

BMPG Newsletter March/April 2022



President's Message

Dear Members

I think this newsletter needs to begin with a very big WELCOME BACK to our meetings in the hall. In case you have forgotten, we return to the hall in Springwood next Monday 11th April for an exhibition evening with Nicola Read as our judge. Nicola is a good friend of our club and if memory serves me correctly, she was with us about this time last year when we had a chance to meet for our delayed 2020 Image of the Year evening.

The committee had a zoom meeting Wednesday night and we made a few plans to get us underway. We would really appreciate anyone who can drop in a bit early to help us set up. It's been so long and we may be a little short staffed so we will appreciate any extra support you can offer on Monday.

We will be there about 7pm to get stands and equipment set up. Normally we open up about 7.30.

I need to advise you that Stephen Georgiou has regrettably stood down from the committee and will be taking some time away from club to support his family. Stephen has been a valued member of our club and we have appreciated his contributions to the committee. Stephen has prepared the newsletter for us for some time. I know you will join me in wishing Stephen well with his photography and his family. Hopefully we may see him again when things settle down.

A few of our club headed to Kiama a couple of weekends ago to our annual weekend away that was well organised by Andy Georgiou. From all accounts it was a welcome break away with photo buddies and some fresh sea air. Special thanks to Andy for all his organisation - this was to have occurred last year but had been delayed with the pandemic. Margaret Taylor has provided a report and some photos later in the newsletter. Thankyou Margaret.

New Website

We have been working on a new website, The current one is quite demanding time wise. It makes it difficult for the club to expect one of our members to manage it. Greg has been so generous with his time in many of the technical aspects of our club's management but it seems as if this is the right time to move to a different option. With Greg's advice we have purchased a package from Squarespace - it is reasonably priced and as our web hosting is about to renew it seems sensible to sort it out now rather than have it drag on for another year.

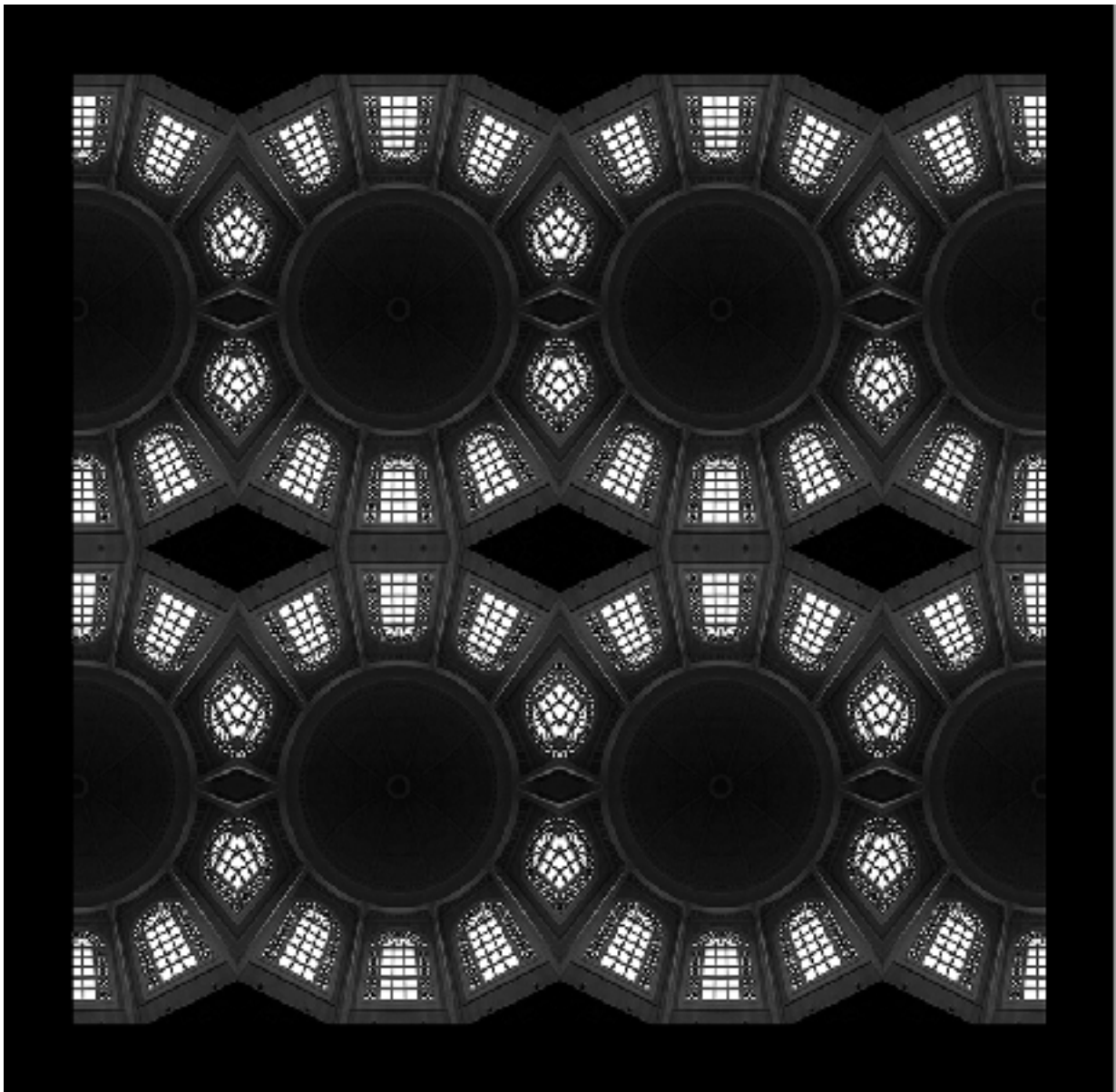
The new website will be so much easier to manage and we are hopeful that we can split one or two of the current tasks. That would hopefully share the load a little. We will move to the fresh look website at the beginning of May.

We would really like to display even more of our members' images. For these reasons we have been updating some of our forms and tidying up a few loose ends. Hopefully the new website and instructions will be much easier to use.

One of the forms we have amended is our membership form. We think it is a good time for all of us to complete a new form - some of our individual details are out of date and we would like to get your permission to use your images on our website. This would bring us in line with current guidelines.

We will have a few printed forms at club on Monday and I will attach one to this email. We would really appreciate it if you could all complete a new membership form for us. If you want to email your completed form, you can send it to the president@bmpg.org.au and I will forward it to Ann, our treasurer. If you have any suggestions about something you would like to see on the new site, please let us know.

Shirley



Members' Choice February - Andy Georgiou - congratulations Andy!

List of Photography Exhibitions March 2022

NOTE: Many galleries in Sydney and regional NSW are open but check for any COVID restrictions. Also many galleries (both Australian & overseas) have online exhibitions or even virtual tours of some of their exhibitions and collections.

EXHIBITION REVIEWED

Business Not Usual [Tracy Ponich]. This pop-up collection of local Blue Mountains portraits was made in 2020 during the first COVID shutdown. Ponich, a local too, photographed 34 businesses in Katoomba, Leura, Blackheath and Lawson. Using B&W images ensures one concentrates on the people in the images but slowly one also notices the subtle changes around them due to the affects of pandemic such as notices like 'hand washing station' or 'closed' signs, and the lack of patrons in business premises. An obvious element in these photos that stands out is that of isolation but there is also concern on the faces of many of the subjects. In hindsight these 'experiences' are now appreciated by everyone as the pandemic has impacted us all. One of these portraits was hung in the recent *National Photographic Portrait Prize* in Canberra. Unfortunately this exhibition was on display from June to August last year at the Cultural Centre to a closed Gallery because of yet another lockdown. There is a beautiful catalogue of the exhibition that expands on the photographs with narratives of the sitters' experiences during the COVID lockdowns. *The foyer, Blue Mountains City Art Gallery, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, 30 Parke Street Katoomba. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat & Sun 10am-4pm. Ended 20 March 2022.* www.bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au Free entry.

SHOWING ...

Pacific Views. Historical photos of the federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea and Tonga with connecting contemporary culture. *Chau Chak Wing Museum, The University of Sydney, University Place, Camperdown.* www.sydney.edu.au/museum Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat-Sun 12-4pm. Until July 2022. Free entry.

Bill Henson. Photographs. *Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, 8 Soudan Lane (off Hampden St) Paddington.* www.roslynoxley9.com.au Tue-Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 11am-6pm. From 01 April – 30 April 2022. Free entry.

Photos1440. See this annual exhibition of the latest published and unpublished images by The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper photographers. *State Library of NSW, Level 1, Macquarie Street building, Macquarie Street Sydney. Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Thu 9am-8pm; weekends 10am-5pm. From 09 Apr – 08 May 2022. Free.*

OUT OF TOWN

We, Us, Them: CCP x Belfast Exposed. A collaboration between Belfast Exposed (Belfast, UK) and the Centre for Contemporary Photography in Melbourne. A number of photographers respond to the question “what does it mean to represent a community?”. Worth checking out the gallery’s good looking website. *Centre for Contemporary Photography, 404 George St Fitzroy Vic.* www.ccp.org.au Wed-Sun 11am-5pm. Until 17 April 2022. Free entry.

OTHER VIRTUAL & ONLINE STUFF

PHOTO 2022. International Festival of Photography. Festival title is *Being Human* – 90 exhibitions, 123 artists, 50 Premieres & 24 Commissions with live stream talks. *In Melbourne and beyond. From 29 April to 22 May 2022. Online information at www.photo.org.au*

Compiled by Ted Szafraniec

WEEKEND AWAY - 18th -21st March 2022

A small group of club members ventured down to Kiama to enjoy time together photographing what the scenic town of Kiama had to offer.

We stayed in the Kiama Harbour Cabins. This well placed park with well appointed cabins and a nearby cafe which made great coffee, made for a very enjoyable stay.

Friday afternoon was fine so we were able to walk to the Blowhole at the top of the hill and get some shots of the Blowhole and Lighthouse. The Blowhole was pretty tame at the time.

Saturday morning was rainy so we all did our own thing around the showers and meet up at night for dinner at the Leagues Club.

On Sunday morning we all rose early and went up Bombo Headland to a spot Andy and David picked out for us to wait for sunrise. We were hoping to get some lighting on the rocks surrounding the cove. We waited watching the waves crash in but it was not much of a sunrise. The crashing waves however made some interesting images.

People ventured off to various locations in the afternoon and the Little Blowhole was an interesting find and was blowing quite well when I saw it.

Sunday afternoon saw some heading back home while a few of us stayed until Monday morning. It was a very pleasant weekend of friendship and photography and thank you Andy for doing such a good job organising it for us.

Margaret Taylor



