

Camera club Communiqué

March 2019 U3A ACT Australia

The *Camera Club Communiqué* is part of a newsletter sent to members of the "Camera Club" and "PhotoGroup" which are year-long courses run by the University of the Third Age here in Canberra. For privacy reasons, class notices have been omitted from this public version. To contact either class, please email u3acanberracameraclub@gmail.com or u3acanberraphotogroup@gmail.com respectively.

Support for Windows 7 to End.

Are you one of those people who gets by using older Operating Systems on your computer? Have you not yet got the latest update for Windows? If so, be warned: on January 14th 2020, Microsoft will cease all support for Windows 7. Your computer won't stop running but there will be no further updates or critical security patches. That means if there are holes in the program which can let nasty people gain entry to your computer, you will get no help from Microsoft. The alternative is to update to Windows 10 or get a Mac! (Well, you might also try one of the many varieties of Linux if you are technically minded).

<https://www.techradar.com/au/news/microsoft-is-ending-windows-7-support-one-year-from-today>

A later news flash says that Microsoft is going to release a major update of Windows 10 this year

<https://www.techradar.com/news/microsoft-is-working-on-the-next-version-of-windows-10-for-late-2019>

Night Photography

There seems to have been a bit of a run on tips for taking photos at night on the various on-line resource sites from which most *Communiqué* items are extracted. The crux of the matter is that digital photos taken at night require longer exposures and longer exposures usually mean increasing the ISO and that means more noise. And despite the advances in in-camera or in-lens stabilization, long exposures usually mean - to avoid camera shake - you need to use a tripod and a remote release of some kind. Three sites worth consulting are:

- <https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/night-photography-tips-a-complete-a-z-guide>

- <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/how-to-take-great-photos-at-night/>
- <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/night-photo-tips/>
- <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/keeping-your-camera-still-for-sharp-night-photography/>

The Best Cameras for Beginners

We are all “beginners” in photography, but if you have a camera which, although good enough for the occasional photo of the pet pooch or even to get “Liked” on *Facebook*, but which is not capable of photography as a fine art, then here is a list of cameras which won’t necessarily break the bank but will nonetheless take better pictures than maybe your old camera could.

The cameras listed here are what the trade call “entry level” machines but don’t underestimate their capabilities. All of the cameras listed here would serve you well at the Camera Club. Furthermore, the article given some good advice to help you make a choice, asking questions such as “Do you like taking selfies?” and “What about movies?”

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/buying-guides/best-camera-for-beginners-best-entry-level-dslr-mirrorless-and-compact-cameras>

The Best Camera Phones

And if you are upgrading your old mobile, but also are interested in its capabilities as a camera, then this article might help:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/buying-guides/best-camera-phone>

One feature stands out: there is a tremendous variation in price so it certainly pays to shop around!

Flower Photography

No matter where you are — travelling abroad or stuck at home in your own back yard — there is always the temptation to photograph flowers. They offer everything a photographer could ask for — colour, pattern, depth, romance (but not scent).

Even if you don’t have a green thumb, the following articles might help plant a few seeds of inspiration

- <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/flower-photography-tips-and-techniques/>
- <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/how-to-photograph-flowers/>
- <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/tips-for-better-flower-photography/>

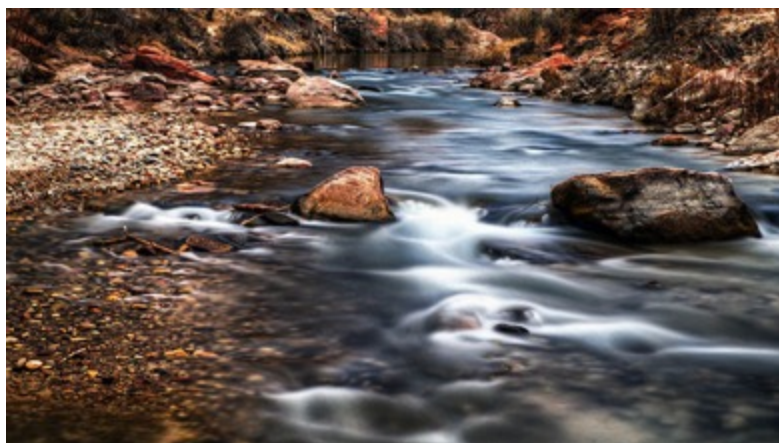
Driverless Car, Anyone?

Not normally the subject for *Communiqué*, but since a camera is reported to have been killed by driverless car technology

(<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/sony-a7r-ii-camera-killed-by-driverless-car-and-its-laser-technology>, it is pertinent here. The victim on this occasion was a Sony A7RII camera which was used by its owner, Jit Ray Chowdhury to photograph an autonomous car using lidar (light detection and ranging) technology. After taking the photo, Mr Chowdhury found it covered with purple spots. It seems the lasers used by the technology to map out the surrounding environment had burned spots into the camera's sensor. While these lasers are not visible to us and cannot harm our eyes, a camera's sensor is thousands of times more sensitive and so can be damaged by them. Mr. Chowdhury's camera was admitted for surgery but is reported to be doing well...

Tips for Long Exposure Landscape Photography

Or when 3 legs are better than 2.... Yes, one tip is to use a tripod but not just any old tripod — get a good one, one which won't wobble when the



wind hits it or when your camera shutter goes off. Samuel Burns in *Picture Correct* also writes about the use of neutral density filters and warns about increasing the ISO (also increases noise). For those who are regressing to film (very fashionable these days), he cautions

to remember *reciprocity failure* — not a problem in digital photography, but film becomes less sensitive the longer it is exposed and a photographer has to increase exposure to compensate.

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/5-long-exposure-landscape-photography-tips>

A Terrible History of Photography

Puppets *Glove and Boots* tell the history of photography from the smart phone to caveman selfies. It is funny — sort of.

<https://www.dpreview.com/news/1141638212/video-the-terrible-history-of-photographs?>

Colour in Photography



Colour is seemingly so simple in digital photography that we take it for granted and photograph it as we find it. Snapping away, however, does not mean that we are making colour work for us but rather, letting it dominate our creativity. Of course, it is not always possible to choose the colour palette of a photo (unlike artists, we are normally stuck with what is “out there”) but when we can do something

about the colours in our photos, the more we know about how colour works, the better — how colours harmonise, clash, augment — are all important considerations.

Writing on *Picture Correct*, Wayne Turner discusses colour dominance, colour isolation, and colours which advance and which recede in photographs.

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/understanding-color-in-photography/>

The Qualities of Light

If you travel around you cannot help but notice the ways in which light is different in different places. For example, Canberra light is much harder than the softer light in Sydney but European travellers in Sydney often say the light there is “harsh” ... The quality of light, you might say, is in the eye of the beholder but that is not necessarily so. For one thing, the quality of light — the “softness” or “hardness” — is often a product of the amount of water vapour in the air and that tends to be higher if you are near the sea.

Discussing other aspects (or properties) of light, William Beem points to features such as the size of the light source and the direction it comes from as well as its quality.

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/photo-lighting-things-you-should-know/>

Why Aperture Priority isn't Always the Best Choice

James Maher is a New York City-based photographer who offers street photography tours and workshops in the Big apple. In this post on *digital Photography School*, he indicates times when setting one's camera on Aperture Priority and leaving it there is not always the best policy. One of his points worth mentioning here is that when using a zoom lens, unless it is one of the newer ones which maintain the aperture at which it is set throughout its travel, the f-stop can reduce and so the shutter speed becomes too slow and camera shake results in soft focus. In that case, setting the camera to Shutter Priority focusses the mind as well as the camera...

<https://digital-photography-school.com/why-aperture-priority-mode-isnt-always-the-best-choice>

New York Travel Guide

James Maher, the author of the preceding article, also offers a free download in .pdf format travel guide which will be invaluable to photographers visiting New York.

<https://www.jamesmaherphotography.com/ny-photographers-guide>

Smart Phones could halve the camera market in 2 years

The CEO of Canon, Fujio Mitarai recently warned that Smart Phones could halve the market for cameras within the next two years. He announced that Canon will shift its business to corporate customers because of the rather grim market trend. He said that Canon camera sales had declined by about 10% a year in the past few years and, despite the fact that the market for mirrorless cameras is growing, they are replacing dSLRs, not adding to the market as a whole. "People usually shoot with smart phones. The digital market will keep falling for about two years, but professional and [advanced] amateurs use about 5 to 6 million units. Finally [the market] will hit the bottom."

Your own backyard

There might not be fairies at the bottom of everyone's garden but we all have lots of things there to photograph. So, if as yet you don't often take photos so close to home, the following articles might provide help and inspiration:

- <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/bird-photography-how-to-take-great-bird-photos/>
- <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/backyard-nature-photography-tips/>

9 Pioneering Women Who Shaped Photographic History

Megan Kennedy, a Canberra-based professional photographer posting at <https://devftw.com/9-pioneering-women-who-shaped-photographic-history/> has chosen nine women outstanding for their contributions to photography over the 192 years history of our art. Included in the select nine is Oz's own Olive Cotton.

The “Royal” moves to Bristol

The Royal Photographic Society was founded in 1853, at that time in



London, but for the past 40 years it has been housed in Bath. Now it is moving, this time to Bristol where it will share the neighbourhood with the Martin Parr Foundation — thus creating a kind of photography hub in Paintworks. A purpose-built

building offers a 200 metre square exhibition space where the first exhibition will be the International Print Exhibition celebrating the Society's 161st year.

5 Camera Settings All Macro Photographers Should Know

Jaymes Dempsey, writing for *Digital Photography School*, lists 5 camera settings which are essential for successful macro photography. The main themes, he points out are ensuring both a perfect point of focus and maximum sharpness. He says: *Included in the list of settings are Manual Focus, Manual Mode, Live View, the self-timer, and burst mode. By familiarizing yourself with these settings, your macro photography will grow by leaps and bounds.*

<https://digital-photography-school.com/5-camera-settings-macro-photographers-should-know/>

Tips for Sports Photography

If you are going to photograph sports it helps a lot if you know something about the sport and probably which players are the best to concentrate on for the best action pictures. Those ideas and more are included in Matt Smolsky's post on *Picture Correct* at:

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/sports-photography-tips-and-techniques/>

Food, Food, Glorious Food!

Second only to Selfies are photos people take of the meal they are about to devour when they go out to a restaurant. Food photography is an art in itself and as such requires more than knife skills and a healthy appetite. An article in *Digital Camera World* recently sets out some of the essentials for successfully capturing a mouth-watering pic. Some of the points considered include ensuring you have good light (including possibly flash), the length of the lens, include surroundings, introduce action, props and so on.

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/food-photography-tips>

Cityscapes?

Often overlooked by photographers interested in landscape photography is a subset of that *genre*, cityscape. Most of us live in cities these days so we have plenty of opportunity to take cityscapes. Also, many of us are travellers so there is always the need to add a cityscape or two to our travel photos. Reuben Hird, posting on *Digital Photography School*, offers the following tips:

- *Right After Sunset is a Fantastic Time for Cityscape Shots. ...*
- *Capture the Whole Skyline with a Wide Angle Lens. ...*
- *Use Your Camera's Self-timer and a Tripod for Crisp Results. ...*
- *Look for Those Leading Lines. ...*
- *In the Evening, Look for Good Vantage Points Over Busy Intersections.*

And there is more at:

<https://digital-photography-school.com/10-tips-better-cityscape-photography/>

Bob Hay
Presenter