

September 2016

A banner for "Camera News" featuring a camera on a tripod. The text includes: "Camera News", "A monthly newsletter from the Ballarat Photography Group", "Clubrooms: Kohnoor Community Centre, on the corner of Errard and Sebastopol Streets, Ballarat.", "Meetings: 8.00pm 2nd Tuesday each month at the clubrooms", "Postal Address: PO Box 259 Ballarat 3353", "Web Page: www.ballaratphotographygroup.com.au", and "Email: ballaratphotographygroup@gmail.com".

Camera News
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Events pencil into your diary



- Monthly club meeting 8.00pm Tuesday 13th October
- Don't forget that the December meeting (only a few months away) is the family photo competition night. So now is the time to start organising your family members to get busy and take some photos for entry.

Monthly Competition Results for August - This month's judge was Ed Goodson

Small Prints Open

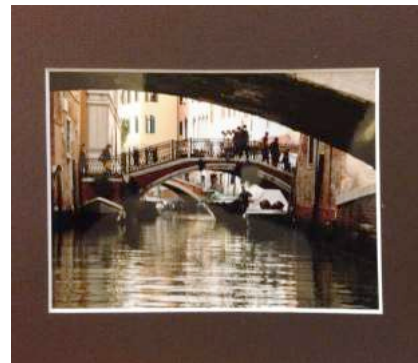
First "By the Shore"
by Anne Earnshaw



Second "On Path"
by Steve Demeye



Third "Three Bridges"
by Christine Thomson



EDI's Set Subject Panorama

First "Melville Caves"
by Gary Freestone



Second "Borreroolla Tank Hill Sunset"
by Wayne Dorning



Third "Pipers in the Sand"

by Mark Bevelander



Large Print Open

First: "Through the Trees"

by Steve Demeye



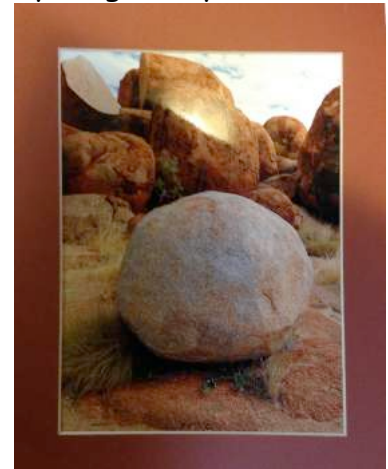
Second: "Trentham Falls"

by Steve Demeye



Third: "Odd Rock Out"

by Megan Rayner



A Report of the Club Safari to Port Fairy

A feature of the safari to Port Fairy this year was weather, it was rather wet! The entrance into the accommodation at Southcombe Lodge was literally under water with much of the grassed areas around the accommodation also being inundated. But the rain failed to dampen the enthusiasm and spirit of participants. Being in a coastal location the merry band of shutterbugs decided that fish and chips were the order of the day so the first evening was spent catching up over a hearty meal of local fish and chips washed down with an appropriate social beverage.

The second day was spent taking in the surroundings of Port Fairy with the morning allocated to browsing through and soaking up the ambience of the local shops and eateries. The afternoon was dedicated to dusting off the cameras and taking a pleasant walk around Griffith Island, home of the local Shearwater colony and lighthouse. The evening was spent enjoying a BBQ dinner and settling back and watching a James Bond movie on the extra large flat screen TV located at the Lodge.

Unfortunately Sunday arrived too quickly and it was time to gather belongings and say goodbye to Port Fairy, but not before more photographic opportunities presented themselves in the

form of large ocean swells and spectacular breaking waves along the beaches on the western side of Port Fairy. A great time was had by all.

Interclub Competition

On Saturday 17th September a joint meeting with the Ballarat Camera Club was held to announce the results of the annual interclub competition. The meeting was well attended by members from both clubs and a well-catered supper followed the formalities of the meeting. Judge Vida Pearson awarded the following results.

(Note: BPG = Ballarat Photography Group; BCC = Ballarat Camera Club)

Small Prints - Open

- First Place - "Barking Owl" by Henrieta Camilleri (BCC)
- Second Place - "Voice" by Kate Both (BCC)
- Third Place - "Saltscape" by Judy Johnson (BPG)

Small Prints - Set Subject "Reflections"

- First Place - "Water Drop" by Lyn Fowler (BCC)
- Second Place - "Reflection on Reflection" by Jill Wharton (BCC)
- Third Place - "Double Reeds" by Kate Both (BCC)

Large Prints - Open

- First Place - "Baby Bliss" by Rebecca Nicolandos (BCC)
- Second Place - "Conductor Hugh" by Kate Both (BCC)
- Third Place - "Kath" by Kate Both (BCC)

EDPI - Open

- First Place - "Mikey 3" by Chris Crossley (BCC)
- Second Place - "In Dad's Arms" by Rebecca Nicolandos (BCC)
- Third Place - "Journey to the Centre of the Earth" by Kath Both (BCC)

Aggregate Scores

Category	Ballarat Photography Group	Ballarat Camera Club
Small Print Open	53	58
Small Prints Set Subject	52	61
Large Prints Open	110	118
EDPI Open	104	121
Total Scores	319	358

Congratulations are extended to all individual winners and to the Ballarat Camera Club for their outstanding result. President of BCC, Trevor Bibby announced that the set

subject for next years interclub will be **night photography**, that is a picture that has been taken between dusk and dawn without the aid of flash. More information will be included in next year's syllabus.

Important Note: On the subject of next year's syllabus, we are seeking subjects for next year's monthly club photo competition. We welcome and encourage member's suggestions. Please bring your suggestions to next meeting and give to the President.

Bring to October Meeting:

Photographs to submit for *monthly competition*.

2 Small prints (Set Subject - Open)

Any subject treated pictorially, ie. Good design, arrangement and composition

*.** Prints must not exceed 180mm x 125mm (7in x 5in), mounted on a board which must not exceed 250mm x 200mm (10in x 8in). Mounting thickness must not exceed 5mm.*

2 Projected images (Set Subject - Blowing in the Wind)

A picture depicting motion created by the wind in which the effect of the wind blowing is obvious.

*** Images must not exceed 1920 pixels wide x 1080 pixels high.*

*** File size for each image must not exceed 5 mb. Save in JPG format.*

*** **Image file names** must begin with the member's code number, linked by an underscore, with the title of the image eg. 025_A Day at the Beach.jpg*

3 Small Prints from Port Fairy Safari

For those who attended the club safari to Port Fairy, bring x2 small prints taken during the time spent there. Entries will be judged on the night and certificates awarded.

*.** Prints must not exceed 180mm x 125mm (7in x 5in), mounted on a board which must not exceed 250mm x 200mm (10in x 8in). Mounting thickness must not exceed 5mm.*

How to get more from your photography



Macro Photography

- Want to take macro shots but don't have a dedicated macro lens?
- You don't want to spend big bucks on purchasing a macro lens but would still like to have a set up that is geared towards macro photography?
- You have noticed that the November club competition set subject is macro and you would like to enter but feel that you don't have the equipment to be competitive?

Well don't give up hope. In this article I will present 3 budget sensitive methods of updating your current camera and lens to allow you to get much closer to your chosen subject than you can with your current setup for a fraction of the cost of purchasing a dedicated macro lens.

But before we get stuck into the nitty gritty, just a bit of background information regarding lens limitations. Camera lenses inherently have a minimum focal distance; that is the closest you can get to your chosen subject and still maintain a sharp focus. This information is usually displayed on the focusing ring of the lens. Typically the minimum focal distance for non-macro lenses is 20-50cm which in most cases won't be close enough to allow you to get close enough so your chosen subject fills your frame of view because the more of the viewfinder you can fill with your chosen subject the better. This means we have to alter our lenses minimum focal distance so that the distance between the camera lens and the subject is shorter and therefore closer allowing us to record the minutia of detail that we would otherwise miss.

So how do we do this? Well there are 3 relatively cheap methods that can be utilized to achieve this.

Method 1 - Extension Tubes (the most expensive and arguably the most effective)

- Typical cost is \$100-\$150
- Applicable to DSLR cameras only
- Extension tubes are tubes of various lengths designed to sit between the camera body and lens. The longer the tube the greater the magnifying effect.. Extension tubes come in various lengths and can be joined (stacked) together to further enhance the magnifying ability. Whilst you can purchase cheap extension tubes for most major makes of camera, be aware that many cheap versions do not pass the electronic information between the camera and lens meaning that the camera will need to be operated in full manual mode. The higher end extension tubes don't have this issue as they are designed to allow the camera body and lens to maintain full electronic contact.
- So how close can you get? Well this depends on the lens and the length of the extension tube(s) being used, but typically the focal length of the lens is reduced from 20-50cm down to 5-10cm or even close to 1-2cm. Pretty close.

Method 2 - Magnifying/Closeup filters

- Typical cost is \$40 - \$60
- Applicable to all cameras that have the ability to attach a threaded filter on the front of the lens. (DSLR's and some fixed lens cameras)
- Close-up lenses are special lenses that screw onto the front of your lens like an ordinary camera lens filter. They're basically just a sophisticated magnifying glass that's placed between your lens and the subject. It's for this reason that they're also often called "close-up filters." A closeup filter is usually specified in terms of "diopters," which is a measure of their magnifying power. Higher numbers yield more relative magnification on a given lens, but image quality also tends to decrease correspondingly. Typical values range from +2 to +5 diopters, although multiple close-up lenses can be combined to increase this further.

Method 3 - Reversing Rings.

- Typical cost is \$15-\$30
- Applicable to DSLR cameras only.
- Reversing rings allow your lens to be mounted in the reverse direction. They attach to your camera where you would normally mount the lens; your lens's front filter mount then screws onto the reversing ring, causing the inner (and normally hidden) part of your lens to face outward. Shorter focal length lenses will allow for closer focusing distances and higher magnification. The main disadvantage of reverse rings is that they result in an extremely narrow range of distances that can be in focus. Other complications potentially include the loss of aperture control and autofocus.

Well I hope this has assisted some member into taking the first steps into the wonderful world of macro photography. Macro photography can be a lot of fun, a rich source of subject matter and you don't have to go far to get some amazing shots. In fact some of the best material might be just out you back door!

Any information not directly concerning this newsletter should be directed to our secretary. cameraclubymca@gmail.com or to 'The Secretary'; Ballarat Photography Group PO Box 259 Ballarat 3353

Yours in photography,
Steve

The Ballarat businesses below sponsor our group by providing the prizes for our annual awards. Some also provide discounts on goods and services.

Camera House (Thornton Richards)	416 Sturt Street, Ballarat.
N L Harvey & Sons	123 Sturt Street, Ballarat.
The Ballarat Courier	110 Creswick Road, Ballara
Harvey Norman	Howitt Street, Wendouree
Cartridge World	1213a Sturt Street, Ballarat.
OfficeWorks	Creswick Rd, Ballarat