U3A(CANBERRA) CAMERA CLUB

Communiqué

Public Version - December 2017

Happy Festive Season

Let's hope Santa brings you lots of photo goodies and the Weather Gods good light for photo opportunities. And to all, Health and Happiness in the New Year, may your resolutions be good ones and all your journeys safe!

Where is your camera when you fly?

It was reported in late October that the International Civil Aviation Organization is investigating the dangers of fire when personal electronic devices (such as tablets, laptops, cameras etc. – anything larger than a smart phone) are carried on aircraft as checked luggage. The danger from lithium metal or lithium ion batteries overheating and setting fire bad enough to endanger the safety of the aircraft has also been found to be much greater if substances such as rubbing alcohol, hand sanitizer, and nail polish remover are included in the luggage. Tests indicate that fires created in such circumstances can reach 594 °C which is close to the melting point of aircraft aluminium. Fires caused in this way are believed to have been responsible for 3 cargo jet crashes and 4 pilot deaths since 2006.

A preliminary recommendation from the Dangerous Goods Panel of ICAO is that these devices be transported as carry-on only and be banned from checked luggage. While this might not affect most of us as travellers with only small cameras and other equipment which we probably include in our carry-on bag anyway, professional photographers, photo-journalists (and nature photographers) who normally carry much larger, heavier equipment might find this ban very inconvenient. Deliberations are continuing.

New Zealand Photo Tours

Call it "spam" if you like, but the Club has received an unsolicited email inviting our members to take advantage of a photo tour company based in Auckland, NZ., which might be of interest to anyone planning a trip to the Land of the Long White Cloud. The company's web page can be accessed at https://www.nzphotographytours.com/
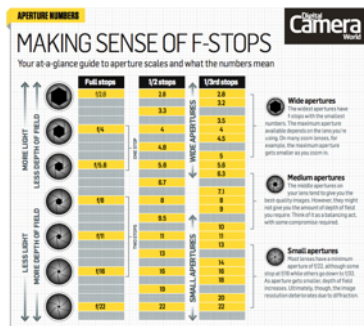
Making Sense of f-stops.

Understanding f-stops can be confusing for even the experienced photographer. It takes a while to understand that there are f-stops and then fractions of them listed among the numbers engraved on the barrel of your lens. This "Cheat Sheet" published by *Digital Camera World*, a British publication, might help sort the confusion.

It is important to understand that each f-stop lets in half the amount of light as the stop above it, but this applies only to those values shown in the "Full Stops" column on the left. The other are fractions - half stops and one-third stop. The article and a downloadable large version of the cheat sheet can be found at: http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/cheat-sheet-how-to-understand-f-stops

Kit Bag Companion on Landscapes

Another "cheat sheet" published by *Digital Camera World* might be a helpful addition to members' camera bags considering the first part of 2018 will be focussed on landscape photography. This "Kit Bag Companion" is full of helpful advice and can be downloaded from

http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/cheat-sheet-landscape-checklist

Keep Your Camera Safe in Sub-Zero Temperatures

An article by Quintin Lake comes as a timely warning for those of us heading north for a White Christmas. Photography when it is warm indoors but freezing outside can be fraught with difficulties. Fingers that don't work so well in the cold, condensation on your lens, batteries don't work as well…Check out the precautions and remedies outlined in Lake's article at https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/camera-equipment-tips-in-low-temperatures/

More "*Adobe* Coffee Break" Tips

Adobe appear to be sponsoring posts all over the place to promote their new *Lightroom.cc,* and so it is no surprise to see more "Coffee Break" tips in this *Digital Camera World* newsletter. I don't know if these tips will work in *Lightroom Classic* because the article specifically says *Lightroom.cc* but it is

worth looking at what the maestros suggest. These tips include how to remove spots with the Spot Removal Tool, the use of Split Tones, Virtual Copies, and how to straighten horizons. By the looks of it, these "how tos" are nothing new to most of us but if you are not so familiar with *Lightroom*, these brief videos might be of interest.

http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/learn-top-photo-editing-tips-and-tricks-from-top-instagrammers-using-adobe-lightroom-cc-part-2?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=19532&utm_term=8376705&utm_content=349762

Choosing a Calibrator

It is important to calibrate monitors regularly. Shifts in colour happen so subtly over time that you cannot be sure what you see now is what you saw even a month ago. By maintaining the colours constant on your monitor you can be more certain that what is on your screen will be what you get when the image is printed.

However, calibration devices are expensive. For example, *dpReview,* has just announced the release of the new i1Studio which, in their terms, is "an all-in-one spectrophotometer designed to make it easy to color calibrate a variety of devices—including projectors, scanners, monitors, printers, and mobile devices."

https://www.dpreview.com/news/3274359913/x-rite-i1studio-an-all-in-one-spectrophotometer-that-can-calibrate-all-your-devices

Reliable calibrating devices are never cheap. This spectrophotometer and the bundle of software and standard colour chart is priced at US$490. For what it says it does, that is a good price compared to other, less reliable and more limited devices on the market. However, unless you have a high-end monitor such as the new BenQ SW271 27" 4K monitor or, better still, one of the Eizo ColorEdge range, the Rolls Royce of the species, you probably would not get your money's worth using one of these advanced spectrophotometers.

It is worth checking the advice on the *Image Science* web site (https://imagescience.com.au/products/calibrators/calibrator-recommendations). This Melbourne-based firm not only supplies a range

of calibrators but at the same time offers very sound advice, even to the point of advising me against buying an [X-Rite i1Display Pro](). They suggested that since I had only an iMac, the advanced features of these more professional calibrators would not be applicable. The alternative, cheaper proposal (AU$199) was a DataColor Spyder 5 of which they said:

The DataColor Spyder 5 Express offers a very affordable colour management system and if you're on a budget it's the best choice. Like most cheaper calibrators it does most of its work in profiling rather than calibration, but it's the best budget option in terms of accuracy and reliability - it is slightly slower to use, but the quality is well worth the extra time. The software is very, very simple to use and is great for first time users as you can just follow the prompts. The wizard interface will get you going fast, and since there are basically no options, it's hard to get anything wrong during the process.

The New *Lightroom* Ecosystem

A slightly alarming article (extracted from the *Lightroom Magazine*) by Bob Sylvan — [https://lightroomkillertips.com/new-lightroom-whole-new-ecosystem/]() — outlines the history of the program and then goes into what the revisions imply for those of us who rely on it to bring out the best in our photographs.

Personally, I found this a difficult read. Parts of it are technical but no doubt very useful for those of us who (a) understand it and (b) use those functions and tools. With a bit more study, probably all would become clear.

However, my growing alarm is the possible threat that *Adobe* will eventually locate everything in the Cloud. Of course, technology will inevitably advance, but what worries me about *Lightroom.*cc is that it holds all our photos hostage in that off-shore Cloud — I like to have them stored here at my place on several external hard-drives. There is also the fact that Cloud storage is expensive. Maybe the price will drop as it becomes more widely used, but an example is the present pricing of the new *Lightroom.cc*

Plan — the subscription costs about $10 a month plus $10 a month for 1 TB of storage in The Cloud.

Fortunately, for those of us relying on *Lightroom,* the new *Lightroom Classic*, comes to us as part of the *Creative Cloud Photography Plan* which gives us both *Lightroom Classic CC,* and *Photoshop CC*, and — because we can also download *Lightroom.cc if we want it* — integration with mobile apps, plus 20 GB of cloud storage for photos if imported through *Lightroom CC* and mobile devices. All that will cost us the $10 we have been paying on our present subscription. Additional storage plans will be available for both subscription plans in the near future. So, it seems, *Lightroom Classic* is relatively good value for money and let's hope it stays that way!

Posing Men

Taking photos of people is one of the things we photographers do most often yet posing is perhaps the most difficult part of the process. Subjects can be nervous and don't know how to deport themselves so you have to tell them how to stand, sit, turn their head and probably the most difficult thing of all, what to do with their hands. Photographing women and children is often easier than photographing men: men are inclined to the more self-conscious (which is not a good look) and even resistant to posing for the camera. An article on *Digital Photography School*'s newsletter gives 21 sample poses for men. It might help, not only the photographer but the subject also, to look at these drawings and together decide which will be the best of the bunch. Try it on Santa!

https://digital-photography-school.com/21-sample-poses-to-get-you-started-with-photographing-men

Yes, there are only 16 drawings on this illustration but there are more if you go to the article itself. Also, at the bottom of the post there are links to other "lessons" including posing women, children, couples and groups.

Finding/sorting your Photos

There are many browsers on the market but if you work in RAW, viewing your images is very slow. A recent app which makes viewing, finding (and culling) very fast is *Fast Raw Viewer* https://www.fastrawviewer.com/ (US$14.99).
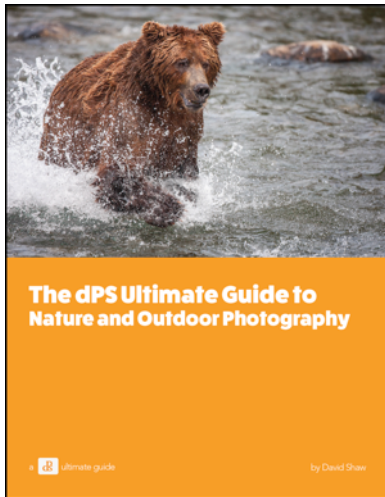
Free eBook on Nature and Outdoor Photography

A free eBook called *The dPS Ultimate Guide to Nature and Outdoor Photography* can be downloaded from

https://digital-photography-school.com/free-guide-nature-outdoor-photography/

The *Guide,* by David Shaw and published by the *Digital Photography School,* covers Landscape, Macro and Wildlife photography. It is well-written and illustrated with some very good photos.
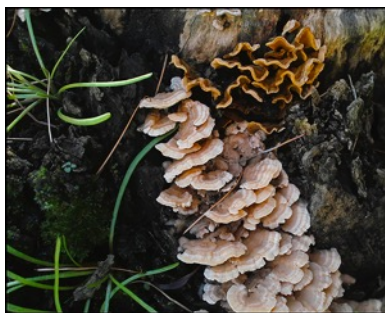
Exhibition by Brenda Runnegar

Small Worlds: An exhibition of photographs of Mosses, Lichens, and Fungi, by Camera Club member, Brenda Runnegar opens on 10th January and runs until 4th February 2018. The exhibition will be at the Visitor Centre, Australian National Botanic Gardens.

9 Best Apps for Mobile Phone Photography

In a post on *Digital Photography School* newsletter, Holly Higbee-Jansen recommended what she considers the 9 best apps for mobile phone photography. Her top recommendation was *Camera+* for IOS (unfortunately, not available for Android) which she described thus:

> *This app allows you to control separate focus and exposure points, one of the secrets to good mobile phone photography. You can also use additional features such as selective focus, exposure compensation, and exposure lock. I use Camera+ on every picture I take.*

For the full 9 apps (including Android compatible), go to:
https://digital-photography-school.com/9-best-apps-mobile-phone-photography

New Exhibitions at *The Photography Room*

Michael Masters: *Black Mountain*   Belinda Pratten: *Noddies on Heron*

New exhibitions by four photographers which opened on November 26th *The Photography Room* will run right up to December 24th at The Old Bus Depot Markets, Kingston. Photographers are: Susan Henderson (*Looking Closer*); Michael Masters (*B&W Landscapes Continued*); Mark Mohell (*Trans*) and Belinda Pratten (*The Birds*). This last, *The Birds*, is an homage to the famous movie by Alfred Hitchcock of the same name. Gallery is open Sundays 10am-4pm and by appointment.

Do you experience *Pareidolia*?

If you see faces in the clouds or even in the embers of a camp fire you are experiencing *pareidolia.*
An entertaining article on the subject by Canberran photographer Megan Kennedy appeared recently on *Digital Photography School* at

https://digital-photography-school.com/pareidolia-in-photography

While a favourite subject for photographers, *pareidolia* is an aspect of the phenomenon psychologists call "projection", that is, where inner thoughts and tensions, often unconscious, are externalised. The famous ink-blot test, the Rorschach, depends on this function of the mind. On a less serious note, *pareidolia* can be fun, especially if we can photograph what we see. My 2013 experience at the greengrocer's is an example.

NIK Software (Silver Efex Pro 2) Re-Born

The suite of programs *Nik Software* (which includes *Silvere Efex Pro 2)* has been bought from Google by DxO who plan to continue to upgrade it from about the middle of next year. Presumably, this will come at a price but the good news is that you can still download the suite for free and, if you are interested in at least looking at the upgraded version, you can submit your email and DxO will tell you when it is available.

https://nikcollection.dxo.com/

Alternatives to *Lightroom*

With Adobe's change of heart and now pushing subscription/Cloud versions of their products, many photographers are casting about for alternatives, especially to *Lightroom*. Over the Festive/Silly Season you might be interested to take a preliminary look at possible alternatives.

- ACDSee Photo Studio Ultimate https://digital-photography-school.com/acdsee-photo-studio-efficient-raw-workflow-professionals/
- Luminar: https://www.digitaltrends.com/photography/macphun-luminar-2018-review/
- Luminar home page: https://macphun.com/luminar
- ON1: http://lifeafterphotoshop.com/on1-photo-raw-2017-review/ (There are some less favourable reviews)
- Topaz Labs: http://www.topazlabs.com/ (not an alternative but interesting way of augmenting what *Photoshop* does).
- DxO: https://www.dxo.com/us/photography/photo-software/dxo-photolab (This French company is famous for providing camera/lens corrections for a very wide range of equipment. These can be accessed at https://www.dxomark.com/best-lenses-under-13000-dollars) DxO Prime is also highly rated as a noise reducing program – http://www.dxo.com/us/photography/photo-software/dxo-opticspro/features/prime
- Capture One: https://www.phaseone.com/en/Products/Software/Capture-One-Pro/Highlights.aspx (At twice the price of *Lightroom* this is more for professionals)
- Affinity Photo: https://affinity.serif.com/en-gb/photo/

- Darktable : http://www.darktable.org/
- Olympus Viewer 3: Free download for people with Olympus cameras: https://unlockingolympus.com/2017/08/olympus-viewer-3-vs-lightroom/

There are other programs around —— the venerable *Corel Draw,* for example. They all do more or less the same jobs and to varying levels of sophistication. Some, like *Photoshop* and *Lightroom* are based on 20th Century programming, some on 21st Century stuff. Worth looking and if there is a free Trial download, take one or two for a spin.

The Unflinching Gaze

From time to time I teach a course in the History of Photography. One of the last sessions refers not only to the conventions about which body parts and what kinds of bodies can be shown but also how male and female nudes must be posed in conventional ways. With this in mind, it was pleasing (but regrettably too late) to see that the Bathurst Regional Gallery recently hosted what is probably a landmark exhibition of photography. Called *The Unflinching Gaze: Photo Media & the Male Figure* closed on 3rd December but John McDonald's review in the Sydney Morning Herald is well worth reading.

http://johnmcdonald.net.au/2017/the-unflinching-gaze/

To quote McDonald, "*The Unflinching Gaze* sets out to map the many and various ways the male figure has been portrayed by the camera from 1865 to the present day. The range of work takes us from colonial portraits by Beaufoy Merlin and Charles Bayliss to specially commissioned images by contemporary artists, Liam Benson and Owen Leong." The press release from the Gallery is also informative:

https://www.bathurstart.com.au/images/The_Unflinching_Gaze_PR_BRAG_LOCAL.pdf

If the names Bayliss and Merlin are unfamiliar, they photographed the early gold fields while Benson and Leong are modern-day performance artists who use photography along with other media.

A well-illustrated catalogue is also available from the Gallery.

Bob Hay
Course Leader