



Newsletter

Issue 05 - November/December 2011

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Out and About with Michael



Photo Courtesy of: Anne Russell

Welcome to the latest edition of my photography newsletter. The last couple of months have been quite amazing and some of the busiest since starting my photography business many years ago. Apart from presenting my half day and full day one-on-one tuition sessions, I have been kept very busy with Trekabout Photography, including new workshops to Girraween National Park in Queensland and Lord Howe Island, as well as returning to Norfolk Island (more about these in the Trekabout Photography section later).

I also presented a number of full day nature photography workshops in Lamington National Park (O'Reilly's) in the Gold Coast hinterland, including one very special day where I was joined by my original photographic mentor, nature photographer and documentary-maker, Glen Threlfo. This is the first time Glen and I have presented a workshop together. The day was filled with lots of photographic subjects, plenty of tuition from Glen and myself, as well as amazing stories and humour from Glen. This was one workshop the participants will never forget!

STOP PRESS! Details and dates to be announced soon for new 2012 photography workshops at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat (Lamington National Park) with myself and Glen Threlfo.

In September, I presented my first-ever audio-visual at a major photographic club in Sydney (Northside Creative Photography) followed by two wildlife photography workshops at Taronga Zoo. I was taken aback by the fantastic response to my presentation and workshops from attendees and have been invited back to Sydney next year for more of the same, by another major photographic society.

When not presenting workshops or tuition over the last few months, I spent time out in nature photographing whenever the opportunity arose. This included returning to Girraween National Park, where I took more shots of the beautiful Sphinx at sunset as well as various landscapes and wildlife shots at Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island. I have posted some of these photos in the 'New Photos' gallery on my website [here](#)



WIRES (Wildlife Rescue Organisation) has just released its 2012 calendar and I'm pleased to announce that my image of a Brush-tailed Phascogale has been chosen as the cover image. Click [here](#) to see the image, and to purchase a WIRES calendar and help raise money for worthwhile wildlife rescue projects, click [here](#).

WPSQ (Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland) has also released a set of five Christmas cards and one of these cards features my image of a Magnificent Tree Frog. This image was featured as Wildlife Australia Magazine's cover shot a number of years ago. All proceeds from the sale of the WPSQ Christmas cards support Wildlife Queensland's role in protecting Australia's native wildlife. For more information on how to purchase these cards, click [here](#)

Since this will be my last Newsletter for 2011, I'd like to wish each and every one of you all the very best for Christmas and I sincerely hope that 2012 is full of good health, memorable journeys and lots of photography!

Cheers

Michael



Season's Greetings

Trekabout Photography Workshops



Gift vouchers available!

3 Day 'Girraween Experience' - Report

Mark and I presented our inaugural 3 day 'Girraween Experience' photography workshop in September. The weather was perfect for us, there were lots of subjects to photograph (including birds, kangaroos, wildflowers and landscapes) and feedback from the participants of this fully-booked workshop was very positive. Due to the success of this year's workshop, we have decided to hold a similar workshop next year at around the same time. For more details, click [here](#)



7 Day 'Lord Howe Island Experience' - Report



On the 9th of October 2011, I landed on Lord Howe Island for the start of a 7 day workshop. From the very beginning, I realised that this workshop was going to be something quite special.... Lord Howe Island is my new WOW location! The amazing volcanic mountains, gorgeous aqua-coloured bays, lush green rainforests and a myriad of nesting and flying birds, make this island a photographers' dream. The participants were able to photograph all of these subjects, as well as sunrises and sunsets, which resulted in many beautiful shots taken by each participant by the end of the

workshop. The boat cruises and snorkelling, complete with some underwater photography (which the participants did with underwater point-and-shoot cameras), capped off a remarkable week. The cooked breakfasts every morning, as well as the welcome and farewell dinners were absolutely delicious, as were the picnic lunches and barbecue dinners on the beach. This all helped make this week-long photography workshop incredibly special for not only the participants but for me as well. Due to the wonderful success of this workshop on this island paradise, I'm pleased to announce that I will be presenting another photography workshop to Lord Howe Island in October 2012. For more details, click [here](#)

6 Day 'Norfolk Island Experience' - Report

Mark and I have recently returned from presenting our fully-booked 6 Day 'Norfolk Island Experience' and it also went amazingly well. Yet again, the weather was absolutely perfect for us all, the participants were all easy-going and eager to learn and there were some amazing photos taken throughout the week, with subjects ranging from sunrises, sunsets, convict ruins, birds, seascapes, landscapes, macro and much more. The Norfolk Island Travel Centre staff also couldn't do enough to help us make sure this workshop was a success. We have already decided on new dates for our 6 Day 'Norfolk Island Experience' workshop in 2012. For more details, click [here](#)



One-on-One Tuition



**Half day and full day gift vouchers now available!
An ideal Christmas gift**

If you would like to improve your photography and do so in a relaxed, non-group environment, I'll be presenting sessions for one or two people throughout summer. To read more about my one-on-

one photography tuition sessions, please click [here](#)

A special thanks to all of the participants who have attended my half day and full day one-on-one photography tuition sessions throughout 2011. I appreciate your custom and hope to see you again soon.

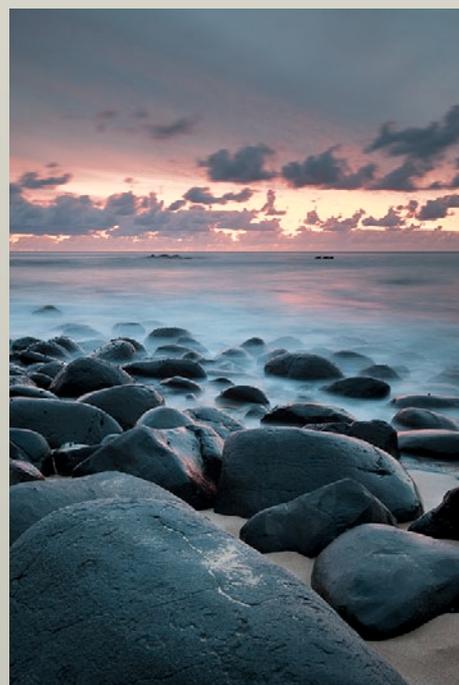


Photography Tip of the Month

Keep Your Horizon Straight

When photographing landscapes, especially seascapes, it is very important that you keep your horizon straight when composing your shot. If you are photographing a field of sunflowers or a sunrise over the ocean, having a horizon that leans to the left or right will ruin a potentially-brilliant photo. Sure, you can straighten your horizon later during post-processing, but why spend time at the computer doing what takes seconds in the field? Also, if the horizon is very crooked, you will lose a part of the photo when it is straightened on the computer, as your image will have to be cropped.

There are a number of things you can do to help you keep a straight horizon. Many cameras have grids inbuilt (some of these grids need to be activated in your camera's menu). This helps enormously when your eye is to your viewfinder and you are composing your shot. Some cameras also have a setting called 'Virtual Horizon' which can be useful when you can't clearly see your horizon, due to fog or low light (i.e. sunrise or sunset). Once again, this can be set in the menu of various camera models.



It is important not to put your horizon in the middle of your frame every time. The famous 'rule of thirds' can be adhered to most of the time but isn't, in my opinion, essential in every landscape shot. Rules were meant to be broken! If you do use the rule of thirds, it is advisable to have one third foreground and two thirds background, or vice versa. In most cases, it is more pleasing to the eye than if you have your horizon in the middle of the frame.

Lewin's Honeyeater. Photo: Bruce Williams

This Month's 'Photo of the Month' is of a Lewin's Honeyeater by Bruce Williams, another regular Trekabout Photography workshop and one-on-one photography tuition devotee. Bruce absolutely loves his photography and here is what he had to say about the photo he chose for the 'Photo of the Month':

I was quite proud to be asked by Michael to present this month's "Photo of the Month". I have been very fortunate to be able to attend quite a number of Trekabout Photography workshops as well as one-on-one photography tuition with Michael. When I started

attending these workshops about two years ago my digital photography knowledge was very minimal but through the persistence and expertise of Michael and his Trekabout workshop business partner, Mark Rayner, I feel that I can now tackle many photographic subjects with some confidence.

*The photo I have chosen was taken on my first Trekabout Workshop at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat adjacent to Lamington National Park on 13/06/2009. It is of a Lewin's Honeyeater and was **taken using a Nikon D80 camera with a Sigma 150mm f2.8 APO Macro lens. The shutter speed was 1/640 sec. at f5.6, ISO 250 and Aperture Priority.** The Lewin's Honeyeater is a fairly common bird in the Lamington National Park and it mostly inhabits rainforest, wet gullies and foothills, although I have seen them on my property at Mt Nathan. I found this one in the garden of O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat.*

Michael was so impressed with the clarity and detail obtained with this lens that he purchased one the next week. I have since taken many photos with this lens and really enjoy macro photography with subjects such as reptiles, frogs, birds and especially fungi.

I now shoot with a Nikon D300s which has many features not available on the D80. I am also a member of the Beaudesert Camera club and feel that by entering club competitions I am encouraged to strive to take better shots and to be successful in those competitions.

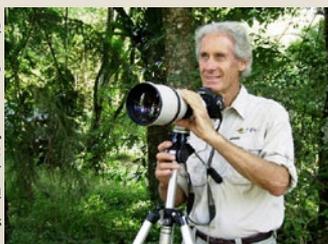
If you have never tried a workshop with Michael and Mark then get out and do one. They are great tutors and are passionate about helping us to understand the finer points of digital photography.



Inspirational Photographers

Glen Threlfo – Wildlife and Nature Photographer and Documentary Maker

Photo Courtesy of: Helen Threlfo



The photographer who I have chosen for this month's 'Inspirational Photographers' section is none other than Glen Threlfo, my former photography mentor. I met Glen over 15 years ago, when I started work as a casual guide at O'Reilly's Guesthouse (now known as O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat) in Lamington National Park, south-east Queensland. He asked if I'd like to learn how to take wildlife and nature photographs, which I of course said yes. Glen taught me everything he had learned as a nature photographer and in return, I was the willing 'gopher' who helped lug heavy gear, build hides and more. The rest, as they say, is history....

Glen has been photographing wildlife, macro and landscapes for over 30 years and much of his work has focused around Lamington National Park, as well as 'Yellow Water' in Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory. His methods have often been seen as unorthodox, yet the results have often been nothing short of stunning. Glen's pioneering multiple-screen nature photography audio-visuals were presented every Monday night at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat for over two decades. They have been seen by tens of thousands of people and these presentations are famous the world over.



Glen continues to capture nature today, but now mainly concentrates on making documentaries. It may take Glen many years to capture the footage to create a 45 minute documentary, but the end result is always absolutely stunning.

It has been a real privilege to have Glen as my original mentor. He is, without doubt, one of the most gifted wildlife and nature photographers and documentary-makers Australia has ever seen.

Without Glen's encouragement, support and generosity in teaching me everything he has learned as a nature photographer in a career spanning 30+ years, I wouldn't be where I am today with my photographic career. For this, I am eternally grateful.

Industry News (Competitions, Exhibitions and more)

Exhibition

Henri Cartier-Bresson: The Man, The Image & The World (27 August - 27 November 2011 | Queensland Art Gallery)

This amazing exhibition of Carier-Bresson's work is only being shown in Brisbane at the Queensland Art Gallery and finishes on the 27th of November 2011, so you will have to be quick to see it. For more information on this exhibition, click [here](#)



Henri Cartier-Bresson (August 22nd 1908 – August 3rd 2004) was considered one of the founders of modern photojournalism. Born in France, he was one of the first to use 35mm cameras, after purchasing his first 35mm Leica. This type of camera was particularly relevant to Cartier-Bresson, as it lent itself not only to spontaneity but to he was also able to remain quite anonymous when taking many of his photos. He is said to have developed the 'street photography' style that has had a huge influence to photographers around the world for generations.

Competition

ANZANG Nature Photography - 2011

This year's ANZANG Nature Photography competition saw over 1000 images entered from Australian, New Zealand, Antarctica and the New Guinea region. It's great to see so many varied images of nature being entered from around the ANZANG region by so many great photographers. To see the winning and runner-up images for 2011, click [here](#)

