



KEN DUNCAN

In a 2007 segment on *A Current Affair*, Ken Duncan was dubbed “one of Australia’s most iconic image makers”. Overseas, a leading American gallery described him as “**the Ansel Adams of colour photography**” – a high compliment indeed. *Australian Photography + Digital Magazine* has labelled Ken “**the photographer who is now undoubtedly Australia’s (and possibly the world’s) leading exponent of panoramic landscape photography...**”

There have been hundreds of outstanding commentaries on his work by renowned reporters throughout the world. But in his own words, Ken is simply “an average photographer with a great God”. There is no doubt that God has given him a great gift to capture and present the splendour of His creation.

Ken’s love affair with landscape photography dates back more than 40 years. By then, he had left school and had progressed to become a senior technical representative for Australia’s leading photographic supply house. His turning point came when this company imported the ‘Widelux’ camera. Ken realised he had found a vehicle which could translate onto film exactly what he could see in a landscape – a panoramic vision. In 1982 Ken left Sydney to realise his dream of producing a quality book of Australian images. Little did he know that his dream would cost him his house, his cars and everything else he had – and take five years to complete.

During these and subsequent travels around Australia, Ken sought out places not previously photographed in order to provide a feeling of the real ‘pioneer’ Australia which exists beyond the coastal fringes. He became one of the first photographers in Australia to successfully pioneer the concept of high quality Limited Edition Photographic Prints, and he now has a collection of more than 200,000 panoramic images. Unequalled in depth, the library has been hailed as the best collection of Australian landscapes ever seen.

Ken retained a very special love for his home country of Australia, but soon his talents also led him further afield. He has completed major projects in the USA, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Widely recognised as a master in his field of photography, Ken has won numerous awards both nationally and internationally for his images and publications. He has worked for many prestigious magazines, such as *National Geographic* and *Rolling Stone*. Ken’s was first published in 1987 then established his own publishing company in 1992. Since then he has released over 55 photographic titles, exceeding a total of 2.5 million books, of which many reprint year after year.

Ken has also worked with prominent advertising agencies on international accounts, and directly with major corporations such as Bank of America, American Airlines, Qantas, Fuji Film and many more. Other special projects have included work for World Vision, the rock band Midnight Oil and the film *The Passion of the Christ* (at Mel Gibson’s request). It’s his amazing diversity that has given Ken Duncan such great recognition.

Ken’s work has led to many imitators, but he himself is internationally known as a pioneer and originator, which is why his photography remains so highly sought after by collectors. Many of his sold out Limited Edition Prints are now reaching record prices in Australia. Internationally, his works are owned by royalty and national leaders, by movie stars and music industry icons, by spiritual leaders, business leaders, investors, collectors and private individuals.

A passionate communicator as well as an expert in his field, in 2006 Ken was granted an Honorary Fellowship from the Australian Institute of Professional Photography in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the industry. In 2009, Ken was honoured to be awarded a Medal Of The Order Of Australia (OAM) by the Federal Government for his services to landscape photography, publishing and the arts. That same year, Ken received the photographic industry’s highest honour – the Photo Imaging Council of Australia’s Gold Tripod Award.

Ken Duncan strives for the highest excellence in everything he does. His artworks are produced by master printers using the finest quality archival materials. There is no compromise with a Ken Duncan artwork – it simply has to be the best. Photography is the art form of the new generation: it has a realism no other medium can match. People want peace in their lives and in their surroundings and nothing delivers as well as a classic Ken Duncan landscape.

PUBLISHING

Exemplified by his published works, Ken Duncan has become one of Australia's most prolific 'photographer authors' and the acknowledged industry leader in the panoramic landscape format. His dozens of titles include large coffee table books, smaller format 'Compact' books, gift titles and inspirational books – including such highlights as *America Wide* (showcasing all fifty American states), *The Passion* (stills from Mel Gibson's famous movie) and the inspirational *Reflections* series.

1987: Ken's first major publication, published by Weldon Publishing, titled *The Last Frontier – Australia Wide*, was unique at the time in that all the photos were in panoramic format. It proved enormously successful, selling over 65,000 copies.

1991: *Australia Wide – Spirit of a Nation*, was published in Australia by Weldon Publishing and distributed in America by Collins U.S.

1992: Ken established his own publishing company to produce high quality photographic books for a wide audience. The first three titles, *Spirit of Australia*, *The Australia Wide Yearbook* and *Spectacular Sydney*, were produced completely in Australia. A brand new, compact design made these superb books quite different from Ken's previous coffee table books.

Many titles followed in the very popular Compact series, including:

- **1993:** *From Forest to Sea* depicting Ken's local area, the NSW Central Coast
- **1995:** *Birth of a Nation*, an historic, festive pictorial of The Rocks area in Sydney
- **1995:** *The Australia Wide Cookbook*, - a unique culinary title packed with mouth-watering recipes by Valwyn McMonigal and complemented by Ken Duncan's spectacular landscapes
- **1996:** *Northern Beaches*, celebrating Sydney's relaxed northern coastal suburbs with a selection of vibrant 'beach culture' panoramas
- **1996:** *Victoria Wide*, launched to coincide with the opening of Ken's first Melbourne Gallery
- **1998:** *Celebrate Australia and Sydney 2000*, official licensed product for Sydney 2000 Olympic games
- **2002:** *Classic Australia*, an updated collection of panoramic images celebrating the awesome beauty of the unique Australian continent
- **2002:** *Sensational Sydney* - a vibrant new book capturing the heart and soul of an incomparable, world-famous city
- **2002:** *Celebrate Australia*,
- **2005:** *Victoria Wide*, official licensed product for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games
- **2006:** *Inspirations*, a compilation of Ken's international shots – from Namibia's dunes and the famous Colorado River to the Great Barrier Reef and the sweeping Yorkshire Dales, complemented by carefully chosen inspirational quotes
- **2007:** *Outback Australia*, celebrating the vast, often harsh, inland region where few Australians choose to live but from which many draw their sense of national identity
- **2010:** *Australia Wide*, featuring Ken's more recent shots from all over our nation

1994: A very different title, *Vision of Hope*, was born out of Ken's involvement with World Vision Australia and his desire to assist with their fund raising efforts.

1996: The first of over a dozen 'mini books' – one range designed for the tourist trade and another with inspirational quotes for appeal to a wider audience.

1997: *The Great South Land*, Ken's first solo effort in the large coffee table format was enthusiastically received in the market place.

2000: The *crème de la crème* of Ken's book projects was *THE KEN DUNCAN COLLECTION*. Featuring a selection of 77 of Ken's best-ever Australian landscape images this unique title was printed using the latest and finest technology, then leather bound by hand into a magnificent Limited Edition Book. No expense was spared in the production of this publication, which won the highly coveted Benny Award for excellence in book production. With less than 750 copies ever produced, it has become a highly valuable and sought after collectors' piece.

2001: *America Wide – In God We Trust*, was Ken's first solo international publication. Remarkably, this breathtaking collection is believed to be the first in which an individual photographer presented panoramic images from all fifty American states in a single publication.

2002: *Australia Wide – The Journey*, a 200-page extravaganza in the same format as *America Wide*.

2003: *3-D Australia*, a collaboration with fellow photographer Leo Meier and a radical departure from Ken's usual panoramic style.

2003: *Spirit of America*, the second volume of Ken's breathtaking images from the United States.

2004: *The Passion - Lessons from the Life of Christ* features evocative images from the movie, fascinating behind-the-scenes shots, quotes from the Scriptures, beautiful illustrations and a series of probing interviews with the movie's main players. It

explores themes from the story of Jesus (love, joy, peace, and many more) that are as relevant today as they were twenty centuries ago.

2004: *Reflections*, a groundbreaking book which, by the simple device of a top edge spine, moved the art of publishing Australian panoramic photography into exciting new territory. *Reflections 2* (2005), *Reflections 3* (2006) and *Reflections 4* (2009) followed in the same format and were later also released as compact editions.

2005: *Photography Explained*, a useful pocket guide co-authored by Ken Duncan and Leo Meier. This handy photographer's companion was updated as *Digital Photography Explained* in 2012.

2006: *Where Jesus Walked*, by Integrity Publishers, is a journey through twenty centuries of faith and memory – encompassing a multitude of spectacular sites both ancient and modern. From this project also came different editions and ancillary products.

2007: *Destination Australia*, *Destination Sydney*, *Destination Melbourne* and *Destination Central Coast*, featuring a wonderful range of miniature panoramas, are designed to appeal to tourists and locals alike.

2008: *Ken Duncan - Life's an Adventure* details the first 25 years of Ken's career and features many rare or never-before-published photographs along with a selection of many of the classic shots which have earned him such an enviable international reputation.

2009: *Acts of the Apostles*, retraces the Mediterranean journeys of the apostle Paul - and issues a challenge to those who would follow in his footsteps.

2009: *Abu Dhabi Wide*, a magnificent mix of desert splendour, historic tradition and visionary twenty-first century development. Of all the image makers in the world, Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan of Abu Dhabi chose Ken to photograph and brand his magnificent Middle Eastern Hub.

2010: *Walking in the Light*, presents spectacular highlights from Ken's far reaching photographic journeys plus the stories behind these iconic images and, for the first time ever, the technical photographic specifications for each shot.

2010: *Focus on Australia*, represents an exciting "first" in Australian photographic publishing. The finest Australian shots brought together from some of the nation's top pro shooters plus amateur photographers, selected from more than 7000 entries in a national competition – with every contributor using a Panasonic Lumix camera. All proceeds from the sale of this book go to the indigenous youth arts training program Walk a While.

2011: *Australia – Our Island Paradise*, a dazzling new coffee table book with extra wide gatefolds and a variety of image formats.

2011: *Inspirational Love* and *Inspirational Hope*, two new mini books combining Ken's most tranquil landscapes with inspirational thoughts and quote. *Inspirational Peace* and *Inspirational Joy* followed in **2012**.

2012: *Coastal Paradise Revealed*, an in-depth look at the NSW Central Coast, combines Ken's images with other professional and amateur shooters.

2012: *The Wild Frontier – Western Australia*, a collaboration with photographer Steve Fraser, showcasing the beauty and diversity of our western state.

2013: *Life's a Journey – The Adventure Continues*, the long-awaited sequel to *Life's an Adventure* (2008), showing images and telling behind-the-scenes stories from many of Ken's special projects over the years.

2014: *Chasing the Light – Australia Wide*, showcased many of Ken's new images, including a selection of his stunning digital images, displaying his mastery across a variety of photographic media and formats.

2015: *Ken Duncan's Australia*, published by Australian Geographic was the first time since 1992 that Ken has allowed another company to publish his Australian landscape images, and features some massive panoramic foldouts.

2015: *The Ken Duncan Portfolio Collection*, limited to 300 copies world-wide, showcases Ken's classic and best-loved Australian landscape images in a variety of formats. This sumptuous volume, produced to the highest archival standards with exquisite hand finishes, winner of the coveted Benjamin Franklin Award for publishing excellence, is a highly sought after collector's piece.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Widely acknowledged for his exceptional photographic talents, Ken Duncan is often invited to take part in special projects for corporate and other bodies, although his hectic schedule only allows him to accept select assignments. Over the years Ken has completed assignments for leading American magazines including *National Geographic* and *The New York Times*, and he continues to work on international projects in the United Kingdom, continental Europe, America and the Middle East. Ken's personal sense of creativity has also led him in many new directions. Some of the highlights amongst Ken's many special projects are:

- 1985: the only Australian chosen to join a team of forty international photographers who travelled to China for a project which resulted in the book *China The Long March*.
- 1990: chosen for his specialty in panoramic landscape, Ken was one of forty-six top class photographers from all over the world to shoot for *Malaysia – Heart of South East Asia*.
- 1990: America's *Rolling Stone* magazine chose Ken's stunning portrait of Midnight Oil for the cover of their March issue.
- 1991: the only Australian invited to join 75 international photographers to shoot for *A Day in the Life of Hollywood* with Collins Publishers U.S.
- 1991: production of a video clip for the single *One Country* by Australian rock band Midnight Oil.
- 1998: Ken diversified into the area of cinematography with documentaries, *The Great South Land - The Kimberley*. When screened on Australian National television, the show won top ratings and was highly acclaimed by viewers.
- 2001: Ken started developing high-tech Audio-Visuals, presented to audiences on a large (seven metres plus) screen using the latest technology and a high resolution digital projector. Designed for maximum audience impact, the audio visuals combine Ken's powerful imagery with specially selected musical arrangements by award-winning songwriters. There are currently five shows available that Ken can present to large or small audiences.
- 2003: Mel Gibson's invitation for Ken to shoot on the set of *The Passion of the Christ* in 2003 resulted not only in Ken's own book published in Australia, but also in the New York Times bestselling book *The Passion*, published by Tyndale House Publishers Inc.
- 2004: Ken's success in *The Passion* project led to an invitation from Integrity Publishers (USA) to shoot *Where Jesus Walked*.
- 2006: At the request of a sheik, Ken made several trips to Abu Dhabi and produced a panoramic book on the emirate.
- 2007: Ken began work on another project for Integrity Publishers, retracing the first century journeys of the Apostle Paul.

Through Arts Freedom Australia, founded with colleagues in 2004, Ken campaigns passionately for artistic freedom, fighting back against the increasing burden of bureaucratic red tape which makes it more and more difficult for photographers and other artists to freely pursue their artistic passion. In August 2010, Arts Freedom Australia held a protest rally at Campbell's Cove, Sydney Harbour, to fight for their cause.

A staunch supporter of World Vision for many years, Ken has made several visits to communities in third world countries to document the life-changing work World Vision is doing in these areas. He has produced 2 beautiful books for World Vision to assist them in their fund raising efforts.

Through his Walk a While Foundation, Ken loves to spend time working with indigenous youth in remote Australian communities, helping to empower our indigenous people to tell their stories through creative arts.

Ken is extremely passionate about the art - and the craft - of photography and derives great pleasure from helping others take better photos. He now leads 1-day seminars, 3-4 day workshops and photographic expeditions to exotic locations to share his knowledge and his love for photography.

AWARDS

Over the years, Ken Duncan and his energetic team have been honoured with a multitude of awards, recognising their professionalism and excellence in a wide range of areas.

1988 & 1989 - As preferred stills photographer for the acclaimed Australian rock band *Midnight Oil*, Ken Duncan was recognised at the top levels of the international music industry with three separate Diamond Awards, including **International Music Photographer of the Year**.

1994 & 1995 - Ken's photos of *Midnight Oil* received awards in the **FUJI/ACMP "Australian Photographers Collections"**.

1990 - Ken was honoured with the top award in the 'Travel and Resorts' category of the **AIPP Awards**, the first of several accolades subsequently bestowed upon Ken by this and other photographic institutions.

1990, 1995 and 2002 - Ken's spectacular posters received a number of industry awards, including Gold and Bronze Medals at the **National Print Awards**.

In 1995, Ken's book *From Forest to Sea* won the print media category of the **Central Coast Tourism Awards** and an Award of Distinction at the prestigious **NSW Tourism Awards**.

1995 - Ken's emotive *World Vision* book, *Vision of Hope*, received the coveted Design Award at the **ACLS Awards** with special mention for the splendid mix of colour and black & white images with exceptional typography.

1996 - **ACLS Design Award** for the *Australia Wide Cookbook*.

2001 - the magnificently designed leather-bound collector's volume *THE KEN DUNCAN COLLECTION* was awarded a Gold and a Silver Medal at the **Australian Print Awards**. The book was automatically entered into the prestigious **American National Print Awards** where it won gold and was honoured with a "Benny" (Best of Category) Award. In the words of the judges: "of the 5,500 entries received ... yours was chosen as work which exemplifies the highest standards in the printing industry..."

In 2002, Ken was honoured with the **Rotary International Award** for Excellence in his Field.

2002 - **The Galley Club of Sydney** bestowed three separate awards for the Special Edition of *America Wide* - a special award for book manufacture and excellence, a Judges' commendation for Pre-press and Printing, then the "Award for Excellence".

2003 - the Special Edition of *Australia Wide* received the **Galley Club of Sydney** award for excellence.

2004 - Panographs Publishing was a finalist in the **Independent Publisher Book Awards** for *Spirit of America*.

2004 - silver medal in the **National Print Awards** for Ken's magnificent Limited Edition Prints, plus a silver medal for postcards in 2004 and 2006.

2004 - a **Judges' Commendation Galley Club Award** for *The Passion – Lessons from the Life of Christ*, published in Australia. In the USA, the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association awarded a 'Gold Book Award' for the Tyndale House Publishers title *The Passion* – in recognition of more than 725,000 copies sold.

2005 - Silver Medal in the **National Print Awards** for 'Digital Printing Inkjet'.

2006 - the AIPP bestowed upon Ken one of its highest honours, the life time title of **Honorary Fellow of the Australian Institute of Professional Photography**. In a moving speech, the President spoke of Ken's years of service to the photographic industry, including his passion for helping up and coming photographers, his prolific publishing and his tremendous success both in Australia and internationally.

2009 - Ken was extremely honoured to be awarded a **Medal Of The Order Of Australia (OAM)** by the Federal Government for his services to landscape photography, publishing and the arts.

2009 - Ken received the Photo Imaging Council of Australia's **Gold Tripod award**.

2009 - announced the **Gosford City 2009 Citizen of the Year** for his long-standing contribution to his home region of the NSW Central Coast.

2015 – The **Ken Duncan Portfolio Collection** won a **Gold Medal** in the **Collectors Editions Category** at the **Australian National Print Awards**, plus the **Highly Commended Judges Award** for **Excellence in Print**. As a national winner, the book was eligible for submission into the **American Printing Industry Awards**, where it won the coveted **Benjamin Franklin Award**. The judges' comment was "Chosen from thousands of entries, this represents the unique partnership between designer and printer, need and creativity, technology and craft."

2015 – *Life's a Journey* won **1st prize – Coffee Table Books** at the Independent Publisher of the Year Awards.

In addition to the specific awards listed above, many Ken Duncan retail products have received awards in Australia ranging from Print Design Awards to "Gift of the Year" and "Toy of the Year". Early versions of the Ken Duncan website also received a number of awards for display, design and innovation.