

# MARCH 2014

What a great start to our year as a photographic group – a large number of works contributed to our first exhibition night and an inspiring guest speaker.

Our first theme was Symmetry and there were quite a few of us up to the challenge. **Len Brown** had the task of appraising all the entries and had lots of positive feedback to share with us. Thanks Len.

Our first speaker was artist & teacher, **Ross Roorda**, who discussed his approach to PORTRAITURE. A report from this meeting is included. Ross will join us again later in the year to appraise our photographic portraits.

This month begins with a photographic outing. The purpose of our outings is to give us the opportunity to share tips and ideas, to learn from each other, and to go somewhere individuals might not otherwise have the chance to go. Bring your gear and come join us all.

Also this month is guest photographer **Dawn Zandstra** speaking about her own style and artistic journey. It is always good to hear how others go about their work, so do come on Monday 10<sup>th</sup>.

Our theme this month is Black & White. **Geoff Beatty** is an exponent, so will have worthy feedback. He does appreciate printed images!

## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Sunday  
**9<sup>th</sup>**  
Outing  
LEURA CASCADES  
Meet 6:45ish till 9:30ish

Monday  
**10<sup>th</sup>**  
Guest Speaker:  
DAWN ZANDSTRA  
My style of photography

Monday  
**24<sup>th</sup>**  
Exhibition Night:  
BLACK & WHITE  
Judge: Geoff Beatty

## & NEXT MONTH

Saturday  
**5<sup>th</sup>**  
SPRINGWOOD  
FOUNDATION DAY  
Exhibition = Helpers Needed

Monday  
**14<sup>th</sup>**  
Exhibition Night:  
LETTERS & NUMBERS  
Judge: Ben Halcomb

Monday  
**21<sup>st</sup>**  
PROJECT OF PASSION  
For those interested  
Mentor: Geoff Beatty

Monday  
**24<sup>th</sup>**  
Guest Speaker:  
BEN PEARSE  
My style of photography



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:****ROSS ROORDA - PORTRAITURE**

Ross sees the face as a form of communication, and art as a way of making marks to communicate with the viewer and the viewer to recognise. (In our case, these marks can be made using the medium of photography.)

As a child, Ross drew animals and people, and found that people reacted to his drawings – felt things and thought about what he drew, without him even having to say anything – and that he could express himself through his drawing, and show emotions particularly through faces. He went on to study portraiture in the traditional way, and having been told that portraiture was the hardest thing to do, disciplined himself to learn new things.

Images shared on the night were of Ross's "Lawson Boys" – from his exhibition a couple of years ago of some of the characters of Lawson. He claims to be a dreadful photographer, but used photos as a guide for his paintings and to experiment with light and colour. His paintings brought dignity and self esteem to these often overlooked characters – the type of faces not usually encountered in portrait paintings. He came in close to his subjects, head and half torso, isolated from any hint of their surroundings. He took the ordinary and made it special. This body of work has led to the further study for his Masters degree on "The Psychology of the Gaze", a comparative study between the gaze of people and animals.

A firm piece of advice offered was to learn your craft so that it becomes the structure or foundation on which to build and rely on when in the situation of seriously making images. As a drummer once remarked to him – "don't practice when you play and don't play when you practice". As an example of his own studying, Ross brought his copied painting of a Rembrandt self portrait – his way of working out how the master created it. Learn, then step away, have a purpose and vision, and use the techniques you have practiced to get there.

The portraits Ross paints are life size, as this creates an intimate connection with the viewer. He suggests a strong light source from one side. Consider the gaze of the subject – looking up is often a technique used in religious work, looking at the viewer can create "gaze" and connection. Don't try to make the subject have a particular facial expression, as this can often appear false. Get them talking about a subject of interest to them while you are working, and capture their emotions as they are felt naturally. Find patterns in the light and colour to take the viewer's eye through the image. And of course, the light source is most important.

Other sage advice offered was to enter competitions and ask people what they think, all as a way of learning how our work affects others. Put an image away for a year, then look at it again with fresh eyes to see if it is a good image. Find an image you admire and try to recreate it as a way of finding out how it was made.

The work and experiences Ross shared with us were most stimulating and have given us much to consider for our October "Portrait" exhibition night, when he will return to appraise our work. Thanks Ross for such an honest and thought provoking presentation. We hope to show our appreciation through our portraits, keeping in mind your suggestions.

## EXHIBITION REVIEWED

**Into the Line of Fire.** An exhibition of the recent NSW fires of last October featuring the NSW Rural Fire Service that were captured by Fairfax Media photographers including Nick Moir, Wolter Peeters & Brendan Esposito among many others. Included in the exhibition are incredible images from the devastating Blue Mountains' fires at Winmalee, Lithgow and Mount Victoria. *State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street foyer, Macquarie Street Sydney. Weekdays 9am-5pm; Tue 9am-8pm; weekends 10am-5pm. Until 13 April 2014. Free.*

## SHOWING ... ..

**Bush, Beaches & In-Between.** An exhibition featuring works some of our own BMPG 'local gals' featuring exciting works from Anne, Shayne, Robyn, Jeannie, Shirley and Judy. *The Palm House, The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. Daily 10am-4pm. 15 – 28 March. Free.*

**Canterbury Faces.** An exhibition by Nick Baldas celebrating seniors in the City of Canterbury as part of NSW Seniors Week in March. Then due to travel to Lakemba Library from March 24 to April 6. *Campsie Library, Canterbury City Council, 14-28 Amy St. Mon-Fri 10am-8pm; Sat 9.30am-4pm; Sun 2-5pm. 14-22 March 2014. Free.*

**Modern Classics.** A selection of photographs from the gallery's favourites including Ralph Gibson, Michael Kenna, Tobi Wilkinson, Anne Lynam, John Wimberley, Jerry Uelsmann & Gordon Undy. *Pointlight Gallery, Suite 4 / 50 Reservoir St, Surry Hills. Thu-Sun 11am-5pm. Until 16 March 2014. Free.*

**Australian Vernacular.** An exhibition by Australian photographers dealing with Australian everyday life between the 1960s and early 2000s. *Photography Gallery, level 2, Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery Rd, Sydney. Thu-Tue 10am-5pm; Wed 10am-10pm. Until 18 May. Free.*

**City of Shaddows: inner-city crime and mayhem 1912-1948.** This popular exhibition of photographs and stories has returned with new research and updated information since its first showing in 2008. *Justice & Police Museum, Cnr Albert & Phillip Sts Circular Quay. Weekends only 10am-5pm. Entry fee \$5-\$10.*

**Kings Cross 1970 to 1971: Photographs by Rennie Ellis.** This exhibition of B&W photographic images from the Library's Collection by Australian photography Rennie Ellis has been extended. *State Library of New South Wales, Exhibition Galleries, Macquarie Street Sydney. Weekdays 9am-5pm; Tue 9am-8pm; weekends 10am-5pm. Until 10 May 2014. Free.*

## OUT OF TOWN ... ..

**Garden of the East: photography in Indonesia 1850s-1940s.** A major exhibition curated from the Gallery's large asian photography collection. *Orde Poyton & Project Galleries, National Gallery of Australia, Parkes Place, Canberra ACT. Daily 10am-5pm. Until 22 June 2014. Free.*

## GOING ... ..

**Elvis at 21: Photographs by Alfred Wertheimer.** Photos of Elvis Presley by photojournalist Alfred Wertheimer that was hired by RCA Victor in 1956 for publicity. *National Portrait Gallery, King Edward Terrace Parkes ACT. Daily 10am-5pm. Until 10 March 2014. Free.*

Compiled by Ted Szafraniec

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## PALM HOUSE EXHIBITION

Come and join 6 of our members – Anne Baker, Shayne Cocks, Robyn Cook, Jeannie McInnes, Shirley Steel and Judy Thistleton-Martin, for their exhibition in the Palm House of the Royal Botanic Gardens. They will all be there on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>, so come and help share the fun of the first day, or drop in any day from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

All six have quite diverse styles, and you'll have a chance to see them displayed in a professional exhibition space.

Quite close to the Art Gallery entrance, not far from the coffee shop, and of course, in the wonderful environment of the Gardens. Bring your camera and make a day of it.

## ON THE W-W-WEB:

**SMH Clique** – the photographers association set up by the Sydney Morning Herald and providing encouragement and support for photography. Membership does cost, but for that you can enter their monthly challenges, get feedback, have some free time with Adobe, have chance to attend workshops, and quite a few other benefits. The first challenge was “Water” and the one for this month is “Buildings and Monuments”. Go to [www.myclique.smh.com.au](http://www.myclique.smh.com.au).

**Head On Photo Festival 2014** – while the Festival is not on till May, the website is up and running, with information about entering images and what will be on. There are competitions with awards, in the areas of landscape, multimedia, mobile and portraits. Also some interesting articles appropriate to the award themes. Go to <http://www.headon.com.au>.

**Federation of Camera Clubs** – we are a member of the FCC, and you can keep up with what is happening in this area. Some of it is organisational (eg AGM information), but there is also news of Photographic Events for the year, Topshot images to peruse, and you can download the regular newsletter to read as well. Go to [www.photographyNSW.org.au](http://www.photographyNSW.org.au).

**Vandelay Design** – Anne Baker sent me this link to a design company's website. Of most interest is their blog about Photoshop, which includes “lots of learning as well as links to more useful stuff”. Thanks Anne. Go to [www.vandelaydesign.com/blog/design/learn-photoshop-basics](http://www.vandelaydesign.com/blog/design/learn-photoshop-basics).

**Dawn Zandstra** - guest speaker this month, here are a few of Dawn's images to look at ... or maybe just come along on the night without viewing them to have your first impression there ... just come along on the night! Go to [www.nebuliarts.com/dawn-zandstra](http://www.nebuliarts.com/dawn-zandstra).

**Ben Pearce** – next month's guest speaker is a local Blue Mts photographer, and he has his blog, which includes many images, on wordpress. Go to [www.benpearcephotography.wordpress.com](http://www.benpearcephotography.wordpress.com).

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## **OUTING – SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH - LEURA CASCADES**

Meet in the carpark @ 6.45am for a 7.00am start.

We will finish about 9:00-9:30ish and go for coffee and a chat about what we have achieved.

### **Why Leura Cascades?**

It's a beautiful spot to shoot and offers a few easy opportunities if you do not want to do the walk down the stairs. There is a small waterfall at the carpark and some of the gums and plants are quite beautiful to photograph. The bridge can also offer a viewpoint,

If you are able to do some of the walk, you will be rewarded with some good opportunities to capture waterfall, intimate landscape, rocks etc.

### **A few handy hints**

1. If you are wanting to shoot the waterfalls or moving water it helps to have a tripod. It can also be useful to have an ND filter to help with the light. HOWEVER, if you don't yet have a tripod or any filters, don't be disheartened, there are ways to help you get good shots and we will hopefully have a range of members with experience and ideas to give some advice.
2. It's been raining so the falls will be full BUT the paths will be slippery so sensible shoes, maybe gumboots if they are not slippery. Some wet weather gear maybe?
3. It is cold down the path to the falls as you may guess, so don't forget a jacket.

### **What gear is useful??**

1. The best gear to bring is your own enthusiasm!!!
2. Tripod if you have one. A small bean bag or similar can make a handy stable base for your camera if you don't have a tripod. Even a plastic bag filled with rice or beans would be helpful.
3. A filter - ND - if you have one might be useful.
4. If you are a newer photographer, bring along your camera manual or a few notes about where to find your settings. We have a range of cameras in the club so there is probably someone there who can help you if you get stuck.
5. If you are keen on macro, it could be a good spot to do some close ups of plants, leaves, tree trunks and the odd creature.
6. And if it is still wet, a couple of spare plastic bags to keep your gear dry and to store a dry cloth.
7. And of course the trusty camera, a charged battery and enough memory cards.

**CHECK YOUR EMAILS FOR FINAL DETAILS.** Thanks for the info, Shirley.

## **EXHIBITION THEMES:**

“**Black & White**” refers to the use of black and white or black, white and tones of grey.

There has been much discussion of the July theme “**Entropy**”. The appropriate dictionary meaning of the word is “unpredictability”, and the challenge of the theme is “dare to be different”.

Judy Thistleton-Martin has once again researched all this year's themes and produced a document of definitions, information, suggestions and links. You will find it on our website ([www.bmpg.org.au](http://www.bmpg.org.au)) under Members – Documents. Not only does this give you the official theme definitions, but the supporting information is highly recommended. Thanks Judy.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Other photographers will be sharing their photographic knowledge and practice – all to challenge our own thinking and creativity.

**DAWN ZANDSTRA:**

Is highly esteemed in the Camera Club movement, and an active member of Northside Creative. She creates works of intrigue, and examples can be seen at [www.nebuliarts.com/dawn-zandstra](http://www.nebuliarts.com/dawn-zandstra). Come along on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to learn more.

**WORKSHOP:**

This year's workshop will be on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May**, and will be presented by Barry Beckham. Barry is an expert in digital photography and runs tutorials in Camera Craft and Photoshop (CS, CC, Elements) & Lightroom.

This workshop is highly recommended to assist in getting the best out of developing your digital images. Further details to follow, but put the date in your diary NOW!

**SPRINGWOOD FOUNDATION DAY:**

Once again we are showcasing our work in our annual exhibition at Foundation Day on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April. We take over half the hall and fill it with well over a hundred of our photos. We need **IMAGES** to exhibit, matted but not framed, and they do NOT need to have been exhibited at club nights. Also need **VOLUNTEERS** to set up the night before and to man the stall on the day, even for just an hour.

**BLUE MOUNTAINS PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP:**

Although we are a member of the Federation of Camera Clubs, we call ourselves a 'Photography Group' rather than a 'Camera Club'. This is to emphasise our greater interest in the photographs we create than in the cameras used to take them. Although members are always happy to discuss their gear, most of us are much happier talking about the image itself.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Membership fees are due for the year. They remain \$60 for adults, \$30 for juniors 18 & under. Please pay treasurer Anne Baker at your earliest convenience.

**FCC Identity Badges:**

As a member of BMPG you are able to receive a badge identifying you as a photographer. Very useful when shooting in public areas. You need to be a financial member, and then request a badge which will be sent to you electronically for you to print.

Your BMPG Committee are:

President – Greg Farmer

Vice President – Shirley Steel

Secretary – Robyn Cook

Treasurer – Anne Baker

Public Officer – Ted Szafraniec

Minutes – Judy Thistleton-Martin

Member – Mandy Ferretti

Member – Jeannie McInnes

Member – David Thomas

Meetings held 1<sup>st</sup> 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