

# Steven Nowakowski

Award-Winning Nature Photographer



*"To authentically defend the natural world  
an emotional connection must be made.*

*Photography gives me that connection -  
Nature's defence is my life's work"*



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0402 810 411

PO Box 560, Kuranda Qld 4881

[info@stevennowakowski.com](mailto:info@stevennowakowski.com)

[stevennowakowski.com](http://stevennowakowski.com)

*Steven Nowakowski is an award-winning wilderness photographer and conservationist. Based in North Queensland, Australia, Steven has exhibited internationally, worked in Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste, and collaborated extensively with other world-class photographers, and also with Traditional Owners.*

*His spectacular works are in demand around Australia and the world, and remind us of the precious natural wildness on our doorstep.*

# BIOGRAPHY

Steven spent much of his childhood exploring the bush of his Blue Mountains home and came to love its rugged natural beauty.

Over the years, he has witnessed the destruction of pristine bushland in the name of development – particularly as a young hiker when leading bushwalks through southern Queensland for the Brisbane Bushwalking Club. He watched widespread clearance of koala and glider habitat for the sake of endless housing estates. Simple ecological riparian zones, that would have saved once-abundant wildlife, were ignored and concreted.

Then at the age of 21, Steven's life changed. A bushwalk on Far North Queensland's stunning, untouched Hinchinbrook Island transformed the way he saw wilderness. He had never imagined such a place could exist without the scars of human influence. Soon after, he learnt that the island was under threat from a huge development—he came to understand the power of capturing that image and picked up a camera to record the beauty of the island and show Australians what they could lose.

That was 28 years ago – and he hasn't put the camera down.

Steven spent years honing his craft and immersing himself in the natural world. Cartography paid the bills and refined his eye for detail and composition. Then, in 2003, his first self-published book *Hinchinbrook Island – A Sacred Wildness*, not only raised the profile of the Hinchinbrook campaign, but allowed Steven to leave cartography to pursue his passion as a photographer.

Steven Nowakowski, the Nature Photographer, was born.



*Hinchinbrook Passage*

# ASSIGNMENTS

In 2005, Steven was fortunate to work with the Daintree’s Kuku Yalanji on the *Yalanji – Warranga Kaban - People of the Rainforest Fire Management Handbook*, and this led to ongoing work with Traditional Owners across North Queensland.

Further assignments followed in 2006–2007 when he joined Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia’s tour through Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea, documenting progress towards UN Millennium Development Goals. Following this work, exhibitions ensued.

Other diverse projects include music concerts, festivals, bands, and real estate, however Steven’s favourite work will always be for conservation groups, and as such, he is often their chosen photographer.

# PUBLISHING

As a self-publisher, Steven has produced a range of small books featuring New South Wales Central Coast, Port Stephens, Port Douglas, Cairns and Blue Mountains. He currently publishes a range of calendars, diaries and books celebrating Australia’s wild places. For many years he has produced a range of scenic postcards featuring his photographs which are sold in tourism hotspots along Australia’s eastern seaboard. This was a very successful endeavour—with more than a million postcards sold—until COVID-19.

# COLLABORATIONS

In 2020, Steven collaborated with North Queensland ecologist, Rupert Russell, and photographer, Paul Curtis, to produce and self-publish the highly-acclaimed *A Heritage of Trees – Queensland’s Wet Tropics*.

Over the last three years, he has also published a series of calendars in collaboration with MaMu artist, Melanie Hava, helping to launch her career as a successful Indigenous artist.

He is currently working with esteemed natural history photographer and film maker, Stan Breeden, on his memoir.

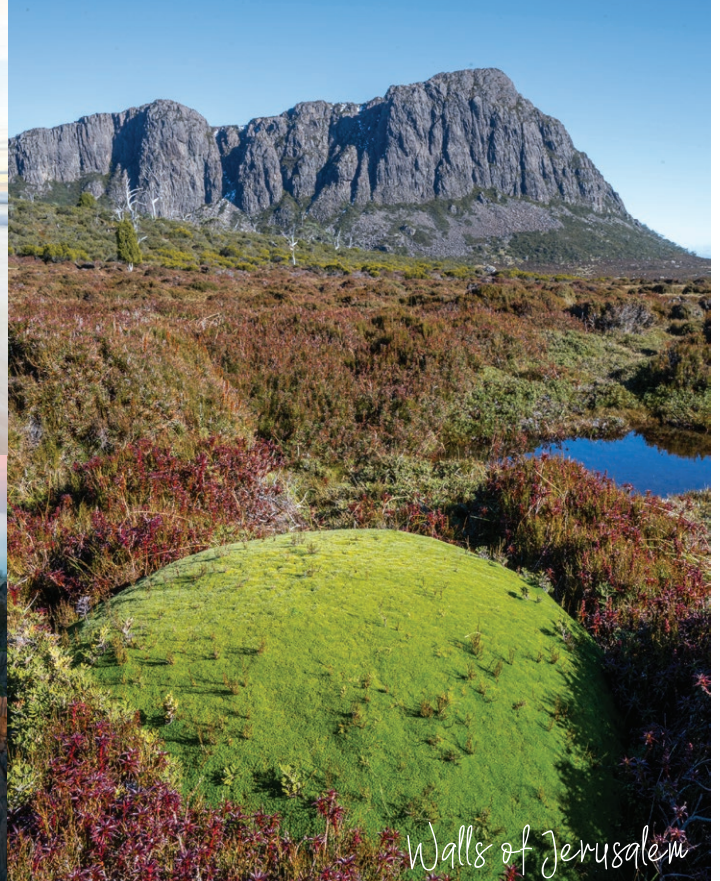
# EQUIPMENT

Steven started his photography using Nikon film cameras and a Linhof large format camera.

Today his equipment includes:

Camera	Lenses	Drone	Tripods	Software	Printers
1 x Nikon z7ii	20mm z f1.8	2 x DJI Mavic 2 Pro	Manfrotto 190X	Adobe Photoshop	Epson Stylus Pro 7800 24"
2 x Nikon d800	14-30mm z f4	CrystalSky Screen	Manfrotto Element M11	Adobe Lightroom	
	24-70mm z f4	5 x batteries		Topaz Sharpen	
	105mm z macro f2.8			Topaz DeNoise	
	70-200mm z f2.8				
	24-200mm z 4-6.3				
	200-500m ED f5.6				





## AWARDS & EXHIBITIONS

- 2000 1st prize in the *Koch Foundation Photographic Award*
- 2003 Exhibition at Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville
- 2003 Exhibition at Cairns Botanical Gardens, Cairns
- 2004 Work exhibited in the Atrium Gallery, Cairns
- 2004 Solo Exhibition at the Hilton, Cairns
- 2005 *CRC Excellence in Innovation Award* for Kuku Yalanji book
- 2005 Runner-Up Award and three Highly Commended in the *Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica, New Guinea (ANZANG) Photographer of the Year* competition
- 2005 Work exhibited in *Dugongs of Hinchinbrook II Art Show*, KickArts, Cairns
- 2006 Photoshare Competition winner of *Best of Category for HIV/AIDS*
- 2006 Papua New Guinea *Sex, Lives & Poverty* exhibition at Wellington Public Library, Wellington, New Zealand
- 2008 Exhibited at the *Torrid Zone* exhibition at Cairns Regional Gallery – *Babinda Boulders, wet season flows*
- 2011 Wet Tropics Management Authority Cassowary Award for the Arts