

As a fan of both ROVs and drones it's obvious (to me) why I chose to include the 'Finding Endurance' and 'Tagging Whales' articles in this issue because they are great examples, in marine terms, of how far our reach is becoming extended by remote technology.

Take The Endurance, for example; the images were shot at a depth of 3008 metres. In old money that's just under 10,000 feet which, in terms I can physically relate to, is not far short of two miles down. Quite amazing, really, and a heart warming reminder of an incredible story and the images provided a sort of closure and a good example of how we need targets to test our range and technology.

And then there's the positive take on how drones are starting to provide us with unprecedented data access into the lives of the planet's biggest creatures and the conclusion is that their digestive 'technology' is perfect for carbon storage in a very large scale win/win way. True, there wasn't one underwater image in the whole article but it's a great example of how the environment we love to immortalise in images, still and moving, is such an important part of the balance of nature.

Don't ya' just love technology?

Basic equipment

A few issues ago I bleated on about how top heavy we were equipment-wise in UwP but this issue is levelling the boat somewhat with Matthias Lebo's GoPro setup, Peishan Tan's lovely Maldives photos and Eric Engbretson's take on things. But there is also a less noticeable use of some compact shots by Anita Verde and Peter Marshall interspersed with other 'large format' ones.

They are all excellent shots but when you check out the captions I think you will be surprised that some of the stand out images were actually shot with an Olympus TG-4.

Agreed it had the benefit of an additional wide angle supplementary lens but the current Olympus 'Tough' camera is the TG-6 so the TG-4 is two models old and still very capable of keeping up with the big boys/girls/etc/ etc.

Freshwater

Eric Engbretson's excellent website www.underwaterfishphotos.com reminded me how little coverage we give to freshwater subjects in UwP and I'd definitely like to redress that particular imbalance. The backgrounds may not be as colourful or glamorous as their marine big brother/sister/ etc/etc but the fish are the stars and what an eclectic bunch they are from the delicate minnow to the majestic salmon and a myriad of shapes and sizes in between. Maybe even a whole new section could be on the way.

Traveling again

It seems as if life is getting back to some sense of normality now that travel restrictions are slowly being lifted and that is reflected here in two articles about recent travel. It's all great for everyone right through from the individual to the resort and the economy as a whole but don't forget your backyard which gave you so much surprising enjoyment over the past couple of years. Like a faithful buddy, there are always there.

Parting Shot mailing list

Parting Shot enthusiasts will notice that I had to sharpen my quill for this issue as, once again, the PS cupboard was bare. Now I'm pretty sure that there are a lot of readers who, every issue, go 'Doh' when they read PS and are reminded that they have a great one but have never got round to submitting it and there are those who every now and again think 'That would make a good PS'.

Well in order to try and get a more steady stream of PSs in each issue, if you'd like to express your interest, I will add you to a list for me to contact you when the cupboard is low and see if we can't get a bigger and more consistent PS section in each issue of UwP.

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