

Camera club Communiqué

May 2019 U3A ACT Australia

The U3A Camera Club is 5 Years Old

The Camera Club, the first course in U3A here in Canberra to teach photography as a fine art and using the methods of a camera club, was founded five years ago on the first Tuesday in May, 2014 at Cook where it has continued to meet on the first Tuesday of every month ever since. Members are celebrating the Club's birthday with the third *Click+Capture* exhibition, this time at Kyeema Gallery at Hall. For those who don't know this gallery, it is part of the Capital Wines cellar door establishment at 13 Gladstone Street, Hall (ph. 02 6230 2022). The Exhibition will be open to the public from Friday 31st May to Sunday 23rd June, Opening hours: 10.30am – 5.00pm Thursday – Sunday.

The Camera club has previously celebrated its birthday with exhibitions at the Strathnairn Galleries at Holt, and before then, at the Cook Campus at the time of the U3A Annual Christmas Party. At the forthcoming exhibition, thirty photographs taken by members of the Camera Club, framed and ready for purchase, will be on show. It will also be possible to buy unframed prints from some members.

If you and your family and friends are making a day of it to see the exhibition, the pub next door to the gallery does slightly pricey but excellent food.

Popular Posts

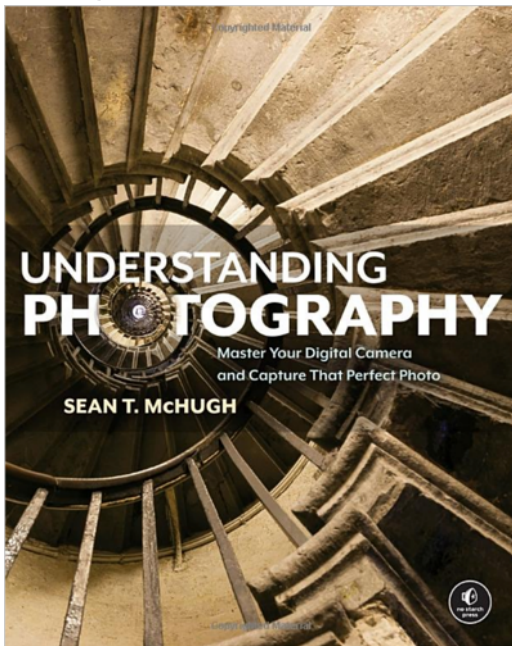
The [Digital Photography School](#), from which many of the articles shown in *Communiqué* originate, is an on-line resource for photographers based in Blackburn North, in Victoria. *dPS* recently published a list of the 10 most frequently shared of their posts in the last 12 months:

1. [3 Misunderstood But Important Buttons on Your Camera Explained](#)
2. [5 Camera Settings That All Macro Photographers Should Know](#)

3. [5 Reasons to Use Prime Lenses For Better Photos](#)
4. [Creative Macro Photography - Using Fairy Lights](#)
5. [4 Tips to Organize Your Photos in Lightroom](#)
6. [5 Ways to Take Your Macro Photography to the Next Level](#)
7. [5 Rules in Macro Photography and When to Break Them](#)
8. [5 Reasons Your Sunrise or Sunset Photos Don't Look Stunning](#)
9. [How to do Gentle Posing: A Collection of Prompts to Get You Started](#)
10. [Which Size Lensball is Best for Crystal Ball Photography?](#)

A New Photographer's Bible

A "go-to" popular among photographers needing to check up on something photographic is the on-line [Cambridge in Color](#) which is described as "a



learning community for photographers". Sean T. McHugh from *Cambridge in Color* has just published a book which looks fit to become the new photographer's bible. Jammed with definitions, explanations and generally helpful advice as well as tonnes of illustrations, the book is called *Understanding Photography: Master your Digital Camera and Capture that Perfect Photo* and is available (in paperback) from Amazon for US\$19.33. The book "....is based on the *Cambridge in Colour* tutorials, which have evolved with feedback from photographers at all experience levels spanning over a decade.

Content has therefore been carefully scrutinized by millions of readers for both accuracy and clarity. Taking this one step further, the book adds all-new high resolution diagrams and photographs, and has been completely reorganized and carefully edited for print."

Sharp Photos

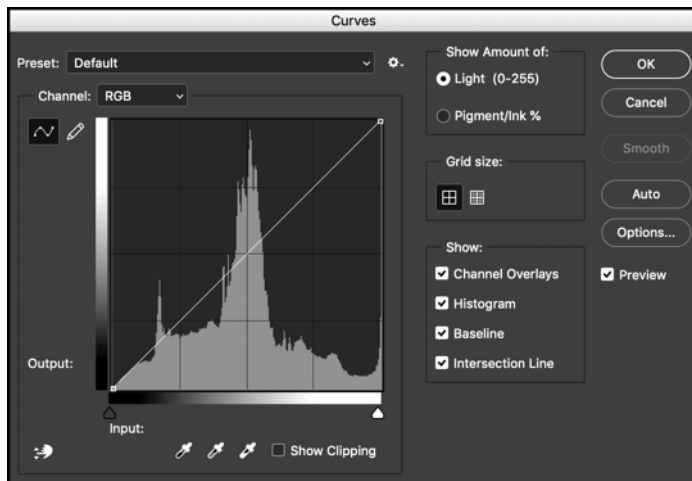


There seems to be a run of articles recently directed to helping amateur photographers take sharper photos. Mostly they recommend the obvious: for example, using a tripod – and sometimes, the less obvious – e.g. turn off stabilization if you are using a tripod (it creates vibrations while looking for shaking!).

Although there is of course some over-lap, at least two of the many articles worth viewing can be found on *Picture Correct* at:

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/sharp-photography-tips-techniques/>
<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/how-to-take-sharp-photos/>

Curves



This is one of the tools in *Photoshop* generally avoided by beginners. It looks arcane but is actually a very powerful tool which takes only a little experience to learn how to use it to great advantage in post-processing. The article by Madhu Manikam on *Photography Life* called “How to use curves in *Photoshop*” is a fairly

comprehensive explanation of this option.

<https://photographylife.com/how-to-use-curves-in-photoshop>

As additional help, the author recommends reading his article “Understanding Contrast in Photography” at

<https://photographylife.com/understanding-contrast-in-photography>

Incidentally, some version of “Curves” is found in many other post-processors, including *NCH PhotoPad Editor* and *Lightroom*. With that in mind, it would be worth consulting another article, *How to Use the Tone Curve Panel in Lightroom* by Romanas Naryškin, also published on *Photography Life*.

<https://photographylife.com/mastering-lightroom-how-to-use-the-tone-curve-panel>

Experience shows that the best way to learn how to use this tool is to play with it! Open a photo and then try manipulating by clicking on the straight line at different positions and then pulling the curve around and observing the changes which occur. As a rule of thumb, remember “Darker at the bottom, lighter at the top; brighter to the left, darker to the right.” Most importantly, in *Photoshop* or any other “destructive” editor which alters the file when you save it, always play on a copy. In “non-destructive” processors such as *Lightroom*, the original file remains unaltered because the results of your manipulations are saved only as a data file.



The Way of All Flash

Teaching flash photography is a topic often avoided in camera clubs, probably because most members are available light photographers and scorn the use of such apparatus to light the scene. However, there are times when electronic flash is needed if you are to make a decent record of an event or person. Some of us might have used “flash bulbs” back in the Olden Days before digital, and so welcome the

convenience of modern electronic devices which by and large, do all the calculations for us. However, unless it is handled well, flash still presents problems, not least of which is the harshness of the light, not to mention “red eye” and that horrible shadow behind the loved one’s head...

Two articles on flash photography, both on *Picture Correct*, can be found at <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/flash-photography-taking-photos-with-vs-without-flash/> and <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/tips-on-how-to-use-camera-flash/>

Of these, the first, by Graham Wadden, looks at the pros and cons of using flash and then gives some of the practical considerations, such as “bounce” and so on. The second is by Wayne Turner and consists in 4 tips – “fill in”, “bounce”, “using a diffuser”, and “off camera”. These are good advice if you want to take photos in low light when only a flash will do.

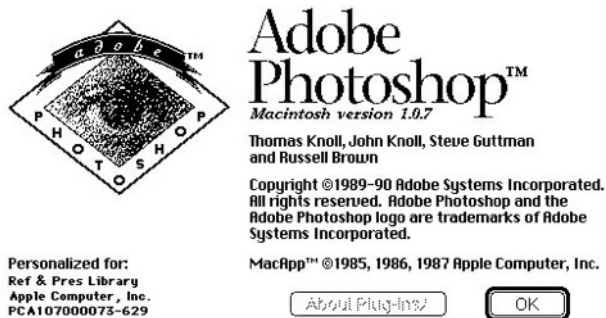
Do you have a prime lens or two?



Probably most of us take most of our photos with zoom lenses, maybe one standard, maybe one of those luggable monsters which bird or sports photographers find mandatory. Back in the day, we zoomed with our feet, getting closer or further away as the subject demanded because we had a lens of fixed focal length on our camera...

Such lenses are still desirable, not only because they demand some exercise but also because they are usually smaller, lighter, less obtrusive, faster and perhaps best of all, make sharper images. These days we call these little beauties “prime lenses”. Tom Bonner walks us through their advantages over Big Brother Zoom when he asks “Do you have a prime lens in your camera bag” at

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/do-you-have-a-prime-lens-in-your-camera-bag/>



What you might not know about *Photoshop*

Even if you don't use *Photoshop*, you have been long affected by it because everyone these days is bombarded by millions and millions of images which have been “photoshopped”. Now 31 years old, this pioneer of digital

editing has become the industry standard, servicing not only photographers but many others, such as graphic designers laying out pictures of today's bargains at the local supermarket to would-be lovers smoothing out the wrinkles on their dating service mug shot.

The biography of this generation-old tool has been posted by Danielle Chiriguayo at

<https://www.marketplace.org/2019/02/11/tech/star-wars-graphic-design-origin-photoshop>



B&W Hints and Help

The Workshop for next month will be featuring Black-and-White (B&W) photography, a challenging but exciting genre. B&W – or any other monochrome photograph – is necessarily an abstraction because, except for a very small number of people who cannot see colour, we live in a very colourful world.

This kind of abstraction focusses the viewers' minds on the subject in a way that colour images do not because colour itself can become a distraction. Take for example, all those wonderful sunset photos that appear on the ABC Weather every evening:

exciting colour but usually nothing else. Remove the colour and you then get to see the cloud formations themselves. Or, landscape photographers are bugged with people in red coats suddenly appearing in front of the scene they are about to photograph. Even though small and very distant, that speck of red spoils the shot. Take out the colour and the distraction disappears and the landscape again speaks for itself.

Spencer Cox is a frequent contributor to *Photography Life*. He is not only well-informed but he writes well and explains his topic in plain English. In his post at <https://photographylife.com/landscapes/how-to-take-better-black-and-white-landscape-photos> he talks us through “How to take better Black and White Landscape Photos”, emphasising the special considerations involved in this genre.

Also at *Photography Life*, John Sherman writes knowledgeably about B&W nature photography. (<https://photographylife.com/landscapes/introduction-to-black-and-white-nature-photography>).

And, not unrelated, Kevin Landwer-Johan writes about *Experimenting with Low Key Black and white Photography*. This kind of B&W photography has become very fashionable recently (in parallel with the ultra-saturated colours in colour photos). Carried to an extreme, in low key work the highlights are allowed to tell the story and the rest is either so dark that it is almost invisible or is blacked out completely. Very dramatic!
<https://digital-photography-school.com/low-key-black-and-white-photography/>

Budget Inks for your Printer?

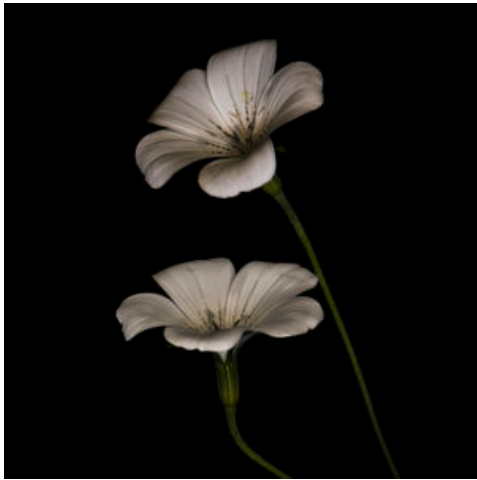


Printers such as Canon and Epson market their own proprietary inks for their own ink-jet printers. While these are excellent (especially pigment inks) and do their job very well, they are also very expensive, especially for

those of us who are not professionals and can therefore not claim the cost as a business expense at Income Tax time. A cheaper alternative and one, it is claimed, which is “just as good” is to use inks manufactured by other companies. But are these “just as good”? Are they safe? *Digital Camera World*, in one of its “Buying Guides” looks at the pros and cons of using third-party printer inks at

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/buying-guides/budget-inks-for-printers-the-pros-and-cons>

Think *Inside* the Box For Dramatic Flower Photos



Under this heading on the *Red River* blog, Christine Pentecost describes how to construct a simple “black box” inside which she places flowers to be photographed against a black background. Of course, the box need not necessarily be black — you could use the instructions to construct a “white box”, a “blue box” or any other colour you desire. And, as she suggests, it need not be flowers you place inside this box – small objects of all kinds would be just as welcome in there.

<https://blog.redrivercatalog.com/2019/03/think-inside-the-box-for-dramatic-flower-photos.html>

What is a time-of-flight camera?

No, it is not a camera which tells you when your next flight is due but a camera which measures the depth of things it is recording. ToF cameras are used to help navigate driverless cars, industrial robots, drones, even make maps... As Chris George, writing in *Digital Camera World* says, they are like sonar but they use light rather than sound to plot the surroundings. And they are increasingly being incorporated into smart phone cameras. They work by sending out a beam of infra-red light and the cells in the sensor then record, not the intensity of the light as in normal cameras, but the time it takes for the infra-red light to reach it when it is reflected back, thus giving a measure of the relative depths in the image. Chris lists only 7 brands of smart phone which are already equipped with ToF but suggests many more will take up the technology. The downside for photographers, the software and apps with which to process the images has yet to be written.

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/what-is-a-time-of-flight-camera>

The best photo editing software in 2019

In this article, Rod Lawton reviews the best photo-editing software so far released in 2019. As well as the industry standards, *Photoshop* and *Lightroom*, he also lists *Affinity Photo 16*, *PhaseOne Capture One Pro 12*, *Dxo PhotoLab 2.1*, *ON1 Photo RAW 2019*, *Alien Skin exposure X4*, *Luminar 3 with Libraries*, and *Photoshop Elements 2019*.

When to Use Bracketing for the Best Results



Also by Spencer Cox on *Photography Life*, is an article which explains “Bracketing”. He writes: *One of the most useful techniques in photography is called bracketing – in other words, taking multiple photos of the same subject with different camera settings. Commonly, bracketing is about changing your exposure: one photo at the meter’s*

recommendation, plus one under and one over. But exposure isn’t the only variable at play here. Below, this article explains everything you need to know about bracketing, including how and when to use it to take the best possible photos. But he warns, best avoid bracketing when taking action shots – as an example he showed this photo: had he taken multiple shots, the bird would not have been in the best position.

<https://photographylife.com/when-to-use-bracketing>



Now, for Something Different

Pin-hole cameras aren’t everyone’s cup of tea but the SolarCam might be an interesting new twist on an old device for anyone wanting to try something different in the world of cameras. It looks like a beer can, one presumes with a pin-hole at one end and sensitive material at the other. The shutter, by all accounts,

is a bit of black sticky tape which you peel off to allow the exposure and put back over the pin-hole to complete it.

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/whats-old-is-cool-solarcan-brings-back-extreme-time-pinhole-exposures>

Another invention for the photographer who has tried everything is beer which will also develop your film. Delaware craft brewery Dogfish Head has teamed up with Kodak to create [SuperEIGHT](#), an analog-inspired Super Gose beer designed specifically to develop film.



When reporting this triumph of 21st Century technology, Gannon Burgett did not say if the beer will develop films other than Kodak Super 8 which featured in his article. A recipe for the use of the beer as a developer is available; alternatively, presumably everyone knows how else to use it.

**Bob Hay
Presenter.**