

# Hird About The Place

The Scene by Hird Newsletter.

Edition #20: February 2006

Dear Friends,

I am dreadfully sorry for the delay in this month's newsletter. Our trip east was a lot of fun and very productive, but there was nobody here doing the work while we were gone. Catch up is always a hassle!

We are back on track now and everything is running smoothly at Scene by Hird again. Please drop by and see our new photographs!

## A Trip to Tasmania

Sometimes we can be a little predictable, such as when we'll take a break from the gallery and relax. This year we closed in January (as we did the previous two years), allowing us to travel and make some photographs of other parts of Australia. There won't be any "Post Christmas Sales" at Scene by Hird!

Boxing Day saw me packing the trailer and Landcruiser with camping gear. After a dozen or so trips between the house and the trailer, I noticed the suspension on the trailer had lost a bolt and was hanging in a very "non-cooperational" manner from the bottom of the trailer. This is what happens when you do not prepare adequately for a long trip: I should have had the trailer serviced weeks before. Now I was forced to run around town looking for a bolt which may well have been a special order. After trying all the car-part places, I resorted to my last chance – Bunnings! Who would have thought they would have just what I was after? They did, and we were back in business.

The trip across Australia to Victoria was fairly uneventful, with the most notable occurrence being our discovery that Ceduna seems to be held together by one man and his various enterprises. "Bill" must be the most industrious bloke this side of Melbourne – he has fingers in more pies than Eddie Maguire! There's *Bill's Seafood Emporium* (also housing *Bill's Fresh Chickens*), *Bill's Pizzas* and *Bill's Used Cars*. To round off the business

empire, whilst looking for milk the following morning, I spied Bill driving the "Ceduna Fresh Milk Supplies" truck, which I presume he also owns.



"Rust Never Sleeps"  
Queenstown, Tasmania

After a few days in Melbourne with the families, we boarded the ferry to Tasmania. The ride across Bass Strait was smooth, although my son Sean was disappointed that the captain would not let him get his fishing rod out. I guess it's something to do with rules to prevent terrorism or some such thing.

I loved Tassie: so many things to see and do, and all only a few hours drive away from wherever you may be. On our first full day in the state we headed for Cradle Mountain, stopping along the way to get lost in a maze for four hours. I reckon Michelle would still be in there now if we had left her alone.

After setting up our tent on the outskirts of Cradle Mountain NP, I drove to Dove Lake to make some photographs of the landscape. On the way back, we took advantage of the night driving to show the kids wombats and Tassie devils – You can't do that in Kalgoorlie!

We spent two nights in the area. Michelle was becoming quite concerned about my whereabouts on our last morning there. I had driven into the park to make some more shots, but had forgotten to take my watch. This not only caused concern

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for me (some of my exposures last nearly a minute) but it caused me to totally misjudge how long I was away from the tent that morning. I thought I was returning at around 9.30, when in fact it was closer to 11.30. The overcast conditions stopped me from making a guess based on where the sun was. The air suddenly got much colder when I finally did return to camp: the look on Michelle's face was freezing the rain into a highly localised snow storm - centred on me!

Well, at least the broader weather was more to my liking – for photography. While the flawless blue skies we had experienced for the previous two days were very pleasant to bushwalk under, they made my photography nearly impossible. Tassie *needs* precipitation to show its true colours – literally! It was on that wet and overcast morning that I made my best shots from the Cradle Mountain area.



*"Last Man Standing"*  
Cradle Mountain NP, Tasmania

I'll leave the story at this point and continue next month. In the meantime, you can see more of my shots from Tasmania by typing the following URL into your web browser:

[www.scenebyhird.com/tassie](http://www.scenebyhird.com/tassie)

## "Photo of the Month" Back Catalogue

It seems our Photos of the Month have become a real collectors' item, if the number of enquiries we are starting to get are any indication. New customers have been asking if there is any way to get the prints we mailed out before they joined our growing list of happy customers. We've always reluctantly told them "No, sorry, they are all gone ...". That tends to make the customers a little less happy. ☹

Well, we don't want to be accused of being obstinate – we'll listen to the crowd when they make demands! So, there are now three ways to complete your collection (or start one for someone else):

1. Individual prints can be purchased from the back-catalogue in the gallery or on-line for \$5 per print.
2. Order a set of any 12 prints for \$60, including a free subscription for the next six months for Photo of the Month, or
3. Order the complete set of past prints for only \$4 each, which also includes a free six month subscription. That's a 20% discount – **and** we throw in the next six for nothing, saving you another \$30!

To take advantage of this offer, fill in the coupon included with this newsletter and return it to us. We'll post the prints to you immediately.

(Please note: the customers who received this newsletter by email were also offered a gift worth at least \$100. You could also receive it if you elect to have your newsletter emailed rather than posted out. Send me an email now on [graeme@scenebyhird.com](mailto:graeme@scenebyhird.com), and I'll let you know how you can collect your gift too.)

## Photo Tip: Shoot First – Ask Questions later

No, I'm not plagiarising advice from the Victorian Police Operations Handbook. I'm referring to a lesson I thought I had absorbed some time ago.

When conditions are likely to change rapidly (either because the light is changing or the subject is likely to move or disappear) it is wise to make an exposure as soon as you are able to and *then* move to a location from which a better composition can be achieved. By holding off until the best composition presents itself, you may in fact miss the photograph all together.

I say I thought I had learnt the lesson, but apparently not. I wish I could show you particularly amazing scene I witnessed, but alas, I missed the light whilst trying to get to the "right spot" .... I should have used the beautiful, fleeting light while it was available, even though the composition was a fraction less than perfect. D'oh!

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I'll write again in March – by then I'll be more organised and have the newsletter out on time. I promise.

Cheers,

*Graeme Hird*

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