

# OCTOBER 2014

Once again we have had a busy and absorbing month of photographic experience, and we hope you have found interest and stimulation along the way. As we say, we are a photography group more interested in our images than in the camera used to capture them, and this has led to expanding the interests of our guests this year to include practicing artists in mediums other than photography, thus broadening our thinking as well.

One major event held in September was the Digital Playground – a photographic event including speakers, product stands and the judging of the AIPP images of the year. These events always provide stimulation and the chance to see the photographic practice of others.

I have also been listening to some very interesting podcasts available for free – photographers discussing wide ranging topics. Several I heard recently included not needing the latest equipment – one saying that now he had a “dream” camera, he has no more excuses to not get out there and make photos, another suggesting just sticking to one lesser camera (in his case, a micro 4/3) and investing instead in the lenses. Another series questioned the fact that photography is always seen as different, being displayed in galleries separate to other art forms, when it is just another medium to express ideas and should be included with other artforms. Personally, I’m enjoying the challenging listening and finding it an opportunity to consider what I am doing.

If you have some ideas to challenge, improve, interest, excite ... I would love you to share them in this forum.

## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Monday  
**13th** Exhibition Night:  
**PORTRAITS**  
Judge: Ross Roorda

Monday  
**27th** Guest Speaker: DAVID  
GLAZEBROOK  
Landscapes

Sunday  
**26th** FCC INTERCLUB  
Mosman RSL from 10am

## & NEXT MONTH

Monday  
**10th** Exhibition Night:  
**NATURAL LANDSCAPES**  
Judge: Dot Radley

Monday  
**24th** Practical Night:  
GREG FARMER  
Variety of mini workshops



**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 **MALCOLM FACKENDER: TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY:**



We were really fortunate to have as our September guest speaker, Malcolm Fackender – photographer, tour leader and enthusiastic traveller. Malcolm was delighted to be able to speak about his passion of travel photography, and was most generous in sharing not only his photos from Asia and Africa, but also what he has learnt about travelling and photography, tips for preparing our camera gear, travelling with heavy lenses, storage, backing up and how to improve our photographs. He runs Spotlight on Asia and Spotlight on Africa travel photography tours, and had only returned from East Africa a few days before visiting us ... so he speaks from experience.

Why do we travel? Malcolm pointed out that it may be to see the landscape, architecture, sport or nature, but primarily it is about people. There can be different ways to travel and different levels of planning, but to optimise the experience of the destination, planning and research make a difference. Find out what makes the place unique? Are there festivals, markets or other events of interest? Good maps and travel guides can really help and booking ahead ensures access to some events such

as not air balloon rides. Seek information from photo sharing sites such as 500px and YouTube, look at images on Google Earth – all these sites give an idea of what to expect. Apps are also useful, such as Go Sky Watch Planetarium to track the night sky (no point in trying to capture sky trails on a full moon night) and The Photographer's Ephemeris to help plan light direction for landscape and other outdoor shots.

When packing your camera gear, Malcolm shared many tips, from always carrying your gear as carry on rather than check in luggage, putting heavy lenses in pockets or laptop bags to minimise weight in the cabin bag, to really considering what you will be shooting and packing only the appropriate lenses without taking more than you can carry. Always carry batteries in hand luggage for safety reasons. A backup camera is helpful, and if purchasing a compact camera, always choose at least 10x optical zoom, image stabilisation and batteries. As you can see from the photo above, Malcolm shared the kit he uses and explained what he takes and why.

Another important consideration is storage of images. With the number of pixels per image and the ease of taking shots, you are likely to need much storage if away for a while. Malcolm makes two backup copies of files while away and his suggestions included an Eye-Fi card – memory cards with a wi-fi chip to transfer files wirelessly, the Western Digital external drive with an SD slot, and a HyperDrive photobank. Other things to remember include tripod (think variety – no need for super heavy), filters, power adaptors, powerboard, compass, small tools, cleaning cloths and other gear, and the type of bag to consider so that cameras are safe but not too conspicuous.

While the gear is important, Malcolm pointed out that it is less about the equipment and more about the person taking the photos. After doing the research and knowing what to expect, don't rush in – look around and consider your images. See the image before taking it. Give yourself a couple of theme projects to work on, but be flexible. Take a series of images to cover each

subject, from details to context.

One question always arises – should you ask a person before taking their photo. The answer always is that it depends! Some shots work best when the person is unaware, others work when you show interest and attempt to build rapport.

Malcolm finished with a series of tips:

- do your homework
- seize the moment
- get off the beaten track
- try alternate views
- analyse your own previous photos and determine how you can improve on them
- HAVE FUN.
- make your kit count
- consider composition of the image
- continue to take photos even when on the move
- set goals

A HUGE THANK YOU to Malcolm for sharing his passion, his experience, his knowledge and his wide range of really interesting images.

## Club News:

Our guest speaker this month is **David Glazebrook**, who will share with us his knowledge of **landscape photography**. Dave has been a member of BMPG, and in recent years has given up his regular day job to pursue his passion for photography and turn it into a business. He has had success in being a finalist in the National Photographic Portrait Prize and has won numerous gold and silver awards with the AIPP, including the 2013 NSW Science, Environment and Nature Photographer of the Year. I really admire the way Dave is continually striving to learn, experiment and achieve in a variety of areas of photography, all done with passion, commitment and apparent enthusiasm. His talk should be really interesting. Check out some of his amazing images at <http://www.dgp.co>.

The final exhibition night of the year is our **Image of the Year** presentation. This is a chance for us all to share our best images from 2014, and they are being judged this year by Ben Halcolm of 7Chairs Photography. Please don't pre-judge your own images as not being worthy. Please, please, please consider submitting your images.

How to enter: Our current rules state that you can submit images that have:

- been submitted on exhibition nights or project of passion THIS YEAR
- the image must be submitted in the same category of Mono Prints, Colour Prints or Digital
- and that you can submit up to 4 images, as is our usual number on exhibition nights.

If you wish to reprocess your images following suggestions from judging through the year, this is permissible, but if you wish to change category, then the image will need to be re-exhibited in that new category by November to be eligible.

Remember that judging is quite subjective and each judge brings their own slant to the task, so the way Ben will view the images may be different to how other judges have viewed them. In other words, give it a go! Entries will need to be **submitted in mid November** for the **8<sup>th</sup> December exhibition**.

The other **end-of-year** activity is our **awards dinner** – a chance for us all to relax over a glass of whatever and have a good chat and meal. We will be holding it at the Springwood Sports Club again on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December**. This is a good venue – we have a large group table, you can order your own choice of food and drink, and Monday nights are not overly busy.

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## EXHIBITION REVIEWED

**Sydney Transitions: 1914/2014.** Digital montages combining century-old images in Sydney with photographs of the same location today taken by 702 ABC Sydney's John Donegan. Splashes of today's colour inserted into old world monoprints. And it's amazing at how many of these locations essentially still have remained the same after 100 years. *Level 1, Macquarie Street building, State Library of NSW, Macquarie St Sydney. Weekdays 9am-5pm; Tue 9am-8pm; weekends 10am-5pm. Until 22 February 2015. Free.*

### SHOWING ... ..

**Shipyard Stories.** Cockatoo Island's dockyard and shipbuilding history through rarely seen images including many from the men and women who worked there. *Biloela House, Upper Island, Cockatoo Island. Daily 9:30am-3.30pm. Until 31 December 2014. Free.*

**Graham McCarter: Blackheath Portraits + 2.** The photographs (with the exceptions of Brett Whiteley and Ian Rankin) were taken in Blackheath in the Blue Mountains between 2012 and 2014. *Blue Mountains City Art Gallery. Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, 30 Parke St Katoomba. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat & Sun 10am-4pm. Until 19 October 2014. Entry fee.*

**My Trip: Micky Allan, Max Pam, Jon Rhodes.** Images through the eyes of Australian photographers travelling in 'strange lands' to them and recording what they see and experience. *Photography gallery, lower level 2, Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery Road, Sydney. Thu-Tue 10am-5pm; Wed 10am-10pm. From 27 September to 07 December 2014. Free.*

**Don McCullen: The Impossible Peace.** Five decades of McCullin's work as a photographer from war photographs to landscapes for the period 1958 to 2011. In association with the Reportage Photography Festival 2014. *The Galleries, State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street Sydney. Weekdays 9am-5pm; Tue 9am-8pm; weekends 10am-5pm. From 27 Sep to 26 October 2014. Free.*

**Spring Season.** Robert Knoth & Antoinette de Jong (Poppy – Trails of Afghan Heroin); Jodi Bieber (Between Darkness & Light: Selected works from South Africa 1994-2011); Ashley Gilbertson (Bedrooms of the Fallen). Presented in association with the Reportage Photography Festival 2014. *Australian Centre for Photography, 257 Oxford St Paddington NSW. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun noon-5pm. Until 26 October 2014. Free.*

### OUT OF TOWN ... ..

**Crossing Paths with Vivien Maier.** Some self-portraits from recently discovered work by a Chicago-based nanny who despite taking over 150,000 photographs in her lifetime never showed her work to anyone! Includes some responses to her work including by a number of contemporary Australian photographers and video artists. This exhibition is part of the Melbourne Festival. *Centre for Contemporary Photography, 404 George St Fitzroy Victoria. Wed – Fri 11am-6pm; Sat & Sun noon-5pm. Until 26 October 2014. Free.*

### GOING ... ..

**Arcadia: Sound of the sea.** An art exhibition that includes photographs by John Witzig, co-founder of Tracks magazine. *National Portrait Gallery, King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT. Daily 10am-5pm. Until 19 Oct 2014. Fee may apply on entry to Gallery.*

Compiled by **Ted Szafraniec**

**EXHIBITION THEMES:****October: *Portraits***

Portrait photography or portraiture is photography of a person or group of people that displays the expression, personality, and mood of the subject. Like other types of portraiture, the focus of the photograph is usually the person's face, although the entire body and the background or context may be included.

**Styles of portraiture**

There are many different techniques for portrait photography. Often it is desirable to capture the subject's eyes and face in sharp focus while allowing other less important elements to be rendered in a soft focus. At other times, portraits of individual features might be the focus of a composition such as the hands, eyes or part of the subject's torso.

**Approaches to portraiture:**

There are essentially four approaches that can be taken in photographic portraiture — the constructionist, environmental, candid and creative approaches. Each approach has been used over time for different reasons such as, technical, artistic or cultural.

For further information and suggestions, check out our theme definition page at:

[http://www.bmpg.org.au/resources/theme\\_definitions\\_2014.pdf](http://www.bmpg.org.au/resources/theme_definitions_2014.pdf)

**November: *Natural Landscapes***

Natural landscape photography is the representation of natural scenery which shows little or no human activity and is created in the pursuit of a pure, unsullied depiction of nature. For example, strongly defined landforms, vegetation, weather and ambient light. Landscape photographer Andrew Carter sees landscape photography as “photography that focuses on the natural world and has a purpose...”

Although our theme is ‘natural landscape’, as with most forms of art, the general definition of landscape photography is broad. Landscape photography shows spaces within the world, sometimes vast and unending, but other times microscopic. Photographs typically capture the presence of nature but can also focus on man-made features or disturbances of landscapes, and may include urban settings and industrial areas.

From its beginnings and continuing into the present era, some of the most important and celebrated landscape photographers have been motivated by an appreciation of the beauty of the natural environment and a desire to see it preserved. Natural landscape photography can be challenging as it is usually about working within the fixed constraints of the land. Most of the time it involves patience, as we wait for the light conditions that transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Monday evening of the month.

**BMPG  
WE ARE:**

**Blue Mountains  
Photography Group**

BMPG

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articles, information, photos  
are very welcome