

Dark Rumours

www.workshopcameraclub.org.au

Issue

5

Monthly Newsletter of the Workshop Camera Club in Riverton, WA

June 2022

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This year the Workshop Camera Club celebrates its 40th anniversary. We marked the occasion with a cake after the June exhibition night.

A piece was saved for a founding member, Ruby Lane.

Ruby is a life member and retains an interest in the club through this newsletter, our webpage and Facebook. She attended meetings regularly up to about ten years ago. She now finds driving at night difficult and so maintains more of a remote participation in the club, like reminding us of our milestone birthdays.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jane Speijers



Most of you already know that Diederik and I are now in Barcelona getting to know our new grandson, Max, who is two weeks old. We have had no COVID symptoms since we arrived here a week ago. As many of our members are keen travellers I thought you might be interested in our experiences thus far.

We travelled via Doha in economy seats in a packed aircraft. While we had booked seats adjacent to the aisle, we found that, due to a change in aircraft, we were seated in internal seats with people on either side. Almost all passengers apart from children were masked, unless they were eating or drinking. Like most of us, I find it unpleasant to wear a mask, but I didn't find the long trip in a mask too difficult. Mask wearing was compulsory in both the aircraft and in Doha but not generally enforced that I was aware of.

Entry into Spain was simple and fast. We had to show the QR code that we received on completing a health form on the internet, 48 hours before we left Perth, and our passport. As I remember we had to show our vaccination certificate at check-in in Perth and the Spanish health form. We had PCR tests 72 hours before we left Perth as instructed on the Spanish website but no-one ever asked to see the certified results.

Tourists have returned to Spain in their thousands this summer. Sagrada Familia, the biggest tourist attraction in Barcelona, which is only 100m from our apartment, is surrounded by the pre-COVID numbers of tourists each day. I believe it is compulsory to wear masks on public transport as everyone has one on, few people are wearing masks outdoors and a few more wear masks in public indoor spaces. You could say that life appears to have returned to normal.

Our travel insurance covers most aspects of illness due to COVID including the possibility we were unable to travel due to COVID. After a week in Barcelona we are now regarded as healthy and allowed to hold Max.

Despite the risks associated with COVID we are fit and ready to enjoy our sojourn in Spain. Diederik is currently fighting the online rail booking system for travel to Madrid and Segovia later this month . . . that's another story!



Sagrada Familia - Image from Trip Advisor

EDITORIAL (Roger's Rant)

Roger Severn



In the days before digital cameras in most cases taking the photo was all we did. A one step process. We saw the results some days or weeks after, when our printed pictures or slides returned from the processing lab. The results were either bad, good, or mediocre. Nothing we could do changed the result.

Today with our digital camera not only can we improve our images in post-processing, if we take RAW images, we must do some post-processing in order to boost colour, contrast, white balance, and sharpness to get the best out of the flat looking RAW image. No such thing as "straight from camera" unless the image format is .jpeg. Jpeg images are processed in camera according to a limited selection of styles chosen in the camera settings.

Photoshop took the lead in post-processing software, and it is safe to say that it remains the most popular of an ever increasing selection of available alternatives. I migrated from Lightroom/Photoshop to On1 Photo Raw a few years ago. I did this simply because I found On1 to be intuitively easier for me to use. This does not mean there is anything wrong with the Adobe suite. Since I have no recent experience with Photoshop, I am unaware of the inevitable improvements made since I stopped using it.

What has been happening with the alternative software developers is that most are making their specialist software available as plugins to Photoshop. Topaz for example produce excellent software plugins for noise reduction, resizing, sharpening and video editing. They also have a suite of creative routines presented as Topaz Studio 2. Unfortunately, this product is no longer being developed as Topaz concentrate on their artificial intelligence (AI) plugins.

I have all the Topaz products and have been using them for years. Their AI offerings are very good. However, I am going to the routines within On1 more and more as their newer AI offerings are in my opinion blitzing what is available in Topaz and elsewhere. For example, Topaz DeNoise which I thought had reached a pinnacle of noise reduction has in my view been overtaken by ON1 NoNoise. On1 like Topaz make their AI routines available as Photoshop plugins.

Both Topaz and On1 have great AI image enlarging plugins that enable heavy cropping and then recover the resolution to enable large prints.

With noise reduction software like DeNoise and NoNoise able to clean up very noisy Raw files photographers are able to wind up maximum ISO on camera to maintain high shutter speeds and smaller aperture settings. Particularly useful for bird photographers. The ability to overcome noise, and to be able to crop in without loss of resolution, has made the 400 mm lens as useful as a 600 mm monster.

Exhibition

Director's

Report

Greg Hilton

The June Exhibition, entitled Diptych, Triptych and multiple images, went smoothly. There were sixteen entries in the Projected Subject, nineteen in the Projected Open, four in the Print Subject and five in the Print Open. The attendance was unfortunately down, as a result of illness, travel and COVID concerns.

Our Judge, Johannes Reinhart, was reasonably harsh in his judging, but he did point out that he was trying to stick to his brief of awarding scores according to suggested percentages.

The Best Subject image was awarded to William Dickie, for his image Bird in Flight. The Members' Choice- Print award for the exhibition was awarded to Glenda Gore, for her image City Beach Vibes.

My recent photographic journey by Greg Hilton

I have not been taking a lot of photos lately, and I thought I would share some reasons why.

Firstly, there have been a few practical considerations, such as the death of my mother and the time spent sorting out her affairs and selling the property. Then meeting a lovely woman and getting married again. Mi is not into photography, so I would rather spend time doing things with her than going off on my own, taking photographs. I am down to working three days a week now and I spend more time at Mi's house than mine, but my computer is at my house, so unless I go back to my house while she is working (from home), then I can't work on photos. I am going to get another laptop computer so I can leave it at her house, so this should help a lot.

Probably the main reason for my lack of productivity, though, is a general disillusionment with my photography in general. I used to be quite proud of making beautiful landscapes, beautiful sunsets and stunning astro shots and timelapses. Then I gradually started to come to the realisation that it was all too much of the same, and most people can do these with a bit of effort and knowing the right settings to use. Unless I could think of a way to make a photo a little bit different, then it would be the same as everyone else's. That's not to say that I would not be proud to have one of my photos printed and framed on my wall, but to get more recognition as a photographer, I want to strive to do something a little more personal.

I do appreciate and admire the effort photographers go to in order to get their shots, such as wildlife photographers who camp out for days or weeks in the same spot, and landscape photographers who trek up a mountain to get a sunrise shot. This can raise their work above the average, in my opinion, just from the sheer effort involved.

I would like to make individual photos that people will remember, not just admire and then forget about. I am not in any way denigrating the excellent work done by our members, but it is just my personal journey.

Here is the rub- making photos like this is hugely more difficult- well, for me, anyway. I have a few in mind, but they involve waiting for the right weather conditions, organising actors and having good Photoshop skills- skills which I don't possess. One photo I have been trying to get together for over a year, on and off, including doing Photoshop tutorials.

I will continue my quest, but maybe try to do a bit more conventional stuff along the way, before I lose my skills altogether.

When viewers look at your work, their hearts should jump. You want them to feel the same emotions that you felt when taking the image.

July Exhibition - Landscapes



Any scape that people or animals are not a prominent part of. Landscape photography is capturing an image that embodies the spirit of the outdoors. It carries a sense of being there to see something incredible. President's Perpetual Trophy awarded to best subject Print Alf White Perpetual Shield awarded to best subject Projected image.

Workshop Camera Club Committee

President

Jane Speijers

Newsletter Editor

Roger Severn

Vice President

Judith Shields

General Members

Robert Ball

Chris Orrell

Past-President

Gary Talbot

Secretary

Cynthia Ball

Special Interest

Groups - SIGS

Treasurer

Diederik Speijers

Abstractists

Anne Barden and team

Program Director

Helen Rowbottam

Darkroom

Greg Bell

Exhibition Directors

Greg Hilton

Rod Simmons

Photo-book making

Judith Shields

Chris Orrell

MARKET COMING UP!

This year has been a funny one so far, what with jabs, tests, masks and (especially) small turnouts at Club meetings, so spreading the word is not so simple these days. Anyway, stand by for word – spreading.

The next Photomarket will be held on Sunday morning, 24 July at the South Perth Community Hall, South Terrace, which is near the corner with Sandgate Street. Sellers should set up between 7.30 and 8.30 am, buyer entry is from 8.30 and we trade until 11.30. Entry is \$5, young kids free, tables cost \$20, call me if you need one, 9364 5905.

VOLUNTEERS, all you people who make the show work, need to be there from 7.00 am to set up tables and get the room ready. We also need volunteers to clear the room after end of trading. Exit time is 12.00 noon so we have to be quick - if we go over, we will be slugged extra fees. Up to now, we have enlisted our volunteers at Club meetings, but this time we'd like you to call or email Rob Ball to put your name down. Northern Exposure, our Market partners, will look after the \$3 Café as well as table set up and tear down. Don't worry, we always get there, we've done it before. Many times.

Workshop is also doing door duties, and of course we will have a Club table at the Market where members can leave unwanted gear for sale. Final details are yet to be settled, sorry about that, but these are difficult times. I may have said that already.

Covid restrictions have been relaxed, so we expect a good turnout for this Market. We sold every table in the hall at the last one and there was wonderful gear for sale all over the place, especially accessories – this is the best place in Perth to find cut price tripods, filters, bags, flash, lighting, you name it. You are also likely to find digital camera bargains and lots of bits to match, plus vintage film gear and quirky collector pieces. I bought very well last time, thank you...

Then there are the people at the Market, all those mates you haven't seen since the last one, all keen to continue the conversation. There's nothing like it, so be there!

Bob Halligan





Program Director's Report

Helen Rowbottom

Photographing Glassware, presented at the club by Kim Stewart, at the club on June 15.



Glassware is one of the hardest subjects you can work with, but Kim is going to walk you through two styles and 3 methods of photographing glassware that you can do at home, with a few simple items to get looks you want.

The secret to photographing glassware is all in the lighting and knowing what to do and what not to do in relation to your setups. Never shine a light directly at glassware.

The session is not all theory. Kim will walk you through the set-ups and processes, show examples of what you will be able to achieve and then set up his camera and tether it to the computer so you will be able to see the process and the results. Sometimes knowing what not to do is just as important as knowing what to do.

If you have tried to take photos of glassware and were disappointed in the results, this could be the session for you. Even if you never plan to do any commercial photography this is an exercise that can really help you learn about light and how to control it.

**Welcome new
members**

Susan Kebbell
Beverly Dawkins

Nature by Nathan, presented by Nathan Dobbie, at the club on June 22.



Nathan is a Perth based photographer of 6 years, and for the past 3 years has been fortunate enough to turn his passion into a full time career which has seen him travel all across the state of Western Australia. Nathan has always had an interest in the outdoors. So naturally when he first picked up a camera he became fixated on photographing anything that was nature based, whether it be landscapes, wildlife or macro. He was hooked. After the first year of owning a Nikon D7200 (his first DSLR), his interest in landscape photography really took off.

More and more recently he has enjoyed sharing his passion for photography by hosting workshops and online via his Patreon site.

Nathan will be sharing his photographic journey from picking up his first DSLR until now, which will include some of his older images that he is not so proud of, to show progression over the years. Toward the end of his presentation he will demonstrate some post processing of images as in his opinion that is an important part of landscape photography.

Fly on the Wall

Bits from the WCC Committee

Meeting,



- Planning for a club weekend away to Perup (east of Manjimup). Keep October 7th and 8th free in your diary. Let Jane Speijers know if you want to come.
- Don't forget PhotoWest is coming up. This year at Jurien Bay September 16th to 18th. Secure your accommodation now. Registrations open July 15.
- WCC is following State Government directives regarding COVID controls. The wearing of masks is no longer mandatory generally, however your Committee strongly recommends voluntary mask wearing by everyone during meetings.
- Image size for Exhibitions is now 1.5mb to match the requirements for WAPF competitions. Images must stay within 1920px X 1080px.



WAPF PrintWest 2022

PrintWest is the only interclub competition WAPF holds each year

We will be seeking submissions at the end of May.

Start thinking about your best four colour and four mono images captured between 16 July 2020 and 12 June 2022

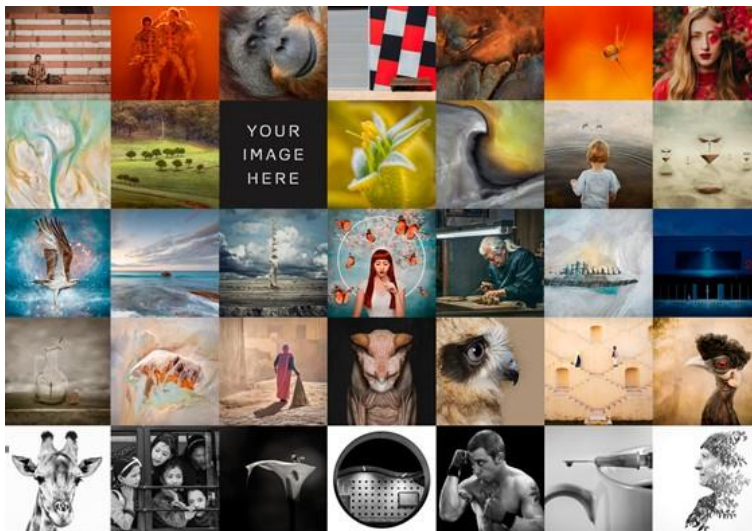
Any member's image which attained a Gold or Silver award in Monthly Exhibitions between August 2020 and June 2022 will automatically be considered by the WCC Selection Committee in the first round.

To be eligible, an image must have been captured between 16 July 2020 and 15th July 2022 and must not have been entered in any other WAPF competition such as PrintWest, Salon, ClickWest, WAMM or My View.

Submissions close midnight June 14 for this year's PrintWest.

An internal judging panel is in the process of selecting images to represent WCC.

If selected you will be asked to submit a high resolution, printer ready file of your image/s.



The WA Photographic Salon is an exciting new event sponsored by the West Australian Photographic Federation in a joint project with Western Australian professional photographers.

This is an opportunity for members to test their skills in an open competition. Substantial prizes are on offer and every entrant is given the opportunity to participate in a one on one mentoring session with a professional photographer.

The best 100 images are to be exhibited in the foyer gallery in Central Park Building in Perth.

Entries are now open.

WA PHOTOGRAPHIC SALON

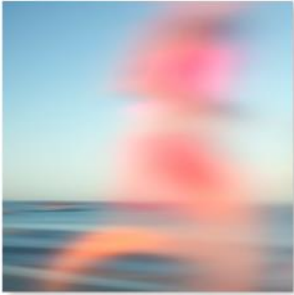
SUBMIT | LEARN | EXHIBIT

SUBMISSIONS OPEN 24 MAY 2022

waphotographicsalon.com.au
facebook.com/waphotographicsalon

Awards

Please note galleries of all June Exhibition images and awards are available on the WCC website.



Printed Subject
City Beach Vibes
Glen Gore
Gold



Printed Subject
That Hat
Isobel Pearson
Gold



Printed Subject
Burns Beach Sunset
Helen Rowbottom
Silver

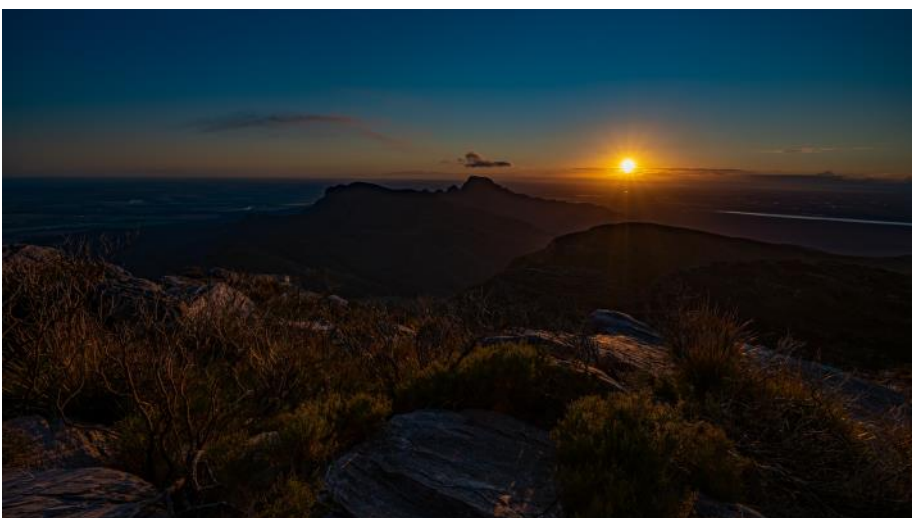
Awards



Printed Open
Red Eared Firetail
Glenda Gore
Gold



Printed Open
Nankeen Kestrel
Rod Simmons
Silver



Projected Open
Sunrise
Richard Sak
Gold

Awards



Projected Open
untitled
Ignatius Wong
Silver



Projected Open
The Old House
Alan Wallace
Silver



Projected Open
Matilda Bay
Glenda Gore
Silver

Awards

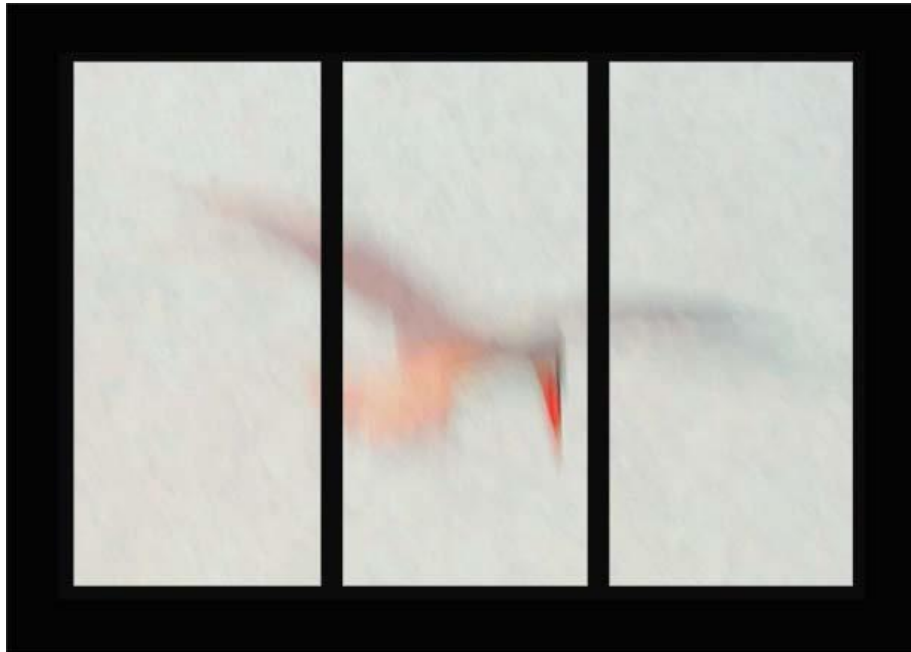


Projected Open
Sailing Ship
Judith Shields
Silver



Projected Open
Gotcha
Helen Rowbottam
Silver

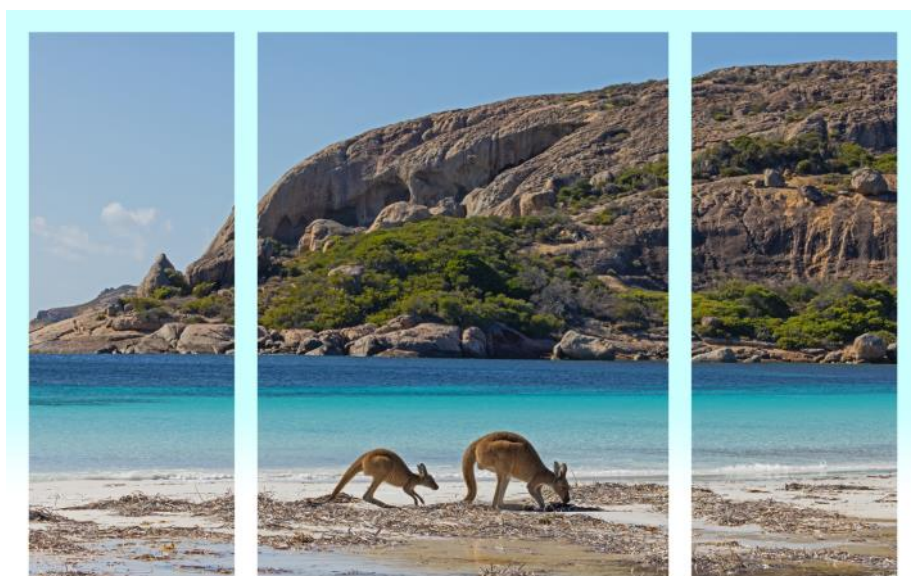
Awards



Projected Subject
Bird in Flight
William Dickie
Gold



Projected Subject
Coral Closeup
Chris Orrell
Silver

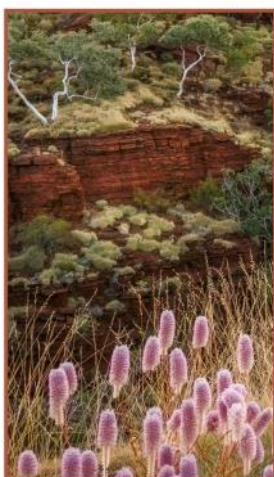


Projected Subject
Lucky Roos
Keith Lightbody
Silver

Awards



Projected Subject
Skyshow 2022
Gary Louth
Silver



Projected Subject
Karijini
Helen Rowbottom
Silver