

### **Sophie's story by Kristy Beresford**

Sophie/Soph/Sopha Doph (noun) a dog of Lockhart River origin, black bitsa Labrador, slightly overweight, loveable.

When we moved to Lockhart river in 2008, it was a new beginning for us in a new special place that we had never been to before, an adventure in the wilderness. With the beauty came the harsh reality of dog life in a community. It was a place where dogs are left behind, where they are not fed, where scavenging is a reality.

One day while working as the tuck shop lady, a black lab started to hang out at the back door waiting for something...food, belly rubs, kisses, more food and love. She totally found us and picked herself a family. She was a sprightly child who loved to run the beach or have her head hanging out of the car at high speeds, she went camping with us all over Cape York and could walk over a snake without giving it the time of day, like it was her friend. She totally fitted into a relaxed lifestyle quite easily, taking over the lounge as she couldn't possibly sleep on a dog bed.

She may be getting older now, how old we don't really know, and she may not be able to sprint the beach chasing birds like she once could or climb the stairs without her arthritis giving her some curry, but she is still our 35kg lap dog who can still love like a puppy.

I'm so glad she picked us.

