April 2020 Newsletter

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President's Report

Hello strangers, well it seems like that at the moment! What are we all doing during this time? Vanessa and I are going for a daily walk along Duck Point with Chloe, of course we are taking lots of photos along the way and we have got a few really good ones despite the weather being a little dull.

We even came across an Eastern Spine bill, however could not capture a snap. But we did manage to get a few on a bush outside the dining room window (where are you Gary).

During this difficult time we are painting the lounge/dining room and decided to remove the curtains etc and I saw this Eastern Spine bill on the bush out the window so this was a good chance for V to get the photo but her camera was in the car, only her mobile phone handy. She took some through the window, but hey, we hadn’t cleaned the window for a while.....oh dear!!!! Also what a view after removing the drapes and net curtains, with trees all around and colours of flowers and bottle brush, a view you never see normally except through net curtains!!!

So when we get around to it we will post for all to see if we can.

I think when this is all over we should have a photofest and see what everyone has been shooting. . . .or are we all too busy painting or renovating as I know some of you are.......Don’t forget our next challenge.....Taken in Gippsland/Around the House!

We miss you all in the club, and the monthly meal at the pub . . . .but it won’t be too long till we can get together again!

Cheers Noel and Vanessa.

Noel,
President

COVID-19 issues
The COVID -19 has caused the committee to cancel all club meetings and outings for at least the next few months, or as advised by the relevant authorities.

Challenge results – Black & White

Judging B&W – Vicki Moritz.

General prints

No places awarded.

General edpi

H/C Pick me
Joan Fawcett

C Bloom & bee
Penny Gill

C Friday night
Joan Fawcett

C K192 cab
David Hosking

C San Remo
Kay Rodda

C Waiting for the sun
Mark Avery

Advance print

H/C Bad hair day
Gary Beresford
Advanced dpi

H/C  Gooney bird  Vanessa Auty

Creative

H/C  Bird on a wire  Joan Fawcett

H/C  The eyes have it  Gary Beresford

H/C  Korumburra moonlight  Roger Keagle

C  Old port jetty  Keith Haycroft
C  Four feet up  Gary Beresford
C  Sarah  Linda Keagle
C  Backyard garden  Linda Keagle

Image of the month

H/C  Tow gear  Colin Nicholas

C  Flower  Roger Keagle
C  Paul  Roger Keagle
C  Dark side of the fair  Linda Keagle
C  Smiley  Roy Fisher
C  Taking a break  Linda Keagle

Bad hair day  Gary Beresford
Congratulations to Gary Beresford!

Thanks to Gary for putting together the B&W result sheets and images for us all to view. Also for posting the results on the club Facebook page.

Calendar for May 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maya</th>
<th>51 Day Photo Challenge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Day Break</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Bird</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Tree</td>
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<td>Flower</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Clouds</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>A Friend</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Green</td>
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<td>Cute</td>
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<td>Child</td>
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<td>Movie</td>
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<td>Grass</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Drink</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Mom</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Late</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Time</td>
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<td>Song</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Out the Window</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
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<td>20.</td>
<td>Creative</td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td>A Sign</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>On the Go</td>
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<td>23.</td>
<td>Purse</td>
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<td>24.</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>Picture</td>
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<td>Light</td>
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<td>Double</td>
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<td>Shape</td>
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<td>29.</td>
<td>Sound</td>
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<td>Box</td>
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<td>31.</td>
<td>Stripes</td>
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Member Profile :-  Roy Fisher.

How did you get into photography?
I My father (Yes, I did have one) gave me a “Fold-Out” Kodak – Anastigmat Junior 620 medium format film camera back in about 1951. Believe it, or not, I still have this camera! He knew that I was interested in photography as I wanted to use his camera all of the time.

Do you have any formal photography training?
None. It was all trial and error. When Canon went automatic, it was a learning curve all over again. And when digital arrived in the start of this century, it was a case of learning all over again.......so much more to know than when using film, which I still use.

What photographers influence you the most?
The usual....... Adams etc. but the more modern versions such as John Hedgecoke, Keith Parish and Ken Duncan I admire their work.

What are your favourite subjects and/or locations?
I have no favourites as such, I love ‘em all! I love photographing sports, macro, landscapes, seascapes, people, animal and birds (With and without feathers), trick photography and you name it, and more than likely doing that too!

As far as locations are concerned, it doesn’t matter where you go, everywhere has their photographic possibilities and beauty.

What sort of gear do you have and have used in the past?
The very first camera that I bought myself was a BLUE box camera. I bought the camera whilst I was at school in London at a church Jumble Sale. The camera had a rattle, and when I opened it up there was an eighth of a penny, which is HALF a farthing inside! I used my gas mask container as it’s camera bag. I still have the photo’s which are good as the day that they were taken. Also I still have a Medium Format Linhof panoramic camera, which I still use.

I have had 35mm Rangefinder manual camera’s, and my first automatic was an Canon EOS 100. I still have many 35mm film camera’s all the way up to Canons flagship, the 1nRS. My first digital SLR was the Canon 20D, although I have the very first DSLR that Canon made, the D30 of a whopping 3.25 MP at a cost of about $5K (Still boxed), plus many more right up to their 1DX flagship. Other camera’s include the medium format film camera the Mamiya C330 which was my work horse when I earned my living freelancing for a Brisbane company doing Glamour Photography in Australia and Singapore. I also have numerous vintage camera’s, plus a 4x5 large format film camera.

From where do you get most of your inspiration?
I like challenges, and I like challenging myself on different aspects of capturing “that” photo. I don’t limit myself to any ONE subject or theme to photograph, therefore you don’t get bored waiting for the rain to stop etc. before you can photograph something outside.

Do you use processing software, and if so, what kind?
I use Photoshop 2. As you can tell, I ONLY use the bare minimum of adjustments to any photographs. I think that my Photoshop 2 marries well with my computer program, Microsoft XL !!!

A point of interest (Maybe), is when developing photo’s when I was at school, we did all the developing in the air raid shelter which was large and naturally without windows. I remember that there were no lights and as we walked into the shelter, we would be
walking on, and breaking, glass. It turned out to be 10”x 8” glass negatives! What history we must have destroyed......

What would you like to achieve in your photography? That’s easy! Achieve the final results that I would be happy with of what I have set out to photograph. What do you enjoy about the South Gippsland Camera Club?

That’s easy.......Being able to rubbish all the Nikon users since the mid ‘90’s.

Why would anyone join a club?
To mix with people who have the same interests as yourself, the comradeship, learning from each other and going out on field trips. And what a great bunch of people with the same interests who share their photo’s for all to see whether in print or viewed on the screen. They may be of the same theme or subject, but what a different interpretation one Member has from the other. And for the past few months, the introduction of getting pubgrub and socialising before the start of the monthly meetings. And still socialising at the actual meetings.

Some more comics from the internet.
Photography in this current physical distancing.

I suspect that many of us feel less motivated to use the camera, it is a good time to work on some aspects of the camera and photography.

Our next challenge is Taken in Gippsland. Whilst we cannot travel all over the wonderful area of Gippsland, there are opportunities to keep up with photography.

One of these is Still Life. Some points for Still Life follow.

There aren’t any photographic practices that date back further than still life photography: when photography originated, making a picture required very long exposures, so static objects were the ideal subject. However, as technology developed, the fascination for capturing still life has remained, and continues as one of the most vibrant photographic arts—and lines of photographic work—going.

1 Getting Started: Go Slow

Contrary to common perceptions, you don’t need a studio or a fancy location to make a start with still life photography. You can begin by simply using a space at home, such as a table placed by a window, along with a simple backdrop and utilizing a couple of lamps.

It varies greatly to landscape or portrait photography, in which you are provided with the subject matter, for example, a stunning mountain scene or a model, which come with a huge amount of variables, but the creative content is there in front of you.

With still life photography there are far fewer variables. As the photographer you have complete control over the situation, including the subject matter, but you need to think extremely creatively in order to capture it in an interesting and engaging way.

2 Choose Subjects that Speak to You.

What you photograph is completely up to you. Have a search around the house to see if you can find something simple but interesting to start with. Please don’t feel like you have to take photos of fruit or flowers just because everyone else does: think outside the box without being overly ambitious.

If when you’re out and about something catches your eye, take it home with you (don’t steal it!) or make a note of it so as to remember to try photographing it in a still life context. Try to avoid reflective surfaces such as glass and metal to begin with, as they will be extremely difficult with regards to lighting. Once you’ve mastered the single object shots, try mixing it up, combine objects of contrasting shape, colour, texture and see what you can come up with.

3 Get Comfortable with Light and Lighting

Lighting doesn’t have to be expensive. I know certainly for me that a set of studio lights aren’t really within my budget, so for still life shoots I need to utilize all the light I can get my hands on, and that often means sunlight.

Remember that you have full control over the shoot, so if you want, find a room in which you can block out all natural light by using shutters or curtains, this way you will have complete control over the light upon your subject.

Using standard table lamps can work extremely well if used effectively. Be sure to try multiple positioning set ups, not all light has to come from the front of the object, side and back lighting will add interest, shadows and depth to the shot. Alternatively, choose a room that is well lit via a window, and use this to your advantage. The natural light from one side will comprehensively light your subject and you can compliment this with a lamp or reflector.

4 Get the Backdrop Right

Having a suitable backdrop for your subject matter will play a crucial role in the overall success of your shots. It’s best to keep it nice and simple, so it doesn’t interfere with your subject. A plain painted wall or a large sheet of white or plain colored paper would be ideal.

Think about how your choice of background contrasts the subject, do you want a neutral background, or are there tones that may work in complimenting the shades within your subject. For smaller objects, you may not need a backdrop as such, but instead require a surface to place the items on, for which something like black velvet is ideal, as it absorbs light and looks like a solid black surface.

5 Compose the Shot

The compositional element of your still life work is an absolutely crucial part of ensuring that your work is engaging and unique. Consider the rule of thirds, how can that be applied to your shoot to create a strong composition. Ensure there are no distractions within the frame, just the subject and the backdrop.
Be sure to vary the composition of the subject matter through the shoot and think outside the box. Where are you leading the eye within the image? Are you utilizing negative space or might it work to try and fill the frame? Engage with the subject, what are its defining features? What is it used for? Are you able to put it into context or does it work as a stand alone subject?

**VAPS Conference & Interclub.**

The VAPS conference at Wangaratta will not be held this year because of the COVID 19 physical distancing. The edpi Interclub competition is being run in the same way as our club challenges are being run. The club has entered images in the competition from the members listed below.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agnes Falls</td>
<td>Ken Willis</td>
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<td>Camouflage Frog</td>
<td>Penny Gill</td>
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<td>Chipmunk</td>
<td>Mary Shaw</td>
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<td>Darkness and Light</td>
<td>Gary Beresford</td>
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<td>Eastbourne Pier</td>
<td>David Hosking</td>
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<td>Glasses</td>
<td>Kerrie Matthews</td>
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<td>Gooney Bird</td>
<td>Vanessa Auty</td>
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<td>Home Sweet Home</td>
<td>Roger Keagle</td>
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<td>Monumental</td>
<td>Kay Rodda</td>
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<td>Red Earth Mono</td>
<td>Ross Garner</td>
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<td>Natives Lost</td>
<td>Linda Keagle</td>
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<td>Scallywag</td>
<td>Keith Haycroft</td>
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<td>The Highlander</td>
<td>Martin Curwain</td>
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<td>Young and Young at Heart</td>
<td>Joan Fawcett</td>
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<td>Colin Nicholas</td>
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**Upcoming events**

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

**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.

There has been a very slow response on both these requests. Please email your details to the secretary.

**Next meeting**

The May meeting scheduled for Wednesday 6th May 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.**

Weather entries will be judged by J P Weibel. Results will be emailed to members.

Entries for ‘Taken in Gippsland’ challenge are due by 6th May 2020.

2 Open edpi, 2 ‘Taken in Gippsland’ edpi and 2 ‘Taken in Gippsland’ r creative images.

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

**Pre-meeting dinner**

Cancelled for May.