

# OUTBACK

PRESS KIT

3 x 1 HOUR SERIES



NORTHERN  
PICTURES

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DISTRIBUTED BY



# TABLE OF CONTENTS


SERIES DESCRIPTION.....	1
SHORT EPISODE DESCRIPTIONS.....	4
SERIES SYNOPSIS .....	5
EPISODE SYNOPSIS .....	6
EPISODE SUMMARIES .....	9
SERIES OVERVIEW .....	12
PRODUCER'S STATEMENT .....	13
'MAKING OF' NOTES.....	14
CHARACTER BIOGRAPHIES .....	15
BACKGROUND FACTS .....	21
SPECIES LIST.....	23
WEB LINKS .....	26
CONTACT DETAILS .....	27
SALES AND DISTRIBUTIONS .....	28
ISAN AND TECHNICAL DETAILS .....	29
KEY CREATIVE BIOS .....	30
CREDITS .....	32
ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANY .....	33



# SERIES DESCRIPTION

Over the course of a year, we journey with the people and animals of Australia's Kimberley region in North West Australia: a vast, rugged and remote wilderness, bursting with character.





The Kimberley region in the remote North West of Australia is one of the most extraordinary places on Earth. In sheer size it is three times the size of England – or around the size of California. Yet only 40,000 people live here, making the Kimberley the most unpopulated place on the planet. Almost half of the population are indigenous Australians.





## SHORT EPISODE DESCRIPTIONS

### EPISODE 1

The knock-em-down rains have come to an end and life in Outback Australia is blossoming, breeding and pulsating with energy.

### EPISODE 2

It's the dry season but the pace in Outback Australia doesn't slow: there's cattle to muster, pearls to harvest, rock art to explore and new wings taking their first flight.

### EPISODE 3

Only madness reigns in the Outback as the dry season extends: there's mustering of crocodiles to be done, and birds to be blasted – all in the name of game changing discovery.

# SERIES SYNOPSIS

In a landscape so ancient that it predates life on the planet – are animals superbly adapted to the harsh and beautiful extremes of Outback Australia. We travel with these creatures as they work to survive the dramatic wet and dry seasons that punctuate this diverse wilderness. From its hot red heart, to its spectacular and pristine coastline, a particular breed of people also journey through this land. This is their story – past and present, tough and tender. A spectacular adventure into the life of Australia's unique and precious North West corner.



## EPISODE SYNOPSIS

# EPISODE 1

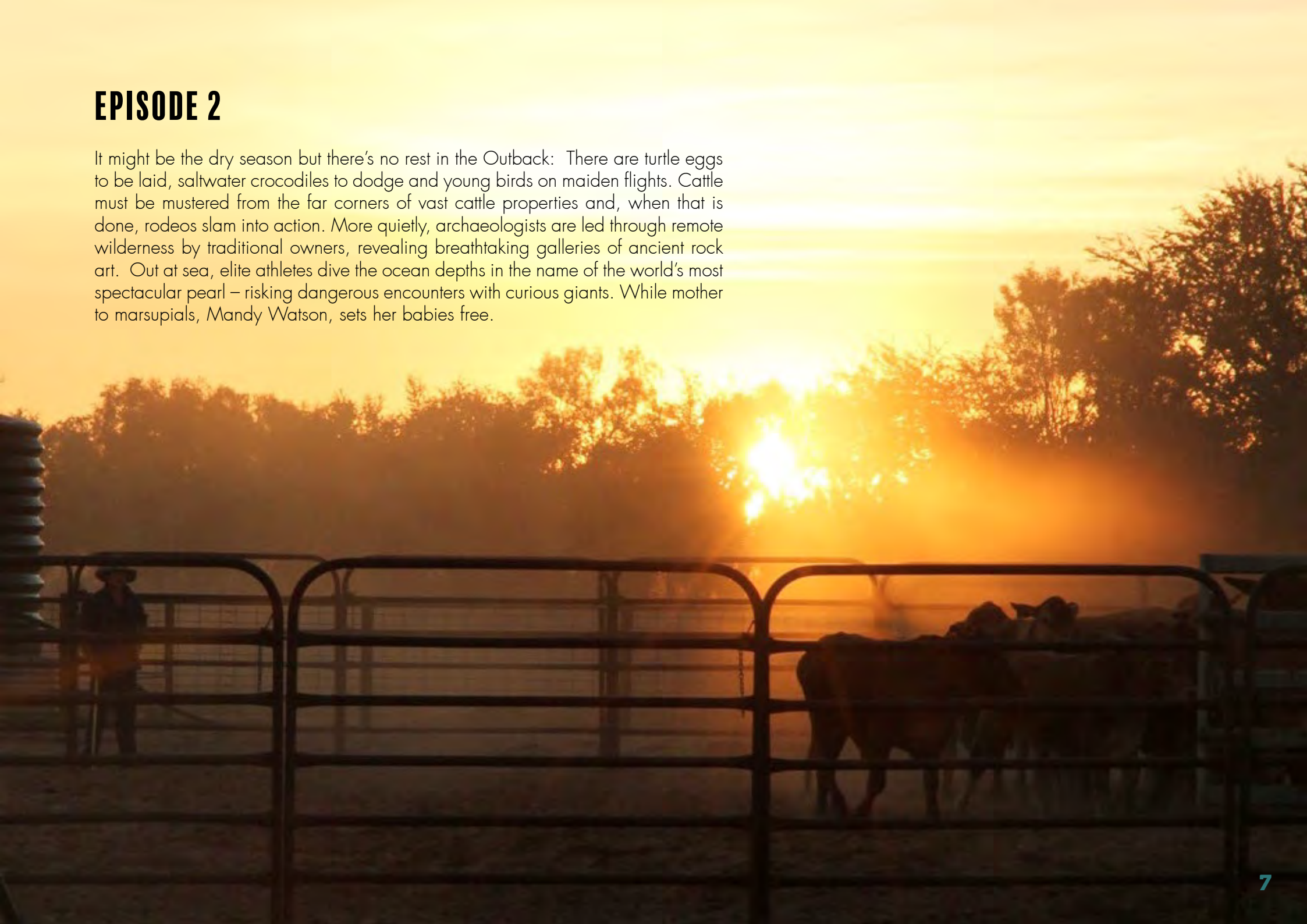
The Kimberley region in North West Australia boasts some of the most spectacular wilderness, and tough characters, in existence. We meet the humans, and the creatures, who – as the wet season comes to an end – begin their adventures across this diverse and surprising landscape. From tiny orphaned joeys to the majestic osprey – survival takes guts (and sometimes even the huge heart of human carers). It's a land where humans and animals live in dangerous, and exquisite, proximity.





## EPISODE 2

It might be the dry season but there's no rest in the Outback: There are turtle eggs to be laid, saltwater crocodiles to dodge and young birds on maiden flights. Cattle must be mustered from the far corners of vast cattle properties and, when that is done, rodeos slam into action. More quietly, archaeologists are led through remote wilderness by traditional owners, revealing breathtaking galleries of ancient rock art. Out at sea, elite athletes dive the ocean depths in the name of the world's most spectacular pearl – risking dangerous encounters with curious giants. While mother to marsupials, Mandy Watson, sets her babies free.



## EPISODE 3

Inland Kimberley is now so stiflingly hot, everything and everyone moves with caution - with the exception of gold diggers Honest John and Steve. The region's remaining waterholes are packed with animals, forced dangerously close. Windjana Gorge is a prime example - a pristine oasis where brave humans wade into croc-infested water all in the name of science. The coast is also a place to congregate. Thousands of shorebirds arrive from the world's longest single migration, only to be blasted with nets by crafty bird lovers. The humidity builds and finally, the skies explode with thunder and rain. Nyul Nyul ranger Albert Wiggan sings a welcome to the life it brings and arrival of a new season in his ancient land.



## EPISODE SUMMARIES

### EPISODE 1 THE KIMBERLEY COMES ALIVE

The Kimberley in Australia's North West corner is remote, but never lonely. For starters, there are crocodiles everywhere. Just ask Honest John and Steve, two locals with no shortage of croc tales. Rangers will also attest that crocs are extending their range, right into the heart of town waterways – and sometimes they need to be captured and removed. Matt and Luke are two rangers with the job of hauling these massive predators away from human playgrounds.

Across the Kimberley the end of the wet season heralds movement – by people and animals. This means more work for wildlife carers like Dr Mandy “Doolittle” who adds beautiful orphan kangaroo Pardi to her sanctuary of rescued marsupials. Every day, more dependent babies arrive, like pouch joey Kingsley. Mandy becomes loving mother to them all. Where Mandy nurtures individuals, there are others protecting whole species.

Traditional indigenous owner Albert Wiggan and the Nyul Nyul rangers have found burrows sheltering the now rare and enchanting Bilby. But they aren't the only ones eyeing these shy, nocturnal creatures. Feral predators have left Australia with the worst mammalian extinction rate on the planet.

Other fauna is long gone, but messaging from the distant past – the Kimberley coast is home to Australia's dinosaur highway. Paleontologist Steve Salisbury and his team are literally walking in the footsteps of dinosaurs as they decipher who and what rampaged across this coastline one wild fortnight 130 million years ago. Watching the team from cliffs above are descendants of the dinosaurs, a pair of osprey raising two ever-hungry chicks. The parents are expert hunters, mining the pristine coastline for fish.

Back at Wyndham two rangers have also made a catch – one very large male saltwater crocodile. Getting him from floating cage to ranger boat is an act of blind determination. It takes grit to live in the Outback.



## EPISODE 2

# THE DRY SEASON

The onset of the dry season doesn't herald downtime in the Kimberley. Osprey chicks take to the skies for the first time, as flatback turtles hurl themselves ashore to lay their eggs – running the gauntlet of saltwater crocodiles. This endemic sea turtle is barely understood by science, which is why this spectacular point of the Kimberley's northern tip has become a hot spot for turtle tagging. Indigenous elder, Lawrence Carter joins the science mission, doubling as bodyguard for the turtle hatchlings as they make their fraught journey from nest to water.

At Mandy's animal haven, there are three red roos being prepared for release into the wild. It is the best and worst part of Mandy's job caring for these animals. She finds it so hard to let go – but knows it signals the ultimate success for carer and cared for. While at the vast cattle station of Jubilee Downs wide-ranging cattle are mustered by some of the world's most sure-footed horses, the Australian stock horse. Station owner Keith Anderson believes the best way to herd cattle is with their equal; large beasts with a beating heart. That said, he appreciates the addition of his son-in-law, chopper pilot Mick, who has cut the muster time in half with his aeronautical acrobatics.

At sea, life is also being lived large: Humpback whales are reaching the endpoint of their migration, their Kimberley coast nursery grounds. Near the cavorting whales, a pearl diving ship sends its divers to scour the ocean floor for the world's most spectacular pearl makers – the coveted South Sea Pearl Oyster. But it's a dangerous liaison. Whales get terrifyingly close to taking a diver, and his oxygen supply, on a journey into oblivion.

More peacefully, a team of archaeologists and traditional owners are cataloguing and dating thousands of rock art sites in the Kimberley's remote north – what they discover are possibly the oldest examples of human expression on the planet.

Daredevil Mick and the rest of the Jubilee Downs crew throw caution to the wind at the Halls Creek Rodeo – and, with love and tears, Mandy sets free her kangaroo babies into the wild, to live out their lives in the shadows of the Bungle Bungles, also known as Purnululu.



## EPISODE 3

# THE RETURN OF THE WET

The dry season is now oppressive: only madness reigns.

Honest John and Steve, avowedly mad, go searching for gold. Raging rivers have contracted to small, precious waterholes where animals are forced to flock together. Bats congregate in trees above Windjana Gorge. When it's time to rehydrate they must risk a dip in the croc-infested waters below. Sometimes this is swift and uneventful. Other times, a croc gets lucky, and a bat loses much more than a powerful thirst.

The beautiful Windjana Gorge National Park is one of the few places in Australia where cane toads are yet to march – but they're on their way. Scientists descend on the gorge to gauge what lives there ahead of the cane toad invasion. They muster crocodiles by wading – barefoot – into their world.

Across the Kimberley, the impact of man is expressed in a myriad of ways. For example, at Kununurra the river system has been dammed. This means the ancient barramundi, which travels from freshwater to sea in order to spawn, has had its breeding cycle shut down. To remedy this, Milton Williams is replicating the barramundi's complex breeding cycle in a laboratory 1000kms away. Tenderly coaxing his stock of wild caught fish, he creates a new generation of baby barra – and takes them on a man-made migration across the region to restock the barren waters of their natural home.

While at Purnululu, indigenous rangers team up with archaeologists in a bid to unlock the stories of archaic rock art. Working together they hope to not only preserve this spectacular bank of art – including images as old as 40,000 years, to 'first contact' images of pastoral trucks – this partnership also plans to restore oral storytelling, connecting painted images to dreamtime and living law.

Back on the glorious coast, tiny, unassuming shorebirds are touching down after performing the world's longest single migration. Waiting for them, a flock of bird lovers with the artillery to capture, tag and record the details of these aeronautical miracles.

Finally, with the mercury set to explode, it happens: the rains come. The entire, vast region celebrates and drinks to the breaking of another season. Albert and the Nyul Nyul sing a welcome. Their Country has responded to the change of the seasons – again.



# SERIES OVERVIEW

## EPISODE ONE – KIMBERLEY COMES ALIVE

- Preamble – a big place, with a big story: Outback Australia
- The wet season ends – wet season comes to close
- Crocodiles on the move – baby crocs to adults seeking territory, on popular beaches
- Honest John and Steve – two men in a boat with tall croc tales
- Pardi – An orphan euro, needs to be among his own. Wildlife carer Jan Martin puts him on a plane to Broome.
- Albert & the Nyul Nyul – indigenous ranger from Dampier Peninsula introduces his Country
- Pardi: Flying Kangaroo - arrives in Kununurra into the arms of Mandy Watson, Dr Doolittle of native animals. Mandy receives Kingsley, another orphan joey.
- Nyul Nyul find Bilby – Albert and his fellow rangers discover, and spy on, a bilby colony
- Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary – fighting fire with fire at one of the world's biggest wildlife sanctuaries.
- Quoll trapping – a rare Northern quoll is trapped, tagged and bites back.
- Kimberley ecology and tides – 350-million-year-old Devonian reefs and tides so powerful they create horizontal waterfalls.
- Dinosaur highway – walking in the footsteps of sauropods
- Thriving Euros – Mandy Watson rises at dawn to tend to her baby macropods
- Dinosaurs 2 – footsteps made by the cousin of T Rex
- Osprey – the ancestors of dinosaurs watch from above
- Croc is captured – the Wyndham croc is hauled from a trap and driven across the Kimberley to his new home
- Wrap and tease episode 2

## EPISODE TWO – THE DRY SEASON

- Preamble
- The dry season has arrived – dry season / winter – burning season, kites
- Osprey – Osprey chicks have grown quickly and are ready to take flight.
- Cape Domett – this remote winter nesting ground is at full swing with egg laying turtles, tiny hatchlings, busy scientists and hungry crocodiles...
- Mandy and her roos – Wildlife carer Mandy Watson, is seeing to her diverse flock of orphans, including red kangaroos soon to be released back into the wild.
- Muster – from pet crocodiles to heroic Australian stock horses, life on a cattle station at muster time. Chopper pilot Mick is the only concession to full horse power.
- Humpback whales – The Outback isn't all red dirt plains. The world's largest population of humpbacks is arriving at its Kimberley nursery ground.
- Pearl Divers – working in the same seas are elite divers searching the sea floor for the South Sea Oyster, maker of the world's most luxurious pearl.
- Rock Art 1 – While in the most remote corner of the Kimberley, an archaeological team are discovering the world's oldest human expression.
- Pearl Divers 2 – Back on the pearl ship off 80 mile-beach, divers are interrupted by a beautiful visitor, leaving a trail of chaos.
- Rodeo – The Jubilee Downs crew are also amid chaos – the bedlam of the Halls Creek Rodeo where daredevil Mick proves the star attraction.
- Mandy says goodbye – Mandy makes the trek to Purnululu with a red roo that refuses all sedation. After a challenging ride, they reach the park's river bed where her charges finally smell the world they were born to inhabit.
- Wrap and tease episode 3

## EPISODE THREE – RETURN OF THE WET

- Preamble
- The dry – dry season deepens into build up.
- Honest John & Steve – ignoring the heat, Honest and Steve set out in search of gold.
- Bats – things are getting steamy in the trees. Hot little bats need to get water – and the crocs are waiting for them.
- Cane Toads – But things are changing in the kingdom of the croc. Like so many native animals in Australia, populations are threatened by the toxic cane toad.
- Croc Muster – Windjana Gorge is one of the precious waterholes which stays wet, right through the dry season. A team of scientists descend on the now shallow remaining pool in order to survey the freshwater crocs.
- Barramundi Fingerlings – at Lake Kununurra, since they dammed the river, the fish can't breed. 1000 kms/620miles away, Milton Williams is solving this problem of barren barramundi.
- Purnululu/Bungle Bungles – At the geological wonder of Purnululu are rangers Vincent and Cyril, custodians of ancient rock art painted on the unique domes and rock walls. Archaeologist Peter Veth and his team are helping them record and catalogue the art for preservation of the works, and local oral history.
- Birds of Roebuck Bay - is one of the richest intertidal zones in the world: Which is why migratory birds fly 11,000 kms/almost 7000 miles to feed and breed on its shores – where Chris Hassell greets them.
- Barramundi to Kununurra – Milton leaves at dawn to drive his thousands of baby barramundi to their (un)natural home of Lake Kununurra. After a grueling 11 hour drive, with the help of local rangers, he sets them free – and hopes he'll see them again.
- Birds of Roebuck Bay – Back at Roebuck Bay Chris and his volunteers blast a net across unsuspecting shorebirds, capturing over 150 for tagging and identification. The birds face enormous challenges as they take on the longest single migration in the world.
- Mammal survey – Further inland, it's tiny marsupials the scientists are tracking down – they want to know what could be lost if, or when, cane toads advance further south.
- The sky breaks – After months without rain, the sky splits and spills. The land and its creatures drink with relief. Another wet season has begun, bringing life affirming rains and relief from the overbearing heat.
- Albert sings - In song and thought, Albert Wiggan and the Nyul Nyul rangers welcome the storm and all that it signifies for this wonderful, challenging land.



## SERIES PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

### TOSCA LOOBY

Venturing into the Kimberley region has offered all of us on the Outback team a chance to revel in something extraordinary. We have been awed by the landscapes and wondered at the adaptations of delicate endemic species. The stories we have chosen to follow are tales of good council, discovery, science in action, inspiring collaborations and exemplary indigenous land management. There are plenty of other stories out there. It can be a cruel and macabre place. Animals struggle to survive in this harsh land. Introduced feral animals are a serious and expanding issue and climate change is already changing the landscape and seasons. But the Kimberley is also full of wonderful, inspiring surprises – more often than not, involving people who have dedicated their lives to better understanding and better managing their world.

Personally, the making of this series has given me licence to talk with indigenous rangers and traditional owners about the management of country and the complex cultural history and beliefs which inform this. I've learnt more about Aboriginal Australia over the making of this series than 13 years of Australia's school curriculum.

In Australia, there is a movement to take indigenous kids out of their communities for education in our cities. In our cities where there is next to no understanding of bush tucker, little perception of caring for the Country that sustains us and an ever diminishing natural world that can support its native flora and fauna.

Being in the Kimberley among people who can describe an intense connection to and responsibility to Country as well as the connectedness of living things in this landscape, is truly an education. Mainstream Australia hasn't just ignored the ancient knowledge that exists, built up over thousands of years, it has spent two centuries working tirelessly to shut it down.

But the best teachers for the future of this country are out there, and they're keen to talk. There are already wonderful partnerships out in the Kimberley, listening very closely to the custodians of land – some of them featured in this series, like the archaeological team from University of Western Australia and inspiring arms of DPAW (Department of Parks and Wildlife in Western Australia).

In the past, I have travelled outside my Country to absorb the vigour and renewal of unfamiliar ideas about the world and our place in it. It's taken the making of this series to realise that exciting ideas, complex and enlivening ways of thinking about our world, are right here and have been for hundreds of thousands of years – had I just thought to ask.



## PRODUCTION BACKGROUND ‘MAKING OF’

This series was born out of blood, sweat, tick bites and stomach churning travel.

Our indefatigable crew of Director Brendan Fletcher, Cinematographer Paul Bell, Sound Recordist Laurie Chlanda and (for a good chunk of the shoot) Production Coordinator Marli Lopez-Hope, did 24 plane trips and travelled 12,400kms by road.

They worked in a single day through temperatures ranging from 6 degrees, to 46.7 degrees celcius (42 to 116 degrees Fahrenheit).

They drove endlessly on rough, spine crunching dirt roads. On one memorable occasion, Brendan watched the wheel of their 4WD catapult past the travelling car as they rolled along on three wheels. It took two hours (in darkness) to locate the runaway wheel.

They did five boat trips and several hair-raising stunts in choppers and light planes. All in all, they sustained over 24 kangaroo tick bites (nasty things with a pervasive itch, often culminating in tropical ulcers).

Paul Bell receives highest possible commendation for going that extra, sometimes deeply uncomfortable, mile for this production. He came very close to being de-gloved by a Barramundi and chewed on by a freshwater crocodile – but never stopped rolling.

He was defecated on by bats, cane toads, horses, crows, red tailed black cockatoos and osprey. He has hosted dust in places where no dust should lie. He has been dehydrated and put his hand into a bucket of semi-frozen bull's testicles. At Roebuck Bay, he crawled around in the searing heat on a boogie board.... all day.

Then he offered up his children as ‘beach goers’ on Broome’s Cable Beach, directing them to run straight past the “Warning: Crocodiles” sign and into the water – all in the name of your viewing pleasure.

Please enjoy their hard and wonderful work. We are eternally grateful they all (including Paul’s young children) survived to tell the tale.



# KIMBERLEY ROCK ART DISCOVERY IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING THE 'OUTBACK' SERIES

During the production of the Outback series we joined a team of archaeologists embarking on a five-year project, Kimberley Visions. Their mission is to catalogue thousands of rock art sites across the region. Led by Professor Peter Veth from the University of Western Australia the project will also involve a team of international experts offering the most comprehensive survey and dating techniques available in the field. It is thought their results will contradict the widely held assumption that the world's oldest rock art is European.

Peter Veth and his team are being led by traditional owners – with whom they're collaborating throughout the project – to breathtaking galleries of rock art. In interview for the series, Peter Veth says: "There's no question that the Kimberley, at over 400,000 square kilometres has an extraordinary landscape of rugged sandstone, basalt and limestones around the edges of a huge drainage system which is like a refuge for plants and animals and obviously people for tens of thousands of years and our best estimates are that there are over a 100,000 rock shelters containing art and other open context sites around the Kimberley and some of these have just a few painted images and some have hundreds, if not thousands, so it's not an exaggeration to say that there would be tens of millions of images probably dating back 30 to 50,000 years."

Excitingly for both the Outback team and the archaeological team, we made a co-discovery.

At Purnululu, home of the Bungle Bungle ranges, while filming with rangers Vincent Edwards and Cyril Bin Rashid, we were led to a spectacular wall of archaic rock art and engravings. Cinematographer Paul Bell was granted permission from the rangers to share the image with Peter Veth, who almost immediately agreed to visit the site in order to see the art 'in the flesh'.

As is revealed in Episode 3 of Outback, Peter Veth and his Kimberley Visions team were thrilled to explore the site for the first time. The engraved face was deemed by Peter Veth to be pre ice age, around 25 to 30,000 years old. The team are now committed to returning to the site as part of the Visions Project to do official dating work at the site. Regardless, Peter Veth says "There's absolutely no question that this is of national significance and should be celebrated as part of the fabric of Purnululu."



## CHARACTER BIOGRAPHIES



ALBERT WIGGAN

Albert is a Nyul Nyul ranger based at Beagle Bay on the Dampier Peninsula. Albert grew up on the tip of the Dampier Peninsula at One Arm Point. He is a freshwater and saltwater man and very proud of this unique combination. He is also a musician, drama graduate and spokesperson who walks adeptly between the world's of his traditional and modern culture.

As a Nyul Nyul ranger Albert is dedicated to preserving the surrounding land and sea. While we record him working with the bilby colonies, he also works with the Nyul Nyul rangers monitoring ocean and islands off the Dampier coast. Their role is critical to maintaining, surveying and understanding the diverse landscapes of this region.



MANDY WATSON

Mandy Watson runs her animal sanctuary, Kangaroo Haven, a few kilometres out of Kununurra. She takes in orphaned and injured wildlife from across the region and has now rehabilitated and released hundreds of animals. Her operation is self-funded and her commitment utterly tireless.



STEVE SALISBURY

Dr Steve Salisbury is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences at The University of Queensland, and a Research Associate at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh. He is living out his childhood dream of studying Australian dinosaurs.

In 2001 Steve was involved in the discovery of (what was at the time) Australia's largest dinosaur, Elliot the sauropod. Steve can often be found on the dinosaur playgrounds of the West Australian coast, as well as Queensland and field-based research on the South Island of New Zealand and the Antarctic Peninsula.



PETER VETH

Professor Peter Veth is an archaeologist with the University of Western Australia. He has over 30 years experience in terrestrial and maritime archaeological survey, excavations and research publication. He now leads a five-year project, involving teams of international rock art experts, to create a database of rock art styles from the Northern Kimberley region. The ambitious undertaking is known as the Kimberley Visions Project and is funded by the Australian Research Council and the Kimberley Foundation Australia.



VINCENT EDWARDS & CYRIL BIN RASHID

Vincent (right) and Cyril (left) are head rangers at Purnululu National Park. Vincent is a Djaru man and Cyril is a Kija man, together representing the two Aboriginal language clan groups who have traditional connections to the Purnululu region. Both men have grown up in this incredible landscape. Vincent's aunt was born in a Purnululu cave and we follow him as he takes us to the hand print she has made as a little girl on a rock wall. She is elderly now and a senior indigenous custodian of this extraordinary place. Their office is a breathtaking example of geological sculpture – including some of the oldest and richest figurative rock art in the World.



AMBROSE CHALARIMERI

Ambrose was born on his country in 1938, but was taken to a nearby mission where he grew up from a young age. He returned to his land as an adult and became a protector of the country and its extensive examples of rock art. A book, *The Man From Sunrise Side*, is based on recorded conversations with Chalarimeri and charts the story of his remarkable life.



CHRIS HASSELL

Chris is a passionate ornithologist who joined his first Broome bird shorebird mission in 1996 as a volunteer. He has since become pivotal to the Broome Bird Observatory's work monitoring shorebird populations and leads the Global Flyway Network from Broome, Western Australia. He is a respected author, researcher and advocate of migratory birds.



KEITH ANDERSON

Keith Anderson started work as a head stockman at Jubilee Downs in 1974, and has never left. His wife Karen was born on nearby station, Anna Plains, and the pair find it difficult to imagine being anywhere but in the outback. Three generations of the family live on the property, with the youngest, five year-old Jimmy, a student of School of the Air.



MILTON WILLIAMS

Milton Williams is officially known as an Aquaculture Technician with the North Regional TAFE, Kimberley Training Institute. He has been involved in a long term mission to restock the dammed section of the Ord River, known as Lake Kununurra, with barramundi 'fingerlings'.



TRACY SONNEMAN

Tracy is the Nature Conservation Coordinator for the Department of Parks And Wildlife (DPAW) in the West Kimberley. She works with a range of native title groups across the West Kimberley and coordinates biodiversity surveys for a range of species from invertebrates to crocodiles.



# BACKGROUND FACTS

## REMOTE AND UNPOPULATED

The Kimberley region is three times the size of England, yet only 40,000 people live here, making it the most unpopulated place on the planet.

## LONGEST ROAD IN AUSTRALIA

The Great Northern Highway is the longest highway of Australia at 3198kms. It's Western Australia's most important road and it's the longest most-remote paved road in the world.

## HOTTEST PLACE IN AUSTRALIA

Wyndham Aerodrome recorded Australia's highest mean maximum temperature on record in September 2016 (39.2°C), including ten days with daily maximums of 40°C or higher, which is also a national record for the number of such days in September.

## LARGEST MARSUPIAL IN THE WORLD

A red kangaroo can reach speeds of over 35 miles (56 kilometres) an hour. Their bounding gait allows them to cover 25 feet (8 metres) in a single leap and to jump 6 feet (1.8 metres) high.

## MOST POWERFUL BITE IN THE WORLD

Crocodiles are believed to have the greatest bite pressure of any creature – and that includes the Tyrannosaurus Rex! The jaw muscles of a 4.6 metre estuarine crocodile can generate two tonnes of pressure – which is enough for their teeth to punch a hole through metal plate.

## WORLD'S LARGEST HUMPBACK WHALE POPULATION

After being hunted close to extinction, today there is a pod that is the largest herd of humpbacks on the planet. Each year calves are growing the pod by 10 per cent. The Kimberley region is where they mate, give birth and fatten their calves. Newborn calves drink 200 litres/420 pints of milk per day. The milk is thick like toothpaste and around 50 per cent fat.

## THE WORLD'S OLDEST ROCK ART

It's not an exaggeration to say that there would be tens of millions of images potentially tens of thousands of years old, scattered across the Kimberley. It's estimated only two per cent of all rock art has been recorded by science.

## THE MOST PRECIOUS MARINE GEM IN THE WORLD

Off the Kimberley coast is the world's last commercial bed of wild pearl oysters. South Sea Pearl Oysters create the most valuable pearls known to mankind. A single pearl recently sold for more than US\$1 million.

## CROCS ARE LIVING DINOSAURS

Crocodiles are believed to have existed for 200 million years, whereas dinosaurs became extinct a mere 65 million years ago.

## SAFE PASSAGE FOR SHOREBIRDS

Over 100,000 migratory birds each year visit Roebuck Bay, flying all the way from the High Arctic. This is the longest single migration of any creature on Earth. And Roebuck Bay is their safe haven. Birds have been tracked crossing 22 countries, with individuals navigating the globe every year for 25 seasons: Flying as far as the Earth to the moon within its lifetime.

## RARE BEAUTY

Most Australian terrestrial species can be found nowhere else on Earth. For example, more than 80 per cent of Australia's mammals, reptiles, frogs, and plants, and about 70 per cent of its insects, live only on this continent. Much of this biodiversity is restricted to, or most secure in, the Outback.

## ONE OF THE LARGEST INTACT NATURAL REGIONS ON EARTH

Over 1.1 million hectares of land in the Kimberley is dedicated to conservation.

## LAST OF THE WILD

A recent global analysis, *The Last of the Wild*, by the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network, highlighted the fact that only a small number of large natural areas remain on Earth. These are the places of relative wilderness, where ecological processes function normally and movements of wildlife remain largely, or wholly, unfettered by the fragmentation of habitats. These places are likely to endure as strongholds for biodiversity. They include the rapidly diminishing wildlands of the Amazon basin; the boreal forests and tundra of Canada, Alaska and Siberia; the Sahara; and the Australian Outback.



### **THE WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING ORGANISM**

The world's oldest form of living organisms, *Stromatolites*, can be found in Western Australia.

### **MULTITUDE OF PLANT LIFE**

The rugged landscapes of Australia's North West support a spectacular and diverse variety of plants - over 2,000 species in fact.

### **DIVERSE LANDSCAPE**

The geography is one of contrasts – deep rocky gorges, limestone caves, pristine lakes and waterfalls, volcanic remnants, sandstone cliffs, grassy plateaus, and ancient mountain ranges and desert country.

### **FRESHWATER CROCODILE ATTACKS (1975–2014)**

Historical data shows only 11 attacks by freshwater crocodiles in Australia, all of which were non-fatal.

### **SOME OF THE OLDEST EXISTING ROCK FORMATIONS**

At 2,000 million years old, the rock formations of the North West are some of the oldest on earth.

### **THE ATHLETICISM OF A RED KANGAROO**

A red kangaroo can reach speeds of over 35 miles (56 kilometres) an hour. Their bounding gait allows them to cover 25 feet (8 metres) in a single leap and to jump 6 feet (1.8 metres) high.

### **THE KIMBERLEY REGION IS A VAST LANDSCAPE**

The Kimberley in Western Australia covers an area of 424,517 sq kms (163,907 sq miles)

### **THE LITTLE RED FLYING FOX IS THE SMALLEST FLYING FOX IN MAINLAND AUSTRALIA**

At 300–600 grams, it is the smallest flying fox in mainland Australia but has a wingspan of up to 3 feet.

### **SMALLEST MARSUPIAL IN THE WORLD**

The Long-tailed Planigale is Australia's smallest marsupial and one of the world's smallest mammals. It is a tiny 5.5–6.5cm in head-body length, has a 4.5–6cm long tail, and weighs on average 4.3 grams.

### **KANGAROOS BEAT THE HEAT WITH A SKILFUL STRATEGY**

Roos do not pant to manage overheating, instead roos have "spit baths" by licking their forearms to keep cool.

### **THE KIMBERLEY COAST HAS THE LARGEST TIDAL SURGES**

The Kimberley also experiences some of the highest tides in the world.

### **CROCS CAN HIDE UNDERWATER FOR UP TO AN HOUR**

Large crocodiles can stay underwater for at least an hour by dropping their heart rate to two to three beats per minute to conserve energy.

### **THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST SNAKES RESIDE IN THE KIMBERLEY**

The Taipan, King Brown, Western Brown and Death Adders are common in Australia's North West.

### **WINDJANA GORGE IS A PART OF A REEF SYSTEM THAT PRE-DATES LIFE ON EARTH**

Windjana Gorge National Park is part of a 375 million year old Devonian reef system. Carved by the Lennard River, Windjana Gorge is over three kilometres long with 300 metre high walls.

### **HOW THE LAND SURVIVES THE DRY**

The heavy summer rains bring new growth and flowers to the region, while during the dry winter months, the rocky surfaces retain water to sustain plant life.

### **PLANTS AND ANIMALS ARE UNIQUELY CONNECTED**

Western Australia has by far the highest number of bird pollinated flower species in the world with 17 per cent of the unique flowers being pollinated by interaction with bird life.

### **THE KIMBERLEY IS MAINLY DRY AND RARELY WET**

Australian rainforests are fragmented and have a limited range. In the Kimberley, there are only about 7,000 hectares of rainforests, less than 0.0001 per cent of the region, yet they contain around 25 per cent of the Kimberley's plant species. Monsoon vine thickets are just one of many different types of rainforest in Australia, and the network of vine thickets on the Dampier Peninsula forms the southern limit of rainforest in Western Australia.

### **THE KIMBERLEY IS ONE OF THE HOTTEST REGIONS**

Average yearly temperature is 28 degrees celcius or higher.

### **THE STATE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA IS THE FLATTEST, LOWEST AND DRIEST CONTINENT (BAR ANTARCTICA) IN THE WORLD.**

Western Australia, with 12,500 kilometres of coastline, is the largest state in the largest island in the world, and is also the flattest, lowest and driest continent (excluding Antarctica) in the world!





# SPECIES LIST



Narbalek - *Petrogale concinna*



Eastern Osprey - *Pandion cristatus*



Death adder - *Acanthophis*



Saltwater Crocodile - *Crocodylus porosus*



Blue winged kookaburra - *Dacelo leachii*



Horses - *Equus caballus*



Freshwater crocodile - *Crocodylus johnsoni*



Red kangaroo - *Macropus rufus*



Emu - *Dromaius novaehollandiae*



Euro Wallaby - *Macropus r. erubescens*



Billy - *Macrotis lagotis*



Feral cat - *Felis catus*



Little Red Flying foxes - *Pteropus scapulatus*



Tiger shark - *Galeocerdo cuvier*



Gould's goanna - *Varanus gouldii*



Brolga - *Grus rubicunda*



Red tailed black cockatoo - *Calyptorhynchus banksii macrorhynchus*



Echidna - *Tachyglossidae*



Sugar glider possum - *Petaurus breviceps*



Tawny frogmouth bird - *Podargus strigoides*



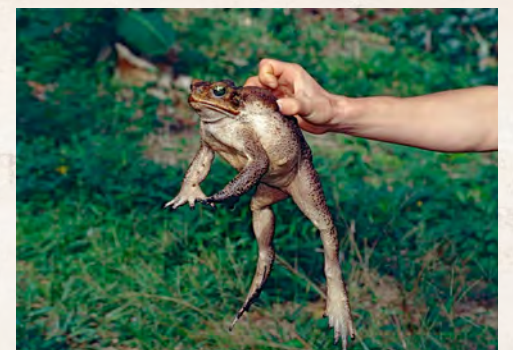
Northern Quoll - *Dasyurus hallucatus*



Gouldian finch - *Erythrura gouldiae*



Western grey kangaroo - *Macropus fuliginosus*



Cane Toad - *Rhinella marina*



Humpback Whale – *Megaptera novaeangliae*



Black Kite – *Milvus migrans*



Flatback Turtle – *Natator depressus*



Snubfin Dolphins – *Orcaella heinsohni*



Barramundi – *Lates calcarifer*



Kimberley Rock Rat – *Zyomys woodwardi*



Dugong – *Dugong dugon*



Fiddler crab – *Uca*



Broad-billed Sandpiper - *Limicola falcinellus*



Curlew Sandpiper - *Calidris ferruginea*



Pelicans - *Pelecanus*



Hooded plover - *Thinornis rubricollis*

## OUTBACK WEB LINKS

Department of Parks and Wildlife  
<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au>

Kimberley Land Council  
<http://www.klc.org.au>

Kimberley Foundation Australia  
<http://www.kimberleyfoundation.org.au/kimberley-visions/>

Centre for Rock Art Research and Management,  
University of Western Australia  
<http://uwa.edu.au/rock-art>

Broome Shorebird Sanctuary  
<http://www.broomebirdobservatory.com>

Global Flyway Network  
<http://globalflywaynetwork.com.au>

Roebuck Bay Working Group  
<http://www.roebuckbay.org.au>

Kimberley Wildlife Rehabilitation  
<http://www.kimberleywildlife.org>

Kangaroo Haven  
[www.kangaroohavenwildliferescue.com.au](http://www.kangaroohavenwildliferescue.com.au)

Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC)  
<http://www.australianwildlife.org>

Paspaley  
<http://paspaleygroup.com/pearling>

Kimberley Pilbara Cattleman's Association  
<https://www.kpca.online>

Broome Aquaculture Centre, North Regional TAFE (formerly Kimberley Training Institute)  
<http://www.northregionaltafe.wa.edu.au/campuses/facilities/broomeaquaculture>

Warmun Arts Centre  
<http://warmunart.com.au>

Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC)  
<http://www.waitoc.com/now/index.html>

North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA)  
<http://www.nailsma.org.au/index.html>

Environs Kimberley  
<http://www.environskimberley.org.au>

Yawuru  
<http://www.yawuru.com>

Goolarabooloo  
<http://www.goolarabooloo.org.au>

The Kimberley. Like Nowhere Else.  
<http://www.likenowhereelse.org.au>

Pew – Outback to Oceans  
<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/outback-to-oceans-australia/where-we-work/western-australia>



## CONTACT DETAILS



[www.northernpictures.com.au](http://www.northernpictures.com.au)



[northernpictures](https://www.facebook.com/northernpictures)



[@northernpics](https://twitter.com/northernpics)

# SALES AND DISTRIBUTION



## **ENTERTAINMENT ONE FILMS AUSTRALIA**

28-30 Queen Street, Level 2  
Chippendale NSW  
Australia 2008  
[www.eonefilms.com](http://www.eonefilms.com)

## **ENTERTAINMENT ONE FILMS UK**

45 Warren Street  
London W1T 6AG  
United Kingdom  
+44 (0)20 3691 8600



# ISAN

Seamless Ep 1 - ISAN 0000-0004-4271-0001-A-0000-0000-7

Seamless Ep 2 - ISAN 0000-0004-4271-0002-8-0000-0000-D

Seamless Ep 3 - ISAN 0000-0004-4271-0003-6-0000-0000-J

Cut to Clock Ep 1 - ISAN 0000-0004-4271-0001-A-0000-0001-5

Cut to Clock Ep 2 - ISAN 0000-0004-4271-0002-8-0000-0001-B

Cut to Clock Ep 3 - ISAN 0000-0004-4271-0003-6-0000-0001-H

# TECHNICAL DETAILS

Shooting Format - 4K

Screening Format - DVD, HDCAM, PRORES 422 HQ, h.264 Quicktime

Aspect Ratio - 16:9

Sound - 5.1 mix



## KEY CREATIVES BIOGRAPHIES



### **MARK COLES SMITH** **NARRATOR**

Mark is one of Australia's most exciting new young actors. He has already received a suite of award nominations and gongs. Most recently Mark was seen on US TV in Hunters for the SyFy Network and on stage in Leah Purcell's The Drover's Wife at Belvoir St Theatre. He was nominated as Best Actor in a Supporting Role for an AACTA for the feature film, Pawno.

With a gift for storytelling, Mark worked under the guidance of Gary Crew as part of the Indigenous Mentorship Program for the Australian Society of Authors.

In 2015 Mark was awarded the Casting Guild of Australia's inaugural Sirius Award for New Talent of the Future.



### **TOSCA LOOBY** **SERIES PRODUCER & WRITER**

Tosca doesn't believe making television is as important as curing cancer or regenerating bushland, but it can be a lot of fun. Her television adventures have taken her around the world with an open licence to ask impertinent questions. She's made films in Europe, Asia and Australia on subjects as diverse as flies, child abduction, bird watching, asbestos poisoning and remote Welsh weddings.

She believes W.C Fields was right about not working with children, but animals can be delightful.

Her directing credits include: Frantic Family Rescue (ABC), Eureka Prize nominated The Great Australian Fly (ABC), Logie-nominated Tug of Love (SBS), Disturbing Dust (SBS), Eye of the Tiger (Discovery – best of category winner at International Wildlife Film Festival), and Until Death Do Us Part (SBS – ATOM, Best Documentary).



### **BRENDAN FLETCHER** **DIRECTOR**

Brendan Fletcher has worked extensively in film and television across Australia's outback, forging relationships with indigenous communities and fellow filmmakers. His film Mad Bastards, an outback road movie, has received multiple award nominations and premiered at Cannes Film Festival.

Brendan's latest film Oscar Wilde's The Nightingale and The Rose premiered at Berlin 2015 and was awarded Best Australian Short Film at 2015 Melbourne International Film Festival and Best Short Animation at the 2016 AACTA Awards.

Brendan has shot episodes for landmark Network Seven travel program Great Outdoors in Russia, India, New Zealand and North America. In 2011 he made comedy series Judith Lucy's Spiritual Journey for ABC TV which followed other ABC TV award-winners: 900 Neighbours, and Andrew Denton's The Elders.





**KARINA HOLDEN**  
**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

20 years ago Karina Holden was a wildlife biologist pumping crocodile stomachs and doing testicular biopsies on snakes. She made the switch to film making when she joined the ABC's Natural History Unit in 1995 as a researcher, working her way up the food chain to work on blue chip wildlife series including international co-productions Eye of the Storm and Wild Australasia.

Since then she has worked in both the independent sector as Head of Production (Oxford Scientific Films Australia), Creative Producer and Writer/Director (Becker Entertainment, Beyond, Southern Star), as well as within the national broadcaster as Commissioning Editor of Science and Natural History.

In 2013, Karina joined Northern Pictures as Head of Production and Development in the hope it would lead to more croc wrangling and less paperwork. So far, that's not been the case.

Her credits for the company include Life on the Reef, Great White Matrix, Changing Minds (series 1 and 2), Saltwater Heroes, Secret Life of Pearls and Luke Warm Sex.



**PAUL BELL**  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Over the last 20 years Paul Bell has worked in the Film & Television industry producing a wide range of content for national and international audiences, from the remote bush of Australia, to the streets of Tokyo and the wilderness of Antarctica. Paul started out in Perth before moving to Broome in 1996 and joining David Batty of Rebel Films working right throughout the Kimberley on various documentary and educational projects including the cult series, 'Bush Mechanics'.

Career highlights include working with the United Nations recording traditional knowledge of climate change with indigenous peoples and travelling to the vast continent of Antarctica. Awards include Best International Documentary 2008 for the documentary 'Case 442' at the International Cherokee Film Festival in Toronto, 2007 and the documentary Jarlmadangah (Our Dream), which won the Best International Short Documentary Award at the Cherokee International Film Festival in 2008.

# COMPLETE CREDITS

**Series Producer and Writer**  
TOSCA LOOBY

**Narrator**  
MARK COLES SMITH

**Director**  
BRENDAN FLETCHER

**Cinematography**  
PAUL BELL

**Editors**  
PHILIPPA ROWLANDS A.S.E  
ANTHONY COX

**Post Producer**  
ELLE GIBBONS

**Line Producer**  
LAURA GRACE

**Production Coordinator**  
MARLI LOPEZ HOPE

**Location Sound**  
LAURIE CHLANDA  
GLENN MARTIN

**Additional Cinematography**  
TORSTEIN DYRTING  
BEN CUNNINGHAM  
MARK LAMBLE  
MARLI LOPEZ HOPE

**Aerial Cinematography**  
DAN PROUD  
PAUL BELL

**Camera and Technical Support**  
PRESTON CLOTHIER

**Senior Production Supervisors**  
KATE BAILEY  
AMANDA STARR-CRAWFORD

**Indigenous Consultants**  
GOOLARRI MEDIA  
JODIE BELL

**Production Assistant**  
STEPH SMART

**Development**  
TONYA WARD  
ELECTRA MANIKAKIS

**Archive Research**  
PETA AYERS

**Music by**  
THE DA'S OFFICE

**Post Production Facility**  
DEFINITION FILMS

**Post Production Supervisor**  
JAMES SPICER  
SIMON ASHBY

**Digital Colourist**  
JAMIE HEDIGER

**Stills Photography**  
JEREMY SIMONS

**Audio Post Production**  
TRACKDOWN

**Motion Graphics**  
LUKE HARRIS

**Legals**  
ROBERT REEVE  
PAGE HENTY

**Transcripts**  
AMELIA MCCARTEN  
JULIA NALIVAICO

**Production Accounts**  
YOGEN ADHIKARI  
KUNJU RAJBHANDARI  
CRAIG MURRAY

**Supplied Footage (Archive)**  
NORTHERN PICTURES

GETTY IMAGES  
NHNZ  
DAN PROUD  
FERAL FILMS  
KIMBERLEY LAND COUNCIL  
KIMBERLEY FOUNDATION

AUSTRALIA  
MARCUS O'BRIEN  
NATUREFOOTAGE

MARK JONES  
POND5  
PETER STRAIN  
CONTENT MINT

GREG WALLIS  
GINCLEARFILM  
CARLOS ORUE  
NYUL NYUL RANGERS  
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND  
PLANKTON PRODUCTIONS  
WILDBEAR  
POND5

**Performed Music**  
NARLYADOO BIDAKA  
Thanks to the WIGGAN family

**Supplied Music**  
"People of the Red Sunset"  
B-TOWN WARRIORS  
DESERT PEA MEDIA

**Whale Song Recording & Mastering**  
ROBERT McCAULEY  
Centre For Marine Science And Technology

**Supported by the Kimberley Land Council, Department of Parks and Wildlife and Traditional Owners and Rangers including**  
NYUL NYUL  
DJARU  
MIRRONG GADGERONG

KIJA  
YAWURU  
BALANGARRA  
GOOLARABOOLOO  
BUNUBA

**With thanks to**  
ALBERT WIGGAN  
RICHARD HUNTER  
VINCENT EDWARDS  
CYRIL BIN RASHID  
DILLON ANDREWS  
SELINA MIDDLETON  
BROOME BIRD OBSERVATORY  
NORTH REGIONAL TAFE  
AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE  
CONSERVANCY  
PHILLIP ROE

TERRITORY WILDLIFE PARK  
KANGAROO HAVEN  
ALICE SPRINGS DESERT PARK  
"HONEST" JOHN  
DINOSAUR COAST MANAGEMENT GROUP  
STEVE FORREST  
KIMBERLEY WILDLIFE REHABILITATION  
KIMBERLEY VISIONS PROJECT  
UWA CENTRE FOR ROCK ART  
AMBROSE CHALARIMERI  
PASPALLEY PEARLING COMPANY  
JUBILEE DOWNS STATION  
KIMBERLEY STAMPEDE RODEO CLUB  
RONALD MORGAN  
MIRANDA CULLEN  
LIZ STEPHENS

**PRODUCED BY NORTHERN PICTURES**

**Executive Producers**  
KARINA HOLDEN  
SUE CLOTHIER

**Produced in Association With**  
CHANNEL 9

**Produced in Association With**  
PBS

**Principal Funding From**  
SCREEN AUSTRALIA

© 2017 Northern Pictures



## **ABOUT NORTHERN PICTURES**

Northern Pictures is an Australian production company delivering large-scale factual television to the Australian and international market, including ABC TV, SBS, Discovery Channel, PBS, National Geographic, Channel 9, Arte and Sky Vision.

Their Emmy-nominated programs have proven Northern Pictures commitment to innovation and high quality production values with a focus on blue chip wildlife and science series.

Based in Sydney, Northern Pictures is also the Australian headquarters of an international 'super-indie' which has production hubs in Singapore (Beach House Pictures), and New Zealand, China, Taiwan and Washington (NHNZ).

# NORTHERN PICTURES

52-54 Turner Street  
Redfern NSW 2016  
AUSTRALIA

t: +61 2 9331 7334  
[www.northernpictures.com.au](http://www.northernpictures.com.au)  
[info@northernpictures.com.au](mailto:info@northernpictures.com.au)

