



Tuesday, June 12

## Come to Antarctica

A photographic exhibition highlighting the rich diversity of Antarctica will open on Saturday, June 30, at the Gallery at The Mill, Lobethal, in the Adelaide Hills.

Antarctica in Contrast, a limited print-run catalogue of 70 colour and black & white images of Antarctic and sub-polar wildlife and landscapes, staged to coincide with International Polar Year 2007-2009, will be opened at 1.30pm by former Antarctic Mawson Base Leader, Mr Ray McMahon.

The photographic essay contrasts colour and black and white images taken on the Antarctic Peninsula, Deception and Half Moon Islands, and on sub-polar South Georgia Island, which lies in the Southern Ocean, 2000km south-west of Cape Horn and the southern tip of South America.

The 5-week exhibition of photographic work by Adelaide-based photojournalist and freelance travel writer, Vincent Ross, will also feature historical background on the islands and the role they played in the early 1900s as bases for Australian and international polar exploration and the Norwegian whaling industry.

Deception Island was the base from which South Australian polar explorer, Sir Hubert Wilkins, took off as navigator in 1928 to make the first exploratory flight over the Graham Land Peninsula and the Antarctic continent.

Wilkins, born in 1888 at Mount Bryan in the state's Mid-North, was internationally renowned for his efforts, but was largely overshadowed at home by the exploits of fellow SA polar explorer, Sir Douglas Mawson.

Ray McMahon, 70, a Peregrine Expedition guide and a passionate supporter of moves to ensure Wilkins takes his rightful place in Australian history, is himself one of only a handful of Australians to have been awarded the British Polar Medal for his work in the Antarctic.

In the early 1960s, McMahon traversed 1700km of polar wilderness by dog sled, leading a team on a surveying expedition to the Antarctic interior. McMahon was awarded the Polar Medal by Queen Elizabeth II, received the Australian Antarctic Service Medal and had a mountain named after him, Mount McMahon, in the Australian Antarctic Territory.

10% of profits from the sale of Antarctica in Contrast exhibition prints and 2007-2009 International Polar Year calendars is dedicated to WWF-Australia to help support the international organisation's continued research into climate change.

**WHAT:** Antarctica in Contrast.

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 30, at 1.30pm.

**WHAT ELSE:** Regional wine and cheese tasting courtesy Adelaide Hills Wine Cellar and Woodside Cheesewrights. Refreshments available.

**WHERE:** Gallery at the Mill, the Old Woollen Mill, Lobethal, Adelaide Hills, (1 Adelaide - Lobethal Road, Lobethal, SA 5241).

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