November 2019 Newsletter

Email: shutterbugs35mm@gmail.com  
Website: sgcameraclub.wix.com/sgcameraclub

President’s Report

Greetings.

Hello members and what a great month we’ve had, the trip to Anne Vale’s farm was very good. What a lovely old place with such a history. The gardens were beautiful and well laid out and I can only imagine the amount of work to keep them in that condition, not to mention the cattle and veggie garden.

It was very nice of Michael and Anne to give guided tours also, as we got information about the property one would never think to ask!

There were a of photos taken by members too, and it’s good how we all take that different shot to each other, it’s interesting to see what we all consider to be ‘Photo Number Six’.

Thanks to Linda for putting the photos together in a pictorial for us all to see at the Wednesday meeting as it was very good.

I also want to congratulate those members who sold photos in the Stockyard Gallery too, 9 framed and more unframed, six I believe! We received a lot of good comments in the reviews too, a pat on the back to the club yet again.

A quick word on the spring weather...it’s crap!!! However, it could be good for taking more 'unusual' photos. Put a jumper and raincoat on and go and experiment!!

Welcome to the new members, we hope you enjoy our club as much as we do.

Cheers,
Noel.

Last Meeting

Ben Kerr from Sale Camera Club was our judge for this month’s “Streetscape” competition and his deliberations are as follows:

General DPI

1st: “Ballarat Laneway” by Joan Fawcett
2nd: “Autumn Shade” by Kay Rodda
3rd: “Washing in the Street” by Kay Rodda
HC: “Room with a View” by Joan Fawcett

Advanced DPI

1st: “Scooterville” by Vanessa Auty
2nd: “Gippsland Laneway” by Gary Beresford
3rd: “To the Green Dragon” by Colin Nicholas
HC: “Bali Street Lane” by Vanessa Auty
HC: “Kyneton at Dusk” by Linda Keagle
Creative

1st: “Street Sweeper” by Gary Beresford
2nd: “Ettamogah Pub” by Roger Keagle
3rd: “Korumburra Lane way” by Gary Beresford
HC: “On the Corner” by Linda Keagle

Outing to Wonthaggi Coal Mine

The outing to Wonthaggi Coal Mine on 14th November.

The coal mine operated from 1909 to 1968 and produced 17 million tonnes of coal.

The underground tour provided a chilling insight into early mining practices and conditions.

The mine entry is a 1-in-4 slope (quite steep) and is 270m long. Miners would run down between rail tracks in the very poor lighting from their own head light, (which provided a glow rather than good visibility). It was enough walking down in well-lit conditions. This was because the miners were not paid until reaching the coal seam, so needed to maximise their time at the coalface.

Outing to Wonthaggi Coal Mine (cont)

A ‘modern air’ operated coal drill, weighs 30kg

Canaries were used by the Deputies (foremen) to detect methane and CO₂ in the mine. Needed to be quick if detected or the bird died.

The above ground area has lots of interesting buildings and history.

The Coal mine is well worth a visit when next at Wonthaggi.
Facebook Page – Daily Challenges

The club Facebook page is available to all members. This page is a closed members only viewing. To join, contact Linda Keagle.

The creative contest on the page has some interesting images for you to work on and develop your skills with Photoshop.

The daily topic from the Calendar below can be shown on the page.

For those who do not participate in Facebook, please see the ‘Calendar of Daily Challenges’ for December. Have fun improving on your skills and meeting the challenge.

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Getting to know Gary Beresford

How did you get into photography?
Both my grandfathers were keen photographers. I remember as a child sitting in darkrooms and watching the magic of developing images. I played with photography on and off for all my life but really took to it when digital cameras came about. I was an early adopter in both digital cameras and post processing software.

Do you have any formal photography training?
No. I’ve toyed with the idea a few times, but time, money and commitments etc etc etc – just never happened. One day, maybe.

What photographers influenced you the most?
I’m probably more influenced by painters than photographers. I love the old masters and enjoy trying to transfer some of their styles to photography. Apart from that, I love looking at innovative new styles of images from all over and all genres, including photography of course. I don’t really have “a few” influencers but pick little bits and pieces from hundreds. It’s more styles that influence, like rural landscapes and classic portraiture. I probably look at thousands of photos every week online and each of them has the potential to inspire. Sometimes it’s a little overwhelming.

What are your favourite subjects and/or locations?
Big question. I don’t see myself as specialising in anything, though lots of my colleagues would say “birds”. This is lazy photography, as most of it is done in my back yard while drinking coffee. I do have a love of birds, both from a visual sense and a biological point of view. They are intriguing creatures to study. I’d love to do more portraiture, but finding willing victims is never easy. I also love macro work. I’m drawn to rural scenes and rugged landscapes. Living in the Strzelecki foothills, there are always amazing landscapes to be had, if I ever lose my laziness and do it. Oh, and I love mist. Anywhere, any time. Nature’s softbox.

What sort of gear do you use and have you used in the past?
I’m a bit of an equipment junky. In the digital world, I primarily use Canon gear. I have a full frame camera (5d3) for landscape, portraits, macro and most other things. I also have a crop camera (90D) which I use mainly for birds (because of its extra reach), coupled with a Sigma 150-600 lens. I also have an Olympus kit (EM5 mkII) I use for travel. It’s excellent, but I still gravitate to the bigger cameras as they feel more comfortable in my hand.
Getting to know Gary Beresford (cont)

What sort of gear do you use and have you used in the past? (cont)

I have a bunch of good lenses for both systems and while I couldn’t afford them now, I’m glad I got them when I could. While good photography is primarily about the photographer, good equipment is still a pleasure to use and opens more opportunities than lesser gear.

Do you use processing software, and if so, what kind?

All my images are processed. I only ever shoot raw images as I prefer to make the decisions about how my images will look myself, rather than rely on camera presets that happen with jpg images. This is always a point of contention with some people who feel using post processing is somehow “cheating” (this is usually levelled by people who don’t know how to post process and can’t be bothered learning). Photography has always involved post processing going way back to the early darkroom days. Of course, you can do more now, and more easily, and isn’t that great! The opportunities are endless. It is a LOT harder to learn post processing than it is to learn how to take a photo, especially in these days of automatic cameras etc. I highly recommend people work on their post processing skills. It is amazing the difference it will make to your images. Personally, I use Photoshop and have done for many years. It is still the industry standard and continues to evolve. Let your inner artist thrive and put some time into learning. You won’t be disappointed!

From where do you get most of your inspiration?

By being alive. One of the huge benefits of being a photographer or an artist of any nature is that you look for beauty and visual interest wherever you go. I constantly look at everything with the thought of turning it into an image. Even when that doesn’t happen, it encourages you to look at the world closer and from a myriad of angles. You just get to see more than casual observers.

What would you like to achieve in your photography?

Simply to continue to improve and not to stagnate. I try hard not to continue to take the same old images over and over.

What do you enjoy about the South Gippsland Camera Club?

That’s easy. Friendly, enthusiastic people with similar interests and a diversity of ideas they are willing to share.

Thanks Gary. (Ed)

Linda’s Photo Project (reprinted for your information)

Have you started your personal photo project? This was proposed in May, but I wonder how many of you have worked on it?

You now have until the end of the year to take up the challenge, with the goal of 10 pictures (of the same theme) by the January meeting. It can be presented as a slide show, book or print presentation.

Looking for the perfect photo project can sometimes be as challenging as searching for the perfect shot. Personal photo projects are a good way to motivate yourself to shoot more pictures, stretch your creativity, or even support the causes that are important to you, but how do you find the right ones?

1. What are your hobbies?

This should be obvious, but you want your project to be something you will be motivated to continue over the long term. What better motivation than something for which you already have an interest? Take your hobbies and look for ways to document them, explain them, or showcase them.

2. What are your communities?

Churches, clubs, or informal groups can also provide options for personal projects. Because you are a member of these communities, you have access to get in close and share what attracts you to them. Alternatively, you can help them tell their story.

3. What skills do you want to master?

Let’s say you want to get better at portrait photography, a project that allows you to focus on that skill would be ideal. Maybe you want to perfect your slow shutter speed photography. How about macro shots, or still life images? The possibilities are endless, but the idea is to explore one thing fully.

4. Who inspires you?

This could actually be a portrait angle or a values angle. A theme that follows the people who inspire you can be rewarding. One of my friends created a personal heroes project that is similar to this idea. Another approach would be to mimic the style of a photographer you admire, or even an artist.
Linda’s Photo Project (cont)
We hope you decide to take up this challenge. Maybe as more incentive, we will vote on the best presentation, with a resulting prize.
Put your photography thinking caps on!!!!

Free Darkroom Equipment
Roy Fisher has darkroom equipment available. Contact Roy if you are interested.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 4th December at Uniting Church

Xmas Breakup – a social event of the year
The meeting and dinner will be at the Church Hall on 4th December and start at 5:00pm.
Please contact Vanessa Auty and let her know what you will be bringing to share for dinner.
- Tony Harding is the judge for ‘Architecture’ competition
- Warragul Camera Club are judging “Image of the Year”
- It is the annual awards night, so please return any trophies you might have won from 2018.

January Meeting
Early advice that the January meeting will be Wednesday, 8th January 2020. Start time is 7:00pm, as usual.
Don’t forget to work on your ‘project’ for this meeting.

Some Photo Funnies (courtesy of the internet)