

In Camera

The Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Camera Club Inc.

MEMBERS CONCERN

Competition Nights.

Many members have voiced their comments on how composition nights are finishing too late. This is not a new issue that this or previous committees have been deliberating over for the last few years.

The principle ways to tackle the problem are:

- Limiting the number of entries a members may exhibit.
- Conducting the competition over two different nights with A and B grade occupying those separate nights.
- Again splitting the competition over two different nights with Large Colour Prints and mini-prints on one night and Monochrome and projected images on another.

For obvious reasons all solutions have drawbacks. The committee now on two separate occasions have limited the number of entries from the original of three entries per member per category to firstly a maximum number of entries 9 entries per member then to 6 entries per member. If we split the competition it means the club will have meetings on at least 3 Wednesdays of each month.

Please feel free to have your say on this issue either through the newsletter or to a committee member.

Some interesting suggestions were voiced as the result of the monthly email to all members online requesting material for the newsletter.

Dale replied with:

Alan I have some concerns about Camera Club.



OFFICE BEARERS

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July 2009

July 1 Interclub Competition - Blacktown vs The Hills vs Hawkesbury

July 15 Competition - Black & White / Monochrome

July 29 Technical Night - Digital Color Space

Firstly there is a huge difference in turnout between competition nights and other nights e.g. Technical, etc.

The club as a whole has a huge amount to offer everyone on whatever night we have.

The fellowship is great i.e. a gathering of like minds with a lot to offer each other either technical or sharing our latest acquisitions or just talking about photography.

The competition nights have turned into a bit of a bun fight especially as I had one lady (who arrived after starting time) move one of my prints three times before she was happy with the position that was made vacant to hang her own.

Surely as well as being keen to be allocated awards there is a certain etiquette which should be maintained in such matters as handling others prints which are also very valuable to the owner.

The nights are getting very difficult to manage and maybe it is time to restrict the no's of prints in each category as well the no's exhibited by each person.

One reason for competition nights finishing late is that we start late, maybe it is time to become a bit tougher and prevent people from entering if the prints that are not hung by 7:30.

A few thoughts, I am quite prepared to shot down in flames, so fire away.

I have also objected in the past when 'B' grade entrants remove their prints before the 'A' grade is judged. I myself was guilty last meeting as I had a sick family member and had to leave earlier than expected.

This may be another symptom of long nights.

I do not know if what I have written above is quite suitable for publication but it may create some discussion among the committee at least.

Thanks Dale, it's your newsletter so if you feel strongly enough about an

issue it will be published so long as it's not defamatory or libellous.

Alan Sadlier also responded with:

Yes Alan, I just thought if it would be possible to set up earlier say 6.30. That would give more time to display the photos.

It seems that we have to wait for someone with a key to the storeroom.

Dianne Norris contributed:

Hi Alan Very nice and subtle prompting about comp nights - love it !!!

So members obviously there is a concern amongst you all so be a part of the solution let someone know of it.

PHOTO TOUR OUTBACK

After many phone calls to the National Parks out West, five members of the Hawkesbury Camera Club will be heading off to Willandra, Mungo and Kinchega National Parks in North West N.S.W. plus a look around Broken Hill and Silverton for 11 days, mid August. Willandra was part of one of Australia's sheep famous Merino stud properties from 1860 to 1972 and now offers accommodation for the tourist industry. The same applies for Mungo and Kinchega at Menindee. Several Camera Club photo trips in the past through this region have all resulted in some great images, with spectacular skies, sunsets and night photography. Unfortunately due to the drought most of the lakes at Menindee have been dry for about 10 years but the old Shearing shed and environs offer plenty of opportunities for the avid photographer. Broken Hill has on offer a few Photo exhibits worth a look at, old Monochrome Images of

the past and a local Professional has an excellent display on offer. Silverton, the birth of the original mining town in the area is now a tourist town, great pub and museums are on offer as are photo subjects galore and being only 25 K. from Broken Hill is an easy day trip. The local Penrose camping ground caters for those who wish to stay.

Anyone who has had second thoughts about the trip can e-mail me, peteburford@bigpond.com for details of the itinerary but all transport and accommodation bookings would be your responsibility.

Pete Burford

PMA 2009

Last weekend saw the annual PMA Exhibition make its biennial return to Darling Harbour for this year's display of all things photographic.

Most of the major manufacturers had their wares on display with some changing of the guard. For instance Nikon Australia and Maxwell Australia were separate identities this year with Nikon's decision reflecting it's decision to have a separate presence in Australia.

A different tone to the exhibition was the reflection of the industries embrace of digital technology in a big way. Gone are the names like Agfa, Ectrachome and other film brands to be replaced by the major manufacturers of electronic equipment. Ilford had a display of its fine art printing paper for inkjet printers but gone were the traditional photographic papers.

The Australian Professional Photographers Association held its annual photographic competition,

which to me was the event of the exhibition. Charles and I volunteered to assist with the organising the entries for the judging. This was the second time we were involved wetting our whistle two years ago when the PMA was last held in Sydney.

One girl on our team, a student in the Level 4 Certificate, had entered the Environmental Portraiture Class that was judged in the room we worked in. We waited in hushed silence as her photograph was deliberated on. As the results were announced the room erupted in applause, she was awarded a score of 96 the second highest score in the whole competition.

The FCC held the Topshot Exhibition during the weekend with a display of traditional club photography a few of our members prints were on display. Congratulations to those members.

Diane Norris commented that there were many exhibitors missing compared to what she saw in Brisbane last year.

In spite of the change in the participation it was great just wandering around looking at where technology is heading, some of the displays were mind blowing with Olympus employing an aerial acrobat performing on suspended ribbons. Nikon Canon and Apple held various workshops using large screen monitors allowing the audience to fully appreciate the demonstrator's applications.

On a lesser scale NIK held a display of their PhotoShop Plugin of their filters. I came away not only impressed with the possibilities but owning a set.

Do yourself a favour and bookmark this event in 2011 as not t be missed. A.A.

August 2009

August 5 Lecture - Lenses & Depth of Field

August 19 Competition – Architecture

Black And White Photography: Open Your Eyes To A Different Reality

Black and white photography is a rewarding and challenging field of artistic photography. Even people who don't care about photography can find themselves drawn to a great black and white image. As a photographer, black and white can allow you to discover a whole new character in a familiar subject. For many digital photographers, black and white photography is nothing more than colour photography converted by software. It is a matter for your own judgement whether this is effective for your photographs.

Often the image you assume will convert beautifully to black and white will prove a disappointment; sometimes a photo you never imagined will surprise you. However, most serious photographers will tell you that the best black and white photos are taken when the photographer deliberately sets out with black and white images in mind. This creates an entirely different mindset in terms of how you choose and approach your subject. You may, for example, start to see potential in subjects you would never normally consider for colour photography.

If you have never had a serious go at black and white photography, here are a few simple tips to help you get started.

Choosing A Subject.



Some subjects lend themselves to colour but are not nearly so effective in black and white. For example, sunset photographs rely on the colour of a great sky for their impact, and rarely produce a good black and white image. Colourful birds, flowers, fashion...there are many times when the only logical approach is to shoot your subject in colour. On the other hand, some subjects are ideally suited to black and white photography.

Because this is an 'old-fashioned' medium, it often works well with old-fashioned subjects. Rustic items like old farm equipment, a tumbledown shack, an

old wooden fence can all be great subjects for black and white photos.

When photographing people, age can also be a factor. A close-up portrait of an aged face showing all the lines and creases of their years on earth can have much greater impact in black and white.

This can only be a short article, so these examples are just the tip of the iceberg. You will find many great subjects once you start thinking in black and white.

'Seeing' Your Subject In Black And White.

When you first approach your subject, you need to imagine how it will look without colour. Try to look at



it in terms of lines and shapes, shadows and contrasts. You will begin to see your subjects in a whole new light. You may even find yourself zooming in on a particular feature, or photographing the subject from an angle you might never have considered in the past. One thing is for sure; once you get into the 'black and white headspace' your camera will express the character of the subject in an entirely different way.

Use The Light To Enhance Impact.

Because a black and white photo relies so much on shadows to define shapes and details, your approach to lighting can make or break an

image. As a nature photographer, I often photograph black and white photos quite differently from colour photos.

You have probably heard the rule that the best landscape photography is done early or late in the day when the sun is low and the light is soft and even. Well, in black and white photography I often look for just the opposite. To create better definition in a subject I will often take my photos through the middle part of the day, to create heavier shadows to emphasise the lines and shapes in the composition. I am also more inclined to take photos looking directly toward the sun, to produce silhouettes that make the most of trees, windmills and other strong shapes against the sky.

Earlier I mentioned a portrait of a very old person. If it is the lines on a face that give the image its character, you need to make sure the lighting is from an angle that produces shadows in the creases. Thus you may be looking for lighting in a black and white photograph that would be considered unflattering and unsuitable for a colour photograph.



So there you have three very simple tips for black and white photography. Notice that they are all about the creative approach, not about settings and camera techniques. In fact most of the time, black and white requires no different technical expertise than colour photography. To take better black and white photographs, you don't necessarily need to change the way you use your camera. Instead, you are looking to change the way you see the subject, and how you can use light, shade and composition to capture the character that black and white photography has to offer.

If you love photography and want to stretch your horizons, I am sure you will enjoy experimenting with black and white. It may open your eyes to aspects of your world that have never turned you on before. Good luck and happy snapping!

About the Author: Andrew Goodall

You don't need the best camera to become a better photographer. You just need a small amount of guidance from someone who knows what they are talking about. Visit <http://www.naturesimage.com.au> to find Andrew Goodall's images and e-books on photography for beginners. While you are there, why not sign up to the online newsletter for regular tips and updates...it's free!