

# Travel Outlook

## Penguin parade highlights Australia visit

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald staff

Gray fuzzy bundles come out every night on Phillip's Island. What are they? They're baby penguins - hungry baby penguins looking for momma and their dinner.

The nightly event is called the penguin parade and Georgetown's Hank Huhtanen saw it during his recent trip to Australia.

The Halton Hills Cultural Centre manager has returned tanned and enthusiastic about his five-week trip to New Zealand, Australia and Hawaii.

Along with gorgeous mountain scenery, beaches and natural wonders, Mr. Huhtanen and his wife Vi experienced the different wildlife south of the equator.

A highlight was the penguin parade.

"It was unbelievable," Hank exclaimed. "You should have heard the noise when they (mother penguins) came back! Unbelievable. And the fights!"

During the day, the spot is a swimmers' haven, with a beautiful sandy beach. Come dusk, it belongs to the penguins, and the Australian government is very strict about that.

All along the sandy hillside are holes where the chicks are waiting for mom to come with their food. The mother penguins have been gone fishing all day. When they come back, they regurgitate the food to their little ones.

Once they come out of the surf, they're in no hurry, resting and drying out before waddling their way to their hungry family.

Over 1,000 people watched quietly with Hank while the penguins arrived, forbidden to use their flashes for pictures.

"Such a cawing, cackling and crowing from the chicks, and fighting to see who would get the first feeding," Mr. Huhtanen laughed. "Two or three times I saw chicks almost attack their mother for food."

The couple also saw an echidna in the wild. It's a small porcupine-like animal with a long snout, wormlike tongue and digging claws.

"It got off the road in front of us and started burying its head in the sand, just like an ostrich," Mr. Huhtanen said.

The couple saw their first kangaroo in the Buchan Caves. They were tame, and there were seven different varieties.

The ferocious Tasmanian Devil looked like a zoo pig. Mr. Huhtanen said it's a burrowing carnivorous marsupial, with white markings on its black hide.

While driving through a state park south of Canberra, the Huhtanens saw three waldemys.

"Three of them - unbelievable! They were like huge ostriches. We were all so excited. I took their pictures," Hank said.

The emu is a flightless three-toed Australian bird related to the ostrich.

Mr. and Mrs. Huhtanen left on their trip Dec. 12 and returned Jan. 18. Their purpose was not only to visit that part of the world, but also to visit daughter Dayle and her husband Christopher in Melbourne.

They landed in New Zealand where they went to a Maori village on the North Island and saw native carvings and ate an authentic Maori meal cooked on the hot geysers that abound naturally there.

Natural steam comes flying out of the ground, and some of the geysers are about the size of downtown Georgetown, Hank said. The thermal springs sit on a cauldron of volcanic activity.

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### Photo Tips

by Peter Moss

**THE AUTOFOCUS Part II**

Although we touched on almost all the fine points of autofocus cameras last week, there are still a few tricks left that in a pinch, could save the day for you.

**OUTDOOR FLASH?**

On grey dull days when shooting out of doors, try using your built in flash. Not only will it balance up your exposure, it will give your prints that vibrant, snappy, color that is so often missing on those bleak occasions. This technique can also be employed in very bright contrast situations such as sunny scenes with much darker backgrounds. A typical application for using the outdoor flash method would be a family grouping outdoors where the subjects are posed against a dark green hedge with trees around you. Turn on your flash, remember to angle yourself slightly from your subject. Frame and shoot. Your resulting photo will now have a balanced exposure and the hard shadow areas will be filled in bringing the levels of light and dark areas to relative harmony.

Your new flash trick will also give you first rate portraits outdoors. Your skintones will not take on other surrounding colors when the flash is used.

**THE PREFOCUS LOCK**

The most common problem people encounter with their autofocus camera is, out of focus shots. Why? There are two primary reasons. The first is aiming at or through glass. Glass tends to throw the focussing signal back to the camera too soon making it focus on the glass rather than through it. Secondly is failure to center your subject directly in the middle of your viewfinder. In the exact center of your viewfinder is a small rectangular targeting device used for operating your prefocus unit. A partial pressure on your shutter button will activate it, locking it on that spot. You must always remember to aim at your intended subject, press your shutter button part way down, hold this pressure, adjust your framing (composition) if necessary, then complete the pressure all the way down. Why the extra work? If you are shooting two or three people in a grouping and you are not careful, the targeter will be aimed past them, thereby focussing beyond them; the result, great background shots, not too sharp on your subject! Sound straight forward? It is! Better this slightly longer method than not so great shots of your favorite subject. If there are any other questions on this subject, feel free to drop in (Halton Camera Exchange) and we can discuss them over a cup of coffee.

Next Week: Getting ready for March Break!

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Ladies are given a complimentary gift along with an opportunity to win a weekend package at the elegant L. Hotel in downtown Toronto. Includes Continental Breakfast and two passes to Sparkles on the Top of the CN Tower.

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