

An aerial photograph of a vast, flat, sandy landscape, likely a beach or coastal plain. A large, dense herd of animals, possibly seals or sea lions, is visible in the center-right of the frame, stretching from the middle ground towards the background. The animals appear as small, dark, rectangular shapes against the light-colored sand. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**Top-End Tour, June-July 2018**

**Part 2**

**All the wonders of this land**

Robin Ford June-July 2018

Top-End Tour Part 2  
All the wonders of this land  
June-July 2018

## **All the wonders of this land**

Robin Ford, June July 2018

This bit of fun is based on the bush ballad below, which I rewrote to record some of the activities on our Top End trip.

Where needed, the original song adjusts the rhythm to fit the words. I have too; I hope I made it obvious where the emphasis goes.

I'm travelling down the Castlereagh, and I'm a station hand  
I'm handy with a roping pole, I'm handy with a brand.  
And I can ride a rowdy colt or swing an axe all day,  
But there's no demand for station hands along the Castlereagh.

So it's shift boys shift, there isn't the slightest doubt,  
We'll have to make a push for the stations further out.  
With the packhorse running after, for it follows like a dog,  
And we'll go around the country at the old jig jog.

### All the wonders of this land

We're travelling through the Kimberley,  
Our bus is six wheel drive.  
The sooner we depart,  
Then the sooner we'll arrive.  
Now we can all be ready  
At the dropping of a hat,  
And when we've looked at this,  
Then we will look at that.

REFRAIN

*For it's shift, folks, shift  
If we are going to see  
The wonders of this land  
It's the way it's got to be.  
With the trailer pulled behind  
We've got everything and more.  
As we travel round the country  
On a Top End tour.*

We found at Tunnel Creek  
It's a squeeze to get inside.  
Though a lot of us are old  
None of us would be denied.  
After wading to our knees  
We continued on the track.  
Then we stopped to see the view  
Before we waded back.

REFRAIN

We reached Winjana Gorge  
Where we hoped to see a croc.  
There were several in the lake  
Just like submarines in dock.  
They were not too far away  
And they justified our trip.  
They weren't salties, they were freshies  
But they still can nip.

REFRAIN

Took the road to Purnululu  
We were told that it was rough.  
So we dropped the trailer off  
Basic storage was enough.  
When we'd gone a kilo-metre  
Said the driver there and then:  
"There's another three-score like it  
Plus an extra ten".

REFRAIN

El Questro Gorge was stunning  
When we finally arrived.  
Some went swimming, others sat  
On a boulder and revived.  
Rocky scramble to the bus  
One by one, not in a bunch.  
When we reached El Questro Station  
It was time for lunch.

REFRAIN

The bushwalks all were great  
Though a few of them were hard.  
But we all worked in together  
People went the extra yard.  
Now the trip has been completed  
To our friends we can report,  
That we walked a whole lot further  
Than we might have thought.

REFRAIN

By the time we got to Darwin  
We'd seen all we'd come to see.  
There was Kakadu and Litchfield  
And, of course, the Kimberley  
There was just a hint of sadness  
Which was easy to explain,  
Thinking few of us will ever  
Come this way again.

REFRAIN (modified)

And it's shift, folks, shift  
I heard them call the flight.  
In just a few short hours  
We will sleep at home tonight.  
Then it's back to life as normal,  
If it's normal any more,  
Now we've been around the country  
On a Top End tour.

