

Phil Hill Photographer

Selected Works

Location.

Classifieds.

Point and Shoot (Analogue Topographies).

Million Dollar Sandpit.

Polo Hipster.

Published Works.

Commissioned.

Information and links.





“Hi, I would like to form a group of people which comes together to discuss the big “meaning of life” question. I have little ideas regarding how that could be organised, other than I think it would be great to meet once a week to discuss issues that give us meaning in life – would be great to hear from you (and to hear from people from very different backgrounds). This would be free, of course, but with some commitment, please”



“Hi, I’m a girl (early 20s) who just relocated to Perth, and I would love to find someone who genuinely would love to go rollerskating, maybe in Fremantle? I didn’t bring my skates with me, so it would have to be at a skate deck. I love disco and having a good time.”



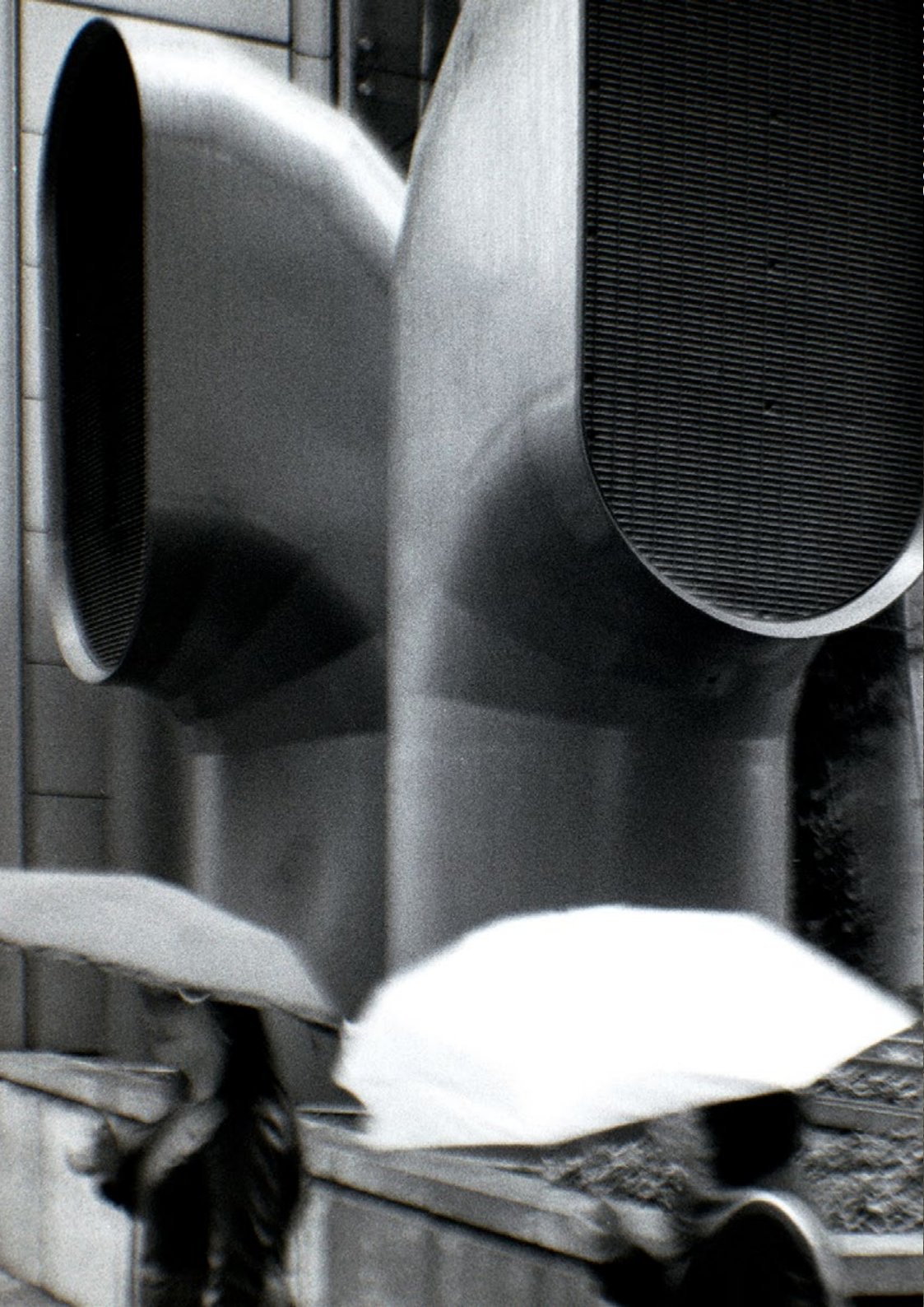
"I have been doing tarot by myself on and off for 3 years now. I would like to take it a step further by reading for others. I am looking for people who are willing to be read."



"Rock hobbyist looking to expand small rock collection, willing to pay for good specimens."















Published Works

National Geographic Traveller.

Finnair inflight magazine, Finland.

Mining Decisions, Kenya.

Sunday Times Travel magazine, UK.

Sawasdee Magazine, Thai Airlines.

BBC News, Online, UK.

Guardian Newspaper, UK.

Wiley Publishing, Book Cover, UK.

Winnipeg Free Press, Canada.

More examples available at:
www.philhillphotography.com





TRAVEL MOMENT
BY PHIL HILL

SNACK TIME

BETWEEN DARWIN and Kakadu National Parks in Australia's Northern Territory runs the Adelaide River, which is home to a high concentration of the world's most dangerous reptile: the crocodile. The area has become known for its "jumping crocodile" cruises, from which visitors can watch these animals make an intimidating leap out of the murky depths and snatch a dangling piece of meat above. Saltwater crocodiles have been a protected species in all of Australia since 1974; their population throughout the continent is between 100,000 and 200,000.

open for business

Kenya is booming with reports of new mining developments seemingly being unveiled almost every month. By JOHN ROSSOUW

PHOTOGRAPHY PHIL HILL

COUNTRY FOCUS



Exploration under way in western Kenya

statement it needed to produce 10 000 ounces a year to be profitable.

Despite this, several other companies are prospecting for gold in western Kenya, including Canadian firm African Queen Mines and UK-based African Barrick Gold.

On the coast, Australian company Base Resources is involved in Kenya's biggest mining project, the US\$256 million Kwale mineral sands operation. Base has been involved in the project since 2011 and the company believes the mine could produce 140.6 million tons of ore. This could give the mine a life of 13 years. Used mostly in the ceramic and tile manufacturing industry, prices of mineral sands such as ilmenite, rutile and zircon have been rising, even to levels above those before the 2008 global recession.

Apart from the mineral sands, Canadian company Pacific Wildcat Resources, through Cortec Mining Kenya, was granted a mining licence for a 21-year term in June this year to develop the mining of niobium and rare earth elements at Mrima Hill. In May 2012 the company announced it had discovered high deposits of both after drilling a series of tests. Niobium is used mostly in alloys for special steels such as those used in gas pipelines.

However, coal and oil are attracting the most attention and excitement. In early July, British company Tullow Oil, which has extensive

'Big oil discoveries in the northern Turkana region have now made Kenya a major venue for oil exploration in East Africa'

interests in other African countries such as Ghana, announced it had made a new discovery in the Rift Valley's Lokichar Basin. Tullow first struck oil in Kenya in March last year and the company estimated there was a potential reserve of around 250 million barrels. Flow rate potentials were about 5 000 barrels per day.

The news, following the big oil discoveries in neighbouring Uganda recently, has buoyed hopes that Kenya too could benefit from a fuel boom. Tullow has been cautious in its assessments so far, but the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has labelled the oil discoveries in the northern Turkana area 'of commercial level'.

'Big oil discoveries in the northern Turkana region have now made Kenya a major venue for oil exploration in East Africa. Kenya expects to start producing oil in six to seven years,' said the IMF in a report released in May.

US company Camac Energy also announced it would invest US\$35 million to prospect for oil and gas in four blocks, covering an area of about 37 000 km² in Kenya. Two of the blocks are in the 3 000 metre deep Lamu Basin of the Indian Ocean.

Turning to coal, since 2000, the Ministry of Energy has been exploring the Mui Basin, 180 km north-east of Nairobi. So far, 40 wells have been drilled, 27 of which have hit coal seams. The government has estimated that two blocks in the basin, C and D, could hold 400 million tons of coal valued at US\$40 billion.

After a tendering process, seven companies submitted bids to mine the coal and eventually Chinese company Fenxi Mining Group won the rights to develop blocks C and D.

Although the project was blocked for a time following court action by an NGO, that has been withdrawn, allowing the mining to go ahead.

Nine other companies have submitted bids to mine blocks A and B.

Although mining is in its infancy in Kenya there are high hopes that the country is rich in natural resources and the industry could help deliver the type of revenues allowing the government to fund infrastructure development.

As Balala puts it: 'A vibrant mining sector will create jobs and generate significant revenues for the government. We are here to crowd investors in and not out.' ■

The place is best known for its wine industry, which was established just 40 years ago after Dr John Gladstones (who also spearheaded the state's successful lupin trade) realised this area was ripe for grape-growing. Most makers specialise in premium wines, but tasting rooms still exhibit that down-to-earth Aussie approach. At Cape Grace, I am greeted at the cellar door by Rusty the terrier (whose basket is tucked in beside a play area for visitors' children), which alerts a smiling Karen Karri-Davies to my arrival. With her husband, Rob, she created the award-winning winery, and cheerfully sloshes some of their vintages into glasses as she tells me their back story: Rob was previously a photographer, while she worked in hospitality – they could hardly believe it when their first effort, the 2000 Cabernet Sauvignon, took the gold medal at the Australian Small Winemakers Show.

The welcome is just as friendly at Cullen Wines, despite it being one of WA's largest and oldest wineries. I walk among the vines

as one of the team explains how the business was started by a doctor who got a little bored with common colds and bad backs, and is now run by his daughter Vanya, along strict organic and biodynamic principles, using the rhythms of the cosmos to encourage plant growth. At the Vasse Felix vineyard, you can supplement the sipping with some culture as the 'old' winery has been transformed into an art gallery, with the exposed steel trusses and original wine-tank catwalks creating a distinctive space for the collection of mainly indigenous art. At the Voyager Estate, meanwhile, the owner is teetotal, and has created fragrant gardens with more than 1,000 roses for all those who aren't heading towards a hangover.

Time drifts by in a pleasant haze of late breakfasts, leisurely morning tastings and lazy lunches (most wineries have great dining rooms), followed by either a cobweb-clearing walk along the cliffs (during which you are unlikely to meet another soul) or a spot of surfing to work up an appetite for dinner. Which will be

a magnificent marathon that usually involves over-ample wine matching on an enthusiastic sommelier's advice. But that's a busy day. Most people simply snooze on a sunlounger and concentrate on their digestion between gourmet feasts.

It wouldn't be a hardship to remain here, then, but that would be like settling for a comforting bowl of conglakes instead of the three-Michelin-starred treat that awaits me. I have timed my (early-August) trip meticulously to ensure a close encounter with the culinary world's Holy Grail, its most sought-after delicacy, a food nicknamed black gold, because a kilo can easily fetch more than £2,000, something that could reduce hard man Gordon Ramsay to tears in a heartbeat – the truffle.

It's typical that, while in Europe truffles are horrendously A-list and served up with black tie intimidation, in WA, the best place to find them is an unprepossessing country backwater called Manjimup. The 4,000-folk town is at the epicentre of the Australian truffle industry and is already cultivating fungi of

such quality that the world's best chefs, from Thomas Keller to Ferran Adrià, are happy to sign cheques for thousands of dollars to get the farmers to race each day's harvest to the airport so these top-rated restaurateurs can dollop a few shavings atop their risottos a few hours later.

When the Tuber melanosporum is in season, you can smell the excitement in the air. The truffle delivers a complete sensory experience, from sight to scent, and appears on every decent restaurant menu in various tempting guises: truffle shavings, truffle honeys, truffle mustards, truffle oils, truffle pastas. I order it repeatedly and it is never less than sensationally good.

But eating it isn't enough. I've always longed to go on a truffle hunt, and the picture is clear in my mind: tramping through ethereally-lit hazel woods in rural Italy and France, crunching leaves underfoot, trying desperately to keep up with the portly pig, bounding from tree to moss-covered tree until it pauses. >

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

It is 100 per cent Hicksville, a place of check-shirted cowboys and women who can fell a tree with a look

Rose-tinted spectacles: wild and unspoilt Salmon beach, near Windy Harbour, on the southwest coast of WA

GALLERY



Camel trek along the 22-kilometre Cable Beach in Broome, Western Australia.

Australia's WILD WEST

One of the fastest growing metropolises, Perth is the most remote city on the planet, buzzing with energy. With fine food and wine in the south and surrounded on all sides by rugged natural beauty, Western Australia is a photographer's dream come true

/ words & photos: Philip Hill

Commisioned

UNESCO

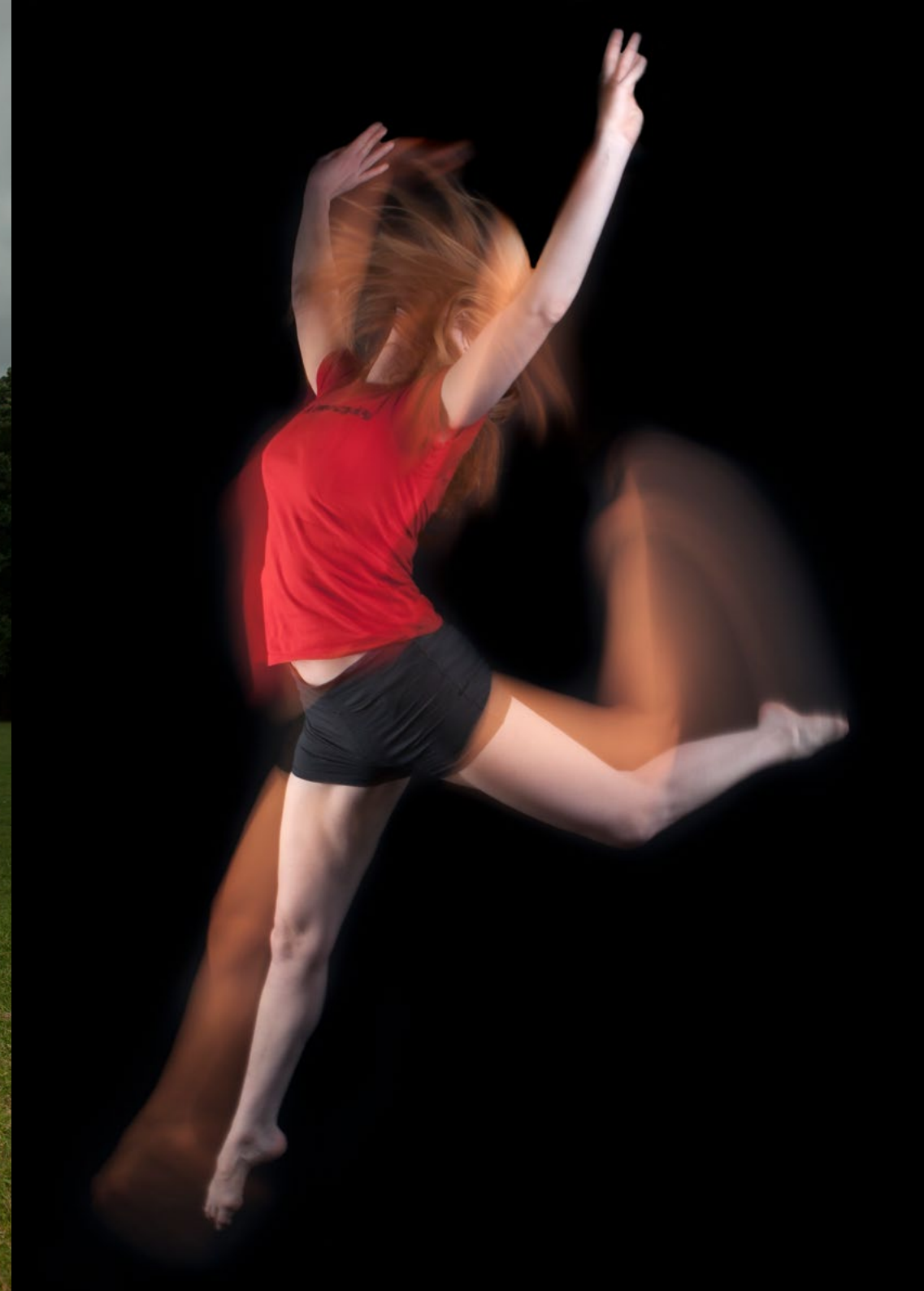
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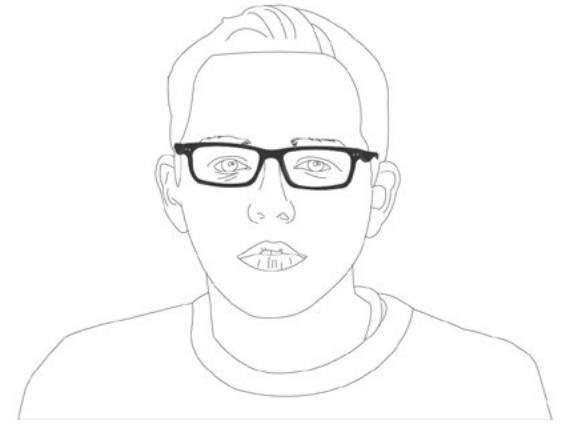
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