

# F22: Southside Camera Club newsletter



Volume 26 – Issue 11: December 2018

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## Meetings

7:30 pm: Woden Senior Citizens Club, 12 Corinna Street, Phillip

Second Thursday of the month for general meetings;  
fourth Tuesday for DIG SIG (3 Grose Street, Deakin).

### ***Next meeting 13 December: Extended Show and Tell***

*This December Club meeting we will be having an extended show and tell. It is an opportunity to show your favourite dozen or so shots from 2018 – perhaps the ones you would put in a calendar if you were making one.*



*Not quite Christmas lights but this fabulous photo by Bob McHugh reminds us that Christmas is near, and so is our annual Christmas party.*

### ***Christmas party: 11:00 am, 9 December Black Mountain Peninsula John Cardiff Close***

This year's Christmas party will be a picnic/BBQ lunch at Black Mountain Peninsula. Bring your own food and drinks; and of course, your camera.

We will be at the picnic area at the bottom of John Cardiff Close – the second right-hand turn after entering Garryowen Drive. There are a number of tables and chairs (some under cover), but it might be wise to bring a blanket or chairs just in case. There are gas BBQs if you wish to cook (unless there is a total fire ban).

We would like to see as many Club members there as possible. This is a chance to catch up with members in a more social setting.

Partners are welcome.

*Alison Milton & Helen Dawes: 0417 626 954*

## ***What's on this month***

Date	Meeting, excursion, walkabout or group event	Speaker/convenor
Sun 9 December	Christmas party: Black Mountain Peninsula – 11:00 am	
Thurs 13 December	Extended Show and Tell	

## Reports

### President's report

We are fast approaching the end of another year and I hope it has been a productive one for you, at least photographically.

This December Club meeting, in keeping with Club tradition, we will be having an extended show and tell. It is an opportunity to show your favourite dozen or so shots from 2018 – perhaps the ones you would put in a calendar if you were making one. I usually try to pick one photo for each month of the year. If you have trouble deciding between two photos in the same month, its fine to show both. For those new members, the meeting agenda will be to briefly cover any Club business raised, then show our photos, have a good break, and show more photos. It is a chance to catch up with friends as well as let them help you know what photos you might submit for this year's Club Yearbook, which Alison has kindly agreed to coordinate next year.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting or at the Club BBQ on Sunday 9 December. If I don't see you, have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Rod Burgess  
President

### Trip/event reports

#### *Portrait photo-shoot at Strathnairn Arts centre*

The November meeting of the Portrait Interest Group was held at the Strathnairn Arts centre on the western edge of Canberra in Holt. We met just outside the main building at 10 am on Saturday 24 November. We were fortunate that the very cold weather of the previous week had largely disappeared, and Saturday morning was relatively warm and pleasant.

A small group of four photographers and two models participated in the morning's photo-shoot. We moved to the back of the main building and took most of the images at and near the pottery kilns, which provided a rustic backdrop to the models' evening wear and 1920s glam. There was good interaction in the small group and we had a lot of fun.

I tried a new technique for interacting with the models, that I found very successful. I provided them with a character brief in keeping with their attire and asked them to change their pose and expression between each photo I took, in keeping with the brief. It helped us both work together to create an image.

A final note, Strathnairn café is once again operating and making good coffee and an excellent lunch!

Malcolm Watson

### DIG-SIG Report

The next DIG SIG meeting is on 26 February 2019, the fourth Tuesday of the month, at the Deakin Football Club.

The topic for the meeting is [Darktable](#), an open source (free) photography workflow application and raw developer, which will be presented by Denis Lovatt.

Later on in the year (the June DIG-SIG meeting) David Raff will give a presentation on two further Lightroom alternatives, [LUMINAR](#) (AUD 84) and [ON1 Photo RAW](#) (USD 100?), which can be purchased outright for AUD 84 and USD 100 respectively.

At the November DIG SIG John Hamilton gave a demonstration of how to create composite images using Adobe Photoshop.

This was followed by three short presentations on Chromatic Aberration, Sharpening and White balance.

Norman Blom  
DIG-SIG coordinator

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### Future events and meetings – 2019

Subject to change. Forward queries/suggestions to [outings@southsidecameraclub.org](mailto:outings@southsidecameraclub.org)

Outings and excursions cannot happen without your help. If you are able to fill the gaps contact:

[outings@southsidecameraclub.org](mailto:outings@southsidecameraclub.org)

Date	Meeting, excursion, walkabout or group event	Convenor/speaker
Sat 26 Jan	Australia Day fireworks	
Sat-Sun 26-27 Jan	Yass International Touch Knockout (sport/fast shutter, portrait/street photography)	
Sun 27 Jan	Bungendore Show (portrait/street, animal photography)	
Thur 14 Feb	Meeting: TBA	
Thur 21 Feb	Walk Commonwealth Park to New Acton	
Sat 23 Feb	Portrait Interest Group	Malcolm Watson
Tues 26 Feb	DIG SIG	Norman Blom
Thur 14 Mar	Meeting: TBA	
Thur 21 Mar	Square Rock	Laurie Westcott
Sat 23 Mar	Portrait Interest Group	Malcolm Watson
Tues 26 Mar	DIG SIG	Norman Blom
Thur 11 Apr	Meeting: TBA	
Tues 16 Apr	DIG SIG	Norman Blom
Thur 18 Apr	Botanic Gardens	Warren C.
Sat 27 Apr	Portrait Interest Group	Malcolm Watson

## Online resources

[Digital Photography Review](#)

[Photoaccess](#) – Manuka Arts Centre

[Red River Paper](#) – sign up to receive emails that contain good articles that are primarily about photographic printing but also on a wide range of photographic topics.

*U3A newsletters*

Each month we get the newsletter from the U3A Camera Club and post it onto our web site as they don't have their own web site. There is a lot of good information in it. If you haven't seen the [U3A newsletter on our web site](#) you might like to have a look.

### From Paul Livingston

Paul has been a regular online resource and also a former President of the Club.

[Taking portraits of strangers: 60 second challenge](#)

[Seven simple Lightroom editing tips to improve your photos](#)

[How to make a 2 in 1 DIY Foldable reflector on a budget](#)

[Make these portable and foldable DIY V-flats for under \\$100](#)

[Quick tip: use sticky page markers to simulate light leaks on your digital camera](#)

[Why you shouldn't do street photography](#)

[Eight qualities that set great photographers apart](#)

[How to fix the bad grip of Sony A7 and A9](#)

[Why you need bricks covered with gaffer tape in your studio](#)

[Squarespace is officially screwing photographers](#)

[Ten tips for getting kids to smile naturally in photos - secrets from a children's photographer](#)

[How to make your own DIY mobile light stand storage cart](#)

[Composition: when should you break the rules](#)

[Cloud photography long exposure tips](#)

[How to shoot portraits with Christmas lights](#)

[Ten photo projects to try when you're stuck inside](#)

[Tips for taking great photos of dogs](#)

[How to create surreal milk bath photography](#)

[Tips for shooting a wedding when you're not a wedding photographer](#)

[How to get started with product photography](#)

## Photography courses

Members will recall that Sam Nerrie, a local professional photographer, gave an interesting presentation on her photography at the October 2018 club meeting. Sam advises she has been recently successful in gaining recognition for her photography:

- Four Honourable Mentions in the International Photography Awards recently. Some of the photos are on Facebook under Sam Nerrie Photography and others are on the website on the Blog section.

[Behaviour and background tips for all age portraits](#)

[Seven tips for taking great travel pictures](#)

[Top 12 image editing skills every photographer should know](#)

[Four reasons to bring your tripod when you travel](#)

[Photographic standard: how to critique your own photos](#)

[Six reasons why you should shoot portraits in landscape orientation](#)

[Yes sensor size matters, but not as much as you think](#)

[Retouchers beware! Photoshop 2019 breaks colour blending mode](#)

[Visualizing your masterpiece](#)

[How to photograph sequins sparkles in a fashion shoot](#)

[Intermediate level Lightroom classic start-finish tutorial - Scott Kelby](#)

[Sunset photography tips](#)

[How to add light rays to your photos in Photoshop](#)

## Exhibitions

### National Library of Australia

See the [National Library's web site](#) for more of 'What's on'.

## The Club online

### Web site

[www.southsidecameraclub.org/](http://www.southsidecameraclub.org/)

Please send material for the web site to [webmaster@southsidecameraclub.org](mailto:webmaster@southsidecameraclub.org)

### Facebook

### flickr

[Links](#) to the Club's Facebook and flickr pages are available on the Club's web site under the [images / members on line](#) page.

To join you will need a Facebook and/or a flickr account.

- Go to the groups page
- Search for Canberra Southside Camera Club
- Click on the 'Join Group' button.

The request to join will be sent to the president as the group moderator. If you don't get a confirmation within a day or two email [president@southsidecameraclub.org](mailto:president@southsidecameraclub.org)

- Four more Nominee Awards from the Black and White Spider Awards for 2 photos taken in Canberra and 2 in Sydney.

Sam is running photography courses over the next year in various locations including one in November in Canberra and Mulligans Flat Woodlands Sanctuary. Members get a 10% discount. Contact details are:

Sam Nerrie Photography  
Phone: 0428 111 927  
Email: [sam@samnerrie.com](mailto:sam@samnerrie.com)  
Web site: [www.samnerrie.com](http://www.samnerrie.com)

Rod Burgess

## Five causes of blurry photos

It's always disappointing to find out that one of your photos isn't sharp – especially if it's an image you like (and you weren't trying to deliberately blur the image). Yet we all make mistakes. Even professionals like me sometimes take unintentionally blurry photos. But after you've swallowed your disappointment, it's important to figure out why the image is soft so that you don't make the same mistake again.

There are basically five causes of blurry photos: camera movement, subject movement, missed focus, insufficient depth of field, and lens softness.

To find the source of the blurriness, you'll have to channel your inner Sherlock Holmes and do a little detective work. First try to remember what you did when taking the photo. Were you hand holding at a slow shutter speed? Then camera movement is a likely culprit. Were you using a tripod, but with a long telephoto lens? Again, camera movement could be the cause, as long lenses magnify even slight vibrations. Were you using a wide aperture, like f/2.8 or f/4? Then maybe you missed the focus, or needed to use a smaller aperture to get more depth of field. Were you using a cheap kit lens? Then perhaps the lens is the problem. Did you stop down to f/22? Then diffraction might be the culprit. Was the wind blowing? Then maybe the wind moved leaves or flowers, or caused the tripod to vibrate.

Next, take a closer look at the evidence. Start by looking at your photo at 100% (or 1:1). (You should do this routinely for all your photos anyway to look for problems and learn how to judge sharpness.) See if any part of the photo is sharp. If something is sharp, then you can rule out camera shake. And you didn't entirely miss the focus (though maybe you didn't get the most important parts of the image in focus).

If nothing is sharp, then camera movement could be the culprit. But it could also be a major focusing error or lens softness. Let's look at each of these causes, with clues to help you determine which one was responsible for the blurry photograph.

### Camera movement

If the blurring was caused by camera movement you'll often see a slight ghosting or double-image when you look at the image at 100%. This is especially true of tripod-mounted images, where the blurring is caused by vibrations rather than continuous movement.

If you were using a tripod there could be many causes: a flimsy tripod; not using a cable release, remote, or self timer;

bumping the tripod; forgetting to turn off image stabilization; mirror slap; shutter vibration; wind shaking the tripod.

It can be hard to pinpoint the precise cause of tripod vibrations after the fact, so it's important to magnify your images on the back of the camera to check sharpness in the field. Then if a photo isn't sharp you can experiment to find the cause. Make sure image stabilization is off. Try using mirror lockup. If it's windy, lower the tripod, weigh it down, wait for a lull, or use a faster shutter speed. With Sony A-series cameras, try turning on e-Frame Curtain Shutter or even Silent Shooting to eliminate shutter vibrations.

### Subject movement

With subject movement you'll typically see the same kind of ghosting, or double image, as you see with camera movement, except that you'll usually only see it in specific parts of the image. If flowers were blown by the wind, for example, then some flowers will be sharper than others, and objects not affected by the wind, like rocks, will be sharp. With moving people or animals, the extremities (hands, feet, tail, wingtips) will usually be more blurred than the body.

The cure for subject movement is either patience (to let the wind die down), or a faster shutter speed (usually along with a higher ISO). Again, it's better to catch things like this in the field, so you can fix problems before it's too late. Get in the habit of frequently magnifying your images on the back of the camera to check sharpness.

### Missed focus

It's unusual for a photograph to be completely out of focus. With landscape photographs you're typically using medium to small apertures, and most people use autofocus, so usually something is in focus – though maybe not everything, or the most important things.

It's still possible, however, to miss the focus entirely. Maybe you turned off autofocus for some reason, then forgot to turn it back on (who hasn't done that?). When this happens you won't see the ghosting or double-image caused by camera movement; instead, the whole image will just look soft. But one clue indicating missed focus is that usually some parts of the image will be a little sharper than others. If objects closer to the camera are sharper, then you focused in front of everything. If objects farther from the camera are sharper, then you focused behind everything.

It's more common to miss the focus when photographing wildlife, portraits, or in street photography, where subjects

are moving, when you're often using wide apertures, and it's critical to get a key spot in focus – like the subject's eyes.

No camera's autofocus can perfectly track and focus on moving subjects all the time. But if you're consistently missing the focus in such situations with an SLR, first try calibrating your camera's autofocus (something you should be able to adjust yourself within the camera's menu). If that doesn't help, you might consider getting a camera with a better autofocus system.

With Sony A7-series cameras using Sony lenses, I've noticed that autofocus sometimes completely misses the mark when the lens is stopped down to f/11 or f/16. (This camera/lens combination keeps the aperture stopped down all the time, and it's hard to focus precisely at small apertures because the depth of field is so great, making everything seem almost in focus.) The solution is to open up the aperture to, say, f/4 to focus – either manually or with back-button autofocus.

### Insufficient Depth of Field

This is a common problem with landscape photographs. If part of the image is in focus, but the foreground, background, or both are out of focus, then either you needed a smaller aperture, you focused at the wrong distance, or it was impossible to get everything in focus no matter what.

Obviously focus and depth of field are related. There are times when, say, f/11 might be a small enough aperture to get everything in focus – if you focus at the right distance. But if you focus too close to the camera, the background will be out of focus. And if you focus too far away, the foreground will be out of focus. When the scene has a lot of depth, and getting everything in focus is a challenge, you have to focus in between the foreground and background – but closer to the foreground, as there's more depth of field behind the spot you're focused on than in front of it.

If you find that many of your images have out of focus foregrounds or backgrounds, then you need to be using smaller apertures, focusing more precisely, or both. And maybe this goes without saying, but use a tripod! A tripod will allow you to use the slow shutter speeds required for small apertures, without having to push up the ISO.

### Lens softness

Lens softness will sometimes make the whole image fuzzy, but usually it's just the corners that are soft. Here's an example:

Since the middle is sharp we can rule out camera movement or a major focusing



error. Anytime you see a sharp middle with soft corners, the most likely suspect is the lens.

Sometimes the lens can make the whole image soft. If everything is a little fuzzy, and you used f/16 or f/22, then diffraction could be the culprit. Next time use a wider aperture if possible (if the wider aperture will provide enough depth of field).

On the other hand, some lenses can be soft at wide apertures, even in the middle of the picture. And some lenses can be soft at any aperture. This is especially true of wide-range zooms, like a 28-300 mm, or cheap kit lenses. While some of the newer wide-range zooms can be relatively good, they tend to get soft at longer focal lengths, like 200-300 mm. Teleconverters can also make an image soft.

Long lenses also exacerbate camera movement, tripod vibrations, and focusing errors. So with telephoto lenses, how can you tell whether the lens (or lens-teleconverter combination) is soft, or whether some other problem made the photo fuzzy?

First, look for ghosting. Then check the shutter speed. If the shutter speed was fast – like 1/500th of a second or faster – then camera movement is less likely to be

the problem, and you're probably looking at lens softness or a focusing error.

Next, look at many photos made with the same lens, at the same focal length (if it's a zoom). If you can find any images with this lens-and-focal-length combination that are sharp, then you know the lens is capable of making sharp images. But if you can't find any sharp images made with that lens/focal length combination, then you have to suspect that the lens just isn't very good – at least at that focal length.

If you can find some sharp photos with a certain lens-and-focal-length combination, then you might check the apertures you used, and see if there's a correlation between f-stops and sharpness. You should also probably check shutter speeds, and see if the sharper images were made with faster shutter speeds. If so (and again, we're talking about long lenses), then the fuzziness at slow shutter speeds is probably caused by camera movement. Use mirror lockup. If you're already using mirror lockup (along with a remote, cable release, or self timer), then maybe it's time to buy a sturdier tripod.

We all make mistakes, and we've all made photographs that are unintentionally blurry. But with a little detective work we can learn from those mistakes and make consistently sharp photographs.

Michael Frye

P.S. If you're trying to figure out whether a lens is responsible for some blurry photos, it's easy to find images made with a particular lens in Lightroom Classic. In the Library Module, select All Photographs in the Catalog panel (second panel down on the left side). Then, in Grid Mode, click on the Metadata tab in the Library Filter at near the top of the screen (if you don't see the Library Filter, go to View > Show Filter Bar). By default you'll see four tabs: Date, Camera, Lens, and Label. Just select the right lens from the list below the Lens tab:

Using Lightroom Classic's Filter Bar to find images made with a specific lens.

You can then narrow your search further to include only images with the same focal length, or even the same focal length and aperture. Choose any of the other tabs under the Metadata filter, change it to focal length, and click on the focal length you want to search for. (You can even choose a range of focal lengths by shift-clicking.) Choose another tab, change it to Aperture, and select the aperture you'd like to search for:

Refining the filter to show images made with a particular lens, focal length, and aperture.

## Equipment list

Item	Custodian	Contact email
Elinchrome studio lighting equipment	Julie Taylor & Mark Stevenson	<a href="mailto:shinboner266@gmail.com">shinboner266@gmail.com</a>
Colour Munki screen and printer calibrator	Rod Burgess	<a href="mailto:canberrarod@hotmail.com">canberrarod@hotmail.com</a>
Fixed lighting kit: stands, light sources, extras	Claude Morson	<a href="mailto:claudemorson@gmail.com">claudemorson@gmail.com</a>

## Office bearers

Committee			
President	Rod Burgess		<a href="mailto:president@southsidecameraclub.org">president@southsidecameraclub.org</a>
Treasurer	Tim Heenan		<a href="mailto:treasurer@southsidecameraclub.org">treasurer@southsidecameraclub.org</a>
Secretary	Peter Keogh		<a href="mailto:secretary@southsidecameraclub.org">secretary@southsidecameraclub.org</a>
Ordinary member	Iain Cole		
Ordinary member	Julie Taylor		
Ordinary member	Dennis Lovatt		
Non-committee positions			
Walkabout/excursion	Laurie Westcott, Rob Wignell, Helen Dawes		<a href="mailto:outings@southsidecameraclub.org">outings@southsidecameraclub.org</a>
DIG SIG	Norman Blom		<a href="mailto:digsig@southsidecameraclub.org">digsig@southsidecameraclub.org</a>
Portrait Interest Group	Malcolm Watson	0451997 376	<a href="mailto:portrait@southsidecameraclub.org">portrait@southsidecameraclub.org</a>
Newsletter Editor	Alison Milton	6254 0578	<a href="mailto:newsletter@southsidecameraclub.org">newsletter@southsidecameraclub.org</a>
Website Manager	Brian Moir	0414 834 249	<a href="mailto:webmaster@southsidecameraclub.org">webmaster@southsidecameraclub.org</a>

### 2018 Club Yearbook

It's time to start thinking about what photos you would like to submit for the Club's 2018 Yearbook.

Personally, I thought last year's book was disappointing: not because of the quality of the photos, but because of how few members contributed. Let's make this year's book memorable by having as many members as possible represented.

As with past years, please submit two photos; ideally, one portrait and one landscape. (This refers to the photo orientation, rather than the subject.)

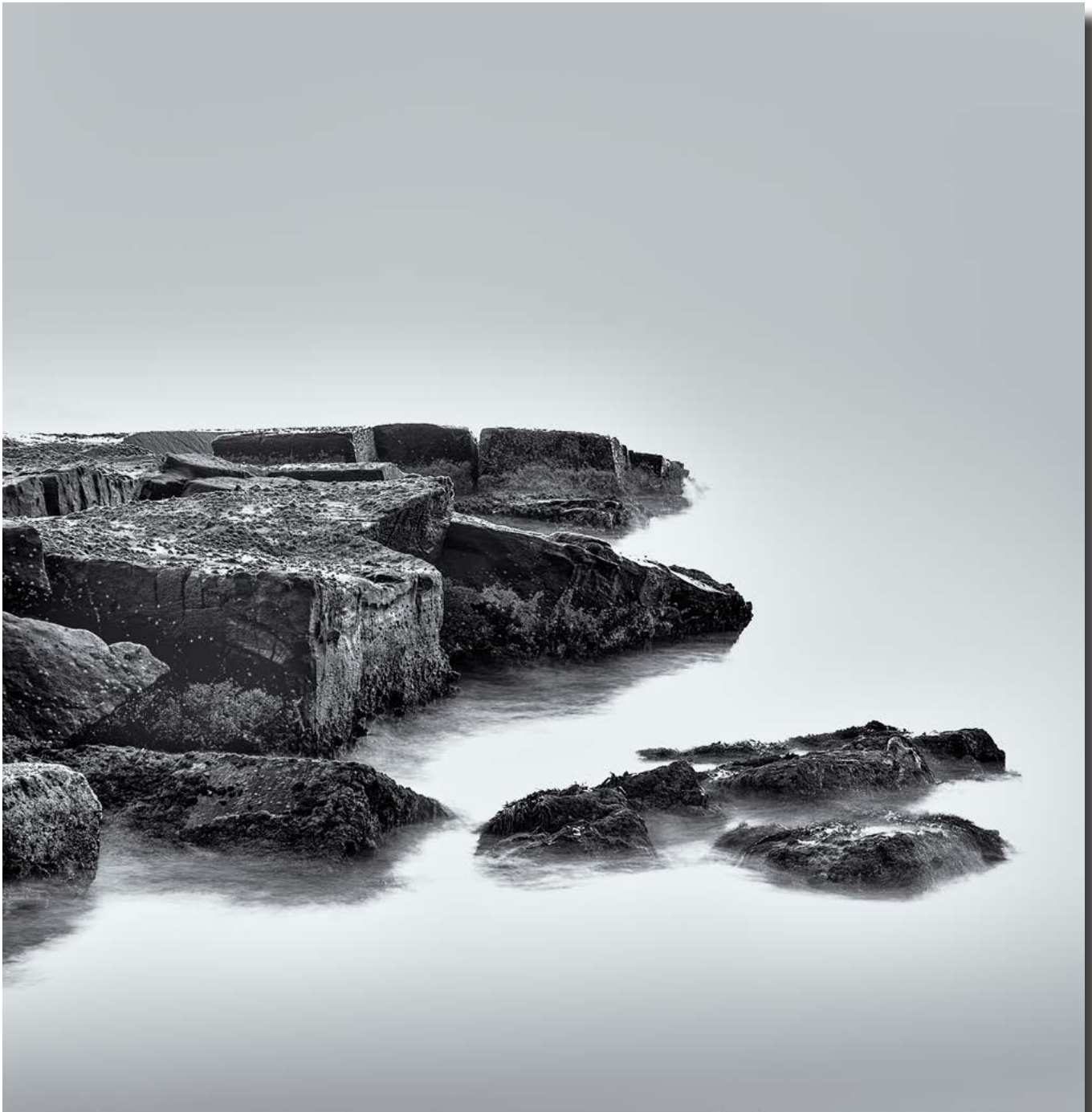
Also please send a photo of yourself (optional) and a short blurb about yourself for inclusion.

Once completed, members will be able to purchase a copy of the book in their preferred format, from the Blurb web site.

Please send your contributions to me via the Newsletter editor email address [newsletter@southsidecameraclub.org](mailto:newsletter@southsidecameraclub.org)

Alison Milton

### F22 gallery



*Rocks Steady, Short Point, Merimbula, NSW  
Bob McHugh*





*Join Hands, Gathering Place, Lake Tuggeranong, ACT  
Bob McHugh*





*Portrait Interest Group  
Malcolm Watson*





*Portrait Interest Group  
Mark Stevenson*



*Australian National Botanic Gardens  
Peter Keogh*





*Paper daisy, Australian National Botanic Gardens  
Peter Keogh*



*Stuart Desert Rose, Australian National Botanic Gardens  
Peter Keogh*





*Reflections*  
Peter Keogh



*Nankeen Kestrel  
Diane Cutting*





*Scarlet Honeyeater; Bermagui  
Diane Cutting*



*Protea*  
*Diane Cutting*





*Mountn Stillwell  
Rob Wignell*





*Mount Stillwell  
Rob Wignell*





*Mount Stillwell  
Rob Wignell*





*Bad neck day, Balonne Weir, St George, Qld  
Ann Gibbs-Jordan*





*Buddies, Balonne Weir, St George, Qld  
Ann Gibbs-Jordan*



*Paroo River, Eulo, Qld  
Ann Gibbs-Jordan*





*Dead tree, Claypan, Curranwinya National Park, Qld  
Ann Gibbs-Jordan*





*Bright Lights (not so) Big City, Tuggeranong, ACT*  
*Bob McHugh*





*Kurilpa Bridge, Brisbane, Qld  
Bob McHugh*



*Portrait Interest Group  
Mark Stevenson*





*Portrait Interest Group  
Malcolm Watson*





*Portrait Interest Group  
Malcolm Watson*





*Intriguing sunset*  
*Helen Dawes*