



Blue Mountains  
Photography  
Group

# NEWSLETTER March 2024

## Stop Press!

### What are you after in a newsletter?

We (Robyn, John L and Jannine) are interested to know what your expectations are for a newsletter so we can deliver one that interests you! We plan on including the President's report, articles of interest, Buy, Swap & Sell, Members Choice photos, What's On, Outings, Schedule of Meetings and some interesting photo related facts, plus a couple of other bits and pieces.

Is there anything else you'd like to see? Anything that could make for an interesting read? Let us know and we will do our best to include it!

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### *President's Report – Shirley Steel*

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2024. It has been so good to be back as a group sharing our interest in photography and catching up after the summer break. A special welcome to our new members. I do hope you have been made to feel welcome. I am always available to help or find someone else who can, so don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything you need.

Our first two meetings have been a great start. I am still thinking about those images and stories from John Swainston last Monday.

I think Don Munro's judging was very helpful for many of us. I thought his critique was very useful and in most cases on point. One of the challenges we have when we put our images up for critique and scoring is not only the skill of the judge but also their background and personal preference.

You will have heard me comment on the judging process previously. I am going to mention it again as we have several new club members.

Judging or critique should be helpful and even if you disagree with the person doing the critique, you should always be able to take something away from the session that makes you think about your image. If you are lucky, you will learn a lot.

It is pretty easy to identify the jewels on any one night. We can all do that. That photographer may not in fact learn much at all, even though they may be awarded a high score and receive a warm glow from the remarks.

Those of us who gain the most from a critique may be the ones whose score isn't so high. I love it when a member speaks up during the comments. It's not disrespectful. It should be a true interaction between the person who created the work, the person out the front critiquing and other members in the room.

We learn the most and grow as artists and photographers when our images are treated respectfully and we have time to listen to feedback. Unfortunately, we can't always allocate enough time at our meetings to do justice to each image but what we can do is to take the time to talk about the images with each other. That time before the meeting starts and during the supper break is really valuable.

When we book judges, we are very clear that we only invite judges who respect all of our work, no matter the skill of the photographer. It is difficult to find enough judges to fill our roster but we refuse to invite someone who is unable to work in a respectful and constructive way just because we are desperate. A positive approach to critiquing is not some soft opt out. I believe it's the only way we will grow. Harsh, blunt statements do no good for anyone other than the ego of a judge.

Our work is personal. It is our art. It must be respected. There are many ways to use constructive words that do no harm to the photographer but recognise that a photograph can be improved. Good judges do this, and they try to offer some small snippet at least to send the member away with an idea to work on. As club members we should also practise this when we speak about other members' images.

The state body (FCC – Federation of Camera Clubs) conducts training courses for judges and in recent years they have moved strongly towards a positive and interactive feedback model. These courses are advertised on their website and are open to all members. Graham Cam has undertaken this training and I know he thought it was a valuable experience. Chat to Graham at some stage if you are interested.

If ever you have concerns about any judging, please let me know. By the same token, if you are appreciative of any of our judge, could you send me a short note. I always pass these on and believe me, they are very much appreciated.

Let's keep sharing some fabulous photography.

## ***What's On***

Exhibitions:

1. Developing Sydney: On the cusp of change 1901. At Customs House.
2. Action! Film and War. At the State Library of NSW
3. HERstory: Remembering Australia's Military Women. At ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney.
4. Ocean Photographer of the Year 2023 At the Australian National Maritime Museum
5. SHOT. 400 Captivating Moments. Also at the State Library of NSW

6. Selected Photography and Printmaking Exhibition (22 contemporary artists exploring in using medias of printmaking and photography). At the CBD Gallery
7. Tacita Dean: Sydney International Art Series 2023/2024 (Capturing Dean’s investigation into themes of chance, memory, entropy, history and time.) At the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Something to Consider:

Exhibit your photography in a leading art festival?? ( <https://headon.org.au>)

### ***Schedule of Meetings***

Monday, 12/02/24	<b>EXHIBITION</b>	Don Munro	OPEN
Monday, 26/02/24	<b>PRESENTATION</b>	John Swainston Combined with UBM & Hawkesbury clubs	<a href="https://johnswainston.com">https://johnswainston.com</a>
Monday, 11/03/24	<b>EXHIBITION</b>	Brian Grono	CREATIVE
Friday, 22/03/24	<b>OUTING</b>	Katoomba Falls by Night	
Monday, 25/03/24	<b>PRESENTATION</b>	Peter Hill Monochrome Photography	<a href="https://peterhill.au">https://peterhill.au</a>
Monday, 8/04/24	<b>EXHIBITION</b>	Nicola Read	THEME: Rags to Riches
Monday, 22/04/24	<b>PRESENTATION</b>	Astro Photography <i>Start at 7pm</i>	Brian Grono

### ***Project Of Passion (POP) 2024 – Judy Thistleton-Martin***

A few suggestions that might help to get you thinking:

#### **Why are we doing POP?**

- A question worth thinking about – not necessarily how or what you will do initially, but the reason why you want to give it a go.
- You might need to refine your why as you start to develop your project – maybe after writing and sharing your ideas you’ll have a better understanding of why you are doing this. Don’t be afraid to break the rules by daring to be different!

#### **How will we do this?**

##### **Structure**

- We have four Zoom sessions which means that we have quite a few months before we present our final “body of work”.
- Having a plan is a good idea as it helps to keep us on track.

- Our Zoom meetings will enable us to “show and tell” our progress, voice our frustrations and share what we’ve learnt so far.
- Keeping a journal can also be a valuable way to record your thoughts and ideas.

### **Presentation**

- Printed images – maximum of 6 A3 images – as we need to display them all without overcrowding. These could be printed and matted, displayed in a book, or multiple images mounted on a larger board the same size as 6 A3’s put together!
- Digital images – could be a slide show or a sequence of images set to music to accompany something you have written.
- Digital artworks which incorporate your photography - presented as prints, a slide show or in another format (art exhibitions are an inspiring source of ways to present).
- Setting up your own website – POP would be a great place to start the process.
- A short written piece (A4) about your project – the what, why and how as well as what you have learnt not only about photography but maybe what you have discovered about yourself.

### **Inspiration**

- Photographer **David duChemin** has recently posted on his website a practical article entitled “**Bodies of Work. Your next Step**”.
- <https://davidduchemin.com/2022/05/bodies-of-work-your-next-step/>
- Local photographer **Tracy Ponich**: [www.feathermark.com.au](http://www.feathermark.com.au)

### ***Exhibition Reviews***

#### ***Ted Szafraniec***

**Panoramic Blue Mountains. Stephen Georgiou.** The effort that went into making every image on show was not immediately obvious in this beautifully presented photographic exhibition of Blue Mountains panoramic landscapes. Stephen works by carefully taking multiple sequential images of his landscape and then spending hours on a computer combining his images into one photograph. His panoramic approach works well for both distance vistas or views of closer objects like gum trees or a waratah flower head. In this his first solo exhibition Stephen had 15 digital images on show (13 colour images and 2 monochrome images) and they did not disappoint. One of the monochrome images was a superbly different but dramatic view of the Three Sisters under clouds and in swirling mists. All the images were excellently captured with exceptional light and beautifully printed. They were exhibited in white wooden frames which on looking at each image held the gaze within the frame. Stephen is a member of the Blue Mountains Photography Group and has won various prizes for his photo work. He is to be congratulated on his excellent first solo photography exhibition and the exciting prospect of more shows to come. Stephen’s Fine Art

Photography can be seen on his website [stephengeorgiou.com](http://stephengeorgiou.com) and Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/stephen.georgiou.90> as well as his Instagram site [https://www.instagram.com/stephen\\_georgiou/](https://www.instagram.com/stephen_georgiou/). *This exhibition was held at the NSW National Parks & Wildlife, Blue Mountains Heritage Centre, Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath NSW, Exhibition Space/Gallery. Showed during 02 November 2023 & 28 January 2024.*

**IN FOCUS: The Photography of Harold Cazneaux at Everglades.** This was a small but beautiful exhibition / display of photographs taken by Cazneaux and mostly held by the National Trust. Some of the photos were of the Everglades House and Gardens taken for Sydney businessman Henri Van de Velde at Leura during the 1930s. Other photos showed the photographic work of Cazneaux. The Everglades Gardens were built by local Paul Sorenson. Cazneaux is of course one of Australia's greatest photographers and best known for his pictorialism. However some of the photos that were on display were decidedly modernist like the Art Deco house built for Van de Velde. The photos were under various subject headings with associated information: Harold Pierce Cazneaux; Techniques and Style; Cazneaux at Everglades; The Blue Mountains; Interior photography and Photography at home. Some of these images also appeared in *The Home and Home Beautiful* magazines in 1936 and 1937. The Photographs are from the archive collection held by the National Trust. *Held on the First Floor, Everglades House, National Trust, Everglades, 37 Everglades Ave, Leura. Open Wed to Mon 10am – 4pm. Exhibition displayed 20 Sep 2023 – Wed 28 February 2024. Entry fee to Everglades House & Gardens.*

### *Shirley Steel*

**Emily Kam Kngwarreye 1910 –1996**

<https://nga.gov.au/exhibitions/emily-kam-kngwarray/>

Closes 28 April 2024.

We had a quick trip to Canberra last week to see this exhibition. I have loved this artist's work for several years and the chance to see so much of it on display in one gallery was something I couldn't miss. Emily Kam Kngwarreye had practised her art for decades in her local environment and in ceremonial body painting with other women. In the mid 1970s they were introduced to Batik and from there her work accelerated and diversified. The exhibition fills several large rooms in the National Gallery and I found it as overwhelming as when I stood in front of rooms full of the famous European artists in various galleries overseas. I had read critiques that likened her work to the great impressionists and having seen it in full I now understand why. What I particularly enjoyed was the changing style that emerged as we moved through the different rooms. There are fabric hangings, individual paintings and panels of paintings in the rooms. The larger panels appeared in her later work in the 1990s. In fact, it is the 1990s that I saw the most change in the style. I loved it and wished I was closer so I had another chance to drop in and soak it up. For more on Emily Kam Kngwarray, read through the link to the National Gallery and have a look here:

<https://www.kateowengallery.com/artists/Emi200/Emily-Kame-Kngwarreye.htm>

### ***Members Choice Photos – February***

Joint Print Winners:  
Stephen Georgiou – Gerroa B&W



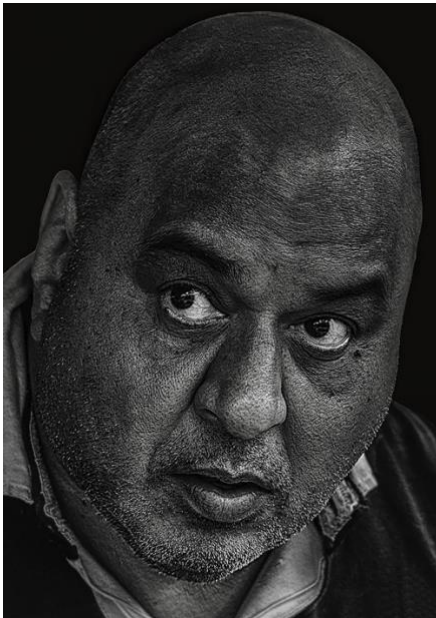
Graham Cam – Eastern Spinebill



Brett Umenberger – Ira



Greg Fisher – Whiskers



Digital:

Jeff Davies – Plant Based



### ***Buy, Swap & Sell***

If you have anything that you want to buy, have available for a swap or to sell, let Robyn, John or Jannine know. We'll need a description of the item(s), price or price estimate and if swapping what do you want to swap with? Photos would be useful as well!

#### **FOR SALE - MANFROTTO TRIPOD plus spare mini head – Shirley Steel**

*My first carbon fibre tripod that I have since replaced. No longer needed. In good working order.*

Manfrotto CXPRO4 (4 means it has 4 leg sections, not 3)  
Ball Head attached Manfrotto 496RC2

Spare smaller ballhead in box. Brand new never used.  
Mini Ballhead 494 RC2

Has a packet of spare rubber feet and a couple of spare small carbon fibre pieces that sit inside the legs.

*Happy to try it before committing.*

All reasonable offers from club members considered.





**CAMERA STRAP - BLACK RAPID – STREET – Shirley Steel**

Like new - bought on a trip as backup. Not used since. Comes with bag & instructions.

\$30



## Items for sale – Greg Fisher

- \* Sekonic L - 308S Light Meter for DSLR. New never used \$90.00
- \* Kenco extension tubes for Nikon - \$100
- \* Polarising Filter 55mm lens - \$25.00
- \* UV Filter 55mm lens - \$ 15.00
- \* Polariser Hoya PL - CIP 77mm - \$100.00
- \* Neutral Density NDX400 Hoya 77mm - \$100.00
- \* Neutral Density NDX8 Hoya 77mm - \$50.00
- \* Neutral Density NDX2 Hoya - 72mm - \$50.00
- \* Nikon 50 mm 1.8 Lens for Nikon with UV Filter - \$100.00
- \* Nikon 10 - 24 mm wide angle zoom F3.5 DX lens with 77mm, UV Filter - \$300.00
- \* Tokina 100mm F2.8 Macro for Nikon DX lens \$150.00
- \* Nikon D7000, DSLR, charger, battery, books - \$250.00



## *Interesting Photography Facts*

We have a great choice of exposure times on our cameras these days, and can also set this to automatic using various settings such as aperture priority if we chose to use them. Also, we get instant feedback on whether we've made the right exposure choice. So, imagine having an 8 hour exposure for your photo! That's how long it took to expose the first photo!!!



The earliest saved photographic image. Niépce Heliograph taken at Le Gras, France.

The oldest photograph that we know is from 1826. It's credited as the first photo in history, and French photographer Nicéphore Niépce took it.

Back then, materials weren't as sensitive as they are today. The photograph was taken with a camera obscura and printed onto a metal plate.

The image captured the view from Niépce's window, which took eight hours to expose.

Thank you for reading through our first newsletter for 2024! A bumper edition indeed! We hope you have enjoyed it and hope to hear from you regarding anything you would like to see in the newsletter – it is your newsletter after all!

Jannine, Robyn and John