

# Darren Stones

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## Australian travel group grows

*By Darren Stones*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Australian travel group grows
- 1 Journalism course completed
- 2 Photography recognition and sales
- 3 Interviews with Joe Mortelliti and Bev Woodman
- 4 Lakes Entrance – a foodies delight, but forget about the sex

The [Australian Travel Photography and Writing group](#), which I host and originated in December 2008, has reached 337 members. The growth of the group, which is based at RedBubble, is pleasing and exciting. There's high quality imagery being submitted, and group members are posting travel articles and providing information.

Recently, I approached Greg Barton, Editor, [Australian Traveller magazine](#), offering him the role of group Patron. Greg gladly accepted the role, and is now providing sponsorship via *Australian Traveller*. Greg will provide magazine subscriptions for prizes, and will be judging the group's current challenge, [Australian Traveller](#), which will result in two members being published in the magazine.

Please see *Australian Travel group grows* on page 2

## Journalism course completed

*By Darren Stones*

I've completed the [Professional Freelance Journalism](#) course with Cengage Education under the expert guidance of Australian journalist Simon Townsend. It's been a time consuming course which has stretched me at times, but it's been the best correspondence course I've undertaken.

Simon's tutelage is straight to the point. He enjoys a laugh and likes to know what I've been achieving and doing.

The course consisted of 16 assignments and my grades exceeded expectations. I achieved 14 High Distinctions and two Distinctions.

Please see *Journalism course completed* on page 3

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## Photography recognition and sales

*By Darren Stones*

The [National Library of Australia Picture Australia](#) has recognised my photography by announcing me as the [Outstanding Contributor for April 2009](#). The announcement was made in May 2009, and it's the second time in six months I've received the award.

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*"Being recognised by Picture Australia for my photographic work is a thrill, and I'm grateful to them."*

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Being recognised by Picture Australia for my photographic work is a thrill, and I'm grateful to them. My collection of works submitted to Picture Australia can be viewed online.

[Darren Stones - search results](#).

[Business Spectator](#) recently approached me to license a photograph for their Federal Budget '09 coverage. The image they chose of Parliament House can be viewed online [here](#).

[Australian Traveller](#) magazine licensed my [Beechworth](#) photograph for inclusion in their Best 100 Towns in Australia feature story. Was a pleasant surprise to be approached by Greg Barton, Editor, Australian Traveller for use of the image. Greg said he was looking for something fresh, and sites where he usually sources images didn't have what he was looking for. As someone dedicated to creating new and fresh imagery, I'm pleased Greg sees my photographs as suitable for his magazine.

The image can be viewed [here](#) on the *Australian Traveller* website.

Please see *Photography recognition and sales* on page 4

### ***Australian travel group from page 1***

The objective of the Australian travel group is for members to be published. In striving for this goal, I'm providing advice, tips and opportunities for members. I've also secured sponsors who kindly provide prizes for challenges, and they receive publicity in return.

The group seems to be well regarded at RedBubble, and with more opportunities created for members, it may attract more sponsors.

My role is to facilitate activities, engage participation, seek sponsors, promote the group's members and their works, and to inspire people to create. To date, it's going well, and I feel the group has potential to become a portal for editors and publishers seeking publishable Australian travel photographs and writing.



[Parliament House](#)

## Interviews with Joe Mortelliti and Bev Woodman

By Darren Stones

I've conducted interviews with Joe Mortelliti and Bev Woodman recently. Joe and Bev are passionate about Australian travel photography, and they are both members of the Australian Travel Photography and Writing group at RedBubble.

Joe's story is eye-opening, particularly given he was not expected to survive medical procedures treating Acute Myeloid Leukaemia which was diagnosed in March 2007. During Easter 2008, Joe's family were told that his life was coming to an end. But, Joe had other ideas. His fight for survival is inspirational reading. My interview with Joe can be read online.

[Back from the brink - Joe Mortelliti](#)

My interview with Bev Woodman uncovered Bev's devotion to her family. She is a family historian and genealogist, and works in the health industry in geriatric medicine. I was impressed with Bev's appreciation of those who encourage her at RedBubble, where she is involved in a voluntary role as host of the successful Newcastle NSW, Lake Macquarie & Surrounding Region group. My interview with Bev Woodman can be read online.

[Proud fifth generation Australian, Bev Woodman](#)

***Journalism course completed from page 1***

A High Distinction (HD) is equivalent to an A grade, and a Distinction (DN) is equivalent to a B. The course is broad, stimulating and time consuming. I was surprised at the amount of work required to complete the course, however I believe it's improved my knowledge base and skill level tremendously.

My confidence level has risen dramatically and my drive for short, medium and long term success is intense. A key factor in successfully completing the course has been my steadfast aim to achieve high grades. All assignments completed required thorough research, critical analysis, and execution.

I'm pleased with the results I've achieved, and will celebrate this achievement with my family when I receive my certificate from Cengage Education.



[Lakes Entrance](#)

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that his life was coming  
to an end."*

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### *Photography recognition and sales from page 2*

An interesting sale came via RedBubble recently. Ryan Carter, who is currently studying an Advanced Diploma in Commercial Photography at Croydon TAFE, purchased my Kangaroos photograph as a card for a friend in the USA. Ryan said in his email: "Hello, thank you for a great photo of kangaroos in a natural looking environment. I bought this for a friend in the USA and thought it was perfect!" So, that's great to see another one of my Australian photographs heading overseas. The photograph was taken between Tom Groggin and Dead Horse Gap in the Kosciuszko National Park, New South Wales, Australia. The image can be viewed online at RedBubble. [Kangaroos](#).

## Lakes Entrance – a foodies delight, but forget about the sex

*By Darren Stones*

Lakes Entrance in the Gippsland region of Victoria, Australia is one of those places that should not be bypassed. As a regular visitor to the Sapphire Coast region in New South Wales, more often than not I travel from Melbourne and stay overnight at Lakes Entrance en route to Eden or Merimbula. It's possible to bypass this popular coastal resort town by leaving Highway No. 1 at Bairnsdale and journeying via Bruthen.

My recent visit to Lakes, as it's affectionately known, was an eye-opener. The town's iconic timber footbridge, that crosses the Cunningham Arm to the Southern Ocean, is being demolished and replaced

with a brand spanking new concrete structure. It's an exciting development and one which is sure to change the look of the gorgeous Lakes Entrance landscape.

Paddle boats can be hired at Lakes, and recently I witnessed some not so savvy tourists hiring recreational water craft. One bloke, dressed in very swish trousers and shirt, jumped into a paddle ski which was half-filled with water. To say the onlookers were pissing their pants with laughter would be an understatement. Alas, the smartly dressed bloke soldiered on like a trooper and paddled his way out to the never never after figuring out how to use the implements he'd hired.

Bronwyn and I meandered over the sand hill to discover a bloke searching for lost stuff in the trampled sand. Using a rather sophisticated metal detector, he seemed intent on finding a gold nugget the size of a small car. Suffice to say, I hung around for a while in case he needed a hand to carry it back to his hatchback. Bronwyn, being a keen fossicker herself, decided to stick around, too, and sweet talk the bloke.

*Continue reading the story [here](#).*

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