

AS SEEN IN . . .

ANYONE who doubts the harshness of the outback need look no further than Jason Kimberley's debut book *Australia Exposed* (Sunburnt Country Photos, \$49.95). Red-dirt roads, brooding skies, blown-out tyres, stark roadhouses, dead animals, abandoned homes, parched creek beds . . . it's an unforgiving world. Then there are the characters, their dogs, the races, the rodeos. All were encountered — and duly recorded — during Kimberley's year-long four-wheel-drive trip through Australia's interior.

Melbourne-based Kimberley, a self-taught photographer, says his interest in this environment was sparked at the age of four by a Burke and Wills book he received as a birthday present. He managed several visits later in life but the "grand tour" avoided him until 2000, when he took the plunge, put his house contents into storage, left his partner to manage their pub and set off with his wife, Caroline.



Roadkill:
Innisfail drivers
beware

"Our only plan was to have no plan," says Kimberley.

In truth, he did have the intention of taking a photograph or two along the way with his trusty 25-year-old SLR 35mm camera, on loan from his mum since 1982. The result is a compelling set of photographs that speak

volumes — just as well, as there's not much in the way of information. The captions are of the "water tank, Cape York" and "crocodile, Darwin, NT" variety and rarely run to more than half a dozen words. Kimberley obviously believes the photographs speak for themselves. Mostly, they do.