

# The Art of Photography Richard White

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS ON LINE GALLERY PHOTOGRAPHY ARTICLES HIGH COUNTRY CALENDAR

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**Issue #28, June 2009**



Ghost Gum & Mt Sonder, NT 2009

In the past month I have been interstate twice. One trip was to Grafton (one week after the floods) in northern NSW to give a presentation and workshop at their annual convention and the other was to Alice Springs to be photographer/instructor on a walk with a group in the West MacDonnell Ranges.

As always, "which camera should I take", was a major part of my thinking. To Grafton I took my pin hole camera (which was an absolute last minute decision) and a new Powershot digital camera I had just received. With the Pin Hole camera I made 5 negatives. One of a tree which turned out to be somewhat sexual (although at the time it was unnoticeable) and 4 portraits of a person who attended the convention. The portraits I liked and the tree was so so.

With the digital camera I made several images under and around the Grafton Bridge, the Grafton Jail and the court house which were the locations we visited as part of a workshop I did whilst I was there.

With regard to Alice Springs, in the end I decided to take my medium format 6 x 7 cm camera and also the Powershot digital. As it turned out my decision with regard to formats was correct, as far as I was concerned, and so photography was basically hassle free. What I mean by this is, that had I taken my

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large format 4 x 5", I think I would have been somewhat hampered when trying to make an image whilst on the trail with time sometimes not on my side.

The outback, especially where we were, is predominately made up of three colours - red, green and blue. Several years ago after I returned from a trip to this region, I wrote an article for Better Photography magazine entitled, "Seduced by Colour". This time I was more prepared for what I was going to see. Although I made many black and white images on this trip I made far more colour shots on the Powershot camera. I should add that the Powershot captured in raw and had a very nice 14+ mega pixel file. In some ways I was on a trial with the camera and was keen to see how it handled the type of images I endeavoured to make.

Of course having made a trip to this region a few years ago held me in good stead for what I knew I would see. I think this is part of the process of photography, being familiar with your surroundings whether it is near home or far off in fairy land.

For example, in September I am off to Canada to lead a workshop in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. I have visited this area many times and feel as if I know several of the places quite well. To me this is a bonus because, upon arrival, I will not be over awed by what I see. I will still enjoy it immensely, but I will be one step ahead of myself having seen most of it before. There are of course places that I have not visited and this will again be a challenge to look, but also to see, before I decide to make an image.

But isn't this the challenge of all photography, to look beyond the thing we are photographing so we can make a meaningful image of what inspires us. How often do we see technically wonderful images, but lacking in soul? Try and step back from the images you make and see if they inspire you past the point of a good memory. It's tough, but it can be done.

Whilst I was out photographing in the West MacDonnell Ranges with this group, I had the camera meter in my medium format camera go haywire. It wasn't giving me a reading. The battery was new, but it wasn't registering. Panic? Only for a moment. At the time it happened I didn't have my digital camera with me so couldn't even use the meter in that camera to help me out. So I called in the F16 rule. As good today as it was 50 years ago.

The F16 rule goes like this. Assuming you are photographing on a sunny day (which I was) and you are set at 100 ISO, then you set your shutter speed to the closest shutter setting as the ISO (in my case 1/125 of a second) and your aperture to F16 and take the picture. I have found that if it's around 10 AM or later it works better. As I was photographing about 7.30am and it was bright, I opened up another stop to compensate for the lower angle of the sun. Finally someone came by with a DSLR and I checked my setting. I was within a half a stop. Although it's not completely accurate it is pretty close and should be used as a guide only.

Back to the F16 rule for a moment. Follow the basics as above and if it's hazy open a stop, cloudy another stop and overcast yet another stop. Of course you can adjust to any configuration you wish to

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get the shutter speed or aperture you require. That is, if it is 1/125 sec @ f16, this is the same as 1/500 sec @ f 8, but I would begin at F16 and work from there.

For the next few days I always carried my digital camera and used the meter in that when the other played up again, which it did on several occasions. When processing the film I gave a little more development and the negs (B&W) look fine. The F16 rule is a good thing to know and remember.

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## **Custom Black & White Lab**

If you are interested in some Fine Art Black & White printing then may I suggest you contact Blanco Negro. Blanco Negro is a small custom lab which processes black & white film and does high quality printing. Chris is an expert B&W printer and chemical guru and prints all things for pro and amateur photographers, exhibitions and galleries. He is highly regarded in his field. With many labs closing down because of the new movement, Chris has become sought after and very busy. Give it some thought if you need someone to get you started. His details follow.

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## **FOMA PAPER ORDER**

And speaking of darkroom printing if you would like to order some wonderful Fibre Base black and white paper then let me know and I put you on the list when we next order (we just had one) which will most probably be in August or September. A price list is available if requested.

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## **NEWSLETTER PRINT OFFER for issue #28 100% guaranteed**

Once again the print offered at the head of this newsletter is the special print offer for this issue.

The photographs offered are designed to give you the opportunity to purchase one of my photographs at a reduced rate. This will apply **only** to receivers of this electronic mail.

### **About the image - Ghost Gum & Mt Sonder 2009**

The photograph was taken in the West MacDonnell Ranges just this month. Seeing I was talking about it I thought I should include an image.

The image will be hand printed in my darkroom on Foma Fibre base black & white paper, mounted to rag museum board and over matted ready for framing. As always only the finest materials are used in the production of the image.

**The image size will be approximately 11" x 14" (27.5 x 35 cm) and over matted to an overall size of 40 x 50 cm.**

Details relating to the image and print number will appear on the back of the photograph.

### **Cost of Print**

**Normally this print would sell for \$450, but the Newsletter Edition Print will be \$300.**

From July 1 all my prices will increase.

**The dollar value is the same as the country you live. ( Aust. NZ, USA, Canada. UK same as US \$**  
**i.e. : If you live in Australia A\$300    US\$300    Can\$300    NZ\$300)**

**The print price is inclusive of post and packing within Australia. Add \$25 for overseas.**

**This offer lasts till June 30, 2009.**

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## **100% Money Back Guarantee**

I also understand that buying a photograph from a computer screen can cause some to have heart palpitations, so with that in mind if you do purchase a print and are not completely satisfied I will refund your amount in full, provided you return the photograph within 14 days of receipt in the same condition it arrives. This is a 100% money back guarantee.

If you would like a print, send me a note with a cheque, money order, direct deposit or international bank transfer for the correct amount along with your name and address and contact details. Ordered prints will be hand printed in my darkroom by myself and sent out within 4 weeks.

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## **Victor Harbour, South Australia October 3 - 9 2009**

Also I am part of a line up of speakers at APSCON 2009 which will be held at Victor Harbor in South Australia from October 3-9 2009. I will present two talks, one on B&W landscapes and one on Portraiture. Also I will run a one day workshop at the conclusion of the convention. This is the annual convention of the Australian Photographic Society. Registration details will be available from their web site <http://www.a-p-s.org.au> which will include details of other speakers from Australia and New Zealand.

## **Workshops in 2009 / 2010**

### **THE SPECTACULAR CANADIAN ROCKIES - September 13 - 19 2009**

Workshop Fee A\$1295 All food and accommodation and transport during the workshop A\$1500

I am teaming up with Canadian photographer Craig Richards who has lived in the Rockies for over 25 years. His intimate knowledge of the area will make sure we get to photograph the most spectacular places. Our base will be in the heart of the Columbia Ice Fields which is breath taking as it is. In fact you can literally step out of the door of the lodge and begin to photograph, but this will just be the start of it. I have made many trips to the Canadian Rockies and it one of those special places on earth and one of my favourites. The workshop will be limited to 12 people. Some from Canada, some from Australia and maybe some from elsewhere.

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## **The Great Ocean Road Workshop    November 6 – 9 2009. Workshop Fee: \$475**

Based in Port Campbell we will photograph the rugged coastline of Loch Ard Gorge and the Twelve Apostles, parts of the Eastern side of the Otway Ranges and the picturesque waterfalls and awesome Sequoias of the Otway State Forest. Many field trips are planned to the most spectacular places this area offers. Our indoor and evening sessions will be taken up with portfolio reviews, some technical jargon and alternative ways of seeing and looking at subject matter. The time together will as usual be informative and fun as will be my co-instructor Jeff Moorfoot. Such a great place for a workshop.

## **And in 2010**

### **Cradle Mountain - Tasmania    Early April, 2010.**

#### **Accommodation, transport from Launceston to Cradle Mtn and return & workshop fee \$1050**

The past 3 workshops to Cradle Mountain have been very popular. This is a very picturesque and fabulous area and this workshop will once again be very exciting. For those who attend this will be a great opportunity to look to improving their photography. The workshop will run from Friday morning beginning in Launceston where we will then travel to Cradle Mountain and then return to Launceston Monday afternoon.

The cost of the workshop includes transport from Launceston to Cradle Mountain and return and during the workshop, accommodation in comfy log cabins, park fees and the workshop fee. Food and beverages are extra, but expect Bistro type prices and great food. For further information contact The Art of Photography Workshops.

**The workshop will be limited to just 6 people.**

### **The High Country - Falls Creek    Late April early May, 2010**

#### **Workshop fee & Accommodation: \$695**

In 2010 we will again venture back to Falls Creek in the High Country. Mountain Huts, fabulous views and exquisite Snow Gums. Staying in the village at Falls Creek in mountain lodge accommodation. Many outdoor photography excursions and informative indoor sessions. The workshop fee is based on twin share accommodation, but no meals. Single accommodation, although limited, is available at an extra charge. Documentary film maker Don Parham will again join me as co-instructor adding an interesting element to the workshop.

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## **The Portrait Workshop May 2010 Workshop Fee: \$475**

The workshop looks at making Portraits in whatever situation you come across. From studio lighting set ups using one light or two or even three, to window light, indoors or outdoors using any camera you wish. There are basically no limitations on making a portrait and we will look at many ways to accomplish this. During one of our outdoor sessions we will look at photographing only the landscape. Actually seascapes and rock formations. It is rugged and very beautiful. We will also consider the option of placing a subject within our composition should we wish. During our 4 days we will photograph, discuss, eat and sleep photography.

Co instructor is again Anthony Browell, known for his unique style of portraiture and vast photographic knowledge.

## **Into The Outback West McDonnell Ranges June 2010**

Again I will team up with Into the Blue - Creative Walks, to lead a group through the West MacDonnell Ranges out of Alice Springs. The area is eye catching in both colour and b&w. We will venture into parts that have limited access and some exclusive only to our group.

The landscape of Ormiston Gorge and Standley Chasm is quite spectacular as are parts of the Larapinta Trail and Gosse Bluff. A day of portraiture and history will be enjoyed at the old Lutheran Mission at Hermansburg. This is a chance to mix with, photograph and enjoy both the indigenous and other locals that inhabit this extraordinary place called The Outback.

For a direct link and further information of this walk including, booking, pricing and itinerary please contact Into the Blue, phone: 02 47876027

<http://www.intotheblue.com.au/tours/tour.asp?ID=59>  
[www.intotheblue.com.au](http://www.intotheblue.com.au) or Email: [info@intotheblue.com.au](mailto:info@intotheblue.com.au)

Well that's enough for now. Let's make some photographs!

Till next time.

