

AUGUST 2015

Following our AGM in July, the new committee has been appointed. Thanks to those who are accepting these additional responsibilities, taking on roles so that we can meet, learn, discuss, exhibit and have a chance to improve our photography. The role of the rest of the members is to support the activities of the group, participate, attend, exhibit and help each other.

Greg Farmer presented his work after the AGM. For Greg, the important thing is the story behind the image, from the location, the people he was with, the weather, and the story he can portray in the image. Greg's photographic journey is similar to many in the BMPG, beginning as a youth with a spark of enthusiasm, then taking family and happy snaps, through to his passion that has been nurtured in this supportive group with other keen image makers. Thanks Greg, and please watch where you stand in the weather!

Graham Cam was our judge in July. He is a member of BMPG, but spends much of his time as president of Birdlife Photography, a BirdLife Australia special interest group, a web based NGO – look up their photos on line.

This is my last newsletter as editor. Thanks to Jan Forrester who will be taking on the job. I have enjoyed the chance to share some of my learning over the years. My thanks also to Ted for his gig guides!

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Monday
10th Exhibition Night: **IN THE STYLE OF ...**
Judge: Susan Buchanan

Monday
24th PROJECT OF PASSION
Presentation of Projects

Weekend
28-30 CLUB PHOTOGRAPHIC
EXCURSION away

& NEXT MONTH - SEPTEMBER

Monday
14th Exhibition Night: **KIDS**
Judge: Jenny Tresize

Monday
28th GUEST SPEAKER:
Ann Niddrie



Blue Mountains Photography Group

The Blue Mountains Photography Group aims to support our shared love of photography, by providing a forum in which to learn, develop skills, discuss images and encourage each other. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday nights each month at the Presbyterian Church hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood, 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome.

Workshop: DAVE GLAZEBROOK - MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

Dave gave us a really informative workshop about his macro practices with information about light, tips for getting involved at various price levels and discussion about composition, all illustrated with examples of his own award winning photographs.

Macro photography is where the subject is exposed on the sensor at its actual size (ie 1:1). To achieve this we need to have a lens that will allow us to focus in closely and with sufficient magnification. Obviously there are macro lenses available, but these are expensive, so before committing to these there are other alternatives:



- Reversing ring – allows the lens to be put on the camera in reverse, thus magnifying the image. These are very cheap on ebay (get the correct one for your camera), but tricks are needed to adjust the aperture as there are no electronic connections between the camera and lens in this configuration.
- Diopters – these are magnifying lenses, much like screwing a magnifying glass on the front of the camera, and are available in different magnifications.
- Extension tubes – put additional space between the glass of the lens and the sensor. The camera can no longer be focused on infinity, and the amount of light reaching the sensor is reduced, so compensations need to be made such as additional light sources.

Other really useful gear includes:

- Polarizing filter
- Remote release, either cable or wireless. This alleviates any movement caused pushing the shutter release button, and is more immediate than time delay.
- Lens cloth and air blower for sensor
- Clamps to hold objects, reflectors, things out of way etc, such as a desktop magnifying stand (Dick Smith type), Wimberley Plamp, pegs, string etc.
- Museum wax to hold delicate subjects
- If really serious, a focusing rail to image stack (in Photoshop).

Managing the light source can be very helpful, and once again there are a variety of lights available to assist:

- A flash is really useful, particularly if it can be used off the camera so that it can be directed where needed.
- Then there are a number of attachments that can be added to the front of the flash, such as a snoot to direct the light and these can be purchased or even made from black (or painted black) cardboard. Honeycomb attachments also distribute and direct the light.
- Small soft boxes that can be placed on a flash are available for varying prices as well. These make the light source larger and softer.
- Reflectors and diffusers are useful for macro as well as portrait photography and are available in various sizes from ebay as well as camera shops. Crinkled alfoil also makes a useful light reflector.
- Light tent to isolate a subject and give even light
- Background fabric / paper to isolate subject if needed.

- Remember the inverse square rule of light – when the distance of the light is doubled, the light intensity is a quarter of the power, so keep checking the light you have captured.

When taking macro shots, be aware that the DoF (depth of field) will be quite narrow, so be careful and check what your focus is doing as you go along. This is one example where constantly checking the image on the back of the camera is helpful.

Subjects for macro are as numerous as for any other genre of photography. Dave made numerous suggestions:

- Flowers, insects (dead and alive!), flowers, ice and things in ice, waterdrops, oil, feathers, vegetables, timber, peeling paint, jewelry, glass, cutlery, kitchen utensils, things in motion,

Composition for macro follows is the same principles as for any image:

- Rule of thirds, Fibonacci, golden means.

Dave then gave a demonstration of shooting water drops sprayed onto a CD.

He tethered his camera to the computer so that the images came up in Lightroom straight away.

This is with a tether tools cable, but this doesn't work with a Sony camera!

The camera was on a tripod, and he turned off the image stabilisation in the camera.

Dave suggested starting at f11 and 1/200 second, then taking it from there.

This beautifully demonstrated how we can look anywhere for interesting images to take or create.

A huge THANK YOU to Dave for sharing this knowledge. Below are a couple of examples of Dave's mages, and go to his website to see more: <http://www.dgp.co>



EXHIBITION REVIEWED

Colour my world: Handcoloured Australian photography. An interesting small exhibition of Australian photographers and some artists spanning the last 40 years. Essentially involving manipulated photography, the imagery includes among other effects hand colouring with colour pencils, watercolour paints, colour dyes, ink and toning. Traditional photography methods are used for many of the photographs and most are a part of series of works or portfolios. An usual collection in this age of digital photography. *National Gallery of Australia, Project Gallery, Level 1, Parkes Place, Canberra ACT. Daily 10am-5pm. Until 30 August. Free.*

SHOWING

Moments in time: Josef Vissel, Photographer. Forty years of professional and private work in Australia and overseas. *Macquarie University Art Gallery, Faculty of Arts, Building E11A, Eastern Road, North Ryde. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm and selected Saturdays. Until 14 Aug to 20 Sep 2015. Free.*

Crowd Source. Candid photographs of Sydney life at the end of the 19th Century taken with a hidden 'detective camera' by amateur photographer Arthur Stryer. *Exhibition Rooms, Level 1, State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street Sydney. Weekdays 9am-5pm; Tue 9am-8pm; weekends 10am-5pm. Untill 23 August 2015. Free.*

Rosemary Laing: transportation. This exhibition explores Laing's long-term interest in place and landscape particularly such relationships as technology, labour and time. Includes works from her series 'greenwork' (1995) and 'brownwork' (1996-97). *Art Gallery of NSW, photography gallery, Art Gallery Rd, The Domain Sydney. Daily 10am-5pm. Untill 20 September 2015. Free.*

Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition. Annual world exhibition of over 100 wildlife photographs and is co-owned by the Natural History Museum and BBC Worldwide. *Australian Museum, cnr College & William Sts, Sydney. Daily 9.30am-5pm. Until 05 October 2015. Entry fee into Museum.*

Physie: Photographs by Lyndal Irons. A lead up to the national physical culture competition finals held at the Opera House in 2012. *Galleries, Level 1, State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street Sydney. Weekdays 9am-5pm; Tue 9am-8pm; weekends 10am-5pm. Untill 04 October 2015. Free.*

OUT OF TOWN

Life Interrupted: Gallipoli Moments. The Gallipoli campaign as experienced by those who were there. Many photographs are on display as well as letters, diaries and official war documents. A joint exhibition by NAA and SLNSW. *National Archives of Australia, Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes ACT, Canberra ACT. Daily 9am-5pm. Until 15 November 2015. Free.*

GOING

Ex & Post – Eastern Europe under the lens and The Outside Land. The 'Ex & Post' exhibition is work from 14 contemporary photomedia artists in Eastern Europe while 'The Outside Land' is new work from Stephen Dupont focusing on landscapes of Papua New Guinea. *Australian Centre for Photography, 257 Oxford St, Paddington. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun noon-5pm. Until 16 August. Free.*

Compiled by Ted Szafraniec

EXHIBITION THEMES:

"Kids" is the theme for September, and Judy T-M has put quite a few tips in the definitions on our website.

The main thing to consider is permission – always ask before taking photos if the child is not yours!

Other things Judy suggest are:

put the child at ease
location
candid approach / posing
get down to their level
get close / zoom
focus on the eyes
backgrounds
try abstract
clothes
shoot in burst mode
have fun

For full explanations, see the website.

UPCOMING THEMES:

September – Kids

October – Shot in the Blue Mountains

November – It's Starting to Feel a Lot Like Christmas

Of course, every exhibition night also includes an open section for images of your own choice. Don't forget to check the website for the rules for exhibitions, such as image sizes, prints and digitals.

IMAGE OF THE YEAR:

Our last exhibition night of the year is always "Image of the Year". All images submitted must have been exhibited during the year, but may be re-processed after the earlier appraisal and suggestions given. It is always most interesting when there are a large number of images submitted, so start checking through your photos now, reprocess if you wish, submit any that have not yet been shown, and be ready for submission dates.

LIBRARY:

Over the past few years we have been building our library of photography related books covering technical aspects, history, creativity and individual photographers. These are all available for short-term loan by members on an honour system. Please make sure you write your borrowings in the book and bring back next meeting.

If you have any particular requests for acquisitions, please let Judy Thistleton-Martin know. We have a small budget, so within reason!

MATS FOR DISPLAYING IMAGES:

Mats are being accessed and will be available on a regular basis at BMPG meetings. These will be initially free for new members and a small charge for others (around \$3-\$12).

Your BMPG Committee are:

President – Shirley Steel

Vice President – Ann Wharton

Secretary – Mandy Ferretti

Treasurer – Anne Baker

Public Officer – Ted Szafraniec

Member – Gail Cameron

Member – David Jenkins

Member – Ken Lowe

Member – Margaret Taylor

Committee Meetings held 1st
Monday evening of the month.

BMPG
WE ARE:

**Blue Mountains
Photography Group**

The Secretary

BMPG

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Newsletter

Jeannie McInnes

Jan Forrester

articles, information, photos
are very welcome.