



Cape Tribulation, Queensland – August 2000

'My wife Caroline and I were in the sixth month of a year-long tour around Australia. One day, driving up the coast from Port Douglas to Cooktown, we noticed two dogs sitting in an abandoned car on the side of the road just across from Cape Tribulation. So we pulled over to have a closer look.

'There was nothing around. Just the abandoned car, the dogs and us. The dogs were ragged and looked sad and hungry. We weren't sure if they were going to take off or jump or bark at us, but we decided to feed them as we had some leftovers from our lunch of chook sandwiches. The dogs hopped into them, probably not having been

fed in a while, and were quite relaxed and calm with us.

'When we got back in our car, we found a bit more chicken and lobbed it onto the bonnet of the abandoned car. The brown dog climbed out through the smashed windscreen onto the bonnet and ate it, but the other dog stayed put in the car, watching the world go by.

'I was quite struck by the way the dogs had made themselves a home. We asked about the animals at the pub further up the road. They were aware of the car but not the dogs. When we travelled back along the road about six months later, there was no car, no dogs, and no sign that they'd ever been there. ■