



f22: Southside Camera Club Newsletter

October 2014

Club Meeting – 7:30 pm on Wednesday 8 October 2014
at the Burns Club, 8 Kett Street, Kambah

Events

Monthly Meeting topics for 2014

Meeting Date	Topic	Presenter
8 October	Talk on Lee Miller	Iain Cole John Franze
12 November	TBA	
10 December	Annual General Meeting	Warren Hicks to Chair

September Meeting Report

The September meeting featured a panel discussion on the topic of critiquing photographs. The discussion was very informal with plenty of audience participation and very witty and astute contributions from, amongst others, Shane Baker, Paul Livingston, Ken Crawford and Norm Fisher. The consensus that seemed to emerge was, to my mind at least, that in this club most of us are not over awed by the opinions of so called experts and whilst we all hope to improve, we are not generally worried about producing photos in the style that wins competitions.

I hope that is a fair summary of the flavour of the discussion.

Shane Baker Offered Life Membership

Shane Baker has been a very active club member, including a stint as President. Unfortunately for the club, he and his wife decided to move to Western Australia and by now they will have actually made the move. Warren extolled Shane's sterling services to the club and suggested that he be offered life membership. This was enthusiastically endorsed by the members present and the decision was ratified.

Hopefully, with modern communications and the Internet, Shane will not be totally lost to us.

Treasurer's Report

Iain Cole reported that as of the end of August the club had \$2,659 in the bank and had earned the impressive sum of \$0.69 in interest.

Monthly Excursions for 2014

Date	Event	Location	Coordinator	Comments
October	Spring snow photographs	Guthega	Rob Wignell	Weekend trip. Stay in Guthega ski lodge.
November				
December				
	Model aircraft photography (in flight action)		Rob Wignell	Some time in Autumn. Normally Sunday morning.

October Excursion

Guthega 18 and 19 October

This is a last minute call by Rob Wignell for people who wish to attend the excursion at Guthega, as there are still a few rooms vacant and Rob would welcome some last minute bookings.

Rob has booked his Ski Lodge in Guthega for the Camera Club's exclusive use on the weekend of 18 and 19 October 2014.

The club has had an excursion to the Snowy Mountains during most years for a long while. First, to Thredbo then for a couple of years in Charlotte Pass and for the last five years or so in Guthega.

Guthega is a small village of about a dozen ski lodges, an hotel and some ski lifts. The village overlooks the Guthega Dam (the highest dam in the Snowy River Hydro system) and has panoramic views of some of the highest mountains in Australia. The road to Guthega is sealed except for about 5 Km or a bit more if you take the short cut via the link road from Smiggin Holes.

There are usually snow remnants in the mountains at this time of the year and these add interesting patterns to the mountains. The two shots were taken near Charlotte Pass in early November 2013 on my last ski tour for the year. It is extremely unlikely that there will be any snow on the road at this time of the year.

If you have questions about the location, facilities or activities then please feel free to contact Rob Wignell via email or mobile phone: 0416 055 322. Some members who have been on a Guthega weekend may also be able to answer your questions at the October club meeting, though Rob would appreciate you getting your bookings in before then, if possible.

More information about Guthega, the lodge and accommodation is provided in the attachment at the end of this newsletter.



Shots taken near Charlotte Pass in November 2013 by Rob Wignell

Walkabout Group

walkabout Group Calendar 2014

Date	Location	Organiser
October 16	Tuggeranong Lake	John Franze
November 20	Gordon Pond	Denis Walsh
February 2015	ANU	Laurie Westcott

October Walkabout

The October walkabout will be at at Lake Tuggeranong at 10 am on Thursday 16 October. I will give the location to meet at the next club meeting and also send out a reminder. Lake Tuggeranong has diversity of photographic opportunities including birdlife at Isabella Ponds on the southern end of the lake.

Unfortunately the places are well separated so it may be necessary to split up and drive to the places that interest you. We can meet at the Tuggeranong Hyperdome for coffee at 11.30 am. There is free underground parking at the Hyperdome for up to 2 hours.

Excursion Reports

September Walkabout

Mid Week Walkabout to Gundaroo- 18th September, 2014 – by Bev Bayley

On Thursday 18th September eight member of the Southside Camera Club met at Gundaroo, outside Sally Paskings shop in the main street. It was a beautiful day – sunny and still – just right for photographs.

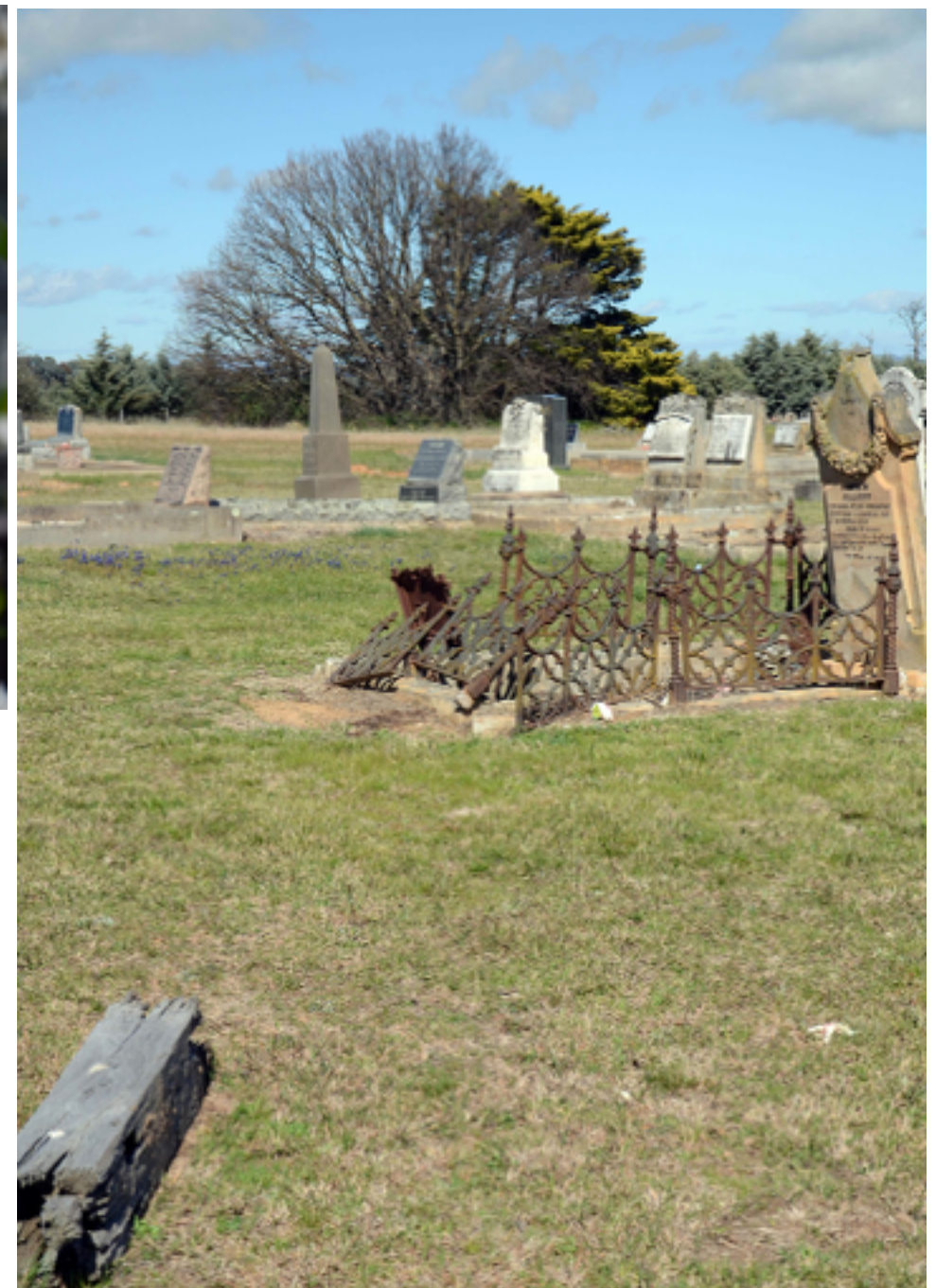
Gundaroo is a reasonably large village, giving plenty of scope for wandering and finding photographic opportunities. A lot of the buildings are quite historical, but probably none more so than Sally Paskins store. This has been used over time to sell a range of items, (recently hand made wooden toys), but they have endeavoured to consistently keep its look as an old rundown example of a previous era, while not letting it get too run-down.

Just out of town was a quaint little cemetery, in Judith Street, which some of us found.

We spent an hour and a half wandering round the streets with our cameras, some venturing further than others. Then at 11.30 we all met at Cork Street Café, the Gourmet Pizza Restaurant, where we each ordered our preferred version of coffee, plus lunch, which we enjoyed in the lovely warm sun at the outdoor tables. These tables were mostly equipped with a lovely big umbrella for shade, but we preferred to enjoy the warmth of the sun. A familiar magpie was unfazed by our close proximity, and a customer's dog was trying to entice anyone interested to throw a ball for him.

After lunch we all went our way, after quite an enjoyable morning.

Below are some photos from this excursion.





September Excursion

Botanic Gardens - Sunday 26 September - by Bev Baley

The Canberra Botanic Gardens are always good value as far as excursions are concerned.

On Sunday 26th September eleven members met at 9.00am between the car park and the kiosk, led by Warren Hicks. The sun was shining, nicely balanced by the slight breeze, so temperature was quite comfortable.

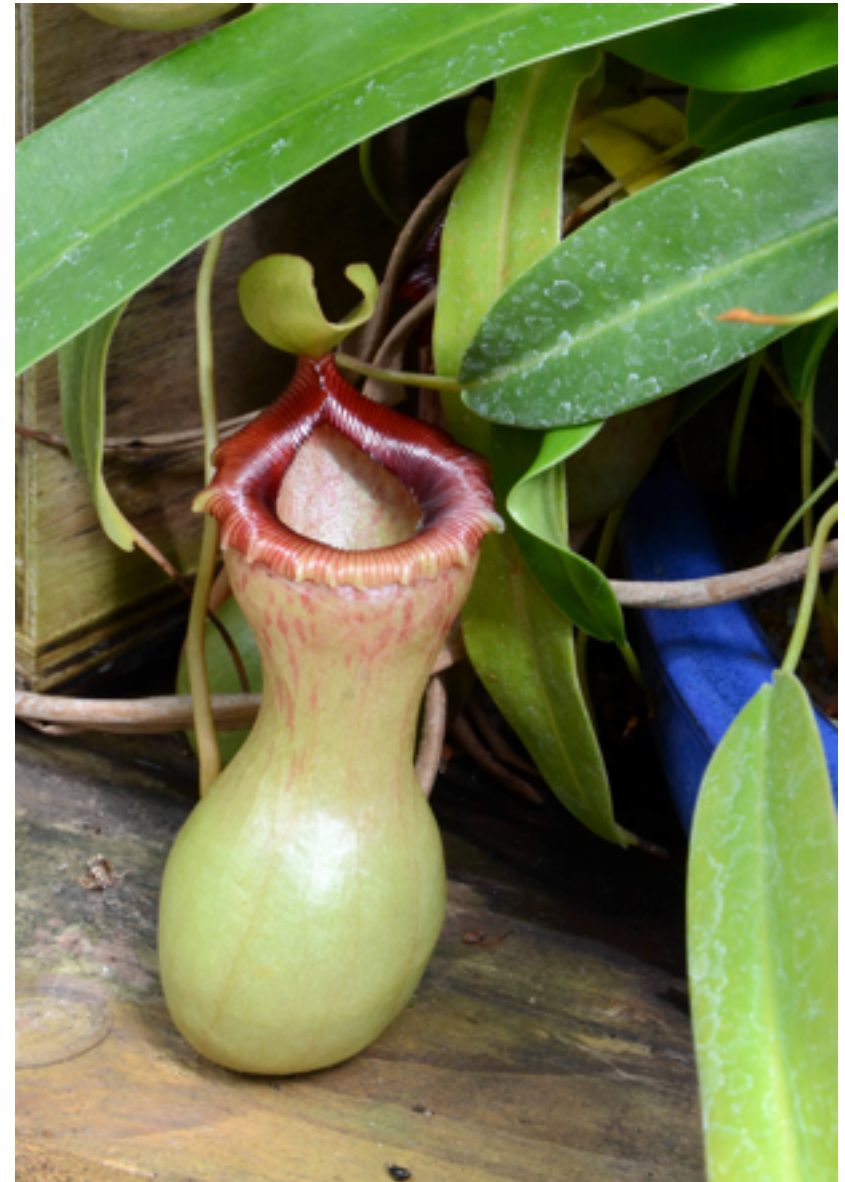
Warren led us to the waterfall area first. Unfortunately the waterfall wasn't running, but it didn't really worry us much, as there was so much else to test our photography skills.

Not least of these was the wildlife; wherever we went there was some bird or creature to view. Nesting season was in full swing. We tried to get photos of a pair of gang gangs high in a eucalypt. There were various parrots nesting, often having chosen surprisingly small tree openings for their nests. We even saw a tawny frogmouth on its' nest high above the path. I had always imagined they nested in a hollow tree, but this was a stick nest on a limb.

There was also a pretty coloured Eastern Water Dragon about half a metre long, who posed for quite a while. Warren took some of us to see the display area of a bower bird, but it disappeared when it saw people approaching.

The next stop were two glass houses, situated just below the Red Centre area we visited in May. The first had warmer climate plants growing in nicely displayed beds in the warm and humid atmosphere of the glass house. The next was filled with pots of orchids, mostly rock orchids, with a profusion of massed white, cream and yellow blooms, filling the whole space. As we slid the door open to enter, we were hit with the strong and heady perfume of these beautiful flowers; but strangely, within a short time the perfume was no longer obvious, as we quickly became accustomed to it. On the back wall were other small orchids set on back pieces. Only a few of these were in flower.

On the way back to our meeting place for coffee at the kiosk at 11.30, we passed more flowers. It seemed most of the plants we passed were in flower, and I was taken, as always, with the great variety of flower shapes, colour, and habit we have in Australia.







We made quite a talkative group seated round the circular table, but eventually we had to take our leave. Another successful day socially, and I'm sure photographically as well.

Thank you Bev for doing both excursion reports this month.

F22 Gallery

Laurie Westcott

Laurie provided me with these photos after our recent Black Mountain Peninsula walk about, but your far from infallible editor forgot to include them last month.





Sheila Cudmore

Sheila has contributed some orchid photos which she took at the Botanic Gardens recently.



Thelychiton falcorostrus



Dockrillia teretifolia yes this does grow this way up!



Dockrillia teretifolia



Thelychiton falcorostrus

Two Photographic Opportunities

For those of you who relish the chance to photograph people engaged in action activities such as Jazzercise/Aerobics, Boxfit (boxing for fitness), Hip Hop, Zumba, Yoga and cycling there is a great opportunity coming up on the weekend of the 11th and 12 of October, at the Stromlo Forest Park Criterion track. This is the annual Hartley Wheel-a-thon, this year called *Hartr8 for Hartley* which raises money for Hartley Lifecare's assistive technology program.

Hartley Lifecare is a locally based organisation, now integrated with the National Brain Injury Foundation, which provides a wide range of services for people with physical or intellectual disability. Their website is at: <http://www.hartley.org.au>.

Hartr8 for Hartley

October 11th & 12th – Stromlo Forest Park Criterion track

The event runs from 12 noon Saturday to 12 noon Sunday. Participants of all abilities are invited to ride, skate, push or pull their preferred mode of wheels starting 12 noon on Saturday till 12 noon on Sunday. It is not, however, compulsory to continually ride for 24 hours. In addition there will be different marathon sessions of Zumba, jazzercise, boxfit, sunrise yoga (ie as the sun is rising on Sunday morning), and hip hop dance class. Hartley expects to have between 50 and 100 people participating in each session.

Hartley Lifecare is very keen for photographers to come along to photograph these events and all they ask is for you to give them copies of your photographs so that they can use them for publicity purposes and to add to their historical collection of photographs of Hartley events over the years. Hartley also undertakes to provide attribution to the photographer wherever and whenever they use your photos. Naturally, copyright will remain with the photographer.

The timetable of events is set out below.

Session Timings	Saturday Start	Saturday End	Sunday Start	Sunday End
VIP lap	12.00 noon	12.15 pm		
Jazzercise/Aerobics	12.30 pm	2.30 pm		
Boxfit	3.30 pm	5.30 pm		
Hip Hop	6.30 pm	8.30 pm		
Zumba Fluoro	9.30 pm	11.30 pm		
Sunrise Yoga			06.00 am	08.00 am
Zumba Finale			10.00 am	12.00 noon
Close			12.00 noon	

If you choose to photograph this event, I will be happy to coordinate getting your photos to Hartley Lifecare

CYCLE CHALLENGE

The Hartley Cycle challenge is an annual event in which teams of cyclists ride from Canberra to Jindabyne on day 1, Jindabyne to Charlotte Pass and back to Jindabyne on day 2, and Jindabyne to Canberra on day 3; a total of 450 kilometres. To minimise traffic congestion the whole event is spread over 4 days, with separate groups of teams leaving Canberra on Friday and Saturday. This is Hartley's main annual fundraising event and has been happening since 2000. Hartley has a regular volunteer photographer, but he can't cover the whole event on his own, so there are many opportunities for people wishing to capture cyclists in action. The photo opportunities which Hartley would greatly appreciate being covered by volunteer photographers are outlined below.

Saturday 29th November- Stage 2

1. Location: Canberra Greyhound Racing Club 6am to 8am.
Photo shot list required: participants arriving, getting ready to roll out, support vehicles setting up gear ready for the weekend, teams rolling out as they head off for their 450 km ride
2. Location: Monaro Highway from Canberra to Cooma.
Photo shot list: capture bunches of cyclists as they pedal along the Monaro Hwy heading for Bredbo Showground and then Cooma Showground.
3. Location: Bredbo Showground.
Photo shot list: capture teams as they roll in after their first 87 kms of the ride; capture Teams resting at compulsory meal stop; capture volunteers and Hartley clients at meal stop cheering on the teams.
4. Location: Cooma Showground.
Photo shot list: capture teams as they roll in for compulsory lunch stop; capture Teams resting; capture volunteers and Hartley clients at meal stop cheering on the teams; capture teams as they roll out after meal stop and tackle the last leg of Day.

Sunday 30th November – Stage 1

1. Location: Canberra Greyhound Racing Club between 1.30 and 4pm.
Photo shot list required: capture Teams as they return home from their challenge of riding 450kms and helping to fundraise for HLC.
2. Location: Monaro Highway from Cooma to Canberra.
Photo shoot list required: capture Teams as they return along the Monaro Hwy on their Day 3 of the event.

Sunday 30th November – Stage 1

1. Location: Canberra Greyhound Racing Club between 1.30 and 4pm.
Photo shot list required: capture Stage 1 Teams as they return home from their challenge of riding 450kms and helping to fundraise for HLC.
2. Location: Monaro Highway from Cooma to Canberra
Photo shoot list required: capture Teams as they return along the Monaro Hwy on their Day 3 of the event.

Monday 1st December – Stage 2

1. Location: Canberra Greyhound Racing Club between 1.30 and 4pm.
Photo shot list required: capture Teams as they return home from their challenge of riding 450kms and helping to fundraise for HLC.
2. Location: Monaro Highway from Cooma to Canberra (teams will leave Cooma no later than 10am and continue to Bredbo Showground for lunch then on to Canberra arriving back any time between 2 to 4pm.
Photo shoot list required: capture Stage 2 Teams as they return along the Monaro Hwy on their Day 3 of the event.

Please note that the same conditions apply for photographs taken of the Hartley Challenge as for those taken of Hartr8 for Hartley. Namely: photographs you give to Hartley Lifecare may be used for publicity purposes and to add to their historical collection of photographs of Hartley events. Hartley undertakes to provide attribution to the photographer wherever and whenever they use your photos. Copyright will remain with the photographer.

DigSig - 2014

At the September Digsig I gave a presentation about exposing to get the best dynamic range from very high contrast photographs taken with a digital camera. About 8 members turned up. Unfortunately no one brought along any photos for *Show and Tell*, though Digsig provides an excellent opportunity for any members wishing to get constructive advice about their photography.

At this stage no Digsig is scheduled for October.

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/>

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

Advertisement (Framing Courses)

Photo framing courses are on offer at a 20% discount to Southside Camera Club members if they book into the upcoming courses on the 12th & 13th November, at the Strathnairn Homestead Art Gallery in Holt. This would drop the price from \$179.00 to \$143.20, so that's a pretty good saving. To get this discount you must book by telephone (Toll Free 1800 033 619) and must mention the club.

Introduction Course: Wednesday November 12th

Creative Course: Thursday November 13th

The person making this offer is **Trevor Penney** of

FrameCo

20 Trade Place,

Vermont, Vic, 3133

BH 03 9873 1685 Mob 0412890012 Toll Free 1800 033 619

Advertisement (Photography Courses)

For those interested, courses being offered by PhotoAccess can be found at::

<http://www.photoaccess.org.au/?q=Courses>

There are still a number that haven't commenced.

News

Current and forthcoming exhibitions

National Portrait Gallery

Arcadia: Sound of the sea

14 August - 26 October 2014

Arcadia is an exhibition of lyrical, richly-textured photographs by John Witzig, co-founder of Tracks magazine and founder of SeaNotes, with huge ink drawings by Nicholas Harding and psychedelic film footage by Albert Falzon. Imbued with a Romantic conception of the awesome and spiritually restorative force of the sea, it expresses the free-spirited, revolutionary character of a group of young and perfectly-formed Australian surfers in the early 1970s.

[Macquarie Digital Portraiture Award](#)

22 August - 23 November 2014

The winner of the *Macquarie Digital Portraiture Award* for 2014 is Tiyan Melissa Kilie Baker. This award is for digital portraiture and the rules specifically state that still digital photos are not acceptable, however I think that many members may find it of interest.

The Macquarie Digital Portraiture Award is an annual event intended to extend traditional notions of portraiture and reflects the National Portrait Gallery's commitment to fostering emerging artists with an interest in contemporary technology. With the generous support of The Macquarie Group Foundation, the National Portrait Gallery is offering a \$10,000 bursary to the artist judged to have made the most outstanding screen-based digital portrait. The Exhibition of the awardee and selected finalists will be displayed at the National Portrait Gallery from 22 August to 23 November 2014.

National Gallery of Australia

Photography Gallery:

Gifted artists: Donations by Patrick Corrigan AM 2011-2013

A group of 24 contemporary photographs from the Patrick Corrigan gift under the cultural gifts program opened 14 August and will probably be on view until January.

Australian businessman, philanthropist and collector, Patrick Corrigan AO has been building collections since the early 1970s. His areas of interests range widely, from books, manuscripts, bookplates and memorabilia to the visual arts with particular focus on Indigenous painting and photomedia. In 2010 he offered the National Gallery the opportunity to select works from his extensive collection of Australian contemporary photomedia. Over the next three years seventy-six photographs were chosen, ranging in date from 1982 to 2008. A selection has been chosen for this display.

Of the twenty-eight artists represented in the gift Corrigan acquired works by photographers whose careers were well-established as well as collecting emerging artists, who continue to acknowledge his goodwill and practical support at a critical time in their careers. The Corrigan collection has especial value in the national collection because of its range and regional representation. The National Gallery holds one of the most extensive collections of Australian photographs from the 1970s to the present and the Corrigan gift has contributed to this holding in a significant way.

National Archives of Australia

[Faces of Australia](#) (browse the faces online from this link)

Our Memory of a Nation exhibition in Canberra includes Faces of Australia, a wall of photographs of Australians at work and at play.

Faces of Australia includes 227 images chosen from around three million images in the National Archives' collection. Most were taken by photographers working for the Australian News and Information Bureau in the 1950s and 60s, who travelled around the country to record life in an increasingly prosperous postwar nation. Their images show the face the Australian Government wanted to present to the world – people at work and at play, commemorating and celebrating.

Canberra Museum and Gallery (London Circuit Civic)

Growing up in Downer

Sat 7 June – Sun 19 October

Open Collection Gallery

The Ault family came to Canberra in the early 1960s and made their home in the new suburb of Downer. Using historical material from the Ault Family Collection, *Growing up in Downer* tells the story of Christina Ault's childhood, adolescence and early adulthood. Kept safe in a tea chest and cabin trunk for many years, these photographs give a rich insight into a family, a suburb, and the growing city of Canberra.

Watershed: Lake Burley Griffin 1964 -2014

Sat 6 September – Sun 23 November

Gallery 5

This exhibition celebrates the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of Lake Burley Griffin. It touches lightly on a time before the lake then explores the design and creation of Lake Burley Griffin and its special place in the heart of the Canberra community.

Online Resources

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

Following on from our discussion at the September meeting about Photo critiquing, Paul Livingston has found the following links about this topic.

How to Write a Photography Critique

<http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Photography-Critique>

Guide to Critiquing Photographs

<http://www.photosig.com/go/main/help?name=tutorial/t10>

How to critique photographs in 3 Key Steps

<http://www.silberstudios.tv/blog/2011/05/how-to-critique-photographs-a-key-ayp-club-feature/>

Click it up a notch

<http://clickitupanotch.com/how-to-critique/>

How to deliver a useful photo critique

<http://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-deliver-a-useful-photo-critique/>

For those who prefer print the following link covers a variety of photography styles and photographers

<http://www.artbook.com/catalog--nonfiction---criticism--photography-criticism--theory---history.html>

Rob Wignell has sent in a link that will be of relevance to anyone who wants to ensure that film remains available in the future for those who haven't been seduced by the ease of digital photography.

It is well worth having a look at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/filmferrania/100-more-years-of-analog-film>.

Member Profile

The subject of our profile this month is Norm Fisher. Norm has provided us with a very interesting article and some historical photographs.

I was born in 1934 in the borough of Kensington, London. I grew up as a child in London during World War 2. We were evacuated out of London during the Blitz into the country, which was more of a safe haven.

In 1944 my family moved down to Kent, on the south east coast of England. My brothers and I used to watch the German Doodle Bugs (Buzz Bombs) coming over the English Channel towards London, and saw the daring RAF pilots flying their Spitfires and Hurricanes trying to ditch these bombs into the Channel by flying close beside them and tilting their wings. I have since learnt that this manoeuvre was first attempted by an Australian pilot based with the RAF. Details of this story are displayed in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

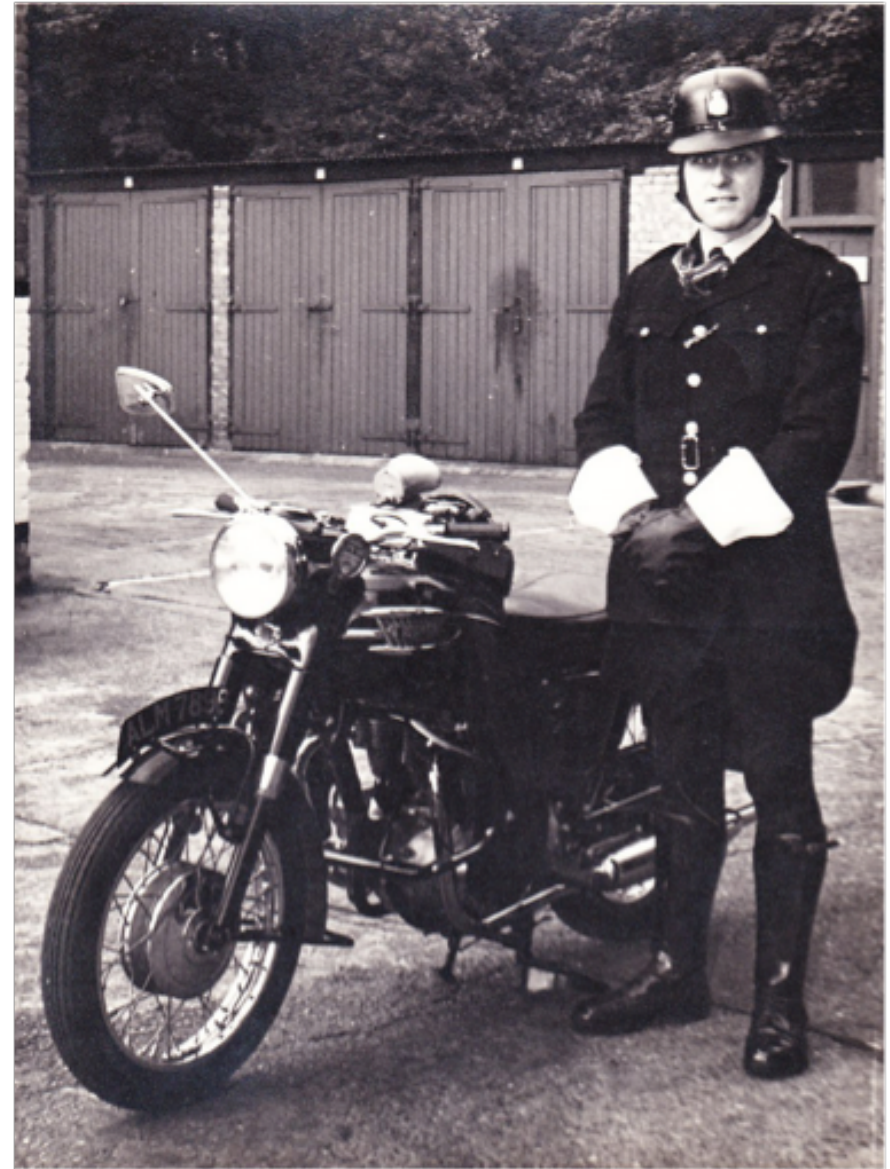
In my later years at school I studied agriculture which was my first love. I cycled 33 kms each way to college during the summer months – I became very fit!

Turning 18 years of age, I was conscripted to National Service and served with the Royal Scots Greys Regiment for 3 years, serving 2 years in Egypt, Lybia and Jordan. It was during my army service that I bought my first camera, the old faithful Kodak Box Brownie, which I still possess.

The following two shots were taken with my Box Brownie in Jordan, 1954.



On being demobilised in 1955 I joined the London Metropolitan Police and became a 'Bobby', later specialising in Road Accident Investigation. In 1970 a big decision was made and I bought my family over to Australia, emigrating as £10 Poms.



Although I have always possessed a camera, I only became serious about photography in 1988 when a close friend asked me to work with her in her photographic studio. It was during this time that I learnt more about the techniques of photography – specifically studio work and wedding photography.

In 1994 I moved to Queensland where I joined the Ipswich Photographic Society. It was at this club that I learnt much more by entering competitions every month. This was a good exercise in my opinion as I received critique from expert photographers suggesting ways to perhaps improve the photos. I have a good sense of humour and take nothing too seriously when comments are made regarding my photos. Having said that, things said about your photos should not be taken to heart – if they are good enough for you to show them to other people, then they must be good!

I am often asked how I manage to take such fantastic photos! Well, there is only one answer to that question – “Because I use a Pentax!”

Cheers

Norm

Thanks very much Norm for supporting *Member Profile*.

If you find these member profiles to be of interest, then please consider becoming a participant. **I am particularly keen to right the gender imbalance which exists at the moment, as there has only been one profile of a female member.**

And Finally ...

Laurie Westcott sent me some information that given the age profile of our club members, may be particularly relevant.

WOULD YOU RECOGNISE A STROKE?

Blood Clots/Stroke - They Now Have a Fourth Indicator, the Tongue

STROKE: Remember the 1st Three Letters.... S. T. R.

STROKE IDENTIFICATION:

During a BBQ, a woman stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics) >>> she said she had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes.

They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, Jane went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening.

Jane's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital - at 6:00 pm Jane passed away.

She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Jane would be with us today. Some don't die. They end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

It only takes a minute to read this...

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally.

He said the trick was getting a stroke recognised, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough...

RECOGNISING A STROKE

Thank God for the sense to remember the '3' steps, STR.

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. *Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster.* The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognise the symptoms.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognise a stroke by asking three simple questions:

*S *Ask the individual to SMILE.*

*T *Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently)*

(i.e. It is sunny out today.)

*R *Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.*

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call the emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the operator.

New Sign of a Stroke ----- Stick out Your Tongue

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue >> If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

Note from the Editor

I hope you like the change in font for the major headings.

If any of you are interested in taking photographs at Hartr8 for Hartley, mentioned on page 14, please let me know so that I can advise Hartley Lifecare. I am happy to organise getting your best photographs to Hartley.

Cheers

John

Club Office Bearers

Position	Person	Contact details
President	Warren Hicks	president@gmail.com 0427 883 689
Secretary/Treasurer	Iain Cole	icole@grapevine.com.au
Newsletter Editor	John Franze	jxk@netspeed.com.au 0434 558 925

Southside Camera Club – Guthega Weekend - Spring 2014

Saturday 18 October and Sunday 19 October 2014

I have booked the Australian Ski Club lodge (now called Twynam Lodge) for the weekend of Saturday 18 October and Sunday 19 October. The logic of our booking system means that we need to book for the nights of Friday 17 October and Saturday 18 October.

Background

I have organised a few visits to Guthega in past years and these have been social and photographic successes. I am a member of the ski lodge where we stay.

Twynam Lodge has a panoramic view over the Guthega Dam and across the dam to the main range. There are 14 bedrooms. Ten rooms have double beds and four have two single beds. Four of the rooms with double beds also have a loft with two additional single beds (usually used as rooms for families). Each bedroom has its own en-suite bathroom. Pillows and blankets are supplied but visitors need to bring their own linen, pillowcases, towels and food.

The lodge operates on a co-operative basis and each room has a duty allocated to it. Rooms should be left at least as clean as they were when you arrive. The duty allocated to your room is listed inside the door. (Whoever scores the role of shovelling snow off the balcony should help out with something else - unless there really is snow on the balcony!!!)

Booking Arrangements:

I will take bookings on a first come first served basis. In your booking nomination I need to know if you will stay one night (Saturday) or two nights (Friday and Saturday); the names of all that you plan to bring; the best phone number to contact you on (I prefer a mobile contact); and if you need a lift or if you can provide a lift for someone else.

If you are coming by yourself, please let me know if you are prepared to share a room (if there is a lot of demand, I may need to ask singles to share.)

Payment can be made to me when we get to Guthega. I prefer payment by cheque but funds transfer will also be OK.

The cost is \$28 per person per night (we have a group discount this year). You are welcome to stay on Friday night, Saturday night or both.

In budgeting for this weekend don't forget that the National Parks Service charges \$16 per day for entry fees (seniors should ask for a discount). I think that seniors living in NSW get in free.

Catering

We have to cater for ourselves. The club has a well equipped kitchen area and you will need to bring all the food you use because the nearest shops are at Jindabyne (a 45 minute drive away). The club provides basics such as cooking oil, jams, some condiments and some staples like rice, pasta and oats.

Each room has its own fridge and food cupboards located near the kitchen.

Sadly, the Guthega Alpine Hotel next door to the Ski Club is closed in October so we won't be able to dine there on Saturday night.

Photographic Opportunities

Guthega is in the heart of the main range of the Australian Alps. It is rugged country and in mid October there is usually snow on the tops of nearby mountains. It is possible, but unusual, to have snow near the lodge as late as this. It is probably too early in the Spring to see massed wildflowers but there are usually some spring flowers out by this time of year. With cloudy weather the scenery can get dramatic. There are always lots of small things that catch peoples eyes and the millions of burnt snow gums from the 2003 fires often produce great black and white shots in early morning and late afternoon sunshine.

This weekend is only a month after the Spring Equinox and the second weekend of daylight saving. Consequently, sunrise is around 7:00 am and a great chance for sunrise shots without having to get up ridiculously early.

One of my main reasons for choosing this time of the year is that the patches of remnant snow can create interesting patterns on the mountains for panoramic shots. Though likely to be visible from the Guthega area, these are especially accessible at Charlotte Pass which is only about 30 minutes drive away.

There are good walking tracks starting at the lodge and further opportunities by driving to nearby locations. The weather always has a big effect on what we can do.

One possibility, if we get a really nice day, is to drive to Thredbo and catch the chairlift. Within a few kilometers of the top station is some dramatic scenery. The popular walk is to Mt Kosciusko but the more interesting landscape takes you south towards Dead Horse Gap then along the edge of the Thredbo River back to the chairlift.

On a clear night there are far more stars than can be seen than in Canberra. Bring a tripod for this.

Weather and other considerations

I can't stress how important it is to be prepared for a range of different weather.

It can get cold and wet (it occasionally snows in October) it can also get hot. Guthega is at 1700 metres above sea level so it is very easy to get sunburnt even on an overcast day. Long sleeves, a hat and sunscreen are essential.

A second reason for having long sleeves is to keep the mountain blowfly (called the March fly) off your arms and legs. It is slow moving and easily brushed off but it is persistent and its bite can hurt. If you really don't like flies then a fly net attached to your hat (available at most camping stores) is a good idea as is strong insect repellent.

A waterproof jacket is essential and a layer of warm clothing is good to have available in your car or at the lodge if we are close to those. Carry them in a small back pack if we are further afield.

Bring a 600ml or bigger bottle of water (I don't recommend drinking the stream water).

Transport

I plan to leave Canberra early on Friday afternoon and can take up to 2 others with me. I will act as a coordinator for putting those who need a lift in contact with those who can give a lift. Don't forget to let me know if you need a lift when you e-mail your booking.

Rob Wignell email: rob_wignell@hotmail.com mob: 0416 055 322