

This Journal is based on the Facebook posts made during our trip to Adelaide and Kangaroo Island, from 15 to 31-Dec-20.

Tuesday, 15-Dec-20: Perth to Adelaide.

Flying (yes, in a plane!) to Adelaide (via Melbourne)...

Later...

Currently killing time at Melbourne Airport. Our direct flight from Perth to Adelaide had been cancelled, substituted (at no extra cost) by flights via Melbourne, adding 1500km to our trip, 6 hours in Melbourne Airport, and we even had to collect our checked bag and then recheck it for Adelaide, but had to wait 3 hours to do that. I'm not impressed! But at least we are traveling again!

The flight cancellation was triggered by WA imposing restrictions on people entering WA from SA, where there had been an outbreak of COVID-19 on 16-Nov (about 18 cases, with a trickle of ones on subsequent days). No-one apart from certain exempt folk (not including us!) were allowed entry to WA, with SA being classified as "Medium Risk". As we left WA, the restrictions had been partially lifted so that we were allowed back, so long as we quarantined (at home) for 14 days on re-entry (SA classified as "Low Risk").

We did have several contingency plans worked out, in the event that restrictions would not be lifted:

1. Not travel at all!
2. Stay on in South Australia until restrictions were lifted – ie indefinitely! This included staying on with the Adelaide Reids – but that really would be a bit of an imposition; staying in my brother's (Christopher's) house, as they were planning to travel to Melbourne (in the event, they didn't do that); find a cheap rental/Airbnb, which didn't have to be in Adelaide; etc.
3. Fly to Tasmania and spend 14 days driving around there (this rather appealed to us, as we like Tassie and could easily spend 2 weeks there). This was possible as Tassie did allow people to come there from SA (as long as they hadn't visited the Adelaide "hotspots"), and WA allowed people to come from Tasmania, classified as "Very Low Risk" (provided they hadn't been in SA in the last 14 days). The only (fatal) drawback to this plan was that there were absolutely no hire cars available in the whole of Tasmania – apparently, with the onset of COVID, most hire cars had been sold off.
4. Fly or drive to Victoria and spend 14 days there (same deal as for Tasmania – but hire cars were available). In the event, there was a small outbreak in Melbourne just before we returned to WA, whereupon Victorians were not allowed into WA without 14 days' quarantine...

As I write (29-Dec-20), SA has been classified by WA as "Very Low Risk", with no restrictions on travel, not even home quarantine.

Thursday, 17-Dec-20, Adelaide:

At the cricket, with family! Opening day of 1st Test against India. Mitchell Starc takes wicket with 2nd ball of play!



Figure 1: Adelaide Oval



Figure 2: Some of family at the cricket

Note the requirement to “socialyl distance”, even for family groups – this constraint was not there when we returned to the Oval for the Big Bash game on 28-Dec-20.

Some action shots and famous folk at the cricket...



Figure 3: Mitchell Starc bowling against India, 1st Test



Figure 4: Sunil Gavaskar & Greg Blewett commentating on the 1st Test for Channel 7

Sunil looks decidedly bored, but since he is probably the second best-ever cricketer (after Don Bradman), we should definitely cut him some slack!

Saturday, 19-Dec-20, 15:30:

On board ferry to Kangaroo Island, while Aussie are ripping through the Indian top-order batsmen...

[as we boarded, India was 1/15; 45 minutes later as we disembarked, they were 9/36; their last batsman then got hit by a rising ball and retired hurt, so ending the Indian innings for 36 runs!]



Figure 5: Ferry from mainland (Cape Jervis) to Penneshaw on KI

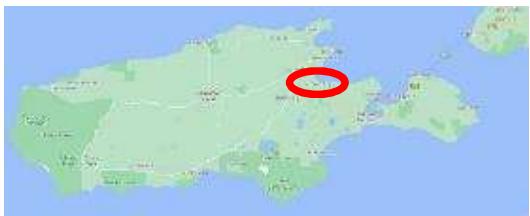


Map 1: Kangaroo Island & Adelaide

Arriving at cottage on Kangaroo Island for holidays with family.



Figure 6: Holiday Cottage at Nepean Bay on KI



Map 2: Kangaroo Island showing cottage location (Nepean Bay)



Figure 7: Cottage's Private Beach at Nepean Bay



Figure 8: Nepean Bay

Sunday, 20-Dec-20:

Had lunch at The Rockpool Cafe at Stokes Bay, then walked through a tiny crevice to the beautiful beach. But some of the surroundings are still badly scorched from last Summer's fires (more than half the island (140km long) was burnt).



Figure 9: Path through Crevice to the Beach at Stokes Bay



Figure 10: Stokes Bay Beach



Figure 11: The Rockpool Cafe, Stokes Bay



Figure 12: Terrain near Stokes Bay burnt by fires,
Summer early 2020

Some visitors to our cottage on KI - wallabies last evening, and Superb Fairy Wren this morning (20-Dec-20), then an Echidna.



Figure 13: Wallabies at the cottage (Tammar Wallaby)



Figure 14: Superb Fairy Wren in the grass around the cottage



Figure 15: Echidna on the road verge near the cottage

Monday, 21-Dec-20:

Visited Remarkable Rocks today, in Flinders Chase on KI. Really loved them, full of character, glorious setting, lovely weather. Amazing shapes, carving, weathering...



Figure 16: Remarkable Rocks - main group

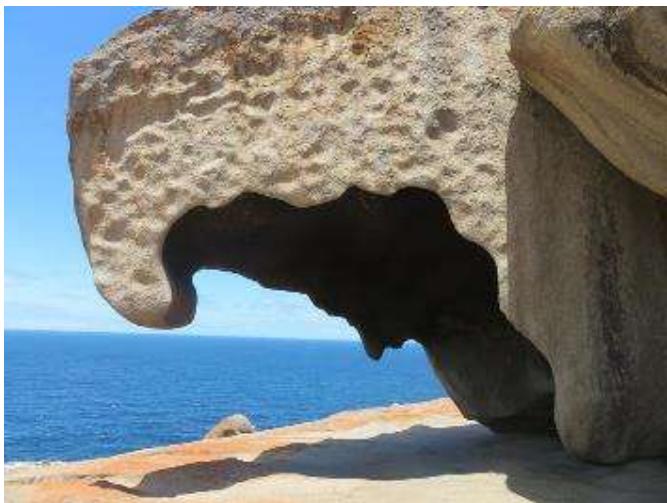


Figure 17: Remarkable Rocks: the Hippo Yawn



Figure 18: Remarkable Rocks - Hippo Yawn with humans for size reference



Figure 19: Remarkable Rocks - pieces



Figure 20: Remarkable Rocks - second cluster



Figure 21: Remarkable Rocks - second cluster
(with humans)



Figure 22: Remarkable Rocks - first cluster, different view



Figure 23: Remarkable Rocks - Louisa posing...

After Remarkable Rocks, visited nearby Admirals Arch (Rocks visible on headland in distance), and NZ Fur Seal colony on rocks nearby.



Figure 24: Admirals Arch - view through the arch



Figure 25: View from Admirals Arch of Remarkable Rocks in distance



Figure 26: NZ Fur Seals at Admirals Arch



Figure 27: NZ Fur Seal and cub at Admirals Arch

Driving to Flinders Chase, saw lots of evidence of the devastating fires in Jan this year, and of the regeneration. 98% of the Chase was burnt. No greater contrast than at Hanson Bay, with the blackened tree in foreground. We saw lots of regeneration, but also evidence of woodland that would not regrow for years and years.



Figure 28: Flinders Chase - burnt bush, grass tree in foreground



Figure 29: Flinders Chase - evidence of regrowth



Figure 30: Hanson Bay - just another beautiful deserted beach



Figure 31: Hanson Bay with burnt tree in foreground (possibly one that is not going to regrow)

Wednesday, 23-Dec-20:
Visited several beautiful beaches/coves on KI today.



Figure 32: Emu Bay



Figure 33: Pennington Beach



Figure 34: Penneshaw Beach (ferry in background)



Figure 35: Kingscote beach & jetty

Visited Emu Bay Lavendar Farm on KI today, and had great al fresco lunch.



Figure 36: Lavendar at Emu Bay Lavendar Bay



Figure 37: Different varieties of Lavendar

Climbed the 403 steps to Prospect Hill Lookout near Pennington Beach. First visited by a European in 1802 when Matthew Flinders climbed the hill, having moored his ship on the North side of KI; he was surprised to discover sea to the South (and he didn't have the benefit of the steps!).



Figure 38: View from Prospect Hill - ocean to North (Left) and to the South (Right)



Figure 39: Steps up to Prospect Hill lookout

Then drove on to Dudley Winery beyond Penneshaw on the Dudley Peninsular. Had their sparkling (Dudley Bubbly) at dinner last night. Fabulous views! (after driving through mallee archways...)



Figure 40: View over "Backstairs Passage" to mainland from balcony of Dudley Winery



Figure 41: Mallee archways on roads on KI

And so we say farewell to Kangaroo Island after a lovely few days there - ferry from Penneshaw to Cape Jervis on the mainland.



Figure 42: View back towards KI from ferry at Cape Jervis

We also said farewell to my drone, which I had received as an early Christmas present. I tried a few flights with it at the Adelaide home before we left for KI, then a few on 20-Dec-20 near the house we had rented. Sadly, on the 3rd (last) flight, it took off over a densely wooded area and refused to “return to base” or descend. I spent an hour then, and on several other occasions until we left the house, vainly searching for it. The trees were patchy, but a lot of shrubs, many with severe thorns – I have the scars to prove it. It wasn’t an expensive drone (hence, perhaps, its refusal to obey directions!), and I’ve ordered a replacement. I have several theories about where it may have ended up, including hidden in the tops of one of the trees (several pine trees had quite dense foliage towards the top); another is that, carried by the light breeze, it ended up *much* further away from where it took off than I guessed; the idea, suggested to me by one of our party, that a wallaby had run off with it, I do discount! If ever you visit Nepean Bay on KI, look out for it!!



Ian had a nearly equally fruitless search early every morning for a Western Whipbird (aka Walnut Whip bird). In his case, he finally was rewarded by seeing one – he reckons this was the hardest bird quest he has ever been on. See <https://the feathered variety. website/?p=3755>

Friday, 25-Dec-20:

Here's a view of the Christmas tree at the Adelaide Reids' house, before the hordes descended upon it. I hope and pray that all my FB friends have a wonderful day today - full of wonder as well as of hope, joy and peace.



Figure 43: Adelaide Reids' Christmas Tree

We spent most of the day at the (beautiful) home of friends of Nikki & Ian (& girls), having a late lunch (or early dinner!), extending from 12 till 7pm.

Here is a photo of us all towards the end of the day (complete with friendly neighbours' dogs).



Figure 44: Reid Family: Nikki, Ian, Erica, Louisa, Alex, Helen

Monday, 28-Dec-20:

At Adelaide Oval with family to watch the BBL Scorchers vs Strikers - very partisan SA crowd!



Figure 45: Adelaide Oval



Figure 46: Reids at the Big Bash cricket - Perth Scorchers vs Adelaide Strikers.

Tuesday, 29-Dec-20:

Just finished my latest 1,000-piece jigsaw - a lovely Christmas gift. The only problem was whether I could complete it before we depart Adelaide for Perth - but in the event I had a margin of 48 hours!

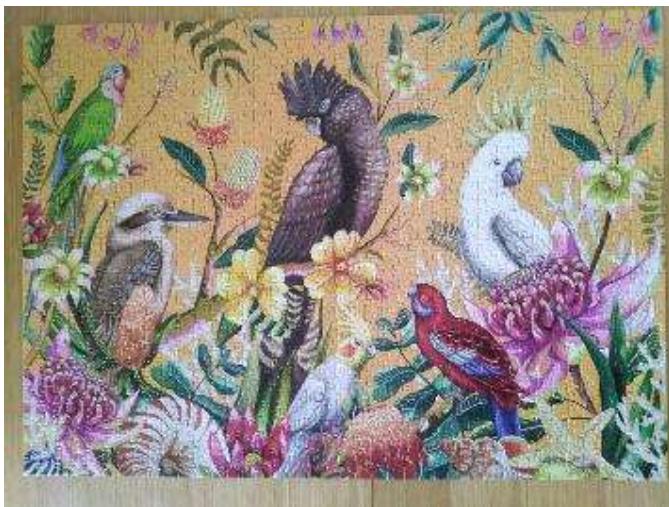


Figure 47: La La Land Jigsaw "Floral Paradiso" by Lilly Perrott & Murillo Manzini

In addition to the jigsaw (which I completed by myself), we also played a few board games with the family, on KI and also back in Adelaide. This evening (29-Dec-20), we played a round of Pandemic, which we had bought the family for Christmas. We didn't quite get the rules right this time, but it is surprisingly accurate in terms of the things you have to do to defeat a pandemic (4 of them, in this case), and of course not at all surprisingly relevant! It is unusual in that players have to cooperate with each other, collectively to defeat the diseases. We succeeded, but partly because we overlooked one rule about further infections with every player's turn (until late in the game).



Wednesday, 30-Dec-20:

Helen and I borrowed a car and headed off to visit Alan & Helen Hicks (good friends from when we lived in Adelaide in the early 1960s). And then had lunch with my brother Chris and his wife Juanna.



Figure 48: Chris & Juanna Reid

Thursday, 31-Dec-20:

On board Qantas flight from Adelaide to Perth - too late now for McGowan to change the rules applying to us! We're home and free (soon, that is!).

[of course, he can and did change the rules mid-flight for some passengers – eg Melbourne people who had to quarantine in Perth for 14 days or return immediately to Melbourne... - really upsetting/expensive for them!].

But, thankfully, for us we have been allowed back in without quarantining (or even a COVID test – just temperature check and a check as where we had been for the last 14 days)].

I have to say that the uncertainties and constant changes in travel arrangements could have been hugely stressful, but I didn't find them too bad – the fact that I was a retiree, with no (serious) commitments back home, was a major contributor to that lower stress level. Having Internet access wherever we went was also reassuring.

And so we say farewell to 2020! – with a lovely sunset over the houses in our Village in Trigg (actually sunset on 1-Jan-21, but I won't let that ruin a good ending!)...



Figure 49: Sunset (1-Jan-21) over houses in Trigg Village