

APRIL 2020

SHUTTER

The Photography of Peter Hennekam

LAKE EYRE:
AUSTRALIA'S INLAND SEA

MAREE:
GATEWAY
TO THE SEA



SHUTTER ON LAKE EYRE

The Photography of Peter Hennekam



Lake Eyre contains
the lowest point in
Australia...

15m below sea level



On the rare occasions
that it fills, it is the larg-
est lake in Australia...

covering 9,500 km²



I have been very fortunate that
I have been able to indulge my
two great passions..photogra-
phy and driving my Toyota
80 Series.

Over the years I have travelled
tens of thousands of kilometers
and taken more than four-hun-
dred-thousand photographs.

Over that same period I have
moved from shooting on and
processing film, to shooting
and processing digital.

So what do you do with all
those pics? You publish your
own e-magazine of course.

Welcome to **SHUTTER**, a
magazine dedicated to show-
casing pictures that I have had
so much pleasure producing.

I hope you enjoy them. Feel
free to share.

**PETER
HENNEKAM**

peter@hennekam.com.au



Lake Eyre is the focal
point of Australia's sec-
ond largest drainage
system, the Lake Eyre
Basin

The Lake Eyre Basin
covers over one-million
square kilometres



The Lake was named
after explorer Edward
John Eyre, the first
European to see it in
1840

Lake Eyre is actually
comprised of two
lakes:, Lake Eyre North
and Lake Eyre South

The lakes are con-
nected by the 15 km
long Goyder Channel,

Together, both lakes
are 144 km by 77 km



Donald Campbell,
driving the Bluebird-
Proteus CN7, set the
world land speed
record (648.7 km/h)
on Lake Eyre on
17 July 1964.



In 2000, I had the opportunity to fly over Lake Eyre while in flood.

That was my first serious photographic trip and the photos appeared in the RAA magazine SA Motor.

I've been back to Lake Eyre several times over the past 20 years.

I flew over it again in 2005 when it was bone dry and I have been there on the ground in both wet and dry conditions.

The following pages are my records of those trips.

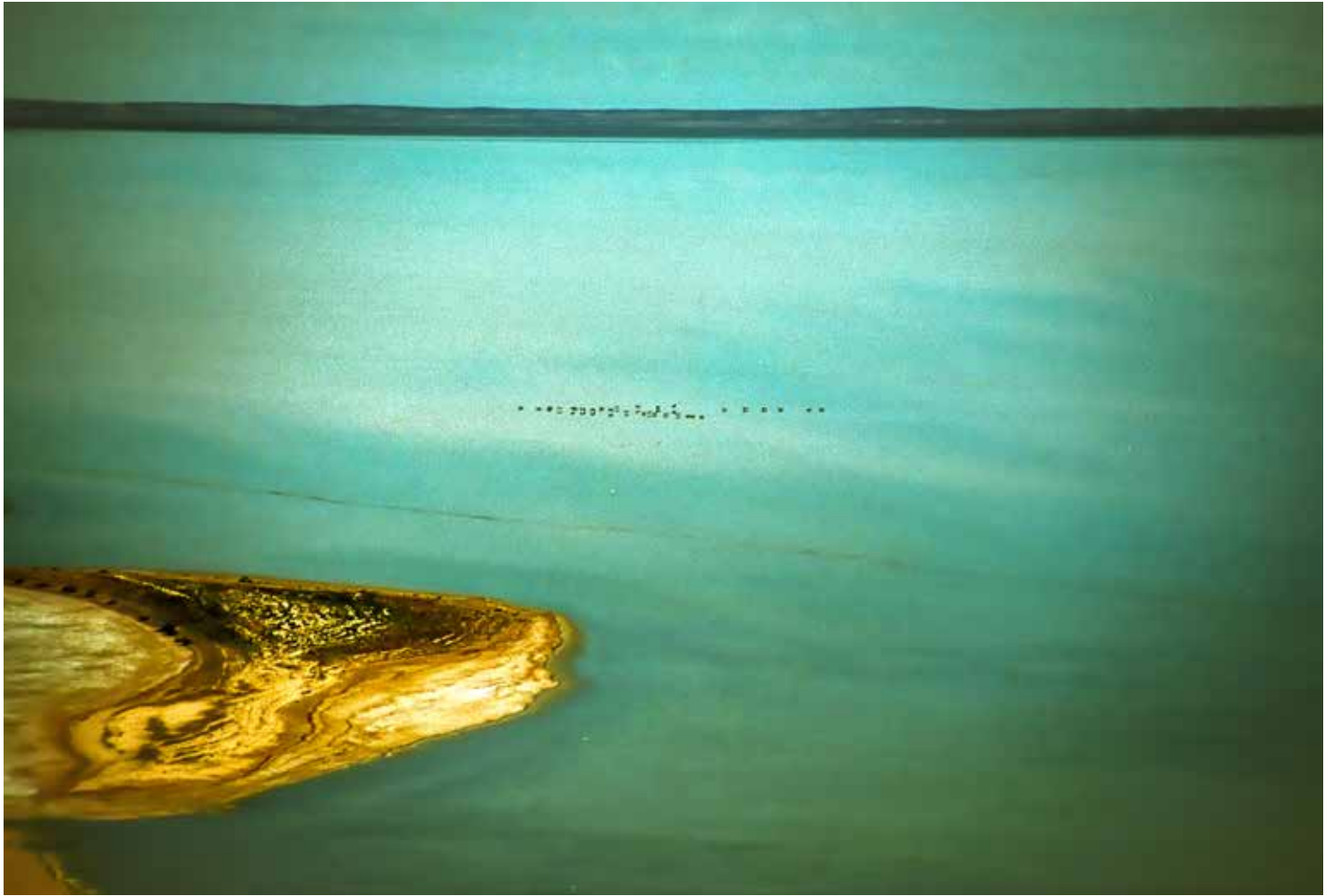


Lake Eyre was formed around 200 million years ago and is the lowest point below sea level on the Australian continent.

When the lake is dry, its glittering crystallised surface stretches as far as the eye can see.

When it floods, waterbirds descend in their thousands, fish converge in channels and wildflowers blanket flood-plains.

As water begins to evaporate, the lake takes-on a spectacular pink hue caused by a pigment found within a specific type of salt-loving algae.





BELOW SEA LEVEL



From the ground the difference between the wet and dry landscapes is stark.

I traveled along the Oodnadatta Track and flew over the lake in 2005. The lake and the countryside were bone dry. There was not a bit of green to be found.

When I returned in March 2011 heavy rains in the Stuart Creek and Warriner catchments filled Lake Eyre South, with Lake Eyre North about 75 per cent covered with water.

Instead of endless salt it was clear blue water as far as you could see. The surrounding bush had also transformed into a vibrant green teeming with wildlife.





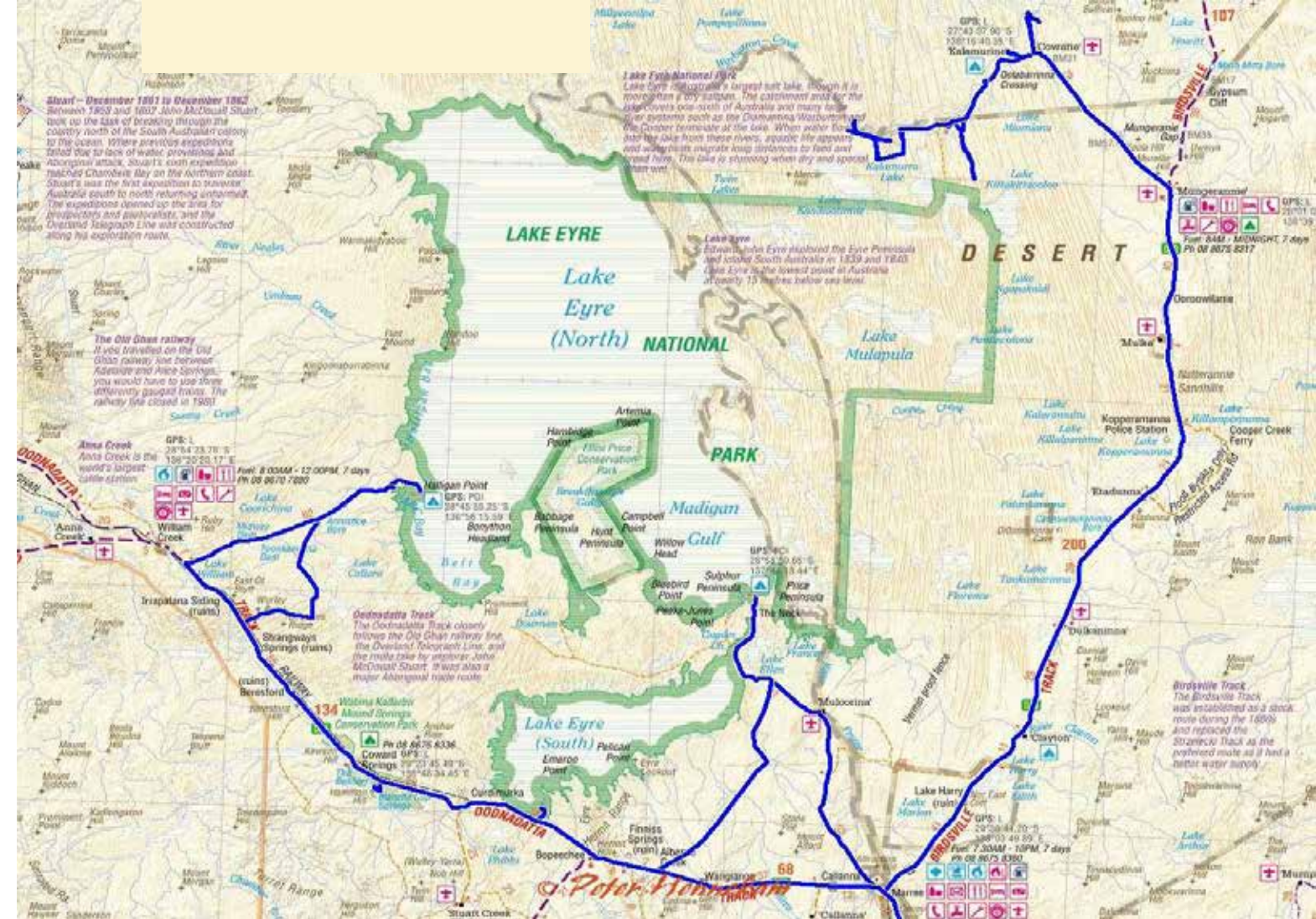
TREK AROUND THE LAKE

In April 2016 I set off on a two-week expedition to explore around Lake Eyre.

I camped on the Warbarton River for a week, then headed south to Muloorina and Madigan Gulf winding up on the west side of the lake at Halligan Point and ABC Bay.

For the first time I was able to walk out onto the lake and gained an entirely different perspective on the region.

There is nothing quite so enlivening as traveling solo through this magnificent country...I highly recommend it!.









MARREE

Gateway To The Inland Sea

Prior to the arrival of Europeans, the country was home to the Arabunna Aboriginal people. The area around Marree was first explored by Europeans in 1840 when Edward John Eyre traveled north from Spencer Gulf and reached the southern shores of Lake Eyre.

In 1859 John McDouall Stuart entered the area and it was his assistant Herrgott who discovered the mound springs after which the early town took its name.

Hergott Springs camp was established in 1872 for the maintenance workers on the Overland Telegraph Line.

Around that time Afghan camel drivers established a base at the settlement from which they headed to Oodnadatta, Birdsville and Alice Springs.

In the 1880s the Birdsville Track from Marree to Birdsville was developed and in 1882 a general store and hotel were opened at Hergott Springs.

The Afghan camp became an official town in 1883 when the railway reached it. That year saw the opening of a police station and a post office. The town continued to be called Hergott Springs until 1918 when, with anti-German feeling still running strong after World War I, the railway station sign and the post office were both changed to Marree.

Camels continued to be used out of Marree until 1949.

In 1952 a famous documentary *Back of Beyond* put Marree and its postman, Tom Kruse into the minds of many Australians.

The town virtually died in 1980 when the old Ghan railway was closed.



MARREE MAN

Since its discovery, by a local pilot in 1998, the Marree Man has attracted international attention.

Carved into a plateau at Finnis Springs 60 km west of Marree, the artwork spans 3.5 km from top to bottom and 28 km around the outline. Marree Man is a geoglyph—a design made from earthen materials that is so large it is best viewed from above.

When we flew over in 2005 it had already started to fade. In 2016 the locals got together and, over 11 days, used a grader to give the tourist attraction a new lease on life.

Who created the geoglyph and why, remains a mystery.

