

In Camera

The Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Camera Club Inc.

FROM THE CHAIR

Well, all the formalities and informalities of 2012 are now over. The comps have been run & won, and trophies issued. Congratulations to all the winners and my thanks to all other members tried to lift the bar and improve the quality of images presented in all categories. Our programme for 2013 is complete and should be on the website in a few weeks. Please have a look at it so that you can start thinking about it and maybe start taking some shots for next year's comps. As we all know, leaving it to the last minute, or dragging out some images taken a year or three ago is not always the best way to go. So start now with fresh thoughts, fresh ideas, fresh attitudes and fresh images.

Over the break a sub-committee will be tackling recent issues surrounding our present constitution, with the view of presenting an updated constitution to members early February 2013, to be discussed and voted on. The matter will then hopefully be finalised and complete by mid-March 2013. We should all then be able to enjoy smooth running for the rest of 2013.

The club in always belongs to its members, so if you have any thoughts or questions, please do not hesitate to raise them, and if any of our newer members ever have any "technical" questions regarding cameras, images or other matters, please also do not hesitate to pick on someone for some experience and knowledge.

I wish you all a happy and joyous Christmas and New Year. Stay safe in everything you do, and come back with many tales to tell & photos to show in 2013.

Ian Cambourne



OFFICE BEARERS

President:	Ian Cambourne 4577 5148
Vice President:	Marian Paap 0402 116 670
Secretary:	Doug Carbery
Treasurer:	Paul Hulbert 4567 7388
Comp Manager:	Tim Hodson & Alan Sadleir
Publicity:	Sue Evans
Activities Coordinator:	Robyn Ashton
Newsletter Editor:	Marian Paap 0402 116 670

WINNERS AND GRINNERS

Congratulations to those received awards at the 'End of Year Competition' and those who received top scores for 2012.

Keep up the good work.

CHILDREN'S WARD COMP RESULTS 7TH NOVEMBER 2012

Image description	# Votes	Owner
Nemo	8	Kim Nimetz
Dog – the Painter	4	Alan Aldridge
Super Dog	4	Alan Aldridge
The Eye	4	Tim Hodson
Dog - Chihuahua	2	Jenny Aquilina
Pink Flower	2	Kathy Cooper
White Cat	2	Charles Sutton
Butterfly	1	Josephine Blue
Capsicum splash	1	Tim Hodson
Dog – the Sailor	1	Alan Aldridge
Dog [in large print]	1	
Dog - red hat & bandana	1	Marian Paap
Green Lego	1	Jonathan Auld
Lady's distorted face	1	Mark Hanson
Mia Cat	1	Michelle
Nichols		
Noughts & Crosses	1	Marian Paap
Parrots	1	Marian Paap
Peacock	1	Kim Nimetz
Playground	1	Ian Cambourne
Rainbow & sheep	1	Josephine Blue
Teddy bear reading	1	Michelle Nichols
Teddy bear with a hat	1	Mark Hanson
Tunnel	1	Paul Hulbert

NEXT MEETING

6th February

Welcome back Dinner

The following photos and the article written by Alan Sadleir were published in the Hawkesbury Gazette in November.



Tony Weller, Branch Manager and Lesley Carbery, Director



Photos by Alan Sadleir

Last week we had our annual photo competition "Photo's for the Children's Ward at Hawkesbury Hospital". More than 20 children from local primary schools have taken the time to inspect the photos and place a tag on the ones they thought would be appreciated by children in hospital.

Again animal photos were most popular. Following the judging of our work the junior judges were able to question.

Those who had entered the competition and a lively exchange between both made for an informative night. Most often question - How did you take the photo? The selected photos will be framed and presented to the Hospital in the New Year. Each year the photos are reprinted in a calendar for sale. The Bendigo Bank is a sponsor of the calendar and we appreciate their support.

Alan Sadleir

It was a fun night again when our Photos for Children Competition got under way in November. The images once again were pitched to the child judges who we have learnt, prefer photos of animals to cheer the sick children in a hospital bed. There were a few favourites that received lots of votes; it was Kim's colourful fish photo that received the most

votes, 8. We all enjoy hearing the children's comments as to why they chose a particular image. Everyone was delighted with young Charlie's comment about choosing a photo of a "scary face", he said "I like scary things!" It's surprising what children see in a photo, it can be something quite different from what the photographer had in mind. My photo of a rainbow with the sheep in a field as a minor part of the image was chosen because the young judge said she has a friend in hospital who likes sheep, so that was why she chose the photo. We never really know what effect our images are going to have on viewers, which is one of the best things about photography. Our photographs speak for themselves, and viewers can make their own associations and connections from them, bringing pleasure and enjoyment.

When given the opportunity to ask the photographers about how they took particular images, members were treated to insightful questioning and curiosity from the child judges. I was kept busy taking the microphone to each child who wanted to know about how to get a dog or cat to sit still long enough to take a photo, or get a dog to look happy while wearing a hat or pretending to be an artist holding a paintbrush in its mouth. Photographers were happy to share their secrets and hopefully open up the world of photography to a young generation.

Our colourful 2013 calendar of images that were chosen last year and now hang on the walls of Hawkesbury Hospital Children's Ward was ready for release on Competition night. Sponsored by Bendigo Bank, it gives many people the opportunity to enjoy the photos chosen by the children for the year to come, as well as provide some extra donations to the Children's Ward. Calendars were given to each of our Judges for their participation in the evening as well as a Certificate stating their Judge status. The calendars are distributed through the Hospital Shop, as well as Bendigo Bank. I also have some available at Blue Gallery. We ask for a gold coin donation, and all funds are forwarded to the Children's Ward.

Thank you to everyone who made the night enjoyable and successful: preparing the screens, making the Certificates, taking notes of children's comments, and for all those who put images in the competition to be judged. Congratulations to those

whose photos were chosen, and thank you for giving permission for your photos to be used for this purpose. Thank you to Alan and Charles for organising the printing of the images that will be replacing last year's images, in a changeover in 2013.

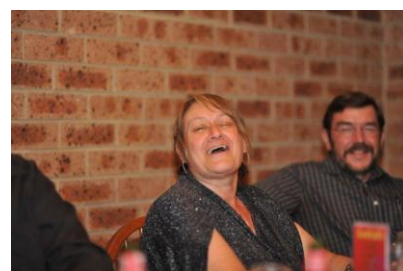
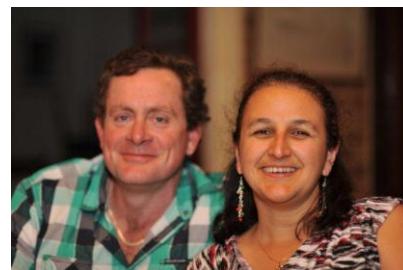
Last week 17 members of Camera Club enjoyed a delicious Christmas meal at Restaurant 22 in Windsor. It was enjoyable spending time socializing with members, talking about the year, and photography. The Peacock Trophy Award was postponed until Christmas Dinner 2013, when the current custodian will surrender the statuette to the new winner of the Trivia Quiz.

Josephine Blue

CLUB'S CHRISTMAS DINNER



Who left our President alone!!





Photos by John Hughes

UPCOMING COMPS & SHOWS

PMA Australia

<http://www.pmaaustralia.com.au/>

Castle Hill Show 2013

http://www.castlehillshow.com.au/Sites/chshow/CMS/Docs/schedules2013/Photography_2013_web.pdf

Hawkesbury Show 2013

Competition schedule will be available on line by end of December 2012

<http://www.hawkesburyshow.com.au/>

Photography Competitions



<http://www.photographycompetitions.net/>

TEN TIPS FOR BETTER HOLIDAY PHOTOS

- Compose Creatively and Move in Closer
- Better Family & Group Portraits
- Shoot First, Ask questions later

And loads more tips.

See pages 4 – 7

 *Wishing you all the very best for
Festive Season and a Happy Snappy New Year* 

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have any articles that may interest our members in:
Photographic tips/hints/upcoming events/competitions/web links/
Please email the Newsletter Editor-Marian Paap – marian@secureaz.net

<http://www.hawkesburycameraclub.com.au/>

Ten Tips for Better Holiday Photos

1 Compose Creatively and Move in Close

Whether you are photographing the symbolic subjects of the holidays or your friends and family, getting creative with your composition certainly cannot hurt. This means paying special attention to how you organize the various elements in each photo.

There are two main concepts to keep in mind when composing the scene artistically: **Off-centre your main subject.** Instead of placing your main subject in the centre of the scene - with a lot of dead space around it - move your camera until this subject is off to the side. This works especially well if you can balance your main subject with something in the background, on the other side of the picture. For example, if you are photographing a beautiful candle, try placing it on the right with the Christmas tree (or an equivalent supporting element) blurred softly in the background on the left. This will result in a photo that both records the candle in all its beauty and does so in an artistic, creative way.

Move in close. Especially when you centre your subject but even when you off-centre it, moving in close is the one thing that will make the biggest difference in the success of your picture taking. The simple fact is the audiences are always more impressed when the subject is huge and impossible to miss. Therefore, you want your subject to fill the frame. Say you are photographing the candle mentioned above, but don't have a Christmas tree (or its equivalent supporting element) in the background. In this case, you might want to instead move in as close as you can. Causing the entire frame to be filled with your subject will inevitably result in a photo that has true impact on your viewer.

2 For Better Family and Group Portraits

The most important thing to keep in mind when photographing groups and families is this: you absolutely must take a lot of photos.

There is often a great deal of pressure when photographing groups. People generally complain about having their picture taken and want the experience to be over quickly. They have been trained by bad portrait photographers in the past to hate both the process and the results.

So it is your job to overcome these hurdles. You need to work quickly in order to get the job done within their limits of patience. And you need to keep the experience as fun and friendly as possible, so they remember it in a positive light. Above both of these tasks, though, you need to get the absolute best photos you can. And more than anything else this means taking a large number of photos. Since there is always someone blinking or looking off to the side or facing another member of the group, having a large number of photos will give you the best chances of catching everyone looking their best.

3 Shoot First, Ask Questions Later

Especially if your subject is a child opening a gift - or playing with a gift for the first time - you know that, within a split second, the scene can change. There are often just a few brief moments when that "magic spark" appears.

That's why it is so important to be fully prepared to capture that moment when it happens. Of course this means having your camera on hand and the batteries fully charged. You can't capture the moment if you don't have your camera on you and ready to go.

However, even more than having your camera on hand, this equates to being assertive with your picture taking. Be ready to press that shutter button at a moment's notice, anticipating when the magic spark will surface. If you have a digital camera that suffers from a bit of a delay when taking the picture, then you will have to become even more intuitive and skilled at anticipating the moment.

Either way, shoot quickly and shoot often. Don't be shy - getting a great photo of the right moment is rewarding and well worth the extra effort. The benefit of using a digital camera is you can take a few shots and only keep that special one.

4 Don't Use Flash Indoors

The flip side to Tip 5 is to turn **off** your flash indoors, whenever you can possibly get away with it.

The flash can be a real lifesaver, no doubt about it. This burst of artificial light can mean the difference between a decent photo and a totally blurry, unusable image.

However, the light from flash units - especially from the tiny on-camera flash units found on most every camera - tend to produce harsh, flat, and cold light. This is rarely a complimentary way to illuminate your subject.

If you are photographing indoors during the day, take your portraits with your subjects standing near a window or door instead of relying on the flash. Get between your subject and the window - in other words, don't include the window in your composition, as this will throw off your exposure meter.

If you are photographing indoors at night, try to flood the room where you are photographing with as much light as you can - turn on whatever lamps you have at hand. This will help reduce those harsh, flashed-out subjects, as well as other problems like red-eye.

5 Use Flash Outdoors



Most people think that using flash is synonymous with photographing indoors at night - at a Christmas party for example.

However, flash need not be relegated to indoor, night photography. Flash can be a big help when it comes to shooting outdoors during the day. Even in bright sunlight, **forcing your flash to fire** can often mean the difference between a so-so snapshot and an eye-grabbing masterpiece.

The reason is that this kind of bright day flash will fill in the shadows and even out harsh contrasts.

Try it out, next time you are photographing friends or children outdoors, turn your flash on and see if it works for you.

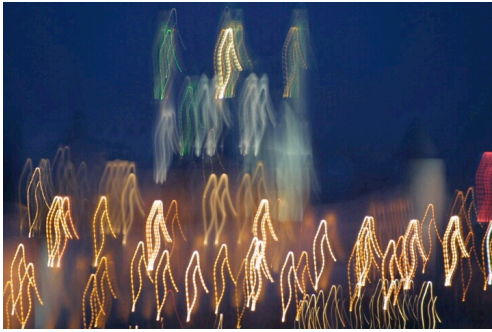
One the quickest and easiest ways to add an artistic touch to your holiday photos is to **focus on capturing reflections** rather than the object itself.

Simply keep an eye out for interesting splashes of colour, reflected from Christmas lights and other holiday decorations.

This is one time when rainy days are your friends - puddles in the street can be a perfect source of abstract images - photos that suggest the essence of the holidays without being direct and explicit.

You can also look for interesting shadows and other graphic elements. Or you can include out of focus Christmas lights, to give your photo an evocative, unique background.

6 Blur, Swirl, and Zoom Those Christmas Lights



Tired of the same old Christmas tree photos? If you want to try something new, set your camera to a slower shutter speed - anywhere from 1/2 second to 2 or 4 full seconds. Then **purposefully move the camera while taking the picture**. The idea here is to intentionally blur the colourful Christmas lights and in order to blur a stationary subject; you need a slow shutter speed and controlled camera movement.

If you use an SLR camera with a zoom lens, you will have a little more freedom and speed with your zoom. Thus, you will not need as slow of a shutter speed as those using compact cameras. All the same, you can create this effect with either kind of camera.

For the zooming effect to look clean, you will want to mount your camera securely on a tripod to keep it from moving while you zoom in or out during the exposure. If you want to get even more creative, you can simply move the camera around while the shutter is open. For this technique, you can leave your tripod at home.

If you have a breeze and the lights are moving with it, try using rear curtain sync, (yes it's in the camera's manual). Pick a scene that can be exposed well with your flash. Set the camera using Shutter Priority, choose a speed somewhere between 1/4 to 1/15 of a second, set your flash to rear sync and try it. The image should be a blurred image with a sharp image leading the blurred one. Try it it's fun.

8 Give the Gift of a Photograph

Whether you are a last minute shopper or not, we have the perfect gift idea for you: a family photo.

Parents and grandparents in particular love photos of the family and children as a holiday present.

This is such a cherished present; you have been honing your portrait taking skills all year so use that knowledge to create that special photograph. In the meantime, pick out a nice frame, get some good premium glossy paper to suit your printer and get ready to give a gift that.

9 Plan Ahead: Charge Batteries and Clear Cards

The last thing you want to have happen is to get all set up for the family portrait or holiday photo to realize you forgot to charge the battery!

In addition to making sure your batteries are charged (or you have replacements on hand), you will also want to make sure you have a place for your potential images to be recorded.

Upload your previous images to your computer, not forgetting to back them up as you do so. Once uploaded reformat your camera's memory card(s). Use the camera to reformat the card never the computer.

Here's a bonus tip for you generous gift-givers: before wrapping up digital camera and film camera gifts, charge up the batteries and insert the memory card. You can always show the receiver the way to do it later, the excitement of Christmas Morning is not the best time to be trying to read that manual, finding batteries and the

SD card This will make it all the more fun for the recipient to enjoy your gift right out of the box.

Either way, being prepared will make those once-in-a-lifetime moments that much easier to capture.

10 Watch Those Beach Shots

If you go out photographing those seaside scenes, most camera meters will be fooled into underexposing your picture. Instead of nice, bright sand, the camera will be fooled into under exposing making the whole image dark with a vivid blue sky. At least you will get great clouds.

To remedy this, use your camera's ***exposure compensation*** feature or a ***manual exposure mode*** to force an addition 1 to 2 stops of light to reach sensor. If you have a point and shoot camera, your camera may not feature manual exposure but it will likely have the exposure compensation option. Look for a little +1 or +2 symbol.

If you have a film or digital SLR camera, you will likely have these +1 and +2 exposure compensation options as well as a manual exposure mode.