

EXPOSURE

THE MELBOURNE
CAMERA CLUB MAGAZINE



Visit to the Galapagos
Africa
Competition Results

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Visit to the Galapagos Islands

Nicole Andrews



Giant tortoise at Arnaldo Tapiza Tortoise Breeding Centre

famous blue footed boobies who didn't disappoint with their cute display of foot exercises to woo interested females. North Seymour was also home to many magnificent and great frigatebirds whose males are famous for their balloon like sacs which they inflate when trying to attract females.

Our next stop was Genovese where we saw red footed boobies nesting, Nazca boobies with striking black faces, herons and most exciting of all, a short eared owl with successful catch. We were also lucky enough to spot some red billed tropicbirds.

From Genovese we went to Santiago where we were able to photograph hundreds of the brilliantly colourful Sally Lightfoot crabs. The most memorable part of the day however was visiting Espanilla Beach where we were witness to hundreds of turtle hatchlings making their way to the sea. Also watching eagerly were some Galapagos hawks and many of the group tried to protect the hatchlings

The Galapagos Archipelago consists of thirteen major islands and many smaller islets 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador. While not the easiest place to get to, Galapagos is more than worth the inconvenience of getting there if you happen to love nature. Galapagos boasts the most extraordinary diversity of landscapes, fauna and flora. Much of the archipelago is classified national park and any visitors must be accompanied by a registered guide.

Due to its location on the equator there is no really bad time to visit Galapagos. I chose June last year to visit the Galapagos and booked an 11

day tour, all by boat, which seems to be the best way to ensure you maximize your time exploring the islands.

There were 18 people on my cruise which was just a good number, allowing easy access into the two pangas (zodiacs) each day to explore the various islands and plenty of opportunities to pick the brains of our two guides.

A long period of isolation from predators has meant that the animals and bird life in Galapagos have not learned or adapted themselves to shy away from people. For this reason it was very easy to get relatively close to the animals providing plenty of excellent opportunities for photography without the need for a powerful zoom lens. The majority of my animal shots were taken using my Canon 60D with an L-series 24-105mm lens.

The first island we visited was North Seymour where we sighted our first land iguana, a great lumbering beast with wonderful yellow and brown tones and fantastic craggy skin. This was also our first introduction to the



Great frigatebird



Blue footed booby

from their predators as they made their short journey to the shore only to witness them being picked off one by one by the frigatebirds when they reached the water.

The trip took us more than once to the largest island of the Galapagos, Isabela. From different landings we



Galapagos hawk



Land iguana



Sally Lightfoot crab

saw penguins (yes – the only place on earth you will see penguins near the equator), marine iguanas, seals, green turtles, and even flamingos. Isabela is also home to the Arnaldo Tapiza Tortoise Breeding Centre where we were able to see dozens of wonderful giant tortoises.

The centre was until very recently home to celebrity, Lonesome George, the last surviving Pinta Island sub-species.

On Fernandina, another of the major islands, we were witness to a great blue heron stalking baby iguana and a pair of flightless cormorants who kept us entertained for a good hour with their courting display. Sunbaking on the rocks were also many marine iguanas spitting out the salt ingested while swimming earlier in the day.

Floreana is a small island in the south of the archipelago famous for its Agatha Christie-like murders in the early 1900s. At Floreana we had our best sighting of the very colourful yellow warbler as well as many sightings of various finches, credited with starting Darwin's thinking on the theory of evolution.

Santa Cruz was spent in or near the town of Punta Puerto Ayora where we visited a property with many roaming giant tortoises, another tortoise breeding centre and the very popular fish market.

The highlight of the trip for me was Espanola, a tiny island in the far south east of the archipelago. Espanola is home to a large colony of breeding waved albatross. To witness them gliding around the cliffs was truly exhilarating but their courting behavior really stole the show. Clacking beaks, stretching of necks, rubbing of beaks and playing hard-to-get were all part of a wonderful show.

At Espanola we were also able to spend those magic hours in late afternoon sun at Gardner Bay with dozens of sea lions playing in the water, rolling in the sand, sunbaking etc. The most affectionate of animals, it was an absolute delight to be able to witness them in this beautiful setting and up so close.

San Cristobal was the last of the major islands we visited where we explored the Cathedral (a rocky outcrop from the remains on a volcano) and then made our way to some jagged cliffs which were covered in a brilliant pink succulent.

Between island visits we did plenty of snorkeling when we had the opportunity to witness sharks, green turtles, rays, many different types of



Nazca booby



Yellow warbler



Waved albatross

tropical fish and more. The highlight was swimming with the seals whose curiosity knew no bounds with them often coming right up to our masks to check us out.

While we didn't see any active volcanoes we saw everything from very barren landscapes, to mountainous terrain, calderas, some lush green low lying forest and beautiful sandy beaches.

Apart from the great experiences, and fantastic photographic opportunities, I was lucky to have a great crew on board and some wonderful fellow travellers. I don't hesitate in saying this was the best holiday I have ever had.



Punta Pitt on San Cristobal Island



President's Report

Barrie Bunning

At the time of writing this report I have only been President for 42 days and attended one board meeting. I can however report that four new members joined our Club this month – a warm welcome to you all, please join in the many groups running at the Club. The Board has now received a Planning Permit for our proposed external building maintenance and repairs - our first major building works in thirty years.

Club membership is strong and meeting attendances are good and thanks to a good response to my supper roster I can now report that supper will be a regular event after all Thursday night meetings in future. Your Club is run by a silent army of volunteers, would *you* like to be more involved? We need new/fresh volunteers as most positions do not have an assistant or understudy. I am referring to 'this magazine' - would you like to be a reporter, contributor, or perhaps an editor? There are other vacancies too, Print and EDI competition directors, Judges selector, Program co-ordinator, Introduction to Photography Course Leaders, and Group Co-ordinators for our monthly special group meetings like TDPG, Photo discussion group, Digital group. Each of those volunteers deserve some time off or may become ill so having 'understudies' is imperative and good planning.

Have something to say or contribute? Then please send me a personal email at:

mcc-president@melbournephoto.org.au

or speak to me in person on any regular meeting night. I am waiting for your input and program suggestions.

Breaking news – In February this year the MCC Board prepared and lodged a grant application to the 'Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund' seeking monies towards conservation works of our Club building, (the former Freemasons Hall).

In a letter received on the 15th of May from the Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund we were advised that The Melbourne Camera Club was being offered the sum of \$90,000 funding towards brickwork and render repairs to the cornice and baluster to the principal facades only, and conservation works to the masonry coat of arms.

The Club is most appreciative of the VHRF's funding support and the Board will be accepting this offer. These major restoration works together with other roof and window repairs will be undertaken whilst the scaffolding is in place. Members can expect to see some building works in coming months.

Cheers for now, *Barrie*



May Mono Print of the Month

George Chan

Dogs Fight

The Melbourne Camera Club

ACN 004 344 549 ABN 79 004 344 549

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Africa

Robert Fairweather



Victoria Falls

I have always been fascinated by the animals of Africa and had an ambition to see them before they are all slaughtered by poachers. Consequently, when World Expeditions advertised a photographic tour of Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, to be accompanied by our fellow Melbourne Camera Club member Peter Walton as the photographic expert, I jumped at the chance.

Accompanied by my wife Bee-Lee, we flew from Melbourne to Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. Our group arrived there on different flights, mostly coming from Melbourne but also from Sydney and from Singapore. We only stayed there overnight then boarded a 16 seater bus (really a truck with a bus body on the back with lockers to fit equipment under the body) and headed south into the Namibian desert. Our driver and guide, Kembo Sithole, was originally from Zimbabwe but is now working for Kiboko Adventures, a South African company.



Kembo



Flamingos

We travelled through the rugged and dry Naukluft Mountains en-route to our stay in “Desert Camp” which is close to the Namib-Naukluft National Park. This was a camp of permanent tents, quite comfortable although the sides flapped at night when a strong wind came. From here we visited Deadvlei, a clay pan with dead camel thorn trees that are at least 500 years old, surrounded by high red sand hills.

Because the conditions are so dry the trees have not decomposed. There are not many animals in this area because it is so arid but we did manage to see a cheetah with two cubs. Unfortunately they were a little too far away even for our long lenses.

After that we headed to Walvis Bay where the desert meets the sea. There were plenty of flamingos here which, we were told, was a bad sign because at this time of the year they should have moved inland to breed. Because of the low rainfall for the past few years, the lakes are too dry to support the flamingo population.

We then continued on to Swakopmund where we stayed for a couple of nights. From here we took a day tour that included a boat trip on Walvis Bay followed by a 4 wheel drive tour of the sandhills. On the boat we were followed by pelicans and a couple of seals jumped aboard at one stage (lured by the promise of a feed of fish).



Himba Tribespeople

The area of the coast near Walvis Bay and Swakopmund is known as the skeleton coast because of the number of shipwrecks. Sea fog occurs frequently so the ships are often unable to distinguish the shoreline and thus run aground. Here we were in a third world country yet Swakopmund was one of the cleanest cities we have ever visited. Every night the rubbish is swept up and bagged ready for collection in the morning. It must be old habits from the German colonial days. It certainly puts most Melbourne councils to shame.

Next we headed north to visit the Himba tribe. These people live a semi-nomadic life. They are known for their friendly nature and the women are noted for their beauty. Their hairstyles are unique, the hair being wrapped in red mud. One Himba boy proudly showed us that his bottom two front teeth had just been knocked out in an initiation ceremony.

Then we headed north to Etosha Game Reserve. Here we saw plenty of animals and birds. Most of the antelope varieties were a bit nervous and wouldn't allow our bus to

approach too close before running off. The elephants didn't take any notice of us. Elephants live in a matriarchal society. The head matriarch is responsible for the migration, leading the group and finding the necessary water and food. When the males reach about 12-14 years old they are excluded from the group. These young males

form bachelor groups until they are old enough to become lone bulls. We observed two young males put their heads together. At first we thought that they were about to indulge in a

with their heads touching and felt each other with their trunks. It seemed to be a bonding session and they stayed like this for a bout twenty minutes, blocking the track. As we had never heard of this elephant behaviour before we felt privileged to witness it. The elephants were almost white, coloured by the dust they spray over themselves.

As we proceeded north in Namibia, the land changed gradually from desert in the south to good pastures in the north. We spent a couple of nights in a camp on the Okavango River. Here we took a river cruise seeing hippos and elephants and birds. We also visited a small game reserve nearby.

Then we crossed into Botswana.



Okavango River

pushing match to see who was the strongest. Instead they were joined by another two males and they all stood

The bus took us as far as Maun. From here we took a light aircraft (Cessna 206) and flew into Grant's Camp in the Okavango Delta. It is believed that the Okavango River originally flowed to the sea but the earth rose and the river now finishes in a series of small waterways in the north west part of Botswana. The river rises in Angola and the water takes some time to flow down to the delta. From June to August is the best time to visit the delta as this is when the water levels are at their highest, even though it is the dry season.

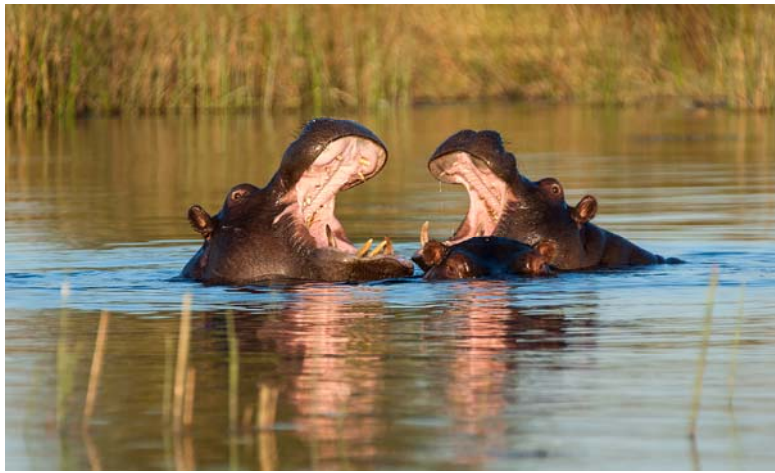
We expected that this would be the highlight of the trip and we were certainly not disappointed. Grant's camp had large tents permanently set up. It was tenting luxury. The camp was not fenced and elephants, baboons and warthogs roamed freely through the camp. Here we were taken in canoes to visit part of the delta. We



Okavango Delta Walk



Grant's Camp



Aggressive Hippos



Red Hornbill



Impala

also

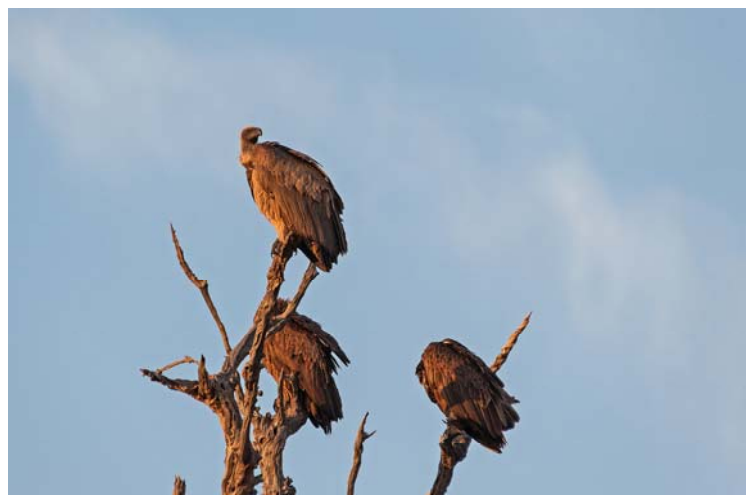


Lilac Breasted Roller

explored one area on foot, seeing many animals and the results of a lion kill. Fortunately we did not come in to contact with any hungry lions.

We also took a boat trip on the waterways coming quite close to hippos, which are the most dangerous animal in Africa. Although they have short legs and a huge fat body weighing in at two tonnes, they have a remarkable turn of speed both on land and in the water. A human cannot outrun a hippo and they have very long teeth. The only complaint we had was that we did not stay here long enough. We stayed three nights but all agreed that a week here would have been great.

Then we were flown out in a Cessna to Kasane where we were met with our bus and driver. We were taken to our lodge, situated on the banks of the Chobe River. We visited Chobe National Park on two days but not in our bus as 4WD vehicles are necessary to cope with the sandy tracks. Here the animals are so used to vehicles and because shooting is not allowed, we were able to get very close to all animals, including varieties of antelope. This seems to be one of the few parks in Africa where the authorities are serious about poaching. An anti-poaching army group live on site and have the motto "shoot first and ask questions later". We did see a leopard here as well as hippos, elephants, gazelles, oryx, kudu, buffalos,



Vultures



Buffalo



Robert with lionesses



Sandhills



Elephants in Chobe NP

giraffes, lions, crocodiles, water monitors, springboks and many birds. This is simply an amazing place.

We then drove across the border into Zimbabwe. We stayed at Victoria Falls. Of course we visited the falls which turned out to be a wetting experience as the spray generated by the falls was like tropical downpour in parts. Permanent rainbows are in evidence.

Next we visited a lion breeding sanctuary. Because of the number of lions that have been killed as the human population expands and establishes settlements in new areas, a lion breeding program has been started with the aim of raising lions then releasing them into the wild when they are old enough to fend for themselves. To raise money they have a program where tourists can walk with the lions. See:

www.travellersworldwide.com/17-zimbabwe/17-zimbabwe-lions.htm

We walked with two lionesses that were about sixteen months old. This is about the oldest that you can walk with them as their hunting instincts become too strong after this age. We were allowed to touch their backs near their tails and walk near their tails but we were warned against touching or walking near their heads as they could easily turn and grab you. They are quite amazing creatures. After this climax it was back to Australia.

Thanks to Peter we learned some more about photography and using Adobe Photoshop. Kembo, our driver was more than just a driver. He was also our guide and had an excellent knowledge of African wildlife.

Monthly Competition Scores to May

A Grade Open Prints				A Grade Open EDI				B Grade Open EDI			
	Apr	May	Total		Apr	May	Total		Apr	May	Total
George Chan	ehh	hhp	48	Tuck Leong	cec	hch	36	Kathryn Hocking	ech	cch	28
Peter Walton	eep	c	27	Mark Smith	hep	eeh	36	Neil Brink	cee	eee	24
David Ellis	ehh	eee	26	Charles Kosina	ece	cee	29	John Jovic	eee	ehe	22
Judi Mowlem	ech		25	Martin Clancy	eeh	ece	28	Brian Seddon	eee	eee	22
Annette James	eec	eee	20	Toby Frost	hee	ecc	28	Simon Beaven	eee	eee	22
Joanne Rinaldi	eee	eec	20	Jane Clancy	eeh	eee	26	Ray Brooks	eep	eee	21
John Spring	eec	eee	18	Jane Barnes	ece	eeh	26	Lesley Bretherton	cce	eee	18
Ian Bock	eee	ee	17	Kelvin Rowley	ech	ehe	26	Robert Fairweather	cee	eee	16
Jane Barnes	eee	eec	16	Joanne Rinaldi	cee	eep	25	Karin Kowalski	eec	eee	16
Peter Tredrea	eee	ecc	16	Guy Toner	eee	eee	24	Sharon King	eee	eee	14
Robert Fairweather	eeh	eec	15	Annette James	ehe	eee	22	Mark Devaraj	eee	eeh	13
John Mallett	eee	eee	14	Marg Huxtable	ehe	eeh	21	John Harrison	eee	eeh	13
Guy Toner	eee	eee	14	George Chan	eeh	eee	21	Alan Harper			6
John Parkinson		eee	13	Peter Tredrea	eec	cee	20	Dmitri Illarionov			3
Marg Huxtable	eeh	eee	10	John Spring	eee	eee	20	Reuben Glass			3
Charles Kosina	ee		10	Ian Bock	eee	hee	18	Claire Lubienski			3
Ken Bretherton	e		5	Ken Warburton	ece	eee	18	Barry Hogan			3
Leif Anderson	e	eee	4	Alan Donald	cee	eee	18	Martijn van der Kamp	eee		3
Jane Clancy			3	Annette Donald	eee	eec	14	Siddhesh Jukar			3
B Grade Open Prints				John Meir	eee		13	Po Li			3
	Apr	May	Total	Phil Marley	cee		11	Colin Booth		eee	3
Sharon King	ehh	ccp	33	Nicole Andrews	hee	eee	10	Paul Palcsek	e	e	2
Neil Brink	chh	eeh	32	Peter Walton			7	Barrie Bunning			2
Jim O'donnell	eep	eec	27	David Purdue			6	Alec Mallett		e	1
Lesley Bretherton	eeh	eee	22	Set Subject EDI				Susan Rocco			1
Kathryn Hocking	eee	eec	21		Apr	May	Total	Set Subject Prints			
Gail Morgan	eec	eee	18	George Chan	c	e	15		Apr	May	Total
Daryl Lynch	eee	ech	15	Tuck Leong	h	c	12	David Ellis	h	c	14
Ken Warburton	eee	eee	14	Mark Smith	h	e	11	George Chan	e	h	13
David Beardsley		ee	12	Martin Clancy			10	Ian Bock	e	h	10
Alan Harper	eee		11	Karin Kowalski	e	e	8	Peter Tredrea	e	c	10
Rob Gullan	eee		9	Ken Warburton	e	e	8	Guy Toner		e	9
Colin Booth	eee	eee	6	Charles Kosina	e	e	8	John Spring	e	e	8
Martin Clancy			5	Guy Toner	c	e	8	Ken Bretherton	e	e	6
John Harrison		eec	5	Brian Seddon	e	e	8	Lesley Bretherton	e	e	6
Brian Seddon		eee	3	Peter Tredrea	e	h	8	Judi Mowlem	e		6
Reuben Glass			2	Sharon King		p	7	Ken Warburton	e	e	6
Novice Grade Open Prints				Robert Fairweather	c	e	6	Robert Fairweather	e	e	5
	Apr	May	Total	John Spring	e	e	6	Rob Gullan	e		5
Julie Ughetti	ehh	ech	44	John Harrison	c	e	6	Marg Huxtable	c	e	4
Mark Devaraj	eeh	ecc	19	Nicole Andrews	e	h	6	Jim O'Donnell	e	e	4
Karin Kowalski	eee		15	Ian Bock	e	e	6	John Parkinson			4
Susan Brunialti	ech	eee	12	John Jovic	e	e	6	Joanne Rinaldi		e	4
Jenny McKnight	ech		9	Annette Donald	e	e	6	Kathryn Hocking			3
Simon Grant	eee	eec	8	Joanne Rinaldi	e	e	5	Annette James	c		3
Paul Palcsek	ee	h	7	Alan Donald	e	e	4	Julie Ughetti	e	e	3
Martijn Van der Kamp	eeh		7	Jane Barnes		c	4	Peter Walton			3
John Fullard			6	Kelvin Rowley	e	e	4	Neil Brink		c	3
Claire Lubienski			5	David Purdue			4	Mark Devaraj	e	e	2
Sheree Gordon	eee		3	Lesley Bretherton	e	e	4	Charles Kosina	e		2
John Harrison	eee		3	Simon Beaven	e	e	3	Karin Kowalski			2
Albert Kaminsky	ee	e	3	John Meir	e		3	Leif Anderson			1
Geoff Roche	eee		3	Jane Clancy			2	Martin Clancy			1
Grace Blake	ee		2	Marg Huxtable	e	e	2	Alan Harper			1
Exposure Editors				Annette James	e	e	2	Gail Morgan	e		1
Editor in Chief - Phil Marley				Mark Devaraj	e	e	2	John Harrison		e	1
Technical Editor - Charles Kosina				Dmitri Illarionov			1	Points Scoring System			
We welcome articles on travel, image processing tips, photos and anything else that may be of interest to photographers. Please send to:				Barry Hogan			1	Entry (no award)	e	1 point	
mcc-exposure@melbournphoto.org.au				Peter Walton			1	Commended	c	3 points	
Deadline for July-August issue is 31 July 2014				Kathryn Hocking			1	Highly commended	h	5 points	
				Siddhesh Jukar			1	Print/EDI of the Month	p	6 points	
				Reuben Glass			1	(5 for highly commended plus 1 extra)			
				Alan Harper			1				
				Neil Brink			1				
				Susan Rocco			1				
				Toby Frost		e	1				



May Colour EDI of the Month Sharon King *Bee and Bud*



May Colour Print of the Month Sharon King *A Place of Rest*



April Colour Print of the Month Jim O'Donnell *Regrowth After the fire*



April Mono EDI of the Month Ray Brooks
Untitled



April Colour EDI of the Month Mark Smith
Cradle Mountain over Dove Lake Dawn



Photo Book Competition

The Photo Book Competition pilot is available for MCC financial members. For full details of the competition and how to enter are available from the MCC Web Site

www.melbournphoto.org.au/content/photo-book-competition-2014-pilot

Further information can be obtained from the Club's Program Coordinator, John Spring, at mcc-program@melbournphoto.org.au or

0409 861 876.



April Mono Print of the Month

Peter Walton

Out of the Mist

I love the atmosphere and nostalgia of Victoria's High Country. These wild horses were being rounded up by men on horseback one cold morning near Mansfield. I was struck by their almost eerie appearance as they emerged out of the mist. Thankfully I had earlier told the horsemen what I was trying to achieve, so they kindly herded the horses right past me.

PW



May Mono EDI of the month

Joanne Rinaldi

Different perspective