



The Twelve Apostles

In the Downtime – Photography

By Darren Gallagher

It's all good and well to look at our Defence members in their uniforms and their jobs, but there is more to any members life than just the uniform, so we decided to take a look at what our members do 'In The Down Time.'

Under the spotlight this issue is Sergeant Jason McKeown and his passion of photography

We'll start with your day job, what do you do and where are you posted?

Currently I'm the ADF Technical Adviser for Medical and Dental Equipment at DMO in Melbourne.

How did you get into photography?

I became interested in photography at school, it was a side line to Art classes, loved it and became hooked

These are great pics, what is your hit/miss ratio on catching that ideal shot?

The hit miss ratio changes with the type of photo I take, the weddings I do I normally only miss about one in fifty, cityscapes and landscapes one out of five is a keeper, and for the wildlife shots about one in twenty is a keeper, and again this may vary you may have one of those days where nothing goes right or where everything clicks.

Is photography still a hobby or has it become an addiction?

Photography these days is more of an addiction than a hobby, as my twenty years is rapidly approaching photography is starting to rule my free time, as this is what I endeavour to do when I do get out.

Tell us about your family? You must have some great family photos if this is anything to go by.

I've been married to a beautiful women for the last twelve years, two children a boy and a girl, two dogs and two cats, reminds me of a zoo sometimes. I've got a few great shots adorning my walls. Kids go through stages for photography both have just come out of an awkward stage, where all their shots have them looking like goofy, so they are now back on my 'hit list'.

Does the rest of the family join you snapping a few, or is that just your own gig?

Mainly it's all me, apart from the normal run of the mill family photos on vacation and trips. Every now and then I get my son involved assisting me with shots, teasing the cats so they will look, things like that.

Defence must provide you with a broader range of subject matter to shoot too I guess?

Continued on page 25



Bussleton jetty

Defence has been great, I've been lucky enough to be the unit photographer as well at my last few units, and have had the opportunity to be deployed to East Timor, Solomon's and Banda Aceh. This has given the units a photographic history of their time OS, add this to the normal training that units do and the wealth of photo opportunities that this creates, it is always great to carry a camera in the defence.

What sort of camera do you use?

At the moment I carry three cameras, they are a Canon EOS 20D(digital), a Canon EOS3(35mm film) plus a large range of pro lenses, and I also carry a Bronica 645 (film)medium format camera.

Has digital photography fully taken over now or are there still puritans out there that like doing it 'Old School'?

Digital hasn't taken over fully yet, as it was I actually bought the medium format film camera after I bought my digital. There will always be the argument about film Vs digital, up until the day that either the big companies stop producing film or when there is no difference between what is captured on film to digital. At the moment there is limitation, in digital, especially for people doing large format landscapes. This was the reasoning behind my purchase of the medium format camera.

I understand you have a website up and running, tell me about that.

Yes I currently have a website. It came about from the interest shown in my work by co-workers and their families. Basically it showcases my work so

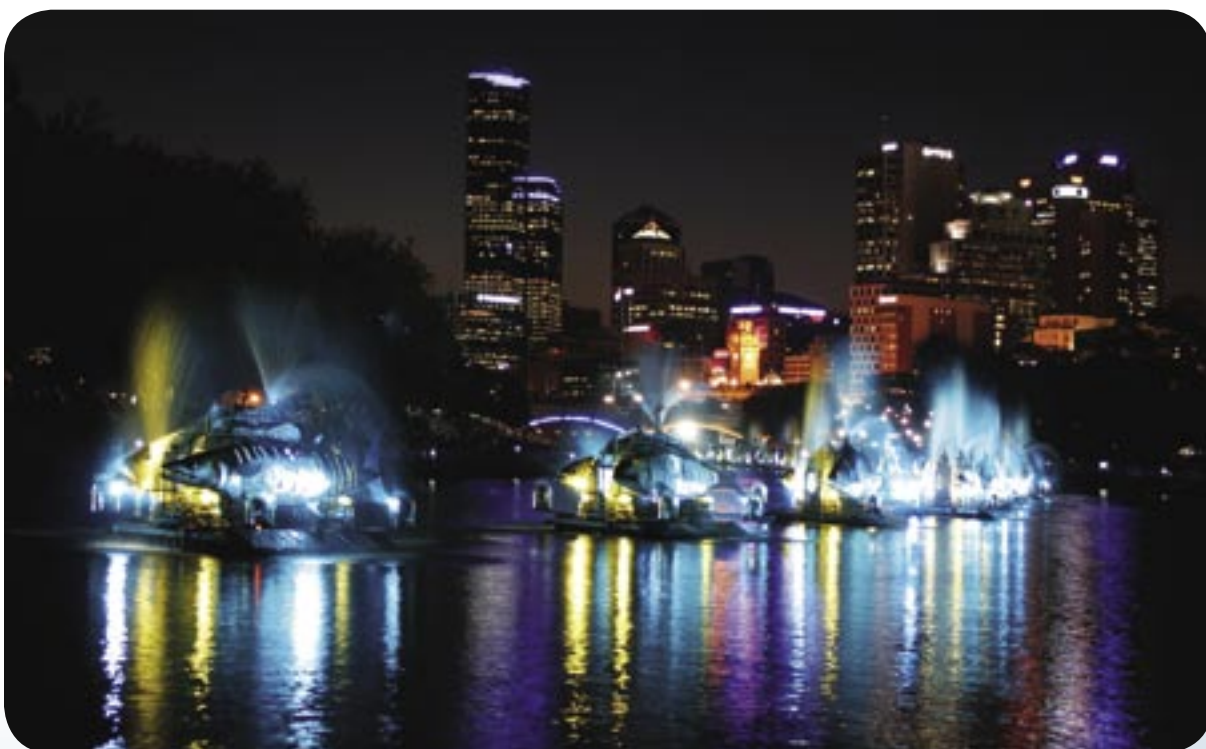
far, everything from the weddings I have done, my landscapes and cityscapes and some of the varied birds from around Australia. It was something that I built by myself and has gone through many a transformation as I have learnt more about building and running a website. My close friends have been great with assisting me with the website, with ideas on how to improve it. it carries links to other photographers and businesses that I regularly use.

Austscapes: www.Austscapes.com

So what started as a hobby has become a job on the side, which parts of that do you enjoy the most, dare I ask is it the weddings?

The part of my photography that I enjoy the most is the satiation of producing something that people will proudly hang in their home to show family and friends. Weddings are great and can be enjoyable if you can control the stress of all involved, the bride, bride's mother, groom, and lastly yourself. Get these things under control and you can be assured of some great photos on the day.

So there you have it folks, just one of our many members and his favourite past time. I think we can all agree that Jason's interest is going to become somewhat of a career if the shots like these ones keep up. Just goes to show that it pays to have a hobby or some kind. If you or any member of you family has an interest that you'd like to share, drop us a line and we'll let everyone know just what you get up to in your 'Down Time'. See the back of the magazine for contact details.



River parade at the Commonwealth Games

