

Captions :

## TERRA NULLIUS

Photographic documentary by

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Photo 01 -  
« Australia is the land of lost children » Frank Ansell.



Photo 02 -  
Bush fire, called Undoolya, meaning “the shade of the wing of an eagle”.



Photo 03 - **Sarah, desert postwoman.**  
Map of the northern part of the Northern Territories where the pilots work.



Photo 04 - **Sarah, desert postwoman.**  
Flights between farms can be very short – as little as 5 minutes – so Sarah flies at a low altitude, transforming the cockpit into an oven, with temperatures up to 45°C.



Photo 05 -

**Sarah, desert postwoman.**

Sarah is responsible for the maintenance of her aircraft and performs systematic checks before and after each flight.



Photo 06 -

**Sarah, desert postwoman.**

Lunchbreak, waiting for the locals who will bring her their post, which she will transport to the post office in Tennant Creek.



Photo 07 -

**Sarah, desert postwoman.**

All of the farms and isolated communities have their own runway, and most of them have their own aircraft or helicopter. The runway is essential in case of emergency, when the Flying Doctors can get to isolated spots very quickly.



Photo 08 -

**Sarah, desert postwoman.**

6 in the morning, Alice Springs Chartair base. Sarah pulls her Cessna 210 outside by hand.



Photo 09 -

**Sarah, desert postwoman.**

At each stop, Sarah spends no more than 10 or 15 minutes with the locals. The round runs to a very tight schedule.



Photo 10 - Henry, 11 years old, lives with his parents and his sister Laura on the the 8000-hectare Cawnalmurtree farm.



Photo 11 - White Cliffs is a small town of 96 inhabitants, located at the western extremity of New South Wales. This small mining town has a general store where the locals can buy basic commodities. The nearest supermarket is at Broken Hills, 300km away.



Photo 12 - Gaye and Micke's living room, in the back of the local post office in White Cliffs.



Photo 13 - Henry, 11 years old, at the wheel of his parents' 4x4, communicates by radio with his father. It is common in the Outback to see children driving from the age of 7. It can be useful as much as for daily work as for emergency situations.



Photo 14 - **Farm, Mustering, or gathering of the herd.** Encircled by motorbikes, cars and helicopters, the herd of 2500 animals heads for the pen.



Photo 15 - **Farm, Mustering, or gathering of the herd.**

Cassandra, 22 years old, is one of only two women in team involved in the mustering. The farmhands are fed, lodged and paid between 600 and 800 Australian dollars per week.



Photo 16 - **Farm, Mustering, or gathering of the herd.**

Encircled by motorbikes, cars and helicopters, the herd of 2500 animals heads for the pen.



Photo 17 - **Farm, Mustering, or gathering of the herd.**

From his helicopter, the pilot spots animals crossing the dry bed of the river Flinke. Once the animals are located, he signals their position to the other members of the team on motorbikes or in cars who take over the job of guiding them along the tracks leading to the pen.



Photo 18 - **Farm, Mustering, or gathering of the herd.**

Encircled by motorbikes, cars and helicopters, the herd of 2500 animals heads for the pen.



Photo 19 - **Farm, Mustering, or gathering of the herd.**

Shaun, 30 years old, comes from Queensland. One of three brothers, he is the only one to have chosen a career in agriculture. For him, the feeling of space and freedom is priceless, despite the rugged conditions. With a smile on his lips, he adds shyly : "In any case, its not as if I knew how to do anything else". He is fed, lodged, works seven days a week, and as team leader earns 230 Australian dollars per day.



Photo 20 - **Farm, Mustering, or gathering of the herd.**  
Farm, Mustering, or gathering of the herd.



Photo 21 - **Farm, Mustering, or gathering of the herd.**  
Once the animals are in the pen, it takes 4 to 5 days to process each of them, one by one. They are tattooed, vaccinated, and their horns trimmed before being sent off to the abattoir or to other grazing areas. They generally spend 4 to 5 years in pasture before being slaughtered.



Photo 22 - **Farm, Mustering, or gathering of the herd.**  
End of the first day. The road train will do 3 or 4 trips daily for 5 days, between the pen and the farm, with a hundred animals on two floors. The average price, depending on their weight, is 1000 Australian dollars per head.



Photo 23 - **Farm, Mustering, or gathering of the herd.**  
At a campsite near the Flinke river, the rest of the team is already in bed. Shaun and Paul relax by the fireside.



Photo 24 - **White Cliffs is a small town of 96 inhabitants, located at the western extremity of New South Wales. This small mining town has a general store where the locals can buy basic commodities. The nearest supermarket is at Broken Hills, 300km away.**



Photo 25 - **A watering hole for the animals in the middle of the desert.**