

The End

We have navigated by bottle shop, bakery and bush track over fifteen thousand kilometers. And now it's over.

Holidays are an alternate reality. Much like a movie where you are, for ninety or so minutes, swept away to another place and time only to walk out into the broad daylight and find nothing changed. The car is right where you left it (thank goodness!), the back tyre is flat (no goodness there), in short everything is much the same. The holiday is great, it's the trip back to reality that's a bit difficult.

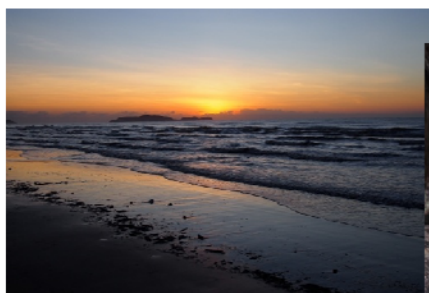
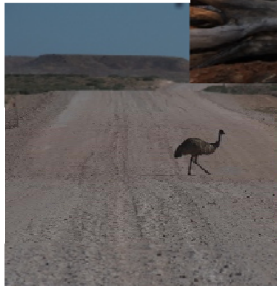
But then it's always difficult to accept that you have come to the end, be it the movie, the popcorn, the bottle of Cabernet or worse still the case of Cabernet. It's like running out of coffee first thing in the morning or realizing that tomorrow is Monday not Sunday.

The reality is that tomorrow is Monday not Sunday and the holiday is over. It's been a great ten or eleven weeks filled with many things I will never forget and some things I have forgotten already. The mind is a great thing, and when functioning properly (which in my case, thank goodness, is most of the time) tends to block out the unpleasant memories and highlight the pleasant ones. For example I now have only a vague recollection of crawling through a cave but I can still taste the worlds' best Riesling.

Some things I will never see the same way again. For example every time I see a Kangaroo these days I see it's fossilized ancestor, when I see an Emu I can't help but think what a mess it would have made of the washing if it had usable wings and if I ever see a platypus I still won't know what to think (this is definitely a critter designed by a committee).

You learn a lot on holiday without realizing it. History, Sociology, Geology, Geography. All the things that when taught from a book bore the living daylights out of you become relevant and fun. Given the chance I think I would have much rather spent my school days on holiday, but that idea would never catch on.

Next page some of my favorites ...





Are We There Yet????????????????????????????????