

# Yarra Ranges Photographic Society

## Antarctic Voyage—January 2006. by Chris Hoare

As the “Marina Svetavaeva” rolled though the Southern Ocean, Macquarie Island gradually came into view. It lay on the horizon under a long cloud. We could just make out it’s shape in the expanse of ocean. Seabirds were wheeling around the ship and King Penguins surrounded us in the water.

By late afternoon we were approaching Sandy Bay, about 7km south of the “Anare” Station. The weather was fine, which was unusual for that part of the World. We cruised upon a calm sea to the pebble beach where the King Penguins waited, curious and unafraid. Elephant seals lay in packs, occasionally raising their heads to yawn or grunt. One seal would move to scratch itself and the others would complain by belching out a protest before collapsing back into a heap.

Sitting on a coarse sandy beach is not unusual, but having King Penguins come up to you and tap your camera with it’s beak is! These penguins are so curious that nothings seems to frighten them. Singly or in small groups, they eye you off, make their judgment, and then amble off to tell their mates what they had seen.

In the shallows, the shifting kelp reveals a large head with bulbous eyes of an elephant seal. Circling above, watching with their ever alert eyes were the skuas. These large sea birds are always present around the penguin colonies, seeking out the eggs and chicks they consider a tasty meal.

And then there are the royals, Macquarie’s only endemic penguin, crowded in their rookeries on the hill above the beach, noisy and bustling. An indescribable smell pervades the area.

Behind the beach rose the treeless hills, covered in tussock grasses and other low growing plants. Wisps of cloud descend through the gaps, and circling the peaks were the skuas and giant petrels, gliding in the updrafts.

Macquarie Island, a little speck 2.5km above the sea floor, was discovered in 1810. Sealing gangs left the island bereft of seals by 1821, and it wasn’t until 1933 that it was declared a wildlife sanctuary. Cats, rats, and rabbits caused devastation, but now only rabbits remain and these are under a continual extermination program.

This bleak but crowded island was the last port of call before we reached our final destination of Hobart. We had departed New Zealand three weeks earlier, and after crossing the turbulent Southern Ocean, had visited several areas of the Ross Sea. This stark white wilderness, with its ever changing weather, spectacular scenery and wildlife bought many challenges. Because of thick ice packs and high winds we were unable to land either by zodiac or helicopter at some of the key areas. So we missed seeing Scott’s Hut at Cape Evans and Shackleton’s at Cape Royds.

McMurdo Sound was so iced that our ship could not risk entering. However, the disappointments were made up for by visiting such places as Inexpressible Island and the Tourmaline Plateau.

Macquarie Island was the highlight of the voyage, but the whole experience of Antarctica is something I will never forget.

Chris Hoare.



APRIL 2011

### EXHIBITION

Bendigo Art Gallery are currently presenting “American Dreams” 20th Century photography from George Eastman House. The exhibition runs from 18th April until 10th July 2011 at Bendigo Art Gallery, 42 View Street, Bendigo. Phone: 03 5434 6088 Email: [bendigoartgallery@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:bendigoartgallery@bendigo.vic.gov.au)



### REMINDER!

VAPS Convention at Phillip Island will be held May 21,22. To register go to [www.vaps.com.au](http://www.vaps.com.au)



**March Competition—Small Prints**

- 1st Margaret Monk
- 2nd Carina Harding
- 3rd Carina Harding
- HC David Grinyer

**Large Prints**

- 1st Bill Millar
- 2nd Bill Millar
- 3rd Kaye Follett
- HC Di Jenkins



**Black & White**

- 1st Neil Follett
- 2nd Neil Follett
- 3rd Neil Follett
- HC Chris Hoare



**Projected Image**

- 1st Neil Follett
- 2nd Margaret Monk
- 3rd Andrew Blair
- HC Neil Follett



**Manipulated Projected**

- 1st Ken Roberts
- 2nd Ken Roberts
- 3rd Ken Roberts

**Manipulated Print**

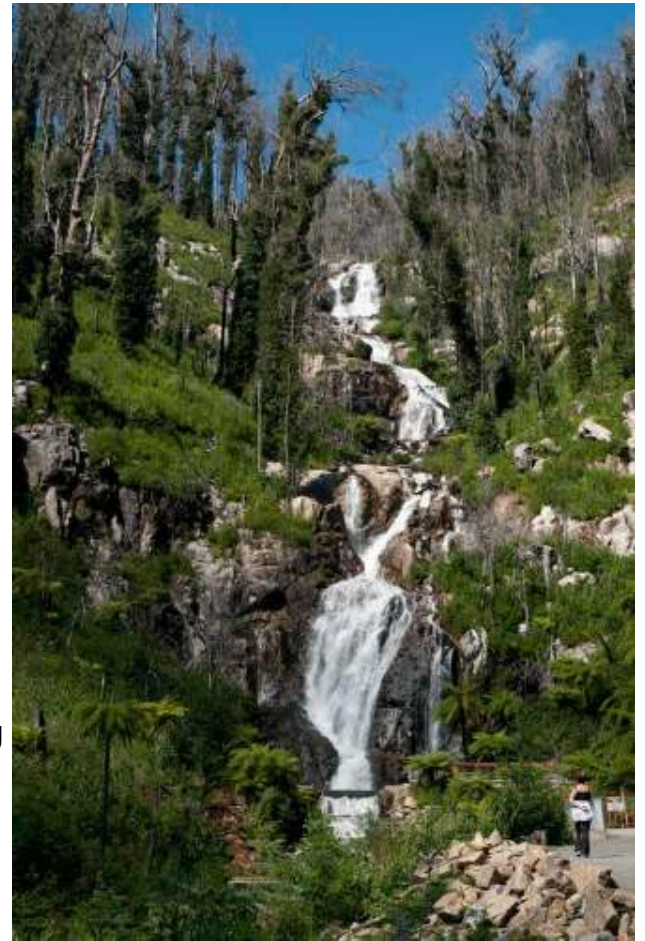
- 1st Ken Roberts
- 2nd Ken Roberts
- 3rd Ken Roberts



## Marysville Outing— by Jeanie Millar



Sixteen people came along for the day to Marysville. The weather was perfect, the falls were running well, photo opportunities jumped out at us everywhere and lunch at the little cafe was great. It was a bit poignant at times, but the town is slowly picking itself up and going on, even had a small Farmer's Market.



We came home via the back road to Buxton (getting photos of the Poplar Tree Drive in Autumn) and visited the Buxton Ridge Winery, where we had a tour, a wine tasting and afternoon tea which consisted of cheese platters, tea coffee, chocolate, a glass of wine or two and some of Jen's now famous, yummy boiled fruit cake to finish off the day. Nobody wanted to leave, it was so pleasant and the views were spectacular, but alas at about 5.30pm our most congenial host wanted to close up and our homes and families were calling.



## PHOTOSHOP & LIGHTROOM COURSES

VAPS has negotiated with skilled trainer David Harradine to provide courses for members of affiliated clubs in Photoshop (three levels) and Lightroom.

All courses are a full day, held in David's lab at Glow Studios, North Melbourne. The special price is \$195, with a minimum of four and a maximum of six participants in each course.

The next courses will be held on May 14th, June 18th and July 16th.

The courses offered are Photoshop One, Photoshop Two, Photoshop Three and Lightroom.

If you are interested, please nominate the course and date you require—as soon as there are four bookings for any one course on a specific date, the bookings and course will be confirmed.

Please email your expression of interest, specifying course and date to Jim Weatherill—jim-weatherill@hotmail.com.

Payment will be required at least one week prior to the course date.



## Cotton Carriers

These look like an ingenious solution to carrying backpacks if you're doing some serious off road/off track shooting. Your camera slots in and is completely secured firmly against your body, which also alleviated the stress around the neck most traditional camera straps cause.

The video on the website shows photographers skiing downhill and even doing back flips on trampolines with their cameras secured to their person. If you're interested in this nifty invention, check out the website:

[www.cottoncarriers.com](http://www.cottoncarriers.com)



The Committee have secured a few copies of the Lo-Fi program which we will use as prizes in up coming competitions. If you haven't taken a peek at this website yet, hop to it Bunnies! We will have a demonstration of the program at our April meeting by Di (self confessed Lo-Fi junkie)

Next club meet:  
18th May.  
Comp topic is  
"OPEN"

