March 2020 Newsletter

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President’s Report

Well members, it’s that time again, but this time I can relate the visit that Vanessa and I had to the Southern Suburbs Photographic Society in Cheltenham last week and I was curious to see how another club conducted their meetings.

Well I can tell you that my opinion is that we have a great ethos in our club of friendly meetings, which are relaxed and more on a personal basis, but we are a much smaller country club. The Southern Suburbs Photographic Society have 3 meetings per month which incorporate speakers, workshops and competitions, with each meeting lasting approx 1 1/2 hrs. Much easier in the suburbs when members don’t need to travel so far!

I also thought their meeting was too formal, but it was still very friendly. . . . maybe just my opinion! It is a very big club with over 100 members, so it probably needed some formality!

It was very interesting to hear the speaker, Malcolm Fackender from Sydney, speak on his photography experience and skills. He was, indeed, a brilliant photographer. We viewed many images he had taken over the years. He takes tours to Africa and Asia as well as other countries like Bolivia and Iceland. His photos are amazing! Look him up on the internet, I’m sure you’ll be impressed, and it might inspire you...it did us. Just got to save up now to join him on one of his tours!!!!

We were made to feel very welcome, and we did enjoy the evening, it was very interesting and we did get a lot of very good tips.
EG: has anyone heard of “counter points”? When an image’s centre of interest is placed at an intersection of one of the thirds (Rule of Thirds), balance in the picture can often be achieved by placing a secondary object (known as a “counterpoint”) at the opposing intersection, creating a much more interesting image.

Well now, what a great day at the Tyabb air show, unfortunately I am now suffering the effects of the sun, thought it would be a mild day, but I got caught out with the sunlight looking upwards, where else would the planes be . . . . However it was a great day and should have been an outing for the club, I’m sure you all would have been impressed with all the aircraft. The special effects were too good to be true and caught everyone napping! David, Vanessa and I have a few pixies to show for it!

Now that we are into Autumn we can take photos in a more cool light, So come on people get out there with your cameras . . . . who knows what you might see. Don’t forget our next topic.....“weather”.....that shouldn’t be too hard, we do live in Victoria after all!!!!!!!

OK members we all need to put more photos in each month to make the club DO BETTER, me included . . . .

We have been over to the BnB cottage and have seen photos the guests have taken in Reykjavik and they are members of the south Sydney camera club. The photos were amazing to say the least, However they didn’t do post editing and the photos were “flat”. He did say that he doesn’t like light room. Such a pity as the photos would have been SO GOOD with it!!!!
I didn’t say that, by the way, don’t tell anyone . . . .

BUT.........Don’t forget, photography should be fun!!!

Cheers
Noel 😊😊😊

COVID-19 issues
The COVID-19 has caused the committee to cancel all club meetings and outings for at least March and April.

The monthly challenges will still be held with edpi entries sent to Colin or shutterbugs35mm@gmail.com. These will judged and the results emailed to members. The health issue will be monitored and updates emailed to members as required. It is important that we all follow the guidelines as set out by the health departments.

https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019
Challenge results – Opposites


General edpi

H/C North & south David Hosking

H/C The young & young at heart Joan Fawcett

C Anyway up Joan Fawcett

C Going fishing getting married Kate Avery

Advance edpi

H/C Alive & dead Gary Beresford

H/C B&W bird reflection Ross Garner

H/C Blue & orange Gary Beresford
H/C Then & now Linda Keagle
C Fire & ice Kerrie Matthews
C Heads or tails Colin Nicholas
C Pepper & salt Linda Keagle
C Two of three Ken Willis
C Wings Roy Fisher

Creative

H/C Day & night Linda Keagle

Image of the month

The young & young at heart Joan Fawcett

Congratulations to Joan Fawcett!
Calendar for April 2020

Life Member - Olive Lang
The club has several life members - Dick Straw, Alan Lacey and Olive Lang.

This month we asked Olive Lang about her photography experience.

Olive has always been interested in photography. She started with a Box Brownie, then went to an Olympus then got her Pentax. Olive used a tripod and various filters in capturing her images.

Olive gained her photographic skills by learning from other club members and gained inspiration from her surrounding environment.

Her favourite subjects are landscapes and people (with their permission). She has been to America, England and Scotland as well as most Australian states taking photos as she travels.

Whilst Olive does not have any formal training, like most of us, Olive strives for perfection in her photography. She does not use post processing software.

Olive says she enjoys the fellowship and interesting speakers that the club provides.

A bit of background is that Olive was a member of the Yarram Camera Club, and when the club folded she was the only member to transfer to Foster Camera Club (now South Gippsland Camera Club). The Yarram Camera Club assets were obtained by the Foster Camera Club.

Olive worked as the baby health centre nurse at Yarram for many years and is well known in that community.

Another Life Member – Dick Straw at the Foster Show viewing the club’s stand.

Light – some thoughts
Photographers need light. Without light there is no image for the camera to capture.

Light changes the mood and adds emotional impact; it reveals and conceals to provide or obscure information. Light can make colours seem to glow from within, and at other times of the day, will make these colours flat and lifeless.
In fact there is much we can learn from painters use of light because they have to use light to portray the illusion in their painting. ‘Capturing it’ requires an understanding of where, what and how the light is impacting the subject. Photographers use the camera to capture the image whereas painters use a brush and paint.

Ask yourself two questions when composing the image – “what is the light doing?” and “is it doing what I want in the image?”

Learn to see the light change within the scene and be able to look at photographs and understand the light that created the image. What does everything in that image tell you about the light itself? If that is too hard, look to where the light isn’t – in the shadows. Are the shadows hard and well defined? Doing this should aid the capture of ‘it’.

- That should point to the light source, direction and quality of light.
- Do the shadows point in different directions? This would indicate more than one light source is evident.

Why does light matter – the illusion of depth is one of the best tools photographers have and is created by light.

Images need to have colour, texture, shadows and illusion of depth.

We don’t live in a two dimensional world but we expect our images to appear 3-D.

Some more comics from the internet.
Foster Show 2020

The Foster Show was successful, although there were some niggles.

Colin advised that there were problems with the online entry system which created much more work for him than was expected. Many of the entries needed to be returned as incorrectly sized, but some did slip through the checking process.

The competition would have been better if more entries had been received from club members as several categories were poorly supported. International images were very successful and may require some reshuffling of categories for 2021 to strengthen entries in other categories.

Colin needs more support from the club in organising the competition and a sub committee is to be formed to organise the 2021 event. Please help.

The seafood raffle raised $292 (for a cost of $100). A donation of $400 will be sent to the RSPCA animal bushfire relief. Roger & Linda were the winners.

Membership details

The committee believe that each member should nominate an emergency contact person. Please provide David with the details (name & contact).

Also, the club would like to acknowledge members’ birthdays. Please let David know the month of your birth, so that the club records can be updated. No need for day or year.

Next meeting

The April meeting scheduled for Wednesday 1st April 2020 has been cancelled.

It is unclear as to when our meetings will resume. Regular updates will be emailed as and when they become available.

KEEP SAFE.

B&W entries will be judged by Vicki Moritz. Results will be emailed to members.

Entries for ‘Open Weather’ challenge are due by 1st April 2020.
2 Open edpi, 2 Weather edpi and 2 Weather creative images.

The Cropping and Gardening tutorial will again be held over to a future meeting.

The "cropping and gardening" an image session was again held over to the next meeting. This session will include cropping for artistic effect and cropping to remove distractions. We will discuss the dangers of over cropping. Also in this section we will talk about resizing, especially for challenge entries. In the gardening section, we will discuss ways to remove small distractions from an image using cloning and spot healing. We will also discuss methods of reducing the impact of bright distractions using dodge and burn and some other techniques. If time permits, we will include noise reduction and sharpening as part of preparing an image for challenges. We will be using both Photoshop and Lightroom, but the basic principles and methods are similar across all photo editing programs.

Pre-meeting dinner

Cancelled for April.

Upcoming events

Due to the COVID-19 situation the following events have been changed.

The Working Horse and Tractor outing on 21st March is cancelled.

The portrait session at Coal Creek has been postponed to a later date.

Changes to the monthly challenge.

As reported at the March meeting, the committee has decided to no longer have print entries for 2020. This is due to the very few prints being entered when the challenge allows prints.

Instead of prints, the new entry format will be 2 edpi on the monthly subject, 2 edpi on Open subject (any image is eligible) and 2 edpi creative on the monthly subject.

There is also ‘The Image of the Month’.

As an aside, Colin advises that entries for B&W challenge were a total of 60 from 18 members. This is the highest number of entries and members participating since Colin started recording these statistics. Entries normally are about 45 from 13 members. Well done. Look forward to this continuing.