



Australian moments 2017

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Drifting towards sunset, Silverleaves, Phillip Island, Victoria



The first trip of our holiday took us to Phillip Island, staying with Peter, Shells, Ewan and Maggie before Easter in a house at Silverleaves on the north coast. The beach with it's impressive driftwood and sheltered shoreline was only a five minute walk through the coastal scrub. A delightful start to our holiday and a return to a spot we'd been to before when we'd watched the Penguin Parade.



Beachwalk at sunset



Taken at dusk as the sun set at Silverleaves, I walked along the beach and watched the sun go down. I just found watching this boat so peaceful and relaxing and the colours so vibrant in one sense but restful and muted in another, that I spent some time waiting for the right “moment” to grab a shot. In the end I was very glad I’d found the patience to wait from somewhere, as the end result, I feel, does the scene justice!



The Boulevard, The Nobbies, Phillip Island, Victoria



Copperhead Snake - seriously venomous apparently



Superb fairywren



Wallaby

Koala



After all our trips to Australia we finally managed to see a koala ... but only in a conservation centre on Phillip Island

Hampton Marina



A daily walk to the beach at Hampton became part of my routine whilst staying at Highett. I enjoyed the coffee too!



Stormy sky

We'd never walked to the end of the pier at St Kilda, so rectified that omission on this trip. An impressive structure with a nice cafe at the end and, of course, a massive marina as well. The storm clouds gathering were very impressive as we left. Fortunately they didn't lead to rain. On the photo opposite of the beach cafe where we had lunch I've enlarged a section to show the man paddle boarding with his dog.



Cafe life at St Kilda

Photo workshop in The Kimberley

I'd planned in advance a trip with Tom Putt to the Kimberley area of Western Australia. This was certainly one of the highpoints of the trip for me.

I flew to Darwin from Melbourne, stayed a night there (it rained), before flying down to Kununurra. We stayed at the Kimberley Grange hotel, just opposite Lily Creek Lagoon and from there we went to Mirima National Park a couple of times, at sunset, and sunrise.

From Kununurra we headed off to El Questro and walked into Emma Gorge, followed by a sunset shoot in the Cockburn Ranges. The next day we were on Saddleback Ridge at sunrise before heading out to Zebedee Springs and the El Questro Gorge. A chance to walk around El Questro Station after a little Lightroom work and then to Brancos Lookout for the sunset and some bubbles!

We then headed off to Bungle Bungle in the Purnululu NP staying at the East Kimberley Wilderness Camp stopping at Wyndham for a helicopter flight over the tidal estuary to the south of the town .

A sunrise Milky Way session beside the Bungles - headtorches to the ready - started the next day. Then it was on to Echidna Chasm and then back to Bungle Bungle Lookout for sunset.

A sunrise Milky Way session on a ridge near to the camp was followed by the drive back to Kununurra and a lovely meal beside the Ord River at The Pumphouse.

I stayed on an extra day to do a Ord River boat cruise.



Salt lakes taken from the flight north



Lily Creek Lagoon, Kununurra



Rocks and grass, sunset at Mirima NP



Arriving at Kununurra a little before the rest of the party I was able to explore the area around the lake a bit. I rather liked this shot and was pleased I just about got the depth of field spot on!



Skyline viewpoint, Mirima NP



Through the grasses, Mirima NP





Rocky skyline at sunrise, Mirima NP

Baobab on the way to El Questro





Baobab at dusk, Cockburn Ranges, El Questro

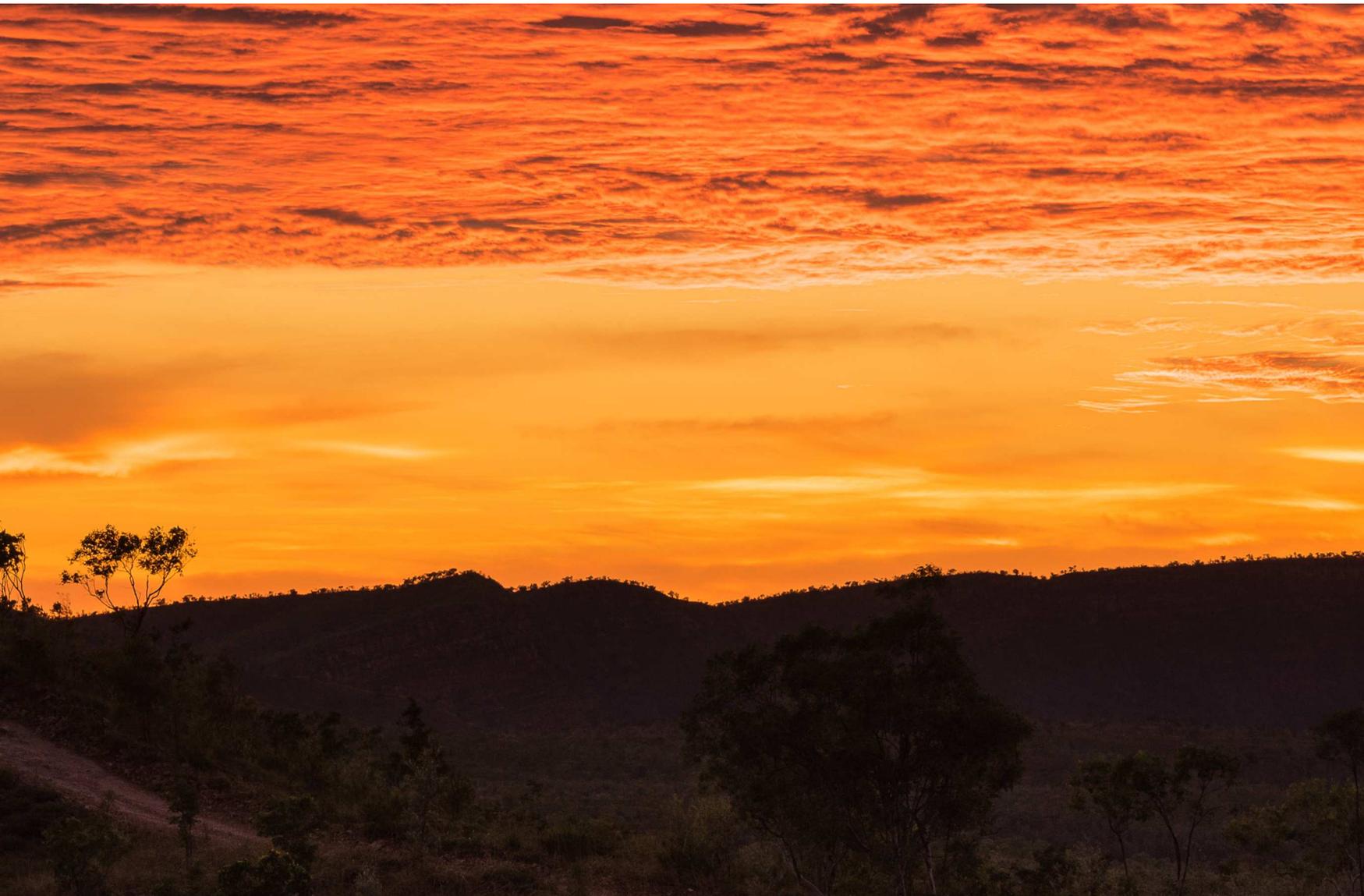


Emma Gorge, El Questro



Dawn at Saddleback Ridge, El Questro





Sunrise at Saddleback Ridge, El Questro



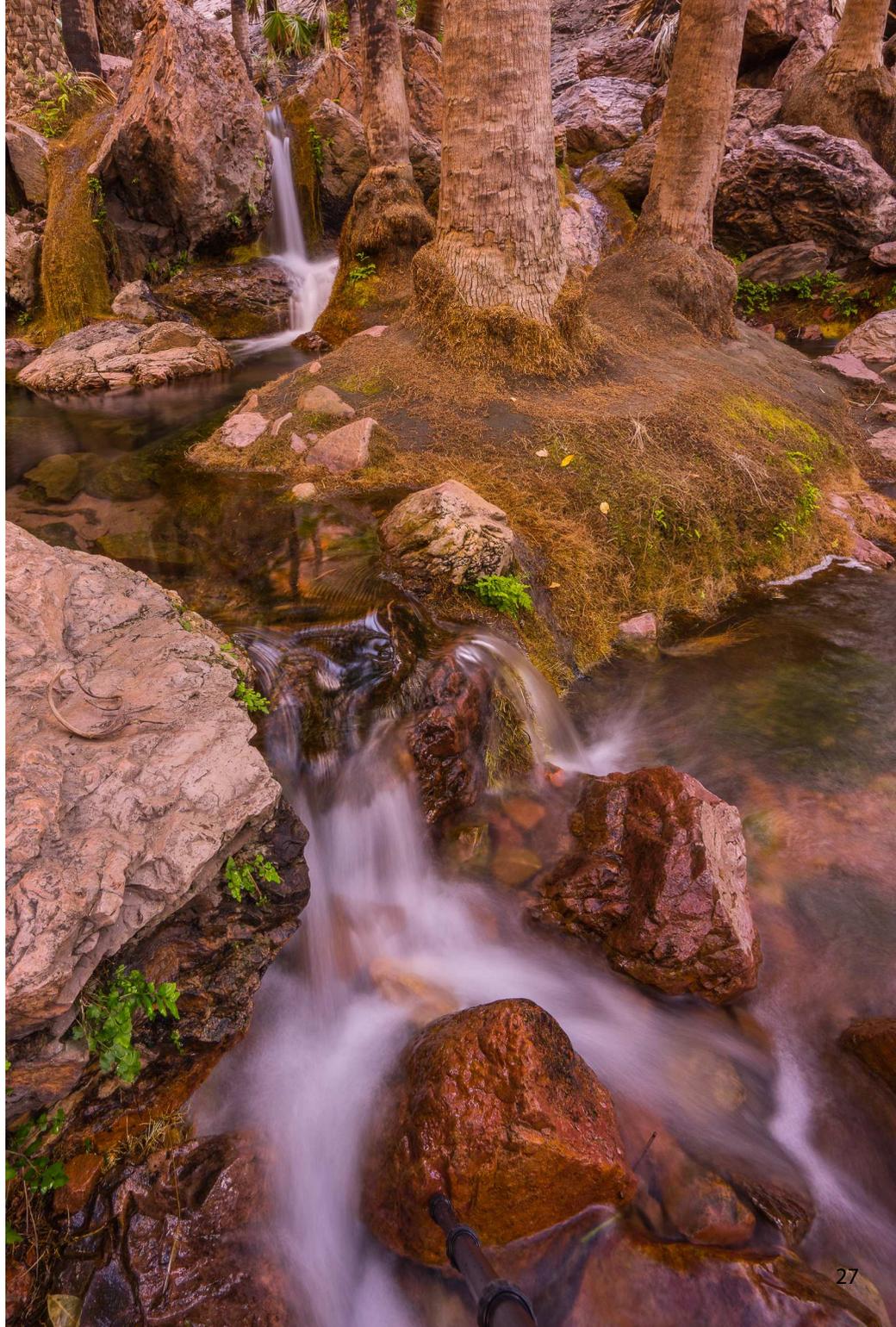
Zebedee Hot springs, El Questro

Zebedee Hot Springs

Several pictures of this great location which you have to get to very early before the tourists come and sit in the pools which (as the name suggests) are nice and warm.

Plenty of opportunities for silky water shots, sometimes after placing the tripod in the stream, and quite close to the water surface.

Also opportunities to take pictures of the palms and of the wildlife. I managed a couple of shots of some spiders with the macro lens.











A toe in the water



Palms at Zebedee Springs



Out to grass, El Questro



Brancos Lookout and Wyndham

A great spot - if you look very carefully you may just see a freshwater crocodile (just kidding).

We wandered along the ridge assessing the best place to get a shot as the sun set and the colours changed over the hills in the background, and the reflections of the sky altered.

After taking this shot, I tried to get one of the sun actually setting - looking the other way - but failed dismally. Still "the bubbles" made up for that disappointment.

Following this, the next day, a chance for a helicopter flight over the Wyndham tidal estuary, and then on to the East Kimberley Wilderness Park.



Wyndham mudflats







Tidal creek



Meanders in the mud, Wyndham





Bungle Bungle, Purnululu NP

What is there to say about these amazing and most unusual rock formations.

The impact of the bright coloured and banded rock is only heightened by the still water and blue, blue sky. The reflections on the water (only there after the wet season) lift everything and you can get amazing shots.

Then there's the Milky Way - whether it's sunrise or sunset, what you see is truly incredible and with a little help from Lightroom you get something which is truly breath-takingly beautiful.

So ... an early morning start to capture The Bungles as the sun rose with the Milky Way magnificent, followed by shots of water reflections and a walk across the dry river beds.

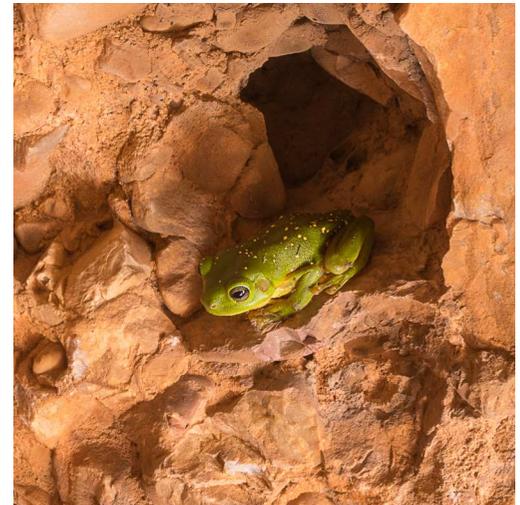
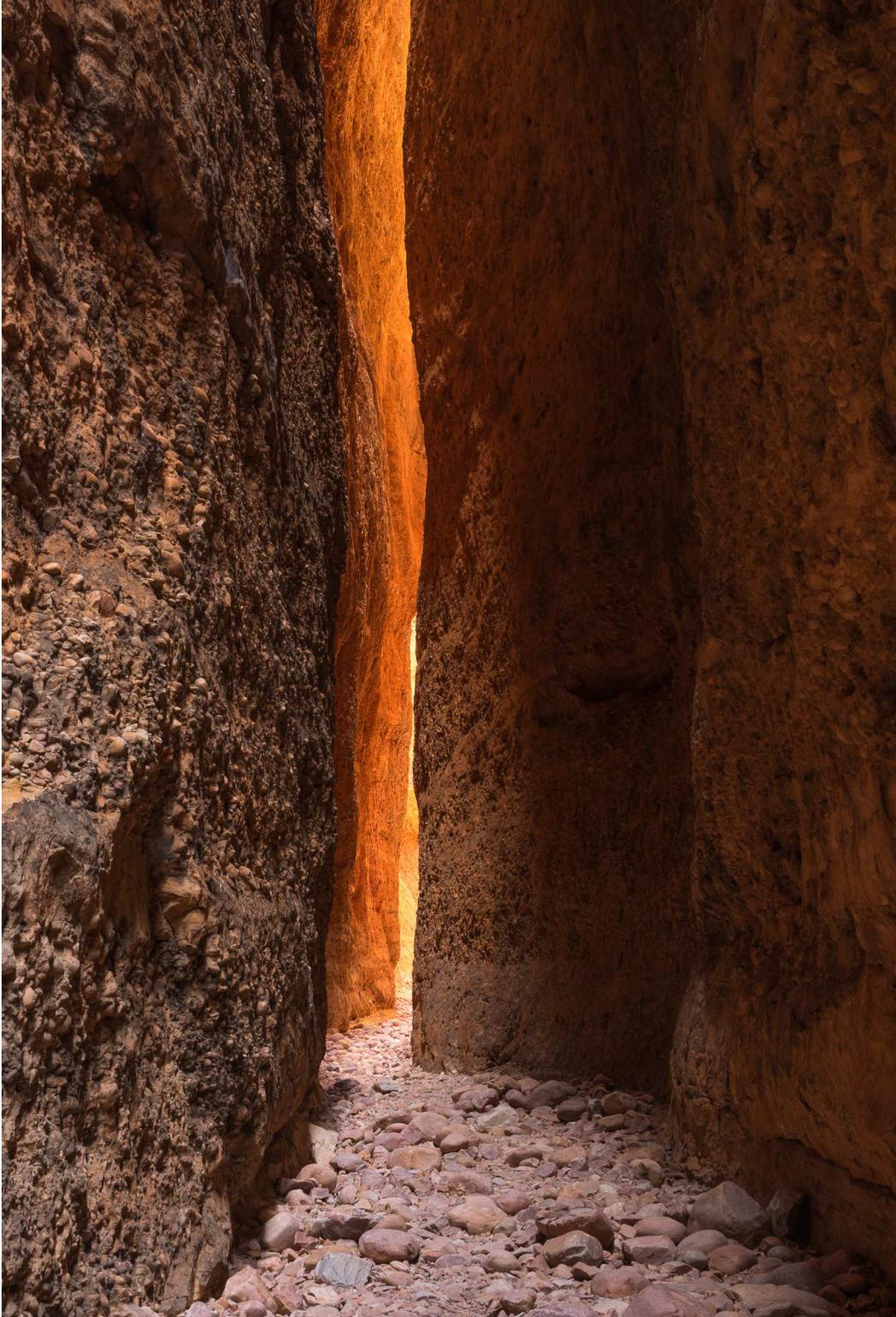
Then a walk to Echidna Chasm before returning to The Bungles for a sunset shoot from the lookout, and a sunrise shoot with more spectacular Milky Way shots, from near the campsite before a visit to Cathedral Gorge and the long drive back to Kununurra.





Bungle Bungle - rocks and riverbed





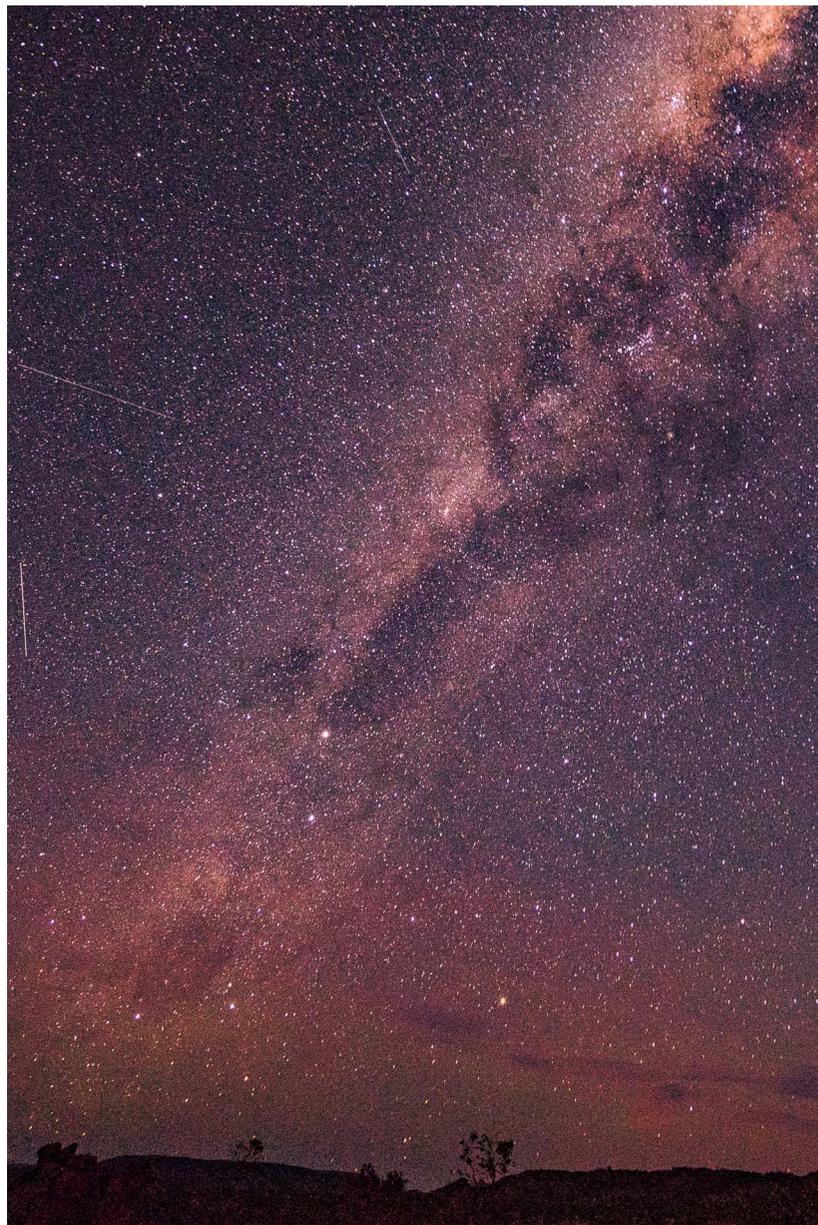
Frog





Bungles Lookout at dusk







Cliff face as the sun rose



Cathedral Gorge

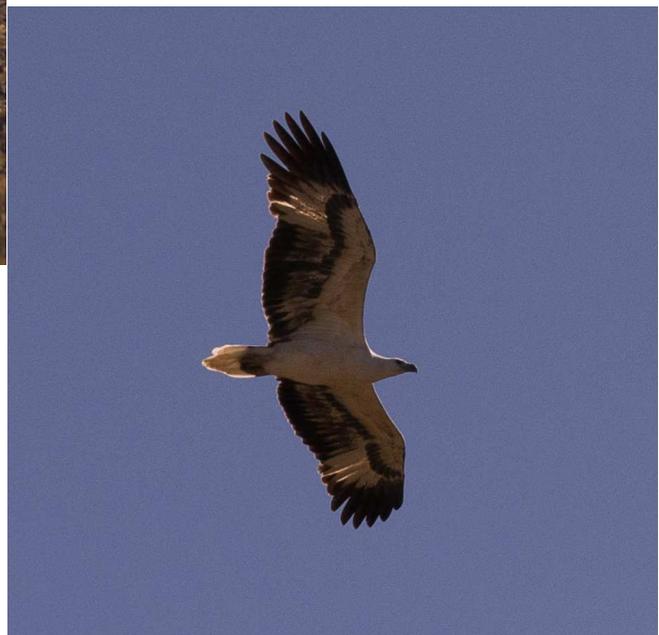


Fresh-water crocodile



Comb-crested Jacana

Fan-tailed eagle





River cliff on the River Ord

I stayed on in Kununurra an extra night to do a cruise up the Ord River to the dam and back. A chance to see some more wildlife, but also to relax after a busy few days and chill-out before I started the next leg of the trip, back to Adelaide to meet-up with Jenny and get on The Ghan for the trip to Alice Springs.



Learning cave, Uluru

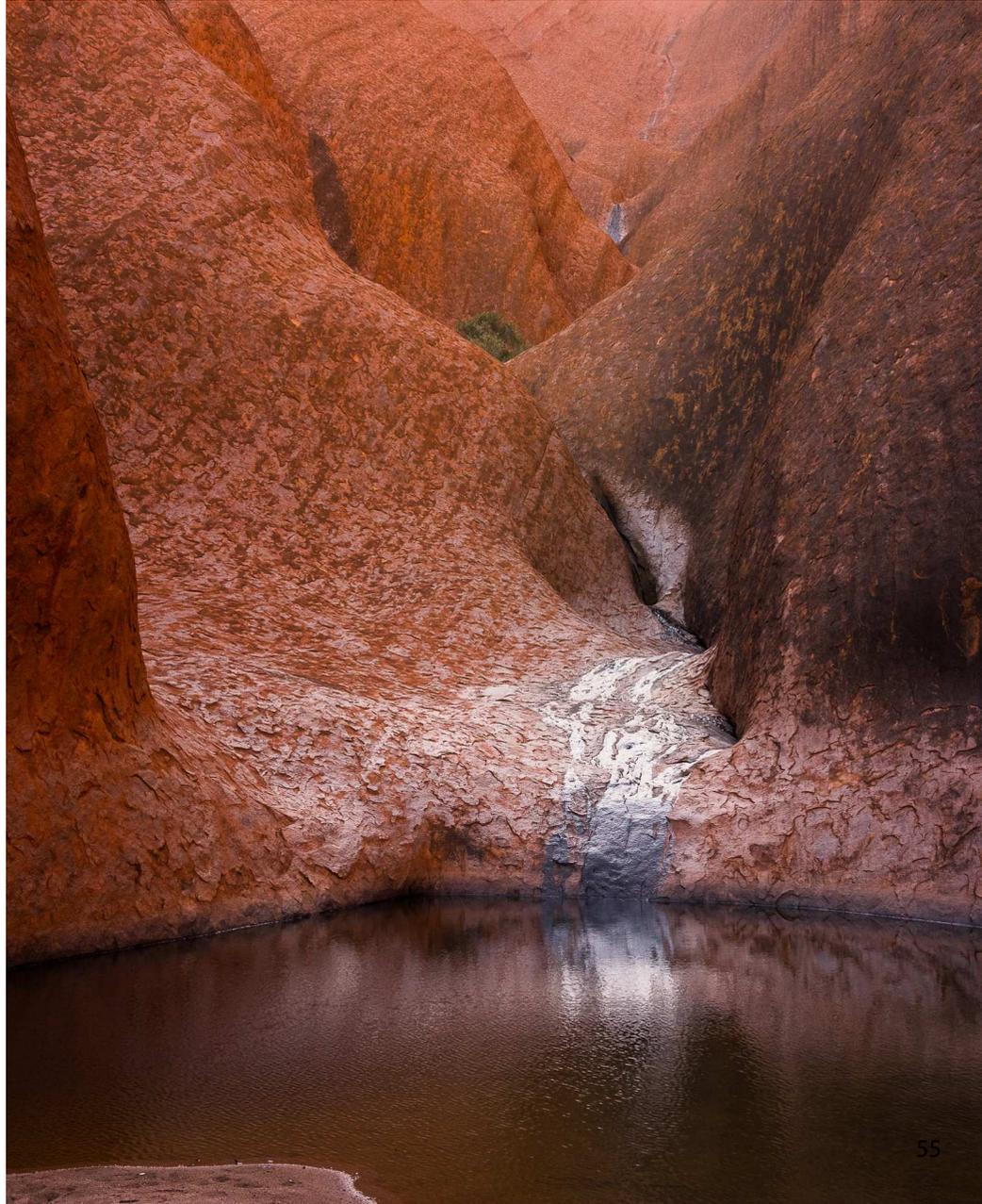
Uluru and the Red Centre

We had never been to the hotter parts of Australia before this trip either. So this was rectified in style. First a trip on The Ghan from Adelaide to Alice Springs and then a camping trip with Wayoutback Safaris to Uluru and the West MacDonnell Ranges.

We walked around part of the base of Uluru learning about the significance of certain features such as the learning cave (left) and the Mutitjulu Waterhole (right).

After a session at the Cultural Centre we went to a viewing point to watch the sun set over Uluru and share a few “bubbles” with the other members of our party.

An early start the next morning to watch sunrise, and then on to Kata Tjuta and the Valley of the Winds.





Sunset over Kata Tjuta



Sunset and moon





Sunset at Uluru





Watching the sun rise





Uluru at sunrise



Bush tucker berries



Grass bush tucker



Our guide, Rhett, was very knowledgeable about the aborigine culture and told us a lot about bush tucker and how many of the flowers, such as these, were considered treats for the children who went out looking for them.



Wood bark and dead wood (right)







Kata Tjuta



On to Mount Connor and the West MacDonnell Ranges. Here, we were to do the the Canyon Rim walk at Kings Canyon, before driving past a lookout onto Gosse Bluff and then walk up Ormiston Gorge.





Kings Canyon



Kings Canyon, Watarrka NP

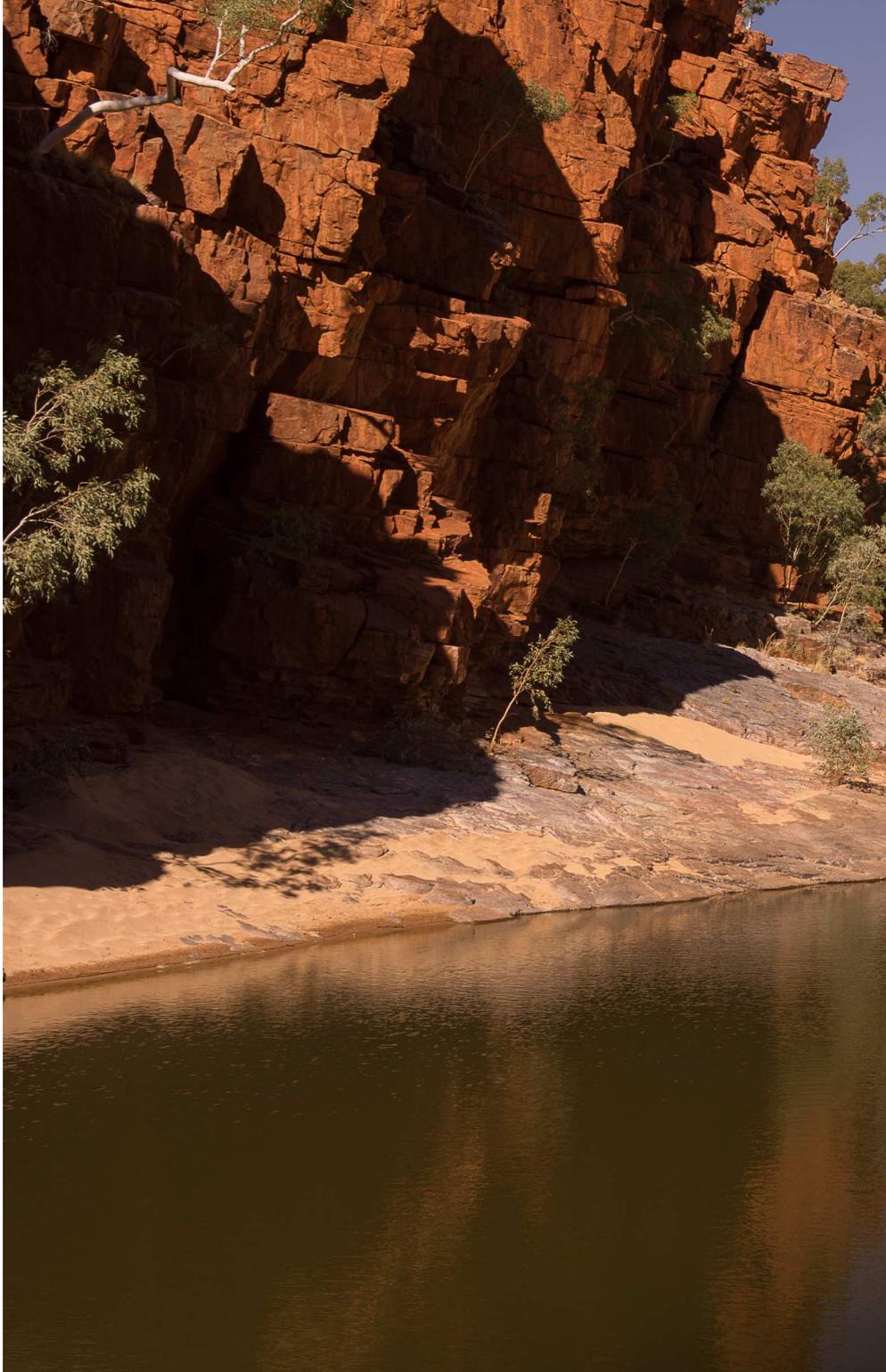
Kings Canyon is quite amazing. Before we arrived we had been told that we would find it more impressive than Uluru. Whilst I wouldn't necessarily agree with that, it was still spectacular and you could get up close to it, walk on it, and through parts of it as well. As usual the colours were incredible.

We had stayed the night before in a more primitive campsite than Uluru, and you could have taken your shower and other ablutions open to nature ... if you'd wanted to.



Gosse Bluff (Tnorola) - an asteroid or comet crater from the Cretaceous period





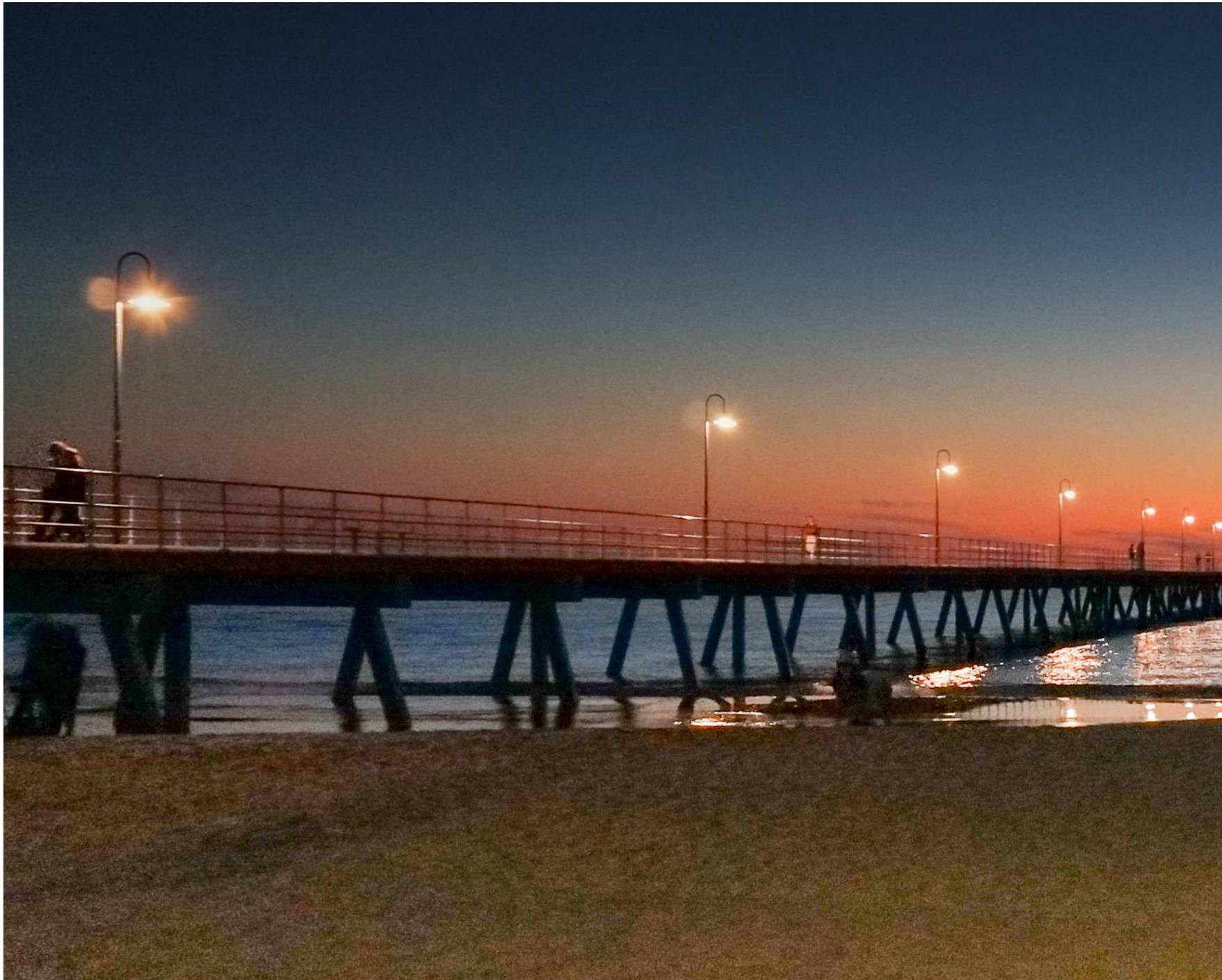
Ormiston Gorge

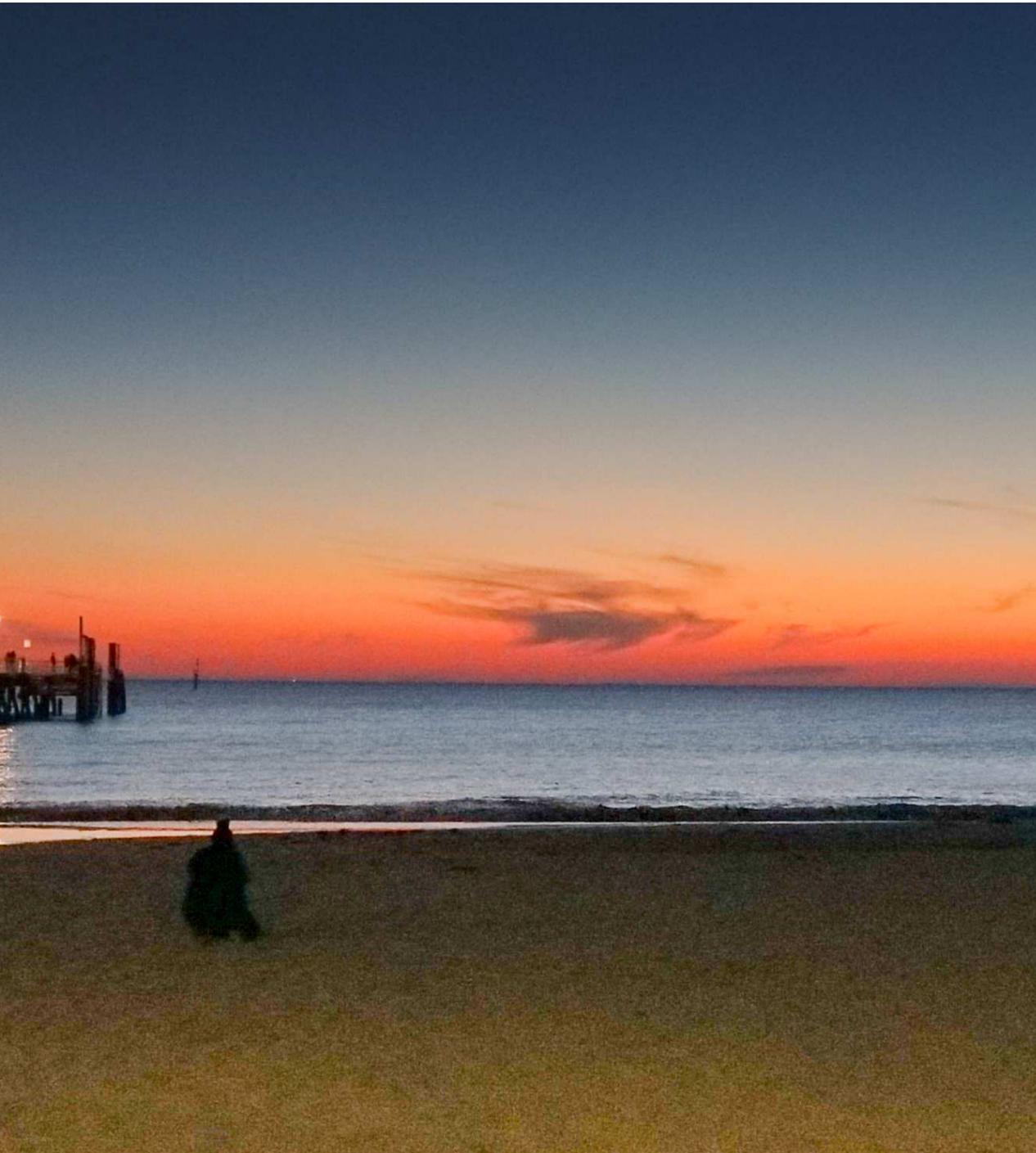




After a night at Glen Helen, before we returned to Alice Springs, we visited a place called Ochre Pits, where traditionally the aborigine people got the colours for their paints from. We then went on to Ellery Pits Big Hole - a strange name for a rather strange place which had to accommodate swimming (very cold water apparently) and an art workshop whilst we were there.







Glenelg pier at sunset



Palm tree tops

We stayed a day in Adelaide on our return from Alice Springs, having only just had a brief overnight stop on the way out. We stayed at the Hotel Grand Chancellor on Hindley Street near to all “the night-time attractions”, as well as the museum, art gallery and botanical gardens. We liked Adelaide and will probably return, linked to another visit to the Barossa Valley no doubt!



Yarra River at dusk



Yarra River waterfront as the sun goes down



Crown Towers on the Yarra waterfront, Melbourne



The Yarra lights up



The front cover is a picture of the shoreline at dusk, Silverleaves, Phillip Island, Victoria

Inside the front cover is a picture taken at Bungle Bungle, Purnululu NP, WA

The back cover is a picture of the orchids at Changi Airport, Singapore

I use Adobe Lightroom CC 2015 to post-process the photographs taken with my Sony A7r or Sony NEX-6 cameras. I also take photographs with my iPhone 6s.

Several galleries of my images can be found on my website - Moments like these [<https://mlt.photography>] and I write about them on my blog - Moments like these ... [<https://moments-like-these.com>].

This book features some of the pictures I took during our seven week trip to Australia during April-May 2017. My Lightroom catalogue tells me we took over 3200 pictures locations from Darwin and The Kimberleys to Port Arthur in Queensland, from Adelaide to Alice Springs, and of course Melbourne. The selection for this book is therefore only a small percentage of the total. More can be found in the companion book - "More Australian moments 2017" - which also features people and events of the trip.

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Designed using Adobe Photoshop Lightroom

