

In Camera

The Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Camera Club Inc.

FROM THE CHAIR

I recently reread an article from an old newspaper I had on file. A group of people in an African country was given cameras and film to take photographs of their "world" and everyday life. When the project organizers looked at the photos, one thing they noticed was the photos of people were all framed without any feet showing. Perplexed by this, they questioned the photographers. Apparently their culture had the belief that if you had no shoes then it showed your poverty, and they didn't want to indicate in photos that they were wearing no shoes. It made me think about what cultural realities and assumptions we carry into our photographs. What do we deliberately avoid, or crop out of our photographs, for fear of what people may judge us to be? Of course, the ever-present Photoshop comes to mind: out with the wrinkles, bulges and flaws of complexion: all the things that we see as negating beauty are erased from images of our world. Then there are the telephone wires in landscapes, they are also removed. What preconceived notions of perfection are we writing into our photographs?

At the other end of the wide range of purposes of photography is the news that Annie Liebowitz is almost bankrupt. Annie is celebrity photographer extraordinaire, having photographed many celebrities, and commanding \$millions for her work. Her ambition took her into large amounts of debt, and her work was taken as security in a loan from the bank, for more than \$20million. Another culture, another galaxy.

There are so many divergent purposes for photography, so many photographers. Worlds apart.

Coming up in Camera Club as the year comes to a close, we have the Photos for Children competition. Figuring out what children like has been a challenge, but in the past it has been animals and soft toys, with flowers and some action shots... time to be



OFFICE BEARERS

President:	Josephine Blue 4571 2017
Act/Vice President:	Geoff Pfister 9626 7537
Secretary:	Debbie Web 4578 3680
Treasurer:	Peter Baldock 4573 1357
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Publicity:	Debbie Web
Activities Coordinator	Ian Cambourne 4577 5148
Newsletter Editor	Alan Aldrich 9627 4225

This Month

- October 7** AGM & Lecture - Creating an Audio Visual
- October 14th** Presentation Night at the Richmond Club. 7.00pm All members most welcome.
- October 21** Competition - Flora & Fauna
- October 24** Club day out to the Kangaroo Valley.

thinking and asking children what they like about your photos.

Our Tech Night for September was very worthwhile: I asked several of our members to speak for a few minutes about what their project is, or where their photography has taken them. We heard from Mario about her recent photographic exhibition; from Geoff about his Photoshop lesson; from Ian about panorama photography; from Steven about building a website and from Samantha about her photo competition and work about Children's Rights. Thank you to those members who gave such interesting and inspiring talks, and encouragement to grow in our own photographic adventures.

Don't forget the project FROM THE OTHER SIDE of The Lens... find someone in our club to photograph and interview so we can put together a book about Hawkesbury Camera Club in 2010. Let me know your choices and progress each meeting.

The first meeting in October is the AGM when new office bearers will be elected. Please come and have your say and cast your vote. It's time for a new President and Vice President (3 years is up). It has been a very rewarding term for me, I am glad to have been President with such a supportive Committee and band of helpful members and friendly people to get to know. Thank you. (Jo)

The Baton Changes

The Annual General Meeting on Wednesday means the changing of the guard, our President over the last three years has to retire as per the rules of our club. Josephine has been everything that a president embodies. A modest person in her own right, she has overcome her own reticence to show leadership with insight to have the faith in her colleagues when delegation was required.

Jo has sort the opinion of various fellow members when she has those moments of inspiration when she took the club down new paths to extend

both the experience of members and project the image of the camera club into the broader community.

I refer to the very successful photos for kids' venture where we have attempted to make the stays of children in Hawkesbury Hospital brighter by our photographs in their ward.

The other was the Stepping On program, a very taxing challenge Josephine took the club on. With the feedback from Hawkesbury Community Health's Christine Burrows it was greatly appreciated.

On a more personal note for the club Josephine has suggested we undertake a collection of photographic essays based on the thoughts of club members through the eyes of other members.

Under Josephine's presidency the club has continued on it's stable financial path with the annual Garden Competition providing the club with those little pieces of expenditure other clubs struggle for.

As Jo steps down from the heady heights of the presidency we must collectively thank her for a job well done.

The incoming president has some large shoes to fill but I am sure whoever dons the hallowed mantle will, just as Josephine has, make a valued and personal mark on the future direction on the Hawkesbury Camera Club. (AA)

FLORA & FAUNA vs NATURE.

Some people say "Rules are rules", while some others say "Rules are made to be broken".

I like to believe that some of our club's strengths lie in our ability to openly discuss various aspects of photography, and the way in which our experienced members assist the development and skills of our newer members. Those experienced members who have been through, or seen a "Nature" comp clearly understand the intricacies of that word. Our newer members, may, like we all did at one time, believe that a plant is a plant and an animal is an animal. In a "Nature" comp, words like cultivated, domestic and farm can cause even the most perfectly captured image to be excluded and discarded. So for the purposes of our October comp "Flora

& Fauna" and to promote entries from our members, we will relax some of the "nature" terminology. We will allow images of cultivated plants, domestic and farm animals. Flora is something that sits in the ground, or on the side of a log as does fungi. Fauna is something that breathes and moves. Our newer members should now clearly understand and our experienced members also be reminded that this is for our own "internal" comp only. Should anyone wish to enter an "external" comp, they must look very closely at and abide by the rules for that particular comp. Do NOT assume that just because Hawkesbury Camera Club did it that way, it is always done that same way. That train of thought will lead to heartbreak.

So our newer members should feel free to photograph to their heart's content, but please, do try not to include the lounge that the family pet is sleeping on, or the pot(s) and ornaments around your plants. The aim of our club comps is to improve your photography, to make you think about it and then produce a better image, rather than just a picture of Fido or Fluffy sleeping on a cushion. Our experienced members should also set themselves a personal challenge and lean towards the true nature side of the comp, because when you start to extend yourself, is when you start to improve your own photography.

And one final thought. Our last comp we self judged and I personally thank all those who sat in the hot seats and participated in the judging side of the night. It is easy to sit in the crowd and receive comments about our images, but sitting in front of the crowd and giving comments is a completely different situation. On any comp night there is usually more than one image of a similar subject and in October we can expect more than one image of a red flower. The thinking part of your entry, as is mine, should begin with a question "What is it about my image, that makes it stand out from the crowd?"

Happy thinking and photographing.

Ian

Fellow Photographers

To follow on from our previous report is a little surreal, as we are home and worn out from cleaning the truck and caravan. To reflect is something we do constantly as we do enjoy being away,

firstly from responsibilities of babysitting etc and secondly for photographic opportunities which are rare when towing a 2.1ton caravan. It is not so easy to stop and park on narrow roads; therefore I miss quite a lot of photo opportunities.

One classic shot was a pair of Emus, not so rare in themselves as we saw quite a few, but these were quite unique as they were accompanied by about six or eight chicks still with their stripes. From this we know that they were less than five weeks old as after this time they start to moult and lose the stripes. We witnessed many sunrises and sunsets. One has to be very quick to capture these photo opportunities. As one travels north the sun rises and sets much more quickly.

Some of the off road experiences (away from Caravan parks) were by far the best times, Surat stands out in our memory. This small village is halfway between Roma and St George, in Queensland.

The peace of being away from traffic and people is something special, we were not at all fearful of being away from the security of expensive caravan parks.

A couple of highlights were Litchfield National Park and Kakadu National Park. We stayed at Jabiru and were able to fly out over the East Alligator River into Arnhem Land; we could see the delta of the river and the Arafura Sea. This area is alive with wildlife and even though it was the dry season there are still vast areas of wetlands. We saw an occasional Aboriginal camp complete with landing strip.

The national parks are managed by indigenous people who still burn off in the same way their ancestors have done for thousands of years, with one major exception. They now use aircraft to drop incendiary devices to set fire to the scrub and a rather tall and course grass, which dominates the area.

The Jabiru Uranium mine is still in full production. Some of us remember the fuss caused when they wanted to start the mine. Jabiru itself was a purpose built town, built by the government of the day as part payment to the local Aboriginal people, along with hundreds of thousands of royalty dollars per annum. This is from the sale of uranium cake that is a very uninteresting grey mud.

The other place of interest was Fogg Dam, which was originally a Rice paddy built by Art Linkletter on land originally purchased around 1950. It failed as a food basket for Asia but is

now a magnificent nature reserve for myriads of water birds and one huge Crocodile that the rangers have been trying to capture. Crocodiles do not migrate across land but swim to new locations during the wet season when everything is a huge inland lake.

11,500 Kilometres later we are home safe with many great memories. Home one week and someone reversed into our car, so guess where we would rather be!

Regards

Dale

PhotoShop Workshop

Mike Smythe has agreed to hold a Saturday Workshop on the 23rd of January on some of the basics of PhotoShop. You may recall the Tech Night talk he gave us a few months back on similar issues. At the Hence it was decided to have Mike back to undertake a full day workshop at the Richmond Club. To this end we have reserved a function room at the club on the 23rd January next year.

The start time is 10.30 then stop for lunch about 12.30 then back at it about 1.30 until 3.30pm leaving time for a cup of coffee before departure.

- **Session 1** - Workflow overview and introduction to Layers, blend modes and Opacity.
- **Session 2:** Selections and Masks, including applying to layers
- **Session 3:** Image enhancement and preparation for printing, including Sharpening.

We will have to limit numbers to about 25 people and these members will have to have a laptop or share one with a member who does. You will also need to have Photoshop CS2 or later to fully take advantage of the information provided.

We have asked the Richmond Club to provide extension cords and some power boards but it would be handy if each participant to bring one of each even though it may not be required.

As quite a few of the members are quite proficient in PhotoShop already some discussions have been taken by a few of us to hold further workshops as a follow on to Mike's inaugural one

on following Saturdays. These workshops will run at a much slower pace and will be designed to cater for beginners at the start progressing to a more advanced level during the following months.

Protoshop is a professional program so is not designed to be a five-minute learning process. There will plenty of time to work on your own photographs during the day so that you can pick the brains of fellow members. (AA)

Garden Photography

With most of the garden photographs now in, I would like to congratulate all members who have taken part in the week. The standard of photography is excellent.

Members are reminded that the presentation evening will be held on October 14th at the Richmond Club starting at 7pm. So make it an evening and have tea before hand, there is a chance you will pick up a lucky door prize.

Photography Workshop: Wildlife at the Zoo Taronga Zoo

On this workshop you will learn the skills required to take photographs of native and exotic animals in a controlled environment, giving you photos that appear to have been shot 'in the wild'. It's a great opportunity for anyone who loves the fauna of our planet and wants to learn the skills of wildlife photography and how to shoot both macro (close-up) and with telephotos (long lenses).

We are privileged to live in a city that is host to one of the finest zoological garden in the world and is the perfect place to practice wildlife and nature photography techniques. Over the years these workshops have been running, It still is amazing to see the high calibre of students images. Today's digital cameras allow you to shoot a number of images at no cost. The quality is excellent and you can manipulate the image afterwards.

Taronga Zoo is the nation's leading zoological garden, featuring Australia's finest collection of native animals and a diverse collection of exotic species.

What makes Taronga something special is its location. It is situated on elevated land along the waterfront, in one of the most beautiful vantage points on Sydney Harbour overlooking Sydney Cove, the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House.

This Sydney wildlife photography workshop will appeal to all photographers wishing to improve their technique.

The course covers such things as the best gear for specific subjects. For instance when we are photographing creatures such as Iguanas... compact cameras are fantastic but not so good for prowling tigers where you need fast shutters speeds.

This workshop is suitable for anyone, with any camera and at any level as you will be shown how to adapt your technique to optimise your skill and camera equipment level.

Course outcomes:

Learn which camera gear suit the subject.
Lenses and accessories
Depth of field
White Balance
Exposure lock and compensation
Colour balance
Handling movement
Lens perspective
Realism in your images
First-hand experience up-close & personal with wildlife

When & Where:

Thursday 05 November '09
Tuesday 12 January '10

This workshop is conducted monthly
4 hours - 9:30am to 1:30pm

LOCATION & meeting point:

Taronga Park Zoo Outside Zoo Entrance.

Cost:

\$A100 inc. pdf detailed notes . This excludes the entry fee.

See:

http://www.focus10.com.au/workshop_wildlife.htm

November 4 Photos for Children's Ward in Hospital

November 18 Competition - End of Year

December 5 End of Year Dinner at The Vault Restaurant
146 George Street
Windsor