



Newsletter

Issue 11 - May 2013

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Out and About with Michael

Welcome to the May 2013 edition of my photography newsletter. My first photographic venture since releasing my last newsletter was to head to Kangaroo Island, in South Australia, to do some research for Trekabout's up-and-coming five day photography workshop and tour. My main aim was to source the best possible photographic locations and subjects, find suitable accommodation and transport as well as taking photos during my stay. It was a very productive trip indeed. Full details on Trekabout's Kangaroo Island workshop and tour are listed further in this newsletter.



Remarkable Rocks,
Kangaroo Island

Not long after my Kangaroo Island trip, I flew to Tasmania to present another week-long workshop with landscape photographer Luke O'Brien. Again it was a great success but it is what happened on the evening of March the 17th that will forever stay in our minds. Full details later in the newsletter...



Horseshoe Falls,
Tasmania

Even though I only had a small window of opportunity (three or four days) I decided to head back to Tasmania to try and photograph the autumn colour changes in the beech trees (*Nothofagus*) up at Tarn Shelf, in Mt. Field National Park. This happens for only a short time around ANZAC day each year. I was joined by Ben Fewtrell. Ben is a landscape photographer and HDR (High Dynamic Range) specialist who also wanted to capture some of the magic autumn colours. Unfortunately, on our arrival, we were met by howling winds and rain. We still decided to hike up to Tarn Shelf but with strong winds and driving rain (sideways) it made for very difficult photographic conditions, to say the least. Sometimes the weather simply doesn't work in your favour, especially with nature photography and you have to move on and look forward to your next photographic adventure. Rather than 'give up', we spent time in the rainforests photographing waterfalls and cascades (Horseshoe Falls) as well as spending time photographing gorgeous orange fungi in the Upper Florentine.

My latest article for *Australian Birdlife* magazine's 'Bird Photography Masterclass' series, was released in March. The article was based around photographing a very curious Barking Owl and can be viewed [here](#).



April saw my largest ever publishing (page-wise), with *Australian Photography+Digital* magazine publishing a seven page article on how to best photograph in rainforests, titled 'Rainforest Masterclass - Deep Under Cover'. You can read the article [here](#).

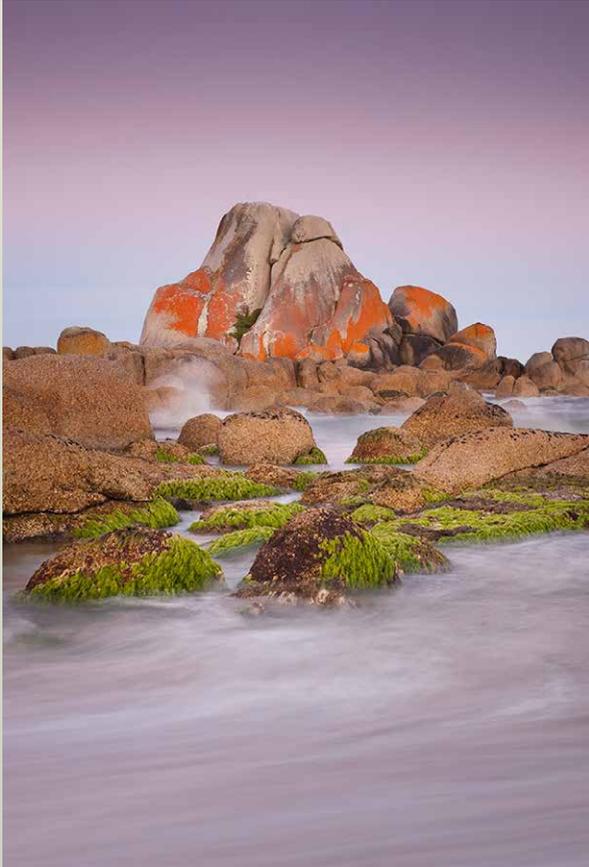
Apart from being a feature writer for *Australian Photography +Digital* magazine for the past seven years, I was also recently asked to become one of the writers of the 'Photo Tips' section for their website and online newsletter. My first article on bird photography tips 'How To Shoot Great Bird Images', can be viewed [here](#).

Cheers

Michael

Picnic Rocks - North-east coast of Tasmania

Australia is blessed with a vast array of stunning landscapes. In this article I offer tips and techniques on how to best capture great seascape/landscapes shots with your camera.



Picnic Rocks at Sunset, North East Tasmania

The rock formations in the featured photo are known as Picnic Rocks, and are found in the 'Bay of Fires', Mt William National Park, on the north-east coast of Tasmania. This photo was taken just before sunset, when the light was subtle and the beautiful golden light was shining on the rocks. The best light for landscape photography is generally just after sunrise and just before sunset, when the harsh light of the day disappears. Due to the low level of light and subsequent low shutter speed, a tripod and cable release was used to steady the camera. If trying to hand-hold a camera to take a shot during low light, the end result would be a blurry shot, since it is virtually near-impossible to hold at low shutter speeds.

The image was composed so that Picnic Rocks were prominent in the photo, with the green, algae-covered boulders used as a foreground feature, an important aspect to creating an interesting landscape image. An aperture of f16 was used to create greater depth-of-field (i.e. so that most of the rocks are in focus) using a wide-angled lens. By slowing the shutter speed to 1.6 seconds, it helped create the 'milky' effect of the water amongst the rocks. Timing also plays an important part in capturing a particular moment or event. This shot was taken the precise moment that a wave splashed up at the bottom, left of Picnic Rocks, creating a bit more interest in the photo.

When using a tripod, a low ISO setting such as 100 or 200 is recommended, as this will greatly minimise the chance of digital noise showing up in the photo.

No matter whether a photographer is experienced and uses an expensive SLR (single lens reflex) camera with pro lenses or a beginner with a point-and-shoot compact digital camera, by using the techniques listed above, great landscape photos can be created.

There are so many seascapes and landscapes to photograph across the breadth of our amazing country. Why not head out with your camera at the next opportunity and take some shots?

Equipment used and settings:

Nikon D700 camera with a Nikon 24-70mm f2.8 lens. Aperture at f16, 100 ISO and shutter speed of 1.6 seconds. Gitzo tripod and cable release.

Photo of the Month

Wolf Crisan

This month's 'Photo of the Month' is by Wolf Crisan. Wolf has been a regular Trekabout Photography Workshop attendee for a number of years now and only recently attended our six day Far North Queensland photography workshop and tour. Wolf has a natural eye and lots of patience, quietly waiting for the right moment to press the shutter button.

Here is what Wolf had to say about his chosen image:

"This shot is a favourite of mine because I had the tiger's attention.

It was taken late afternoon just before closing time at Australia Zoo, in Beerwah, Queensland. The image was taken through glass from inside the Tiger Information Centre. There were only one or two people left around at this stage and the tiger seemed to be curious about what I was doing.

For this photo I used a Pentax K7 DSLR with a 70 to 200mm Sigma lens. The camera was set on aperture priority with ISO of 1600 for the fading light and wide open at f2.8, with 200mm focal length and exposure at 1/125th of a second".



Inspirational Photographers

Miguel Lasa

MIGUEL LASA PHOTOGRAPHY

Miguel Lasa was born in Spain and nowadays lives in England. I have been a huge fan of his work for a number of years now, especially his wildlife images. Below is Miguel's bio:

"Born in Spain 46 years ago, I started taking photographs after my mother gave me a film SLR for my birthday more than 30 years ago. Since then photography has become my passion and takes all my free time.

Working as a Family Doctor in the Northeast of England, photography helps me develop my artistic side. I like to give my photography an artistic feeling.

I started taking landscapes but my recent interest has been wildlife inspired by the Wildlife Photographer of the Yearbooks. I like taking photos of wild birds and mammals in their natural environments.



Image Copyright © Miguel Lasa

I travel around the world in search of wildlife and have been to many countries including Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, India, Canada, USA, Alaska, Norway, Finland, Ireland, England and Spain. I have photographed many animals in the wild including Polar bears, Tigers, Cheetah and many species of wild birds and eagles.

I recently published my first co-author book of wild birds in flight called 'on feathered wings', along with an exhibition at the American Museum of Natural History of New York".

To see more of Miguel's stunning wildlife and nature images, click [here](#)

Trekabout Photography Workshops

Mark and I returned home recently after a very successful six day photography workshop and tour in Far North Queensland. We visited locations such as Mossman Gorge, the Atherton Tablelands, rainforests and waterfalls, sunrises and sunsets at Palm Cove and much more. Subjects photographed also included wildlife, macro and even butterflies at the Kuranda Butterfly Farm. Our participants were delightful and everyone, including Mark and I, had a fabulous time.



New Trekabout Workshops and Tours

13 Day 'African Adventure Photography Workshop and Tour' - May 2014 - **Only 3 Places Left!**



Namib Sand Dunes

Since my last newsletter, we have released a very exciting new photography workshop/tour to Africa. This workshop/tour has been a very long time in the making and we have gone all out to create one of the most exciting photographic adventures ever released for Africa!

After many, many requests and as a destination at which Mark and I have dreamed about presenting a workshop, Africa just HAD to happen. Rather than your 'standard' photography workshop and tour, we decided to put together a trip that would 'blow people's minds', as the saying goes.

We have designed an itinerary that covers some of the most photogenic locations in Africa - Namibia, Okavango Delta in Botswana, and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. Photographing the world's highest sand dunes, spending days photographing many of the great African wildlife species and photographing the majestic Victoria Falls are only a few of the attractions on this trip. We will have both guides in vehicles and trackers on the ground when searching for wildlife species to photograph. Vehicles have been designed without a roof or poles, especially with photographers in mind. Also, we are on private reserves, so any time there are wildlife sightings, we will head out to photograph them.

The accommodation we have chosen is comfortable and luxurious, the food scrumptious, and transport from location to location is via plane, rather than long, tiring bus trips.

With Mark and I both presenting this workshop and tour, we have capped the number of participants to 14. Eleven places have booked out very quickly, with only three places remaining on this incredible 'photographic adventure of a lifetime'.

For full details of our African Adventure Photography Workshop and Tour, or to book one of the three remaining places, click [here](#).



African Elephant in the Okavango Delta

Five Day 'Kangaroo Island Photography Workshop and Tour' - September 2013

Another new photography workshop and tour that we have recently released is to Kangaroo Island. As one of Australia's most photogenic islands, this was another 'must' on our list of workshops we wanted to present. As I mentioned in my 'Out-and-About with Michael' section at the beginning of this newsletter, I spent five days at Kangaroo Island a few months ago, designing a fabulous, all-inclusive workshop.

We have teamed up with Craig Wickham of '[Exceptional Kangaroo Island](#)' tours, who has had many years of experience as a former park ranger on the island, as well as many years running EKI tours. Trekabout's Kangaroo Island photography workshop is quite unique in that we have our own, experienced guide with us for the whole trip. We will also be driven around from location to location in a 4WD bus.



Juvenile Australian Sea Lion

We will spend time photographing at various locations, including Remarkable Rocks, Admiral's Arch, Cape de Coudec Lighthouse, Pennington Bay, Little Sahara, Hanson's Bay and American River, to name but some. We will also spend time on the beach photographing the world's largest colony of Australian Sea Lions, New Zealand Fur Seals, Cape Baron Geese, as well as a range of raptors at the free-flight bird show 'Raptor Domain'.

This workshop is all-inclusive and includes pick-up on the island from either the ferry drop-off at Penneshaw, Kingston airport or your Kingston accommodation. Accommodation is at the renowned Kangaroo Island Wilderness Retreat and meals are at either the retreat or supplied by Exceptional Kangaroo Island tours. Both Mark and I will be on-hand to provide expert photographic tuition and our local guide will be on-hand to drive us around and provide local knowledge. We also provide morning and afternoon tea, SA beer, wine and soft drinks, all parks and wildlife permits as well as fees to Seal Bay and Raptor Domain.

Kangaroo Island really is another of Australia's natural wonderlands and is high on my list of personal favourite photographic locations in this country.

If you would like to spend five glorious days on beautiful Kangaroo Island away from normal day-to-day life and be shown the best photographic locations and subjects (and how to best photograph them) then this workshop and tour may be just the ticket!

For more information on our five day 'Kangaroo Island Photography Workshop and Tour' click [here](#).



Hanson Bay, Kangaroo Island



Regent Bowerbird in flight

Full Day 'Bird Photography Workshop and Tour' - Friday 7th of June 2013

After repeated requests, Mark and I have relented... We have finally added a full day bird photography workshop to our repertoire. The day will be held in Lamington National Park, based around O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat. We will cover many aspects of bird photography including birds-in-flight, composition, lighting, metering, best apertures/ISO, flash as well as tripod and gimbal use. There will be audio-visuals and a post-post-processing session, as well as entry to O'Reilly's famous free-flight bird show.

This workshop is booking fast, so if you would like to book one of the remaining places, or for more details, please click [here](#)

Other Trekabout photographic workshops and tours scheduled over the coming months include:

7 Day 'Red Centre Photography Workshop and Tour' - June 2013

Now with an extra day to the West MacDonnell Ranges!

This is now Trekabout's fifth Red Centre workshop and tour. Mark and I again can't wait to get back to this amazing part of Australia! This year, we have added an extra component to this workshop - a day in the West MacDonnell Ranges. Locations visited will include Standley Chasm, Glen Helen Gorge (with optional helicopter flight over the incredible Ormiston Pound and Gorge), Ormiston Gorge and Simpson's Gap.

We will also cover the usual photogenic spots including sunset at Uluru, Kata Tjuta, King's Canyon, Trephina Gorge, Alice Springs Desert Park and much, much more. For more details on this wonderful workshop, click [here](#).



Uluru, Northern Territory

Weekend 'Mountain Experience Photography Workshop' - June 2013

Four Day 'Fraser Island Photography Workshop and Tour' - July 2013

Three Day 'Girraween Wildflower and Granite Country Photography Workshop and Tour' - September 2013

Other Extended Workshops & Tours

Seven Day Lord Howe Island Photography Workshop and Tour - October 2013



News Flash! Sydney Landscape Photographer and HDR (High Dynamic Range) Specialist, Ben Fewtrell, joins Lord Howe Island Workshop and Tour as a Guest Presenter.

I am very pleased to welcome Ben Fewtrell as a guest presenter for my October 2013 workshop and tour to Lord Howe Island, one of my favourite destinations to visit and photograph in Australia. You can visit Ben's website/blog 'On3Legs' [here](#).

As with my other Lord Howe Island workshops in previous years, the week is full of photographic opportunities. We will visit many iconic seascapes and landscapes to photograph (including various sunrise and sunset shoots), lots of bird opportunities as well as two cruises (including snorkeling) to different parts of the island. Indoor sessions include HDR, Lightroom tuition and image critique. With a maximum of 11 participants and two tutors, there will be plenty of one-on-one time for participants to ask any photography-related questions.

Full information, as well as a detailed itinerary, is available by clicking [here](#).



*View to Mt Lidgebird and Mt Gower,
Lord Howe Island*

Report - Tasmanian Photography Workshop and Tour

Extra Special Treat for Participants of our Tasmanian Photography Workshop and Tour (March 2013) - An Aurora Australis!!!!



*Aurora Australis over the Hazards,
Tasmania*

The participants of the seven day Tasmanian Photography Workshop and Tour that landscape photographer Luke O'Brien and I presented in March, were fortunate to have perfect weather for the whole week of our workshop. As with the one presented last November, the weather Gods really were smiling on us all! The group gelled from the very first minute they all met - it was a pleasure for Luke and I to be a part of this brilliant tour.

The evening of Sunday the 17th of March is one that Luke and I, as well as our workshop participants, will never forget. We had finished a sunset shoot at Coles Bay on the Freycinet Coast, overlooking the Hazard Mountains. Luke was regularly checking the 'Aurora' app on his mobile phone and it was absolutely going off! Even though we had officially finished the day's workshop, everyone was willing to stay,

in the hope of seeing (and possibly photographing) an Aurora Australis.

As the night wore on, we were treated to incredible colours in the sky, including green, red, purple as well as a very bright Milky Way. The elation in the group was simply out of this world. There was whooping, cheering, high-fives and many moments of disbelief. For me, it was one of the most amazing photographic experiences of my life.

To see a larger version of my Aurora Australis, click [here](#).

Seven Day Tasmania Photography Workshop and Tour - November 2013

Luke O'Brien and I are looking forward to presenting yet another photographic workshop and tour to Tasmania this coming November. We will again spend days based at Cradle Mountain, visit the iconic Liffey Falls, as well as days on the Freycinet Coast. Highlights include a half day boat cruise on Wineglass Bay, luxurious accommodation and scrumptious meals.

For more details on our up-and-coming Tasmanian Photography Workshop and Tour, click [here](#).



*Tasmanian workshop participants,
March 2013*

Coming Soon! Weekend Bird Photography Workshop with professional birder, Barry Davies.

Barry Davies and I have been presenting our very successful eight day bird photography workshops to Bowra Sanctuary, in western Queensland, over the last number of years, with each workshop so far completely booking out. Due to repeated requests and interest, we are in the planning stages for a weekend bird photography workshop, somewhere in the south-east Queensland region.

If you are interested in receiving details before the public release, please send an email [here](#) and write 'Expression of Interest - Weekend Bird Photography Workshop' in the subject line.



Crimson Chat



One on One Photography Tuition - Half and Full Day

My half day and full day one-on-one photography tuition sessions, for either one or two people (cheaper per person for two) have been very well-received by participants. If you would like to learn how to use all the settings on your digital camera, as well as learning techniques on how to take better images, then these private and personalised sessions are for you. 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.

Two Day 'Wilderness Experience' Photography Tuition (for Two Participants)

Also available are a number of two day 'Wilderness Experience' sessions for two people. This unique opportunity offers you and a friend, relative or fellow-photographer, a chance to spend two 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 will 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](#).



*The Sphinx at Sunset,
Girraween National Park*



Image courtesy of Mary Perryn

Photo Walk - South Brisbane 8am - Sunday 26th of May 2013

I'm pleased to announce that I am organising a 'Photo Walk' in Brisbane on Sunday the 26th of May 2013. It will be based around South Brisbane and will go for approximately two hours (or longer, if people are keen). The good news is that it's totally free!

This isn't a 'formal' workshop with structured tuition, but a fun few hours of photography, with like-minded people. Feel free to bring any friends along, as everyone is welcome.

We will start at the Kurilpa Bridge and then slowly work our way along the Brisbane River, photographing around the Arts Complex, the Big Wheel and other places of interest in South Brisbane. There will be lots of different colours, shapes, structures and textures to photograph.

When: Sunday the 26th of May 2013

Meeting time: 8am sharp

Where: Under the big fig tree near the start of the Kurilpa Bridge (outside GOMA - Gallery of Modern Art).

Cost: Absolutely free!!

To register a place on this 'Photo Walk' you can click [here](#) and leave your name and email address. In the subject section, simply write 'Photo Walk'.

Competitions and Conventions

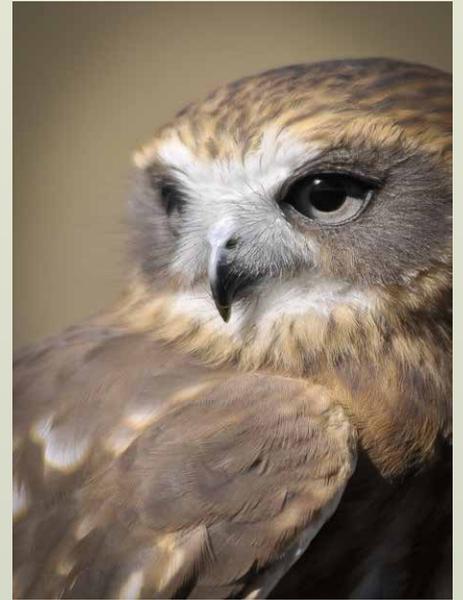
Trekabout Photo Competition

Congratulations to Nadine Anderson on winning the March/April 2013 Trekabout photography competition, themed 'Wildlife', as well as all the other place-getters and highly commended recipients. Nadine's gorgeous image of a Southern Boobook Owl received the highest number of votes (20) and was declared the winner.

The current photo competition is themed '**Water**'. Entries close at midnight on the 30th of June 2013. There are five photography-related prizes on offer, totalling over \$800.00 in value and entry is totally free!

The public vote is tallied at the close of voting and this is added to my vote and Mark's vote. All three are then averaged out, to achieve our final results.

For more information on how to enter Trekabout's Photography Competition, click [here](#).



PSQ (Photographic Society of Queensland) Photography Convention October 2013 - Mackay, Queensland

Tickets are for sale for this fantastic three day photography convention. There will be a variety of speakers, a series of photography workshops, organised trips, industry stalls and much more. I'll be there to present an audio visual as Keynote Speaker, plus a workshop.

To read more about the convention and to book your tickets, click [here](#)

I hope to see you there!