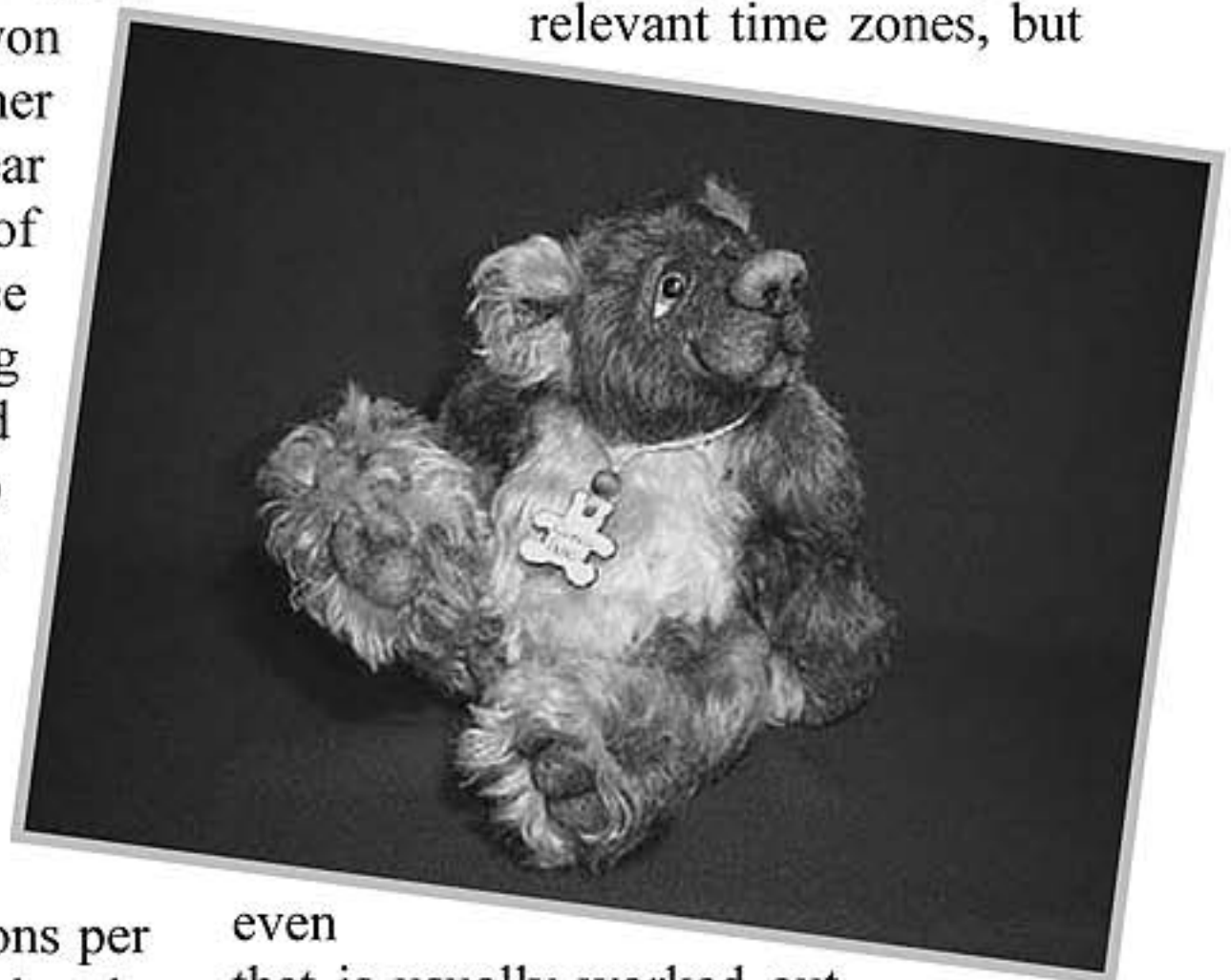


without his support, she may never have even tried. He plays a big part in the Russell Bears business; he is Kim's biggest fan as well as her biggest critic; each creation has to pass the "Darrin Test" before they are offered for sale!

Darrin and Kim are involved in a small transport business, that employs the whole Russell family, therefore, the transport business comes first and the bears and critters is second. Kim works in the admin side and is responsible for the wages, bank accounts and day to day finances. "Creating bears is so much more exciting than tedious paperwork"; Kim wishes to be able to make bears full time, but while her husband is tied up within the family business, they will just have to take the back seat for a little while longer!

Over the years, Kim has been fortunate enough to have won many different awards for her designs, from local Perth bear competitions to a couple of TOBY Industry's Choice Awards for 2007, "The Frog Prince", and 2008, "Irwin and Croc". She hasn't had too much spare time of late to keep up with the bear shows and competitions due to a backlog of commission orders, but has just recently decided to only offer a limited amount of order positions per year. To her surprise, 2009 is already totally booked, and a waiting list is now available for 2010. This decision will hopefully allow Kim a

bit more freedom to experiment and create new designs to offer to collectors via her website and 'Online Shows". Kim really enjoys the "in the fur" bear shows; there is nothing better than meeting collectors face to face, but with very few available pieces for sale, Kim has also had to cut back on these shows and has found the internet is where most of her collectors are now days. What are "Online Shows", you ask? Well, Kim thinks they are the best thing since sliced bread! They are just like your "in the fur" bear show, but are accessed from your computer. No travelling, parking issues, lining up, crowds and no outlay to get there. You can attend every Online Show wherever it is located around the world. They are so convenient and easy, the hardest part is working out the official starting time in your relevant time zones, but



even that is usually worked out for you by the show organisers. Once the show starts, you enter the official show website, click on which