

Judith Bennett

The Lockdown Project

Australian Landscapes Revisited

When Covid restrictions were imposed in 2020, I decided to use the opportunity to develop my post-processing skills, rather than trying to accumulate more images.

I subscribed to Adam Williams' Easyway Photography courses online and quickly established a new regime for using Lightroom and Photoshop. The results were immediate!

I realised that most of the images in my archives would benefit from re-processing, using the principles I had learned. I started with Australian landscapes, selecting 50 favourite shots from the last 10 years. I enjoyed the project so much that I wanted to have all my 'new' landscapes in one book and to show the transformations from RAW files to finished images.

I am on a new learning curve, and this book represents a step along the way.



Bombo Rocks near Kiama NSW

When I visited Bombo rocks it was raining and the light was flat. The sea was pounding against the rocks but the splash was almost invisible against the grey sky. I captured a flock of birds flying above a big tower of rock, but the overall image was dull. I added a stormy sky and some warm directional light to create more drama and tried to create the feeling of a romantic landscape painting. The transformation of this image was the spark that ignited the Lockdown Project.





Camel Rock under the Stars

This original shot of Camel Rock was a long exposure taken before sunrise. Because of its dark nature, I decided to make it into a night shot, using a panorama of the Milky Way which I had previously captured at another location. The sky colours just needed a little boost to create a magical feel.





Ormiston Gorge, West Macdonnell Ranges, NT

Ormiston Gorge is a quintessential outback landscape. It comes to life in strong light. The original panorama was taken late in the day when most of the colour had gone from the cliffs. The nearside cliffs and sky were cut off, making an unbalanced composition. I cloned some extra cliff on the left hand side and put in a bigger and more interesting sky. Adding golden light brought out the detail in the valley and highlighted the tree. A vertical stretch helped to counteract the flattening effect of the panorama, and restored the majestic scale of the landscape.





Remarkable Rocks, Kangaroo Island SA

Remarkable Rocks certainly live up to their name.
The eroded boulders have rather amusing
shapes so I thought they needed an amusing
cloud formation to replace the messy original sky.





Bluff Knoll, Stirling Ranges, WA

After a challenging climb, the view from the top of Bluff Knoll was panoramic but the light was flat and the clouds were messy. I stretched the middle ground to make the mountains more imposing, put in a sky from the previous day, and added sunlight. This was worth the climb!

