

In Camera

The Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Camera Club Inc.

FROM THE CHAIR

This is my last newsletter article as President, and I would like to say that it has been a rewarding position to have been President of Hawkesbury Camera Club for the last 3 years. Each President has their own style of leadership, and I have enjoyed the support and encouragement of the Committee and members for my term. Thank you sincerely to the Committee and members for your contributions in making the Camera Club activities successful and enjoyable. I have enjoyed linking our Camera Club with the community, to benefit the Children's Ward of the Hawkesbury Hospital, and also the Community Health Project's Stepping On Calendar, for the Falls Prevention Programme for the elderly.

Adapting to change is a key to the growth of any organization, and the Camera Club has progressed with technology in purchasing our own Data Projector and laptop computer. This was made possible with funds earned from our role with the Hawkesbury City Council Garden Competition, taking photos of all the gardens entered, and organizing sponsorship and the presentation evening. On our wish-list for the future is a website, soon to eventuate. The club also has some frames, which will hopefully be utilized in 2010 for an exhibition.

2010 will also see the realization of the book/project about Hawkesbury Camera Club, telling our story. **From the Other Side of the Lens**, all our members (who wish to be) will be featured, including former members, to document the Camera Club from early days to the present. I will still oversee this project.

At the Committee Meeting on Friday night, I watched as the new Committee got into full swing, planning activities for 2010, and also refining and adapting our procedures as we, as a club, grow and change. New challenges have arisen over recent times as our membership has grown



OFFICE BEARERS

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

November 4 Photos for Children's Ward in Hospital

November 18 Competition - End of Year

December 4 End of Year Dinner at The Vault Restaurant
146 George Street
Windsor

and the Committee, led by Geoff Pfister, our new President, will be trying to solve the details of making our meetings run smoothly and inspiring us to better photography. With several former Presidents also on

the Committee, the knowledge and lessons learned from the past will be part of the decision making process as we adapt to new technologies and ideas. I am sure Camera Club will continue to change and grow.

At the Committee meeting it was also obvious how much work goes into organizing the Camera Club for a year at a time, and all members should appreciate just how much work is involved, contributed by volunteers who give their time, knowledge, expertise, ideas and effort, to make the Camera Club successful and enjoyable for all members. As I said when I began as President, if it was all up to one person, it would be a full-time job for a multi-skilled, multi-talented person. Instead we have the rich resources of 80 plus members and a Committee of about 15, who when working together, can achieve a very successful 2010 of enjoyable activities revolving around our love of photography.

Just to keep you up to date with books I am reading, I recently purchased a book called *On Reading*, by Andrew Kertesz, originally published in 1971, now reprinted. To me, 1971 doesn't seem that long ago, but the book documents a series of 66 images between 1915 and 1970. The images tell the story of the world of reading, as people captured in quiet and busy locations, engrossed in the activity of reading, unaware of their surroundings. The era of each image is apparent, some are obviously of early 1900s with the telltale surroundings of buildings and clothing, but the activity is timeless, and the Black and White images are equally timeless. Robert Gurbo, Curator of the Estate of Andrew Kertesz, makes mention in the Preface that when Kertesz attended book signings, he would make use of a soft 2B pencil. While distracting the new book owner in conversation, he would use the pencil to add some detail to the blown out highlights that occurred in some images because of the deficiencies of the printing process. Thanks to advances in the printing process, the new edition requires no such

improvements; the images are faithful to the original Kertesz photographs. Kertesz lived from 1894-1985, born in Hungary, originally using a glass plate camera, up to the Polaroid SX-70, working as a photojournalist across Europe, in Paris, and also New York. In the era of computers, it is often conjectured whether books are on the decline, but I think they will continue as an essential aspect of life as Kertesz has so beautifully documented in photographs. A book to treasure.

Our end of year competition is later this month, with our guest judge, Des Crawley. We are all looking forward to that event. It will be held at the Stan Stevens Studio, at the Deerubbin Centre, Windsor at 7.30pm where trophies will be awarded for points accrued during the year, and also the best images in each section will also be awarded. Our end of year dinner is coming up; everyone is invited to this very enjoyable event. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas, and I look forward to 2010 Camera Club meetings and outings.

Happy photography!

Josephine

**From The Retiring
Composition Manager,**

I would like to remind members to correctly name their digital entries. We have developed a standard nomenclature for this category. The first file is called 1yourFirstNameYourSurnameInitialTheMonth.jpg ie let us suppose Bob Smith is submitting 2 images on the month of April. The first file is called 1bobSapr.jpg, the second will be 2bobSapr.jpg. (Remember the new competition rule of only two images per category)

Each composition night means a great deal of equipment needs to be moved and set up ready for accepting entries. With the number of members we have each submitting at least two or three entries it become a real problem for managers. Any help members can offer will be greatly appreciated. As a suggestion members could make a detour via the club cupboard down stairs on their way in to see if anything needs to be taken up.

Please remember that all the positions in the club are honorary so this means work must come first, at times work commitments have delayed my arrival only to find equipment still in the

cupboard with members standing around complaining of another late start again. A little lateral thinking would have helped with both our situations. Believe me the competition managers will not be upset if you offer to help or even pre-empt their acceptance.

Just as importantly the stands and screens need to be put away so once you've collected your prints and are saying goodbyes, look around or even offer to carry down the clips or cords if heavy loads are not possible.

Like the old saying goes - many hands make light work...

And considering everybody at every meeting walks in the front door of the club and straight past the storage cupboard (ok, down the stairs first ..) it shouldn't be that hard for some extra hands to carry everything up or at the end down.

This is the sole reason I decided to not take on comp' manager role next year. I would happily do it every year running but I've had enough of the bitching. It's a voluntary role that should be fun, not something that turns into hindrance or pain in the backside.

Marian Fox and I had a meeting with Craig Johnson of Hawkesbury City Council's Parks Department last week with the result that we have been asked to look after the Council's Garden Competition again next year. Although entries were down this year it is felt that with some more promotion earlier next year and with the camera club assuming some of the responsibility for this it will assist.

The photography was again praised with a very high standard maintained by all photographers who assisted.

The Presentation Night went without a hitch with special hanks due to Marian and her team for organising the sequence of prizes and matching them to the categories. Even the general audience members on the night left with mementoes of their night thanks to Marian's attention to such details.

Councillors Kevin Connelly and Jill Reardon played their part well and showed the Council's value placed on our efforts.

Thanks to all who played a part on behalf of our club so that once again

End of Year Dinner

we do not have to sell raffle tickets to finance the needs of our club. (AA)

This year's function will be held at the Vault Restaurant at 146 George Street Windsor on Friday, 4th December.

The function will start at 6.30pm in the downstairs function room. For those of you who are not sure where the Vault is located, it's in the old Westpac Bank building opposite the National Bank in George Street. The owners to reflect the period of the building have beautifully restored the interior.

Parking is available in the Car Park behind the restaurant; the entrance is from either Fitzgerald or Kable Streets. Another car Park is located in Kable Street by the river. It can be accessed by either The Terrace or Kable Street.

Charles has kindly collected the menu and it's included as an addendum to this newsletter. Please read the menu and underline or highlight your choices. Charles will collect your completed menus with money at the meetings on the 4th or 18th November. The full meal price is required, as previous experience has taught a painful lesson when verbal indications were taken on trust the club was left to pay for the absent members, a severe impost on the membership as a whole.

This menu was chosen as it provides a better choice than the typical roast beef or chicken alternative usually offered.

The highlight of the evening will be the Trivia Quiz where members' brains will be taxed to beat last year's Champion Team, lead by Lyn Pfister. The Peacock Trophy will once again be surrendered by the retiring champions to be raised proudly by the new all conquering heroes to hold the Trophy in trust for the next 12 months.

PhotoShop Workshop

As mentioned last month, Mike Smythe has agreed to hold a Saturday Workshop on the 23rd of January on some of the basics of PhotoShop. 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.

Please see Ian Cambourne to reserve your place at this workshop.

New Competition Rules for 2010

Projected Images

From the first Competition next year the following updated rules will apply.

- Images to be presented to the projectionist from 7pm. NO entries will be accepted after 7.30 pm
- Images must be on a USB memory stick
- Images must be in a folder. The folder should be named with your full name and month of comp.
- Each image should be named as follows, eg members name is say(Sue Bolter) 1SueBNov 2SueBNov
- Do not leave any spaces in the image title
- Comps in 2010 will be limited to a total of 4 images per person with a maximum of 2 in each categories
- Pick up your memory stick before the end of the night; don't leave it to the projectionist to chase you up.
- Projected images will shown at various times throughout the year eg they will not always be shown last on

comp nights they could be 1st or 2nd or 3rd

- Put your name on the memory stick
- Memory sticks need to be formatted before you load any files to remove any executable files on them.

Geoff

Improve Your Christmas Photos

It's just a few weeks until Christmas a few thoughts on the topic of **Christmas Photography** might be appropriate. Hopefully this will give you some good **Christmas photo ideas**.

Here are 15 **Christmas Photography tips** and ideas to try that come to mind for digital camera owners wanting to capture the big day:

1. Prepare – Making a List, checking it twice....

Making sure you're ready to capture any planned event is part of the key to a successful shoot. Getting yourself ready but also the location of your shots is worthwhile.

Pack the camera – goes without saying? As if we would ever leave home without it!

Make sure your batteries are charged and you have extras and/or the recharger packed.

Pack extra memory cards – have them empty and formatted

Put someone on 'photos' – if your family has someone on drinks, main course, and dessert – why not put someone on 'photos' so that in the craziness of the day they don't get forgotten of course you will volunteer for this position.

Consider the light in the room that you'll be photographing in. Is there enough light? Will you need a flash? Are the backgrounds too cluttered and distracting?

2. A White Balance Christmas

Here in Australia we often celebrate Christmas outdoors, but many people around the world do it inside in unnatural lighting. Pay attention to what type of light you're shooting in, then set your white balance settings accordingly. Alternatively, if you've got a camera that shoots in RAW you can

shoot away and set your white balance later.

3. Set up a DIY 'Photo Booth'

While you probably can't afford to hire a photo booth for your party you can set up a 'portrait zone' of your own where you'll take photos of your guest.

This pays dividend as you can get at least one good photograph of couples or groups without distraction.

Take everyone as they arrive.

Leave a camera (a point and shoot) set up on a tripod and set to a short self timer time so people could photograph themselves during the rest of the party. Set it up in a well lit position with say a red velvet curtain looking background with a few Christmas decorations around the edges. Leave a few Santa hats and tinsel for people to decorate themselves with. In other situations when tried this technique the shots were great – people went back to it throughout the party and the photos got crazier and crazier as time went on. It was the hit of the party.

4. Capture the preparation stages

The actual Christmas meal or party is obviously the best part of the day, but there are other photographic opportunities, particularly in the preparations stages of the day.

Food preparation

Putting up decorations

Wrapping gifts

Kids throwing a tantrum while getting dressed in their Christmas outfits

Setting the table

The shots before the event starts properly are often great because they show everything at it's best before everyone descends on your party zone.

5. Before and After Shots

Speaking of shots before the party starts, why not set up some before and after shots both of the place you're holding your party and what it looks like afterwards. Make sure you take the shots from the same position.

6. Time-lapse Christmas series

For the more technical amongst us try setting up a computer with a web cam in the corner of the room with the camera looking down on the Christmas table. Set the camera to go off every 5 minutes over the day the results can be spectacular.

7. Christmas Lights

Photographing Christmas lights is something that can be tricky to do. David Hobby from "Strobist" has put together a great tutorial on how to do it.

Check it out at <http://strobist.blogspot.com/2006/12/how-to-photograph-christmas-lights.html>

8. Find a Point of Interest – but just per shot

All good shots should have a focal point that holds the attention of those viewing your images. The problem with Christmas is that there can often be too many competing focal points in shots with people, colour, decorations, food in every shot. Work hard and decluttering your images.

9. Fresh Group Photos

One of the most common types of shots at Christmas is the 'group photo'. It's usually taken at the end of the evening or day when everyone is looking their worst. For a 'fresher' shot take it once everyone has arrived. Also think before hand about how you might pose everyone and where you might take the shot.

10. Opening Gifts – Shoot in Continuous Mode

There are certain moments during a Christmas gathering that are filled with all manner of photographic opportunities and the opening of gifts is like no other in that it is filled with an array of emotions, facial expressions and excitement – especially if you've got kids around. Switch your camera to burst mode (sometimes called continuous shooting mode) and take lots of shots at this time of the festivities. You'll find you end up with some excellent series of shots when you do this that capture everything from the anticipation of getting the wrapped gift, through to the excitement of unwrapping to the joy (or occasionally disappointment) of seeing what's inside. Don't forget to shoot the reactions of those who GIVE the gift as well.

11. Fill your Frame

One of the most common mistakes when taking Christmas photos (or any party/even photography) is that people often end up with shots of their subjects off in the distance on the other side of a room with lots of space around them. Fill your frame with your subject either by using your zoom or getting up and moving yourself closer. While this is one of the simplest tips

and it is one that can have the most profound impact on your shots.

12. Diffuse/Reflect Your Flash

Another common problem with Christmas shots is ending up with shots where the flash is so bright that subjects look like rabbits in a spotlight with harsh shadows behind them. One-way around this is to use some sort of a flash diffuser or reflector. If you're lucky enough to have an external flash try bouncing it off walls or the ceiling. Another way to reduce the impact of your flash and to create some interesting effects is to switch your camera into 'night mode' (slow sync mode). This will tell your camera to choose a slower shutter speed but still fire your flash. In doing so it'll capture some of the ambient light of the room as well as freeze your subject. Be warned, you can end up with some peculiar shots doing this (but they can also be lots of fun).

13. Go Macro

Most digital cameras come with a macro mode, switch to that mode and photograph the smaller things around your party. Ornaments on the tree, table decorations, sweets in the bowl on the table, a nativity scene on the mantle piece, holly above the doorway – sometimes it's these small things around your party that are the real 'money shots'.

14. Watch Your Aperture

Try shooting in Aperture Priority mode on a day like Christmas this will avoid constantly changing the aperture to suit upon the subject. For example when taking shots of a Christmas decoration on the tree select a large aperture (a small number like f/2.8) so as to throw the background out of focus, but on a shot taken from the end of the table of everyone sitting down eating choose a small aperture (like f/8 to f/11 or more) so as to have a larger depth of field and keep everyone in focus.

15. Explore Your Neighbourhood

In the Hawkesbury district there is an almost unlimited number of photographic opportunities presenting themselves all around you. Christmas carols services, houses covered in Christmas decorations, shopping malls filled with business etc. Get out there with your camera and capture it. What a wonderful time of year to practice using your camera. Have fun!

Next Month

Deveember 4: End of Year Dinner at The Vault Restaurant 146 George Street Windsor. Starting at 6.30pn

Next Year

January 23: PhotoShop Workshop at the Richmond Club starting at 10.30am

February 3: First Meeting Guest Speaker Jackie Dean

February 17: Open Competition

Note: The February Program is tentative until the Speakers and Judges are finalised.

Charles

VAULT 146 FUNCTIONS MENU

ENTREE

- Zucchini pancake topped with smoked salmon and lemon hollandaise
- Sliced chicken breast with roast pear, walnut and blue cheese salad
- Bruschetta with rocket salad and balsamic reduction
- Soups
 - Oyster and fennel chowder with fresh chervil and salmon croutes
 - Prawn bisque Cream of roast chicken and asparagus with parmesan crouton

MAIN COURSE

- Roast chicken breast on sweet potato mash with broccolini and potato crisps
- Char grilled beef sirloin on garlic cream potato stack with caramelised pumpkin and mustard jus
- Lamb backstrap on wild mushroom risotto with red wine reduction
- Blue eye cod fillet on white bean puree with grilled asparagus and lime buerre blanc

DESSERTS

- Choc orange creme caramel • Vanilla pannacotta with balsamic strawberries • Wild berry creme brulee • Warm apple and rhubarb crumble

2 course (Entree and main)	\$45
2 course (Main and dessert)	\$40
3 course	\$60

Highlight or underline your choices then together with the money hand to Charles.

ProShow Gold

What is ProShow Gold?

ProShow Gold is a digital audiovisual computer program, it allows you to synchronise images and music in a tremendously powerful package designed to run on a PC platform unfortunately it is not suitable for Apple Macintosh users.

The current version of ProShow Gold is designated V4, it can be downloaded from the Internet as a free trial version and once payment is made, the program can be unlocked to give you a full working version. Current cost is US\$69.95 (or approximately AUS\$80.00).

ProShow Gold is available from:

<http://www.photodex.com/products/proshowgold/>

Getting Started

Basic Housekeeping

ProShow Gold does not save all of the image and sound files associated with the audiovisual production, it simply stores the custom information required to run the show and the location of your images and music on the hard drive. For this reason it is advisable to store your images and music in an efficient manner, preferably in a special folder for each production on the main "C" drive.

Remember, do not rename your folder or the images within once you start creating your show or else you will have difficulty replaying the show.

How fast does your computer need to be?

ProShow Gold is a very power hungry program as far as video generation and RAM are concerned. Ideally a 1 Gb gaming style video card and 4 Gb of RAM will give the best performance however basic shows can be played on older style machines provided they have a minimum 512Mb of RAM and the motion effects of the show are kept at minimal levels.

It is also advisable to close all other programs whilst working with ProShow Gold.

Themes and Image Formats

In my opinion shows convey a more powerful message when made along a theme of common interest.

Create a new folder then enhance a selection of your images and save them to this folder. If you intend playing your show on your PC or television as a 4:3 format I would suggest you crop and save your images as .jpg at 2048 pixels in width and 1536 pixels in height. This will allow you to zoom in on parts of the image at up to 200% without suffering any image degradation or pixilation.

Show Options

There are four show options tabs, they are:

Show Options

Which is used to change the Show Title and Aspect Ratio for other formats.

Whilst the standard computer and television format is 4:3, most digital SLR's follow the format used in 35mm film, i.e. 3:2.

When shooting images specifically for a 4:3 format production you should allow some space on the side, which can be readily cropped.

However there are other formats which can be used for ProShows, home theatre systems more commonly use a 16:9 wide screen format in line with the current trend in cinemas. To create a wide screen (panoramic) format ProShow simply crop your images accordingly (2048 pixels X 1152 pixels), naturally it would be advisable to shoot your images with a panoramic format in mind or alternatively you can digitally stitch images together to create a panorama.

Show Captions (Adding text to your show)

This function adds text to all slides in a show and is rarely used.

Soundtrack (Adding the music)

ProShow Gold also has the ability to do basic music editing by allowing customised start and stop times for each track as well as the ability to close the gaps between tracks and cross fade the join. Although, with the current version, it is now possible to use music loaded from a CD, I find the use of .mp3 files allows me to store and readily retrieve sound files. Currently I have over 4,000 .mp3 music files on my hard drive making it relatively easy to select suitable music to accompany the images.

Older versions of ProShow Gold (V2.0 and earlier) only allowed the use of .mp3 or .wav files in the production.

Another advantage of .mp3 format music is the reduced size of the file compared to CD; this enables a much slower computer to successfully run ProShows than would otherwise be possible.

The best way I have found to build up a database of .mp3 music tracks is to download Windows Media Player version 11. It is a free download and comes with a user-friendly interface as well as the ability to "rip" (convert) music to the desired format.

Windows Media Player 11 can be found at:

http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/download/AllDownloads.aspx?displang=en&qstechnology=&wt_svl=20513a&mg_id=20513b

Setting the .mp3 defaults for Media Player 11

Once you download Windows Media Player 11, you will need to change the default settings for ripping the music to .mp3. The standard default creates Windows Media Player files, which are not suitable for use with ProShow Gold.

Go to Tools>Options>Rip Music then select mp3 from the drop down box, adjust the quality and hit OK. To really enhance the presentation of your shows you should consider improving the sound output from your computer. I no longer use the on board sound card and have installed a 7.1 surround sound card and a set of 5.1 surround sound speakers.

Selecting Music

This is a personal choice but in most cases try to avoid tracks with excessive vocals or strong music that will dominate the images. The music should enhance and support the images, which should be the focal point of your production.

Background

The background colour/image can affect the presentation, the default setting is plain black but it can be changed to a different colour or added image.

Slide Options

First you must highlight the slide you wish to work with, there are five slide options tabs, they are:

Image/Video

As I work with still images only, this is not an option I use but it is possible to combine video and still images in the one show.

Motion Effects

This is one of the major advantages ProShow Gold has over most other audiovisual programs, it is possible to pan, zoom or even rotate an image.

Captions (Adding text to your slides)

The function for displaying text, such as titling, over an image is simple to use. There is a wide range of fonts and some of the options available are text colour, drop shadow, bold and italic. There are three settings, giving a variety of options for the way the text appears on the screen, what it does then how it disappears.

Sounds

This tab is used for adding a sound effect to a slide.

Background

This tab is for changing the background on one slide at a time.

Transitions and Timing

Transitions

Transition is the term used for how slides appear to change from one slide to the next; with ProShow Gold there are 277 different transitions available. Everything from simple cross fades to complex multi direction wipes are available with just the click of a mouse.

Timing Your Slides and Transitions

Slide length and transitions can be given individual times in as little as 0.1 second increments. This enables you to synchronise the images to the sound with very fine precision.

There are also options that will allow the program to automatically synchronise the music and images, I do not use this feature.

Finishing the Show

Outputting

ProShow Gold allows the production of shows in various outputs, DVD, Video CD, Video File, Autorun CD, Executable, You Tube, Screen Saver and Web Show.

Show Thumbnail

To change the show thumbnail, just right click on your selected image to bring up the drop down box, then select your image. This image will then appear as the title image for the show.

Saving Different Versions

Because ProShow Gold does not actually save your images or music, it is possible to make different versions of your show by modifying an existing show and saving it as another file name. The data required for this process is a relatively small file.

If you have any questions I can be contacted via the email address below.

jalessipho@froggy.com.au

John Alessi

Oakville Fire Brigade's Family Day, Car Display & Auction

Supported by **Pitt Town & Districts Sports Club**

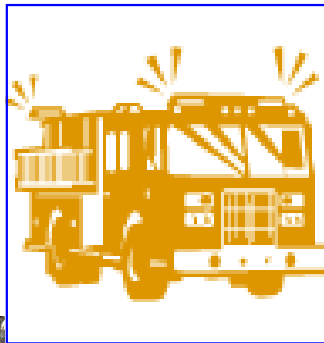
Come and check out the biggest range of local vehicles to be seen in one place together.

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You name it ,if its got wheels it'll probably be there

HUGE AUCTION

HEAPS OF AMAZING STUFF THAT WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF TO
RAISE FUNDS FOR OAKVILLE VOLUNTEER RURAL FIRE SERVICE

**DATE: 21ST MARCH
2010**



**\$5 Adults
\$2 Kids**

**WHERE
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139 Old Pitt Town Road
Pitt Town
Phone 4572 3658
Email. pitttownclub@bigpond.com**

For more info call Ian 45 77 4348

or Peter on 0412 888 251

