

Camera club Communiqué

February 2018 U3A ACT Australia

Landscape?

What is meant by “Landscape”? This is generally fairly liberally defined by exhibitions and competitions. The Australian Photographic Society has the following definition:

Landscape/Seascape - A landscape is a photograph of natural scenery with land and sky based elements displayed in a pictorial fashion. It may include evidence of man, people, animals, even part of the sea provided that none of these additional elements dominate the photograph. A seascape is a photograph of natural coastal scenery, a wave study, or a picture of the open sea, provided always that the sea is the centre of interest of the photograph. People, boats and man-made structures may be present as incidental to the photograph.

Wikipedia has a rather more general definition: *Landscape photography shows spaces within the world, sometimes vast and unending, but other times microscopic. Landscape photographs typically capture the presence of nature but can also focus on man-made features or disturbances of landscapes.*

So, at least for club exhibitions etc., we can probably afford to be a little more generous and also include streetscapes, urban landscapes, man-made landscapes such as parks and gardens, provided of course other elements, such as people, animals etc are not dominant.

Photoshop CC 2018

This year’s iteration of the 30 years old *Adobe Photoshop* is actually the 19th update of what is now the industry standard for the graphics industry and, to some extent, photographers. The new version has many “improvements” although how useful these might be for photographers is somewhat doubtful. For example, they include among others: a curvature pen tool, some new brushes (best of which is probably the new Brush Smoothing

tool), improvements to both the Properties panel and the Select and Mask functions, and perhaps the most useful, support for variable Open Type fonts. *Photoshop CC 2018* also allows editing of 360° images and direct access to the sister product, *Lightroom*. For those of us with subscriptions to *Photoshop*, we will get these new features whether we use them or not; for those using older, stand-alone versions of the program, don't worry, you are not missing much. If you want more detail, see the Creative Blog at <http://www.creativebloq.com/reviews/photoshop-cc?>

Adobe updates *Lightroom* and *Camera Raw*

Last December, Adobe issued a major update for its range of *Lightroom* and *Camera Raw* products. If you haven't already done so, it would be a good idea to take advantage of these improvements. They apply across the whole range (the buzz-word is "ecosystem") including *Lightroom CC* and its smart phone versions, plus *ACR*. New features include the use of advanced artificial intelligence (AI); tone curve adjustments (desktop version only – allows adjustment of red, green and blue channels separately); split toning (you can apply different colour tints to shadow and highlight areas of the image); toning of B&W such as sepia and selenium. There is also support for recent camera models and other features. For more ACR details see <https://helpx.adobe.com/camera-raw/using/whats-new.html#>



Memories of Cameras Past

Many of us have fond memories of cameras and other photographic paraphernalia of years gone by. Some of us indeed, still treasure relics of those years - 35mm SLRs or even rangefinder models, large format, developing tanks, old flash guns.... Bottom drawers and garage cupboards love them all. The Canberra Photographic Collectors' Society every so often holds what they call a "Photographic Fiesta" at which antique and collectable cameras, accessories and photo books of years past and even useable film and digital cameras are on sale at very reasonable prices. For example, high-end technology of yester-year such as a Hassleblad 500C, the one which went to the moon and which most of us could never have afforded in the day, can be found at an affordable price (I bought one just to put on a shelf and say I own a Hassleblad!).

The next Fiesta is on Sunday 25th March, 10.30am – 1.30pm, at the Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson Street, Weston. Admission and parking are free.

Top Cameras for 2017



At the end of each year, *dpReview* runs a poll to determine which of that year's releases are rated the top cameras. For 2017 three cameras came out on top: first, the Sony Alpha a7R111; second, was the Nikon D850; and in third place, the Sony Alpha a9.

These are not cheap cameras: the Sony a7R111 body alone costs US\$3,198.00 and that was a steal compared with the other two: the Nikon, placed second, was a cool \$6,093.90 and the other Sony, \$4,498.00. However, as a mirrorless CMC with a full-sized CMOS sensor, 42.4MP and stabilized, the Sony a7R111 is probably the way of the future.

Dry Mounting Prints

Mounting prints using spray contact adhesive is a messy and sometimes fraught business. All too easily, the print "grabs" the card and you cannot re-position it. And of course, there is always the problem of adhesive on sticky fingers...

Back in the days before the digital flood we darkroom habitués used a product called "dry mounting tissue". This consisted in sheets of tissue paper which had been saturated with shellac and allowed to dry. Cut to suit the size of the print, we tacked it to the back of the print using the tip of an ordinary domestic iron and then placed the print/shellac paper on the cardboard mount. We then covered the print with a sheet of paper (brown, butchers', any kind of clean paper) and ironed the bundle until the shellac had melted and inseparably adhered the print to its backing. This was a simple, clean and precise method of mounting (but note, the household iron had to be plain, not a steam iron or the steam vents marked the print)...

A big advantage of this method was that the shellac provided a barrier between the print and the cardboard so we did not have to buy expensive acid-free Canson or other board. I have prints mounted this way which are now more than half a century old and they show no signs of acid attack.

Worried that ironing would possibly spoil the inks on an inkjet print or even lift the emulsion from its paper backing, I did not explore dry mounting until I saw an article at

<http://www.redrivercatalog.com/infocenter/tips/how-to-dry-mount-mounting-inkjet-prints.html>

This forum article was taken from the book by Chris Paschke, "The Mounting and Laminating Handbook" Third Edition, 2008. It also links to a web page by D&K: <http://www.forframersonly.com/techHelp.asp>. (This will give you a "Not found" message but then do a search "Dry Mounting" and that will take you to a page which shows rolls of dry mounting tissue, sizes and prices).

One problem still remains: Chris Paschke in her article warns that precise temperature control is needed — too hot and the emulsion separates from the RC (ie., plastic) lustre papers (She does not mention what happens with fibre-based papers). Clearly, one needs to buy a professional dry mounting press, but costing more than a very good lens, most of us probably could not justify the cost and will stick to messy spray adhesive.

The Poor Cousin: P-Mode on Digital Cameras

Most often, beginners in digital photography are advised to "get out of Auto" and recommended to set their cameras either to "Aperture Priority" or "Shutter Priority" or, if you really want to be expert, to "Manual Mode". But on digital cameras (certainly dSLRs and CMCs) there is also a "P-Mode" or "Program Mode". Little attention is usually given to this camera capability but it can be a most useful choice as a recent post by Keith Jones on *Picture Correct* suggests. Called *P-Mode on Digital SLR Cameras*, it can be accessed at <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/p-mode-on-digital-slr-cameras/>



Cleaning Your Camera

Most photographers are careful with their cameras but no matter how they are protected from the ill-winds of the world, they inevitably collect grime and dust, especially microscopic dust which can be hard to spot. An excellent article on "detailing" your camera by Graham Wadden on *Picture Correct* can be found at

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/dslr-camera-cleaning-maintenance-tips/>

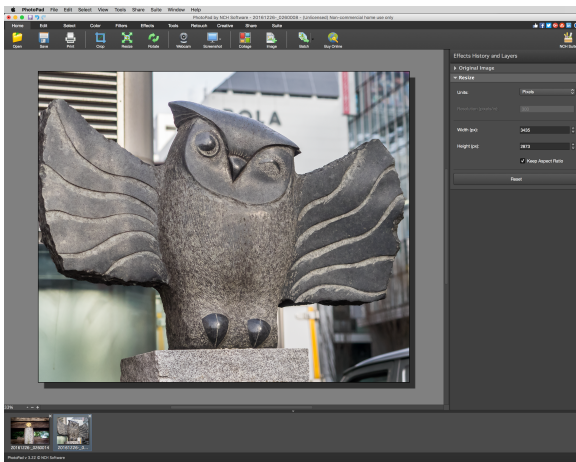


<https://www.headon.com.au/>

Head On Photo Awards and Exhibition

(Photo: Steve Marshall)

The *Head On Photo Festival* will run this year from 5th to 20th May, in Sydney. The Call for Entries is now open with sections for Portrait, Landscape, Mobile and Student. The Awards will be announced on Friday 4th May and the Exhibition opens on Saturday 5th. For details, go to



Another, Cheaper Editor

NCH PhotoPad is an easy, basic editor for digital images and is available for both Mac and Windows platforms. It does many things but perhaps of greatest interest to us is it can crop, rotate, flip and resize; improve photo quality; sharpness, blur, reduce noise, adjust colour balance, adjust exposure, contrast

and more.... The downloaded version is free for individual home use but there is a "Pro" version which costs about \$60. Check it out at <https://www.nchsoftware.com/photoeditor/index.html> or, for a summary and review, <http://www.comparedandreviewed.com/photo-editing-software/nch-photopad/review>

Do You Want Bigger Pictures?

When re-sizing photos, down-sizing is fairly routine and without problems because you are simply removing data; however, if you want to up-size, there are difficulties. Upsizing requires the editor to insert new pixels and this is not always successful. A relatively new program, *ON1 Resize 2017* is, to quote the company, *a lightening-fast photo organizer combined with the industry standard photo enlargement technology "Genuine Fractals"*. It is available for both Mac and Windows, ordinarily costs just under US\$80, on special at the time of writing for US\$59.99. For more information see <https://www.on1.com/blog/category/product-training/on1-photo-raw-2017-resize/>

The “Good Oil” on Street Photography



*I often think that photography enthusiasts talk too much about photographic equipment and too little about the actual photos that they take. So writes Daniel Hoffman in his “Street Photography Tips & Techniques in New York City” post on *PictureCorrect*. He continues: *It may also be relevant to talk about photographic equipment if you are going to buy something new, but in my**

opinion, once you have it just go out into the world and use it!

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/street-photography-tips-techniques-in-new-york-city/>.

Hoffman’s “tips” are offered in this vein and are well illustrated with rather gutsy images from the streets of his home town. (The photo is titled “In 25 years, he’ll be going the other way.”)



Exhibitions at *The Photography Room*

The latest exhibition of photographs at *The Photography Room* opened on January 28th at the Old Bus Depot Markets at Kingston.

Photo: Konrd Lenz: *Self Portrait with 1940s Hoyer Guitar*.

It features the works of Jon Lewis (*Perfect Strangers*) and Konrad Lenz (*Portraits 1993-2017*).

Lenz says: *"I'd just acquired the guitar so I needed a photo with it. Artists have been doing self-portraits long before the selfie trend took the social media world by storm."*

Exhibition: Helen McFadden

An exhibition of her photographs by the President of the Canberra Photographic Society, Helen McFadden, called "Paper Flowers" will be showing from 9th Feb to 4th March 2018 at Kyeema Gallery, Capital Wines, 13 Gladstone Street, Hall. The Gallery is open Thursday to Sunday 10.30am - 5.30 pm.

Skylights into Infinity

This was how the American polymath Oliver Wendell Holmes, once described stereographs, those photos which allow you to see 3D images

when viewed in a special viewer. Stereography was very popular in the latter half of the 19th Century and early 20th, but interest in this art has fluctuated from then on. Many of us remember the '50s and the *ViewMaster* reels of 16mm stereo views.



Now, YI Technology, in partnership with Google's VR team, has announced its Horizon VR180 stereoscopic 3D camera. To quote the Press Release, *The VR180 can capture video and stills at 5.7K/30p with the push of its single record button, with instant stitching and live streaming capability. It has a 2.2" LCD touchscreen, Type-C USB port, and 4 microphones with noise reduction. The VR180 can be accessed using Google's VR180 app.* Price and availability has not been announced.

Click on: <http://www.dpreview.com/news/0819428645/yi-s-horizon-vr180-captures-stereoscopic-3d-stills-and-videos-at-5-7k>

Bob Hay
Co-presenter