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# THE ROADHOUSE TO NOWHERE

Dan Farrell

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**KNOWLEDGE  
BOOKS**

**21**

**Reading Recovery Level:** 17

**Word count:** 4700

**Content:** Fiction, storytelling.

**ACARA F-10 References:**

**Learning Areas:**

English-literacy, Social Sciences.

**General Capabilities:**

Literacy, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability.

**Author Bio:**

Dan Farrell is a businessperson from Brisbane. He grew up in country Western Australia and spent his early years in many adventures in Australia's Top End. This is just one of his many stories.

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**Teacher Notes:**

The Roadhouse to Nowhere is a story about a special part of the world. A world where not many people live or visit. Central Australia is one of the world's great wilderness areas. This story follows the life of a young man who describes many of his adventures. It is an insight into some of the important elements of life - work, friendship, helping others, and having fun!

This story can be used in many ways as to how students would contribute. What skills would they bring to help other people? Lifestyle discussion can be reviewed as to the amount of time spent in active leisure rather than passive. Describe some of these benefits and evaluate some of the outcomes.

**Difficult words to be introduced and practised before reading this book:**

Irukandji, jellyfish, tentacles, properly, prepared, dehydrate, decisions, dangerous, hungry, poison, important, adventures, surprised, traveller, friendly, conditions, weather, refrigerators, because, twisted, pieces, probably, generator, electricity, warning, kilometres, ceremonies, friends, quickly, survive, distant, laundry, crocodiles, electrician.

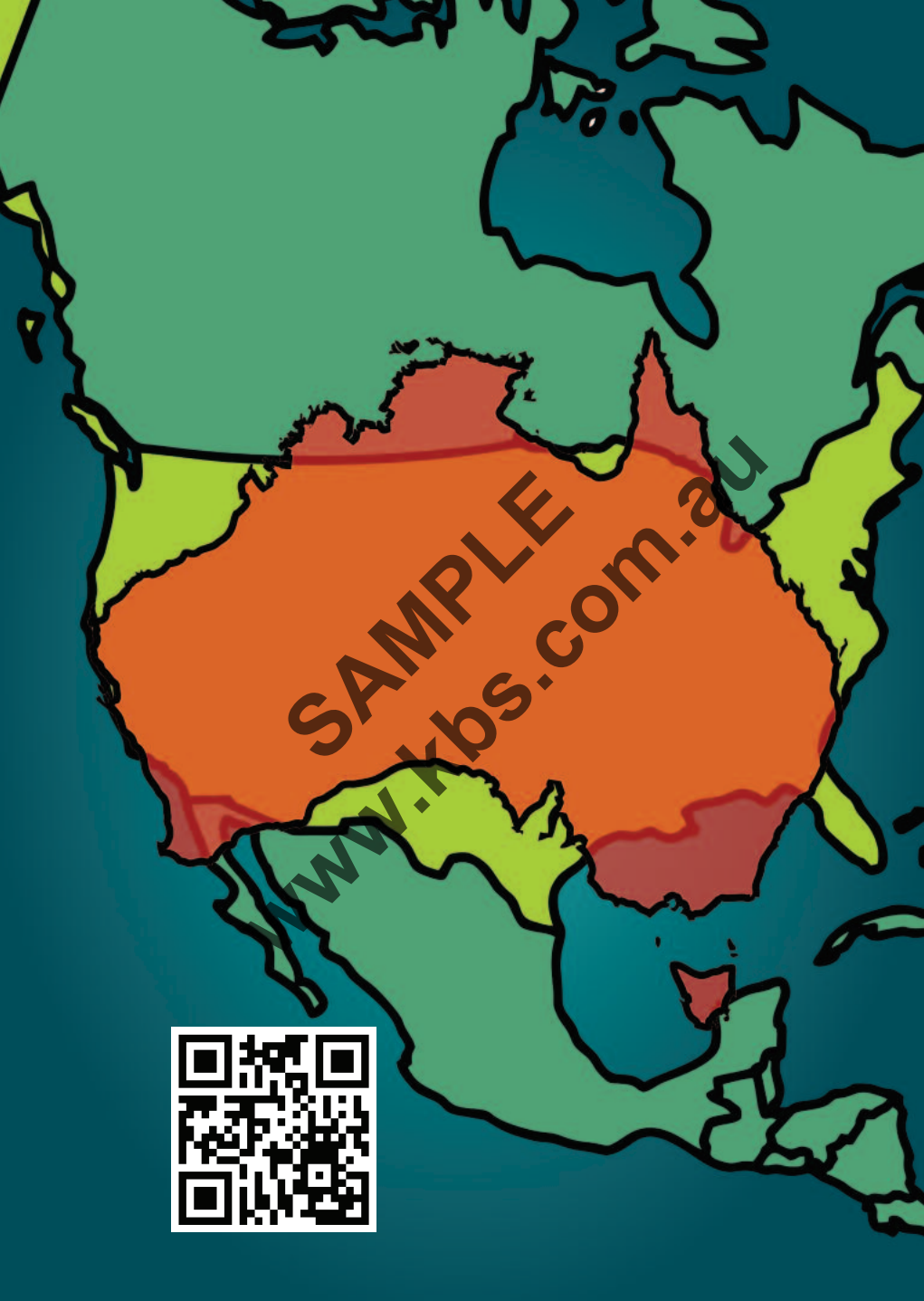
**Acknowledgement of the First Nations' People:**

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

## Contents

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1. Growing Up in the Bush
2. Teen Adventures
3. Getting a Job
4. Working in the Outback
5. The Roadhouse
6. Meeting the Locals
7. Back to the City
8. Jungala Forever





## **1. Growing Up in the Bush**

Growing up in the country in Western Australia was a lot of fun. It was not the same as living in a town or city. Other people were a long way off and there were not many people around the farm. I had lots of friends and many things to do. We could visit each other on our farms and go hunting for pigs and rabbits. We had horses to ride and off-road motorbikes. The cattle farms were very large, and it was nearly 10 kilometres just to the mailbox. Western Australia is a very large state.





Everything was a long distance away. Just a trip to see a doctor or go to the shops would mean travelling hundreds of kilometres. In primary school I learned by distance education. Lessons were mailed to me, and I also listened on the radio.

I did my schooling remotely until I went to high school. I went away to the south of Western Australia. This was the local high school and a long way from home. It was a live-in school called a boarding school.



## 2. Teen Adventures

After I finished high school, I worked to become an electrician. Most of the time I worked in the Northern Territory. We worked in remote parts of the country.

We worked in houses on the coast. We could go fishing and setting traps for crabs. The main problem was the crocodiles that lived along the coast.

We would fish in our boat, while being watched by crocodiles. The crocodiles would slowly slip into the water and head straight towards the boat. They would quietly poke their eyes out of the water just near the boat. They had no fear of humans and would sneak up to the boat.



### **3. Getting a Job**

In the Top End there were giant cattle stations. Some of the country was First Nations' lands but there were also cattle farms. These giant cattle stations needed lots of people to help it run. Cooks, truck drivers, stockmen, and helicopter pilots.

We would do electrical repairs at the cattle stations. This meant we would travel to some very special parts of the country. We saw beautiful scenery and lots of interesting Australian animals.





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There were some beautiful places to camp and swim along the coast of the Northern Territory.

Besides the crocodiles, there was also the Box Jellyfish and an even smaller jellyfish called the Irukandji.

Both jellyfish have long deadly tentacles. These long tentacles were covered in tiny stinging cells. Each of these cells could stick to your skin and release a poison.

In some cases, it could release enough poison to kill a person. It was very important to wear long swimwear to protect yourself from the stinging tentacles.