



# *In Camera*

*The Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Camera Club Inc.*

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## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH - MARCH 2014

- March 5 DISCUSSION – Fire Theme**  
Brainstorming session for the competition theme, fire. Ideas using candles, bushfires, BBQ etc.
- March 12 PRESENTATION:**  
Mastering Depth of Field  
Presenter: Paul Hulbert
- March 19 WORKSHOP:**  
Mastering Depth of Field  
With John Hughes  
Hands on workshop to help improve your understanding of Depth of Field. Bring your camera & tripod, as this is the opportunity to practice and obtain assistance from presenter and experienced club members.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The first month of our club calendar is now passed. We kicked the year off with a good meal together at Pughs Lagoon and some of our more experienced members may have noticed, that was the first time we have been there for quite some years and it actually did not rain on us. I took that as a good sign of things to come this year.

Two meetings at the club followed as usual, and these were informative and well received by our new members.

But the highlight for February had to have been our exhibition at Richmond Marketplace on the weekend on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks to all those members who provided images, both in print form and on USB sticks. I also greatly thank those members who gave up some of their time to man the exhibition and answer any questions that came their way. Every comment I have heard to date has been positive, without exception. All images were great and the planning and execution of the weekend went very smoothly. So well as everything done, that by midday Monday, 24<sup>th</sup>, our next exhibition was booked and confirmed with the centre management. Same place, same format, but on the weekend of August 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. So as from now, you have 6 months warning to do it all again. Those members who were unavailable during February due to holidays or any other reason, we will gladly welcome you in August. And our newer members who have only recently joined, or even joined as a result of the February exhibition, you are more than welcome to participate in August as well.

And that was just our first month back!! March promises to keep the ball rolling, as do April & May.

Don't blink, you might miss something.

*Ian Cambourne*



Pughs Lagoon

Photo by Peter Burford



EXHIBITION – RICHMOND MARKETPLACE



Setting Up



Hard at work even before the shops opened

WHATSY OF THE MONTH

**Perception:** Act, faculty, of perceiving, intuitive recognition (of truth, aesthetic quality, etc); action by which the mind refers its sensations to external objects as cause.

*Perception* is involved and central to one of our greatest challenges as photographers. We often see a location, an event, a situation, a person, in our three dimensional world. We try to capture at that time as best we can. But how can we present a two dimensional image to a viewer and have them see or perceive the same thing that we saw or perceived when we took the image? We must use our equipment effectively, this includes our camera settings, choice of lens and thought processes behind the image. Image composition, removal of distractions and clutter play important parts. The way we use leading lines, foregrounds, middle grounds, and backgrounds, together with placement of the horizon will affect the way our viewer's eye travel through our image, hopefully towards our point of interest. Distractions always compete with



The Morning Crew

our point of interest and as seen I n the past, always draw more comments than our subject. Clutter just causes confusion. How many times have we heard a comment like “My eyes don’t know where to settle.” So why include it in the image in the first place?

No matter what your subject is: portrait, landscape, architecture, macro, or whatever, a little use of these thoughts will usually improve the chances of you and your image viewer perceiving the same thing.

#### TIPS

### [The Idiot’s Guide To Camera Settings](#)

Posted by [David Peterson](#) as [Tips](#)

Okay. Maybe that’s a bit harsh. Nobody is calling anyone anything, but if you are very new to photography, this article is for you. Your camera can seem like a confusing mess of knobs and settings when you get it for the first time. Don’t worry. You will only be using a few of these settings in any of your shoots. I’ll show you which ones matter the most and how you can use them to get great shots right out of the box.

#### What Do You Plan On Shooting Today?

Knowing what you want is the key to understanding your camera’s settings. Most cameras, point-and-shoots and digital SLRs alike, come with a ton of pre-programmed modes that are ideal for certain kinds of shots. You just need to know where to find them. If you want to shoot [landscapes](#), [action sequences](#), [macro](#), or [portraits](#), there’s a [mode for that](#).

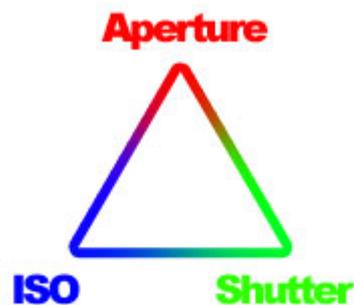
#### Autofocus or Manual Focus?

Your focus mode determines how you will focus the shot. If you choose automatic focus, the camera will find a spot in the frame to focus on before you take the shot. The other option is manual mode, where you turn the focus ring on your lens and pick the part of the scene you want in focus. Note that some Point and Shoot cameras don’t let you manually set the focus, so use my trick to [focus on your subject](#).

As a person who is fairly new to photography, you will want to pick automatic focus whenever possible. That’s because there aren’t that many kinds of shots that will benefit from manual focus. In many cases, the human eye isn’t as good of a judge of focus as the autofocus program in your camera. Stick with automatic focus for now, and I will show you what you can do with manual focus in a different tutorial.

### Use Shutter Priority Mode For Action Shots And Moving Water

Without knowing anything at all about manual photography, you can try out aperture or shutter priority modes. When you choose one of these modes, you effectively tell your camera that **YOU** want to set one of the three variables a



camera uses to take photos. It will make the decisions on the other two for you. In shutter priority mode, you select the ideal shutter speed, and in aperture priority mode, you pick the aperture that you know will work best for the shot. The ‘Auto’ setting tells the camera to select all three.

With shutter priority mode you can select a shutter speed, and the camera will do the rest. To access this mode, look for an “S”, or a “Tv” mode  from the mode wheel on the top of your camera, or select “Shutter Priority mode” from your camera’s menu. Once you’re in shutter priority mode, you can set a specific shutter speed for use in your shot.

Depending on the shutter speed you choose, shutter priority mode will allow you to [freeze action](#) or [blur it all together](#). If you want to freeze moving water, for example, you can go into shutter priority mode and pick a very fast shutter speed like 1/500s. The same goes for blending water. Make sure you get a tripod, use a slow shutter speed like 1/15s, and watch as speeding water turns to silk.



#### A Quick Guide To Picking Your Aperture

Aperture priority mode is great when you know which aperture you want to use. You can access aperture priority mode by rotating the top dial to “A” or “Av”.

The hard part isn’t learning how to use aperture priority mode. The hard part is knowing [which aperture works best](#) for the kinds of photos you want to take. Here is a quick rundown.

- **Portraits, Faces, and Macro Photography:** Any aperture between F1.4 and F5.6
- **Landscapes:** Any aperture between F11 and F22. Use F22 for maximum sharpness.
- **Everything Else:** Any aperture between F8 and F11.

Once you pick the right aperture, the camera's on-board computer will automatically pick the right shutter speed for your shot. It won't necessarily have the same accuracy as manual mode, but it should work well for most situations. Besides, you're a beginner. You want to get the most of out your camera without having to learn a ton of new settings.

#### **A Note About ISO Speed And Picture Quality**

There is another setting I haven't mentioned yet. When you change your camera's [ISO speed](#), you are changing the speed at which the sensor picks up light from outside. As your ISO speed goes up, your photos become brighter, but they also start to get more grainy. As a beginner, this is a setting you can leave alone. There's no need to intentionally reduce the quality of your photos in order to get more brightness (just yet).

The same goes for the photo quality setting on your camera. [Keep it as high as it goes](#) so you have the best material to work with. If you need to reduce the file size on your images, you can always do it in Photoshop later on. SD card space is cheap now, so keep your quality setting high and buy a second SD card if you run out of space.

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

*"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."*

Henry David Thoreau

**Paul Hulbert**

#### **Newsletter Contributions**

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