

Trip to Kangaroo Island 1-12-2013 _ 9-12-2013

Day one: Sunday : after last night's work dinner a quick pack of the car and off to bed! 5.00 am up and into the shower, no time to check e-mails, water the plants load everything we can think off for 9 days, finish loading bedding and computers and cameras with the necessary chargers etc. and we are done 5.40am we are shutting the gates and off, Just had to drive past the Cotter residence and toot the horn several times as we drove past. Rather uneventful drive to Cape Jervois saw us stop for the ferry at 6.30am rather overcast and somewhat broody sky especially over in the islands direction, Sue walked over to the terminal and got the tickets and two cups of coffee my first for the day agh that was better, 10 minutes or so later after a semi backed into the ferry and I drove in and around the semi to front position to embark from the ferry. Sat right up the front and the 40 minute run was quite gentle with a slight sideways swell from the south east, a few minutes before the ferry docked and we both went down to the car with Sue exclaiming I have not been down here before! We saw the crew member unshackle the landing ramp Go up to the controls and lower the ramp before long we were directed off the ferry, the weather had turned to a gentle rain that was a steady car wash, the advantage of first off was to do a quick drive to the expected markets! Of which none were quite set up at 8.00 am was a little early for us to hang around until 9.00 am, so we drove in the direction of American River, After a short drive in the beautiful run between Penneshaw and the South coast Road the scenery is just beautiful, plenty to see and do so we did not take long to get to our accommodation for the stay. How blessed we are Pam's 'Possums Watch' is just the place and we were impressed very quiet and beautiful setting, so unpack the car load the fridge and bedding world biggest case lugged up the short stairs and we were ready to head to the west end of the island. by 10.30 am we had driven up the road switched on the GPS map and headed up the nearest back road, slushy brown gravelled marble ensured a slow steady drive was in store 50-60 km speeds with care to ride the centre of the road as the sides were very soft and boggy, we decided to head to the western end of the island and head to West Cape which for some obscure reason I had never visited in 3 earlier trips to the island. it was windy very windy at times and the amount of debris on the road reflected this branches from gums and leaves strewn everywhere was an indication of the severity of the last few days weather, as we got closer to Flinders Chase we saw even more downed trees and one branch over the road completely we slowed down to drive around the tree as two men were cutting it up, I eagerly sought out a location I had shot after the fires of 3 years earlier and the trees

were there but the undergrowth was at least 1.5 metre high so do we learn from past mistakes or just allow the wheel to turn until another fire removes over vegetation? The Cape Barron Geese were conspicuous by their absence although the open area we saw them last time resembled a green windy location not at all like the sundrenched location two or three years earlier. We soon arrived at the visitors centre and decided to go to the loos with the turbofan hand dryers and then proceeded to buy a years pass for KI the receptionist was friendly and tried to give us as many helpful hints she could, we then headed off to West Cape passing snake lagoon the platypus waterholes and it was spectacular scenery very windy the brush shaking wildly in the wind, blackboys of huge stature the fronds shimmering in the light and windy conditions. I was so glad to see the West bay road the topography was lovely to the eye with new vistas at every turn, Gods creation is simply wonderful every part fitting in place, did not see many native animals as we drove. We got to the West Cape



and it was beautiful we were joined by several million sand flies and after observing the bay and the sunken ships anchor, the sight of Sue flaying herself to shoo the flies away was something to see, as she disappeared in the distance she stooped down to grab a small branch and proceeded to swish the unseen but persistent sand flies I thought this is windy what would it be like in still conditions!



All the time ever present in the back lay the cameras I had taken several touristy shots with the 1Dmk3 and my 20-35mm no filter a handy combination shooting some scrub intertwined with

light grey bleached branches which contrast strongly in the light,



but the wind was no friend to a 70 year old 8x10 Kodak 2D more like a sail in the wind, after shot after shot begging but too windy all too often we continued, suddenly around one corner was a monumental Blackboy at least 5 meters tall to the top of the spear like shaft so backing up out came the 8x10 setting up with this camera is so easy, steady the tripod 3-4 meters from the blackboy rack, connect the plate to the head of the tripod, open the front rail screw the rail tight rack open the bellows to infinity and glance at the ground glass and saw a suitable composition so out with the focus loupe and hood quickly adjusting the focus to ready the shot close the aperture and cock the shutter and load the film, meter and enter the hi and low values into the i-phone app Expo-dev. chose to shoot wide open as the wind gusts were still around and ready to shoot, $1/13^{\text{th}}$ sec at F8 was the exposure so my first x-ray film negative for the trip I was happy after driving past plenty of better shots if not for the wind! We travelled back towards Kingscote and arrived back at Possums Watch by 4pm we were tired but so pleased with the day and the scenery which thrilled us through the day.



We decided to have a nap and when I woke it was almost 7pm Sue was quietly reading her latest book, although she had set up both laptops side by side with our back to the window I thought

mission control, we realised that tea was over by 8pm and quickly readied ourselves to dine down at the local restaurant after checking the captive prices we fled and headed to the Penneshaw pub for a pleasant Schnitzel and a glass of wine Rose for me rather than the usual coke, Sue having her sparkling white Champaign meal was good I did the Facebook thing and contacted my sister and cousin plus Lisa and Trent, \$60 dollars was the bill and we drove back to Possums Watch to complete a wonderful first day on Kangaroo Island.

Day2: Monday: as if by clockwork as the suns first rays of light invaded our comfortable bed I was awake while Sue slept on deeply asleep, I made my first coffee and enjoyed the view from the front glass door looking through the natives out to the east,



it was a chill breeze that awaited me I was going to wear my shorts but decided to wear jeans which had good and bad points for travelling, decided to commence a blog of our trip and wrote until Sue awoke discovering how hard it is to write down what occurs in a day! Little mail in my inbox and placed an order for my x-mas job ah technology it is wonderful when it works. Sue made a Bacon and Eggs breakfast which was so good we left for Kingscote to fuel the car and wash yesterday's mud of the car I also had noticed a sluggishness in the car yesterday and checked the tyres to my surprise there were higher pressures on the front than the back which was almost 30 psi so putting 36rear and 31 front it made a considerable difference the car just hummed afterwards.

Ran into one of my apprentices from 2-3 years earlier and had a quick chat as he was working We were up and travelling towards Admirals' arch by a little after 10.30am just as we had thought very little traffic and as we set the cruise control to 100km which equates back to 95km due to tyre diameter we were excited and pleased at the quality of light we were seeing we decided to stop a little past the visitor centre where the road rises to give a vista above the escarpment which was so stunning to the right we saw the roadway rising and falling in the dips and hollows towards the arch the 8x10 came out and I regretted my jeans it was quite warm and each shot takes 20 minutes at least I was being exposed but what a location scraggly brush and

lush green new growth in some senses a little like our frail appearance in life, one hour went in no time and I was satisfied on my first 2 shots of the day



we then headed to the lighthouse keepers store and long since gone flying fox from which loading their provisions for 3 months or until another ship arrived at the lighthouse the sheltered bay was astoundingly beautiful as I am sure it was to those sailors of 100 years ago yesterday I took several digital shots and they were very good to the eye and as the wind was so light I decided to stir up the local digital brigade with my 8x10 camera perched over the rails and with a yellow filter on hopefully getting a similar result on x-ray film, dragging Sue away was a major job she loved the view so much so packing up and off to the Lighthouse where a walkway running the light was an ideal location for my second 8x10 with a few spectators viewing what this crazy dude was doing, when they saw the ground glass the oohs and aah's were a welcome sound to my ears.



We had discussed the next shot over towards the lighthouse from the east side and then down the car park Sue decided to have a go and off she strode toward the high level viewing platform which overlooks the arch I headed down towards the now well constructed ramp each board screwed down with bugle screws the wind was light and I chickened out and took the 1DmkMk3 with a 400mm super telephoto which is a lethal combination for distance shot the coupled viewing

range is 560mm focal length which is very handy for seals 20 metres away, plenty of seals fighting due to mating season and very few pup as was the case last time I visited the arch, so



200 shots or so later I was satisfied with the shots taken, Sue appeared she said I want to do this before I die!, funny the way our thinking changes as we get a little older! Sue had lost her older brother earlier in the year, I was pleased for her as she is usually looking after auntie and stays in the car with her, she was happy and loved the seals frolicking in the shelter of the majestic rocks, she had started to climb the stairs and as I packed up I noticed she had left the lower ramps when I climbed the stairs I expected her to be there but she had walked over half the distance back to the car, as I strode out to catch her the view and vivid sun was very captivating and we sat together on one of the seats overlooking the bigger rock formations which was a majestic view in itself. A rather adventures female tourist decided to lay on top of the stone wall and soak up the sun so a long shot with the 400mm lens secured a good composition shot of the moment, we then sauntered back to the car and finally sat down in the car.



We decided to visit Remarkable rocks a possible tomorrow set of shots and had timed a busload of tourists ahead of us we turned around and decided to head back to Kingscote, disaster I had been navigating past several Goannas and echidnas on the road and just out of the park we were up to 100km around a corner a goanna appeared on the edge of the road I slowed and he kept coming I veered to the left when he progressed further and the only thing to do was straddle over him great idea but sadly he shot forwards and I clinically ran over him no time to pull up before running him over and I was ticked not as much as the poor goanna, so one bird and goanna in one day as I was being careful yet the timing was off. An uneventful trip back to Kingscote top up the gas at almost \$1.08 litre but miles better than the petrol prices, after fuelling up the chance for fish and chips for tea was taken it was a seafood basket and huge so we had the meal and off to the shopping centre for milk and a few things, it was a great day full of new opportunities and shot 5: 8x10s for the day plus plenty of seal shots a quite night was had and we were in bed by 8.30 which indicates how tired we were.

Day3: Tuesday I was awake by 6.00am although sue had woken at 2am wanting to go early, made my coffee and started to complete yesterday's log before long sue was up ready for an early start so after a beautiful bacon and eggs and toast breakfast we had headed off by 8.00am to beat the crowds to remarkable rocks, travelling was good and we headed for the 3rd day down the same road stopping at the creek just before the national park to take one frame of 8x10 beautiful light, then off to the remarkable rocks past the goanna incident location with no evidence to see and before long we arrived at the rocks with no one there at all, we walked the timber walkway and I set up to shoot the rocks the sun was bright and a fresh breeze made the setting up quite difficult but all to soon a tour bus turned up with the occupants almost running the boards to ruin my shot Sue exclaiming hurry up. I tried to set up for 2 shots but time was against me I took 20 shot of the rocks with the 1Dmk3 and my 400mm lens and got segments of



the rock it is a wonderful subject, and the number of shots taken each day would have to be in the thousands we had 20-25 tourists descend on us and the clicking was just amazing. After that we drove quietly back towards our next location remarking on our favour of the day snacking on jatz and dip with of course coke. Back on West Cape road we struggled to find the right balance of dead trees washed to a silver colour and the vivid green coastal brush striving in,



vain to envelop the old growth I finally located a suitable spot which was shaded and allowed a leisurely setup and main key point with the dead trees silver branched shooting towards the sky. We then spotted 2 kangaroos looking curiously at us as we looked curiously at them, just as I grabbed the camera another car arrived just in time to stuff the opportunity, the kangaroos fled and we just shrugged our shoulders, we drove for several kilometres to find another spot but the sun was high and bright, we decided to turn around before we reached the cape and toddled back to the lodge around one corner and here was our kangaroos who kindly put on a display bouncing down the road before us as I shot several frames in succession



it made for a nice end to a hour or two of not much happening we travelled back towards Kingscote Sue was being burned with the brightness of the sun and stopping at Seal and Vivienne bay which were nice but nothing out the box, so we drove back to the servo while Sue got some supplies it was real hot now and the sun was not doing us any favours, we stopped at a bakery and bought 2 pasties and went to find a shady tree to eat under the pasty was real good and

following another coke we drove back to Possums Watch to have a little rest and recharge our tired self's. What to do for tea we had gotten back and relaxed sue did some reading and I dozed we had booked steaks at linnets for Wednesday night and as we drove past the local footy oval we saw a sign up for Tuesday night meal the Shed so 2 schnitzels and chips plus salad for \$23 dollars and it was good, tomorrows booking down the road will not be so cheap, saw the local buildings shacks around the place and saw some interesting structures to say the least, home by 8.00pm and time to relax. Life's Good.

Day4: Wednesday the weather report declared 20-25knot wind showers with possible hail by nightfall when I woke at 5.00pm the quietness of American River was apparent so I simply turned over and continued to sleep my internal body clock is much stronger and so it did not surprise me that at dead on 6pm I was up and washing my face the quietness is hard to take and as I rechecked the online weather which was just the same confirmed my realization that the open window is the best weather system in place. after a quick breakfast we decided to head to Cape Willoughby and the surrounding roads, we travelled as is our normal fashion when we see a road we have not travelled before we go to see where it ends and today we tried the road that skirts American river it was rough as not being a main road but picturesque just the same eventually we came out by the prospect hill lookout we then tried every side road to the coast and saw many pleasant shacks and some not so pleasant structures that only a home handyman could love, before long we had turned up the Cape Willoughby Lighthouse road and just toddled along at 70-80km and checked the wildflower by the side of the road intermingled with blackboys and gums with branches intertwining from both sides of the road, we stopped for a while by the Chapman River and found several possible 8x10 shots of riverside tea trees,



as I set up the Kodak 2D the light shifting breeze ebbed and flowed so the normal routine compose the scene, setup the camera and tried Edward Weston's bull dog clip trick and the fastening method of holding the hood to look under and it works real well although Steve's comment about creating a sail is valid as well, the light was low so a f16 aperture was selected to create a faster shutter speed even as I metered the wind gently gusted up and down so my choice of 1.6sec at f16 was necessary loaded the holder ensured I had reset the viewing slide on the shutter and stood still and waited for the bull in the wind that would come set the BTZS timer on the I-Phone of and fired at the same time, there simple huh! Dark slide back in pack up the camera in a granny's shopping trolley easy to move around and as nondescript to the casual viewer, the tripod is that rare today with our digital high Iso setting and bridge digitals with a huge depth of field which confounds the average shooter when moving to a 1.3 crop or full frame 'my shot are not sharp' this camera is no good we sure live in a changing world I love to quote the Kodak's 2D model and then say you should see the back' it's like looking at a small TV screen' and a 70 years old camera, then to stow away the tripod in the back of the GU and then lift the trolley with the handle sitting on the rear seat and a small box holding the trolley in position, My one shot today the wind increased more and more as the time went on we saw many good locations but subtle and not so subtle movement was all too apparent the 4wd locations are almost nil and unless you are on a property you miss out, we drove to the lighthouse and the wind was way too much so we decided to take a run down a track between to properties that ran to the coast. Well we drove quite slowly to see the possible wildlife shots that could occur it was tree lined each side and the viewing was worth the effort we saw the converging trees over the track and I was hopeful of a shot or two the blackboys were huge in size and shimmering in the breeze and this put the view camera opportunity to one side there is always tomorrow, we saw some sheep that had gotten through the fence so as we moved toward them they bolted every which way well like sheep, the only problem was the sheep who had stayed in the paddocks each side were running madly every which way why who knows so we decided not to go further and turned around which was tight in the GU so we drove slowly back up the track when I saw small goanna which was walking almost as if a hitchhiker up the track I grabbed my camera but the 20-35mm was way too small in view I declared to sue that when I stopped to get out the car and change lenses to the 400mm he would be into the surrounding brush, well so it was the 400 would have got the shot for sure but he was gone, then he reappeared for so short a time.



.so that was today's shots we meandered around the surrounding roadways and saw several farming sheds but no-one around to give permission to take a shot, we decided to have lunch at Penneshaw and seeing Sue has her seniors card she could get a special of the day so Beef schnitzel and a half serve was quite sufficient especially when it was the same size as the one we had had on Sunday night, by now the rain was close so we topped up the gas and only used 45 litres in the morning and as we filled up and paid our bill, big raindrops were showing themselves on the windscreen, we drove up the bitumen and got a underbody car wash which was welcome to wash away the mud and slush the rain accompanied us back to Possums Watch where we quite lazily decided to nap for a few hours as the rain pelted down on the iron roof. Several hours of reading and watching for the endangered Black Cockatoo was spent but in 4 days I have seen 1 small group of about 10-15 but way too far away to take a picture off, a brochure declares that some of the bird head to the mainland during summer but this is mainly myth, well for several years I have tried to take some shots of these birds from my front deck at home but are usually too far away to get a good shot, (Chris informed me that the ones I have seen are a totally different species) I might have to wait until I get home for this year's migration usually very early in the mornings. Tonight we are having tea at the old linnets' accommodation for a \$20 steak then home to read and perhaps write of our holiday. The meal was good and we cheap skated and did not even buy drinks as we had plenty home Sirloin Steak with mushroom sauce on a bed of fried potatoes chips and aside salad which was pleasant, good fun looking at the old black and white pictures some almost 100 years old and linnets back when Sue came here as a child 50 years ago, drove home and it was coming in cold enough to put the heater on read a

book for an hour and turned in for the night as the rain pelted down on the iron roof I soundly slept.

Day Five: Thursday The condition today are supposed to be 25-35km winds 60% rain so fuel so far : Gas 95 litres 2-12 cost 1.08\$/L = \$99.15

Petrol 25.4 litres cost \$1.707\$/L = \$43.37

GST = \$12.75

Total \$140.20 Dated 2-12-2013

Gas = \$52.45 topped up for the 3rd

Gas = \$93.50 3-12-2013

Gas = \$47.07 4-12-2013

Total: \$333.22 travelled 1407 = .237 cents per km

So roughly 23cents per km well we were off again to go to Cape Border and see the other sights along the Nth coast we took our time this morning and left at 10.00am headed up the bitumen to then turn into the South Coast Road which cuts the time to get on the main south coast bitumen road it was a good plan and we travelled along rather assuredly passing a mini tour bus and feeling quite good about the day and the better than expected weather when a spoke in our wheel developed the road was closed and glancing up saw several hundred meters of water across the road, so we turned to the next road over and travelled on that and the GPS map showed we were a short distance from the main road when another wash about 20 metres across at least and about 500mm deep too much for us and we turned around to the next road we had



travelled about 6-7 km and another wash away not huge about 10metres and we thought we would go through this on so hi-range and 2nd gear we pushed on through it was not a problem and

we then continued until we got to a bitumen road and saw the sign to Kingscote so we went to the servo to top up and pick up some pasties from the bakery we then continued on towards the Nth Coast road and decided we would seek shelter from the ever persistent wind from the south east 20-25 in gusts with rain showers to create a little hardship, before long we encountered a castle like structure proclaiming a lightshow 40,000 lights it looked quite well done although no mention on brochures about this attraction we decided to come back at night,



on we went from road to road along the coast and each good view was waving madly in the breeze so no shots snug cove or western river cove so we thought back up to the main road and head for Cape Border as we drove the showers increased and ebbed and flowed as we got to the Cape Border cemetery which indicated how tough a life these early settlers had 25 in all a 7 year old that fell off a cliff and died! Could you imagine the outcry today! We continued towards Cape border and a patch of dry cloudy blue sky presented itself we parked quickly and I decided it's now or never I saw no-one about and opened the picket gate to the lighthouse enclosure saw a flat spot and set up the tripod ended up with one shot of the lighthouse and one of the storehouse which is now a museum, the ranger was out and about and when I showed him our all year passes he was a accommodating as you could wish for we chatted as he took the hourly weather readings and then suggested me doing a shot inside the museum which I grabbed



with both hands I set up the 8x10 on horizontal view composed the shot with two prisms from other lighthouses in the for-ground, with enough width of coverage in the G-Claron to get a window in view as well I metered for the ambient light and metered for the shadow light under the windows, the exposure was almost 5 minutes, I then asked the ranger to be a ghost figure in my second shot so after exposing for 2 minutes I got him to slowly walk around the prisms and up to the window rest his left hand on the window sill and raise his right to his forehead for a second or two then lower his arms and walk off to the side will it work I hope so but time and development will tell. (I did not work I should have extended the ranger for 4 minutes so I learn something new) Well we had a great hour there and we bought a ice-cream to eat on the way home by now it was 5.30pm and not yet dark but still time to get back to base after 15 minutes or so we saw a echidna digging furiously by the side of the track so I pulled up and got him with the 400mm lens while he continued digging



oblivious to my presence.

Well that took the cake and further down the track a huge wedge tail was eating something he then flew upwards and was at least 1.2mtr across the wing span but I had missed the chance to get a good shot of him so we drove to Possums Watch back at 6.30pm.

We were tired after a long day but after setting up our chairs and turning on the heater it was very comfortable as Sue read I wrote regarding todays adventure and we then had baked

beans on toast which was simple and light, the ever present wind and occasional shower reminded me how fortunate we were to get any shots today at all we turned in at the early hour of 9.00pm and I read the Word for a bit on the I-pad Ecclesiastics wise words but so much depth, very soon I dozed off to sleep.

Day 6: Friday if I could get the black cockatoo I would be very happy I have heard them a long way off and as I type this I can hear them again No they were red cockatoos the morning is still and damp from last night's rain as I sip my coffee at the table I started to write my journal of my thoughts I rang Steve last night and chatted about my endeavours of the last 5 days shooting mainly 8x10 shot rather than 5x4 but the opportunity to shoot so much greenery and trees is irresistible the light today looks good and I have decided to work the Kingscote jetty while Sue visits the shops which gives me several hours of structure shooting around the place I will revisit the old jetty but a fair bit later than the last attempts the sun was too overpowering perhaps a later 10am will create the required light and shadow last time I had so much shadow it was overpowering and I lost contrast in the print. It is so peaceful here the bird calls celebrating another day I realize the joy of life is so good all the work pressure is diminishing and I no longer feel tired, still up at 6.00am and thinking of the day ahead weather report seems to indicate an improvement in the weather but the overcast skies are a bonus to me after we meet up we will have coffee at the artist shop and then decide our route for the day... the morning light at possums watch was soft and peaceful and a large gum further down the block was a magnet for a shot on the 8x10 I opened the tripod and set up the 2D to a vertical position and focused the scene before me was nice so metering quickly and I shot my first sheet of film for the day, just to be sure I shot a horizontal from another position and was quite pleased with myself, I could hear footsteps from the house and packed up the car ready for the day, had a quick breakfast and decided to get to the top of the hill before we decided our route today well rain, rain and more rain yet none at American River we drove towards Kingscote and a little bit of clearing sun appeared so I thought I will give the area around the jetty a go today, we drove into Kingscote and tried to find the chocolate shop but to no success so after 2 laps of the street I dropped Sue off to shop and went down to the jetty I saw several people shooting the pelicans by the wharf and decided to go a little further away and then set up the speed graphic 5x4 with a 90mm lens the sea was smooth as silk and reflections were everywhere so I saw a sucker shot with many pelicans perched every which way so the 400mm lens on a tripod was the best option took 6 frames tightly cropped all vertical and



they look real good Putting my Canon away and set the Speed up and light mist began to fall ,so time to wait I cleaned my lenses while I waited for the misty rain to disappear finally my patience ran out and I set up the rig and was ready to shoot except for a spare tyre down among the rocks blast So changing lenses to a 270mm was the best option and I loved the expected scene before my ground glass the wind was slight but f16 was chosen to keep the shutter speed up for movement pressed the shutter and it was done in no time flat somewhat faster than the 8x10 so I more shot was taken with a secondary jetty providing a lead in line to 2 yacht's



on the horizon which was pronounced against the misty sky,



I decided to get another shot from the other side as the others were gone as I gently moved the car I saw another shooter with a bit more kit than the standard digital equipment I have been seeing, she was shooting from a long way back with a 200mm lens to give space for a magazine cover for SA Life, as I had started to speak to her she went on to tell me of the lonely life of a landscape Photographer it was an interesting discussion and my analogue equipment compared to her high end digital camera well we chatted for a while and would you know it we had met at night on Pugilist hill last October she was with John Smith who is a very talented photographer as she is in her own right, the phone rang just as we were finishing our conversation and we parted company I met Sue at the elusive chocolate and coffee shop and had a coffee each we then decided to head to the western end of the island as a warmer change was on its way so my intuition was it has got to have some light there, just to mock us as we headed to Pandora it rained and rained as if to say don't go there it's no good so we stopped at the Parndana Tavern for a lovely schnitzel 1/2 serve and a coke and it was a brilliant meal as we waited for a break in the rain we read all the master shearers with their story's and the history of the sheep-shearers hall of fame, we darted out to the car as the rain had not stopped and I said to Sue well even if it's wet the exploring can be done but it's got to fine up as the front is coming Sue checked her phone and it confirmed our thoughts so on we pressed, the rain was getting even heavier and I was a little worried but way ahead I saw a small blue patch of sky and thought to myself Yes the further we got the dryer the area became so we went straight to the first lot of gums and a dip in the road and I got out my 8x10 and set up eagerly, the light was so soft it was beautiful and the metering reflected this level, so pack up and move to the next spot by the lighthouse cemetery a few trees waited for me, same deal select the spot check the light and set out the tripod my last negative of 10 so carefully

setting up and readjusting the camera and my shot was soon done so no more 8x10 for



the day, now the 5x4 Speed Graphic I had already taken 3 shots on graph-matic 2 leaving 3 more to shoot so I chose carefully my spot and had a hard time viewing the ground glass being $\frac{1}{4}$ of the 8x10 view so on I went taking several shots that were pleasing to my eye we then decided to go up a track we had not been on before and what a surprise it was splendid, the road which was the first roadway on the right heading back to Kingscote leads to a walking trail the trees and light turned on a show for us at every turn vivid greens stark silver gums pointing to the sky sadly killed in the previous bushfire amongst some huge sentinels of gums which somehow survived the bushfire which burnt for days, we shot 3 more frames here and the



location was just perfect we marvelled at our 'luck' when you are Gods kids it's no luck just his blessing upon us, we were contemplating going straight home when Sue saw a sign Snug Cove so we headed off down the track just to see where we would end up the roadway and light was awesome and we finally ended up at a remote controlled gate with Kangaroo Island Lodge proudly displayed we turned around and I turned on the GPS and tracked back to another road driving past an aeroplane runway as we went further on we found a forest of pines and drove right around the outside adoring the wildflowers and the light upon them after finally getting to the end was the first 4wd track I have seen on the island but closed go figure, so we checked our watches and decided it was time to scoot back to Possums Watch 45 minutes did the trick

evading one roo our first in almost 2000 km and as we drove back it got wetter as we passed Parndana it was raining lightly and the further we got towards American River we saw evidence of quite a wet day, Sue exclaiming I have the towels out to dry they will be wet but not to worry the towels were dry and we rushed in to change before we went to the local sports club to eat at The Shed, what a well-kept secret good atmosphere and reasonably priced meals note : not tourist prices, after the meal we walked around the wharf area and I shot a sequence of Pelicans on poles lights and



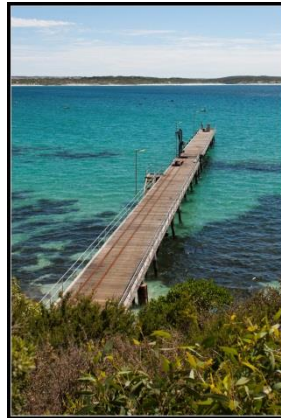
masts then a little shaft of light gave me several other shots as keepers, we drove home and as I was uploading the shots on to the computer Sue motions me to grab the camera yep you guessed it the Black Cockatoos 4 of them and I could not interrupt the upload but again Life's Good! The rest of the night was spent relaxing in the gentle and almost noiseless atmosphere of Possums Watch as Sue read I wrote of the days adventures and changed the films in the holders so writing down each holders number and relevant BTZS file and ensuring total darkness with a towel laying across the floor to block light getting under the floor I placed the post it notes in order on a small sewing table and the Double Darks beside them positioned myself to open the slide pick the no1 sticky note lightly stick it to the film open the flap and slide the film out with my left hand open the 8x10 box and place the film inside replace the lid and turn over the slide to unexposed and then load a sheet of film turn the flap closed and close the dark slide ensuring the fastener was turned to stop any opening accidentally x10 and my film was ready for tomorrow before we knew it was 10.pm so to end a fantastic day we slept.

Day 7: Saturday The morning was cool and the light levels were up about 30% from the last 2 days ran out of milk so a cup of tea was made and I sipped it as I wrote the first morning addition of my blog, I left my Thyroxin home and have not had any for 7 days and I have had very little desire for afternoon naps in fact I feel quite well I will have to investigate my reliance on these tablets I have had a little more salt than normal to compensate but an

interesting observation. We decided to head to little Sahara and see the sand hills it was very bright and the sun was as clear as crystal, the bitumen road was not crowded and we were almost on the turn off and another goanna was on the road it was in a obscure shadow area and before I knew it we were on him and as previously I tried to avoid his run but he ran the other way so goanna 2 this impressed me very little over 2500 km and 1 bird and 2 Goannas as Adien says road kill! On we went sailing past the turn off as it looks like a entrance to a farming property than a park so we ended up at the west side of Vivienne Bay as the morning was so clear the limestone roads were stark and the bay was just lovely to see crystal blue colour



with the ever-present dark wed patches we drove on to a lookout and I took some wide angle shots which looked quite splendid to the eye, the rule of always look behind you is very applicable and I walked across to the southern ocean and what a contrast beautiful rock pools with crystal clear pools which likely could hold fish at times



the waves were cascading up the rugged rocks and crashing over the high points so picturesque and not a significant walk to get there on the way back I took several jetty shots with the dozens of small boats tugging against their anchor ropes and being buffeted by the wind. We went back and finally found little Sahara with its quirky entrance and after driving on a small track we decided to head to the other side of the island taking Mt. Taylors Road and on to Western River Cove, the day was hotting up and 10.30 the UV was high as we were heading away from the sun to towards the west the dead silver eucalypt trees glistened in the sun but to find a clear one not covered in stacks of brush was almost impossible around a corner and

there in the right position and clear location stood one tree so my first 8x10 for the day 11.23 am so the sun almost at 11.00 o'clock in position the tree had black burns sections on both trunks changing to bright silver on the rest of the trunks what a find so one vertical and horizontal,



I was rapped a in 7 days this was the easiest shot I had found for my medium as we sped on the cove we passed some stop at locations for later as we got to the bottom of the cove the steepness of the roadway

Could catch you out if you were not on our toes, Sue decided to sit under the elevated structure overlooking the river and I set my tripod up and despite wearing a hat I was getting burnt the next two shots took in the river and the reed bed as an anchor to the shot the side hill was lit



fairly well and a vertical and horizontal shot was taken turning around I took another shot towards landfall and decided I landscape shot would do the sun was hot and the flies were all over me and by now Sue had retreated into the car for shelter, we closed the car air con on and up the track we went I stopped at the top to shoot a vista over a valley



and it was 12.51pm we had a date with the Parndana Hotel for a repeat of yesterday's lunch it was just as good as anything we have had on the island and the price was reasonable as well we got in to the car and decided to travel back to Possums Watch as the sun was hot and that ruled out any serious shot making when we got back the house had heated up and we opened all the windows and glass sliding doors to get some air inside the home I slept soundly until almost 4.30pm decided to read and relax before having tea at the Shed at the local sports club when we got there it was almost deserted and we thought we were too late but no and a hamburger was the fare for the meal we then chased the light which was somewhat unsuccessful every spot I thought of was in shade and I was getting ticked finally at 8.18pm I took a shot of the sunset after last night's magnificent show we thought tonight would be good but a narrow band of cloud ruined that expectation a 9 minute exposure on the x-ray film will tell a tale of our file and its correctness or not, two days earlier we saw an obscure castle like structure on the Nth Coast road and see if the lights were switched on which was a step of faith as we did not really know and after stopping and talking to a long tailed possum who decided to park itself on the deserted road we got around the corner and the lights were on what a show the contrast with day and night was really special, the owner George Turner the third was a unique and I suppose eccentric character and his creations were brilliant he was waiting for a car load of people who ended up not even showing up but 3 other cars took their place he was excited and I knew I was in for a guided tour and the bland almost weird looking daylight structures were transformed at night by 40,000 lights he has used materials from the dump nearby and transformed 900mm diameter pipes into castle walls with diamond blade cut-outs and ribbon lights behind each one he has worked on his unofficial project for 10 years and the lightshow was brilliant almost 2 hours

flew by with the excitement of George as he showed us his newest creation a 8 or 9 meter long Viking ship with two rows of lit budda heads all in a row and a Viking helmet on each head the sail was a wire bed support with a ribbon light around the frame and a run of ribbon lights to the stern and the bow when he turned the lights on the gasps of amazement from the youngster's that were there and his obvious pride in his latest project,





we went from section to section and enjoyed his world and energy at over 70 years of age, we donated some money to him as that is his only means of funding and after stopping out the front we took 2 last shots before the hazardous drive back to Possums Watch we only saw 4 cars and 1 kangaroo it was 11.00 pm before we got back and as we sat down and checked the weather for tomorrow the sounds of a full blast party was heard in the background very soon it was midnight and we turned in as what was a busy day for us but rewarding in what we have seen and done, we slept.

Day 8: Sunday the previous night's sleep was light and I was up and down a bit the strong wind was cool and pleasant at first but the early hours of the morning cold I finally slept soundly until 8.15 am a record for me, I awoke to Sue reading and I made a coffee and wrote my blog for yesterday which was a mammoth effort. We have decided to have a quiet morning and head out to emu bay this afternoon and see what occurs from there the weather report predicts a thundery shower which opens opportunities for some good landscape shot so time will tell.

The obligatory drive for gas at Kingston was taken and Sue decided the shopping centre was calling so as I dropped her off I went and filled up with fuel hmn gas up to \$1.26 rouges Cleaned the windows and picked up Sue decided to have a pasty for lunch except the shop was shut so had a ice-cream each and we would have lunch at the ranger station at Flinders Chase for the fourth time this time having a meal there and it was with a little foreboding regarding the weather report we had been reading so we left and just cruised the main road towards Vivienne bay and the roads were deserted not a soul, I had 3 8x10s to shoot and One of the expected shots was of an enterprising farmers letterbox in the shape of boot made out of a couple of 44 gallon drums and when we got there it was with a dark overcast sky and I quickly setup for the shot and it looked good in the ground glass



I decided to shoot a 5x4 as well and was

getting nice light for my efforts, we packed up the cameras and checked for traffic and on we went passing a small creek that I was going to shoot later in the day the light was subdued and perfect for large format, around a corner and would you believe it another Goanna standing on the roadway blending in to the dark grey of the roadway I veered to the right and missed him easily fully expecting him to run across in front of me but not this time. The cricket was good to listen to and as we drove on the scenery was changing in the different lights of the day the greens were splendid and I thought about the effect on the green orthographic x-ray film would endure being green sensitive and not to many reds around to influence the medium, we drove through the canopy of gums with trunks reaching for the sky and the filtered light turning on a show for us, soon enough we arrived at the visitors centre and parked the car I had the 1DMk3 and 17-40mm lens on to shoot a close up or two when a ranger declared that a couple of koalas were up in the trees I lazily shot 4 or 5 frames of one and the grey sky's behind turned into a perfect silhouette not what was required at all when I saw the Mother and baby I decided to go back to the car and put on the 400mm lens, well what a show, mom decided to have a feed of the leaves and I shot some cracker shots of the Koala filling the frame shot after shot as she twisted to reach her chosen leaf and eagerly putting them in her mouth, later when I processed the shots they turned out to be some of the best koala shot I have ever done and many were picture postcard shots to think if I have been lazy I would have missed the



opportunity 'a bit like life really' after assisting a club photographer who had some nice gear but was very inexperienced in using it 'wide open aperture and 650 Iso was the recipe for the shoot and put a hood on the lens to shield the light', we later caught up in the centre and I did

not see how she went but I remember the number of shot I had missed over the years due to just lack of experience, we ordered a hamburger and as I went outside a local raven nicknamed the sugar thief was there in one action he saw me and flew to his spot I turned my camera composed to a vertical format and fired of 2 shots the first got him and the second he moved slightly and as I chimped the shots taken I was impressed at the clarity and numbers of 'good'



shots it was perfect the day is looking good the meal was really good and while sue finished hers I went to get our cards stamped for statistics I suppose, the lass manning the desk did our cards and as I showed her the shots taken outside she was impressed at the different scenes and types of shots I had taken as I left she exclaimed I should be selling those as they were much better than what she normally sees manning the desk. We drove on towards Sues favourite bay Weirs Cove the ever-present fishing boats moored in the bay and the beautiful location yet such a monstrous place of toil and danger as the brave lighthouse men dragged up their provisions and



stores 100 years ago I shot the boats and the landing which was in softer light than when I shot them last time but with the 400mm lens so in two shots and stitching them together later, we made our way back to the car observing some very small birds which were much quicker than my hand or eye as I tried to get a shot so brush the flies off our backs jump in the car and on to remarkable rocks the rocks were drab in the light that we were under and we decided that taking a shot of the rocks with heaps of tourists clambering all over it was not our intent so we drove on towards the lookout above the admirals arch where sue had been a couple of days earlier, it was a very good vista with many seals directly below in full sun and today partly overcast conditions made it a perfect vantage spot as I readied the monopod and pointed the lens



downwards to the seals I shot four frames and card full sign popped up! So in bright sun my obscured back screen showed a wedding that I had done which was not deleted on the card so deleting is a slow process so 20-30 deleted and back to the seals it was perfect conditions except for the ever present flies, the aggressive male's bighting and the all too apparent gashes around the necks of the seals showed the mating season was in full swing we got some really good shots of a rock pool which was replenished with water as the waves crashed against the rocks and the white water gushing out the other side with enough time between sets for the seals to swim around and continue fighting, by then we had had enough fighting the flies and decided to walk back to the car a shaft of light had hit the lighthouse and I steadied the

monopod and shot several frames vertical format hoping I was steady enough.



In the car we turned on the air conditioner and cooled the car and decided to head back to the location of a shot taken few years earlier just after the bushfires which we had followed on our last trip to KI the shot was obscured by rising vegetation and I worked out the 90mm wide angle on the speed graphic would be a good shot all good and I put the tripod legs extended back into the car head down and off to my creek location, the light was falling as the Poms were in the cricket and we travelled looking at the splendid changes in scenery, I set up at one creek on the bridge my car parked before the bridge as a warning that some lunatic was standing on the bridge with a white cape over his head, but what I was seeing under the hood the scene was lightly lit and perfect for Large format took my shot packed up and on to the final creek which is just a mouth-watering scene river plants laying on top of the water and the receding gums with myriads of tones in the distance so I shot my final 8x10 here and it looked just perfect to me, I put the 2D away and dragged the 5x4 out and shot one sheet as well I could see a 20x24 being printed of this scene.



I had done the first part the pleasurable or painful is in the developing and printing of the work but the pleasurable part is to me the anticipation of the finished work. We chose to have Pizza for tea at Parndana so taking Hickman's road another road we had not been on and the wildlife was well behaved as we travelled to tea we got the last pizza they had made and leisurely ate as we called the kids and I posted today's progress on Facebook we decided to travel back the way we had come and were treated to the view of a echidna and a koala running up the road I stopped and Sue got a real good show of the Koala hiding from me behind the tree I did get a classic shot of one eye exposed to my cameras view and he then decided to climb as high as he could into the foliage what a pleasant surprise.



We recommenced our travels and decided to head to the wharf near Possums Watch I even got out my fishing rod out and tossed a lure for a while we had a splendid day and fitting end for the last night at KI. We spent the last of the day processing 176 shot and retired to bed at 10.30pm Life's Good

Day 9: Monday got up late 8.30 am I started to write what we did yesterday looking out the window at the pleasant sunlit skies of the morning, no rain no 25-35 km winds weather predictors have real dropped the ball so far today! I took several shots of the arty shack across from Possums Watch



and was in shorts then after changing I cooked in the house and changed back to shorts again, The weather was real funny today with gust of wind from the west quite strong at times and as we travelled to Kingscote the areas of windy and dead calm was amazing, filled up for the last time and dropped Sue off at the main street I headed to the old jetty as no sign of the wet weather that was predicted, so 3 Double Darks and on went my backpack with the 1dmk3 around my neck a Tafe hat to shield some of the sun and tripod in my right hand and a short 15 minute walk along the seaweed covered shoreline I set up in front of the 2 rows of posts and set the speed graphic up with the 90mm lens on and focused and composed my first shot it looked good on the ground glass and I took my first shot after filling in the software on the i-phone 1 vertical 1 horizontal then a lens change for the same shot the 270mm lens which required a shift of tripod position to fill the vertical composition on the graphic on its side reset the information in the software and adjusted the settings on the shutter to suit boy it looked good a strong shot was there for the taking so I did 2 more than



adjusted the position to take in the dried brush behind the old jetty piers

The exposure was almost the same and required a slight adjust for the highlight's and 2 more shots were done and dusted, took several digital shots as well and was feeling slightly burnt so packed up and walked back before I knew it I had taken 1.5 hrs. so as I drove to the meeting point for Sue their she was just crossing the road so I parked in front of the supermarket and opened a cold drink out of the freezer bag before long Sue was out and we went to the fish shop to pick up some previously bought prawns for a special dinner for our last day, uneventful drive back to Possums Watch and Sue set about getting the prawns ready. We are very satisfied with our holiday and the choice was very timely I feel very refreshed and in spite of not having my thyroid medication I felt really energetic had no afternoon sleeps and generally felt my normal self of several years ago, reading several thyroid article confirmed side effects from the medication I am taking chronic sinusitis, dry hair dry skin I will be consulting my doctor when I get back. The pack up was a well-rehearsed routine and I lugged the Pink case a monstrous item but fits nicely in the rear of the GU- Bedding, seats, stowed the cameras away and loaded the computers while Sue vacuumed the floors and did the lady' thing! Checked the windows and locked the doors and by 4.45pm we were on our we dawdled to Penneshaw, and drove past the views and said next time had plenty of Stock shots for my collection and was confident of the resulting negatives. at the hotel we met a couple who were leaving at 8.15pm our departure time was 7pm so comparing notes and experience was good to hear, before long the dinner area was open and as a final treat we chose garlic prawns on a bed of rice and it was good washed down with a coke and we were ready to line up and wait for the ferry watching it's styles and some absurd dress choices among the tourists. It was lumpy on the way back and the front of the ferry was closed to the public which was ominous as to the trip I was Ok but Sue was green and declared "If I stayed there a moment longer I would have been sick!" A couple of apprentices were sitting adjacent to us and when one a electrician mentioned Tonsley I introduced myself the other a carpenter was interested in the training as he has to complete his final year with us so we chatted about the trade and I steered the conversation to my passion regarding quality of work and the means of ensuring work in the trade, I was missing training 3 weeks without a class but that will come soon enough, we ended our chat and I bid them a good weeks training each and Sue and I headed for the car as the ferry was manoeuvring into its berth, before long we embarked first off the ferry and on to the Cotter resident to see the kids we were home by 10.00pm our most enjoyable break for a long time.



A simple sunset to end our journal of Kangaroo Island 2013

The End.

SOUTHLAND IMAGES

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