



Right Over The Top

Part Two: Darwin To Broome

Whilst in Darwin, our 13 days in the Cullen Bay Marina were spent preparing the boat for the next six week trip.

We completed shopping chores, repairs and maintenance, a full clean of the interior and exterior, and we spent 3 days of R & R with the kids doing what they wanted to. This included going to the Darwin library for two days where there are many activities for the kids, including puzzles, games, books, computers, crafts, train sets, doll houses and more. They also went to the park and McDonalds, just to round off their assimilation back into the real world.

At night time, the adults attended Darwin's famous Mindl markets. These are deservedly famous for great entertainment in the form of buskers, and unique crafts including crocodile skins and skulls. The food is another important factor at these markets, with about 30 different stalls, each offering a different (French, Chinese, Viet, Thai, India, etc) culinary delight.



The remarkable story of a well travelled family from Melbourne who took the 'sea change' concept to heart. They took off on a sea-going fishing adventure of remarkable proportions. Together with their two little kids, and a bunch of friends, Steve & Louise Yeoman fished - and fished - from one side of Australia to another in a voyage of epic proportions. This month, we join them as they steam around the top from Darwin down to Broome, via the magnificent Kimberley.
Story & Most Pics By Louise Yeoman

Kimberley Crossing

We left Darwin on June 27 at 11am, after 2 hours refuelling *Steel Haven's* 1350 litre fuel tank supplying the twin 180 hp Ford diesels. We used 3132 litres of diesel between Townsville and Darwin, so we had a good idea of what we needed to get down to Broome.

This time, we were also taking 400 litres of outboard fuel for the two tinnies, and had arranged to collect more fuel at a remote holiday camp in the Kimberley. We also had extra fuel drums tied onto the bow of *Steel Haven* for this leg.

We motored for 23 hours across the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf (128 mile), stopping briefly to view 30 Pilot whales feeding near a calm reef. We were very lucky with the weather. The seas were glassed-out, which made the trip much more comfortable.

We awoke or rather arrived (who can sleep while driving at night) at 5am to witness the



Ken, Cooper and Louise confronting the whirlpools and "horizontal falls" created by the regions incredible tidal range(s) - this is surely one of the most spectacular natural wonders boating families can experience in Australia. Oh - and yes, they did make it through ! And continued on to fight many fine sportfish in what must surely be the 'trip of a lifetime'.

