

Hird About The Place

The Scene by Hird Newsletter.

Edition #17: October 2005

Dear Friends,

Well, we had to go out and buy a new printer – we wore the last one out with more than 600 newsletters a month now being produced. Welcome to the Scene by Hird Publishing Empire! Watch out Rupert and Kerry ... ☺

Wildflowers – where are they?

Don't ask me! I took the family for a drive recently, expecting to find flowers everywhere. All we found were the succulents around the salt lakes ("pigface"). Perhaps we were too early? I'll keep an eye open. In the meantime, if anybody knows the location of some good wildflowers within 150km of Kalgoorlie, please let me know. I would love to have some good shots of the flowers in the gallery.

Painted Cliffs

Following last month's Photo of the Month from Canada ("Serenity"), I felt compelled to make October's photo a local one. You read the story of "Painted Cliffs" last month, so I won't rehash it. Suffice to say I love the shot, so it's now October's Photo of the Month.



October's Photo of the Month – "Painted Cliffs"

Workshops

There are currently two workshops scheduled: the first is a beginners' SLR workshop on 15th of October, and the second is a four day landscape

photography workshop in early February, to be held in the Esperance area.

Places for both are limited, so please contact us now if you're interested in doing either. If you are not able to make it to the mid-October workshop, but would like to do one before Christmas, let me know: I can run another in mid-November if there is enough interest.

The trip to Esperance will be an intensive workshop in which I will be imparting as much information about shooting landscapes as I can. Don't even think about coming if you don't like really early sunrises, beautiful seascapes, bushwalking in pristine environments and learning how to capture it all on film or digital sensor.

Landscapes are my forte, and they tell me I'm pretty good at explaining how to make great photos too. Register today by sending me an email me on graeme@scenebyhird.com and you won't be disappointed! (Perhaps you may consider giving a voucher for this workshop to a loved one as a Christmas present?)

"Google Earth" as a tool for landscape photography.

I recently discovered the wonders of an internet application called "Google Earth". It's an amazing combination of GIS (geographic information system) and web browser. It allows the user to view any place on Earth and get some idea of the terrain. In the areas where the resolution is highest, it is even possible to make out cars in car parks and on roads.

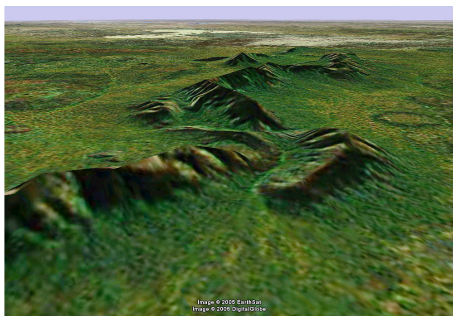
Unfortunately, the goldfields aren't one of the areas with very high resolution. None-the-less, the experience of using the program is good enough for me to discover new areas worthy of exploration with my camera. During my virtual exploration of the goldfields, I found an area north of Southern Cross which I intend to visit at the soonest possible opportunity.

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A screen dump of the Helena Ranges from Google Earth: I don't think it will be that green when I'm there!

It's a prominent line of hills called the Helena and Aurora Ranges. I've never heard of them, nor have I seen pictures from there. I promise to show the results of my travels when I have returned.

In the meantime, if you would like to see the (free) program in action, type www.earth.google.com into your browser's address bar (warning – I hope you have broadband – it's BIG!) I highly recommend the site, especially if you are intending to travel. Using it will give a good feeling for an area before you go there.

If you would like a sneak preview of the hills I'm going to visit, type "119.5E 30.4S" into the location box of the program. Oh, and for some relief, go to Mt Everest ... ☺

Lay-by now for Christmas

A few of our loyal clients have been showing some fore-thought for their Christmas shopping already by putting a picture or two aside in the gallery for their spouse's present. You might also like to consider this option, since we will be able to keep your gift away from prying eyes. We are only too happy to accept long term lay-bys with very reasonable deposits – they help your planning and Christmas budgeting and ours too!

The Gallery's Floor Plan

During September we rearranged the layout of the gallery, so don't be surprised when you next pass by or visit us. You won't see our smiling faces from the footpath now, but you will be greeted by even more photographs than we've ever displayed before.

The Final Race

After more than 6 years of involvement with the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Racing Club, our regular commitment to photographing the horses for their owners has come to an end with the conclusion of the 2005 Race Round. We chose to pass the

contract onto another photographer to allow me to concentrate more fully on what I'm best at – Landscape Photography. Both Michelle and I will miss the friendships we've made at the course.

So, what does that mean for you? Probably not much (unless you own a race horse) but it does mean you'll see even more great landscapes from the lenses of my camera.

Canada – more to come?

It looks like I might need to return to Canada for further work commitments in October, so if you have trouble contacting me, it may be due to the time difference between Kalgoorlie and Ontario. Michelle will still be here though, and at least I'll have some stories to tell next month.

Does it get cold in Canada in October?



Lupins in Ontario, Canada

Kalgoorlie Central PS Quiz Night

A quiz night in aid of Kalgoorlie Central Primary School will be held on Friday, 4th November at the Blue Spec Room, Kalgoorlie-Boulder Racing Club. We are assisting the school to raise money by helping to run the night. Tickets are available from the gallery and the school.

Sorry for the shortened newsletter – for the first time I have suffered from writer's block. Frustrating, but at least my photography hasn't suffered the same fate. Look out for more photographs in the November issue of *Hird About The Place*.

Graeme Hird

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