

Darren Stones

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Victorian bushfire coverage 2009

By Darren Stones

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Saturday February 7, 2009. It is a date etched in Australia's history, and now known as Black Saturday.

It was a day forecast to be extremely hot and windy, and it most certainly was. In fact, it was hell on earth. At 3.38pm I recorded the temperature in the shade outside my home in Glenroy to be 45 degrees Celsius. The hottest day I'd experienced in all of my 42 years and one I'd prefer to forget.

Whilst outside recording the temperature, I looked in a north-easterly direction and saw a large plume of smoke. I soon discovered, it was due to a fire which commenced near Kilmore.

Please see *2009 Victorian bushfire coverage* on page 2

Beechworth – worth its weight in gold

By Darren Stones

In the foothills of the Victorian Alps, Beechworth is a sight to behold in autumn. With tree lined streets ablaze with colour and a lolly shop to satisfy the choosiest of sweet tooth's, pack up the car and spend a few days exploring its history.

Beechworth was the town where Ned Kelly won a bare knuckled boxing match which lasted 20 rounds. Today, visitors can experience the one hour Ned Kelly Guided Walking tour that departs from the Beechworth Visitor Information Centre in Ford Street.

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“Beechworth was the town where Ned Kelly won a bare knuckled boxing match which lasted 20 rounds.”

Professional Freelance Journalism

By Darren Stones

“Having previously undertaken and successfully completed studies with Cengage Education, I felt confident that correspondence learning suited me and I should further pursue it.”

In November 2007, I enrolled in the Cengage Education Professional Freelance Journalism course. It was a decision I didn't take lightly, but after serious consideration I believed it was necessary to further develop my skills in the journalistic area.

Having previously undertaken, and successfully completed, studies with Cengage Education, I felt confident that correspondence learning suited me and I should further pursue it.

Previous courses I completed were: Freelance Travel Writing and Photography in May 2007 under the tutelage of Robin Copeland and Freelance Photography in November 2007 under the tutelage of David Karonidis. Both courses were most enjoyable and put me on the path to success.

My tutor for the Professional Freelance Journalism course is veteran Australian journalist [Simon Townsend](#). Simon is well-known in Australia as the creator and host of [Simon Townsend's Wonder World!](#) It was a program that screened on the Ten Network from 1979 to 1986 and it achieved Logie award success for Simon.

I feel privileged to have Simon as my tutor because his career in journalism is into its fifth decade and the experience he has is second to none in Australia.

Please see *Professional Freelance Journalism* on page 4

2009 Victorian bushfire coverage from page 1

I returned into my air-conditioned home and listened intently to ABC Radio 774 Melbourne.

It became apparent by 4.00pm that bushfires had broken out in parts of Victoria and caused damage. I began to record events as they unfolded by utilising the journal facility via my RedBubble account. Why did I do it by using various sources of information? Gut instinct. After completing my journal, I was in shock for two days. The full journal, which has 6542 views, can be read here:

<http://www.redbubble.com/people/dgstones/journal/2536063-weather-and-bushfire-information-victoria-australia>



[The National Carillon](#)
Photo: Darren Stones

Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance

By Darren Stones

Shortly after commencing my professional freelance journalism studies with Cengage Education under the tutelage of veteran Australian journalist Simon Townsend in late 2007, Simon recommended I join the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA). I took his advice and did so in early 2008.

The MEAA is the union body that represents its 30,000 members working in television, radio, theatre, film, entertainment venues, recreation grounds, journalists, actors, dancers, sportspeople, cartoonists, photographers, orchestral & opera performers as well as people working in public relations, advertising, book publishing & website production.

The MEAA was created in 1992 as a result of the merging of: Actors Equity (AE), the Australian Journalists Association (AJA), and the Australian Theatrical & Amusement Employees Association (ATAEA). Members receive the informative and entertaining bi-monthly *Walkley Magazine*.

For more information www.alliance.org.au

Beechworth – worth its weight in gold from page 1

Fancy a pie or a coffee and cake? The Beechworth Bakery is a magnet for those with the munchies. The original single storey bakery was erected in 1857, and since then it's been added to and undergone numerous renovations.



[Former Bank of Victoria, Beechworth](#)

Photo: Darren Stones



[Beechworth Bakery](#)
Photo: Darren Stones

***“Simon (Townsend)
recommended I join the
Media, Entertainment &
Arts Alliance.”***

Story continued at:

<http://dgstonesphotography.blogspot.com/2009/03/beeceworth-worth-its-weight-in-gold.html>

Professional Freelance Journalism from page 2

The course consists of two parts - freelance journalism and advanced freelance journalism.

Having completed 14 of the 16 course assignments to date, I feel I'm doing well. 12 of the 14 completed assignment have been graded and to date I've achieved 11 High Distinctions (HD) and 1 Distinction (DN).

These results far outweigh my expectations and are encouraging for my future in journalism.

Simon is an excellent tutor, he's encouraged me greatly, and he supplies his specially crafted fact sheets upon request via email. Course information available here: [Professional Freelance Journalism](#)

Darren Stones Stock Photography and Gallery Sales

By Darren Stones

In recent times I've had keen interest in my travel photographs to be used in an Australian travel magazine, the front cover of a business journal, and a travel guide book

Interestingly, these enquiries have eventuated due to parties searching the internet for fresh images of well photographed areas in Victoria and New South Wales.

My travels incorporate a specific task to capture imagery which can be used for various purposes and I'm becoming increasingly aware that my growing library of images is gaining more interest and views via the internet.

At this stage, I'm using my Flickr account to exhibit stock photographs and have images catalogued by place names. I'm also displaying hundreds of images at RedBubble where I sell products.

A few months ago I was contacted by Richard Everist of BestShot! and he sought dozens of images for a travel guide book. The images I supplied were taken along the Great Ocean Road, but there were a few others he sought as well.

Richard is a former publisher with Lonely Planet, so here's hoping that my images are published this year in his book.

My stock library of images can be viewed at Flickr:

[Darren Stones Stock Photography - Flickr](#)

My pricing and licensing information:
[Darren Stones Stock Photography - Website](#)

My online gallery sales at RedBubble:
[Darren Stones RedBubble Gallery](#)

For more information, contact me by email or phone to discuss your requirements.

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