

# Beckham Digital

Sept 2017



## Hello and Welcome to our September Newsletter

Given our cover photo this month I really should be greeting you with G'Day Possums. Some people hate them, some people love them, but you can't say they are not just a little cute.

*Trichosurus vulpecular* comes from the Greek and Latin which means “furry tailed little fox”. The Possum is a nocturnal, semi-tree dwelling marsupial indigenous to Australia and is the size of a domestic cat.

The newly born will crawl to the mother's pouch where it will receive milk from a teat for around 4-5 months. The young leave the pouch and suckle for another 4-8 weeks riding on their parent's back until fully weaned.

Possums are incredibly agile! They can climb vertical walls and have been known to jump from a tree to roof up to 4 metres away! They can pull off roof tiles and I guess that's why they are not everyone's favourite. They have been seen walking along power lines and balancing on fine branches.

We never tire of seeing them and taking a photo or two when we can. Image by Carol Beckham - Sony RX10 - 3200 ISO – F11 60<sup>th</sup> of a second shutter. On camera flash used

## [Slide Styles as a Shortcut – Free Video](#)



When Slide Styles first appeared many PicturesToExe enthusiasts quickly got involved in creating quite complex animations as a demonstration of how good Slide Styles could be. Perhaps I could even suggest there was a little bit of an arms race between enthusiasts as they flexed their creative muscles and perhaps their egos just a bit.

This arms race is not exactly a bad thing either because these enthusiasts stretch the boundaries of what the software can do and offer inspiration to others. At times, I find myself using Slide Styles in a slightly different way, almost as a short-cut. I was recently asked to give a talk to my camera club and at the end of the talk I wanted to show some very early digital images.



The images were all different sizes and shapes, so cropping them to 16:9 aspect ratio wasn't really practical, but 16:9 fits so well onto all our modern PC's, Macs, Laptops and TV's that it is such a shame not to use that aspect ratio. In these situations we can use a 16:9 background image rather like a border or a frame. That allows us to attractively present images of different sizes and formats in a 16:9 show and do so quickly using Slide Styles. So, I thought this was as good a subject as any for this month's video

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## Camera Craft – New Videos for 2017

Our latest project is a complete new set of 31 videos on the subject of Camera Craft – Learn how to use your camera to its fullest. Our trial download took just 22 minutes. However, we can supply it on disk if you prefer, but it's cheaper as a download and quicker too.

These videos are now recorded at full HD resolution. Screen filling videos with great quality in sound and vision. If you watch our introduction via a [Download to your desktop](#) or on [YouTube](#) you can sample the quality of our new recordings.



It seems to me that many enthusiastic amateur photographers have a love hate relationship with their camera. Some have a hankering to be master over it and not as it often seems, the camera is master over them.

Like many things in life, it's just something we haven't learned yet and once we do, what appeared baffling and complex becomes easier. Trying to reach that stage pretty well sums up the main

reason and direction of this group of videos called [Camera Craft](#).

The aim is to help you to master the controls and exposure of the camera and understand how those controls affect the images you're taking. There are some must know parts to any learning and I think I have most here and it doesn't matter what type of camera you have.

Cameras are rather like cars. 97% of them are very much the same as the next, with just a few gadgets in different places.

What we need to do is to learn to drive our Camera as confidently as we do our car, because once we can do that, we can drive or use any camera just as we would a car with just a little familiarisation.

Then our love hate relationship with the camera turns into true love..ah! But it does in a way because we can confidently photograph any scene, in any conditions and know we can take the best possible image from that scene.



So, we have 31 videos, average running time of the videos is 7 minutes and we have included everything we think is vital to know. Take a look at our introduction video for more details. It's only 4:30 in length but does show our list of topics.

[Download our Zipped Introduction Video from HERE](#)

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## [Humpbacks at Hervey Bay](#)

From early August to late October each year Humpback Whales migrate up the East Coast of Australia. Most whales migrate to eat and breed. Humpback Whales are baleen whales and feed mostly on krill that is found in the cold Antarctic waters. However, cold water is not the best environment in which to give birth because newborn calves are born without a protective blubber layer under their skin.

They would quickly freeze to death in the Antarctic. So whales feed in southern cold waters and migrate north to warmer tropical waters to give birth. Humpback whales migrate around 5000km on average, one of the longest migratory journeys of any mammal on Earth. As they make their way along the east coast of Australia, both on the way north and then again south, they stop off in Platypus Bay. This is a large shallow Bay on the north west tip of Frazer Island, so the waters here are protected from the Pacific swells.

The Humpbacks seem to use Platypus bay like a motorway service area. Stopping off to rest on their journey and to socialise with other Whales. It also gives the newborns time to build up reserves for the long journey south to Antarctica.

From a photographic point of view there are a few challenges. Standing up in a boat even in calm

conditions is enough to induce camera shake, so keep those iso settings around 400 so that you have the shutter speeds you need.

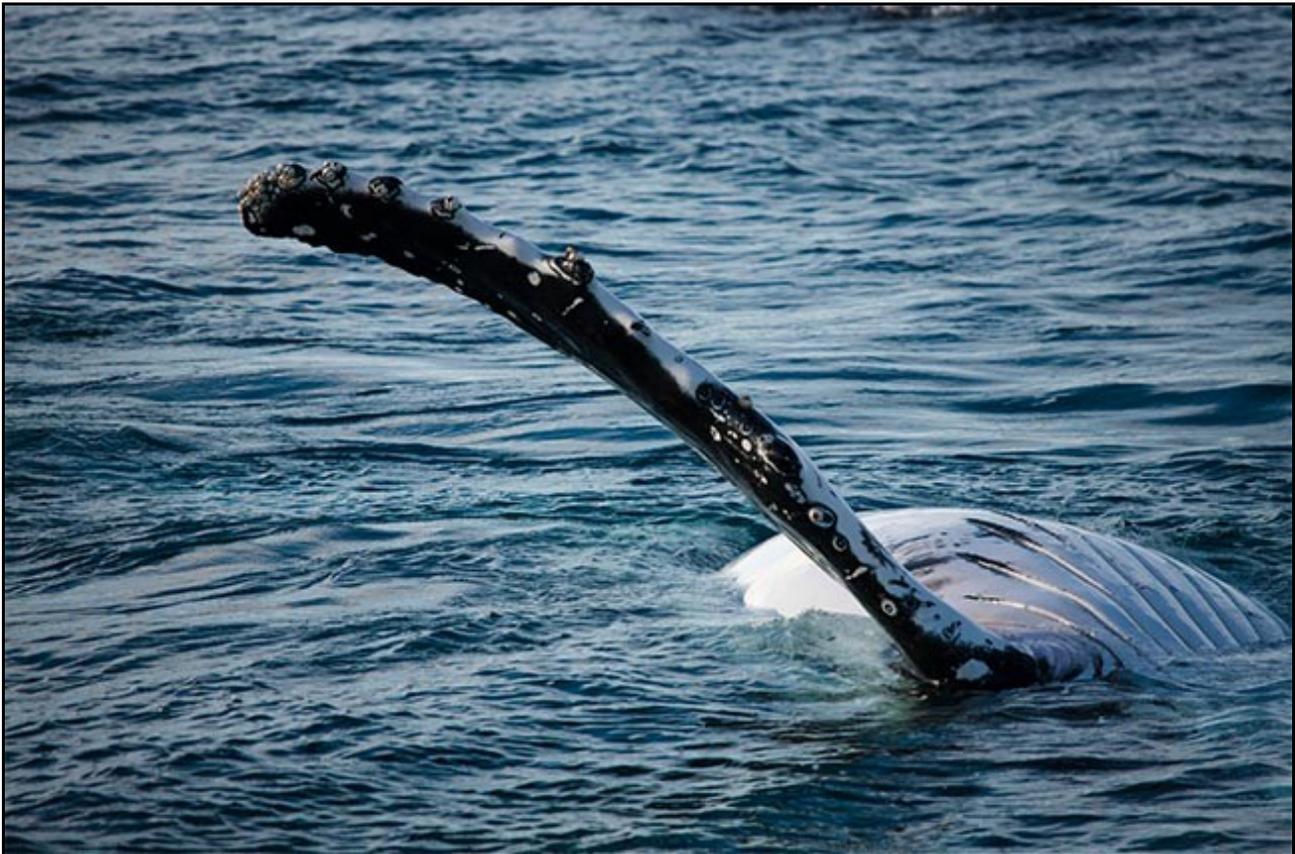


We got out in August to see the whales again and of course they dictate the action. I had my 100-400 Canon lens ready, but the whales were as curious about us as we were about them. They came in close to the boat to look us over. (above – full frame shot) Its great to capture that iconic tail dipping back beneath the surface. 400iso 500<sup>th</sup> @ f5.6 – Canon 100-400mm lens set at 130mm.



Sometimes the whales are breaching, sometimes they are slapping the surface of the water with their Pectoral fins, which has to be some form of communication. Other times they come to the viewing boat to give us the eye. They call it Mugging and for about an hour we had 7 whales right up close to the boat.

(Above – full frame shot) Carol's Sony RX10 at 200mm – 400iso 1000<sup>th</sup> @ f4.5. At times it was hard to know where to point the camera. We travelled light and I just carried the Canon and zoom lens, but with all these whales so close I started to regret not having my camera bag with me. If I had, I would have swapped to my 28-135mm lens and a polarizing filter to help see through that surface water.



The image above shows those huge Pectoral fins that they slap on the surface. Here the whale is rolling over beside the boat almost waving at us. Canon 100-400 lens set at 330mm. 2000<sup>th</sup> @f8 with 400iso. I shot images all day using manual exposure, otherwise as the whales break surface and create white water, that can overly influence exposure when using aperture or shutter priority modes, especially in sunny conditions.

This is the action the whales use to look us over. They come up from below and allow their head to leave the water exposing their eye for a second or two before they sink back down.

Sony RX10 – 145mm 500<sup>th</sup> @ f5 400iso





The whales left are actually asleep. It's called logging and they just lay there and sleep, well as best you can when you're in water and have to breathe air.

The whales breathing hole in its natural resting state is closed and they have to use muscles to open it and breathe. Whale watching, it's a magical experience whether you have a camera in your hand or not.

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