



Newsletter

Issue 01 - April 2011

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Out and About with Michael

Welcome to my inaugural photography newsletter. This year has been very exciting so far! It started in February with a photographic trip to Tasmania, where I walked the 65km Overland Track from Cradle Mountain to Lake St Claire with all of my camping gear/food, as well as my photography equipment. It was physically demanding and challenging, starting with in excess of 29kg on my back. At the same time, it was one of the most amazing and stunningly-beautiful trips I have ever made. Tasmania is, without exception, one of the most photogenic places in Australia. The constant change of landscapes and vegetation as well as the ever-changing weather made this trip one I will never forget. To see some of the photos from my Tasmanian trip, click [here](#).



In March, I spent 5 days in the Snowy Mountains in New South Wales. The weather wasn't great for photography with misty mornings (no sunrise shots), sunny days (light too harsh) and some windy, wet weather thrown in. I did, however, spend a lovely overcast day high in the hills above Thredbo, photographing along Dead Horse Gap track. Very atmospheric and some great shots were taken.

After the Snowy Mountains, it was up to the Blue Mountains (also in New South Wales) for another 5 days. The mist was as thick as "pea soup", so much so that every morning, I couldn't even see the Three Sisters and other vistas, let alone photograph any of them. The mist and overcast skies, however, meant the rainforest was perfect for photography and after many months of rain, the creeks, waterfalls, mosses and ferns were incredibly lush. I spent a wonderful day walking from Evan's Lookout down into the Grand Canyon, photographing the stunning rainforest, while light rain was falling. It was heavenly.



I'm also pleased to announce that *Australian Photography Magazine* has published my 5 page article, titled "The Importance of Light" for their April 2011 edition. The article is all about using both natural and "created" light in the best possible way, to create magic nature photos. To read this article, click [here](#).

I hope you enjoy reading my inaugural monthly newsletter and with all of the plans over the coming year and beyond, there are lots of exciting things happening. I'll keep you posted...

Cheers

Michael

One-on-One Tuition



My half day and full one-on-one tuition sessions, "One-on-One with Michael" for one or two people (cheaper per person for two) have been doing extremely well, with overwhelm-

ingly positive feedback from participants who have attended so far. I'm available for one-on-one sessions over the coming months, so if you are interested, click [here](#) for further details or to make a booking.

I have also recently launched my 2-day "One-on-One with Michael" Wilderness Experience for 2 people. This unique opportunity offers you and a friend, relative or fellow-photographer, a chance to spend 2 days with me in one of four stunning, natural locations, receiving one-on-one photography tuition. During this tuition, I will show you how to properly use your digital camera and help you achieve photos that you would be proud of. Locations include O'Reilly's (Lamington National Park), Mt Barney National Park, Bunya Mountains National Park and Girraween National Park, all in south-east Queensland. I will also be able to take you to the best photographic spots in each of these locations. For more information, click [here](#).

8-day/7-night "Bowra Birding and Bird Photography Experience"

In some more exciting news, I have teamed up with one of Australia's most experienced and respected birding guides, Barry Davies, to present an 8-day/7-night "Bowra Birding and Bird Photography Experience" from 26th of July until the 2nd of August 2011. The number of participants will be strictly limited to 8 and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to express your interest as soon as possible. We will be driving air-conditioned Four Wheel Drives from Brisbane out to Bowra Station, near Cunnamulla, one of Australia's birding "hot spots". Barry will be showing participants the best way to locate and identify birds while I will be presenting all the techniques I have learned over 15 years on how best to photograph them. For more details, click [here](#)



Trekabout Workshops



Trekabout Photography Workshops are going strong, with new dates added regularly for all of our ever-popular workshops. We have also recently added a new workshop, the half day

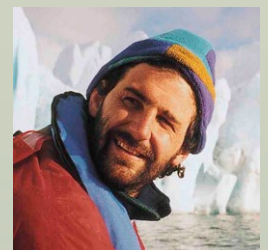
"Historical Experience" which will be presented out at Newstead House, in Brisbane. I'm pleased to say that this workshop is already fully-booked!

"Red Centre Experience" and "Norfolk Island Experience"

After the success of our 5-day "Red Centre Experience" and 7-day "Norfolk Island Experience" workshops last year, Mark and I are presenting both of these again this year. Why not head to beautiful parts of Australia, and get away from the hustle-and-bustle, while at the same time be shown how to photograph all of the natural beauty by two professional photographers and tutors? To see more details on our Red Centre workshop, click [here](#) and for our Norfolk Island workshop, click [here](#).

NEW! 7-Day "Lord Howe Island Experience" with Michael Snedic & guest tutor and professional nature photographer, Darren Jew

We are also pleased to announce a new week-long workshop, the 7-day "Lord Howe Island Experience" from the 9th of October until the 15th of October 2011. Due to Mark's unavailability, professional wildlife and nature photographer and tutor, Darren Jew, will be joining me as guest tutor for this workshop. Lord Howe Island is one of the most beautiful islands in the world and is full of great photographic opportunities. Tuition will include sunrises in different locations throughout the week, birds, seascapes and underwater photography, using cameras and underwater housings supplied for participant use during this workshop. Details of this workshop, including the itinerary and price can be found by clicking [here](#).



Upcoming Trekabout Workshops:

Weekend Mountain Experience - Lamington National Park	Friday 15 th April 2011 - Sunday 17 th April 2011
Half Day Macro Experience - Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens	Saturday, 30 th April 2011
Half Day Reptile & Frog Experience - Closeburn (near Samford)	Sunday, 1 st May 2011
Full Day Mountain Experience - Lamington National Park	Saturday, 7 th May 2011

Photo of the Month

Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake - Tasmania



The lead up to taking this photo of Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake in Tasmania evokes memories of extreme exhaustion and sore muscles. I had started out that day from the Dove Lake carpark, in readiness for my 7-day photographic trip of the Overland Track. Since the usual track was closed for maintenance on that day, I had to head via Marion's Lookout in order to continue on the Overland track. The only problem with this was that the only way up to Marion's Lookout included a massive climb up an endless array of steep steps. This was followed by a sheer rock face at the end, where you had to use a chain to haul yourself up. With a starting weight of over 29kgs in my backpack, this was unbelievably punishing and exhausting and I started to doubt whether I could continue for the next 7 days like this....

Once at the top of Marion's Lookout, I was rewarded with the most stunning view of Cradle Mountain and Dove Lake. All of my aches and pains were forgotten and I instantly took out my camera and took this shot. The fact that the sky was blue and the clouds looked "magic" meant that the wide-angled lens I was using would capture this scene beautifully.

My personal motto is that sometimes you have to "put yourself out", by getting up before sunrise, climbing a steep mountain or walk in all types of weather, but in the end, you will often be rewarded with stunning photos.

Nikon D700, Nikon 16-35mm @f16, aperture priority, 1/250th of a second, ISO 800 (higher ISO due to strong wind causing some movement to bushes), Gitzo tripod, cable release

Photography Tip of the Month

When taking photos of landscapes, I virtually always use a tripod. In order to achieve a decent depth-of-field, while at the same time getting sharp images, I often use between f8 to f16 on my wide-angle lens and shoot using the aperture priority setting. F-stops between f8 and f16 are generally recommended as the "sweet spots" on wide-angle lenses and you will usually end up with sharper images. By using a smaller f-stop such as f22 (higher number, smaller aperture) diffraction can cause a loss of sharpness. Diffraction is where light waves "bend" around corners and interfere with each other when travelling through tiny openings such as small apertures.

Without a tripod, camera shake combined with low shutter speeds can create blurry photos. Purchasing the sturdiest, yet most light-weight, tripod you can afford is highly recommended (carbon fibre is a good option). I suggest using a cable release or remote, to stop any movement created by pressing the shutter button with your finger. Finally, you may also want to use mirror lock-up. This will reduce vibration-induced motion blur that happens during exposure, especially at shutter speeds of 1/30th of a second or lower.

ANZANG Nature Photography Competition

One of Australia's premiere nature photography competitions, ANZANG (Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica and the New Guinea) is a competition worth considering entering. It is in its 8th year and all images must have been taken within the ANZANG region. Entries for the 2011 competition have unfortunately now closed, but results will be on the ANZANG website from the 1st of October 2011. To find out about more about the competition and to see some of the previous year's winning shots, click [here](#)

The Wilderness Gallery - Cradle Mountain - Tasmania



The Wilderness Gallery, in Cradle Mountain, Tasmania is Australia's premier nature photography gallery, showcasing the best work by nature photographers from both here in our own country as well as overseas. I was honoured to have my own exhibition of 20 wildlife photos during 2009 and 2010, especially considering the gallery hosts a permanent exhibition to the late and great Peter Dombrovskis, one of my greatest inspirations. Click [here](#) to see the images I had on display in this fine gallery.

Here are details about the gallery taken from the gallery's own website:

The Wilderness Gallery opens your eyes to amazing images from Australia, Antarctica and the Asia-Pacific Region.

The gallery shows up to 250 images at any time in 10 linked galleries, with additional space on the walls of the conference centre and the travelling exhibition gallery.

The exhibition space is built around an enclosed garden of local rocks and native plants. The gallery area includes two small theatrettes to show film, video and computer images.

Pure Tasmania has integrated this exciting and unique cultural component into the eco-resort of Cradle Mountain Chateau. Hotel guests will enjoy access to a specialist library of books for sale and periodicals dealing with photography, Tasmanian literature and the environment.



If ever you visit Cradle Mountain, this gallery is a "must-see" of things to do. In the meantime, click [here](#) to visit the gallery's website.