



f22: Southside Camera Club Newsletter

December 2015

Club Meeting – 7:30 pm on Thursday 10 December 2015 at the Belconnen Soccer Club,
cnr. Belconnen Way and Springvale Drive, Hawker

Events

Monthly Meeting Topics for 2015

Meeting Date	Topic	Presenter(s)	Notes
10 December	AGM and show and tell. Election of office bearers.		Bring your best photos for the year

November Meeting Report

November's meeting was divided into two parts: a small group met at 6.30 pm to discuss the club's website, and the main meeting which commenced at 7.30 pm. The website group reported back to the main meeting that for the club to have full creative control over our website, it will be necessary to seek control of the domain from Steve Lees, or to obtain a new domain. It was agreed that the website should be enhanced to be an advertisement for the club with features such as a gallery (including individual member galleries for those who want them), and a club history. Rob Wignell undertook to prepare a note to send to Steve Lees for consideration at next month's meeting (the AGM).

Denis Walsh followed up his offer at the October meeting by purchasing a small PA system to try out at the meeting. The system was used by most speakers and it proved to be effective in overcoming the external noise problem, without creating an unduly loud noise coming from our meeting room. Rob Wignell proposed that the club should continue to use this PA system and pay Denis what it cost him. After some discussion it was agreed to defer this decision until the next meeting.

Of the other topics discussed, the most significant was the future of the DigSig meetings, as Dennis Lovatt wishes to pass on the mantle to someone else next year. Rob asked the members to consider volunteering give to presentations and/or to run the DigSig in 2016.

Presentation "Remember this..."

Giles West and Jenny Thompson expertly delivered a presentation which I personally found to be very interesting. Both of them have been photographers since the days of slides and they brought along a selection of slides photographed years ago. Jenny is an expert underwater photographer and her slides were of underwater scenes. What made the presentation more than just a slide show, was the fact that all of the slides presented had also been scanned into a digital format and each image was shown simultaneously on separate screens in both formats: the original slide via a good old fashioned slide projector and the scanned copy of the slide via the club's digital projector.

It is often a bone of contention between analogue and digital photography enthusiasts as to which format is superior. A close comparison of the original slides side by side with their scanned digital versions, to my vision at least, gave the verdict to the slides, with finer detail, clearer colours and slightly better colour separation. Of course it could reasonably be argued that this was not a fair comparison because the scanning process would inevitably cause some detail to be lost. Probably the only way to get a definitive comparison between the two formats would be to take each photograph separately, first with a camera using slide film and then with a digital camera with a sensor the same size as the slide film, and with the same lens interchanged between the two cameras. For underwater photography this may be slightly difficult to arrange.

Planning Excursions for 2016

An item that will be on the agenda at our December Club meeting will be to set a date for a special meeting to decide on a list of excursion destinations for 2016. One of the most beneficial aspects of being a member of the Southside Camera Club is the opportunities it provides to get out to interesting photographic locations with a group of like-minded people. Of course for this to happen, it requires people to suggest locations that they believe we should visit and then to volunteer to organise these excursions. The amount of effort required varies between excursions: organising a one day walkabout is certainly a lot less onerous than organising a 3 day excursion to the Alps with accommodation and logistics thrown into the mix.

Nevertheless, if you have a good idea for an excursion please come along to the special meeting once its time and place are decided. And remember, if you don't feel confident in volunteering to organise a fully fledged excursion, there is always the possibility of sharing the task with another person.

Rob's Rant

The end of the year brings many things but for the Southside Camera Club we have some decisions to make about our future.

The mundane decisions need to cover what topics we choose for meetings next year, a program of monthly outings, a Christmas celebration and Laurie Westcott has suggested a program of two walkabouts per month. We also need to find an editor for our magazine, to take over the reins so ably managed by John Franze for

the past two years and a convenor (or convenors) for the long running Digital Special Interest Group (DIGSIG) that Dennis Lovatt has led for two years.

The big question though, for me, is finding a room that is suitable for our meetings. The current room at the Belconnen Soccer Club, the previous room at the Burns Club and even the room at the Irish Club all suffered from having significant noise issues. For many of our members with deteriorating hearing, the external noise has been so difficult it has made many presentations incomprehensible. The lack of control over lighting at the Belconnen Soccer Club has been something we have lived with but, paradoxically, when the dining room turned our lights off during "show and tell" last month it highlighted for me how inadequate our projections are in a half lit room.

Denis Walsh's initiative in tracking down a speaker system was, I think, an improvement but it is an improvement in fighting a battle we don't want or need and, I doubt that it would be adequate against the birthday and funeral parties that we have had to contend with in the past.

As you know I have visited many places to find options for our accommodation. The most promising options are a room in the Tradies Club in Woden which rents at \$150 per day (including the evening) will accommodate thirty people in theatre style (we often get close to this number but seldom exceed it), seems well insulated from exterior noise and has lights that can be controlled within the room. There is a possibility of the Tradies Club giving us a community obligation discount but we could pay for the room by seeking a \$5 contribution from everyone who attends a meeting and the club could pick up any shortfall from annual fees and our fairly substantial reserve. If we can organise the discount then that is a windfall and might mean that we can get by with a "gold coin" donation.

The second most promising option is an invitation from Steve Brown at Bespoke Framing in Phillip (<http://www.bespokephotos.com.au>). His business is located on the corner of Townsville Street and Grenville Court. Steve is a photographer and printer and is expanding the area that he rents for his business to include room for a studio and exhibition area. He is very positive about the possibility of our club meeting at his premises. He has suggested a "gold coin" donation from attendees and is interested in selling his services as a printer and framer to club members. My thought is that this might be a suitable venue for the DIGSIG in whatever guise it takes on in 2016. There is an amount of relationship building and maintaining in

this form or arrangement but through numerous discussions I think that there is plenty of room for a mutually advantageous partnership with Steve Brown that is worth pursuing. His suggestion of a “gold coin” contribution seems generous and easily managed.

While I will be looking for support for these two options at the AGM I don't think we should stop searching for better options and we should all welcome any initiative by a member that can find accommodation that improves on these.

Contacts with the Deakin Soccer Club have led nowhere and my attempts at contact with Eastlakes Football Club have been ignored.

In the meantime, our hosts at Belconnen Soccer Club have indicated that we are welcome to continue with our bookings in 2016.

In summary, we can continue with an inadequate but cheap option for our accommodation or we can decide to pay for better accommodation that doesn't cause distraction from external noise and gives us control over our lighting. After 25 years I would like to see us pay a little more and take control of our environment so that our prints and digital images can be displayed to their best advantage.

I also suggest that we don't have a meeting or outing in January. In the past, January meetings tend to be less well attended and, especially if we are paying for our accommodation, it isn't good economics to commit to an expensive room for a relatively small group of people.

Before signing off I want to thank John Franze for his amazing contribution as editor of our newsletter - f/22. He has done us proud with both the volume and quality of his efforts. He has also been very patient with my late contributions.

Thanks to Dennis Lovatt for the enormous amount of work he put together for the DIGSIG meetings. Demonstrations like the ones Dennis performed require much more work than is realised and we all benefitted from this.

Without the efforts of Laurie Buchanan and a few other stalwarts, there would be no Walkabout. As best as I can remember, the first Walkabout was organised about five years ago by Doug Crawford. It was an instant success and attracted many of the members who don't work on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Attendance

numbers have gone up and down but the regular group who attend have been to many and varied locations in the Canberra region. There were many others, apart from Laurie who have contributed to this group but special mention should go to Bev Bayley who as well as organising a couple of interesting trips this year has also written up the trips and supplied photographs for the newsletter.

Finally, we should all thank Brian Moir for his quiet and persistent work on improving our web site. Brian has established a credible internet presence for our club and he has plans for more progress next year.

For myself, the year has been a bit frustrating in that a lot of my effort has been diverted into accommodation issues. My preference is to try and concentrate on encouraging members to learn more about their cameras and to try and improve their photography. We have a great wealth of experience within the club and a tradition of sharing our experience that helps everyone learn a little bit more.

I hope that this learning theme is continued next year through our meeting and outings programs. I also hope that you all have a safe and happy Christmas season and are ready for an active year of photography in 2016.

Monthly Excursions for 2015

There are no major excursions planned for December, however there will still be a Walkabout, thanks to Laurie Westcott (see next section).

Walkabout Group

walkabout Group Calendar 2015

If any member wants to organise a walkabout, then we are keen to publicise it in order to get the maximum turnout.

Date	Location	Organised by	Level
17 Dec 9.30 am	Arboretum	Laurie Westcott	Easy

Excursion Reports

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve - 19 November - by Laurie Westcott

The day was forecast as a hot one which is probably why only 7 members were able to meet up at the Rangers and Visitors Centre at 9.30 am. After inspecting photographs of the old homesteads in the valley taken by former SCC members ("Capturing our Homesteads" by Karen Dace and Eleanor Cotterell) and talking to the rangers, we headed off to our first stop, the Rock Valley Homestead.

Although the buildings did not fare well in the 2003 bushfire, the partial restoration gives some idea of their layout and construction and their fabulous setting (to us today but we can only imagine how isolated it must have been 100+ years ago and the hardships involved). Mary Green arrived in Tidbinbilla Valley in 1886 to marry Robert Green and moved from the even more isolated mud-floor hut at Ash Corner further up the valley to the Rock Valley house in 1895. They had 2 boys and 3 girls.

Our next stop was the Sanctuary (with water birds, platypus, reptiles and kangaroos) and the adjacent Koala pen. Unlike much earlier visits of mine to see the koalas, there was no difficulty finding them as two were contained inside a structure, replete with fresh eucalyptus leaves, clearly visible to our cameras and gaze. However, they proved uncooperative. Busily munching on their leaves and watching us approach and set up our gear and jockey for the best position, one settled behind the thicket of foliage while the other turned away from us and in that position went to sleep. I suppose the back of a furry head which is all I managed, is better than "nada".

The Sanctuary provided us with water scenes, Magpie geese, Black swans, Ibis, Pacific and Wood ducks, various other water-birds and birds of the non-water kind, and a platypus which we saw on the pond surface before it dived and, by its bubble trail, come towards us only to briefly surface again, dive and disappear - no photos. The reptiles on our way in, on the other hand, were in a clear glass surround on an interesting rock structure, they had nice patterns, were clearly visible and not moving while holding lizard poses but having read of the possibility of platypus sightings I had hurried on - no photos! Hopefully my companions were more risk averse than me.

As forecast, the day warmed up and midday came and went, we retired to the Visitors Centre to cool off and give their coffee machine and other offerings a trial. Tidbinbilla probably deserved more time than we gave it but our time there was an enjoyable social and practical club outing giving us a variety of subject opportunities.

The next walkabout will be at the Arboretum at 9.30 am on Thursday 17 December. The first walkabout for 2016 will be in February and in the meantime all members are encouraged and invited to suggest ideas and/or locations for the 2016 Walkabouts.

Please send them to me at westcott16@bigpond.com or Rob Wignell at rob_wignell@hotmail.com. A special meeting to discuss and decide on the 2016 excursion agenda will be scheduled at our next club meeting on Thursday 10 December. Please consider coming along to contribute to our 2016 plan.

Some of Laurie's photos from this excursion follow.



A recalcitrant Koala
(bashful or plain rude)



NW end of the house with garden



An interior scene



Spotted Pardalote



Usual culprit



welcome swallow

F22 Gallery

Laurie Westcott

In last month's edition Laurie contributed some photos and a description of his recent trip to the Flinders Ranges. As this is an iconic Australian location and a place that most of us will visit if we haven't already done so, Laurie agreed to provide me with some more photos and an additional description of this journey.

Flinders Ranges - Part 2

From Wilpena we moved 190 km north to Arkaroola in the Vulkathundha Gammon Ranges National Park. Arkaroola had come into prominence with the discovery of a uranium province in 1910 and confirmed as such by Prof. Douglas Mawson of Antarctic research fame. Mining for radium used in medical procedures followed from 1923 to 1932. Exploration in the province revived in 1944 in the search for fissionable uranium for atomic weapon purposes but without success. More arid than Wilpena Pound, Arkaroola is a 60,000 ha. privately-owned pastoral property, protected from mining exploitation by State legislation. It offers camping and caravan facilities, cabin and resort accommodation (with shop, restaurant), hiking trails, 4WD tracks, fauna and flora interests, historical and indigenous interests, star-gazing and the Ridge Tour.



First view of the Vulkathundha Gammon Ranges north of the Flinders.

We walked the spine of Acacia Ridge with views out to the white expanse of the salt flats of Lake Frome, across a series of rocky ranges of almost vertically tilted sedimentary strata, vegetated on their lower slopes with spinifex and eucalypts and into the valley along which the entrance road runs like a grey ribbon between red, brown ranges. Young Mulga trees growing along the route date back to 1974 when sheep were removed from the property. On a section of the steep slope grows a grove of Black Oaks. Such groves develop in areas of loose stone slowly moving downhill, abrading the roots and stimulating the growth of suckers – therapeutic massage?



Road into Arkaroola at the far end from the Acacia Ridge trail

The 4WD Ridge Tour took us to more remote and rugged areas. It was nice to be travelling in an Arkaroola-owned vehicle whose driver knew every inch of the very rough road, and be able to watch the scenery. It was such a rough ride that a gentleman carrying his pedometer in his pocket found it had registered 17,000 steps at the end of the tour.



Exposed face of tilted rock strata



View from Acacia Ridge



Ridge tour view



The Ridge Tour went right to the fence at the top. We had morning tea while the driver carefully turned the vehicle around for our return



A view from the top toward the uranium mine out on the plain with Lake Frome, top right



View through a grove of Black Oaks on Acacia Ridge

Peter McCabe

Here are some more photos from Peter's visit to Ravenna, including one of Dante's tomb.



A notice (and don't you forget it!)



Another mosaic from Ravenna





Votive offerings?



Dante's tomb

DigSig

There will be no DigSig in December. With Dennis Lovatt vacating the job of convenor, please give some thought to volunteering at the AGM to help to keep this valuable club activity alive.

Software Buddies

If you need help with using post production software, a few club members have volunteered to try and help sort out problems using Photoshop Elements, Photoshop Lightroom, Photoshop Creative Suite and Apple Aperture. The contacts are:

Photoshop Elements: Peter Bliss at bliss.images@yahoo.com.au

Photoshop Lightroom: Peter Bliss at bliss.images@yahoo.com.au

Photoshop Creative Suite: Graeme Kruse at gkruse@bigpond.net.au

Apple Aperture: Claude Morson at claudemorson@gmail.com

Club Websites

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

Brian Moir manages the website. If you wish to send him material, his email address is brian.g.moir@gmail.com

flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/southsidecc/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/470954196380232/>

News

Current and forthcoming exhibitions

National Portrait Gallery

Sideshow Alley

Infamy, the macabre & the portrait

Saturday 5 December 2015 until Sunday 28 February 2016

This particular exhibition is not all devoted to photography, but it does include a photography segment titled "The Portrait Gallery". Here is a synopsis from the website of what this exhibition is all about.

"Our Victorian forebears weren't squeamish. And they weren't all that prim, either. Sideshow Alley re-tells tales of criminal and institutional savagery in Australia's colonial settlements and considers the tension between the idea of portraiture as a means to edify, refine and elevate the sensibility of the populace, and the popular thirst for the lowbrow, the cheap, the tacky and the ghoulish in portraiture. Sideshow Alley transports us to a time when crowds surged to see the laid-out bodies of outlaws, competing to tear out scraps of their hair and beards; and a photograph of a corseted matron, posed against a pillar no less rigid than she, might be stuck in the family album alongside a photograph of a defunct bushranger, propped up with gun in hand to menace the populace even in death. Sideshow Alley brings to life a time when lithographs, woodcuts and waxworks of men in their direst moments attracted just as much interest as the monumental representations of explorers and statesmen that set the official tone of the age. National Library of Australia."

Please note that this exhibition is not free. The price is:

\$10 / \$8 concession and Circle of Friends

Last ticket sales 4.45pm

Like most exhibitions at the National Portrait Gallery, I bet it is worth every cent.

Check out the full description at <http://www.portrait.gov.au/exhibitions/sideshow-alley-2015>.

National Gallery of Australia

The world is beautiful

photographs from the collection : until 10 April 2016: free entry

This exhibition should be of interest to all photographers. It is an exhibition of photographs taken over the last 100 years from the National Gallery of Australia's magnificent photography collection, including work by Diane Arbus, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Max Dupain, Bill Henson, Robert Mapplethorpe, Man Ray, Cindy Sherman and many more.



Robert Doisneau Un regard oblique [A sidelong glance] 1948, gelatin silver photograph, printed 1990

See a full description at <http://nga.gov.au/WorldIsBeautiful/Default.cfm>.

National Library of Australia

Permanent photography exhibitions at the National Library of Australia include:

- [Jeff Carter collection](#) - photographs of 20th century Australia and Australians
- [Peter Dombrovskis collection](#) - photographic collection of the Tasmanian wilderness
- [Buckland collection](#) - a collection of photographs, papers and memorabilia relating to railways

Canberra: Then and now

1 August 2013 to 30 June 2016, 10.00am-5.00pm

Display area, Level 4

Since the site for the national capital was chosen in 1908, Canberra has unfolded on the Molonglo River flood plain and become part of the landscape.

In 2012 the National Library set out to capture the transformation of some of Canberra's key sites. These photographs are displayed here alongside historic images from the Library's collection, and highlight the stark changes and surprising similarities of Canberra then, and Canberra now.

Free - no bookings required.

Online Resources

DP Review

DP Review can be found by clicking on the following link
www.dpreview.com.

Photoaccess at the Manuka Arts Centre

Go to [Photoaccess](#).

Photographer's Rights

Shane Baker sent me some links relevant to this issue. An informative discussion on this topic can be found at: <http://www.artslaw.com.au/articles/entry/snapping-in-the-street/>.

Great Digital Photography Tutorials

We can thank Paul Livingston for this link to some great Digital Photography Tutorials, basic to advanced concepts.

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials.htm>

Reuters Issues a Worldwide Ban on RAW Photos

Paul Livingston also sent this info:

The message to most photographers is take RAW photos to get the most data for processing. Now freelancers who sell to Reuters will have to shoot jpg for Reuters and possibly the RAW/jpg combination for Reuters and personal uses.

http://petapixel.com/2015/11/18/reuters-issues-a-worldwide-ban-on-raw-photos/?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=Red_Dog_News_167_2&utm_medium=email.

Expensive Camera

Rob Wignell sent the following:

I came across this article on a camera being built to go to the International Space Station: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-24/la-trobe-university-helps-develop-new-space-camera/6936676>.

It looks like it is Australian technology and German lenses. It will be interesting to see the results when it is eventually commissioned.

The Mental Checklist to make better Photographs

Shane Baker sent a link to an excellent podcast from Martin Bailey on things to think about before shooting. Here it is: <http://www.martinbaileyphotography.com/2015/11/23/the-mental-checklist-to-make-better-photographs-podcast-498/#comment-108649>.

It includes a full transcript, so there are options for people who prefer to read rather than listen.

Photographer Profiles

Also from Paul Livingston:

I was reading an online article in Digital Photo Pro magazine, "Deanne Fitzmaurice: Master of Photojournalism", I'd never heard of her before. Very interesting read and she is a Pulitzer winner. There was a link at the head of the article called "Photographer Profiles" <http://www.digitalphotopro.com/profiles>. It looks to have close to 100 photographer profiles covering a variety of photographic genres. Well worth having a look at this link for members when they need some inspiration.

How to make Striking long-Exposure Images

Finally from Australian Photography, here is a valuable link if you are interested in making long-exposure images: [How to make long exposure images](#).

Equipment List

Item	Custodian	Email address
Elinchrome Studio Lighting Equipment	Paul Livingston (soon to be taken over by Juile Taylor and Mark Stevenson)	paullivingston@mac.com
Colour Munki screen and printer calibrator	Dennis Lovatt	lovatts@hotmail.com
Polaroid Film Scanner (medium format)	Rob Wignell	rob_wignell@hotmail.com

And Finally . . .

Since taking up photography I have never understood why there is still some argument about the relative merits of digital and film images. After all, there are no negatives with digital.

While I was in Ted's recently I overheard a woman going on and on about her camera and how great it was: the sales assistant couldn't shutter up. Later a man walked in and asked for a lens cap for a Nikon. The sales assistant said "Sounds like a fair swap to me".

I don't know what more I can do to make you all want to replace me as editor.

Note from the Editor

Presuming that a new would-be editor comes forward at our AGM, this could be my last newsletter. That person, if he or she exists, would probably find as I did, that their early newsletters take days to edit, but after some months in the role that time is reduced down to two days at the most and sometimes to a single day. Of course this does not include the time spent soliciting articles, photographs and links for each edition.

I have been lucky enough to have been blessed with a group of very helpful and dedicated people who have made my job much easier by contributing to almost every issue. Rob Wignell, for example, has never refused a request for assistance, no matter what inconvenient time I send it to him. In the October issue I already thanked people such as Bev Bayley, Laurie Westcott, Shane Baker, Paul Livingston and others for their unfailing contributions, so I won't repeat myself any further, except to say that I have enjoyed the role and everyone who has contributed during my tenure has my sincere gratitude.

A fair question would be: if I enjoyed the role so much then why am I giving it up? Two reasons: my interests have moved on somewhat and I want more time to spend on my latest crazes, and secondly, I recognise that I am probably becoming stale in the role and the quality and style of the newsletter could be improved with a fresh mind on the scene. While I don't wish to be sexist, in my opinion a woman taking on this task would bring more originality and a different slant to the newsletter, than if another old bloke was to take it on. If I have just discouraged an old bloke from volunteering for the job then I may have shot myself in the foot, but come on, show some courage, prove that I am talking waffle, don't just silently walk away.

If no one puts up their hand then I will continue until the February edition, but for all our sakes, February will be the end of it.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all of you.

John

Club Office Bearers

Position	Person	Contact details
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