



Down, not out, at Laura Rodeo.



St Kilda's Jason Kimberley.



The cemetery Birdsville.

Australian life through a lens

By Tracey Cheeseman

It was a long way between coffee lattes for St Kilda's Jason Kimberley when he embarked on a year-long trek around Australia.

Kimberley and his wife Caroline packed up their lives in a four-wheel drive for an outback adventure that was a world away from their inner-city lifestyle.

At the end of 1999, they put their furniture in storage and left the running of their then-Acland St bar and restaurant Veludo in the hands of their business partner.

With no plans and nothing but the open road ahead of them, the pair decided to take their time exploring off the beaten track.

They travelled through every state along the coast and through the desert visiting out-of-the-way places, including Meekatharra WA, Oodnadatta SA, and the Cape York Peninsula.

Kimberley, a novice photographer, soon discovered there were plenty of photo opportunities along the way and quickly snapped off 15 rolls of film.

He sent them back to Melbourne for processing and was surprised with the results.

"I thought they would turn out okay, but I was really happy with them," Kimberley said.

"In the back of my mind I thought I may just do something with them some day."

The result is a stunning coffee-table book *Australia Exposed*, featuring the best of Kimberley's 5000 colour and

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Jason Kimberley

monochrome photographs from the 12-month trek.

And all were taken on a 25-year-old SLR camera Kimberley "borrowed" from his mother in 1982 and never returned.

"My only experience in photography was attending three weeks of a 12-week CAE photography course," he said.

"But I've always loved taking photos and my old camera gives me a lot more control over the outcome.

"Mum had often wondered where her camera was, but I'm not giving it back now – instead I went out and bought her a fancy new one, so we're both happy."

But don't expect the obvious from Kimberley's look at life in Australia – there are no shots of the Opera House or Sydney Harbour Bridge, no sunsets and no Great Barrier Reef.

"I'd seen all that 100 times in books and really wanted to do something different," he said.

"I hope my book goes beyond the postcards to show a glimpse of life in some very different parts of Australia."

Australia Exposed is on sale at bookstores for \$49.95.



Blowout and sand sculpture are just two of the images Jason Kimberley captured on his year-long trek around the country.