

AUGUST 2014

Last Monday we held our Annual General Meeting and the official changeover of the BMPG committee.

Firstly, we have had a successful and stimulating photographic year and we are in a good financial situation for a small volunteer organisation.

After some years of significant contribution, Greg Farmer stepped down as President. Greg has been a fabulous leader, encouraging us to all contribute to the club activities, and above all to put emphasis on our photography. Thanks for all you have done, Greg, and now it is your chance to be a member and just think about your own image making.

Robyn Cook has given much effort to the often unrecognised task of Secretary. Well Robyn, it is time you were recognised – thanks for all your contributions in this role. Much appreciated.

Judy Thistleton-Martin and David Thomas are both stepping down from the committee due to commitments and their contributions have been much appreciated.

Your new committee is:

President – Shirley Steel

Vice President – Robyn Cook

Secretary – Mandy Ferretti

Treasurer – Anne Baker

Committee and Public Officer – Ted Szafraniec

Committee – Len Brown, David Jenkins, Jeannie

McInnes and Ann Wharton.

We wish them all well.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Sunday SYDNEY WEST INTERCLUB
3rd Lawson Bowling Club

Monday Exhibition Night: **FROM**
11th **LITTLE THINGS BIG**
THINGS GROW
Judge: Steve Mullarkey

Monday PROJECT OF PASSION
18th Final meeting
Mentor: Geoff Beatty

Monday PROJECT OF PASSION
25th Presentation of Projects
Mentor: Geoff Beatty

& NEXT MONTH

Monday Exhibition Night: **SHOOT**
8th **FROM THE HIP**
Judge: Ilona Abou-Zolof

Monday Guest Speaker: MALCOLM
22nd FACENDER
Travel Photography



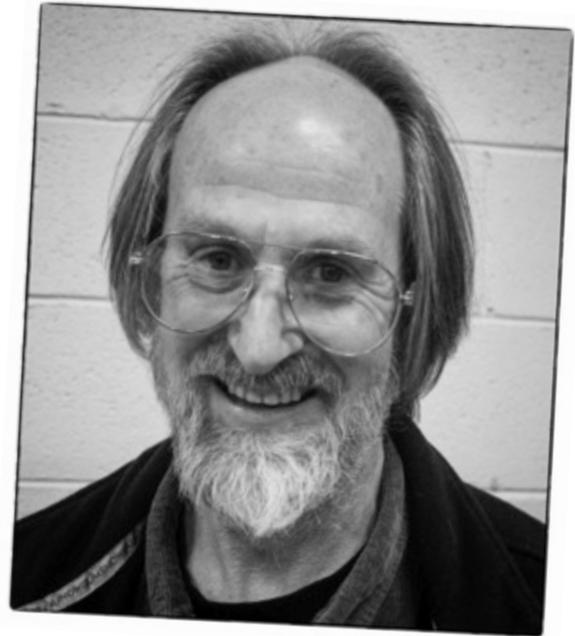
Blue Mountains Photography Group

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.

Guest speaker:

IAN WATSON – Mainly Black & White:

Ian gave us a really interesting and thoughtful presentation about his thinking behind and method of B&W conversions. As we know from the images that he exhibits, Ian is a wiz in his B&W and produces many stunning works.



He began by discussion why you would choose to convert – for simplicity, to emphasise design aspects, to avoid distractions and to add dramatic effect. It works well in de-cluttering people shots and street photography and emphasising the light and drama in landscapes, but is not so effective when colour is essential to the composition or atmosphere, when the image is almost monochromatic or when partial desaturation suits.

Ian explained that good B&W relies on contrast for impact, but with a full range of tones included, unless you deliberately want high or low key images. He suggest you aim for modest areas of “black” and “white” and a good range of tones. He then explained that our key decision is where to place the high tones within the image.

Technically, it is important to understand how histograms reveal the tonal range in the image. Most digital cameras allow you to view the histogram both before and after making the shot, and may also have “blinkies” to warn of areas of total black and blown out white. He then went on to explain the “zone system” used by Ansel Adams. The goal of the zone system is to increase or decrease contrast in the image. With digital images we “expose for the highlights and process for the shadows”.

We were then shown some handy hints within Nik software Silver Efex Pro, and given a demonstration of how this works. Ian did point out that practice allows the eye to see in B&W, and that it can be hand also to shoot in RAW (as we should) + in jpeg set for B&W so that you can view the monochromatic image back on the camera.

What Ian presented to us was not only interesting and stimulating, but also very generous. He is always expressing an interest in discussing the topic and we are fortunate he shares his expertise. Thanks Ian, and thanks for sharing your wonderful images as part of the explanation as well.

He recommended “Digital Landscape Photography” by Michael Frye for its explanation of the zone system and B&W conversions.

Six members of our BMPG are holding another exhibition – this time in the Blue Mountains.

Anne, Shayne, Robyn, Jeannie, Shirley and Judy invite you to join them for the opening day, this coming Saturday 2 August, between 1 and 4pm, to come and have a drink and check out the images. The venue is part of the BM Heritage Centre at the end of Govetts Leap Road.



Ted also reminds us that there are a number of exhibitions marking the centenary of the start of WW1, some of which are closing soon. Venues include the State Library and Powerhouse Museum. Some are finishing soon, so check them out.

EXHIBITION REVIEWED

Portraits of War: The Crown Studios Project. A project by the Crown Studios in 1918 (and supported by the then Mitchell Library) to photograph NSW military personnel who went overseas to serve in World War I. A small exhibition showing some 243 postcard sized photos. They are arranged nine to a frame (all together 27 frames) with basic details of their personal information and service record. This is a haunting display and should be seen in conjunction with the terrific larger exhibition **Life Interrupted: personal diaries from World War I** in the adjacent galleries which also contains many photographs and albums taken by the ordinary serving military personnel and puts the experience of the War in a better context. Check out the great catalogue of the larger exhibition. *Galleries, State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street Sydney. Weekdays 9am-5pm; Tue 9am-8pm; weekends 10am-5pm. Until 21 Sep 2014. Free.*

SHOWING

OUT OF THE BLUE: The Iconic, Botanic and Historic 6X6 Photographers. Come see and support some of our own BMPG members' work. Opening Saturday 2nd Aug, 1-4pm. *Blue Mountains Heritage Centre, Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath. Daily 9am-5pm, From 02 - 31 Aug, 2014. Free.*

Canon Shine. The top 50 images from across Australia by ordinary and some well known Australians as voted by the public, and includes a controversial selection of Australia's most powerful image by a judging panel. *Macquarie Street foyer, State Library of NSW, Macquarie St Sydney. Weekdays 9am-5pm; Tue 9am-8pm; weekends 10am-5pm. Until 21 Sep 2014. Free.*

Photography and the Great War. Photos from the Macleay Museum Collection (part of the Sydney University Museums) taken by official, commercial and amateur soldier photographers. *Macleay Museum, Macleay Building, Gosper Lane (off Science Rd), The University of Sydney. Mon-Fri 10am-4.30pm; first Sat of the month 12-4pm. From 04 Aug to 28 Sep 2014. Free.*

Pat Brassington. Art photographer presenting her latest series of work ("In search of the marvellous, 2013") and a selection of more recent images. *Stills Gallery, 36 Gosbell St Paddington. Wed to Sat 11am-5pm. Free.*

Max Dupain: the Paris 'private' series and other pictures. This exhibition includes a portfolio of 21 photographs taken by Dupain while in Paris at the architect Harry Seidler's request to photograph the Australian Embassy. *Photography gallery, lower level 2, Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery Road, Sydney. Thu-Tue 10am-5pm; Wed 10am-10pm. Until 14 Sep. Free.*

OUT OF TOWN

Richard Avedon: People. Portraits of the famous and the unknown or forgotten by the American photographer Richard Avedon (1923-2004). *Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth WA. Wed-Mon 10am-5pm. From 02 Aug-17 Nov 2014. Fee may apply.*

GOING

Winter season 2014. Photographic elements to the work of multimedia artists Terry Burrows, Rodney Pople and Hiromi Tango. *Galleries, Australian Centre for Photography, 257 Oxford St Paddington. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 12-5pm. Until 17 Aug 2014. Free.*

Compiled by **Ted Szafraniec**

STEVE MULLARKEY:

Steve is coming to judge our August exhibition night. He has previously visited as a presenter – for Project of Passion and for HDR photography. His images are full of stunning detail and can be viewed at: stevemul.com.au

PROJECT OF PASSION:

A goodly group of members have been undertaking this year's Project of Passion under the mentorship of local professional photographer and BMPG friend, Geoff Beatty. Projects are being presented and discussed at our meeting on the 25th. Do try to be there to see what an extended project can achieve.

WEBSITE:

A big thank you to Ian Watson also for being our web master. He has updated the website to make it more friendly and usable, and keeps it up to date. There is the most current program, information about themes and image requirements, and much more. Make sure you have it bookmarked for easy finding: bmpg.org.au

EXHIBITION THEMES:

August: *From little things big things grow ...*

The title of a well-known song written by Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody. The lyrics tell the inspiring story of Vincent Lingiari, the Gurindji people and their lands right claim. Their actions are credited with sparking the Australian Indigenous lands right movement. So, it's not just about plants or superannuation! Be inspired.

September: *Shoot from the hip*

Simply defined as making a quick, unplanned decision, which leads to action.

It comes, apparently, from the American "wild west" gunfighters who would shoot from the hip, rather than take the time to aim from shoulder height. If the western movies are to be believed, which is highly unlikely, it was 'shoot from the hip' or die. In reality, however, shooting from the hip increased firing speed, but not accuracy. The same principle applies to the technique of 'shooting from the hip' in street photography – fast but not always accurate. "Shooting from the hip" usually involves holding your camera at waist-level, and shooting upwards without looking through the viewfinder. One of the reasons why this technique is widely popular is because it allows you to take more candid images of people and you often get a much more interesting perspective as you shoot from a much lower perspective.

As you will soon find out, framing while shooting from the hip is very difficult when starting off. For every 100 shots you take shooting from the hip, you will probably only get 5-10 'keepers', if you're lucky!

Your BMPG Committee are:

President – Shirley Steel

Vice President – Robyn Cook

Secretary – Mandy Ferretti

Treasurer – Anne Baker

Public Officer – Ted Szafraniec

Member – Len Brown

Member – Mandy Ferretti

Member – David Jenkins

Member – Ann Wharton

Meetings held 1st Monday evening of the month.

BMPG
WE ARE:

**Blue Mountains
Photography Group**

BMPG

P.O. Box 352

Springwood 2777

Phone: (02)47513730

Email: info@bmpg.org.au

Web Site

www.bmpg.org.au

Newsletter

Jeannie McInnes

jemci@me.com

articles, information, photos
are very welcome