

Kangaroo Island Wonderland



I came to love the beaches of Kangaroo Island: sundrenched in summer, wind-blown in winter; the 'Autumn break' months of April and May somewhere in between. But whichever month, the magnificent stretches of sand that circle the island are pretty much deserted most of the time. *Emu Bay* on the North Coast was a special favourite, while the Antarctic-facing *Vivonne Bay* - a peaceful haven in Summer - could project a turbulent scene through the winter months. But first an early morning, looking back from the jetty to the island's main town, *Kingscote*.

Early Morning at Kingscote

*A mist hangs over the water
On this hushed and peaceful morn.
Shag glides, then rides a' top
The gentle lapping waves,
Then dives - for breakfast.*

*Standing at the end of the jetty,
Looking back to the shrouded shore.
Roof tops there; now gone,
Sheltering, enclosing
The townsfolk - now waking.*

*A truck revs in the distance;
The spell is broken.*

Kingscote, Kangaroo Island,
South Australia, March 1979

Autumn at Emu

*Clear sky, bright sun
Points southward to me,
Jetty at left
As I look out to sea.*

*Rippling white waves
Roll on to white sand,
Stirred by the breeze
That is cooling the land.*

*It's Autumn time
And winter comes fast,
This warm morning sun
Soon a thing of the past.*

*Scaling a dune,
Puffing for breath,
I flop near the top,
Look down from the crest.*

*White sands sweep far
Towards Eastern cape,
Part olive-green dunes
From blue-green seascape.*

*A murky brown inlet
Cut off by the beach
To flow seaward in winter,
Lays still, out of reach.*

*The little van park
At the West of the bay
Appears slightly forlorn:
Only one van today.*

*Five or six shacks
Around jetty at West
Looking silently down,
Very still, just at rest.*

*In a few months
When summer's again,
The sun will bring life,
As flowers spring from rain.*

*But as I look down
On the peace of that bay,
I think I prefer
This cool Autumn day.*

Emu Bay, Kangaroo Island
May 1979

Vivonne Bay

*The sea is rough,
The waves run hard
On white sand shore, by dunes of green.*

*The bay sweeps wide
In a gentle curve,
Nature's design: an architect's dream.*

Vivonne Bay, Kangaroo Island,
May 1979