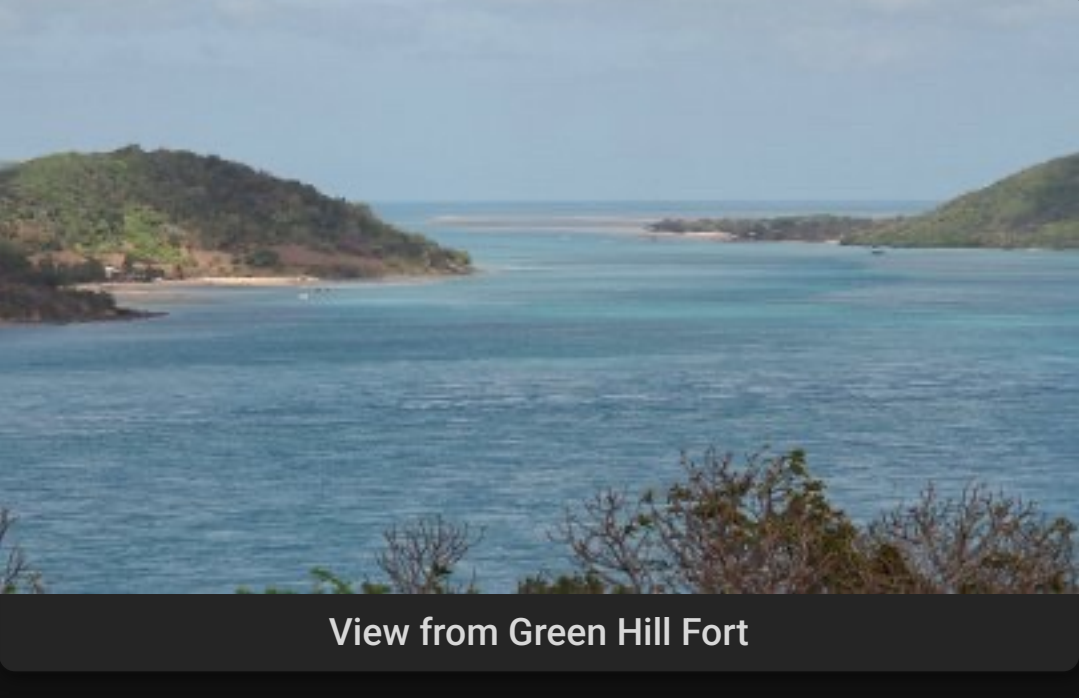
View of wharves from Green Hill Fort



View from Green Hill Fort



View from Green Hill Fort



View from Green Hill Fort



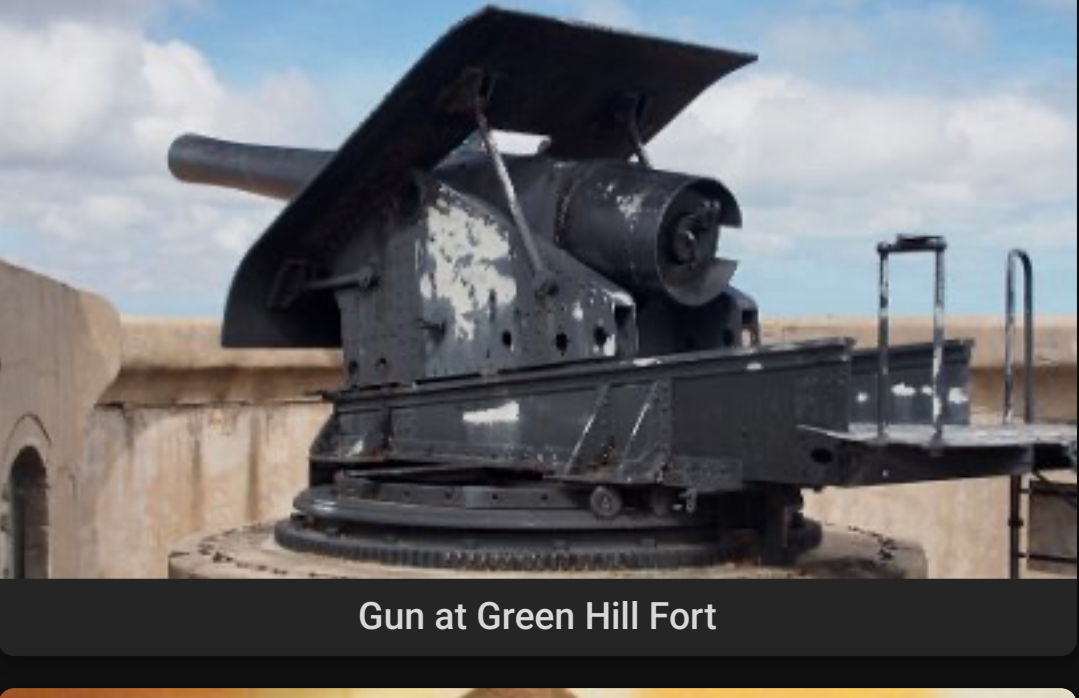
View from Green Hill Fort



View from Green Hill Fort with wharves to the left



Gun at Green Hill Fort



Gun at Green Hill Fort



Gun at Green Hill Fort



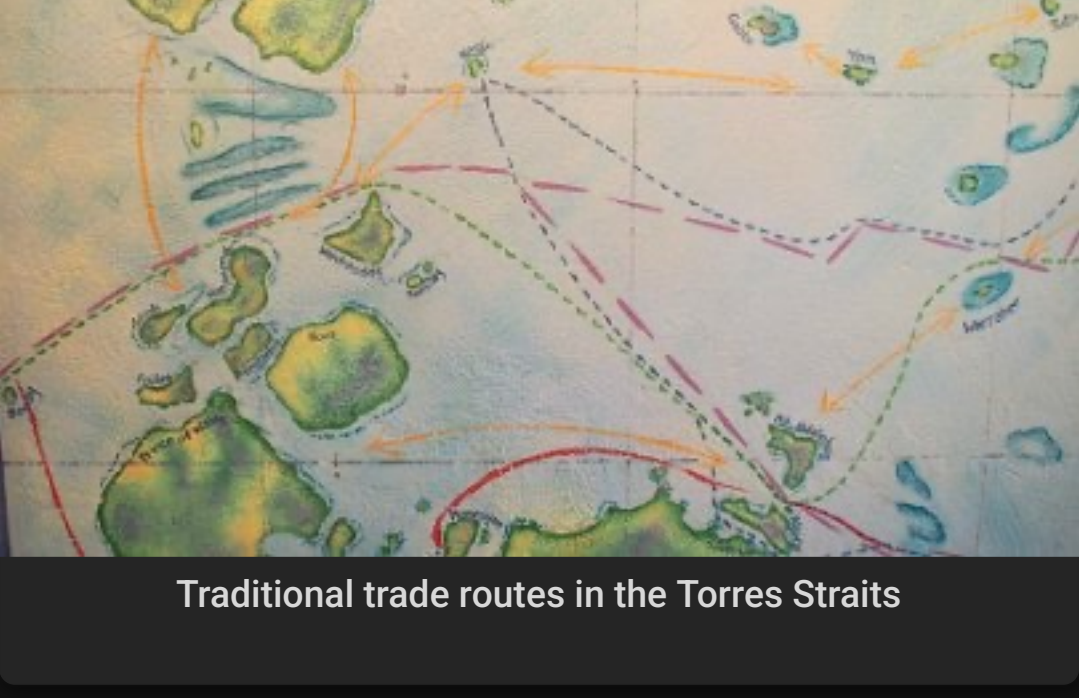
Light at Green Hill Fort



Torres Strait Islands wood carving



Torres Strait Islands wood carving



Traditional trade routes in the Torres Straits



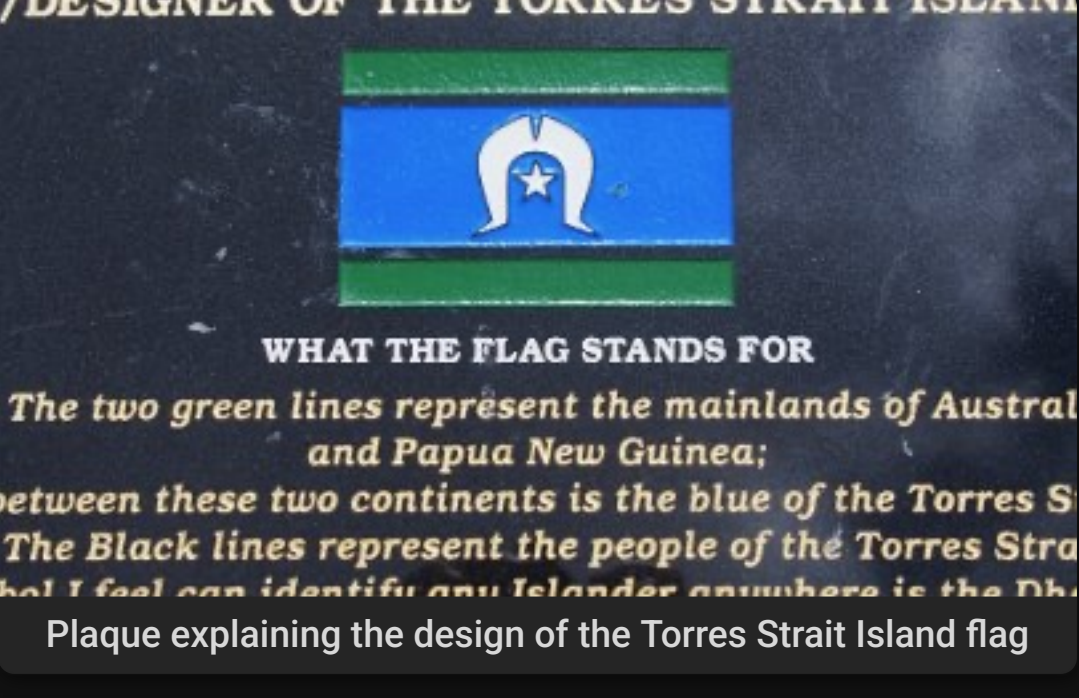
Display showing strategic importance of guns at Green Hill Fort



Japanese graves in Thursday Island graveyard



Japanese graves in Thursday Island graveyard



/DESIGNER OF THE TORRES STRAIT ISLAND



WHAT THE FLAG STANDS FOR
The two green lines represent the mainlands of Australia and Papua New Guinea; between these two continents is the blue of the Torres Strait. The Black lines represent the people of the Torres Strait. I feel an identity any Islander anywhere in the D.K.

Plaque explaining the design of the Torres Strait Island flag



Friday Island pearl farm



Palm shaded area in Friday Island pearl farm



Pearl display at Friday Island pearl farm



Friday Island pearl farm



Flowers at Friday Island pearl farm



Day 10 Bamaga, Tip of Cape York



Day 12 Thursday Island, Horn Island, Cairns

Day 12 Thursday Island, Horn Island, Cairns

We had some free time to explore Thursday Island, visiting the Gab Titui Cultural Centre with wonderful displays of Torres Strait Islander artistic works and also some indulged in a bit of shopping. We then took a boat over to Horn Island where we explored World War 2 remains and enjoyed a cultural event with a group of islander singers. One of our people made a hit by dancing with one of the group. Finally we boarded the plane to Cairns where we had a celebration dinner before we all left for home ports the next day.



Shell sculptures on foreshore of Thursday Island harbour



Turtle sculptures on History Walk along foreshore of Thursday Island harbour



Flowering bush on Thursday Island



One of our mob - very well dressed



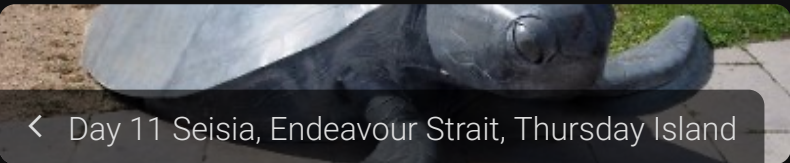
On our way to Horn Island



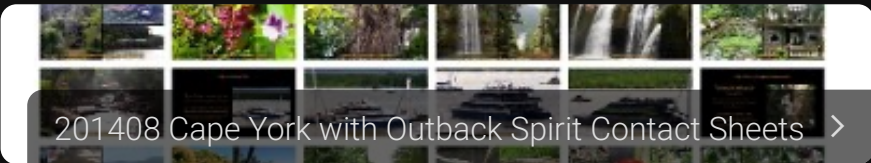
World War 2 bunker on Horn Island



One of our mob dancing at Horn Island

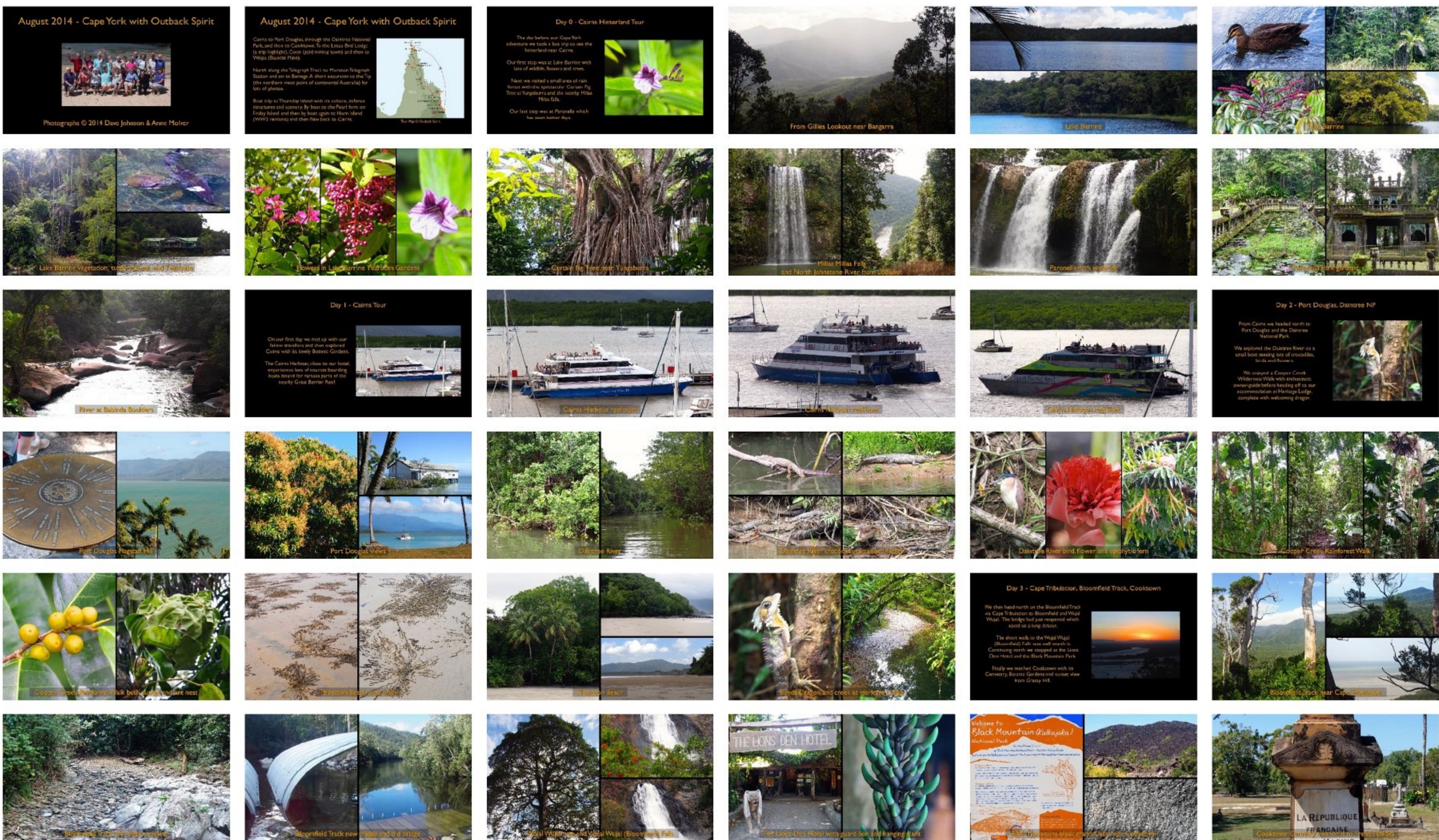


< Day 11 Seisia, Endeavour Strait, Thursday Island



201408 Cape York with Outback Spirit Contact Sheets >

201408 Cape York with Outback Spirit Contact Sheet





Woodstock Botanic Gardens trees



Cooktown Botanic Gardens flowers



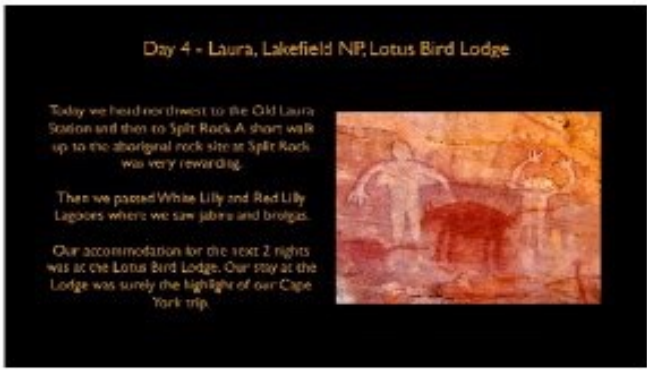
Cooktown views from Crassy Hill



View from Crassy Hill to reef (Captain Cook's view)



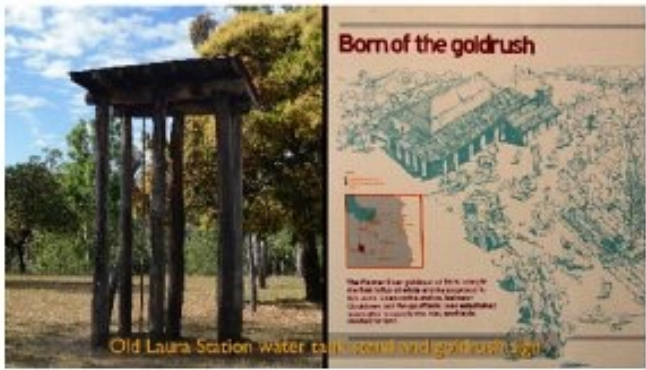
Grassy Hill Lighthouse and sunset view



Kakodine crossing of the Maryborough River with old bridge remains



Old Laura station and an old truck



Old Laura station and an old truck



Split Rock aboriginal rock art site



Aboriginal rock art at Split Rock



White Lily Lagoon



Red Lily Lagoon jabiru



Red Lily Lagoon jabiru



Red Lily Lagoon jabiru



Lotus Bird Lodge Jabiru and main building with office kitchen and dining area



Lotus Bird Lagoon



Lotus Bird Lagoon birds



Lotus Bird Lagoon birds resting and in flight



Lotus Bird Lagoon



Jabiru bird in the lagoon with flowers and a pool



Lake Lila



Marenda Plains brolgas



Marenda Plains brolgas



Annie River with a kangaroo and a crocodile



Gaudin Finches



Woodstock orchid



Gaudin Finches breeding program



Gaudin Finches breeding program



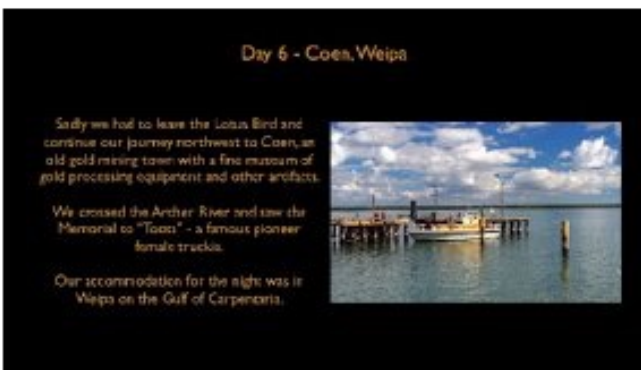
Gaudin Finches breeding program



Kangaroos and wallabies at Lotus Bird Lodge



Our Evening Feast at Lotus Bird Lodge before we eat it all



Mazgraw Roadhouse and old Weipa station with old shacks



Mazgraw Roadhouse and old Weipa station with old shacks



Bower birds and flowers at Coen, Australia



Archer River crossing



Archer River crossing - above (left) and below (right)



Memorial to 'Toots' pioneer female trapper



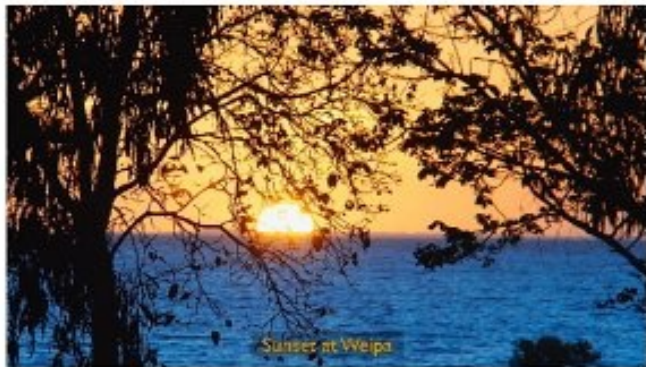
Hibiscus and Bush orchids at Weipa



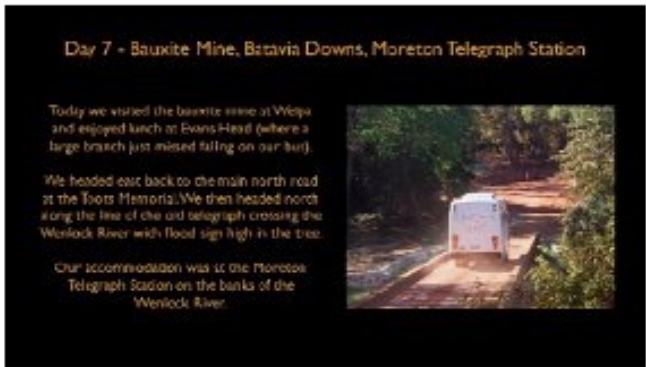
Weipa Harbour jetty



Weipa Harbour



Sunset at Weipa



Weipa Bauxite Mine



Weipa Bauxite Mine



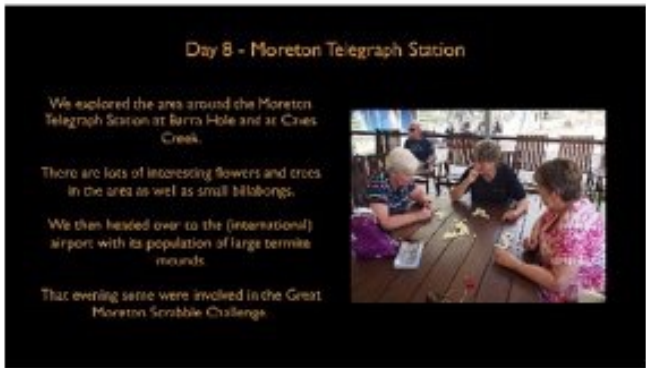
Evening Head Weipa



Wenlock River with flood sign high in the trees and our bus at the telegraph crossing



The Wenlock River



Wenlock River at Barra Hole



Cave Creek with a cave entrance



Blue tent at Barra Hole



Visiting a golf course at Barra Hole



Small building on a tree



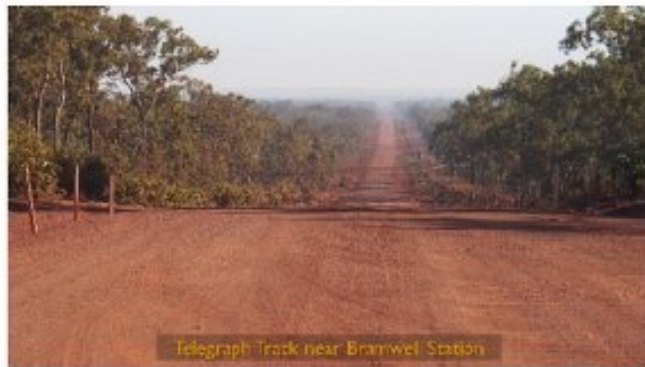
Small building on a tree



Small building on a tree



The Great Moreton Scrabble Challenge



Telegraph Track near Bramwell Station



Bramwell Station sculpture - lost any vehicle track!



Large tree in front of a large tree



Large tree in front of a large tree



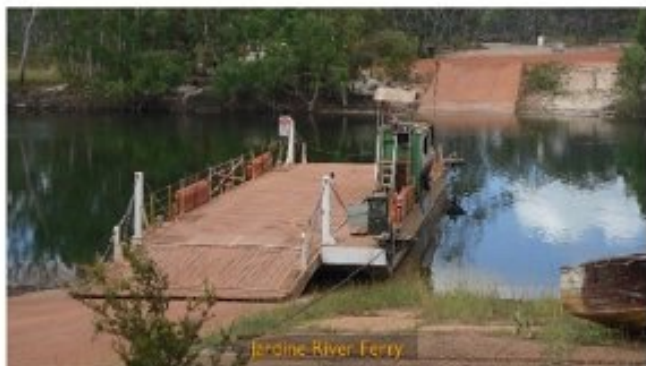
Large tree in front of a large tree



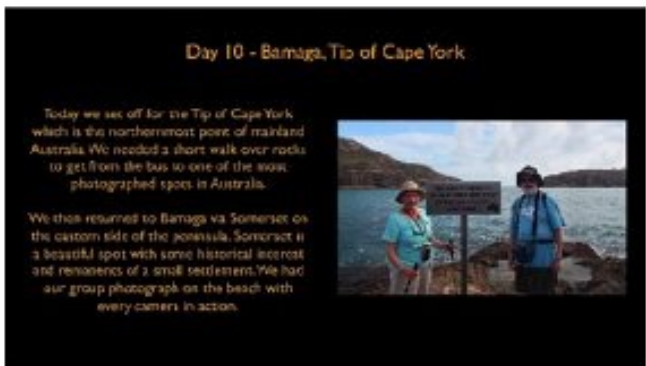
Fruit Bat Falls



Waterfall at Barra Hole



Jordan River Ferry



Setting off for the Tip and a large clock showing directions



View from the Tip



Some of our mob at the Tip and some of us had to be photographed with the sign



View from the Tip



Jordan River Ferry



Large tree in front of a large tree



Large tree in front of a large tree



Large tree in front of a large tree



Large tree in front of a large tree



Somerset flowering tree and a cactus



Somerset beach collection



Large tree in front of a large tree



Large tree in front of a large tree



Large tree in front of a large tree



Morning light at Barrage



Our ferry from Barrage to Thursday Island



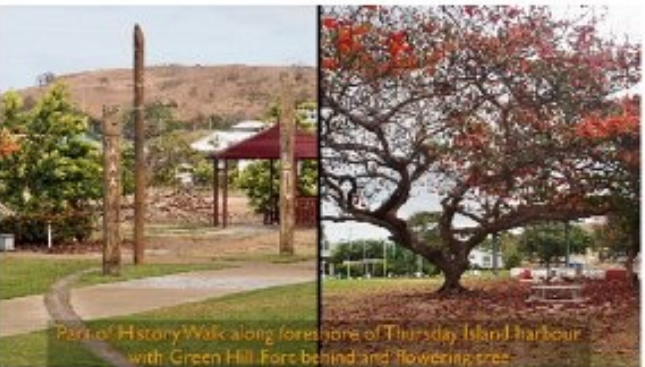
Arriving at Thursday Island with a view of town centre



Arriving at Thursday Island with view of Gabo Tasi Cultural Centre



Turtle sculptures on foreshore of Thursday Island



Part of History Walk along foreshore of Thursday Island Harbour with Green Hill Park behind and Rowena's tree



Views of Wharfedale from Green Hill Park



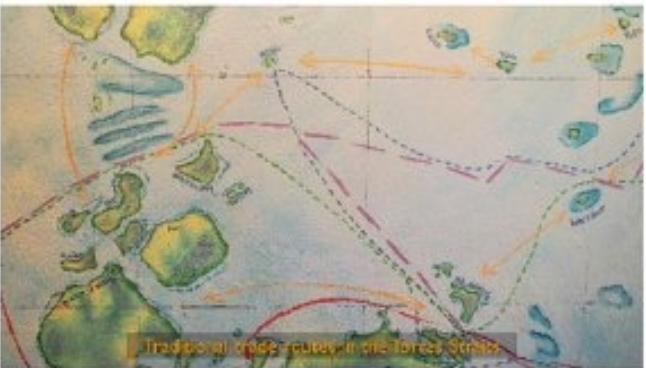
Views from Green Hill Park



Two large anti-aircraft guns



Green Hill Park and wood carvings



Traditional maps of the Torres Strait



Map showing strategic importance of the Torres Strait



Warrior graves at Thursday Island



WHAT THE FLAG STANDS FOR
The two green lines represent the mainlands of Australia and Papua New Guinea.
The blue line represents the people of the Torres Strait.
The Black lines represent the people of the Torres Strait.
The 5 points of the star are our island groups.



Pearl display at Friday Island pearl farm



Friday Island sea face with shaded water and flowers



Day 12 - Thursday Island, Horn Island, Cairns



Shell sculptures on foreshore of Thursday Island harbour



Large sculptures on History Walk along foreshore of Thursday Island harbour



One of our mob - very well dressed and a flower girl



On our way to Horn Island (in the distance)



One of our mob dancing at Horn Island



That's all folks!



Many thanks also to the team at FotoMagico



