

Dark Rumours

Issue

9

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 - Competing Spider Orchids by Glenda Gore- Print Open - GOLD

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jane Speijers



It was a wonderful surprise when the PrintWest results were announced to find that WCC had come second in the colour category, third in the monochrome category and first overall. What a fantastic result! Congratulations to our members whose images contributed to our success. I am sure our success was also due to the people who contributed to our selection process – Judith Shields, Nola Sumner, Theresa Pitter, Chris Orrell, Tony and Jill Luha, Andrew Marriott and Diederik Speijers. If we are to replicate this success next year, we need to keep submitting our best images for monthly exhibitions.

Eighteen of our members attended PhotoWest in Jurien in mid-September, making up the biggest contingent from any of the WAPF affiliated clubs. It was a very enjoyable weekend with some excellent presentations, plenty of opportunities to take photos and enjoy the company of other photographers. Fortunately, the weather held out until after the conference was over when the heavens opened. Next year's conference will be organised by NEPG and held at the South Perth Civic Centre. Dates for 2023 will be made available as soon as possible so you can keep them free.

Since July there has been a problem with the display of images at exhibitions. The problem has now been rectified with the help of our IT guru, Andrew Marriott. It is planned to recalibrate the projector before the first exhibition next year as it is not displaying images as well as it used to.

As I write the sun is shining in Kingston SA on one of the few sunny days since we left Perth to pick up a caravan in Melbourne. As we drove west through Victoria on our way home flood waters were lapping at the edge of the bitumen and roads were being closed behind us. We are looking forward to more pleasant conditions in WA.



Exhibition Director Greg Hilton presents Glenda Gore with the President's Trophy for best Photojournalism image September Exhibition.

EDITORIAL (Roger's Rant)

Roger Severn



It's not over, don't be fooled into thinking it is.

The current policy of the WCC Management Committee is the wearing of masks at meetings is encouraged. Our website has a general message to encourage members to respect their fellow members by wearing a mask. Obviously, this policy is not working judging by the near absence of mask wearing at our meetings. Let me try to explain why masks should be worn.

I base my argument on the experience of Covid coming in waves, lulls preceding surges as being experienced overseas, particularly in jurisdictions where the "let it rip" policies have been introduced. Secondly, the abandonment of Covid mitigation strategies takes in political considerations, rather than medically sanctioned advice. Thirdly, two of the mitigation measures of mask wearing and safe air, are very pertinent in respect to WCC meetings.

Am I qualified to offer my observations? Yes, I am, I have a PhD in Science and Technology Policy. I have an understanding of how policy development can be distorted by vested interests. In support of my argument, I have provided three links to recent articles and papers. I commend your reading of these.

It was not that long ago the members responded to a survey that overwhelming favoured the use masks at meetings.

Any argument that COVID has been reduced to nothing more serious than a bout of flu, is demonstrably wrong and dangerous. To October this year 288 people in Australia have died from the flu. In the same period over 12,000 have died from Covid. I haven't even addressed the issues relating to long Covid which remains unstudied, but there is substantial anecdotal evidence about it coming from medical practitioners.

In recent weeks we have seen the dismantling of measures to protect us from and contain the ravages of Covid. Don't be fooled, these new measures are designed to reduce the financial output of government and to placate the business community who have been impacted by staff shortages. There are no credible medical or research organisations that support the removal of Covid protection measures. The Chief Health Officer for the Commonwealth has based his advice to Government on the reduced occurrences of Covid and the hospitalisation numbers. This is true to a point but fails to recognise the established trend in other countries where Covid comes in waves, it peaks then subsides before new strains emerge and the cycle repeats itself. The UK is seeing the start of a fourth cycle right now. Other European countries are reporting a new surge in cases. As the northern hemisphere enters winter newer strains of Covid are likely to appear, and when they do they will reach Australia within weeks, particularly as our border controls are no longer in force.

The premise upon which the decommissioning of Covid mitigation, is based more on wishful thinking and vested interests than careful analysis of what is evident here and around the world.

Defenses against Covid include raising rates of vaccination booster, greater access to antivirals, masks, safe indoor air, and widely accessible testing. "Immunity from vaccines wanes within two to three months, and so does immunity from infection. Hybrid immunity is cited as a reason for abandoning isolation, but this is unlikely to eventuate." More hospitalisations and deaths occurred as a result of the BA5 variant than occurred with the earlier BA1 even though there was a higher vaccine and infection based immunity in the community. [MacIntyre, Crabb and Baxter in The Conversation published 30/09/2022].

I could go on trawling the literature to underpin my argument, but I will leave that up to you. Let us bring the discussion back to WCC meetings, masks, and safe air. Covid is known to be an air based infection transmitter. Safe air means constant filtering and replacement of stale air. Now, when you next attend a WCC meeting, whether masked or unmasked, look around. Our club room is small and has no windows except small windows above the door to bring in fresh air. The doors could be left open but to get a through flow of air you need another opening further into the room to create a necessary draught. There is an air conditioner which is not used because of the noise and even if it were, just how long ago was it serviced and new filters installed?

One day someone will unwittingly attend a WCC meeting while infectious with Covid. With little air flow and no mask, you will be sitting and breathing in a soup of stale air and virus. With social distancing unattainable in the enclosed confines of our club rooms what are the chances of one or many of our members being infected as a result of attending a meeting? Pretty high I would suggest.

For goodness's sake wear a mask, protect yourself and your club friends.

References used:

<https://theconversation.com/if-you-think-scrapping-covid-isolation-periods-will-get-us-back-to-work-and-past-the-pandemic-think-again-191670>

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/health-with-dr-norman-swan/101495376>

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2022/10/08/albaneses-choice-covid-19-and-public-health>

Exhibition

Director's

Report

Greg Hilton

.There were 43 images in the Projected sections and 11 in the print, which was up on last month.

The image sizing problem has been sorted out, so the images were show at full size. There were comments that they looked a bit washed out, or bright. This is a function of the calibration of the projector, which is a difficult thing to fix easily. It will not be able to be done by next exhibition, but hopefully will be rectified by the first exhibition next year.

The committee is soon to decide on exhibition topics for next year. There are five which are fixed, because they have trophies associated with them. There are a couple of others we have had which are historically popular. We will try to come up with some which are a bit challenging, but not so difficult and restrictive that it puts people off entering.

Upcoming Exhibitions

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 - 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.

Position Vacant: Equipment Manager please consider volunteering. Very easy job.

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

Jane Speijers

Passports

Are you planning overseas travel in the next few months? Don't forget to check your passport expiry. You will need at least six months left before expiry. According to recent reports it takes considerably more time to get a new or renewed passport than it used to. The OPTUS fiasco is likely to add to the current long lead time.

Allow two to three months prior to travel to get your travel documents in order,



Fly on the Wall

Bits from the WCC Committee

Meeting,

- The Christmas Party is being organised for December 8th. Please keep that date free. This year it will be held at Lucy Mandyczewsky's home in Willetton. Caterers have been booked and the menu is being finalised. Expected cost is \$40 to cover food, BYO grog.
- November 9th meeting will be an experimental way for members to show off their work and to receive advice and comment. The idea is members will be able to upload an image or images to be displayed. The author will have a chance to comment on why and how they took the image and what they like or don't like about it. There will be no judging or scoring but audience members will be invited to comment and offer constructive advice about the image.
- A walk through Perth to photograph the Christmas lights is being planned for December.,



The joys of rooftop tent camping by Jim and Judy Lewis

Last year we sold our camper trailer. This was partly due to me having rotator cuff surgery on both shoulders. We thought, sell the camper and upgrade to a caravan when I'm good to go again. Well the prices of caravans continued to climb and availability was a problem as well. I came good quicker than expected and thought, why not get a rooftop tent to get away on a few short camping/photography trips. After a few two night stints, we changed the hard mattress to a softer one and went away for a week leaving on the 31st of March.

Our destination was Lake Ballard and the ghost town of Gwalia. Our first stop was Baladjie Rock which is North of Westonia. It is worth taking time to stop at Westonia, a very quaint little town. The sky cleared after we set up camp so we decided to do some Astro shots that night. In the morning we woke up to see three Wedgetail Eagles hovering above us. It was quite windy and they were almost floating in the sky. It was so nice that we decided to stay another night. There is plenty of space to camp around the rock and one flush toilet at the entrance.

In the morning we did some bird photography and then on to Menzies. We were going to stay there for the night but decided to press on to Lake Ballard. I'm so glad that we did as the sunset was spectacular. The beauty of rooftop tent camping is that you are able to get a good position and have a great view from the tent. We were facing the famous Hill and sculptures by Antony Gormley. Being so close was a bonus as the weather and scenery changed all the time and we were right there to take advantage of it. There is free camping at Lake Ballard and a few long drop toilets. If you want to take full advantage of photographing the sculptures, take your wellington boots as it is extremely muddy there.

After two nights at LB, we pressed on to Leonora passing through Kookynie where you will see a horse at the local Saloon Bar. It certainly is a one horse town! It was then on to Gwalia. Allow plenty of time to visit the Ghost town and museum. Hoover house is also a must visit and a great place to stop for lunch. There are plenty of photo opportunities in this area.

We couldn't get to Sandstone due to road closures from flooding. Although we didn't get rain it was flooded from Mt Magnet so we headed back to Kalgoorlie, stopping at the famous Broad Arrow Tavern for lunch. A visit to the Super pit in Kalgoorlie and another 2 night stay at Baladjie rock on the way home.

We loved the rooftop experience so much that we went on another trip, 11,423km! But that's another story.



Lake Ballard at Sunset



Lake Ballard Astro Shot



Lake Ballard Reflections



Gwalia



Kookynie

THE STORY OF THE PHOTOMARKETS by Bob Halligan

Early days. This goes back a long way. In 1987, (or thereabouts, nobody is exactly sure) Keith McEwen, the President of Workshop Camera Club, proposed that the Club should hold a Camera Swapmeet as a 'bit of fun' for the members. After thinking about it, the Club also decided to invite the general public 'to make up the numbers' and it worked a treat. Every table at the clubrooms was sold, the meeting room, the verandah, even the outside grounds were jam packed and the predicted fun took place with bells on. Great idea, Keith, and Workshop has had some form of photographic market ever since.

In 1993, the Wanneroo Club (as Northern Exposure was known in those days) also decided to have a go. As good neighbours do, they checked that a second Market would not spoil things for us and also check that there would be no clash of dates. The late Alastair Low was much involved and in an inspired move he chose the Old Leederville Town Hall on Cambridge Street as their venue. Len Stewart was also heavily involved, and he somehow persuaded Channel Seven to mention the event on TV News the night before the show. Well done, Len - there was a record turnout on the day.

Leederville Town Hall supplied only 30 tables in those days, which left us with a bit of floorspace outside the seller tables. After a couple of successful markets, Len had another bright idea when he invited W A Camera Collectors Society to put on a Camera Display. He also persuaded Camera Electronic to lend us showcases for the display and it also turned out he had quietly scrounged a mention in the 'West Australian' for Saturday before the market. Everything went like clockwork; the display was a big success, and we had a 30% jump in numbers through the door that day. Another good one, Len.

Len Stewart knew everybody in photographic Perth in those days and that helped to get a BIG display of outstanding nature photos by his friends Bert and Babs Wells. Dozens of their superb 20"x16" colour prints were presented on stands from the Workshop clubrooms, a triumph of Sunday morning furniture removal. Many of these pics featured in Landscape magazine over the years and they are still being used. Len retired gracefully from the NEPG market team a few years ago after handing over the reins to Ray Meckenstock, but he has yet to miss a Market. For the record, Ray isn't short of an idea either.

Workshop and Wanneroo continued their separate Markets for quite a while, but as attendances outgrew the clubrooms, Workshop made the move to Leederville. Our late treasurer Peter Olsen and the unsinkable Ruby Lane had a lot to do with this and one day they invited the WA Camera Collectors Society to put on a Camera Information Table to attract some general public interest. Once again, a mention in Saturday's 'West' saw people bring in their old cameras and photographic bits to be identified and valued. We saw many Box Brownies that day and wreckage of all stripes, but a young couple also brought in a deceased inheritance Rolleiflex. As collectors, we knew its value, but more importantly we also knew a Rollei fan who was right there at the Market. Introductions were made, a heap of money changed hands and there were smiles all round. Everybody enjoyed that one.

Joint effort. After several years of friendly collaboration, the inevitable happened and the three clubs combined to put on joint Markets, sort of one apiece, three a year, every year. There was doomsaying of course; like Everest, three had never been done before / there would not enough interest / three was too much of a good thing for Perth / golden geese would be slaughtered wholesale / sellers would disappear because all surplus gear in Perth would be sold off, *et cetera, et cetera, et bloody cetera*.

Fat chance. The new programme was a success from the start and soon we were selling all 30 tables and always we had a wait list. Eventually, more tables became available, and we regularly sold, and still sell, 40 – odd tables; the record is 47 but that makes it a bit cosy. The extra tables leave us no room for big exhibitions, but the Collectors have put on smaller displays, Nikon equipment, press cameras, stereo cameras, and the late Peter Sander, Past President of Workshop provided a wonderful selection of his Voigtlander gear. More recently, Andrew Marriott set up Workshop's big TV screen to show members' photographs and both Clubs have attracted new members as a result. In addition, Rick Mason sometimes puts on a show of his historical Perth pictures, just because he likes to, and Rod Lawson – Kerr usually has a couple of antiques on his table for the same reason. Thanks, gents.

Having said all that, there is no doubt that the bit everybody knows best is Three Dollar Café, where our star cooks feed the multitude and have established home - made cake as a breakfast food. Each Clubs run the Café in turn, and in winter, if you are lucky, hot soup appears and sells out to great acclaim, likewise hot sausage rolls. Well done, ladies, you have always played a blinder.

It has not all been plain sailing. In 2002, the Government changed the law, and ALL public gatherings were now required to have Public Liability Insurance cover. It took about a year to sort that one out, thanks mainly to Mark Greenland at NEPG and the Markets eventually returned in October 2003. Still at three a year but now run by Workshop and Northern Exposure because the Collectors could not arrange the necessary insurance. I immediately joined Workshop as a new member, first to continue working with the Markets, second because by then I had many good friends at Workshop, but mainly because I might need the Club's liability insurance if anything ever went wrong...

Continued next page ...

Once the dust settled, the Markets reopened and carried on as though nothing had happened. Our regular sellers and regular buyers showed up as before, trading continued at around 40 tables a pop, good times were had by all - and then Leederville shut down for renovations. All of a sudden, we needed a new home so the Markets moved to South Perth Civic Centre. This superb venue, with its big airy, light – filled room and oodles of free parking at the door also has easy access from all over Perth. We had fallen on our feet!

It was all too good to be true. After only a few shows, South Perth Council also closed their hall for renovations, and it was back to Leederville in October 2007. A good move, as it turned out, because we had 35 tables and 260 buyers for that one, and our first Market in 2008 created a record, 44 tables and 370, repeat 370 buyers. The good times continued at Leederville until 2020, when a misunderstanding over bookings led to our moving briefly to Craigie Leisure Centre, and then Covid struck. Woe was (temporarily) us, but we kicked off again in November 2021, back to South Perth but this time with all the advantages of the renovated premises and aren't they great!

The important bit. The Photographic Market has been going now for more than a quarter of a century - carefully chosen words, because it is history that is measured in centuries. The Markets are not just cheap gear and bargain buys, there is all the meeting and greeting, the buzz in the hall and the photography addiction that we all share. Where else in Perth can you see and buy and handle antique gear and digital wonders, haggle with the seller and stuff your face with home baked goodies and a cup of tea? In a nutshell, IT IS A GOOD DAY OUT.

The Market has never run at a loss. Our low charges, \$5 for buyers, \$20 for table rent ensure good attendance figures every time; what began so long ago with a good idea and a few enthusiastic volunteers has become AN EVENT. Perth photographers, from students to professionals, look out for 'the next one' and they all know about Workshop and NEPG, the Clubs who will be running it.

The next Market will be held at South Perth Community Hall on Sunday morning, November 27th, from 8.30 until 11.30. We will again have a full house of more than 40 tables laden with bargain priced photo gear. It will be a good one. They always are.

Bob Halligan





Program Director's Report

Helen Rowbottam

Upcoming Program - Club Meetings

Photographers.

November 9 peer review - see following pages.

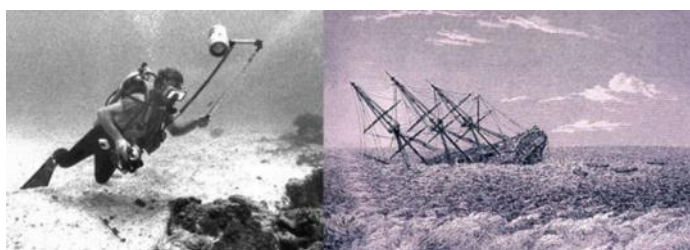
On 19 October, Louise Peters, from Butterfly Dreaming will bring her little critters for us to photograph.



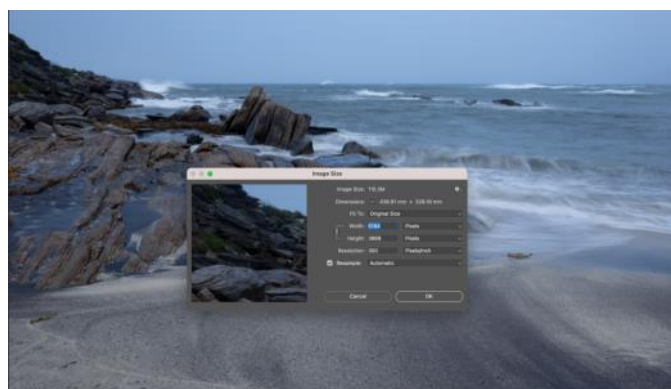
On 19 October, Louise Peters, from Butterfly Dreaming will bring her little critters for us to photograph

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.

Peer Review and Discussion of Members' Images - 9 November



Recently some members have expressed a desire to have their images critiqued, and obtain feedback without the necessity of entering their images on a club exhibition night, and being judged and scored.

Other members have asked to be able to view other members' images and have the thought processes, capture and post processing behind the images explained.

To cater to these requests we have decided to have an Image Discussion Night on 9 November, 2022.

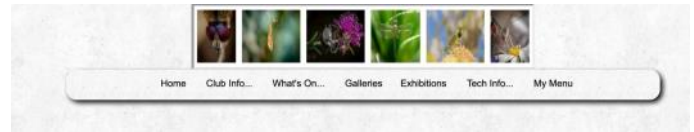
To gather the images to be discussed Andrew has set up a gallery which can be accessed on the Club website for members to upload their images. I have entered two of my images to get the ball rolling. Images can either be uploaded with the your name attached or anonymously. I know that it is more work, however, if you could include the capture information on the image it would be great. I have added the information to my images by using a text box in Photoshop.

Judith Shields has volunteered to MC the night on 9 November. Members who have loaded their images are free to explain the image or ask for comment or both. If the image has been loaded anonymously a constructive critique can take place.

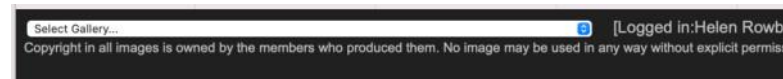
The discussion of members' images is done monthly at the Photobook Making special interest group and it works well.

Accessing the Gallery

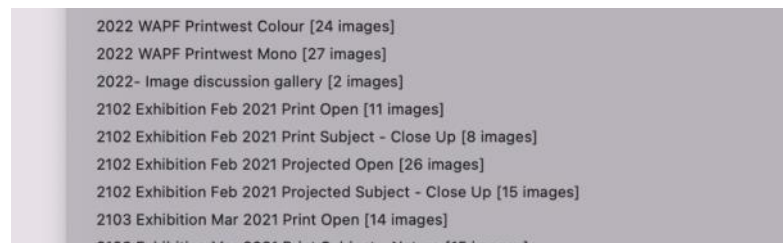
1. Sign into the club website (you must be signed in to see all the galleries and to upload to them).
2. Click on Galleries at the top of the page.



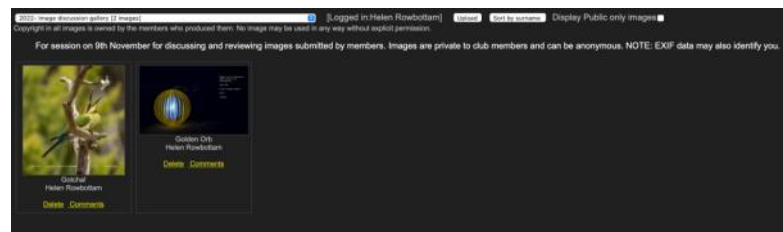
3. Select Galleries from the top of the Drop Down Box. You will get the gallery page.



4. Scroll down until you find the 2022 – Image discussion gallery. It is about halfway down the page.



5. To upload your image click on Upload which is about 2/3 across the top.



6. You will then see the upload box below which works similarly to the way images are uploaded for competitions. The same parameters apply as competition images. When uploading you can elect to remain anonymous by checking to box on the second to last line.

Awards

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



King River Littora
Helen Rowbottom
Print Open
GOLDI



Rotto BBQ
Isabel Pearson
Print Open
SILVER



The Rowing Club
Glenda Gore
Print Subject - Reflections
GOLD



Reflected Bungle Bungles
Helen Rowbottam
Printed Subject - Reflections
GOLD



Light on the pond
Roger Severn
Printed Subject - Reflections
SILVER



The Billabong
Isobel Pearson
Printed Subject - Reflections
SILVER



Take Off
Helen Rowbottom
Projected Open
SILVER



Lucky Bay Sunset
Greg Hilton
Projected Open
GOLD



Twilight Ship
Ian Sampson
Projected Open
Silver



Behind Bars
Cyntha Ball
Projected Open
Judged best image of the night
GOLD



Evening on the Station
Jim Lewis
Projected Open
SILVER



Bottle Brush Breakfast
Keith Lightbody
Projected Open
SILVER



Sunset at Low Tide

Judy Lewis

Projected Open

SILVER



Raindrops and Flowers

Chris Orrell

Projected Open

SILVER



Up and Over

Nola Sumner

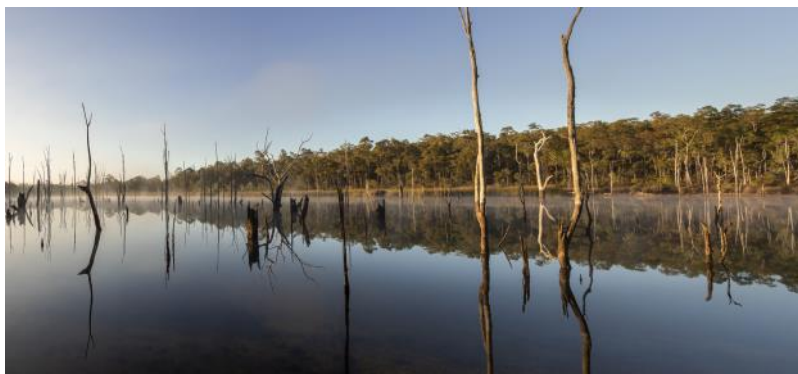
Projected Open

GOLD

Awards



City Theatre
Glenda Gore
Projected Subject - Reflections
GOLD



Misty Reflections
Helen Rowbottom
Projected Subject - Reflections
SILVER



Fun at the Beach
Gary Louth
Projected Subject - Reflections
SILVER

Awards



Golden Stern
Sherie Sampson
Projected Subject - Reflections
GOLD



Raindrop Reflections
Chris Orrell
Projected Subject
SILVER



Canola in Bloom
Virginia Larsen
Projected Subject - Reflections
SILVER

Awards



Powerhouse Tunnel Niagra

Ignatius Wong

Projected Subject - Reflections

GOLD