

In Camera

The Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Camera Club Inc.

FROM THE CHAIR

The AGM has been held and I am very humbled to have been chosen as your President for another 12 months. I thank the membership for having faith in me to lead this wonderful club, I regard it as honour. We have a very strong executive taking us into next year and I am looking forward to working with them. I wish to thank those members of the current executive who did not stand for re election because their term was up or because of other circumstances, they have helped to make this year the success that it was. Those leaving the executive include, Marian Fox our Vice President, she is replaced by Kim Duproy, Debbie Webb our secretary, she is replaced Charles Sutton, Peter Baldock our treasurer, he is replaced by Ian Cambourne. Ian will also be taking on the new role of Public Officer. Our outings co-ordinators Jenny Aquilina and Suzette Howarth will hand over to Denis Newton all other positions on the executive remained the same. Congratulations to Peter Gunzy who's image was chosen out of a group of approximately 12 to be our clubs representative when his image will be officially presented to The Richmond Club as a token of our appreciation for all that they do for us. His image is absolutely fantastic and will do wonders to maintain our image. This image has just been framed but I haven't picked it up yet, I will have it at our next meeting for your perusal.

Alan Aldrich came with a new idea for HAG'S this month. He sent the members out on location for an hour. Our mission was to come back to the club with 5 night images of the same subject at different exposure levels. Peter Gunzy then walked us through the HDR program to merge them all together. What a remarkable result. Thanks to Alan and Peter for their

input, us mere mortals are learning heaps.

A small band of intrepid photographers braved the inclement weather to venture down to Bowral for the last weekend of the Tulip Festival. In spite of the weather many great images were produced with limited time between showers. Morning tea and lunch was also exceptional. Josephine noted the different styles of photography our members used when



OFFICE BEARERS

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Secretary:	Debbie Web 4578 3680
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Activities Coordinator	Jenny Aquilina & Suzette Howarth
Newsletter Editor	Alan Aldrich 9627 4225

photographing what was basically the same subject material and thought that this concept was interesting enough to us as a future competition. I think this idea definitely needs to be explored. Thanks Ian Cambourne for organising the day we all thought it was terrific.

Our comp for this month was an open subject so images presented were quiet varied as usual of a high standard. I must mention the very high standard of our B grade. I know it has been mentioned before but many of our B grade are definitely of A grade standard. Our judge for the night Doug Carley said as much himself.

Our next meeting on the 3rd of November is the Photo's for Children in Hawkesbury Hospital. This is a fantastic concept and one that is very popular amongst our members so if you haven't participated before I strongly urge you to do so. There is a good chance that the Gazette will do a story on it this year.

Cheers Geoff

Josephine's Monthly Muse

Almost another year has gone by, and Camera Club is drawing to a close for 2010. I was reviewing my photos for the year and noticed how many of the things and places I had photographed have now changed or gone completely. If it wasn't for the photos, that place/thing/event would be lost to memory.

I took an early morning excursion to an orchard when spring was causing the first blossoms to bloom. The seasons are constantly changing the views all around us, and I'm told that a lot of photographers are up early these days to photograph the Paulownia Plantation at Richmond. It certainly is a marvellous location for interesting photographs. Pretty soon though, the blossoms will give way to a dense canopy of cooling leaves, and then

they will change colour and fall, and the bare branches will mean a winter's rest. Each season presents another photographic opportunity.

Photos that I took in Richmond a few years ago in Sully's Nursery, The Richmond Gardener, are not repeatable: A townhouse development is now on that site. And it's only once a year that the weed, Mother Of Millions, fills the bushland where I photographed By The Roadside at Bligh Park. And of course, each sunset is different, never to be repeated. Then there are our children, who grow up, and friends and family (and ourselves) who grow old. The photographs of people are a precious reminder of the days in which we live. Photography is a very new invention, in the history of time, and such an integral part of our lives. Its precursor, art and painting, was previously just for the rich and famous, nobility and celebrities who could afford to have their likeness immortalized on canvas or in stone. To be immortalized in a painting was definitely for the privileged classes, whereas photos these days are so commonplace: whether film, digital SLR, compact camera, or attached to a phone, everyone has a camera. Capturing a moment seems so temporary, but once captured and preserved, it is living history that we are recording, for our own pleasure for sure, but also for future generations to know what life was like in our day. We really should move our book and photographic project along about Hawkesbury Camera Club. Maybe in 2011's programme?

****RICHMOND DIGITAL PHOTOS (Richmond Marketplace) offers a generous discount for members of Hawkesbury Camera Club for photo enlargements and reprints: Speak to Hien. ****

Western Plains Zoo

What a trip! Eleven intrepid adventurers made the four and a half hour drive to Dubbo on Friday night, ready for a 6.30am start on Saturday morning.

We had a fabulous 2 hour guided tour behind the scenes (which took

2 ½ hours!) and our very patient guide, Lesley, was both informative and friendly. After our tour, we were on our own – great variety of photo ops (but NO COFFEE) and a tremendous social gathering on Saturday evening. Many thanks to Kim for a delicious vegie bake , and to Dave, Marion and Doug for skilled work at the barbecue.

We had lots of opportunities to photograph rear views, cos the animals often turned their backs when we arrived, and we saw lots of baby animals (and another in the making if the lion gets his way!) – Amongst the animals we saw super cute meerkats, gorgeous giraffes, a vegetarian maned wolf and a very friendly "Cuddles", the African elephant.

A few returned to capture those last few shots on Sunday. Others had a look at Old Dubbo Gaol, and some did both.

A pleasant afternoon ambling drive, brought us back to the Hawkesbury with full memory cards and lots of thoughts for our next outing.

I can thoroughly recommend Dubbo Zoo and it was great to see so many people taking advantage of a club activity.

ROBYN ASHTON



Hawkesbury Camera Club Inc

Invite you to their

End of Year Dinner

To be held on

Friday 3rd December 2010

6.30pm for 7pm

at the Richmond Club

\$38 per person
RSVP - Charles

(3 courses)
by 17th November

I must apologise for the rather truncated newsletter this month as I have had ongoing Internet access issues over the past few weeks and have experienced the delights of being stuffed around by experts.

Alan.

The Annual Trivia Challenge

As you may well know the purpose of the End of Year Dinner is to once more contest the Club's Trivia Quiz. The highlight of the evening is watch the winning as table receives that much coveted trophy promising to keep it safe and return with it to contest the challenge of defending the honour twelve month hence.

Once again the rules must be reaffirmed to the participants to prevent blood being spilt on the field of battle.

1. Challenges to any answer will be contemplated then ignored completely.
2. Derision, ridicule and condemnation will be entertained from any precipitant but will have the effect of defending the non-defendable.
3. The Quiz will commence with the reading of the first question and finish with belittling of the last answer under challenge.

IS THE P FOR PROFESSIONAL?

Amongst photographers of all experiences there is some misunderstanding of the different modes that their cameras offer, therefore this article may help.

Automatic Mode

One suspects no one will need any introduction to this mode (as it seems most digital camera owners use it). Auto mode tells your camera to use its best judgement to select shutter speed, aperture, ISO, white balance, focus and flash to take the best shot that it can. With some cameras auto mode lets you override flash or change it to red eye reduction. This mode will give you nice results in many shooting conditions, however you need to keep in mind that you're not telling your camera any extra information about the type of shot you're taking so it will be 'guessing' as to what you want. As a result some of the following modes might be more appropriate to select as they give your camera a few more hints (without you needing to do anything more).



Portrait Mode



When you switch to portrait mode your camera will automatically select a large aperture (small number), which helps to keep your background out of focus (i.e. it sets a narrow depth of field – ensuring your subject is the only thing in focus and is therefore the centre of attention in the shot). Portrait mode works best when you're photographing a single subject so get in close enough to your subject (either by zooming in or walking closer) so that your photographing the head and shoulders of them). Also if you're shooting into the sun you might want to trigger your flash to add a little light onto their face.

Macro Mode



Macro mode lets you move your closer into your subject to take a close up picture. It's great for shooting flowers, insects or other small objects. Different digital cameras will have macro modes with different capabilities including different focussing distances (usually between 2-10cm for point and shoot cameras). When you use macro mode you'll notice that focussing is more difficult as at short distances the depth of field is very narrow (just millimetres at times). Keep your camera and the object you're photographing parallel if possible or you'll find a lot of it will be out of focus. You'll probably also find that you won't want to use your camera's built in flash when photographing close up objects or they'll be burnt out. Lastly – a tripod is invaluable in macro shots as the depth of field is so small that even moving towards or away from your subject slightly can make your subject out of focus.

Landscape Mode



This mode is almost the exact opposite of portrait mode in that it sets the camera up with a small aperture (large number) to make sure as much of the scene you're photographing will be in focus as possible (ie it give you a large depth of field). It's therefore ideal for capturing shots of wide scenes, particularly those with points of interest at different distances from the camera. At times your camera might also select a slower shutter speed in this mode (to compensate for the small aperture) so you might want to consider a tripod or other method of ensuring your camera is still.

Sports Mode



Photographing moving objects is what sports mode (also called 'action mode' in some cameras) is designed for. It is ideal for photographing any moving objects including people playing sports, pets, cars, wildlife etc. Sports mode attempts to freeze the action by increasing the shutter speed. When photographing fast moving subjects you can also increase your chances of capturing them with panning of your camera along with the subject and/or by attempting to pre focus your camera on a spot where the subject will be when you want to photograph it (this takes practice).

Night Mode



This is a really fun mode to play around with and can create some wonderfully colourful and interesting shots. Night mode (a technique also called 'slow shutter sync') is for shooting in low light situations and sets your camera to use a longer shutter speed to help capture details of the background but it also fires off a flash to illuminate the foreground (and subject). If you use this mode for a 'serious' or well balanced shot you should use a tripod or your background will be blurred – however it's also fun to take shots with this handheld to purposely blur your

backgrounds – especially when there is a situation with lights behind your subject as it can give a fun and experimental look (great for parties and dance floors with coloured lights).

Other less common modes that some digital cameras use:

Panoramic/Stitch Mode – for taking shots of a panoramic scene to be joined together later as one image.

Snow Mode – to help with tricky bright lighting at the snow, this mode usually closes the aperture by a stop or two.

Fireworks Mode - for shooting firework displays

Kids and Pets Mode – fast moving objects can be tricky – this mode seems to speed up shutter speed and help reduce shutter lag with some pre focussing. This uses a similar parameter to sports or shutter priority.

Underwater Mode – underwater photography has it's own unique set of exposure requirements

Beach Mode – another bright scene mode, very similar to snow mode.

Indoor Mode – helps with setting shutter speed and white balance

Foliage Mode - boosts saturation to give nice bold colours

Semi Automatic Modes

Aperture Priority Mode (A or AV)

This mode is really a semi-automatic (or semi-manual) mode where you choose the aperture and where your camera chooses the other settings (shutter speed, white balance, ISO etc) so as to ensure you have a well-balanced exposure. Aperture priority mode is useful when you're looking to control the depth of field in a shot (usually a stationary object where you don't need to control shutter speed). Choosing a larger number aperture means the aperture (or the opening in your camera when shooting) is smaller and lets less light in. This means you'll have a larger depth of field (more of the scene will be in focus) but that your camera will choose a slower shutter speed. Small numbers means the opposite (ie your aperture is large, depth of field will be small and your camera will probably choose a faster shutter speed).

Shutter Priority Mode (S or TV)

Shutter priority is very similar to aperture priority mode but is the mode where you select a shutter speed and the camera then chooses all of the other settings. You would use this mode where you want to control over shutter speed (obviously). For example when photographing moving subjects (like sports) you might want to choose a fast shutter speed to freeze the motion. On the flip side of this you might want to capture the movement as a blur of a subject like a waterfall and choose a slow shutter speed. You might also choose a slow shutter speed in lower light situations.

Program Mode (P)

Some digital cameras have this priority mode in addition to auto mode (in a few cameras Program mode IS full Auto mode... confusing isn't it!). In those cameras that have both, Program mode is similar to Auto but gives you a little more control over some other features including flash, white balance, ISO etc. Check your digital camera's manual for how the Program mode differs from Automatic in your particular model.

Manual Mode

In this mode you have full control over your camera and need to think about all settings including shutter speed, aperture, ISO, white balance, flash etc. It gives you the flexibility to set your shots up as you wish. Of course you also need to have some idea of what you're doing in manual mode so most digital camera owners that I have anything to do with tend to stick to one of the priority modes.