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SENSE OF PLACE

PHOTOS THIJS HESLENFELD

The unique colours and landforms of the Australian outback have inspired artists for thousands of years. Dutch photographer Thijs Heslenfeld was captured by the same magic that is reflected in Aboriginal rock art when he meandered from Adelaide to Darwin, taking in locations as far afield as Peterborough, SA, and the Northern Territory's Rabbit Flat Roadhouse and Calvert Hills Station.

The flat, distant horizon and spectacular dawn hues are beautifully rendered in his latest book, *Hot*. Crossing the centre of Australia from north to south, Thijs brings to life some of the continent's most remote areas. While

the scenery is undeniably spectacular, it's the people who give the outback its character and he captures them honestly in their environment. To name but two there's Oodnadatta's Linnie Plate, standing in bright pink shoes atop the chequered lino floor of the famous Pink Roadhouse that she and husband Adam own and manage. And Tom Bruce, a Vietnam veteran who's been a jackaroo in Australia and a cowboy in Wyoming, USA, and now lives in Peterborough with half a dozen pet 'roos and an enormous longhorn bull called 'Vegemite'.

To buy Thijs's book, or view his other photographs, visit www.thijsheslenfeld.com.

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1. For Thijs, this big ball of barbed wire symbolises the start of the outback, "where there's no need to fence anything".

2. After close to 12 hours of hard labour, it's time for a meal ("beef, what else?" says Thijs) and a few beers for these jackaroos.



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1. Small details fascinate Thijs, such as the pattern in the gravel of the Oodnadatta Track.

2. The concentration on Shane Williams's face says it all as he captures a calf in the crush.

3. Branding is still done much the same as it has been since early settlement.

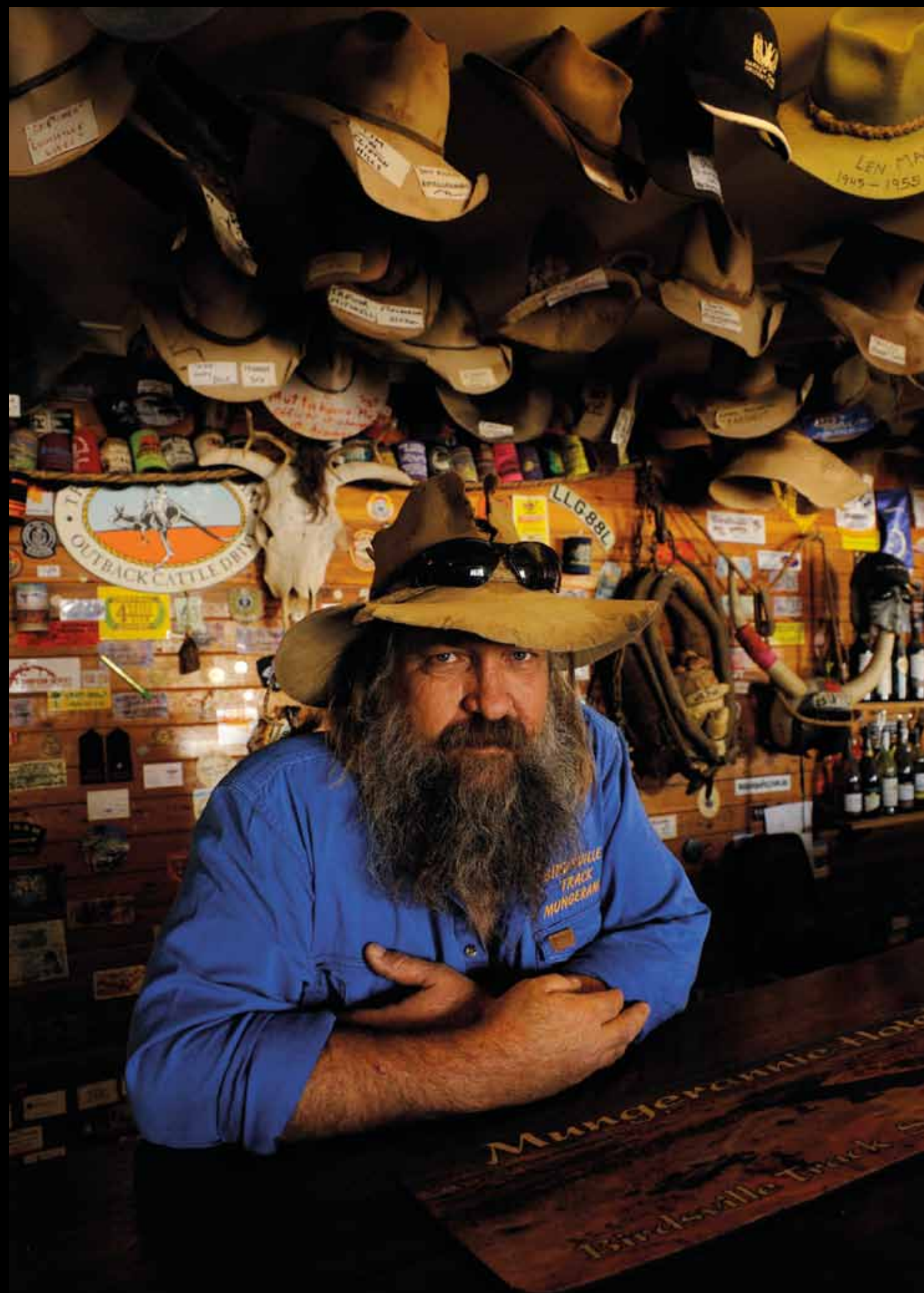
4. Phil Gregurke, owner of the Mungerannie Hotel, which is one of the famous resting points in the Strzelecki Desert.



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1. Recent rain filled this natural billabong and brought some welcome moisture to the dry landscape.

2. A pair of mating beetles create a pretty pattern across the sand in the Simpson Desert.

3. Just before sunrise musterers Shane Williams, John Gabriel and Peter 'Pommy' Carnegie discuss their plans for the day.

4. Tom Bruce, 61, is a jackaroo and shearer who Thijs met in Peterborough.

5. Gus Frank George, a gardener with the local council in the small community of Kalkarindji.

6. Alex Young, who lives next door to Tom Bruce.



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1. Stephen Barret, along with wife Patsy, runs the Limmen Bite River Fishing Camp in the Northern Territory.

2. "South of Kalkarindji," Thijs says, "I discovered this beautiful plateau. With some effort I made it to the top and spent a memorable day and night there."

3. Wayne Williams, owner of South Australia's Hamilton Station.

4. Linnie Plate, inside Oodnadatta's famous Pink Roadhouse, which she and husband Adam have now put on the market after 30 years as owners.

