

Pieces of Kakadu

These are thoughts written by Cora Wolswinkel during the trip and passed along later. Cora loved drawing and did many pictures of the paintings and of other things we saw along the way.

New art over old, over older, sometimes difficult to outline

Many images, far too many to hurriedly copy down

Worn images, eroded, washed out, good above, vague below

Friar birds and lorikeets in eucalypt with bright orange flowers

Large leafed grevilleas with huge reddish pink flowers on a prostrate plant

Palms with fronds that attach onto a mesh sheet that wraps around the trunk until both mature and fall off

Cool shade of the Kakadu Box (*Allosyncarpia ternata*)

Catfish at night shying away down from the bright beam of a torch

Pinching green bummed ants falling from their leafy home when knocked

Red-tailed cockatoos with relatively muted karaks

Pandanus palms with huge green fruit growing amongst and next to the growing quieter Koolpin Creek

Stifling heat on the windless flats, kicking up dust from the flattened straw-like grass

Small skinks scatter with their tail ends raised and flicking

A lone *Banksia dentata* on a swampy flat

Various pretty dragonflies flitting by, showing off accent colours when landing nearby

Careful footsteps along top of slippery flat rock above cascade

Cool breezes through rock canyons in the tors, and crawling through a sandy tunnel

Art drawn over art, drawn over more art. Shapes, pictures everywhere

Another mushroom rock with ceilings, another echidna, figure with boomerang along the wide creek

A day descending Twin Falls Creek:

A surprise for lunch – a huge amphitheatre with a spectacular waterfall

A quick wander up above finds a couple of small overhangs – one with a turtle and a couple of strange drawings

Tiny frogs scatter like grasshoppers in almost any still, wet spots

A lone turtle sits in the water on the bottom of a low step in a waterfall eddy

Tentative steps with some seriously thrilling rock scrambling along the bottom of cliffs above the water

A white headed and necked pigeon with some grey roams in fig trees in a shady gully (banded fruit dove)

A black wallaby escapes our noisy presence during an explore upwards

A green algaed pool below a waterfall that comes out of rock, after passing 50m underground

The advance scouts of Russell, Don and Marty

The contentment after Russell's nightly 3 course meals

The little gecko out at night at our camp on the rocky platform

An exciting day of climbing, scrambling, bush bashing and trying to avoid green ant nests

The food drop in a deep cave where the drums are hidden

A couple of days of long slogging on the road/track and hot plains

A lovely camp close to Twin Falls again where we see 'spotty' (archer fish), 'stripy', 'long-tom', a salty crocodile, and more fish

The frog with a creamy beige colour and pointy nose was seen at camp again

The reddish orange ripe fruit of the Pandanus palm, the spiral growth pattern on the trunk

The odd pig is flushed out of a hiding place close by

A grey stallion brumby trots close to us to check us out, before trotting back to his mate in Arabian style

The slog days finish with a make-do camp on and around huge boulders

A metre long yellow and tan striped snake slipped upwards onto a bush – a this snake at both ends, taller in the middle (night tiger)

Bending down a flowering grevillea to lick the dripping nectar

A large spotted gecko hides as we all gather around (*Oedura gemmata*)

A sandy campsite – sand in tents, bowls and clothes

A rocket frog is 'released from its catapult' and flies through the air with legs splayed, to land in the water some metres away

Large black striped skinks manoeuvre quickly over piles of river stones at the old Buffalo pool, under ancient *Allosyncarpia*

Swimming in the same large pool, through the light olive green waterweeds and the small ed-tailed fish, to features each side of the waterfall, to the faded artwork above head height and the water

Footprints in the cave and a warm campfire place prove others share this area with us

A huge dead *Allosyncarpia* root with river rocks embedded like conglomerate where the root originally grew, wrapping up the rocks

A canyon that begins dramatically, drops into a slot, the water flowing a few ledges below

Marty sees briefly and clearly an emerald fruit dove in the sun on a rock

Small fish jump and plop during the night in the shallow, still water close to where we sleep

In the morning, the fish have retreated to deeper water, and an Azure kingfisher arrives, and then leaves, darting and ducking between the huge boulders, *Allosyncarpia* and pandanus

Fresh growth leaves with the soft texture of velvety horse noses

A quail is seen for a few seconds before taking off out of the grass with another adult and two babies

Four to six metre high beige brown coloured termite mounds scattered on the plain

A couple of rusty tin cans cause our eyes and brains to awake to a different theme, but nothing more is seen