

November 2016



Ballarat
Photography
Group

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
Email: ballaratphotographygroup@gmail.com

Events pencil into your diary



- Monthly club meeting 8.00pm Tuesday 13th December. **As this is the final meeting for 2016, members are reminded to bring a plate of supper.**
- Christmas breakup Sunday December 18th at Lake Wendouree opposite the floral clock (weather permitting)
- Ross and Gillian are hosting the pre season BBQ at their place on Sunday 5th February 2017. More details will be emailed.

Monthly Competition Results for October - This month's judge was Gerard Lewis

Small Prints - Open

First "Beach Sunrise"

By Steve Demeye



Second "Roadside Runoff"

by Steve Demeye



Third "Kooka Burra"

by Megan Rayner



EDPI Set Subject "Blowin in the Wind"

First "Flags a Flying"

by Steve Demeye



Second "Ocean Wind"

by Trevor Parry



Third "Dancing in the Wind"

By Christine Thompson



Bring to December Meeting:

Photographs to submit for *monthly competition* - **FAMILY NIGHT**

Finally it's here! The monthly competition you've been waiting all year for. Time to round up all those happy snaps taken by family members both young and old and submit them for judging. Entries to be submitted in small print format.

*.** 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.*

Vale *Bruce Vivian Fryer*



Bruce was an esteemed member of our club for many years. A milestone for Bruce was winning the open category at our 50th annual awards in 2012 with his photo of a Rainbow bee-eater. Bruce was a likeable character frequently regaling us with his stories and jokes. He will be sadly missed by all. We extend our condolences to Shirley and family.

May he rest in peace.

Committee News

- Fees due for all members in February this includes life Members who actively participate in club.
- Fees will rise by \$5 next year. This will mean that a single membership will be \$40 and couple will be \$75.
- Annual Awards will be held on Tuesday 14th February in conjunction with our first meeting night.

How to get more from your photography



Low Key Photography

What is Low Key Lighting?

Low key refers to a style of photography that utilises predominantly dark tones to create a dramatic looking image. Where high key lighting seeks to over light the subject to the point of reduced contrast, low key lighting intensifies the contrast in an image through intensely reduced lighting.

The trick then becomes manipulating your lighting and the positioning of your subject so that the shadows fall in just the right spots to create the look you want. To create a low-key image, all you need is your camera and one light source. Depending on the results you are looking for, you might also make use of a fill light or reflector.

Camera Settings

For low key shots, the camera settings can actually vary quite widely. The trick is to minimize the light entering the camera while not making everything too dark. The only setting that should absolutely stay constant is the ISO. Set it to 100 (or as low as your camera will let you). Keeping your ISO low will give you good image quality, keeping it both dark and noise-free. Then it is just a matter of adjusting the shutter speed and aperture to achieve the desired effect for the light you've chosen.

Lighting

Choice of light is all up to the photographer. You have only one key light so the only choices you have to make now are direction and strength. The only 'rule' you should impose on yourself when shooting low-key is not to allow light to reach your background that is unless you have a particular reason to add texture there it's best not to do it. This is called 'contamination'.

An easy cost free way of creating low key lighting effects is to use two separate rooms. Block off all light in one room so that if the door is closed, you could see nothing. Use the adjoining room as the light source. You can use the door to help control the incoming light. Try to keep the light from hitting the camera or the background.

With an off camera flash, we can create a low-key image any time of day. It works in the midday sun if you are indoors and works nicely outdoors on a dull, overcast day.

On a tripod, in manual mode:

- 1 Set your ISO as low as your camera allows.
- 2 Set your shutter speed to the fastest it will go with the triggers you are using. This will reduce a lot of the sun light.
- 3 Set up your shot.
- 4 Start with the aperture wide open (low number). Take a test shot and progressively narrow it until there is no ambient light in the frame..

From there, you have to experiment. Set up your flash and shoot. If there is too much light in the scene, you could lower your flash output or move the light further away. If the background is contaminated, you could change the direction of light or move your subject further from the background. Whatever you think of is fine so long as you achieve your intended outcome.

Experiment

Ultimately a low-key image is just one that contains predominantly dark tones. There are many ways to achieve that. Feel free to use one of the most useful (and under-used) features on the camera - exposure compensation. This can quickly and easily change your exposure settings to achieve the desired result. Manipulate your lighting and placement of subject until the shadows fall exactly as you want them. It's that easy...and difficult.

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.
Harvey Norman	Howitt Street, Wendouree
Cartridge World	1213a Sturt Street, Ballarat.
OfficeWorks	Creswick Rd, Ballarat