



In Camera

The Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Camera Club Inc.

2016 OFFICE BEARERS

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Garden Comp	Marian Paap
Newsletter Editor	Marian Paap
Outing Coordinator	Paul Hulbert
Publicity Coordinator	Marianne Hodgkins
Webmaster	Jonathan Auld

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

May 4 th	PRESENTATION Creative Photography with Mike & Maiva Smyth
May 11 th	WORKSHOP Still Life
May 18 th	COMPETITION Geoff Pfister Portrait Award Judge: Judy Brownlie [Non-point scoring comp]
May 31 st	OUTING Vivid Sydney

FROM THE PRESIDENT

April kicked off with Sonja Breckenridge presenting 'Her Life in Photography'. Our members were treated to an inspirational story of change and adaptability during the transition from film to digital imagery and the demise of the 24 Hour photo shops. Sonja showed some of her work that has been prize winners in local, state and international competition. Her image of the Digger's gloved hand juxtaposed with his campaign medals won 'Best in Show' at the 2015 Royal Easter Show. The simplicity of the composition and the emotional impact of this image is something that all aspiring photographers would like to call their own. Her image of the sheep that won first prize in the Rural section of the 2016 Royal Easter Show demonstrates the consistency of a photographer at the top of her game. Well done Sonja and thanks for a very informative and instructive evening.

The Hawkesbury Show attracted some of our members and Marian Paap enjoyed success with a first, Suzanne Thomas receiving a second and Debbie Sheppard a third place. It is encouraging to see our members taking up the challenge and entering into external competitions.

Week 2 and we experimented with alternative lighting and coloured gels to obtain subtle effects when practising portraiture in the home. The club extends our thanks to Hannah, Amy and Dennis for donating their time as models for the night. Alan Sadlier brought his abbreviated studio lighting and was inundated with members wanting to experiment with studio lighting.

Week 3 was a 'show and tell' night for portraiture. Approximately half our membership turned up for an informative evening where composition, lighting effects and posing were discussed. The show and tell forum is uncomfortable for some, especially newcomers to the club who are a little unsure about having their work openly discussed. These evenings are about learning from examples and exploring possibilities within images being

presented. The club does not have post processing software and in the digital era this is necessity if we are to improve the quality of our photography. We briefly demonstrated the benefit of selective cropping in Photoshop and it became obvious that we need to have some basic workshops in this area sooner rather than later.

The club will shortly be announcing a workshop over two evenings to explore:

- 1) Basic 'Know Your Camera',
- 2) Introductory post processing of images using Photoshop and Lightroom, and,
- 3) Studio lighting.

Members will be contacted by email and invited to register their interest.

Some members have indicated that they have surplus photographic equipment for sale. It is proposed we have a boot sale in the near future. Members (and others) wishing to participate as either seller or buyer are requested to register their interest with our secretary, Marian Paap.

John Hughes

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS - FROM THE COMP MANAGER

18 May

Geoff Pfister Portrait Award - see Brief

<http://goo.gl/TdDLhJ>

Judge - Judy Brownlie

15 June

COMPETITION – Architecture – see Brief

<http://goo.gl/qKdwtv>

Internal Judging

20 July

COMPETITION - Still Life

Internal Judging

17 August

COMPETITION - Monochrome

Internal judging

21 September

COMPETITION - Landscape

Judge – Doug Booker

12 October

COMPETITION - Illustrate a song & final Portfolio presentation

Judge – Jim Crew

2 November

SELECTION NIGHT - Hawkesbury Hospital Children's Ward

External judging

16 November

COMPETITION - End of Year Competition

External judging

JUDGING CRITERIA 2016

During 2016, Hawkesbury Camera Club has introduced internally judged competitions. The first internally judged competition took place on 16 March with the theme being *Street photography*. The following details were shared prior to the judging and are printed here for your information.

- Competitions should be a source of learning and judging highlights the most valuable reason for entering competitions.
- Our club appreciates SUPPORT, POSITIVE FEEDBACK & ENCOURAGEMENT from Judges.
- Each image (print & digital) is judged individually by members.
- If invited to give feedback: Try something positive, something to improve, and finish with a positive.
- Here are some criteria/guidelines for judges and members:
 1. Was the photo worth taking?
 2. Does it show any particular skill and/or interpretation on behalf of the author?
 3. Does the composition of the key elements in the image add to the overall impact of the photo?
 4. Is the ISO selection in context with the subject matter?
 5. Is the Shutter Speed selection in context with the subject matter?
 6. Is the Aperture selection in context with the subject matter?
 7. Would you hang this image on your personal display wall?
- It is your discretion to award an image in each competition category but it is not compulsory to give an image an award.
- If you think the image fits the criteria, give it an award.

PRINTS - you will be given 2 pegs to clip on the images you like in A Grade and 2 pegs in B Grade.

DIGITAL – you will vote with a show of hands, again only 2 votes per person for A Grade and 2 votes in B Grade.
- Digital images are judged from the projected image and not the computer screen.



By Comp Manager – Michelle Nichols

OUTINGS

Early this month a few avid photographers ventured to the wilds of Eugowra (near Forbes NSW). Only one ex-member took up the offer of accommodation at Ruth (broken wing) Nielsen's' humble abode. Apart from a night shoot of the Canowindra Balloon Glow (see last Newsletter) we took an early Kangaroo dodging trip to the outskirts of town for some foggy sunrise shots. Working fast as the light changes by the second, a few pleasing images were captured. A few images were also taken with a Drone Camera flown over Ruth's friend's property. The owner was impressed, he imagined checking his fences from the homestead!



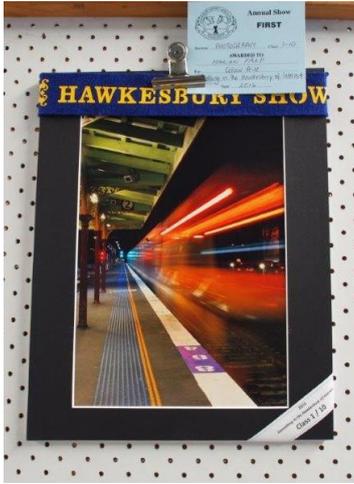
Taken with a Drone

Photos & article by Pete Burford

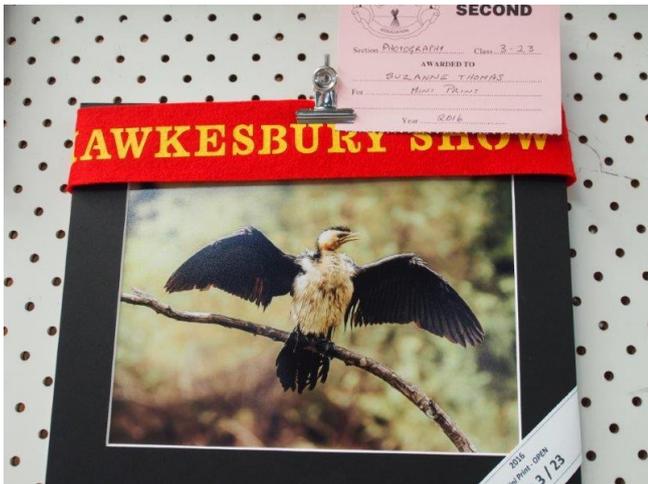


CONGRATULATIONS

Success at the 2016 Hawkesbury Show



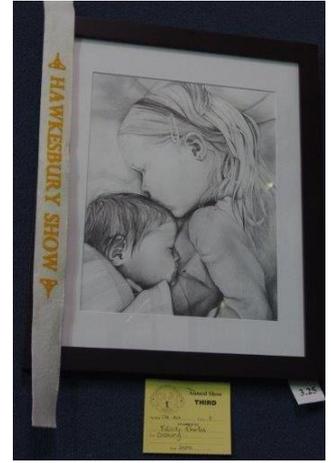
Marian Paap – 1st Place
[Something of interest in Hawkesbury]



Susanne Thomas – 2nd Place
[Mini Print]



Debbie Sheppard – 3rd Place
[Monochrome Print]



Felicity Charles – 2nd and 3rd Places
[Drawing Category]



Some visitors checking-out their winning!!

PORTRAIT WORKSHOP

Our mid-month in April, Portraiture workshop proved to be well received by those attending members the exercise being to show members how easy it is to produce an image with “garage lights”. With several models at their disposal club members had a variety of lighting situations at their disposal with coloured gels over inexpensive lights, studio flash units and hand held flash units. Alan Sadleir’s studio setup was well attended with some pleasing results evident in our follow up Evaluation night. The main objective of the night was to show members that portrait lighting can be achieved as well with inexpensive table lamps and reflectors.



Isabelle



Hannah

Thanks to our models



Amy



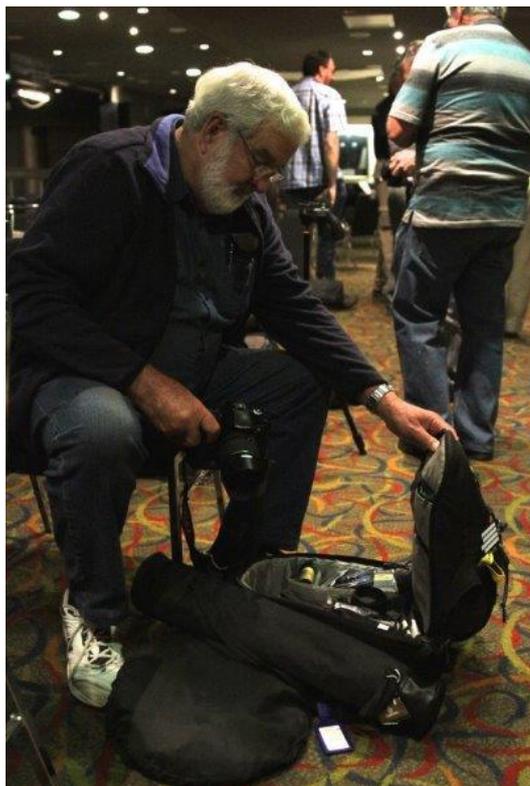
Dennis



CHILDREN'S WARD PHOTOS BEEN SEEN!!

Following is a great story by one of our members' experience when she was admitted to the Hawkesbury Hospital.

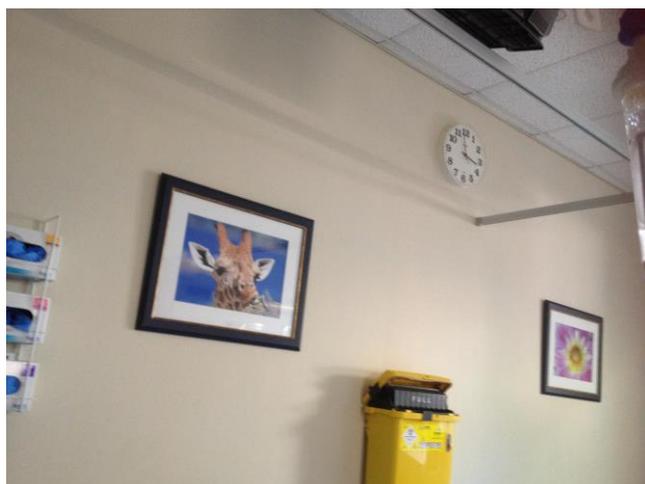
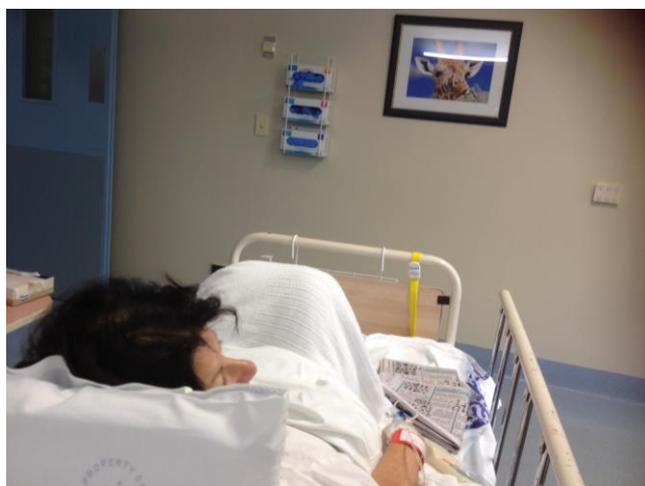
Recently I was admitted to Hawkesbury Hospital and after day 4 the nurse said to me "we are going to move you to another ward". Highly amused when I arrived to the ward there was a photo of a giraffe at the end of my bed and a flower at the end of the bed next to me, I had a good chuckle and asked if I was on the children's ward. The nurse said "yes we sometimes use this room if the other ward is full". It was such a funny talking point between the nurses and myself, my Monkey photo was in the room next door. They told me the children and parents love the photos.



Don Clay with his tool bag!

Story by Pete Burford

Photos by Marian Paap



Story and Photos by Tina Simm

5 Simple Tips for Better People Pictures

PICTURECORRECT.com

<http://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/simple-tips-for-better-people-pictures/>

5 Simple Tips for Better People Pictures

Posted: 26 Apr 2016 07:33 PM PDT

I've been a professional photographer for long enough now to start getting invited to judge some local photography contests. In doing so I have been struck by the fact that so many of the pictures, especially those of people, could have been dramatically improved by the application of just a few simple ideas.



photo by [Christopher Crouzet](#)

I'm not talking professional portraiture here. Few, if any, of the entrants to these contests would even consider themselves to be serious photographers. In this digital age, it has become even more obvious that the difference between a good photograph and an ordinary one has little to do with the camera and everything to do with what the photographer thinks about before they take the picture. With that in mind, here are a few things to think about the next time you take a picture of someone. Who knows, you might even want to enter it in your own local photography contest.

1. Turn the camera around



photo by [Rod Waddington](#)

It is the easiest thing in the world to just pick your camera up and hold it horizontally to take the picture. Cameras are designed to be naturally held this way but it produces an image in what is called a landscape format, where the picture is wider than it is tall. As the name suggests, this is very good for landscapes.

Turning the camera on its side will produce an image in portrait format (taller than it is wide) that is much better suited to pictures of people. It's obvious when you think about it, people are taller than they are wide so they will always fit the frame better if the camera is held this way round.

Using the camera this way might feel slightly awkward at first but, with a little practice, you'll soon get used to it. The only times a landscape format works best is with a group of people or if you go close enough for a "head and shoulders" shot or you deliberately want to include something else in the background of the shot.

2. Get closer

A general rule for a good photograph is that the subject "fills the frame" and, once you have turned your camera on its side, this becomes much easier to do. It's almost essential if you want to include their whole body but you would only need to do that if what they were wearing was important to your picture.



photo by [Oleg Afonin](#)

Normally it's best to go in until there is just a little space

either side of them and a little more space above their heads. This will usually mean you are cutting them off around the waist. For various technical reasons, it is better if you don't get physically closer than about 6 feet (2 meters), especially if you're using flash.

3. Find a plain background

Another thing that makes a good photograph is if there is nothing to distract the eye from the main subject. Filling the frame will help a lot with this but every subject has to have something behind them so try to keep this as plain as possible. The sky (especially on a cloudy day) might be the most obvious choice but it's not usually the best.

This is because it is much brighter than it looks to the human eye and, unless you know how to compensate your exposure for that, may give you an underexposed picture. Even when you do compensate, there is a great danger of your subject's hair just disappearing into the washed out sky. This hardly ever looks flattering.



photo by [transp](#)

If you're near a building, consider having your subject stand close enough to it so that there is just a plain wall in the background. If there is nothing obvious in the vicinity, try standing a bit further away and zooming in. In most cases this will throw the background out of focus, making it less distracting and making your subject stand out much more clearly.

Be careful if you have a zoom larger than about 4X because it may be difficult to avoid camera shake if you zoom right in with one of these. Ideally, you would use a tripod in these situations but that's getting a bit beyond the realms of simple photography.

4. Watch the sun

It's great when the sun comes out. All the colors are brighter and people find it much easier to smile. However, bright sunlight produces hard dark shadows which can have a very unflattering effect on someone's face if they

are at the wrong angle. It is much easier to take pictures of people on a cloudy day because, no matter which direction they face, the lighting won't change too much.



photo by [Kenny Oyama](#)

Of course, we can't control the weather, so probably the best thing to do on a sunny day is to find a shady spot to take your photograph. In order for this to work best, the background, the subject, and the camera should all be shaded from direct sunlight.

When there is no shade to be found, consider the angle of the sun relative to your subject's face. There are two positions that minimize the effect of shadows cast by the sun. If your subject stands almost directly facing the sun then the shadows on their face will be at their smallest. Don't have them absolutely directly facing the sun or you might get your own shadow into the shot.

Another option is to have the sun behind them so their entire face is in shadow. Again, don't have the sun directly behind them or you could end up with some flare in your picture. You may have to adjust the exposure for this type of shot but it's the best set up if you can also use fill in flash on your camera.

5. Get on the eyeline

Having sorted out the background and the lighting, the next thing to consider is your subject and the position of your camera relative to them. Eyeline can mean different things depending on the context but here I'm just referring to your subject's eye level. This is ideally where your camera should be, at the same height as their eyes or very slightly below.

In professional portraiture, the height of the camera relative to the subject's eyes plays an extremely important part in determining how they will look in the final image. Even slight changes of this aspect can make a profound difference. The most neutral place to be is at the same level and, unless you're making a portrait as opposed to

just taking a picture, this is the best place to be.



photo by [Thomas Leuthard](#)

When dealing with a subject who is much taller than you then you should think of asking them to sit down so you can get on their eye level. If that's not possible, try standing farther away and zooming in. This will reduce the angle at which you are pointing up and minimize the effect.

In most cases the problem arises when you're photographing someone sitting down or a child or even a pet. It is almost always going to be a better picture if it is taken from the eye level of your subject. You don't need to take my word for it, try it for yourself the next time you are in this situation.

Extra Tip: Don't be square

If you follow all of the above, you should be able to take a decent photo of anyone but that is still some way away from making a portrait, which is an attempt to show your subject's character and personality as well as being a good picture of them. Once you have mastered all the tips, you might be inspired into taking this one stage further and stepping into the realms of portraiture.



photo by [Christopher Michel](#)

For this you need to think about your subject's pose and

probably the simplest way to start is to avoid having them squarely facing the camera. Ask your subject to face about 45 degrees away from the camera or have them stand still and you move round about 45 degrees. Then ask them to turn their head to face the camera for the shot. This usually looks much better than just being square on and, if nothing else, will have a slimming effect on most people, which is often appreciated.

Which direction they turn usually doesn't matter but a few people have a "good" side. The best thing to do is to try a shot from either side and decide what is best later on.

For better people pictures you should: turn the camera around for portrait format, fill the frame with your subject and always shoot from their eye level. Oh, and if it's a sunny day, get into the shade.

About the Author

Colin Aiken is a professional photographer based in the United Kingdom. You can view some of his photographs at: <http://www.lovethepictures.co.uk>.



What is it?

A non-profit organisation which promotes the work of photographers at various stages of career. It encourages excellence and innovation and focusses on making photography accessible to everyone and "raising awareness of important issues through photography." The foundation manages the **Head On Photo Festival** and also the **Head On Awards**.

When is it?

The Festival begins on Saturday 30 April 2016 and runs through May.

What's on?

There are free talks, seminars, special events, exhibitions, workshops and screenings and much more, see the website for more details

<https://www.headon.com.au/whatson>

FREE talks are listed at

<https://www.headon.com.au/product/free-talks>

Head on portrait prize exhibition 2016

30 April - 5 June 2016 Museum of Sydney
The works of the finalists of the Head On Portrait Prize will be on view
<http://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/exhibitions/head-on-portrait-prize-2016>

What's on nearby?

RAW EXPOSURE: A Dynamic Range

3 May - 13 May at the Trapezium Gallery
Nepean Arts & Design Centre Photo Imaging Graduates display.
<https://www.headon.com.au/exhibitions/raw-exposure-dynamic-range#sthash.aAaC9CR4.dpuf>

Shadows with Luciano Vranich

9 May - 19 June at Penrith City Library
Exhibition focussing on shadows in photography highlighting "the dark side of our existence"
Artist Talk 9 May at 11am
<https://www.headon.com.au/exhibitions/shadows>

Krishna Tummalapalli - Sleeping Beauties

29 April - 22 May at Parramatta City Library
Project focussing on cars parked in the streets in Bangalore, India
<https://www.headon.com.au/exhibitions/sleeping-beauties#sthash.pR49dlee.dpuf>

More information

If you are unable to attend any of the Head On events, check out the website as there are many examples from exhibitions and talks available to view
<https://www.headon.com.au/> Also view works from finalists from previous years
<https://www.headon.com.au/gallery/2015>
Follow the Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/HeadOnPhotoFest/>

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QUOTES

"A camera didn't make a great picture anymore than a typewriter wrote a great novel."

Peter Adams

Marian Paap

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

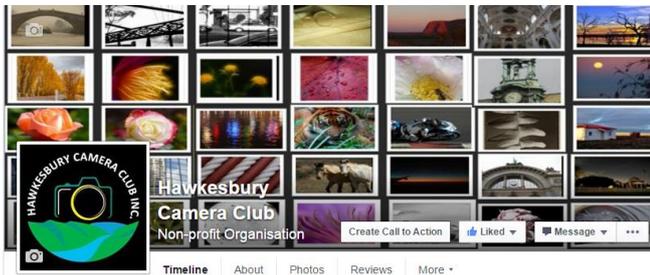
Do you have an article, story or tips that you would like to share with other members through the monthly newsletter?

Contributions can be submitted at any time to the Editor Marian Paap Marian@secureaz.net. The newsletter is distributed prior to the first meeting of each month.

CONTRIBUTIONS DUE DATES:

29th May 29th June 29th July
29th August 28th September 29th October
28th November

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Newsletter Contributions

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