



Dark Rumours

www.workshopcameraclub.org.au

Monthly Newsletter of the Workshop Camera Club in Riverton, WA



"Princess Pier" by Glenda Gore

Gold - Print Open

Welcome to the May Edition

President's Report

Jim Lewis

Well, what an excellent year we have had to date. We have had some very inspiring speakers, great images in our exhibitions and memorable critique from the judges. There have also been some good outside events which have been very successful. We've also had some great input from our own members.

There was a lighting workshop with Josh Wells, and a talk on NZ by Susan Vearncombe. We have a very interesting talk by Dennis Friend on the 27th telling us all about his travels from the UK to Australia in 1975/76. There is also a Mastering Photoshop Compositing workshop by Kim Stewart on 14th June.

I hope this encourages other members to share their experiences and knowledge. It need not be a stand-alone talk, as there could be a few people talking on the same subject to fill an evening's program.

The club received six mat boards kindly donated from the estate of Greg Bell. These were brought in by Bob Halligan and added to our stock. The mat boards are sold at \$10 per sheet for the adhesive backing foam boards and \$12 per sheet for the black or white mat boards.

I'm looking forward to the next exhibition. Whilst the subject is not my favourite genre, it does encourage us to get out of our comfort zone and experiment a bit. I used to put quite a bit of effort in working on the more 'zany' subjects, only to be unhappy with the end

result and not enter. I now tend to enter the result even if I am not completely satisfied with it as it does show the effort and thought process, and hopefully it encourages others to participate.

Upcoming events

Wednesday 27th May

The Hippie Trail - UK to Australia Overland
Dennis Friend

Sunday 31st May

Photobook Making SIG Meeting

Wednesday 3rd June

Exhibition - Intentional Camera Movement

Saturday 6th June

Wildflower Photography with your Phone
Sophie Xiang

Sunday 14th June

Mastering Photoshop Compositing
Kim Stewart (workshop \$30pp)

Club Portfolio Book

This year Chris Orrell is compiling the club portfolio book and she needs your images.

Workshop Camera Club produces an annual portfolio of members images in the format of a photobook, which members can purchase a copy of for themselves. The main purpose is to add to the heritage collection for the Club. The work of members is preserved in the Portfolio Book. A copy of the book is placed in the Club library each year and another copy is retained in the "vault". Chris has sent out emails with all the details but feel free to ask if you need it re-sent.

Board Price Increase

The club supply of mat boards and backing foam boards in the library cupboard has recently been replenished. Due to increasing costs from the supplier the cost to members will now be:

\$12 per sheet for mat boards (black or white)
\$10 per sheet for adhesive backing foam boards.

If you wish to purchase these please remit the cost to the treasurer by bank transfer annotated with your surname and the word mats.

Program Committee's Report

Jane Speijers

The WCC program in April and May has been very full with two workshops – a portrait lighting workshop run by Josh Wells and an infrared filter workshop organised by Camera Electronic – as well as excellent presentations by Kirk Norman, Susan Vearncombe and Paddy Dowling who was recommended by Susan Vearncombe.

Next week, 20 May, we have another speaker who Susan has suggested. In a previous life, Graeme Hird was a professional landscape photographer, owning the Scene by Hird galleries in Kalgoorlie and Fremantle. The majority of photographs from that time were captured on large format cameras (e.g. Tachihara 5x4' field camera) using Fuji Velvia or a variety of B&W films.

He closed the galleries in 2008 when his passion for photography waned but that appetite was recently reignited by exposure to IR photography on social media, specifically, in the easy-to-access form of his phone's camera. Now, with a suitable filter holder and some simple post-processing, we can produce dramatic monochrome landscape photographs with equipment that fits easily in a pocket or side bag.

In this presentation, Graeme will discuss the IR equipment and demonstrate the techniques he uses.

Four of our members made the overland trip from the United Kingdom to Australia in the 1970's: Jim Lewis, Phil Unsworth, George de san Miguel and Dennis Friend.

In 1975-6, Dennis travelled from the UK to Australia overland - the journey took 12 months including stops in Tehran (5 months), Kathmandu (one month) and Goa (one month). In his talk to us on 27th May, Dennis will present his photos which show his adventures, and some misadventures.



Graeme Hird



Dennis Friend

WCC Program Report

Infrared Filter Workshop with Camera Electronic

Jane Speijers



Eleven WCC members met Saul Frank and his filter expert, Mitch Rudd, at Hyde Park on a beautiful autumn morning to investigate infrared (IR) filters. The morning started with a free coffee from the Meeting Place Kiosk located in the park.

An externally mounted IR filter is designed to block visible light from entering the camera and allowing only Infrared light. When fitted, all the sensor sees is the small amount of IR light that manages to pass through the camera's in-body IR blocking filter. For this reason, a long exposure time and a tripod are necessary to capture the IR image. Typical manual settings were ISO 800, F4, SS 20 seconds.

Saul brought along seven filters to fit filter threads 55mm, 58mm, 62mm, 67mm, 72mm, 77mm and 82mm. So, some of us had to share and others were lucky to have an IR filter for as long as they wished.

It was a very enjoyable morning and our IR images presented a very different and interesting view of Hyde Park. It was also a successful morning for Camera Electronic as a number of our members bought IR filters. It's a very simple way to use your camera to take IR images, though the penalty is long exposure times. -Jane Speijers



This was a 13-second exposure, and I asked these guys not to move for that time. However, as you can see, they are a little blurry due to the slight movements; it paints a picture of some of the nuances of infrared. -Glenda Gore

Upcoming at WCC



Photomarket: Gentle reminder #1

As you see in our highly-coloured flyer, we will hold a Photomarket on Sunday morning, 28th June, in conjunction with Northern Exposure Camera Club. See the flyer for more details, but this time WCC is in charge of door takings. We need a team of volunteers for this important task and also about four volunteers to set up and clear the hall at the end. I will pester you later about that.

Old players will know what to expect at the Market, bargains in everything photographic, especially tripods, bags, filters and other durable essentials. If you have not yet roamed the 40+ tables of gear on sale, it is high time you did. A couple of hours on Sunday morning could change your photographic life. Ask about me about it and I will tell you ...

President Jim recently introduced a new section in Dark Rumours to promote Gizmos. I confidently predict, there will be Gizmos everywhere on sale at the market. Look for well-used versions, the wear proves they are useful, those new in packets, case not proven. In either case, it won't cost a fortune.

So, mark your calendar for June 28th and gear up for a good day out. -Bob Halligan



Mastering Photoshop Compositing Sunday 14th June

Join Kim Stewart for a hands-on workshop where you'll learn how to transform ordinary images into compelling, cinematic composites.

Whether you're a photographer looking to expand creatively or someone wanting to take control of advanced Photoshop techniques, this workshop will give you practical, real-world skills you can apply immediately.

Workshop Details:

Date: Sunday 14th June 2026

Time: 08:30am to 12:30pm

Location: Workshop Camera Club rooms

Please bring:

A laptop with the latest Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom (Bridge and Camera Raw optional) installed. Please ensure you have at least 100GB free space on your computer and your internal SSD is selected as the primary scratch disk.

Cost:

\$30 pp payable to Kim.

Spaces are limited to 15 participants to ensure individual guidance. To reserve your place, email Kim at krstewart2@gmail.com as well as Jane at jane@mcsp.com.au.

May Exhibition: Portrait

Exhibition Director's Report

Diederik Speijers

Our Exhibition topic for May was **"Portrait"**. This annual topic is generally well supported by the members although this year a number of us are travelling overseas so the number of entries was down a little. The subject images this year included studio, performance, environmental and more casual portraits with both single and multiple people.

For the Subject itself we had 15 projected entries and 6 print entries and for the Open category we had 19 projected entries and 5 print entries for a total of 46 images.

Our judge on the night was Pat Halloran. He is the current President and Competition Director at Fremantle Camera Club as well as being an active member of the WAPJA committee. He has had many successes with own photography at state and national level and is specifically interested in portraiture with an artistic bent. His judging on the night was very thorough and he gave plenty of constructive remarks on how images might be further enhanced.

Forgetfulness on the part of our Exhibition Director is a recurring theme but hopefully by the end of the year I'll get it right. Meanwhile there are plenty of reminders from vigilant members.

Judge feedback forms were completed by three members and I thank them for that.

The Members Choice print was awarded to Diederik Speijers for his performance image of a keyboard player entitled **"Keys Player"**.

The Members Choice projected image from the previous month was won by Gary Louth for his picture of a juvenile snow monkey entitled **"Ignored"**. The Cec Gore Perpetual Trophy for Portraiture was also awarded to Diederik Speijers.

Our next exhibition will be 'Intentional Camera Movement' on the 3rd of June.

Amongst other resources there is a Facebook group called ICM which members might find useful.



"Keys Player" by Diederik Speijers

Winner of Members' Choice - Print and the Cec Gore Perpetual trophy

Congratulations to our Award and Members' Choice winners

Members' Choice - Digital, from April exhibition, was *"Ignored"* by Gary Louth.

Members' Choice - Print was *"Keys Player"* by Diederik Speijers

The Cec Gore Trophy Awardee was *"Keys Player"* by Diederik Speijers



"Ignored" by Gary Louth

Winner of Members' Choice - Digital (April)

May Exhibition: Portrait



"Basically Brilliant" by Jane Speijers



"The real me" by Ken Langdale



"Out There" by Diederik Speijers

Projected Subject

14 Entries

Gold

Jane Speijers - Basically Brilliant

Ken Langdale - The real me

Silver

Judy Lewis - Camera crew

Glenda Gore - Surprise

Diederik Speijers - Out There

Alan Wallace - Trolley Girl

Bronze

Isobel Pearson - Windswept

Nola Sumner - In Dance Mode with Beatriz

Gary Louth - Happy Couple

Merit

Dennis Gray - Barry

Ronald Borich - Dragon Boat Oarsman

Georgina Wilson - Indian man at festival

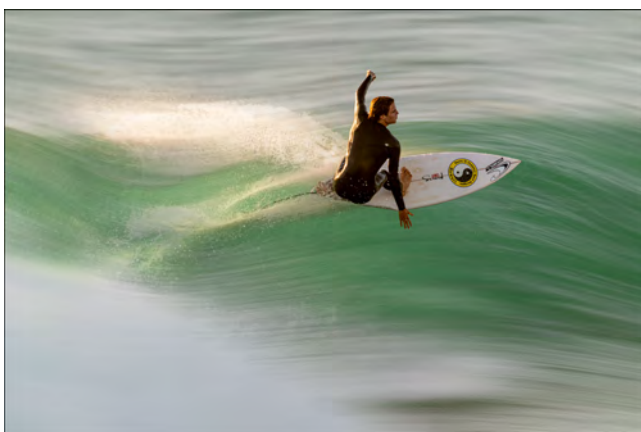
Jim Lewis - Daddy's got you.

Helen Rowbottam - The Geisha



"Surprise" by Glenda Gore

May Exhibition: Portrait



"Off the lip" by Kim Stewart



"Reflected form" by Gary Louth



"Ringneck Takeoff" by Keith Lightbody

Projected Open

19 Entries

Silver

Jane Speijers - New York Slim
Keith Lightbody - Ringneck Takeoff
Kim Stewart - Off the lip
Nola Sumner - The Shape of Bilbao
Rod Simmons - What You Lookin' At?
Georgina Wilson - Darter's morning catch
Alan Wallace - Face Time
Isobel Pearson - Breakfast
Gary Louth - Reflected form

Bronze

Jim Lewis - Pelican Sunset
Helen Rowbottom - Slender tree frog
Ronald Borich - INTREPID
Glenda Gore - Maestro
Diederik Speijers - Diffidence
Susima Seneviratne - Release Me Please
Judy Lewis - Dinner for two

Merit

Richard Sak - Anapai Bay Abel Tasman NP
Ken Langdale - wake
Dennis Gray - Natural noodles



"Breakfast" by Isobel Pearson

May Exhibition: Portrait



"Three for \$5" by Jane Speijers



"Misty" by Alan Wallace



"Young Snow Monkey" by Helen Rowbottam

Print Subject

6 Entries

Silver

Diederik Speijers - Keys Player

Alan Wallace - Misty

Jane Speijers - Three for \$5

Bronze

Holly Cubitt - Portrait of my Mother

Glenda Gore - Karcocha

Helen Rowbottam - Emma

Print Open

5 Entries

Gold

Alan Wallace - Shadows

Helen Rowbottam - Young Snow Monkey

Glenda Gore - Princess Pier

Silver

Diederik Speijers - Luke Steele

Jane Speijers - The guitarist



"Shadows" by Alan Wallace

Exhibitions

WCC Exhibitions Upcoming



PrintWest 2026

Each year all photographic clubs associated with the West Australian Photographic Federation compete at PrintWest in two categories – Colour and Monochrome. The 2026 WAPF PrintWest interclub competition is not that far away with final awards presented at PhotoWest 2026 on 12 September. In 2025 Workshop Camera Club came first in the colour category and second in the monochrome category. We are hoping to do well again in 2026.

We will choose 15 images in each of the two categories from all silver and gold awards and additional images that members would like to have considered. Images must have been taken between 27 June 2024 and 27 June 2026.

In preparation for our PrintWest selections, please upload additional images you wish to be considered in either/both Colour and Mono sections to the WCC website galleries Andrew has made available:

- Login to the WCC website
- Select Galleries/Upload to Galleries
- 2026 Photowest Color or 2026 Photowest mono (my thanks to Andrew for creating the galleries while on holidays)
- Upload your images

Please submit images at the usual club size of 1920x1080 and 1.5MB by 31 May.

Textures 1st July

Texture photography captures the surface quality of an object to create a tactile, visual experience for the viewer. It adds depth, dimension and visual interest to an image by highlighting patterns and details, and is created through the careful use of lighting and shadows to emphasize surface variations.

Dramatic light 5th August

Dramatic lighting in photography uses strong contrasts between light and shadow to create mood and emotion, often by using a single, focused light source to cast hard shadows or by using low-key lighting to create a majority of dark areas.

Motion/movement 2nd September

Motion and movement in photography refers to capturing the sense of motion through techniques like freezing action or creating blur effects by manipulating shutter speed. In the case of freezing the action, the motion is implied, through gesture or through capturing a moment in time when something is in motion. Movement could even be implied by using multiple exposures of the subject in the one image. There may be some overlap with the definition of ICM, for example if an image is produced by panning the camera.

Water 7th October

The image should include water as a key element.

Abstract 4th November

Abstract photography creates images that are not directly representational of reality, focussing instead on shapes, colours, patterns, and textures to evoke emotion and provoke thought.

What's On



Closes 30th June

This is a funny wildlife photo and video competition, free to enter and open to everyone around the world (not just Nikon camera users) whether you are a professional or amateur photographer. There is a fabulous prize of a Kenyan safari for the over-all winner plus Nikon camera kits and ThinkTANK backpacks for selected category winners, including Junior and Young Photographers.

- Free to enter and open to all.
- Nine categories, including Young and Junior Photographer.
- Top prize is a one-week Kenyan Safari.

Enter at www.comedywildlifephoto.com



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PHOTOGRAPHY

Bowness Photography Prize

Closes 14th June

The Bowness Photography Prize invites entries from artists working with photography. Entries for the prize will be considered from still photo-based media including analogue and digital photography, produced within the last year.

- Entry fee is \$55 (GST free). Each entrant may submit up to three artworks per entry. There is no limit on the number of entries.
- Acquisitive first prize of \$50,000.
- Two honourable mentions will also be acknowledged and will receive \$2,500 each.
- Each shortlisted finalist will receive a loan fee of \$400.

Enter at <https://maph.org.au/bowness-photography-prize/>



Lord Howe Island

Keith Lightbody

Lord Howe Island is a UNESCO World Heritage listed volcanic remnant in the Tasman Sea, located ~700 km northeast of Sydney (~2 hour flight, limited luggage space).

Known for its pristine natural beauty, the island restricts visitors to just 400 at a time. The island is at the intersection of five major currents and home to an abundance of colourful marine life – it is great for snorkelling. It has an excellent range of bird life with my favourite being the white tern – offering angelic bird photos! The white tern has a most unusual nesting behaviour – it lays its egg on a branch without any nest!! The birds are very trusting and let you get up very close.

I visited in February 2026 as part of a tour group but had sufficient free time to photograph a variety of bird species.



"Brown Noddy" by Keith Lightbody



"Emerald Ground Dove" by Keith Lightbody



"Banyan" by Keith Lightbody

Lord Howe Island

Keith Lightbody



"Lord Howe Island Panorama" by Keith Lightbody



"Emerald Ground Dove" by Keith Lightbody



"Lord Howe Sunset" by Keith Lightbody

A Holidaymax Vietnam Tour

Alan Wallace

For many years, Sheila and I have considered going to Vietnam for a holiday. I am an avid Youtube watcher and last year I was bombarded with Vietnam 11-day tour with Holidaymax ads whenever I logged in. For the price, the holiday seemed to be bargain of the century as it included flights to and from Vietnam, two internal flights, accommodation, most meals and tour guides and coach.

Being a sceptic I held off, but we eventually decided to give it a try. The attraction of the tour for me was that it covered the main areas of Vietnam, so we could use it as a reccy-run for a possible future more focused trip. March was by all accounts was a good time to visit (before it becomes too hot and humid) so last December we signed up for a mid-March tour.

We flew with Singapore airlines via Singapore to Hanoi. The hotel was a typical large city quality venue located within walking distance of the Old Quarter. The first day was a late start as tourist coaches cannot run in Hanoi before 0900 or after 1600 because of a curfew aimed at reducing congestion.

First off we visited Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum. A 90+ minute wait in a very long line with thousands of other people, including many locals and school children, was rewarded with a 20 second walk past the embalmed body. Not a great start.

We then went to the Old Quarter and had a cyclo tour for 40 minutes. It was brilliant. A driver pedaled our two-seater vehicle slowly along the roads of the Old Quarter where there any many produce focused streets.

For example, silk (Silk Street), beer (Beer Street), we even went down one street that had steel reo bars, guttering and all forms of steel work, and even a blacksmith. We called it Bunnings Street. I could imagine a husband being sent out to get a chicken and bread for dinner and he comes home with an additional front door and a 2m steel joist because he had to go via Bunnings Street. We enjoyed the Old Quarter as it seemed 'real' and not overly touristy.

On the afternoon we went to the famous Train Street where 5 times a day a train runs through the middle of a narrow street flanked by cafes. I thought that'd be far too touristy for me but it was amazing. We had to buy a drink at a local café to get a seat but at \$2.50 for a beer in a tourist hot spot (instead of the usual \$1.50) you cannot complain.



"Train Street - Hanoi" by Alan Wallace



"Cyclos in Hanoi" by Alan Wallace

When the train comes, they move the chairs nearest the track to in between the tables so that you do not get wiped out by the train which passes inches from your legs in your new 'safe' location. I fail to see how the government allows such a dangerous situation to occur, but I'm glad they do, it's great.

Overnight on Ha Long Bay was next. The boat was comfortable and spacious, food excellent, and we did Tai Chi on the deck at 0600 as the sun slowly rose. Magical. I would have preferred to go further into the bay where there were less boats, but it wasn't too crowded as the boats anchored away from each other. The other minor disappointment was the famous floating fishing villages seem to have mainly gone.



"Sunrise - Ha Long Bay" by Alan Wallace

We then flew to Da Nang and spent 3 days in Hoi An and Hue. Hoi An was very touristy compared to Hanoi. We had our worst tourist experience there when we went to the Coconut Basket Boat village. They knew we were a group of 20+ Australians and we were greeted with blasting music, all the boat drivers dancing and singing "Aussie Aussie Aussie Oi Oi Oi" then shouting out repeatedly "Australia is Number One".

It didn't really let up, and was interspersed with various touristy events to try to get you to part with your money. I've filed that under 40 minutes of my life that I will never get back.

The good thing in Hoi An is an amazing show (Hoi An Memories) on a stage that is 25,000m² in size, 1 km long, and has 500 performers. It was optional, but at \$40 a ticket it seemed a good deal for a show of that magnitude. Definitely recommended.

Then from Hoi to Hue which was the old capitol of Vietnam. It had some amazing buildings and pagodas to visit.

For the last part of the tour we flew to Saigon. Amazingly the airport is in the middle of the city. We also had a day trip to the Mekong Delta. Saigon was bustling and fortunately we'd worked on our street crossing skills in quieter locations.



"The Quiet Period - Saigon" by Alan Wallace

The first time we crossed a road in Saigon I was worried, it was so busy. Relentless. So, we just all followed the guide, kept looking at the car and moped drivers as we crossed, and most importantly, we just kept walking at a steady pace. No hesitating. We let the cars and mopeds move around us.

In Saigon, the War Museum is a must see. It was very interesting (possibly a bit biased), but very harrowing. What some of the soldiers allegedly did to civilians was atrocious. On our final night ten of us went out for a Banh Mi hunt. We had to cross a busy Saigon road so we just set off, all ten of us in a row, a bit like The Beatles Abbey Road cover but with six extra Beatles, and mopeds weaving in between us. We were so proud of ourselves, and then we realized we'd have to do it all again to get back to the hotel!

In conclusion, the Holidaymax Vietnam tour was amazing value for the money. Hotels were very good, food was excellent, guides were friendly and helpful. It was a great introduction to a fascinating country.

Club Library Resources

Mat & Foam Boards

The club buys mat and foam core boards in bulk for purchase by members. These are available in the library and can be purchased by members.

White and black mat boards \$12 each

Foam core boards (sticky back) \$10 each

Foam core boards can also be used with either the double-sided tape (on the non-stick side) or direct stick mounting methods.

Members can pick up anytime and should pay the treasurer (George) cash or EFT deposit in to the club account:

BSB 036 302

Account 288 518

Include your name and the word **"Boards"** in the annotation.

Gizmo Report

Judith Shields

My close friends do sometimes refer to me as "Gadget Woman". I get very excited when I find a new, bright, shiny, gadget promising to make my life easier. Alas, all too often these wonderful things end up on the shelf in my study. However, one gadget has stood the test of time. It has travelled up hill and down dale, across the world with me for many years.

I love my Op/Tech USA neoprene lens hood hat (several in different sizes). This hat fits over the end of the lens hood and provides a soft buffer of protection. You don't have to keep removing the lens hood and putting on the lens cap as you travel around to different locations. It keeps the lens clean of dust and humidity. Best of all is the protection when I invariably whack the lens against the sink in the loo.

I lost my first hood hat on the way back to my hotel from the Acropolis. Heartbroken, I found a solution to secure my second one. How many of you remember knicker elastic? Only lady boomers will recall the awful feeling when your elastic went ping and your knickers descended to your ankles.

Still, I digress. A bit of knicker elastic threaded through a convenient tab on the hood, then through the strap holder provides the solution.

Amazon sell these for around \$30. Check the size of your lens. Slightly bigger is better. Enjoy!



Workshop Camera Club

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Jane Speijers

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Exhibition Director

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Library

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Webmaster

Andrew Marriott

Photomarket

Bob Halligan

Andrew Marriott

Ron Borich

Catering Roster

Please take a turn on the catering roster - you'll find it on the WCC website

- 1 Put your name on the roster.
- 2 Bring along milk and some biscuits/cake to the value of \$15.
- 3 See the treasurer to be reimbursed on the night.
- 4 Set up the table and put away at the end of the meeting.
- 5 Make sure the judge or guest speaker gets a cuppa.

EASY!

Follow us on Facebook

Workshop Camera Club has an active Facebook page which is available only to members. If you are a member, please have a look to see what other members are up to.