

# Images of the month: June 2014

Pictures from the world of science, selected by *Nature's* art team.

**Daniel Cresssey**

01 July 2014

A bat back from the dead, the Sun never setting, a selection of parasites, plus some more upbeat images in this month's collection.

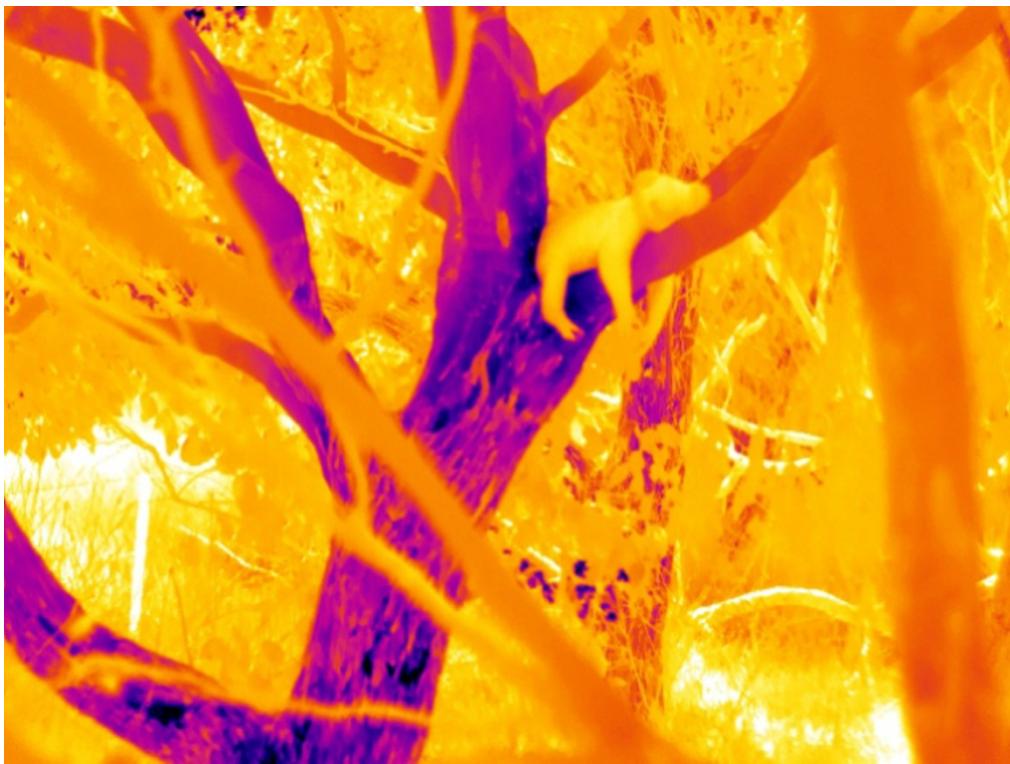
## A bigger splash



*Callum Bennetts/Maverick Photo Agency*

A wave machine launched at the University of Edinburgh, UK, this month will help researchers to develop better wave- and tidal-power devices. [The 'FloWave' facility](#) can simulate scale versions of waves 28 metres high, says the university.

## Tree hugger



Steven R. Griffiths

Things can get pretty hot for koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), but as this thermal image shows, they can keep cool by hugging trees. Research published in *Biology Letters*<sup>1</sup> this month by Natalie Briscoe of the University of Melbourne, Australia, and her colleagues unearthed this method of controlling body temperature. In a heatwave, this 'tree hugging' could even make the difference between life and death, the researchers suggest.

#### Dark landing



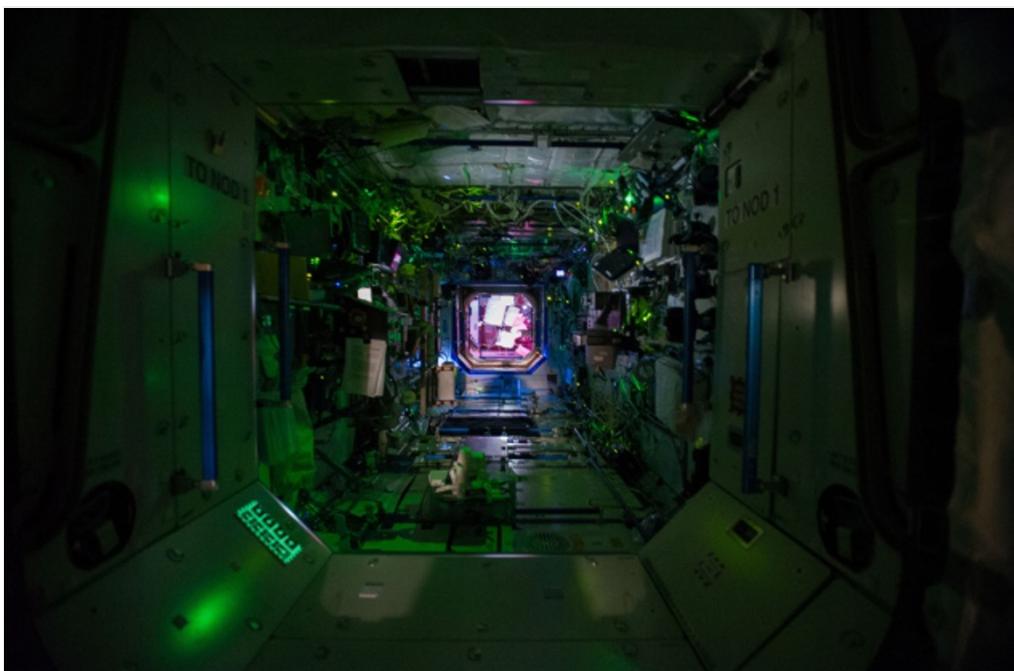
NASA

Although it might look like a still from a B-movie, this slightly creepy [Morpheus spacecraft](#) is the future, not the past. At the end of May, this prototype planetary lander was the test bed for showing that NASA's new technology for automatically identifying hazards when landing on uneven terrain could work even in the darkness of a Florida night.

#### Space Vine

US astronaut Reid Wiseman created this image from his current home: the International Space Station. “Sun never sets flying parallel w/terminator line,” he explained, as he became the first person to post an image to [the social media site Vine](#) from space.

#### **From Unity to Harmony**



Another choice image from the International Space Station: this shot, taken from the Unity connecting module, looks through the Destiny research laboratory to the Harmony 'utility hub'.

### Big-eared bat is back



*Julie Broken-Brown*

In 1890, researchers in Papua New Guinea collected the first specimens of the New Guinea big-eared bat (*Pharotis imogene*). For years, these specimens languished in museums, the only examples of a species thought to be extinct. Now an article published in *Records of the Australian Museum*<sup>2</sup> reports the capture of one individual of the species, and calls for urgent field surveys to assess the conservation status of this animal.

### Examined life



Visitors to Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia can see life very close up this month. This image, which shows the bacteria that cause bubonic plague (*Yersinia pestis*, yellow) inside a flea's digestive system (purple), forms part of the ['Life Magnified' exhibition](#), on show until November.

*B. Joseph Hinnebusch, Elizabeth Fischer and Austin Athman, NIAID/NIH*



#### A bear's life

This video from the US Geological Survey comes from 'camera collars' attached to four female polar bears on sea ice off the Alaskan coast. It is the first film ever shot from the point of view of the Arctic's top predator.

#### Saving seas



The Save Our Seas Foundation announced photographers Mac Stone and Joris van Alphen as the winners of its [2014 Marine Conservation Photography Grant](#) this month. In this photo by van Alphen, a European lobster investigates a camera off the Netherlands coast.

*Joris van Alphen*

*Nature* | doi:10.1038/nature.2014.15485

#### - References

1. Briscoe, N. J. *et al.* *Biol. Lett.* **10**, 20140235 (2014).
2. Hughes, C. *et al.* *Records of the Australian Museum* **66**, 225–232 (2014).