

Reflections from the Top End 4

Still 'high' from Katherine
We headed off
To Mataranka for our lunch.
The water looked
So inviting to Tric
She was in the water again...
She shouted, "Bliss!"
As Anne and I
Sipped cool drinks
In the shaded
Beer garden.
The water did look good,
the kids had fun.
We wandered around,
we found out
where the water
all came from...
(30 million litres per day)
Deep and blue
Under tall palm trees
From underground
The springs do run!!
At Daly Waters
The pub was intriguing
With collections of
thongs and undies



Bras and things
Cards and photos,
IDs and hats,
All hanging around
For us to see...
The Barra on the bbq
Was big, soft and tasty!
Our tummies were full
But gosh it was good
The mossies not so!!!
And in the morning
Amongst the dust
A bright red flower
Was yet another contrast.
We set forth for Banka Banka
To fill up with
the clean, pure water...
"Oh! No.. it's closed!" they said
A water pipe has lost its head
So no water is available!
Matilda's tanks are nearly empty
Banka Banka always has plenty
But not this time..
Ah! Well,
it's on to Tennant Creek
A COLD swimming pool,
I don't believe it!
The water in the showers too



Needs some hot
 And we've not
 Needed to add that
 For quite some time!
 And at night
 The air-con's off
 For the first time
 Since I can remember.
 At Tennant Creek
 We meet a bloke
 Who's lived in the bush
 For all his years.
 We smile as Jimmy tells
 His yarns to a beat
 And teaches us
 How to eat
 What's in the bush.
 To make 'soap' and all
 He's got for us!
 To Devil's Marbles (Karlukarlu)
 And camp right there
 In the midst of the rocks

With lots of others
 Who want to see
 The sun going down
 From high up on top.
 We take the champers

Jimmy, the bush tucker man..



See the people, up on top..
 how high it was, and we were!



The 'snail'...



Matilda



And toast our luck
 For being in
 Another beaut spot
 For 'happy hour'!
 And sunset!
 We sleep like a top
 The temperature's down
 The humidity gone
 We like it a lot!!

And in the morning
 Over the rocks
 The sun returns
 With colours of gold
 To light up the rocks
 That are so very old.



Road train..



And in the morning
I'm up high again
To watch
this glorious day,
begin.



The heaps of rocks
Glow gold
In the new morning light
While the moon
Still watches
From the sky above...



Later on
We meet Bill
Who comes from
Tenant Creek
To tell
Us girls and Brian
(a bloke that we just met)
About the marbles
Plants and stuff.
We walk and walk
Around the rocks
That are HUGE
Like two storey houses.
He shows us 'caves'
That we go in
The heat, cold, wind and water
Have eroded them
For millions of years.
They sit on top
Just balanced there
Some look like salami
Cut in half..
Others save water
In a hole on top
While trees find
A way to grow
In impossible places
Down below...





A case moth hangs upon
A branch
In measured symmetry
Out in the open..
As we get too hot
And finish the walk...

We head for Ti Tree
To show the gals
Just where I'll be
When they head home...
(more on Ti Tree soon)
And then on to Alice
The end of our journey

Together...
Put the gals on the plane
With many shared memories.
That will stay with us for ever.
In 2201 kms
From Darwin down...
Plenty of laughs
Champagne and gin!
Salmon and cream cheese
Smoked oysters and chocolate.
We walked and
We climbed
Sweated and soaked...
We've learned lots and lots
About this country of ours!



Cheers!