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Picture Australia award

By Darren Stones

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In early January, I was pleased to learn that Ian Smith, Administrator, Picture Australia, had chosen me as the Picture Australia 'Outstanding Contributor' for December 2008.

I'm pleased my contributions to Picture Australia have been recognised as my images depict Australia, its people and various activities. My photographic submissions are provided via my Flickr account and I place them in either the [Picture Australia: Ourtown](#) group or the [Picture Australia: People, places and events](#) group.

Ian called to notify of the award and arranged for my prize of a Picture Australia t-shirt to be mailed.

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Travel photography and writing group

By Darren Stones

"I'm pleased my contributions to Picture Australia have been recognised..."

The [Australian Travel Photography and Writing](#) group was launched at Redbubble on December 28, 2008 after my application for the group was successful. The idea for the group was mine and I believe I've found a niche which will allow members to grow in this style and see their works reach the hands of fellow Australians.

Having been a member at Redbubble since March 2007, I felt well placed to initiate the group given my knowledge as a travel photographer and writer. There are thousands of images at Redbubble which are suitable to the group. As of 25/1/09, there are 178 members, who have submitted 566 images, 18 written

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Interview with AU travel photographer

By Darren Stones

Tasmanian photographer [Anne O'Connor](#) is highly regarded in Australian photographic circles for her photography skills and voluntary contributions to the [Australian Photographic Society](#) in which she's been a member since 1996.

“Anne is delighted to have achieved her honours, and particularly more so due to not having to travel overseas to achieve it...”

At the society's annual convention - [APSCON](#) - held in Launceston during September 2008, Anne was awarded the [FAPS](#) and [AFIAP](#) photographic honours. Anne is delighted to have achieved her honours, and particularly more so due to not having to travel overseas to achieve it - she did so by photographing Australia.

Anne became a member of [RedBubble](#) in November 2008 and settled in seamlessly. Her contributions to the [Australian Travel Photography and Writing](#) group are high quality and have been well received by the RedBubble community. Anne's shown a keenness to participate in the travel group's activities, and it's not surprising given that travel photography is one of her passions.

[Anne O'Connor](#), 61, resides in South Launceston, Tasmania and was a social worker by profession. As time and finances permit, she travels to distant locations in Australia with husband Bill.

Recently, I had the pleasure to interview Anne, and it was

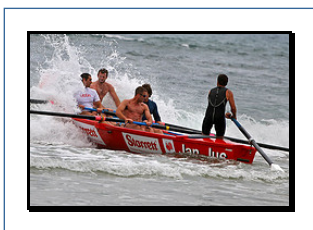
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At last count (25/1/09), I have 283 images displayed in the [Picture Australia: People, places and events](#) pool, and 190 in the [Picture Australia: Ourtown](#) pool.

Picture Australia is an Internet based service that allows people to search significant online pictorial collections at the same time. When people do a search on Picture Australia, thumbnail images are retrieved from significant participating institutions.

All images I have submitted to Picture Australia are tagged and can be viewed here: [Darren Stones - Picture Australia](#). My entire Flickr photo stream can be viewed here: [Darren Stones - Flickr](#).



[Torquay Lifesavers](#)

Photo: Darren Stones

RedBubble community ambassador

By Darren Stones

Recently, I was recognised for my contributions to the Redbubble community by being appointed as a community ambassador.

It's an honour to be bestowed with a red dot at RedBubble. Red dot people are members who contribute in a friendly and courteous manner, whilst their role is to assist shepherd the community.

In late 2007, I was offered a role at Redbubble, but chose to decline due to time commitments. As time has passed, my voluntary participation at RedBubble has increased and this has been recognised by the site's co-founders and administrators.

My role is primarily that of inspiring the creative Australians on the site and given the profile I have on the site, I suppose I'm fairly well placed to assist in this area.

My profile and works at RedBubble can be viewed here:
<http://www.redbubble.com/people/dgstones>

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works and 24 journals. It's an excellent beginning to the group which is in its early stages of development.

As group originator and host, my role is to facilitate, encourage, inspire, moderate and actively participate in the group. Another aspect I've undertaken is calling for sponsors. To date the group has three sponsors, which in the current financial climate is a good result.

The group challenges are gaining excellent participation, with the [It's all about Australia](#) challenge having 70 images submitted for voting and three poems submitted for judging. Writing section winner was Anne van Alkemade and photography section winner was Mark Ingram. The winning works and a cover letter will be presented to Brian and Nerida Egan of Australian charity organisation, Aussie Helpers.

The group's next challenge is due for launch on Australia Day, and it's aptly titled [Australia - Our home is girt by sea](#).



[Twelve Apostles](#)
Photo: Darren Stones

“As group originator and host, my role is to facilitate, encourage, inspire, moderate and actively participate in the group.”

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interesting to learn not just of her antics, but how she is prepared to bare all in pursuit of her photography.

The full transcript of my interview with Anne O'Connor can be read at RedBubble.

[The bare essentials of Australian travel photography according to Anne O'Connor.](#)

Note: The article is a comprehensive special feature of approximately 2700 words and it contains quality images from Anne O'Connor and guest Paul Grinzi.

Merimbula – pristine beaches and great climate

By Darren Stones

Located on the far south coast of New South Wales, Merimbula is a coastal town far enough from the big smoke to inspire hours of relaxation.



[Merimbula Lake](#)

Photo: Darren Stones

Commence a stay by enjoying an ale or chardonnay whilst dining at one of the clubs or restaurants.

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Merimbula is approximately 6 hours from Sydney, 7 hours from Melbourne and 3 hours from Canberra. Renowned for its fishing, sumptuous oysters and laid-back lifestyle, it's a resort town catering to all budgets. Accommodation is varied with apartments and motels being popular amongst visitors.

With beaches suitable for surfing or those who have a young family, Merimbula provides them within easy reach. Designated walks offer gorgeous views of the lakes and meandering coastline.

Accommodation:

Albacore Resort

www.albacore.com.au

Pelican Motor Inn

www.pelicanmotorinn.com.au

Clubs:

Merimbula RSL

www.merimbularsl.com.au

Merimbula-Imlay Bowling Club

www.merimbulabowlingclub.com.au

Attraction:

Merimbula Wharf and Aquarium

www.merimbulawharf.com.au