

Hird About The Place

The Scene by Hird Newsletter.

Edition #21: March 2006

Dear Friends,

It's March already! It's probably the last month of the storm season in Kalgoorlie, but it hasn't even looked like they might come through this year (cyclones don't count - they don't photograph well). At least we've been able to capture some of this wonderful country with our trip to Tasmania in January. Read on to find out more.

Limited Edition Print



Our only limited edition print available at the moment is close to selling out. "Inside Inside Australia" is my shot of Lake Ballard, near Menzies. Only 10 prints were made and as I write this four prints remain available.

I mention this because the current print is the last available at the current price of \$1500. The table below shows the framed prices of the remaining prints. As you can see, if you like the print, it would be a wise investment to get in sooner rather than later.

There will never be another of these pictures printed. However, we will be offering to act as an agent for owners who would like to sell their print once print number 10 has sold. We will be

recommending to owners that they ask at least \$5,500 for this rare print.

	Print Number	Price
	7/10	SOLD
Current print	6/10	\$1,500
Third last print	8/10	\$1,800
Second last print	9/10	\$2,500
Last print	10/10	\$3,500

Prices for the remaining prints of Inside Inside Australia

The Takeaway Layby

You know those mail order forms we send out each month with credit card details and terms of payment? Well, that arrangement is now available for every print we sell: it's just like having a layby at home. We'll ask you to fill in a form with your credit card details and each month we'll debit the card the agreed amount. You walk out with your new picture and we will look after the rest!

This service has been available for our Photo of the Month, and due to its popularity, we've decided to extend that offer to our whole range. It's perfect for those times when you need to spoil yourself or a friend right now but the finances are temporarily a bit tight. It's also perfect for taking advantage of an obvious investment opportunity, such as a certain limited edition print nearing the end of its availability! (That's a *big* hint ☺)

If you have purchased a Scene By Hird print in the past there is no fee for using the service. For other people, there is a small administration fee of \$20.

The Tassie Trip – Continued

When I last wrote, I was still suffering from the freezing glares emanating from Michelle after I arrived back to the camp site 3 hours later than expected. Let's not dwell too much on that any more, okay?

© Scene by Hird, 2006

Cassidy St, Kalgoorlie, 6430

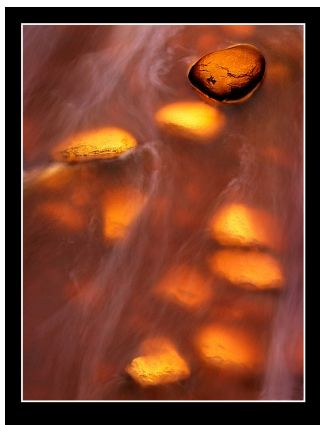
Ph: (08) 90 911 611 Fax: (08) 90 911 711 Mobile: 0408 95 11 76

Email: graeme@scenebyhird.com Web: www.scenebyhird.com

We bundled up our wet tent and shoved it into the trailer. From Cradle Mountain, we headed west towards Strahan, hoping to find somewhere dry to spend the night (we couldn't face putting up a wet tent). Strahan was very wet, and very full! Not a single room was available in the town – and even the camping grounds were booked solid. With “no room at the inn” we looked for a manger (I guess we were hoping for a miracle). Alas, it's a sad fact that in these days of the ubiquitous automobile, nobody keeps mangers for stray travellers anymore. We ended up booking a room at Queenstown through the Strahan tourist bureau instead.

Queenstown is famous for its denuded hills. It's almost an icon to the way we pollute the environment, and I had heard rumours of locals actually pulling new growth from the bare hills to keep its main tourist drawcard intact. The hills are indeed quite spectacular when the light is right, with mauve, orange, pink, red and yellow jumping from the otherwise green Island State.

The hills originally lost their trees due to logging (to supply the furnace and roaster of the local copper mine) and acid rain produced by the said roaster. The mine is still having an effect on this area – the Photo of the Month for March is a shot of the local river system. Iron oxide is being washed from the mine and depositing on the rocks down stream. My shot was made in the middle of town, just 50 metres from our room.



*“Rust Never Sleeps”
Queenstown, Tasmania*

The shot (“Rust Never Sleeps”) has been haunting me since, and has become my favourite image

from the whole trip to Tassie. Which explains why I have made it the Photo of the Month for March.

From Queenstown, we drove through the middle of the island towards New Norfolk. Although it's only a couple of hundred kilometres, it took us 6 hours to reach our destination: there was just so many things to see along the way. My favourite stop was the Franklin River nature walk, not for its photographic potential, but for the experience of simply being in “pristine” rainforest. There is something about strolling in cool, crisp mountain air whilst listening to the sound of nearby running water which is good for the soul.

We set up our tent at the caravan park in New Norfolk, reminiscing to our children about how we had stayed in the same place 18 years earlier (Michelle and I had ridden bicycles from Devonport to Hobart, but that's another story altogether best forgotten!)

After the tent was up, I left the family to their own devices and drove to Russell Falls, about 30 minutes away: more a “scouting trip” for the following morning than a shooting expedition. I'm rarely without my camera though (see the photo tip for this month to find out why ...), so I managed to make a fairly good shot of the falls. It's not as good as last month's Photo of the Month in my opinion, but still one to be proud of.

Returning to the site the next morning gave me the image of Russell Falls I featured in February, and a shot of another waterfall 15 minutes further upstream (Horseshoe Falls).

On the way back to my car after I had finished shooting, I met another photographer carrying large format camera gear. Since neither of us had ever met another photographer using similar gear in the field, we were both keen to compare notes and cameras. I think I did him a disservice though: I'm sure he missed the best light because we chatted for more than an hour. Oh well, I reckon it was his fault for getting there late anyway (as I said, I was finished for the day and he was only just arriving ...). I had a couple of good shots in the bag, so I was happy.

We stayed in New Norfolk for a couple of nights, since the caravan park was pleasant enough and we

© Scene by Hird, 2006

Cassidy St, Kalgoorlie, 6430

Ph: (08) 90 911 611 Fax: (08) 90 911 711 Mobile: 0408 95 11 76

Email: graeme@scenebyhird.com Web: www.scenebyhird.com

were only planning to tour Hobart (60km away) that day. Of course, the Cadbury factory was the highlight of Hobart for those in the family who weren't being asked to pay. Even though we gave much of our chocolate away to friends and family, we were still nibbling on "souvenirs" until February. It turned out to be an lesson in conservation of mass (a term I remember from high school chemistry). A loss of mass from the wallet resulted in gain of mass to the tummy and thus mass equilibrium was maintained.

Touring through and around Hobart, we were astounded by just how little distance we had to drive before entering the wilds of the state. It seems like the forest is right on the door step of the capital city. If it weren't so cold there, I would have had no trouble convincing Michelle that we should move to the town.



Russell Falls – Version 1.1

The following day, we packed up the tent and headed for Port Arthur. We had learnt from our brief Strahan experience to book ahead, so our tent site at the historic area was assured.

These days it's much harder to gain access to the historic areas of the old town during the times I prefer to photograph, so I didn't manage to make any "classic" shots while I was there. However, it was while we camped in the area that I made my Photo of the Month for January (Tessellated Pathway).

Before sunrise I snuck out of the caravan park without waking a single person (easily done in a diesel Landcruiser ...) and drove to Eaglehawk Neck, about 10 km away. I trekked to the shore platform and selected a spot which looked like it might "come to life" with the glancing light cast by the newly risen sun, and set my tripod up. The

occasional wave trickled over the platform, providing both a source of subject movement in my expected photo and replenishment for the shallow pools of water.

I wanted movement to demonstrate the dynamic location I was photographing, so things were shaping up nicely for me. After getting the camera set up and loaded with film, I didn't need to wait long for the light to begin sparkling from the pools. All I needed to do was wait for just the right splash of water, and I'd have my shot.

"Here we go!" I thought, as a slightly larger wave approached. Pull the dark slide out, hold the shutter release cable poised, wait for it, wait for it ... NOW! - "Oops! That's a **much** bigger wave!!!!" *

I found myself knee-deep in chilly Tasmanian sea water, pushing down hard on my tripod to ensure it and the camera did not get washed away during the exposure. I was still recording the rushing water during a one second exposure whilst I swore at the sudden chilling of my ... "enthusiasm". Now I think you can start to appreciate why I value my photographs so highly!

After I returned to the camp site and changed into something more comfortable, we packed up our tent and drove back to the historic area of Port Arthur. The kids had a ball exploring the old buildings, and were even invited to take part in an archaeological excavation at the historic site.

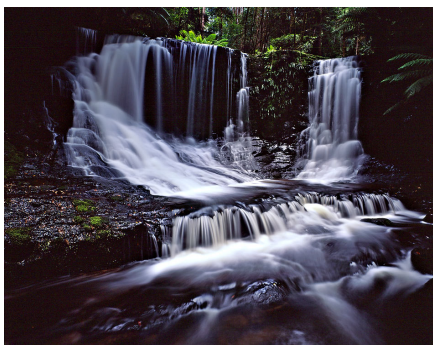
Sean, with typical seven-year-old enthusiasm, demonstrated how efficiencies could be made to their process by simply digging much faster and not *actually* collecting any samples along the way. Apparently, that was somewhat of a revelation to the archaeologists: they hadn't considered using such methods before, if their astonished faces were anything to judge by! They must have been **very** keen to try it for themselves, because they took Sean's trowel away soon after.

After leaving Port Arthur, we headed for Launceston to stay with some (ex-Kal) friends on the Tamar River. We had only planned to stay one

* I didn't really say "Oops". My vocabulary in such situations becomes somewhat more colourful.

night, but their hospitality overwhelmed us and so we enjoyed an extra night with them. They had a mutual friend also staying with them (who was on the last leg of his round-Australia trip) and we all reminisced “the good old times” in the Goldfields.

All too soon, we had to pack up and head for the ferry to Melbourne. I miss the cold fresh air of Tassie, but Michelle was more than a little pleased to be heading back to the warmer weather of the mainland.



“Horseshoe Falls”, Tasmania

You can find more shots on the web site here:

www.scenebyhird.com/tassie

The Visitor Centre Is On The Move

Those of you still in town will have heard by now that the Kalgoorlie Tourist Bureau has new home. They are moving to the Kalgoorlie Town Hall and totally revamping their appearance. I’m honoured to have been asked to supply their main décor images, so when you get the chance to visit them, please take the time to have a look around. You’ll see the photographs from Scene by Hird in prominent positions throughout.

“Photo of the Month” Back Catalogue

Just another reminder that we are now offering the back catalogue of the Photo of the Month sample prints. You can purchase them in three ways:

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, includes 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, (currently \$88) 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!

Ask us for more details by phoning or emailing us.

Photo Tip: Right place, right time, right equipment

It was a stupid thing to do: I knew that as soon as the clouds appeared.

I was at Cradle Mountain and I thought I had the best shot of the afternoon already in the bag. I took my camera back to the car and walked around the area unencumbered whilst scouting my shot for the following morning.

As the sun neared the horizon and the air cooled, turbulence around the peak of the mountain induced clouds to form on its slopes. The lowering sun set them on fire, giving Cradle Mountain the appearance of a volcano erupting. It was a fleeting moment of glory which lasted around 5 minutes.

But of course, my camera was ten minutes away and I knew I had no hope of capturing the vision before me. See the earlier footnote describing colourful vocabulary to get an idea of my mutterings at the time.

So, this month’s photo tip: Do not find yourself caught in one of Australia’s finest scenic areas at sunset (or sunrise) without your camera, extra film and batteries close at hand.

Well, that wraps up another edition of Hird About The Place. I hope you got a few laughs and some information you found stimulating.

Next month I’ll be telling the story of a recent trip to Lake Ballard with a wheelbarrow and a camera.

Until then, keep safe and keep shooting.

Cheers,

Graeme Hird

© Scene by Hird, 2006

Cassidy St, Kalgoorlie, 6430

Ph: (08) 90 911 611 Fax: (08) 90 911 711 Mobile: 0408 95 11 76

Email: graeme@scenebyhird.com Web: www.scenebyhird.com