

Viewpoint

Newsletter of the Castle Hill RSL Photography Club



April 2011

Issue 61

Presidents Report

Welcome to this month's Viewpoint.

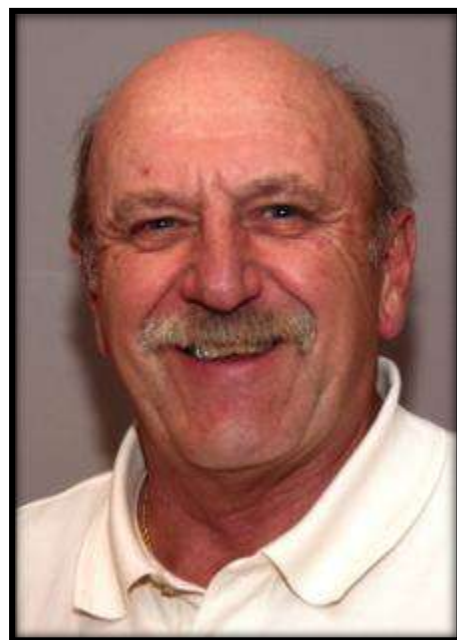
Things have been very hectic in the first two months of the year. The new website continues to get better with the outstanding issues resolved and upgrades implemented including those required for the competition rule changes. Once again we ask members to update their address details as we need them for auditing purposes.

At March 17 we had 307 members with 240 financial. Fees are past due and those that remain unpaid at March 22 will be transferred to former member status.

The February competition was well supported with 213 entries from 114 members with 123 awards. The largest number of entries last year was 177 so it seems members are becoming more active. All results are available to members on the website.

There have already been two successful social outings to Parramatta RSL for Barefoot bowling and a weekend sunrise shoot at Bombo, both events being well attended. There have also been a couple of midweek events which also went well.

The first "Getting To Know Your Camera" day was held in early March and was well attended.



Planning is well underway for the Castle Hill Show, for which our club has the responsibility for running the Photographic section. Many volunteers have put their names down to help William and Robyn Stewart run the event and the club expresses its gratitude to all involved.

We now have a full committee again with Stephen Wallbank taking on the Member Benefits Coordinator role and as he settles in, expect more activity.

Until next month - Happy Snapping.

Regards
Mal Hobson

Competition Night Winners

Due to the new release date for the newsletter, the March competition night winners will be shown in the next newsletter.

George W Glennie Memorial Nature Salon Entries Selected

The Competition Committee received a selection of wonderful images for the George W. Glennie Memorial Nature Salon. Selecting our entry of 10 and covering all categories wasn't easy but it was exciting. The following members had their images chosen:



Geoff Higgins – Dinnertime



Janie News – Snailobatics



Len News – Butterfly on Flower



Wal Phelps – Protea



Margaret Fagg
Safe Haven



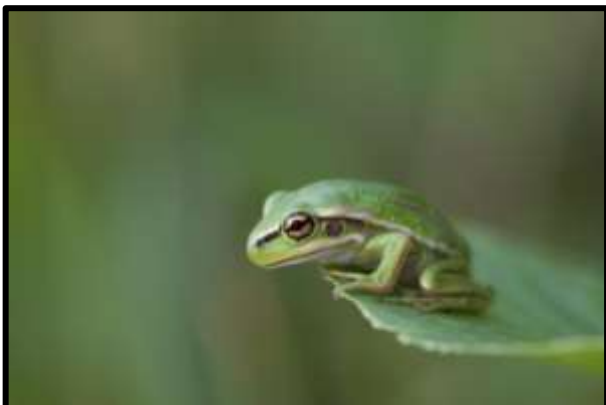
Geoff Higgins
Devils Marbles Northern Territory.



Ray Brown
Cheetah



Carol Abbott
Honeyeater



Monica Mulder
Where the Grass is Always Greener



Jennifer Scarf
Water Dragon

Congratulations to all and thank you.

- Val Fenbow

Barefoot Bowls Report

Social Event - February 2011

Well what a hoot barefoot bowls was. We all had such great fun and there was some serious competition happening!

We had wonderful weather, a great turnout of 26 members and I reckon that by the end of the game we all could bowl better than when we started. Next, we all had dinner together and sat around talking and getting to know each other better.

What I have learnt about the club since I joined, is that the best learning resources we have are our fellow members. And the only way to get to know our fellow members better is to partake in social outings, whether they are about photography or just having a good time.

If any members wonder why we have social outings that are not to do with photography as such (although there was also some serious snapping going as well) I can tell you the following:



photographing with.

1. We don't have a lot of time to mingle with other members on club nights, and because of this we have so many missed opportunities to learn many things about photography that we really want to know but don't know the person to talk to.
2. On a social outing like this, everyone talks to everyone and finds out things that they never knew about the people they are socialising with,
3. They find other members to chat with on a club night,
4. They find a buddy to go

I know that before I became the social co-ordinator at the club, I didn't talk to a lot of members as we stick to the people that we know to talk to. Since organising the social outings I know so many more people and info on photography. I find that the photography interests of members are so diverse that for each member I now talk to I learn a little bit more about photography each week and to me that is simply fantastic. It was not just enough just to listen to lectures and enter into competitions, I wanted to get to know people at our wonderful club and be able to talk to anyone about anything.

And guess what..... I do.

Jacci

PS - I hope to see you all at one of our social outings :-)



Somersby Falls Report

February 2011 - Weekday photographic excursion

Our first weekday outing for 2011 was to Somersby Falls, located at the end of Somersby Falls Road, inside the Brisbane Waters National Park. It is a beautiful and serene location, and only about a 45min. trip from the Hills district.

The first falls that we descended upon were the 'Top' Falls, the unfenced rock platform at the base of the falls provided a great shooting point to capture the water as it cascaded steeply down the jagged rock face onto a large rock platform. The water then continues its flow across the rock and over another ledge to form the 'bottom falls'. Here the water cascades down the cliff, around mossy boulders to the bottom rock platform. The falls are tranquil most of the time and are particularly spectacular after rain.

Although we braved the weather with a little drizzle first thing in the morning (perfect weather for photographing waterfalls and rain forests) the day turned out to be very pleasant, a very worthwhile location and well worth the trip.



Please check the club reminder notice for details of our next outing, or e-mail Deanna on deannab@bigpond.com. If any members have photographs from our weekday outings that could be included in the outing reports, please forward to me by email. Thank you.

-Deanna Brown







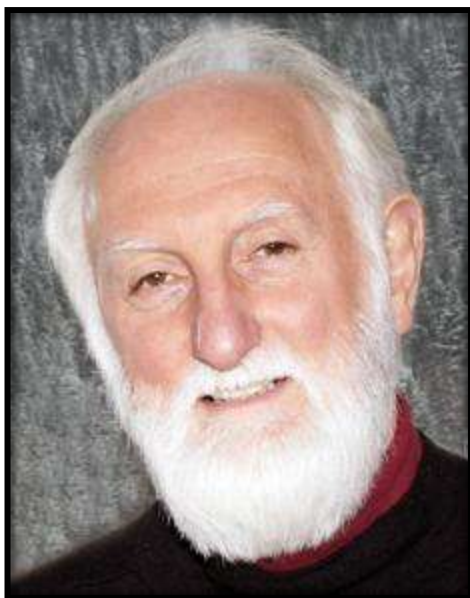


April Guest Speakers

Two Speakers in April – Two Competitions in May

Due to the necessity to change some dates to be able to accommodate our speakers, we have had to alter the dates in April and May this year, which results in us having two Speakers in April and two Competitions in May.

5th April – Roy Killen - Composition



Our speaker on the 5th April is Roy Killen, who is well known by our most of our members, because he has been with us several times over the past couple of years. Roy will be helping us with our photography by talking about “Composition”. He is President of the Belmont 16s Photography Club and a winner of many awards for his photography.

There are no rules to composition, only guides and extremely flexible principles that may help us to see more sensitively instead of in a hit or miss manner. The more aware we are of effective composition, the more satisfaction we may derive from photography. Learning to give form and balance by putting together the elements harmoniously can help us see a subject in the strongest way.

26th April – Gerard Saide - Emotion



Our speaker on the 26th April is Gerard Saide. Gerard has been teaching in Catholic Education in Queensland since 1980. At the same time he took an interest in photography after a comment made by the art teachers at his first school in Mackay. Since then Gerard has been very involved in photography in Toowoomba and Queensland organisations. Gerard has spoken at the Australian Photographic Society Convention and at the Photographic Society of NZ Convention as well as at many different photography clubs. He is also President of the Photographic Society of Queensland

Gerard will talk on the *The World's Ten Greatest Photos*, a talk which was inspired by a talk on sport Gerard heard at an International Conference on Thinking in Auckland in 2001.

Gerard believes that images form a part of our collective human memory and special ones make their way into the world family album – not always for good reasons, but sometimes because they have changed the way we see and respond to our world. They affect our emotions.

- William Stewart

May Competitions

3rd May – Competition – Set Subject – Landscape/Seascape

Can be a panorama, and for prints it must not exceed 50cm on the longest side, including mat. Maybe Richard Green gave you ideas for this subject. For other ideas search the web.

24th May – Competition – Set Subject – Creative

Elizabeth Goff whet our appetite for this competition at the Workshop in March.

Our Definition: Computer altered/manipulated images must include only the photographic work of the entrant.

Ian Pinder has provided this link to a site that has a gallery of 56 creative photos. Some great images are shown which may help to inspire some club members:

<http://justcreativedesign.com/2008/03/22/56-creative-photography/>

Upcoming Competitions

28 June - Leading Lines

26 July - Emotion

23 August - Human Form

27 September - Decisive Moment

25 October - Urban Life

22 November - Dramatic Lighting

April Workshop

Morris McLennan will be running our workshop night on 12 April, and has provided the following schedule:

Main Presentation	Speakers	After Break Presentation	Speaker
3 Members discuss their images	TBC	Nikon Flash Guns	Nikon Rep
		Critique and analyse images	Group Discussions (Morris McLennan)
		Using HDR to enhance images	Jason Pang

The names of speakers and confirmation of Nikon is currently being finalised. Further information will be forwarded to members as soon as confirmed.

Ideas for Outings

Lithgow District Ironfest 2011

The 12th annual Lithgow District Ironfest 2011, will be held at the Lithgow Showground over the weekend of 14th and 15th May 2011, hours: Sat. 10.00am – 6.00pm & Sun. 10.00am – 4.00pm. Please note that this is a significant change of date for us – because Easter & Anzac day will occur at the same time this year, we have decided to move back into the dark cold winter period of “Steampunk!” (Bring your coats!)

For those people new to Ironfest, it is a cool arts festival with a metal edge, featuring art exhibitions, stalls, live music, street performance, historical re-enactments, including St George’s Day Jousting and a Napoleonic battle re-enactment entitled ‘The Battle of Lithgow’ featuring infantry, cannons and cavalry!, blacksmithing demonstrations, workshops, busking competitions, automotive displays, educational, historical and technological displays and lots more of a particularly ‘steamy’ nature this Ironfest! Keep tuned to our program page which will start to announce events as they evolve

<http://www.ironfest.net/>

Member Profile - Ian English



How and why did you start in photography?

I started taking photographs seriously when I went abroad in 1970. That is when I bought my first SLR, a Mamiya Sekor 35mm SLR film camera.

What camera do you use and what is your favourite lens at the moment ?

I am using a Nikon D700 which I love. My favourite lens varies according to the type of image I am making. For action photography I love the 70-200mm f2.8. For Land/seascapes I like either the 14-24mm f2.8 or the 24-70mm f2.8. Sometimes I like the very wide format and sometimes a tighter image requires the 24-70. For Portraits I love the 50mm f1.4 or the 90mm f2.8 macro.

What are your photographic goals ?

My goals are to continually improve my style which is always evolving. I enter more International competitions these days as I find the judging to be more critical and there is competition from all over the world. The results soon tell me if I am on track or not.

What does being a member of the CHRSL Photography Club mean to you?

I have been a member of the club since 2005 and have made many fabulous friends. I enjoy the competition rivalry and seeing other people growing photographically. I find the lectures and workshops very useful and am always learning something new. Even though it is such a large club, the friendliness and approachability of the members is evident.

Are you drawn to any one type of photography and why?

I like landscape, portrait and creative imagery (composites). I am doing a lot of HDR images as I find that when done properly, the tonal range produced is quite spectacular and closer to what the human eye can see.

Whose photos in the Photography Club do you admire the most?

Everyone's when done well. I am continually amazed at the variety and quality of images produced in our club. We certainly have some very talented people.

What are your thoughts on today's Judges?

They have a tough job and it is one which I would not like to do all the time as it would be exhausting. I commend them all for doing such a hard job. There are some who I totally disagree with and must always remember that it is such a subjective opinion. The people who they have given awards to obviously think they are great.

Do you have a “photographic moment/adventure” to share ?

Dianne and I went to Stockton sand dunes to do some shooting late in the afternoon. This is a huge place and stretches for many kilometres. As we don't have a 4WD, we drove partway in and walked into the dunes taking careful note as to the exit at the top of the dune we had just come over. We had a great time and took lots of great shots and then started back to the car. In the fading light the exit points all started to look the same. Needless to say we got lost and were trudging up & down dunes getting more and more tired. Dianne started crying so I had to firmly remind her that crying wouldn't help extricate us from the situation. The long and the short of it was that eventually we saw a guy riding a quad bike in the distance and managed to get his attention. Luckily for us he lived on the edge of the dunes and knew roughly where we had left the car so he took us one by one back to it. Phew!! Moral of the story is to make absolutely sure you have foolproof exit plan.

Do you follow any sport or team or have a hobby?

I was brought up in Melbourne and always followed the Essendon Bombers in the AFL. I love any sport and take an interest in everything. My hobby is my photography passion.

What has been your favourite holiday and travels?

Driving from London to Cape Town in 1975.

Name one thing we don't know about you?

As a young man I was an athlete and was ranked inside the Top 100 in the world in the Decathlon event.

Do you have any suggestions for the Photography Club ?

I think the club is travelling very well now and my congratulations and thanks go to the many people who give their time generously to make it happen.

Any Comments?

Some people will go to any lengths to get a different shot! LOL



Photographs by Dianne English

Further information on Lightroom Presets

Following on from Morris McLennan's workshop presentation in March , Ian Pinder has kindly provided some links for free Lightroom presets as follows:

These are the more reputable sites, however Google located 380,000 sites to my search criteria "free+lightroom+presets". There are literally thousands of them out there if you have the time to search for them.

Free Lightroom Presets:

<http://lightroomkillertips.com/category/presets/>

<http://www.presetsheaven.com/>

<http://www.adobe.com/cfusion/exchange/index.cfm?l=1&s=5&o=desc&exc=25&cat=281&event=productHome>

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/presets/discuss/72157612664073371/>

<http://www.ononesoftware.com/products/perfect-presets-lightroom/>

These last guys have good presets but before you download they want your details for marketing purposes. However if you can put in the wrong phone number but they send the download link to your email address. So I suggest using an email address that you use for junk where people may spam you.

Here is a link for a tutorial on how to load downloaded presets into Lightroom:

<http://www.digital-photography-school.com/how-to-download-and-install-lightroom-presets>

Here is a good website with tips and tricks for Lightroom:

<http://layersmagazine.com/category/lightroom>

Here's a nice little link for people using Adobe Bridge and Photoshop on photographic workflow:

<http://layersmagazine.com/improve-your-photographic-workflow.html#more-14584>

- Ian Pinder

External Competitions

Sydney International Exhibition of Photography

Entries close 5 September 2011

Full details including entry rules can be found at the SIEP website:

<http://www.siep.org.au/Calendar.htm>

National Geographic's Photography Contest 2010

47 images from the three categories of People, Places and Nature are shown on this website

http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2010/1/1/national_geographics_photograp.html

Congratulations to Nicole Gibson

Two of Nicole's photos won awards in the Blacktown Show.



"Three Beaks"

First Place in the Nature competition



"Clapping"

Highly commended in the portrait competition

General Information

Free e-books

A free e-book on dragonfly photography can be downloaded from

<http://photonaturalist.net/how-to-photograph-dragonflies-free-ebook/>

A free e-book on post processing can be downloaded from

<http://lansingphotoworks.com/ebook.pdf>

- Mary Spence

Free Photography Magazine for Download

A free online Photography magazine can be downloaded from

<http://www.photographybb.com/magazine/>

There are 30 plus editions you can download and read at your whim.

They look to be quite good magazines.

- Mary Spence

Online Tutorials

Studio Portrait Lighting

<http://lumitouch.com/benstudiotutorial/LightPoseGuide1.html>

Selecting/Removing Hair

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3hoDihxH7E>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ND1WloaUHos>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/theelectricartist#p/a/u/0/2RCruOPbXgU>

- Mary Spence

Startrails Application

<http://www.startrails.de/html/software.html>

Tribute to Kodachrome

<http://1000words.kodak.com/thousandwords/post/?id=2388083>

- Mary Spence

Website Statistics for February 2011

Total visits	5756
Daily average visits	205

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Newsletter Contributions

If you have any articles that may be of interest to our members, please email them to editor@chrslphotographyclub.org. They can be technical, Photoshop, arty, recent holiday shots, awards or anything that you would like to share.

Please send articles in Microsoft word or plain text format with pictures attached as separate files.

In order to ensure your article is included in the next newsletter, please ensure it is submitted by the 15th of the month.