



## Newsletter

Issue 04 - September/October 2011

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### Out and About with Michael

Welcome to the September/October 2011 edition of my photography newsletter. Since my last newsletter, I have been very busy and productive, with the world of photography being an ever-increasing part of my life. Apart from regular Trekabout workshops and one-on-one tuition sessions, I also presented our inaugural eight day "Bowra Birding and Bird Photography Experience" workshop in late July/early August, with professional birding guide, Barry Davies. This workshop was fully-booked and there sure were some great photos taken during the week by participants!

Mark (co-founder of Trekabout Photography workshops) and I have been very busy behind-the-scenes, creating two totally new workshops, with more on the way. To our surprise and delight, both of these workshops booked out in record time! Our "Brisbane City Lights Experience" booked out in 48 hours and a second date that we have added is nearly full as well. (We have just completed our inaugural 'Brisbane City Lights Experience' and it was a great success. Lots of very happy participants with a wonderful selection of images. Apart from the usual array of sunset and night shots, we were also treated to Brisbane's amazing laser show!). The new half day "Creatures Experience" also booked out and again we have added a second workshop, with the second workshop filling fast.



Brisbane City Lights workshop participants

In late July, newsagents and subscribers started receiving copies of the August 2011 edition of *Australian Photography* magazine, featuring my image of a male Regent Bowerbird in flight. The contrast of the bowerbird's yellow and black colouring made for a striking cover and is one of my favourite cover shots so far. To see a larger version of the cover, please click [here](#).

The last few months have been great for sales of my wildlife photos, with images being sold for publication in calendars, visitor information displays, DVD covers, government teaching aides and more. It is still a great feeling to see my images being published for so many different uses.

I have also recently returned from being a leader (bird photography) at Mt Barney Lodge's 'Bird Week'. Once again, I teamed up with Barry Davies, who was the birding guide on our Bowra bird photography workshop. It was great to be back at Mt Barney, showing participants

how to photograph the various species there.

Keep enjoying your photography!

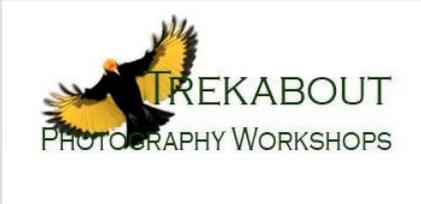
Cheers

Michael



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# Trekabout Photography Workshops



Trekabout continue to offer participants our popular staple workshops, as well as adding new ones to the mix. Here are a couple of new workshops that will be presented over the coming months:

## 'Brisbane City Lights Experience'

Thursday the 29th of September 2011

Spend a few hours with Mark & myself, learning how to best capture Brisbane's beautiful city at sunset and at night. Brisbane has so many wonderful buildings, bridges and structures and many of these are lit up with different colours at night, making for great photo opportunities. We will teach you the best camera settings to use as well as suggesting various compositions, so that you end up with amazing photos. To read more about this workshop, click [here](#)



## Half day 'Australian Creatures Experience'

Sunday the 4th of December 2011

This new workshop offers a wide variety of new creatures including reptiles, mammals, frogs, scorpions, tortoises and more. It will be inside a large hall, under studio conditions and we will use soft studio lighting, diffusers, soft-boxes and much more, so you can create fantastic photos! To read more about this workshop, please click [here](#).

We are also repeating a few of our popular workshops:

## Six day 'Norfolk Island Experience'

30th of October until the 5th of November 2011

As anyone who knows me can attest, I absolutely adore Norfolk Island and think it is a very photogenic location. Why not join Mark and myself for six days of wonderful photographic opportunities, loads of tuition and do so while having a break on a stunning island, away from the 'rat race'? Subjects will include sunrises, sunsets, seascapes, landscapes, birds, macro, convict ruins, post-processing, image critique and much more. For more information, click [here](#).



## 'Weekend Mountain Experience' at Lamington National Park (O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat)

9th of December until the 11th of December 2011

December is a great time to escape the heat and head to the cool of the mountains. Subjects covered in this workshop include bird and wildlife photography, macro, landscapes, post-processing and more. Also, if you are booked on a Trekabout workshop, O'Reilly's offer great accommodation discounts. For more info, click [here](#).

To see the dates for the rest of Trekabout Photography's workshops for 2011, click [here](#).

## One-on-One Tuition



**W**ould you like to improve your photography? My half day and full day one-on-one photography tuition sessions have been incredibly well-received, with many customers referring this service to family and friends. If you would like to receive personalised photography tuition that caters directly to your own individual needs, photographic interests and skill levels, then why not try a half or full day one-on-one photography tuition session with me? Prices are very competitive and

affordable and if you team-up with a second person (for example, another photographer, family member or friend), the price per-person is reduced. For more information, click [here](#). **GIFT VOUCHERS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE!**



Photograph © 2011 Adam Hauldren, used with permission.

### NEW 2012 BOWRA BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY DATES!

**Eight Day "Bowra Birding and Bird Photography Experience" with Michael Snedic and Birding Guide Barry Davies**

Thursday 26th of July - Thursday 2nd of August 2012

**W**e have now added 2012 dates for our eight day bird photography workshop at Bowra. The wide variety of brilliant photos that were taken during this year's workshop and the great bird photography opportunities that were presented to us out at Bowra Sanctuary, make this an amazing opportunity for

bird photographers. You will learn lots of bird photography techniques, as well as being shown how to find and identify them. Bowra Sanctuary is one of Australia's most-renowned bird spots, so there are ample opportunities to photograph many species. To read more about this workshop, click [here](#)

To see a YouTube clip featuring lots of different bird photos taken by participants during this year's Bowra workshop, click [here](#)

## Photography Tip of the Month

**B**e careful of your background! I often see well-composed photos with interesting subject matter that are tack-sharp, but are ruined by distracting backgrounds. It's very easy to be so absorbed by the subject you are photographing that you don't take much notice of your background. When people look at a photograph, they generally decide very quickly whether they like the photo or not and often it's a busy background that creates a negative impression.

If you are photographing macro subjects, you might consider moving the position from which you are photographing so that you have a smooth, even background rather than distracting twigs, leaves or other debris. Try also using a larger aperture or f-stop (smaller number) to create a blurred out background. Be careful not to go too wide, or you may not have ample depth-of-field to include the whole of your subject.

For wildlife, I recommend using around f4 or f5.6 and positioning yourself so that there is plenty of room behind your subject. These f-stop settings and the distance behind your subject will blur out the background and will therefore make the subject of your photo stand out. Be especially careful of trees or telegraph poles sticking out of the backs of animal's heads – not a good look! Some might say that its "easy to remove later in Photoshop or Lightroom" but wouldn't you rather spend longer out in nature getting it right 'in camera', rather than having to spend wasted time behind a computer? I know which option I prefer and it certainly isn't sitting at a computer desk...



## Photo of the Month

### Rough Knob-tailed Gecko. Photo: Nadine Andersen

This month's 'Photo of the Month' is by Nadine Andersen, Trekabout's number one workshop attendee (most ever workshops). Nadine's enthusiasm for nature photography is quite infectious and she has some wonderful photos in her growing image library. This photo is, without doubt, one of Nadine's best and a real stunner. A HUGE congrats!

Here is what Nadine had to say about the photo she chose for the 'Photo of the Month':

*This photo was taken last year at my absolute favourite workshop,*

*Trekabout Photography Workshop's half day 'Reptile and Frog Experience', held at Closeburn. This bizarre creature is the Rough Knob-tailed Gecko. I had never seen, nor heard of this gecko before. I was intrigued with his tiny little tail, big head and the tiny spines that give him a rough appearance. The most striking thing though, was his magnificent eyes with beautiful patterns. I did as instructed with all wildlife photography and focused on the eye.*

*He was pretty cheeky at this workshop so I was fortunate to get lots of funky shots. While I had some cool shots showing off his knobby tail, I couldn't resist in choosing a cheeky shot with his tongue poking out and that magnificent eye.*

**I was using a Nikon D300 with my favourite lens, the Sigma 150mm macro. My settings were Aperture Priority, f4.5, 1/160th of a second and ISO 1000.** *I was hand holding and he was pretty active so I needed to bump the ISO up to achieve the faster shutter speed. The image is cropped as with the fixed lens it is not always possible to get as close as you need to, to get the shot right in camera. As this little gecko can move pretty quickly, I tend to give myself some room to change direction.*

*Prior to attending the Reptile and Frog workshops, I never dreamed I would be able to take great photos of our stunning and sometimes rare wildlife. Since meeting Michael I have come to appreciate nature on a whole new level. Photography has become my passion/obsession. Due to my need for more macro and wildlife opportunities I sold my house in suburbia and moved to property near Dayboro. While I have plenty more opportunities now, it is so rewarding to attend these workshops and photograph beautiful creatures that I am not likely to see in the wild. There is always a new and amazing animal to meet and something new to learn.*

*If I only I could have a 'one to one' reptile and frog workshop!!!*



## Inspirational Photographers

### Steve Bloom

Steve Bloom is, in my opinion, one of the great wildlife, nature and social documentary photographers working today. He was born and raised in South Africa but has been based in England since 1977. It takes a lot for me to be moved by a body of work and Steve Bloom's amazing images sure do this to me. The sheer number of amazing images that he has in his image library is staggering! Steve not only knows how to capture a moment in time that evokes a reaction from the viewer but he must have unbelievable patience. He also has a wonderful artistic sense and possesses a natural eye for photography. I have been following Steve Bloom's work for many years and it has been wonderful to watch his wonderful image library grow.

To see some of Steve Bloom's wonderful images and to read more about his background and photographic adventures, click [here](#).

## Industry News (Competitions, Exhibitions and more)



### The 2011 Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year

The world's most prestigious wildlife photography competition, Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year (often referred to as BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year), announces its winners on 21 October 2011. Each year I count down

the months, weeks and days until the results are made public, as there are some stunning images entered every year. To view the website (and to see the winners in late October), click [here](#)

### The 4th annual International Loupe Awards

The 4th annual International Loupe Awards are now open and are offering an amazing \$80,000 in prizes, plus world-wide recognition if you do well in the competition. For more information, click [here](#).



Entries close on the 15th of October 2011. If you decide to enter, good luck!