

Club History, 1990-2015

Foreword

This brief history of the Southside Camera Club in Canberra was originally produced for the club's 20th anniversary in 2010. The original text has been subject to minor edits and a new section to cover the period 2010 to 2015 has been added, along with some more photographs.

The Early Years

Some organisations start in a big way but fall by the wayside over time; others start modestly but thrive and grow. Canberra's Southside Camera Club started from modest beginnings in 1990, when Stephen Lees inserted an article in the *Valley View*, the local suburban paper of that time and predecessor of *The Chronicle*. The article appeared on 25th April, 1990, inviting inquiries from people interested in starting a camera club. The outcome was a meeting held at Stephen's residence in Greenway at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 2nd May, 1990. Present at the meeting were:

Stephen Lees, Ken Crawford, John Wicks, Keith Wedd, John Cates, and Madeleine Chagalle (now Madeleine Lees).

Those present agreed to form a camera club to meet monthly and also agreed the club's main interest would be in the practical aspects of photography rather than competitions. It is interesting that after 20 years, the club has retained the once a month meeting as well as a focus on the practice of photography in all its forms, rather than on competitions. We have changed the meeting day though – some things had to change in twenty years!

The second meeting was held on Thursday 31 May, 1990 at the home of John Wicks, and was a practical night on Portrait Lighting, followed a month later with a session on studio lighting and photographing a model in Stephen Lee's large brick garage. Subsequent meetings included demonstrations of makeup for portraits, colour printing, and similar subjects.

On Tuesday, 7th May, 1991, the club opened its first exhibition of prints at Graphix Brasserie, Green Square, Kingston. Prints were exhibited by Madeleine Lees (5 Black and White), Ken Crawford (5 Cibachrome), John Evans (6 Cibachrome), Stephen Lees (7 Black and White), Mark Stuart (4 Colour), Barbara Smith (5 Colour), Keith Wedd (4 Colour).

Other exhibitions have been held since that time at venues such as Lanyon and the Namadgi information centre.

Initially the club met at Stephen Lee's house at Greenway, but by January, 1992 the club had become too big to meet in residences, and moved to the Gilmore Community House. When it outgrew that facility it moved to the Tuggeranong Community Centre in 1993.

The club's first newsletter, edited by Graeme Kruse, appeared in December 1993. In what was a recurring theme in the early years, the first page mentioned that club funds were very low and members were encouraged to pay 1994 dues early. Today's members should realise how much value there is in today's membership rates — in 1994 the rates were \$30 for individuals and \$45 for families.

SOUTHSIDE CAMERA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Number 1, December 1993

For some time I have been thinking that there is a need for our club to put out a regular newsletter. This is the first of hopefully many to come. Being the first newsletter for the club it is primarily 'testing the water' with respect to content and layout - comments and assistance will be most welcomed.

Initially, distribution will be effected by distribution at club meetings and letter box drops by members. Should the club be able afford postage then you will receive the newsletter via the post.

Annual Dues

While on the subject of money the club is running very low on finances. Early payment of dues for 1994 would be most welcomed - \$30 individuals; \$45 families. You can make payment at the next meeting - Wednesday December 8, Meeting Room 1, Tuggeranong Community Centre.

Meetings

December's meeting will be on the topic of 'An Introduction to Black and White Printing and Developing' by John Storey.

There will be no specific practical for this month. However, members who attended November's meeting will know that the trip to Thredbo was rescheduled to December 11 and 12. It is not too late to contact Graeme Kruse - ph 2923073 (h) - to book a place. Bookings will close at the December 8 meeting.

The November meeting was on available light photography. While no shutters were fired we were shown, with the aid of strategically placed reflectors and a light meter to quantify the difference, how the light intensity falling on a subject can be altered. It did not take long before it was realised that with the use of a simple reflector those black-as-ink shadows could be lightened to desirable levels. For portraits it is pretty normal to have about a one stop difference between the light and dark side of the face for females. A lower difference, a half stop to none, would give a softer effect. For males this difference is often one to two stops giving a much stronger/bolder effect. However, do not let these general guidelines stop you from experimenting.

The 1994 program has not been finalised as yet so if you have any suggestions please get them in at the December meeting.

Outings

On the last day of the recent ESANDA Rally, which is run in the local forests, Steven, Pam (my wife) and I took up a corner vantage spot in Stromlo Forest. The day was kind with lots of sun but we were in the cool shade of the tall pines. Thankfully there was little dust created as the cars were flung dramatically into and out of the corner - on the previous day it had rained - and this enabled us to get some very dynamic and unobscured shots.

Front page of the first Club newsletter edited by Graeme Kruse

The first newsletter contained items on club outings, photographic exhibitions and photo opportunities, and these items are still retained in our current newsletter.

The second newsletter, February-March 1994, was a bumper issue with 6 pages of text and no photos! Articles included tips for buying second-hand equipment by Ken Crawford and Graeme explained how he built himself a lightbox.

After 4 issues, the newsletter editor's job was taken on by Rob Gray, who was a well known Canberra photographer at that time. Rob introduced a new layout and photos, and obviously spent a good deal of time preparing the newsletter and photos. In those days, reproducing a half decent photo on paper was a challenge, and probably involved a lot of time on what we'd think was a basic scanner. Rob also gave the newsletter a name – f22 – but somewhere along the way this name became unstuck. Maybe we could resurrect it for newsletters of the next 20 years.

Some of the outings in the first few years included:

- Weekends at Thredbo and Charlotte's Pass;
- The Lake Tuggeranong College art room (where members practiced portraits and table top photography);
- Barbeques at Orroral Valley in Namadgi National Park and at Uriarra Crossing;
- Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve; and
- Gibraltar Falls and Woods Reserve.

Four years after the club started, it had attracted over 30 members. From the outset the club retained a very informal structure, with decisions made by a consensus of members rather than a committee. Its purpose has always been to allow its members to practise and improve their photography in a flexible, relaxed, and enjoyable atmosphere. Newsletter No. 9, March 1995, noted "the Southside Camera Club is not overtly competitive and its members are keen to share information and develop creativity within the membership." It's good that this statement is still true in 2010.

The club's founder, Stephen Lees, took on the role of running the club on its formation in 1990, ably supported by Madeleine who took on the role of Secretary/Treasurer. By 1994, the newsletter was hinting that Steve wouldn't mind if others took some of the responsibility for the club and its activities.

Around this time the club developed the group system, where a number of people were assigned to a group and were responsible for developing ideas and organising outings and presentations. This started to share the load a bit more.

In 1996 things started to change. Fees were still \$30/\$45 for singles/families, but Rob Gray "went bush" and John Reed took over as newsletter editor. By this time photos were displayed in every newsletter, with contributions from Rob Gray, Graham Opie, John Reed, Helen Hill, Madeleine and Stephen Lees, Steve Lomasney, John Riding-Hill, Rod Nazer, Barb Smith, Graeme Kruse and others.

Later that year, Steve and Madeleine announced they would be leaving Canberra in 1997 to live and work in England and Scotland. (In 2000 they returned to Australia and the club before leaving again in 2003 to live in Brisbane.)

Stephen and Madeleine's imminent departure to live temporarily in the United Kingdom led to the club's very first election of office bearers at its meeting in November, 1996. Office Bearers elected at that meeting were:

President: Ken CrawfordSecretary: Robert DeaneTreasurer: Warren Leyden

• John Reed stayed on as Newsletter editor.

Membership Roster, 1996

1996 Financial Members			Receipt No.
001F	Madeleine	Chagalle	W/pages
001F	Stephen	Lees	W/pages
002F	Bonnie	Crawford	1
002F	Ken	Crawford	1
003	Rob	Gray	13
004	Rod	Nazer	9
005	John	Evans	2
006	Graeme	Kruse	21
008F	Andrew	Newnham	Projector
008F	Mick	Newnham	Projector
010	David	Brown	17
011F	Beverley	Opie	5
011F	Graham	Opie	5
013	John	Reed	6
014	Ross	Rowe	4
015F	Gayle	Horswood	20
015F	Tom	Horswood	20
016	Steve	Lomasney	5
017	Terry	Biden	7
019	Alan	Chapple	3
020	Garry	Phipps	26
023	Warren	Leyden	16
025	Len	Haskey	24
027	Helen	Hall	22
028	Gary	Brook	18
029	Joe	Cali	8
030	Maurice	Hermann	14
031	Narelle	Power	12
032	Andrew	Wilson	19
033	Robert	Deane	23
034	Joyce	Taylor	25
035	Anthony	Crawford	27
036	David	Rutherford	28
037	Ken	Pert	29
038	Ross	Rowe Jnr	30
039	Martin	Chalk	31

Post 1996

With the election of office bearers, the club continued through the 1990s. The office bearers elected in 1996 all retained their positions until December 2000, providing a core of stability and continuity for the club. The Club records for 1996 lists 36 financial members, as well as 9 non-financial. A 1997 Club photo includes 25 faces, with several found in meetings today.

In 1999 the club moved premises again, this time to the Irish Club at Weston Creek. Whether it's just coincidence that the Irish Club is very handy to Ken's house is still being debated. The support of the Irish Club meant that some of the financial pressure on the club was relieved. Before the move to the Irish Club, fees had risen to \$35 for individuals and \$50 for families, with a special student rate of \$20. After moving to the Irish Club, fees could be reduced again to \$20/\$30, allowing for broader participation and the purchase of club equipment such as a slide projector.



1999 also saw some publicity for the club in the Canberra Times.



The election of 2001 office bearers brought a new team for the club. Jennifer Thompson took over as President, a role she held for 3 years, Sandie Walters became Treasurer, and Ken Dickson was the Secretary as well as newsletter editor.

A club exhibition was held at Lanyon in 2001.



The organisational workload for the club was shared around more often after 2001, with office bearing appointments normally lasting for two years (with some exceptions). A full list of Office Bearers appears at the end of this document. Graeme Kruse returned as an office bearer to ably hold the Treasurer position for four years before handing over to Kim Barnabas in 2009.

The club experienced the digital revolution like all photographers did in the early 2000s. What seemed an interesting but expensive pursuit – digital photography - seemed to suddenly catch up to and then overtake standard film-based photography in a very short time. By 2005, almost all members had some sort of digital camera, although many still used film. A year or two later, most members had digital SLRs and very few were using film. This is still the case today.



Relaxing at Porcupine Rocks, November 2006. From left, Paul Livingston, Graeme Kruse, Rob Wignell, Kim Barnabas, Susan Hey, Margaret and Denis Lovatt.

The onset of digital photography meant a new office bearer was added in 2008 – that of Website Coordinator. Through the magic of the web, Steve Lees, despite living in Brisbane, produced a basic website for the club and Warren Colledge took on the duties of web coordinator. Helen Hall also volunteered to assist but in practice Warren handled the job. Warren uploaded several galleries of members' photos to the site.

The 2000s also saw the widespread uptake of home PCs (or Macs) and the club moved to communicating via email. Sometime in 2009 we stopped printing newsletters as most members were happy to read them from their screens. The web also meant the content of newsletters underwent a subtle change, with the plethora of websites devoted to cameras, lenses, accessories,

software and tutorials. The newsletter has become a handy summary of the many sources of information open to us today.

The Internet has also encouraged the spread of on-line social networks. A number of current members 'met' each other over the web, and many continue as members of both the Southside Camera Club and one or more virtual clubs.



Members on the Captains Flat excursion, January 2008 (from left (standing) Giles West, Warren Colledge, (sitting) Joyce Taylor, Ken Crawford, Paul Livingston.

The Club has often had special interest groups to look at particular aspects of photography. Early years had a portrait group among others, and in more recent times the idea of a special interest group (or SIG) has been revived with a very active Photoshop group, and informal groups for bird photography and tabletop photography.

In 2009, the Club's consensus approach was tested by the innocent idea of having a club shirt. After much debate about colours, styles, logos and just about everything else, Shane Baker ordered a set of handsome shirts that we are just getting used to wearing. We decided to continue with the existing club logo, despite some very good ideas for a refreshed design.

Whether it's the renewed interest in photography created by the digital era, the introduction of a club webpage, or just word of mouth from happy members, the membership of the Club has grown steadily in recent years to the stage where the Irish Club room is barely adequate. This will present a challenge for the Club, but also opportunities created by the new interest.

In May 2010, the Club held a 20th anniversary dinner, attended by 40 current and past members, including founders Stephen and Madeleine Lees. At the dinner, life membership, already enjoyed by Steve and Madeleine, was bestowed on Ken and Bonnie Crawford. As Shane Baker said at the event, there would be very few members who had not received good advice from Ken and great hospitality from Bonnie.

Over 20 years, many, many shutters have opened and closed, a lot of flashes have been flashed and tripod legs splayed. People have changed and a lot about photography has changed, but a surprising lot about the club has stayed the same. Decisions are still largely by consensus, the fun and skill of photography is emphasised more than the competitive sides of the hobby, people gather together for excursions monthly as well as at club meetings; and members are happy to share their experience with others.



Twentieth anniversary dinner, Irish Club, Weston, May 2010

Let's hope that in another 20 years time somebody writes something similar!

Rod Burgess

May 2010.

(with a lot of thanks to Ken Crawford, the corporate memory of the Club, as well as resident D-I-Y expert)

2010-2015 Update

Well, we didn't need to wait 20 years for an update. The Irish Club proved too small to hold the rapidly increasing club membership and just after the 20th anniversary then President Shane Baker received a generous offer from the Burns Club in Kambah to host club meetings.

Five years on, the club was on the move again. Its 25th birthday was celebrated with a significant event – a move to the northside of Canberra. Read on to discover how the southside club ended up on the northside!

From 2010 to 2015 the club enjoyed a period of relative stability in officer bearers and locations. The Burns Club in Kambah proved a popular venue, although the club nights were moved from Thursdays to Wednesdays to avoid clashes with other events at the club. This meant the loss of some members who had other commitments on Wednesdays but it also suited others. The club continued to grow in numbers and the larger venue at the Burns Club was greatly appreciated. It hosted well attended Christmas dinners at the Burns Club in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

The club continued its proven formula of a club meeting and excursion each month, supplemented by other opportunities for members to get together. The club meetings have featured a range of photographic topics presented by members and guests, and some interesting talks from external speakers such as the manager of Teds camera store (Jim Whitton) and Jan Falsone from

Photoaccess. Excursions have involved weekends away at several places, including Guthega, Eden, South Durras and Currango Homestead.



Club members Gary Brook, Peter Bliss, Ken Crawford, Warren College and Paul Livingston, Canberra Balloon Festival 2010. (Photo Shane Baker)

The Digital Imaging Special Interest Group (DIGSIG) gained a new lease on life after the Burns Club made a room available on the 4th Wednesday of each month. This proved a lot more popular than crowding into somebody's lounge room. Graeme Kruse ably coordinated the DIGSIG until he left Canberra in early 2014, when Dennis Lovatt took over the role.

Another group to formalise and flourish in the period was the mid-week Walkabout Group. It is now firmly established and has been coordinated by Rob Wignell and Laurie Westcott, with significant support from other members.

In 2010 the club produced *North & South Canberra – a Southside Camera Club perspective*, a book of photographs of Canberra's inner suburbs taken by 18 club members. The book was published through the website Blurb.com and is still available from that site. Additionally, Shane Baker proposed that the Club produce a yearbook each year, where all those members who wished to participate would contribute their two best photos for the year. A yearbook has been published on Blurb each year since, with Shane doing the early coordination and Moira Parkinson taking over in 2014. The quality of the yearbook has bears testament to the skills of the club members. In 2012 the club also produced a calendar, coordinated by Rod Burgess. While it was popular, there are particular challenges in developing a calendar and we haven't repeated the publication of one yet.

While the SCC's strong ethic is to not focus on competition as the basis for club activities, each year until 2015 a number of club members supported the Canberra Photographic Society (CPS) by submitting entries into the judging for photos to represent the ACT in the annual Australian Interstate Photographic Competition (AIPC), which is open to camera clubs across the country. SCC members have done well in the competitions – in 2014 members Peter Bliss and Shane Baker received the highest ACT scores in the colour print and colour digital image categories. In 2015 the CPS decided not to participate in the AIPC. After some consideration, the SCC decided not to attempt to take over the coordination role in 2015. The ACT's participation in future events is uncertain at this time.

2013-14 saw the loss of some of the more active club members who moved interstate – Graeme Kruse, Shane Baker and Peter Bliss. Fortunately other club members have stepped into the rather large shoes left by the departure of these members. In the age of digital communication, they might be gone but we still hear from them.







A difficult climb at Guthega (Rod Burgess) Warren Hicks still rugged up after a long, cold night of astrophotography at Orroral Homestead (Rod Burgess)

In early 2015 the Burns Club advised it was undergoing major renovations and the club had to seek alternative accommodation. It was uncertain whether any support for clubs like the SCC would be possible after the renovations. Newly elected President Rob Wignell with some help from members was faced with the difficult task of finding somewhere to host meetings that would accept an unincorporated club without public liability insurance, and also that didn't charge too much to avoid a hefty fee hike for members. After several frustrating leads went nowhere, the Belconnen Soccer Club came to the club's rescue and its first meeting was held there in May 2015.

As this is being written in August 2015 the club is in a transition state, still seeking a longer term home on the southside but recognising the reality of the difficulty in getting support for an unincorporated club. Let's see what the 30 year report brings!

Rod Burgess August 2015

ps. While putting this together I reviewed club newsletters over the past 5 years and was reminded of the consistent high quality of the newsletters - thanks to Warren Hicks, Rob Wignell and John Franze, as well as the many guest editors and contributors, for a great resource.

And special thanks to Norm Fisher for the BBQs and humour.



Southside Camera Club members at the 25th anniversary dinner and meeting, August 2015 (Photo Gary Brook) Pictured are Alison Milton, Ken and Bonnie Crawford, Bev Bayley, Neryl Foy, Paul Rummery, Rob Wignell, Luis Bonilla, Peter and Sheila Cudmore, Giles and Elspeth West, Alan Ford, Brian Moir, Helen Dawes, John Flynn, Dennis Walsh, Gary Brook, Mark Stevenson, Julie Taylor, Warren Hicks, Owen Stanley, Chris Fitzgerald, Iain Cole, Jaunita Moolman, Malcolm Watson, Elita Parszuto, Rod Burgess and Peter McCabe.

Financial members, 2014-2015

ting Dawes ra Fernand	Ruth Lathlean Madeleine Lees	Karina Pelling David Raff
	Madeleine Lees	David Raff
ra Fernand		= =
ra i Cilialia	Stephen Lees	Rohan Samara
Finger	Dennis Lovatt	Owen Stanley
isher	Ray McNeill	Mark Stevenson
tzgerald	Peter McCabe	Sharyn Sullivan
ОУ	Anne McCarthy	Joyce Taylor
anze	Barry McGloin	Julie Taylor
odyma	Bob McHugh	Jennifer Thompson
auntlett	Jan McKenzie	Denis Walsh
rowder	Alison Milton	Malcolm Watson
Iall	Brian Moir	Duncan West
all	Jaunita Moolman	Elspeth West
Hicks	Ross Murray	Giles West
ugg	Moira Parkinson	Laurie Westcott
Kruse	Elita Parszuto	Rob Wignell
	Finger Fisher Eisher Oy anze Odyma auntlett Fowder Hall Hicks Ugg	Finger Dennis Lovatt Fisher Ray McNeill Itzgerald Peter McCabe Oy Anne McCarthy anze Barry McGloin Odyma Bob McHugh auntlett Jan McKenzie rowder Alison Milton Hall Brian Moir all Jaunita Moolman Hicks Ross Murray Ugg Moira Parkinson



Club members at Tantangara Dam after the stay at Currango Homestead, early 2014. (Photo Shane Baker)



Peter Bliss, Claude Morson and Shane Baker, Vivid Sydney 2014. (Rod Burgess)



Rob Wignell and Bev Bayley, Guthega 2014. (Rod Burgess)

Office Bearers 1990-2015

1990- 96 President: Stephen Lees
Secretary / Treasurer: Madeleine Lees

Newsletter Editor: Graeme Kruse (1993 – 1994)

Rob Gray (1994 – 1996)

John Reed (1996)

1997 President: Ken Crawford

Secretary: Robert Deane
Treasurer: Warren Leyden
Newsletter Editor: John Reed

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Treasurer: Warren Leyden
Newsletter Editor: John Reed

2001 President: Jennifer Thompson

Secretary / Treasurer: Sandie Walters
Publicity Officer: Ken Dickson

2002 President: Jennifer Thompson

Secretary / Treasurer: Madeleine Lees
Publicity Officer: Lisa Gottani

2003 President: Jennifer Thompson

Vice President: Sandie Walter Treasurer: Madeleine Lees

Secretary / Publicity Officer: Lisa Gottani & Nicole Hewitt

2004 President: Giles West

Secretary / Treasurer: Graham Kruse
Publicity Officer: Simon Foale

2005 President: Giles West

Secretary / Treasurer: Graham Kruse
Publicity Officer: Simon Foale

2006	President: Secretary / Treasurer: Publicity Officer:	Paul Livingston Graham Kruse Paul Edstein
2007	President: Secretary / Treasurer: Publicity Officer:	Paul Livingston Graham Kruse Paul Edstein
2008	President: Secretary / Treasurer: Publicity Officer: Web Coordinator:	Rod Burgess Graham Kruse Warren Hicks Warren Colledge & Helen Hall
2009	President: Secretary / Treasurer: Newsletter Editor: Web Coordinator:	Rod Burgess Kim Barnabas Warren Hicks Warren Colledge
2010	President: Treasurer: Newsletter Editor: Web Coordinator:	Shane Baker Kim Barnabas Warren Hicks Denis Lovatt
2011	President: Treasurer: Newsletter Editor:	Shane Baker Kim Barnabas/Iain Cole Warren Hicks
2012	President: Treasurer: Newsletter Editor:	Warren Hicks Iain Cole Rob Wignell
2013	President: Treasurer: Newsletter Editor:	Warren Hicks Iain Cole Rob Wignell
2014	President: Treasurer: Newsletter Editor:	Warren Hicks Iain Cole John Franze
2015	President: Treasurer: Newsletter Editor: Web Coordinator:	Rob Wignell Iain Cole John Franze Brian Moir

President Vice President	Ken Crawford Jennifer Thompson Giles West Paul Livingston Rod Burgess Shane Baker Warren Hicks Rob Wignell Sandie Walters	November 1996 - December 2000 2001 - 03 2004 - 05 2006 - 07 2008 - 09 2010 - 11 2012 - 14 2015 - 2003
Secretary	Robert Deane	November 1996 - December 2000
Treasurer	Warren Leyden Madeleine Lees Graham Kruse Kim Barnabas Iain Cole	November 1996 - December 2000 2003 2004 - 08 2009 - 11 2011 - 15
Secretary /	Sandie Walters	2001
Treasurer	Madeleine Lees	2002
Newsletter Editor	Graeme Kruse Rob Gray John Reed Warren Hicks Rob Wignell John Franze	December 1993 - July 1994 August 1994 - April 1996 May 1996 - December 2000 2009 - 11 2011 - 13 2014 -
Secretary / Publicity Officer	Lisa Gottani	2002
Publicity Officer	Lisa Gottani & Nicole Hewitt Simon Foale Paul Edstein Warren Hicks	2003 2004 – 05 2006 – 07 2008
Web Coordinator	Warren Colledge Denis Lovatt Brian Moir	2008-09 2010 2015

Digital Imaging Special Interest Group

This group was convened in the 2010-15 period by Shane Baker, Graeme Kruse and Denis Lovatt

Midweek Walkabout Group

This group was convened in in the 2011-15 period by Laurie Westcott, Doug Crawford and Rob Wignell.

Life Members of the Southside Camera Club Canberra:



From left: Madeleine Lees, Ken Crawford, Bonnie Crawford and Stephen Lees

In the 2010 – 2015 period Graeme Kruse and Shane Baker were also appointed life members for their significant contributions to the club. Here are Graeme (left) and Shane in action.



