President’s Report
Well hello members, yet again.

I have booked Cocos de Le Mer Restaurant for the next pre-meeting dinner and I believe David has sent a note to all members to this end. If you could let David or myself know so I can confirm numbers, it would be great! Be there by 5:15pm so we can get orders in by 5:30pm. They are opening early especially for us. Let’s all support this new restaurant in Foster.

It has been a trying time for taking photos because of the smoke of late... (Disagree if you wish with a photo), however I managed to get a good shot of the sunrise thru the smoke, well you know me by now, any sunrise is a good photo opportunity.

For those members with iPads we now have an iPad page on Facebook (SGCC IPAD GROUP), I am sure everyone will get a lot of information from this group – feel free to join. It’s amazing what can be done on an iPad! An iPad workshop is also on the agenda (date yet to be announced). All those interested please let David know.

Summer is a more difficult time for photography as the sun is bright and blue/golden hour is not quite as good as in other seasons; however, I’m happy to be corrected!

Let’s look forward to another great year at the SGCC with as much involvement as possible.

Happy snapping!

Noel
President

Linda’s Project
The following members presented their projects, all very different in nature and style.

Colin Nicholas  Cowes and Goat
Roger Keagle  Cars
David Hosking  The Chestnut Tree
Kerrie Matthews  People in Boxes
Gary Beresford  Outside the Window
Vanessa Auty  Water Challenge
Roy Fisher  Dogs
Keith Haycroft  Photo Restoration (book)
Linda Keagle  A Year of Self (book)

Below is a selection of the images projected.

Colin Nicholas – Cowes & Goat

Roger Keagle – Cars
What Makes a Great Photograph? By Matt Foden

I’m sure this article will be controversial. I mean, after all, how do you objectively characterise what makes a good photograph? It’s not like marking a mathematics paper, where there is always a right or wrong answer. Photography, much like any other art form, is very subjective. That said, I do believe that there are certain elements that all great photographs share in common. Here’s my (subjective) attempt at defining them:

1. Great use of Light – I’ve placed this in position 1, because photography is essentially all about light. As has been said many a time, photography literally means ‘painting with light’, and to become a true master of this discipline requires that you can read and understand light in the same way that you read and understand language—Metaphorically, it is one of the linguistic building blocks of photography. When taking a picture, great photographers will consider the direction as well as the quality of light. Is the subject side lit, or backlit? Is the light source hard or soft? Will I set up the picture so that it is low-key or high key? Depending on the answers to these questions, the overall emotional feel and aesthetic of the image will change radically, thereby changing its meaning. To give you an example, look at some classic pictures taken of jazz clubs in low light. Typically, these are low key in nature and they create a very definite ‘noir’ aesthetic. Play around with light so that it supports the meaning you are trying to convey in the image.
**What Makes a Great Photograph (cont)**

2. **Great Composition** – As in great art, great photographs generally have a sense of compositional form and balance that is pleasing to the eye. As a starting point, it’s a great idea to understand the basic rules of composition, such as using the rules of thirds. Once you have learned them though, don’t be afraid to play around with them and break the rules. It’s a way of establishing your own unique style, and who wants to be limited by rules anyway?

![Photo by: Martin Snicer Photography – ISO 100, f/5.0, 1/200 sec exposure](image1)

3. **A Sense of Timing** – Take a look at the work of Henri Cartier-Bresson, the undisputed master of street photography, and you will notice that, as well as having complete mastery of composition, he was also a master of timing. He knew how and when to anticipate what he called ‘The Decisive Moment’; that point in time when all of the elements of the image fall into place and when the emotional ‘pitch’ of the story is at its peak. Great timing is essential in photography. Practice being patient, and remember to try to anticipate the best moment at which to engage the shutter button.

4. **A Clear Subject** – Great photographs generally have a very clear idea of what the core subject of the photograph is. If you find that when you frame an image the subject is unclear then try taking out any unnecessary elements. Sometimes simplifying the image is the best way to improve it.

![Photo by: Ed Suominen – ISO 80, f/2.8, 1/1000 sec exposure](image2)

Try experimenting with these different elements to see what works for you. Don’t forget you only get better with plenty of practice. Good luck!

**About the Author:**
Matt Foden Photography ([mattfoden.co.uk](http://mattfoden.co.uk)) is a wedding and portrait photographer based in Croydon in London.

**30 Day Photoshop Tutorial**

The 30-day Photoshop tutorial is available at [https://youtu.be/jFfd0RYax5k](https://youtu.be/jFfd0RYax5k)

If you want to learn Photoshop, then this is a good beginning tutorial series, and it’s free on YouTube. The tutor is Aaron Nace and he explains the steps well but you may need to re-watch sessions to fully capture the process.

**Facebook Page – Daily Challenges**

The club Facebook page is available to all members. This page is a closed members only viewing page. 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.

As Noel said in his report, there is a new page for the SGCC iPad Group. Look for it.
Some More Comics from the Internet

English teacher: Give me the opposite of this sentence. "Children in the dark make mistakes"

Student: "Mistakes in the dark make children"

Foster Show

The Foster Show is Saturday, 22nd February. The club will be manning the photography section with the usual seafood raffle. Prize monies raised from the raffle will be added to the collection from the January meeting and be donated to an animal relief organisation.

Show schedules are available or view online at www.fostershow.com. Photography is section W, and entries can be left at Sam’s Patch, Foster.
Upcoming events

SGCC iPad group (and other pads and phones)

We have started a group for those interested in using their pads or phones to edit photos and produce some creative images. This group was started initially for people who have iPads but the principles and many of the apps are used across a variety of tablets and phones. This is a group for sharing ideas and methods to produce some intriguing results. Even if you do not do any of this currently, it is often interesting to see what is possible and it might be the seed of some ideas. Everyone is welcome but this is a private Facebook group, so please ask on the normal club Facebook page and you can be invited along. You can also ask by sending an email request that will be passed on to the page manager.

For those who haven’t thought about using tablets and phones to manipulate photos, it’s worth a look. There are a huge array of apps, some quirky, some very powerful, that are available and they don’t cost much (compared to computer software). One of the intentions of the group is to share what apps we are using and what they do. It’s a lot of fun.

The club outing for February is the Foster Show. Select 10 images for the DVD and send to Linda.

Also in February, there are several events that could be good subjects –

- Italian Festival
- Meeniyan Garlic Festival
- Boolarra Folk Festival

Next Meeting

Wednesday 5th February 2020 at Uniting Church Hall meeting room, Foster

Entries for “Opposites” challenge are due at the meeting - 3 dpi and 2 creative images.

Cropping and Gardening

At the Feb meeting, we will have a short tutorial on “cropping and gardening” an image. This 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 competition 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 competition. We will be using both Photoshop and Lightroom, but the basic principles and methods are similar across all photo-editing programs.

Pre-meeting Dinner

The dinner venue for February is Coco’s Restaurant (at the motel next to the hall). Please notify Noel if you want to join the group meal, text him on 0490 384 134 so that we can have the table organised beforehand. Meals can be ordered from 5:15pm. Enter at Reception, peruse the menu and pay for your meal there. Also drinks at the bar.