

JUNE 2015

The big news this month is the visit by two of the Sydney Morning Herald photographers – Wolter Peeters and Brendan Esposito. We are really fortunate to have this SMH Clique Photography Seminar at our venue, so it is most important that we have a good, no, fantastic roll-up on the night. They will be showing examples of their work & discussing their photographic practice as well as taking questions. Please come along and make them welcome. We have a group booking for BMPG members, but more attendees would be great, so please invite friends & family to join us – they will need to book online by going to <http://www.smh.com.au/national/clique/calendar.html>, scrolling down to the seminar, clicking on the links. **Date is 22nd June. NOTE THE EARLIER TIME OF 7:00 – 9:00PM.**

Our May workshop evening was very popular, and thanks go to Greg Farmer, Judy Thistleton-Martin, Mandy Ferretti and Ann Dent for sharing their photographic knowledge and skills with us.

Probably one of the main reasons we all come to BMPG is to learn and to improve our photography. By sharing and talking about what we do, we all get to improve skills and knowledge. Win-win, really. And if anyone has anything to share through this newsletter, please let me know so it can be included. Email address is on the last page.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Monday 8th Exhibition Night: **FROM ABOVE, FROM BELOW**
Judge: Judy Thistleton-Martin

Monday 15th PROJECT OF PASSION
with Mentors:
Geoff Beatty & Dot Radley

Monday 22nd GUEST SPEAKERS:
Sydney Morning Herald Pro
photographers 7-9pm

& NEXT MONTH - JULY

Monday 13th Exhibition Night: **NATURE**
Judge: Graham Cam

Monday 20th PROJECT OF PASSION
with Mentors:
Geoff Beatty & Dot Radley

Monday 27th AGM followed by
GUEST SPEAKER:
Greg Farmer



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:

GREG FARMER - Workflow - RAW to Ready

Greg focused on how to get from a file straight from the camera to an image ready to share. Some of the process is creative, other parts are just a consistent set of procedures so that we have a regular way of comfortable working.

We begin with the creative during capture – what is the idea behind pushing the shutter? Have fun. Use a technique to get it right in the camera as much as possible.

Next step is to upload and backup – have a rigid process so there needs to be no thinking about it.

Then the processing transforms the file into an image ready for retouching. Once again this is consistent process.

In the next stage of retouching we again get to use our creativity. Once more, consider the idea behind the image, then use tools and techniques to realise your idea.

Final stage is the output, and whether print, digital or web, each has its own finishing touches.

Greg stressed the importance of shooting in RAW, as it allows a lot of the information to be brought out in the editing process. If you do need JPEGs in a hurry for printing at the local shop or uploading to facebook etc, then why not shoot in BOTH RAW & JPEG, that way you have the best of both.

Programs such as Lightroom, Aperture, Capture One allow batch processing as well as individual image editing. Then there is Photoshop and other plug-ins to edit individual photos.

The processing order is: Raw conversion -> white balance -> exposure (highlight detail) -> recover shadows -> contrast.

Next step is retouching: dodge and burn - darken and lighten - black and white – plug ins (eg Nik, Topaz, Photomatrix, Mogrify, Enfuse) – colour adjustments – any other editing you choose.

Thanks Greg for an informative and generous presentation.

JUDY, MANDY, ANN - Sharing their photographic practices

This was a sharing discussion where each spoke of what they look for when taking their photos. Some of the main ideas that came from this discussion were:

The challenge of finding new ideas, looking for something unusual to point the camera at; the importance of light; check the weather, sunrise and sunset times, and get up and out there; go back to places you love and want to share; find the right spot to position yourself; staying in one location or returning there often, forces you to observe;

look for beauty in unusual things;

always try to improve what you are doing; look at what other people do to get ideas;

It can take time to develop your photographic eye, but it does come with practice, time, patience, experimentation;

go to exhibitions as a springboard to going forward;

print your own work and put it up at home so you can observe it over time and get to know what you are doing;

“don't photograph what it is, photograph what else it is” is a quote worth remembering.

Thanks to Judy, Mandy and Ann, and everyone else who shared by being there.

EXHIBITION NIGHT: DOORS

Thoughts from Harley Rustin while he was judging on the night:

Harley explained how we learn from critiquing of both our own and others' work. Sometimes we like what is said, sometimes not – just remember that it is the photo being critiqued, not the photographer. This can require a thick skin, but don't be discouraged. It all helps us learn and improve.

As the judge, he always looks for the positive in an image. And when expert opinion is given, it should count for something.

While critiquing an image, you can look for the technical aspects, but photography is a form of visual communication, so it is important to involve the viewer, attract attention, and maintain interest. So he considers why the photographer has taken the photo and what makes it special.

Thanks Harley.

With Ted Szafraniec away overseas at the moment, there is no Exhibition Reviewed listing this month. However, there are so many exhibitions and opportunities for us to partake of, so do get out and enjoy.

hEAd oN photo festival

While HeadOn is mainly held in May, there are still a few exhibitions continuing into June. The best way to find what's on and where, is to check their website at www.headon.com.au.

Some of our BMPG friends are exhibiting this year, so you may like to add them to your go-to list:

Nebuli Arts Group Show at the Incinerator Art Space, 2 Small Street, Willoughby:

27 May – 14 June. "Unseen Sense – Conscious and Verbal States" and explores those eye pricks of a moment illuminating the unseen senses. This group includes Dawn Zandstra.

Len Metcalf is part of two exhibitions – Naked Lens is on at Gallery Mercure, the Mercure Sydney, Pots Point, 17 May – 23 June; also Christine Dengate & Len Metcalf "You + Me = Love" at Ambo Ars, Shop 1/80 Enmore Rd, Newtown, 09 May – 10 June.

Blackheath has quite a few exhibitions. **Andrew Merry** is at the Hat Hill Gallery 17 May – 09 June with "Fire, Cicadas & Other Phenomena". At the **Blue Mountains Heritage Centre** at the end of Govetts Leap Road, there is group show "Another Side", 04 May – 27.

UWS Art Gallery, Werrington North Campus Building AD, features the work of Juliana Swatko, a lecturer in photography. She works with a low tech Holga camera and film, reconstructing them into impressionistic panoramic images. 09 April – 30 June.

Kingswood TAFE, Trapezium Gallery, has 3 exhibitions running one after the other 22 May – 19 June, featuring works by student photographers.

These are the local and connected exhibitions, just some of the many showing in May. The best thing is to check their website for all you may wish to see: www.headon.com.au.

EXHIBITION THEMES:

“Doors” is one of our interesting, non-standard themes this year, offering a chance to challenge ourselves with different thinking. This doesn't just mean a collection of doors (though it could), but the chance to also look through doors to the world beyond. Judy T-M has given a list of ideas on our website, so check them out (www.bmpg.org.au - on right hand side under Latest you will find the link to definitions). She also suggests searching images on-line for more ideas.

UPCOMING THEMES:

June – From Above, From Below

July – Nature

August – In the Style of ... Dorothea Lange, Irving Penn, Freeman Patterson, Dianne Arbus – this gives us the areas of documentary, fashion, nature, impressionism and portraiture

September – Kids

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.

MACRO WORKSHOP:

Dave Glazebrook's macro session will be on Monday 3rd August. Booking essential. There are still a couple of spots available, so be quick.

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).

WEEKEND AWAY:

Following previous weekends away which were very successful and much appreciated by those who attended, it is proposed we have another this week – in the Hawks Nest / Myall Lakes area on weekend of 29-30 August. This will be a chance to practice our photography, work with others, enjoy the variety of sea / landscapes, still crisp enough for morning mist. Vacancies still exist for this event – see Shirley.

Your BMPG Committee are:

President – Shirley Steel

Vice President – Robyn Cook

Secretary – Mandy Ferretti

Treasurer – Anne Baker

Public Officer – Ted Szafraniec

Member – David Jenkins

Member – Jeannie McInnes

Member – Ann Wharton

Committee Meetings held 1st Monday evening of the month.

BMPG
WE ARE:

**Blue Mountains
Photography Group**

The Secretary

BMPG

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articles, information, photos
are very welcome.