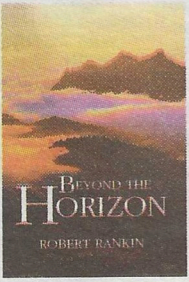

***Beyond the Horizon*, by Robert Rankin, Rankin Publishers $49.95**

SIX years ago I was given a copy of Robert Rankin's *Classic Wild Walks of Australia* — it was a life-changing experience because it tapped into a desire to explore wild places, to be free and physical in nature.

I thumbed through the book night after night dreaming of the wondrous places that Rankin revered, and I had yet to explore. It was the inspiration for much of my early bushwalking in my new-found home of Tasmania and it continues today to be a book that refreshes my dreams.

I was not disappointed with Rankin's most recent publication. He is one of the country's most prolific photographers but he is also a man who thinks not just about the perfect picture but more deeply about his connection to the bush.

Beyond the Horizon is special because Rankin reveals a large part of himself not only through the colour images but through the text.

His stories of walking and running through the bush are enthralling tales.

The theme of this book is mountains and specifically what it is that draws him to mountains — the high and remote peaks of tropical Hinchinbrook Island in Queensland to Tasmania's wild Western Arthur Range and the snowy mountains and icy Victorian Alps. Rankin details his travels like a sophisticated diary.

He also traces the history of exploration in these areas which gives the book added depth.