



# Newsletter

Issue 08 - June-August 2012

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## Out and About with Michael



Life continues to be an amazing journey. Since my last newsletter, so much has happened, photography-wise. It started with a trip to Tasmania, where I caught up with professional landscape photographer, Luke O'Brien, who also owns a photography gallery in Hobart. We spent time planning a new week-long photography workshop in Tasmania, as well as taking some photos ourselves. It was a great trip and, as always, Tasmania's landscapes, wildlife and macro subjects didn't disappoint. Our cameras sure did get a workout!

After arriving back from Tasmania, I headed for 5 days to Far North Queensland with my Trekabout Photography workshop business partner, Mark. This trip was also a recce for a future 5 day 'Far North Queensland Experience' photography workshop and tour that we are planning. Full details will be released soon.

I did my 'annual winter photography pilgrimages' to both Girraween National Park and Mt. Barney. At Girraween, the weather turned sour on my first attempt to photograph the iconic Sphinx at sunset, but I had more luck on my second attempt. The temperature was close to zero when I was on the top of Turtle Rock, waiting for the sun to set, but well worth braving the cold in order to get the shots. I spend a few days every year capturing shots of this amazing granite structure and each and every attempt is completely different.

It was also great to head out to Mt. Barney again, staying at the wonderful Mt. Barney Lodge, owned by Innes and Tracey Larkin. Both are passionate about their environment and offer all sorts of accommodation, ranging from cosy homesteads, cabins and even camping. For more information on Mt. Barney Lodge, visit their website [here](#).

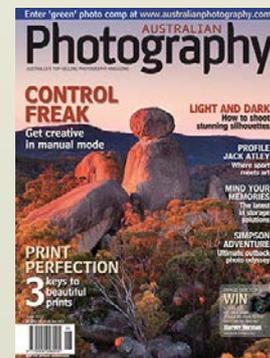
Innes and I ventured out well before sunrise each morning, rugged up like polar bears against the near freezing temperatures (again). We climbed the mountain behind the lodge in order to get to a rock ledge that had a perfect vantage point overlooking Mt. Barney and surrounds. We set up our cameras on our tripods and cable release ready. It was the beautiful morning light just after sunrise that we were waiting for, as this is the best time to photograph this iconic mountain. Innes took his portable stove, mugs and coffee with him up the mountain, so we could have a hot cuppa while out in the cold, waiting for the sun to rise over the mountain. It really made the early morning climbs worth it....





I've been published several times over the past few months, too. It started with my 5 page article on how to photograph fungi in the May 2012 issue of *Australian Photography* magazine. If you haven't read this article, you may do so [here](#).

The cover of the June 2012 issue of *Australian Photography* magazine features my image of the Sphinx at sunset, in Girraween National Park. To view the cover image, click [here](#).



The June 2012 issue of *Australian Birdlife* magazine features one of my bird photography articles, this time featuring an osprey with extended claws, ready to pounce. This article is part of my regular 'Photography Masterclass' series and can be viewed [here](#).

I also have a 5 page article on photographing Lord Howe Island in the July 2012 issue of *Australian Photography* magazine. You can view the article [here](#). Lord Howe Island is such a gorgeous, unspoiled island and full of natural beauty. The week-long photography workshop I'm presenting there in October 2012 has booked out and there is now an



'Expressions of Interest' list for a second workshop in February 2013. If you are interested in receiving details regarding the next Lord Howe Island photography workshop, send me an [email](#) and I will contact you with full details once they are available.

I look forward to what the next few months will bring and if the last few months are anything to go by, it's going to be an exciting time!

I hope you are all continuing to enjoy the wonderful world of photography!

Cheers

*Michael*

## 'Michael Snedic Photography' Facebook Page

My 'Michael Snedic Photography' Facebook page is one hundred percent photography! If you would like to read photographic tips, find links to photography-related articles and video clips, get images critiqued or find information on photographic exhibitions and competitions, then why not 'like' my page and become involved with my photographic community? I also welcome your own photography stories and photos being posted.

For a direct link to 'Michael Snedic Photography', click [here](#)

## The Importance of Light in Nature Photography (previously published and re-edited) - Part 1

Having been a nature photographer for the last 17 years, I am realising more and more the importance of good light when trying to capture that 'special' photo. Although good composition, correct depth of field and other various settings are all important aspects of photography, subtle or moody lighting is an essential component of a great nature photo. In this article I will show you how to capture the best light in nature photography, both naturally and with the aid of equipment and props.

### Lighting on your Landscapes

When I'm about to photograph some of Australia's magnificent landscapes, I make sure that I have thoroughly prepared the night before. I choose the best equipment for the shoot, charge my batteries, and make sure there are plenty of memory cards on hand. I will have also researched when and where the sun will rise, if I am specifically out to shoot a sunrise. In the morning I head out to my designated spot before sunrise and set up my tripod and camera. There is nothing better than a photo taken just after sunrise, when the light is usually at its best. Just prior to sunset is also a good time to photograph, as the light is again generally at its most subtle.

On bright, sunny days I try to refrain from taking landscape photos during the middle of the day, because of the harsh light. If I am in a rainforest, however, and the sky is filled with light clouds, I'll take photos at any time during the day. The clouds create 'nature's diffuser', and it doesn't get much better than to photograph in a rainforest just after some rain and with cloud cover overhead. Harsh lighting in a rainforest makes for photos with overblown highlights and overly-dark areas in the one photo which is not ideal. Another tip is to head to the rainforest early in the morning, after some decent rain, and you will often get rays of sunlight piercing through the canopy. This may last only a few minutes, so you need to be set up and ready to take your photos as soon as the shafts of light appear. I highly recommend taking a series of shots using different metering settings; you may be surprised by the difference between using evaluative metering (called matrix and multi-segmented in some camera makes) as compared to centre-weighted or spot metering. When there is backlight present, spot metering can create quite pleasing results, although I tend to use matrix (for Nikon) mostly for landscapes.



One of the great joys of landscape photography is to take photos of a beautiful scene near water. The best time to photograph reflections in water is on a sunny day with bright blue skies, either early in the morning or late in the afternoon when the light is soft. When there is no wind and the water is perfectly still you can create great shots of reflections. You might want to opt for a photo of a landscape where two thirds of the photo is of the landscape and the other third is its reflection (sticking with the 'rule of thirds' that is still popular with many landscape photographers, although not essential). Choose a low ISO setting (to eliminate too much noise), a high-numbered aperture for good depth of field (i.e. f16), matrix or evaluative metering and a tripod for stability. To get the whole scene in focus, use a wide-angled lens and focus about a third of the way into the landscape, or further if your main subject is in the distance.



### Wildlife – Backlighting

When photographing wildlife in the field, one of the methods I like to use is backlighting. By positioning the sun behind the subject you are photographing, you are not only eliminating direct sun from ruining your photo, but also creating a rim of light around the outside of your subject's body. This effect can be quite spectacular and is best achieved when the sun is not too strong. For mammal photography in particular, this method

is worth trying, as the halo-effect created will emphasise the animal's fur. One example where this method worked really well for me was when I was photographing a grey kangaroo. I slowly followed a female roo until she paused to have a scratch. I positioned myself as close to eye level as possible, placed the sun right in front of me but behind my subject, and set my metering to spot. I composed my photo, leaving room in the direction the roo was facing, and focused on her eye. I saw the rim lighting around the roo's body and took a series of shots. It really does make for a pleasing photo that is quite different to the normal method of having the sun behind or to the side of you.

I'm a strong advocate of photographing wildlife as close to eye level as possible, and most of my photos of wildlife reflect this. There are situations, though, where shooting straight up at an individual is acceptable, as with a bird flying above you where there is blue sky in the background and the sun shining through its wings. Once again you are using the light nature provides to take great shots. A photo of a white bird with its wings spread out and sunlight shining through them can give the bird an 'angelic' appearance.



*Part 2 will be published in the next issue of my newsletter*

## Photo of the Month

### Kings Canyon - Red Centre

**Photo: Natalie Murray**

*Many thanks Michael for the invitation to submit a favourite shot for Photo of the Month. My feet have barely hit the ground in Brisbane after returning from the photo-fest that was Trekabout's 6 Day 'Red Centre Experience' 2012. In fact I'm pretty sure there is still some red dirt in my hiking shoes. So with the magical colours of the Northern Territory still very vivid in my memory I have chosen this landscape image taken on a beautiful winter afternoon in King's Canyon.*



*The hike to an upper rim of King's Canyon provided spectacular scenery. I spotted these ghost gums near a rock wall and positioned myself so that I could compose the shot to include the cloud patterns and create a more dramatic visual impact using a wide angle lens. The shot was taken at approximately 4pm with plenty of natural light available. I was therefore able to hand hold the camera using the following settings: **Canon 550D with Canon 10-22mm lens at 12mm, 1/160th sec at F16, aperture priority mode, ISO 200.***

*I live close to the CBD and therefore rarely do any landscape photography. The trip to the Northern Territory was my 6th Trekabout workshop in just over a year. I can see my photography improve with each workshop and despite my limited landscape photography experience I am thrilled to come away from the stunning red centre with some great shots.*

## Photographic Location of the Month



### Lamington National Park - Gold Coast Hinterland

Lamington National Park is one of nature's 'jewels' and well-deserving of its World Heritage listing. The park is 20,500 hectares in size, with approximately 160 kilometres of walking tracks.

The park is a photographer's 'heaven', with so many different locations and subjects. As far as landscapes go, there are lots of options. You might want to walk along one of the many tracks and photograph the subtropical rainforest scenes, a crystal clear creek or the stunning Antarctic Beech trees (*Nothofagus moorei*). There are also various waterfalls within the park, but you will need to be prepared to do some hiking to get to these. Using a neutral density filter with your SLR camera will slow down your shutter speed and create a nice, 'milky' effect in the moving water.

There are also walks like Python Rock, which starts approximately one kilometre from O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat and include eucalyptus habitat. You walk along along a flat, well-graded track for a kilometre or so, through lush subtropical rainforest. Then, without warning, the track is surrounded by eucalypt forest as well as Grass Trees (*Xanthorrhoea spp.*), which are quite photogenic. At the end of the 1.7 km walk, there a great views to the Kerry Valley and beyond, with stunning mountain ranges surrounding the valley. On the left hand side of the lookout, you can also see Moran's Falls in the distance.

Lamington National Park is also a haven for macro photography. There are so many different tiny flowers, berries and leaf patterns, all of which make great photographic subjects. At different times of the year (especially after rain) there are numerous types of fungi to photograph. They can be found in every imaginable colour, shape, size and texture. I recommend walking along the track very slowly, scanning the forest floor carefully. You will be surprised what you can find when you look carefully and take your time.

Wildlife also abound in Lamington. Some of the more colourful bird species include the beautiful Regent Bowerbird male, who as an adult has gold and black plumage - a wonderful contrast of colours. They are found at the O'Reilly's (Green Mountains) side in abundance throughout much of the year. There are also the brightly-coloured Crimson Rosellas and King Parrots, which often come down to feed the bird seed that is fed by staff or bought from the nearby shop and fed by tourists. As much as I'm not an advocate of feeding bird seed to wild birds on a regular basis, it does make for easy bird photography!

During the warmer months, you can also photograph the white and blue Spiny Lamington Crayfish. You may need to walk a reasonable distance to reach the creeks that they are found in, but well worth the effort. After heavy rain, especially in summer, the crayfish will often be seen walking clumsily along the track or on land nearby a creek. If fortune plays into your hands, the crayfish may be near some moss, which makes for a lovely photo when contrasted against the blue and white. Sometimes the crayfish will also rear their claws up, revealing bright red colours underneath.

Red-necked Pademelons, small kangaroo-like macropods, are quite common in Lamington National Park, especially around O'Reilly's. They tend to happily graze on the grass and are generally quite tolerant of humans, if they are not approached too quickly, or if you can leave some distance between them and yourself. One of the best shots that can be achieved, in my opinion, is a joey sticking its head out of its mother's pouch.

If you love your nature photography, Lamington National Park is one of the best spots to photograph in south-east Queensland. Trekabout Photography workshops present a 5 day workshop there a few times a year, showing participants not only the best locations and subjects to photograph within the park, but also the best ways to photograph them. There are also post-processing and critique sessions.

For more information on Lamington National Park via the Queensland Parks and Wildlife website, click [here](#).

For more information on Trekabout Photography workshop's 5 day 'Mountain and Rainforest Experience', click [here](#).

## One-on-One Tuition



### One on One Photography Tuition - Half Day or Full Day

I continue to receive very positive feedback from participants, after they complete my half day and full day one-on-one photography tuition sessions in Brisbane. Participants of these sessions have commented that my relaxed teaching style, patience and digital photography knowledge has made these sessions extremely worthwhile.

Would you like to learn how to utilise your camera settings better and have your camera's menu explained? Would you also like to learn how to take great photos of any subject you are interested in? If the answer is yes, then why not book a half day or full day one-on-one photography session?

For more information, feel free to either email me [here](#) or call me on 0408 941965. To make an online booking or to read more about this service, click [here](#).



## Trekabout Photography Workshops



### 3 Day 'Fraser Island Experience' - Report

Our inaugural 3 Day 'Fraser Island Experience' workshop was a great success, and loads of fun! The participants enjoyed sublime weather, numerous landscape locations and subjects, as well as co-operative 'models' such as a dingo digging a hole in the sand right in front of us on the beach, and loads of shore birds.

Our second Fraser workshop in July is fully-booked and due to demand, we now have a third workshop on offer in September 2012. For full details, click [here](#).

### 6 Day 'Red Centre Experience' - Report

June saw Mark and I present our fourth Red Centre workshop and it was, as usual, wonderful to show our participants the best locations and subjects to photograph, as well as showing them how to best photograph them. Everyone on the workshop got on 'like a house on fire' and nature was, once again, very kind to us. Highlights included Trephina Gorge, budgies and Zebra finches drinking from a small waterhole at Emily Gap, Corroboree Rock, free-flight bird shows, close-ups of reptiles, stunning Kings Canyon and sunset at Uluru.



Thanks to all of our participants for making our Red Centre workshop for 2012 such a huge success!

A new, 7 day 'Red Centre Experience' workshop is currently being planned for 2013. Details to be released soon.

**NEW 5 Day 'Far North Queensland Experience' photography workshop currently being planned. Full details to be released soon.**

## Trekabout Photography workshops - PSQ Photography Convention 2012 Report



Over the June 2012, three day long weekend in Queensland, Mark and I attended the PSQ (Photographic Society of Queensland) Photography Convention in Brisbane. We had a Trekabout stall set-up, selling our 'wares' to those who attended the convention. It was wonderful to see so many former workshop participants there as well as chatting with many new, potential customers. Mark and I also really enjoyed the wonderful camaraderie that was present amongst the different stall holders.

Over the course of the convention, I was fortunate to see most of the guest speaker's presentations. Their images, presentation styles, and messages were all so very different, which made them all very interesting. As a former speaker at two PSQ conventions (2009 - Caboolture Photographic Society, and 2012 - Brisbane Camera Group), I loved seeing the variations of each speaker's presentation.

## Trekabout Photography Workshop's 'A Charitable Night of Photography' – Oxfam Charity Night

On Tuesday the 22nd of May 2012, Trekabout Photography Workshops presented 'A Charitable Night of Photography' at the North Lakes Performing Arts Complex, in Brisbane. The night was organised as a fundraiser, to help raise money for the 100km Oxfam Trailwalker that my wife, Dena and her three team mates (R2D2 – Ravi and Roshini/Dena and Davina) were attempting to walk.



Presentations on the night included highly-awarded photographer, William Long, who spoke about his life as a photographer. It included him showing many of his iconic images and stories surrounding those images. Mark did a presentation on the benefits of Adobe Lightroom and I did a presentation on nature photography.

We also had Les Harden from Highcove, who set up a stall with photography books and accessories, as well as Steve Longton from Cameras Online, who displayed different lighting systems, tripods and other photographic products.



Thanks to everyone who attended the night. In total, we managed to raise over \$1000.00 for Oxfam. If you weren't able to attend, but would still like to donate to a very worthy cause, you can do so by clicking on this link [here](#)

*Footnote – Three of Team R2D2 finished the gruelling 100km walk, with one team member having to pull out due to exhaustion and illness at the 85km mark. Well done, guys!!*

## Trekabout Photo Competition

Our photography competition is bi-monthly and we offer 5 prizes to a total value of between \$800.00 and \$1000.00 for each and every competition theme.

Congratulations to Ken McDonald for winning the May-June 2012 competition 'Patterns' with his stunning shot of a snake coiled up, as well as the other prize winners.



Scales of Nature  
KEN McDONALD

Our new competition theme for July-August 2012 is 'Landscapes', so don't forget to get those entries in! You can enter your images [here](#)

## Other Extended Workshops

### 7 Day 'Tasmanian Experience' - 24th to 30th of November 2012

**Fully-booked in record time! New workshop planned for March 2013**

In mid-June I announced a new 7 Day 'Tasmanian Experience' workshop that I'm presenting with Tasmanian landscape photographer, Luke O'Brien. This workshop covers some of the most stunning, natural locations in Tasmania including Cradle Mountain and surrounds, Liffey Falls, the Freycinet Coast, a boat tour on Wineglass Bay and a sunset shoot overlooking the water to Hobart from Bellerive. This workshop/tour booked out in absolute record time, so we are looking at presenting a second workshop in March 2013. I have started an 'Expressions of Interest' list for this second Tasmanian workshop.



If you are interested in receiving an email with the new dates once they are confirmed, or would like first options of a place (limited to a maximum of 10 participants), please [email me](#) and I will add you to the list. In the meantime, you can visit the Tasmanian photography workshop web page [here](#), which outlines full details about this workshop.



### 7 Day 'Lord Howe Island Experience' - 7th to 13th of October 2012

**Fully-booked. New workshop planned for February 2013**

The 7 day 'Lord Howe Island Experience' workshop I'm presenting in October 2012 has also booked-out. This pristine island is so spectacular and is an absolute photographer's dream. Once again, due to the popularity of this workshop, I'm opening an 'Expressions of Interest' list for a workshop in February 2013. Please send me an [email](#) with your interest and I will send you full details when available.

Lord Howe Island is such an unspoiled island and so incredibly beautiful. It is an absolute must-see location, especially if you are into photographing nature. My article on photographing Lord Howe Island that is featured in the July 2012 issue of Australian Photography magazine can be read [here](#).

### 8 Day 'Bowra Birding and Bird Photography Experience' - 26th July to 2nd of August 2012

**First workshop fully-booked.**

**Second workshop (10th-17th of August 2012) – only 2 places left**

The Bowra birding and bird photography workshop at the end of July that I'm presenting with professional birder, Barry Davies, is fully-booked and second one in August has only a few places left. If you would like to spend 8 glorious days 'out west' finding numerous species of birds and learning how to best photograph them, then the Bowra bird photography workshop is for you. For more details, click [here](#).



### Attention Sydney-siders!!

### Taronga Zoo Photography Workshop announced

Very exciting news. I am presenting a full day photography workshop at Sydney's iconic Taronga Zoo on **Saturday the 21st of July 2012** and have some spaces left. The cost for this workshop is only \$195.00 per person (exc. zoo entry fee). If you are interested in attending, please email me [here](#) or call me on 0408 941965 for full details.

## WORLD PRESS PHOTO

### The World Press Photo Awards 2012

The World Press Awards receive amazing images from photographers all over the world, with the 2012 competition receiving a massive 101 254 entries from 5247 photographers and 124 nationalities. The winners and place-getters every year are quite stunning, with this year being no exception.

To see the winning entries, visit their website [here](#)