

Fortunately, I remembered a useful tip from my late ex-husband Fred (“No bull”) Noble – and we used it to get the nomads on their way across towards Darwin.

Fred’s tip is to give the front passenger’s door panel a couple of hearty smacks with the flat of the hand, just below the outside handle.

With any luck (and a bit of wear on the retaining spring), the “locked” internal handle will drop down, and, hey presto, you’re back inside.

And that’s what happened, just as the long-lamented Fred had predicted.

My preferred approach is to use a wrap of black gaffer tape to secure a spare door/ignition key on the under-side of the lower radiator hose – still accessible with-out grovelling under the car, but looking like a temporary hose repair to undesirable eyes.