

Dark Rumours

Issue

8

Monthly Newsletter of the Workshop Camera Club in Riverton, WA (Est. 1982)

Email: newsletter@workshopcameraclub.org.au

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www.workshopcameraclub.org.au

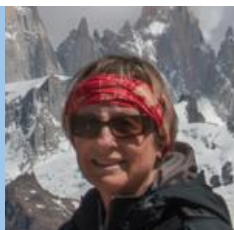
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Cover Image by Rob Namestnik see: Diving in Malapascua, Philippines August 2022 - Andrew Marriott (Gadabout pages 4-7)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jane Speijers



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Unfortunately, the weekend WCC had arranged at Nature's Guesthouse at Perup has been cancelled because the guesthouse closed its doors from 15 September 2022. Blackwood Basin Group, who has operated the facility since 2017, relinquished their management contract with DBCA due to financial problems. Diederik and I had the opportunity to spend two nights at Perup last week. While I am sure we did not capture any great images we did manage to spy brushtail possums with their babies, woylies, a tamar wallaby and perhaps a phascogale. No luck with numbats but the weather was not ideal. It was a little early for orchids at Perup and further south but we did find hundreds of examples of three orchid varieties at Myenup Reserve just south of Boyup Brook.

The executive committee has decided that this year's Christmas Function will not be held at the East Fremantle Yacht Club as in the last few years. Given the low numbers of members attending ordinary meetings it seems unlikely we would make the minimum numbers required for a function at the Yacht Club. A number of alternatives are under consideration including a catered event at the Canning Arts Centre. You will be advised once details are available.

Entries to the last exhibition were disappointingly low. Eleven projected images were entered in each of the subject and open categories. While it might be argued that photojournalism is not a popular subject this does not explain why there were so few open projected images, especially since there is now no time limit in the open category. There were only seven prints entered across both subject and open categories. Exhibitions offer us the opportunity to finish our images to a higher standard than we might otherwise attempt. I would encourage members to support our next exhibition which has *Reflections* as a subject.

Late news, the WCC was the overall winner of this years PrintWest interclub competition. We came second in the Colour and third in monochrome.

Our overall score was 166.7 just ahead of second placed Western Australian Camera Club with 165.34 and third place Western Australian Underwater Photography Society with 164.75.

Workshop Camera Club has a very active Facebook page with currently 112 members. To join this group, login to WCC Facebook page. It's a closed group so very secure as only members can read and see posts.

Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1159964157401511/> and check out what club members are up to, request to join and post some of your favourite images.



EDITORIAL (Roger's Rant)

Roger Severn



What does "Acceptance" mean?

Here I am talking about acceptance as used as an award in photography competitions. Acceptance meaning differs depending on the type of competition. There are three types of photography competitions.

Firstly, there are competitions run by camera clubs for the exclusive involvement of members. The purpose of club competitions is to assist members to improve their photography by having their images critiqued by a judge.

Secondly, there are open competitions run by a variety of organisations usually associated with photography, interested parties such as magazines, state peak photography associations, camera suppliers and retailers. These competitions usually have significant prizes on offer but are not regulated/certified by national and international groups such as the Federation International de l'Art Photographique (FIAP), the American Photographic Society, or the Australian Photographic Society (APS).

Thirdly, there are the National and International Exhibitions or Salons. These competitions are endorsed, and quality controlled by one or more of the organisations mentioned above. They have to meet very strict requirements and definitions.

The only competition from the third category held in WA, that I am aware of, is the Perth National run in conjunction with the Perth Royal Show. There are quite a number of National and International Exhibitions run elsewhere in Australia usually sponsored by larger active clubs. The Maitland International Salon of Photography has been running for 67 years.

So back to my question, what does acceptance mean? For the second and third categories of competition the meaning is very simple. Acceptance means the image has been accepted for exhibition or placed on a short list for further judging. Images are chosen after the initial judging process which usually comprises a panel of judges each scoring each entry independently, say for example from 1 to 5. The judges scores are aggregated and listed in descending order. An acceptance level score is then determined, often influenced by an external factor such as how many images can be exhibited within the venue space available. Obviously, there are adjustments made to ensure fairness that all images with the same score are included. The acceptance ratio is usually around a third of the entries.

In these two types of competitions the receipt of an acceptance is a high honour. In the case of the third category, which is governed by national and international scrutiny, acceptances count towards the achievement of recognised photographic honours.

So, what does acceptance mean in club competitions? Acceptances are awarded to any image the judge deems not ready for a higher award. There is no unacceptable category. What does acceptance mean in this context? Does it mean the image is accepted as a photograph taken within a specified time and roughly matching the defined subject?

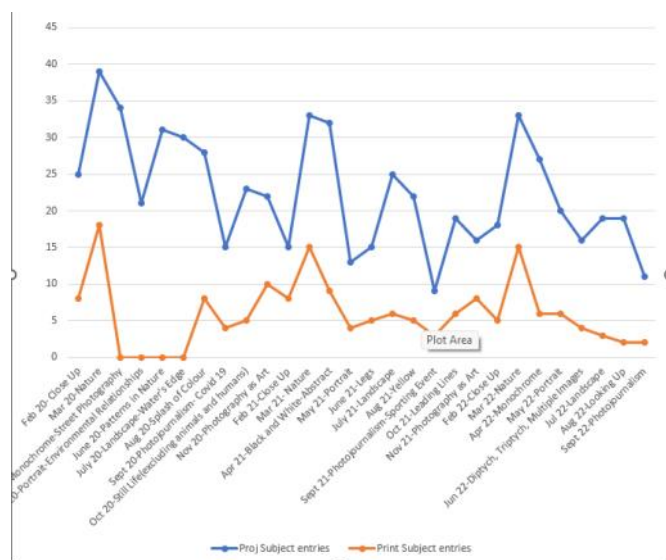
The point I am making is don't confuse acceptance in a club competition as the same as acceptance in an external competition. They are not the same.

Exhibition Director's Report Greg Hilton

The September exhibition subject was Photojournalism. In the Projected categories, there were eleven in the subject and eleven in the open. In the Print categories, there were two in the subject and five in the open. Our judge was Colin White, who gave a presentation beforehand on why there is so much variation in the scores given by judges. Unfortunately, there was little time for questions and answers after his presentation.

I forgot to announce the awarding of the President's Trophy, so that will have to be done at the next club meeting.

I did a graph of entries vs exhibition subjects for the last nearly three years. It shows which subjects are popular and which are not. It also shows the gradual decline in entries.



Remember - Exhibition entries can be submitted anonymously just tick the anonymous box when uploading your images.

Upcoming Exhibitions

5th October – Reflections

Reflection photography is **any photography that includes a reflection**. You can capture good reflection photos of landscapes (with still water reflecting the scene), buildings (when they're on a river, for instance), people reflected in buildings or water, and so much more.

2nd November – Photography as Art

The purpose of this award is to encourage photographers to lift their thinking beyond traditional photographic criteria such as sharpness towards the qualities that characterise Great Art. This is easy to say but hard to define. Ideally the image should capture something eternal, beautiful, noteworthy, striking or unusual. It would be a rare image that achieved all of these!

People looking for examples should look to the all-time great art works for inspiration. Clearly these paintings will include but not be restricted to: portraits (such as Rembrandt, Leonardo), landscapes (such as Constable, van Gogh), abstracts (such as Rothko, Kandinsky), human form (such as Ruben, Rodin), and expressionism (such as Munch, Monet).

Any amount or method of photo manipulation is acceptable, however the original image must have been taken by a camera or some other photographic process (e.g. a scanner).

The aim should be to produce an image that one would not be surprised to find hanging in the Perth Art Gallery.

Phil Deschamp Trophy awarded to best subject 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 Rowbottom

Darkroom

Greg Bell

Exhibition Directors

Greg Hilton

Rod Simmons

Photo-book making

Judith Shields

Chris Orrell

Jane Speijers

Workshop Camera Club - Equipment for loan

The club has the following equipment available for borrowing by members: **LOGAN Mat Cutter** – cut your own mat boards for exhibition prints.

- **ColorMunki** – calibrate your computer screen, getting the most accurate colour for your monitor.
- **Studio Lights** – set up a temporary photographic studio in your own home.

Contact Patricia Crosthwaite for more information on:

trishaandlyle@hotmail.com



Diving in Malapascua, Philippines, August 2022 **Rob Namestnik, Andrew Marriott.**

Dolphin Scuba organised 17 dives through the Dive Adventures Travel agent.

Rob and Andrew - long time dive buddies - were keen to add further dives to their experience and to create another informative eBook. These free PDF eBooks have been grabbed by over 6700 people worldwide and provide information about what is needed to get the best out of a trip to that place. Malapascua looked good.

Perth to Singapore overnight, then on to Cebu after 6 hour stopover, Cebu to Malapascua the next day by very bumpy van and boat.

Similar returning and very tiring. Ocean Vida resort and Sea Explorers looked after us whilst there. Breakfast buffet included, varied lunch and dinner meals at reasonable cost. The composite image shows the room, the view from the balcony, some of the dive facilities and one of the lunches taken on board the dive boat.

The 17 dives were at 8 different sites, most of which were at 20-30 metres depth. Visibility was good, but not exceptional. Water temperature was 30 degrees. The dives typically lasted from 50-60 minutes. We also did two night dives.

There were a variety of critters to photograph including the Yellow Moray Eel, a range of Nudibranchs including Nembrotha Kubaryana, Hammerhead Nudibranch, Glass and Painted Shrimps protected by Sea Anemones, Green Sea Turtle, cute Cuttle Fish (including one that wanted to be tickled) and a range of small fish including Cowfish and Frog Fish.

If you want a sea creature that packs the biggest punch, it is the Mantis Shrimp.

Malapascua is renown for it Thresher Sharks, however, we only saw a large shadowy figure down at 30 metres swim towards us then turn away, swishing its dorsal enlarged tail. One member of the group took an extra dive and on this occasion was most successful capturing the sharks being groomed at the fish cleaning station.

Another highlight of Malapascua are the Mandarin Fish who's mating dance occurs at high tide on a full moon. We were privy to this courtship ritual using only red lights to avoid scaring the couples. Strobes were okay to use when photographing but they mated so fast, we either missed the shot or took a blurred image of the action. We managed to get shots of solitary Mandarin Fish.

If you are interested in scuba diving along the W.A. coast, contact Rob (snik@iinet.net.au) or me (andrew@smiliemail.org) for help and information. We will let WCC members know when the Malapascua eBook is finished: <https://photojourney.smiliemail.org/gallery>

Life is tough. Then you dive.





This is a Yellow Moray Eel or perhaps a Snowflake Moray Eel. We are probably a little too close to this Eel for its comfort. The open mouth is just from its breathing, not as a sign of attacking. They are shy. But don't touch. Moray Eels are quite common in South East Asia and also along our Western Australian coast and Perth waters.



Nudibranch:

This spectacular *Nembrotha Kubaryana* Nudibranch is on the front cover of the next eBook - *Malapascua*. This is a new Nudi to us. Rob has backlit it so that it highlights its features. Wikipedia says "*N. kubaryana* uses the toxins in its prey ascidians to defend itself against predators. It stores the ascidian's toxins in its tissues and then releases them in a slimy defensive mucus when alarmed."



Hammerhead Nudibranch:

Black body with thin electric blue lines. Hard to photograph because of the dark colours - often over or under exposed. Not common, and we have not seen it in WA. Typically found in "muck" diving areas - muddy or sandy sea bottom. Muck diving can be a favourite past-time for many divers.



Tubular Sea Anemone and Transparent Shrimp.

These tubular Sea Anemones should not be dismissed as just stinging things (but they are - don't touch). You can often see, as in this case, small Transparent Peacock Shrimp. Sometimes even Sexy Shrimp, who get their name from their habit of poking their bottoms up in the "air".



Mandarin Fish

The Mandarin Fish is often on the bucket list of divers - get up early, be there in time to see them come out of the coral to mate, go home for breakfast (divers, not fish). We visited them at the end of the day. Fast, elusive, hard to photograph in the dark. Rob did exceptionally well with his images.



Large Colourful Sea Urchin

A very large and colourful Sea Urchin. Many of the dive sites had the sea bottom covered in the rather plain black variety - and it was a good reminder to be careful when descending to the floor for photography. Several of our group got spines stuck in their legs or hands. They hurt, they fester, be careful!



Sea Anemone plus Transparent Shrimp

Many people will associate this Anemone with Nemo the Clown Fish. But often you will see the Transparent and Sexy Shrimps here as well. These are quite small - 2 cm long. So you need to get close to the stinging anemone - be careful, you are not a Clown.



Turtle:

Our dive guide kept an eye open for us. At one stage we heard the familiar "ting", "ting", "ting" as he banged his pokie stick against his cylinder, demanding attention. We looked. We saw. We sat by this resting Green Turtle for many minutes, observing, photographing and even videoing this lovely creature.



Cuttle Fish:

On one dive at Gato Island (Cat Island), we turned around to see that we were being followed by this Cuttle Fish. We retreated, but it followed us. They are lovely creatures, and here in Perth, we will sit quietly beside them and just enjoy their gazing company. And their colour changes are amazing.



Sexy Shrimp

The Sexy Shrimp is also quite small - about 1 - 2cm long. Macro photography underwater is possible (and quite popular) but the same problems as above water - lack of depth of field, closeups scare the critter, etc. As with all photography, you just keep practising.



Nudibranch:

We think this is a Blue Dragon Nudibranch. We have not seen these in WA. So a lovely find. Wikipedia says: "The body color of this species is translucent tan, but the cerata, which vary from dark purple to lavender to golden brown, give the Nudibranch most of its distinct color. Green specimens are not uncommon. The slug is elongated (7 cm (2.8 in))."



Longhorn Cowfish.

This Longhorn Cowfish (real name) just sailed past us, unconcerned. It is critters like this that fill you with a sense of awe. This initially makes you take "holiday snaps" but as you relax and absorb the beauty, you become a photographer again.

Photography tips

Roger Severn

Don't be afraid to show your work

Showing your work is the best way to improve your photography. There are many avenues to do this. Social media, like Facebook or Instagram, is one way. But be careful not to fall into the lots of likes trap when posting on the WCC Facebook or similar sites. The likes are probably from friends or club members who want to give encouragement and be nice to you. If you want to use social media photography sites for feedback, you need to include the notation "CC Welcome" in your posting. This gives the viewer the OK to include helpful advice and suggestions in the comments section. CC means constructive criticism.

As a member of a camera club, you have access to a far better way to show your work and progress by entering images in our monthly exhibitions. Judges will critique and score your work according to a set of standard criteria. It is rather public because not only can you learn from the judge's comments others in the audience learn as well. You will also get the benefit of seeing other members' work and progress.

The WCC Management Committee is concerned about the low number of exhibition entries being received lately. Entering club run exhibitions can be daunting for the newer members. They see the high quality work of more experienced members and are hesitant to enter their own images for judging. If you are a little hesitant the club provides the option to enter images anonymously. This is a way to put your toe in the water so to speak.

Also don't get overly concerned about what a judge might say about your image. Everyone including photography judges see images through their own eyes and not yours. They don't know the backstory of your image and why you took it. Individual judges might favour certain genres and have little knowledge others. Their scores often reflect that bias. Just take their comments at face value, accept the ones you think will help and forget the others.

The best way I have found to exhibit my work is to print it. The photography process of taking an image, carefully post process and then print, feels more like a completed piece of art. With a print you can see the final result and it is a permanent result. Projected images are subjected to uncontrolled external influences such as the calibration of the judges monitor and the performance of the digital projector.

Remember - Exhibition entries can be submitted anonymously just tick the anonymous box when uploading your images.

Fly on the Wall

Bits from the WCC Committee

Meeting,



- More Smooth Operators required to operate computer on club nights. Judith is preparing a training video.
- From 2023 people choice winners to receive a bottle of wine in lieu of a \$25 voucher.
- Weekend at Perup has been cancelled due to the closure of this facility. Hopefully when management issues have been resolved it will reopen next year.
- Christmas party is being reviewed. More information soon.
- Consideration is being given to conducting a peer review night for members to show an image and receive helpful comments from other members. This will be a less formal way to discuss and critique images..

PHOTO Market
South Perth

South Perth Community Centre
South Tce

Next Sunday 24 JULY 2022
27th PhotoMart November

SELLERS
07.30 setup
\$20.00/table
Bookings Essential
Bob 9364 5905

BUYERS
08.30 - 11.30
Entry \$5.00

BUY OR SELL CAMERAS & PHOTO GEAR

Find us on Facebook

Northern Exposure Photographers Group Inc. WORKSHOP CAMERA CLUB



Program Director's Report

Helen Rowbottom

Upcoming Program - Club Meetings

Next week on **Wednesday, 21 September** we have Molly Hollman, a flower photographer from the UK. *Molly is an award-winning flower and garden photographer who has recently published the book 'Creative flower and plant photography'. This will be a You Tube event at 7.30pm.*



She won the Plants category of the RHS photography competition in 2021 and regularly wins awards in the International Garden Photographer of the Year competition. She has recently been Insect photographer of the year and Flower photographer of the year with the Guild of Photographers.

On **28 September** we have two of our members presenting on photographic skill. Andrew is going to speak about panorama stitching and Jane is going to go through the process of taking very long exposures in crowded public places to obtain an image that contains either no or few people.

On **12 October** we have a **Zoom presentation** on Landscape and Aerial Photography, by Mieke Boyton.



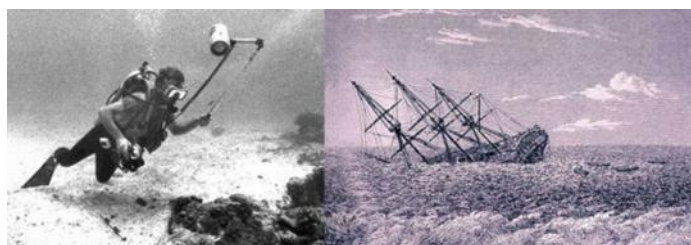
Editors note: Don't miss this one Mieke is one of Australia's best photographers and an excellent presenter.

On **19 October**, Louise Peters, from Butterfly Dreaming will bring her little critters for us to photograph

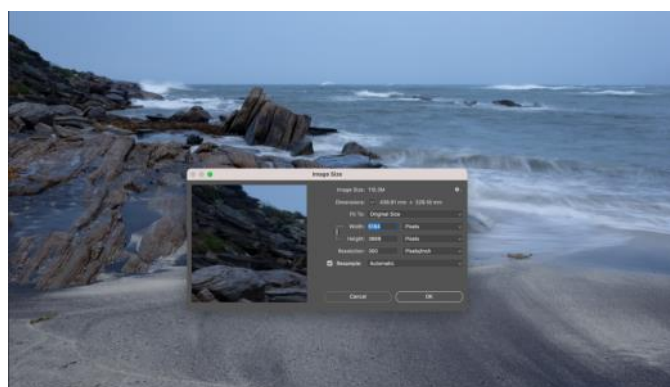


On **26 October**, Pat Baker is going to speak about the Pandora Shipwreck.

Patrick Baker has been a passionate photographer for over sixty years; from the heavens to the depths of the sea, from mountains to the microscopic world. But, primarily, he is a specialist photographer for Maritime Archaeology. In this role he was employed by the Western Australian Museum from 1973, based at their Fremantle 'Shipwreck Museum'; the walls and show-cases are mostly adorned by Pat's images. Despite retirement in 2017 his enthusiasm for life-long maritime interests (biological as well as archaeological) continues, with the additional establishment at his Hamilton Hill home of his own Underwater Photography Museum & Library.



November 16 Resizing and Uploading images by Colin White.



There seems to regularly be problems for some members when resizing, uploading and maintaining Exif data for images for Club Exhibitions, into club galleries, and recently for Print West. Come along on 27 July when Colin White will explain the process and hopefully alleviate the problems that so many members are having.



Top Left The young girls of WCC enjoying the night.

Top Right: Diederik Speijers overcomes the slow service by fetching his own chowder.

Left: Our librarian George de San Miguel discusses his plans to write book reviews for Dark Rumours with Cynthia and Robert Ball.

Below: President Jane Speijers receives from Ben Walton from sponsor TeamDigital one of the prizes won by WCC as overall winners of PrintWest



Awards

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



Print Open
Gliding
Greg Hilton
Silver

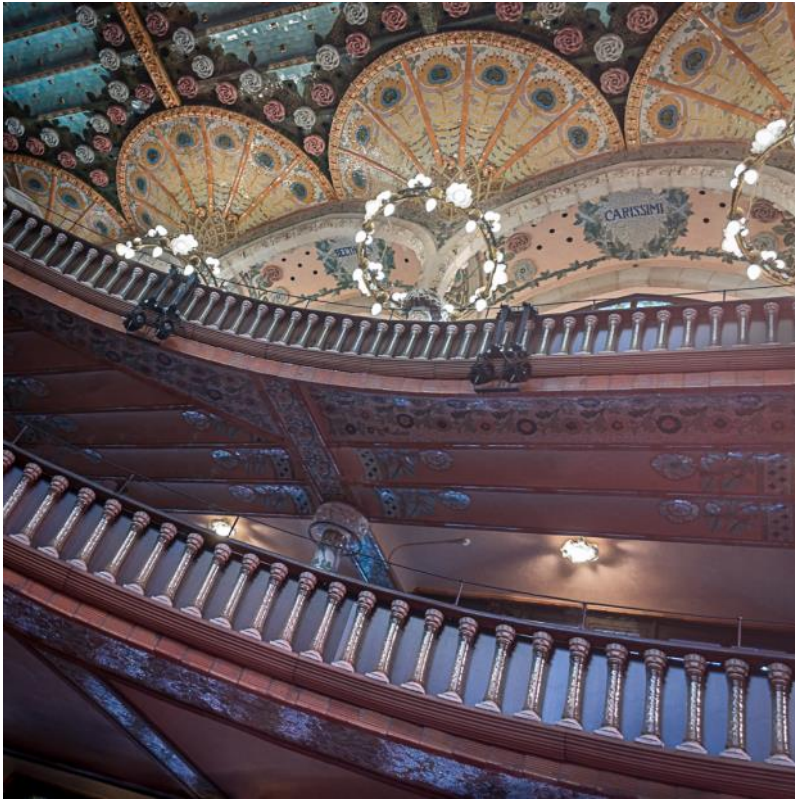


Print Open
Speed Boat 274 Avon Descent
Rod Simmons
Bronze

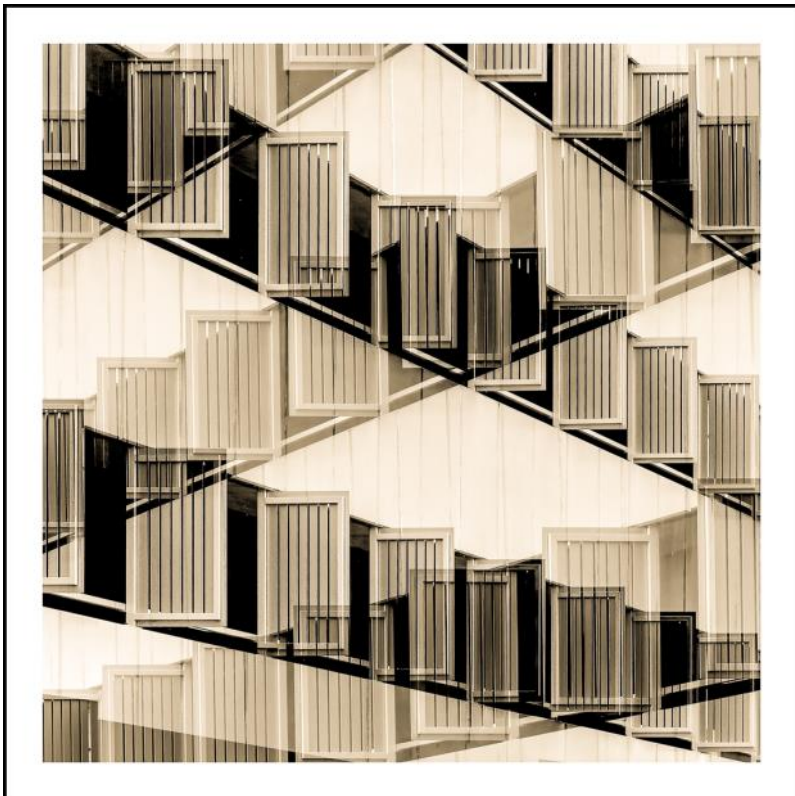


Print Open
Colours of Balingup
Helen Rowbottom
Gold

Awards

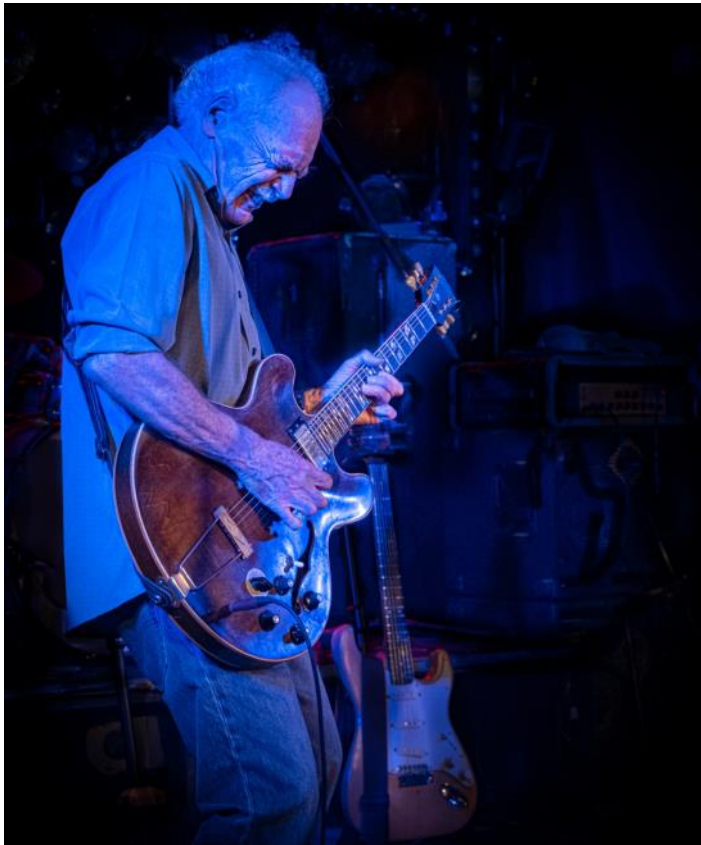


Print Open
Moderisme
Jane Speijers
Silver



Print Open
Double Shutters
Glenda Gore
Gold

Awards



Print Subject - Photojournalism

Still Passionate

Jane Speijers

Gold



Print Subject - Photojournalism

Showjumping

Glenda Gore

Gold

Awards



Projected Open
Domes
Rod Simmons
Silver



Projected Open
Spring Daisies
Judith Shields
Silver



Projected Open
City Silhouette
Alan Wallace
Silver

Awards



Projected Open
Stirling Range NP
Richard Sak
Gold



Projected Open
Still Standing
Nola Sumner
Gold



Projected Open
Firebreather
Ignatius Wong
Gold

Awards



Projected Subject - Photojournalism

Migrants Making Money

Jane Speijers

Silver



Projected Subject - Photojournalism

Telling Our Story

Jim Lewis

Silver

**Welcome new
member/s**

Kimberley Nobles