

Camera club Communiqué

November 2020 U3A ACT Australia

The U3A Camera Club *Communiqué* is part of a newsletter sent to members of "The Camera Club", which is a year-long course run by the University of the Third Age in Canberra, ACT. For privacy reasons, class notices have been omitted from this public version. The U3A Camera Club can be contacted at u3acanberracameraclub@gmail.com

Give Night Photography a Go

Most amateur photographers shy away from taking photos after dark, unless of course, they are using flash or some kind of supplementary



lighting. [But night photography is an interesting challenge](#) and one which photographers have enjoyed ever since photography began. Apart from your camera, the only other equipment needed is a tripod and some kind of cable release or remote timer. These extra items are necessary because night photography requires exposures which are longer than

usual and so everything possible must be done to avoid camera shake.

There is no need to go out in the middle of the night — excellent images can be made not long after the sun has set when there is still some light in the sky. However, if your interest is in the stars, then the early hours of the morning, as far as possible from city lights, is the best time. Conversely,

cities offer lots of lights and those fascinating trails long exposures leave in the camera by cars and other moving vehicles.



Motion and Action

Everyone knows the old Aesop's Fable about the hare and the tortoise, but while there is some

truth in “slow and steady wins the race”, the slow is not always the most spectacular. In photography, we have the advantage of being able to freeze action or, if the mood takes us, let it blur to give the impression of motion. In his article, [Motion and Action Photography Tips](#), Balal Rizvi talks of the ways in which we can best photograph motion. His tips are probably well-known to old hands, but for beginners, his explanations are simple and well worth heeding.

Tips & Tricks to Manipulate Time

Sounds awesome, does it not? But [Max Jones is interested in time-lapse](#) photography, not using Worm Holes to travel between Black Holes. As he says, if the camera is a relatively recent one, no special equipment is needed to do time-lapse photography, but since it must be held in the same



position for a long period of time, a sturdy tripod is *de rigueur*.

Time lapse of a lunar eclipse.

To take the many images spaced out over a period of time you will also need an [intervalometer](#), which is a programmable device by which the camera is triggered

to take a photo at specified intervals. Fortunately, most modern cameras include such an option in their many capabilities so there is no need to go out and [buy one off the shelf](#). And finally, you will need a Neutral Density Filter. Most amateur photographers will already have ND filters in their camera bag. This is necessary to control the intensity of the light in some cases.

If you own a Nikon camera which does not allow time lapse, and if you use a Mac computer, then a program called [Sofortbild](#) will let you take time-lapse photos. This program is actually designed to allow tethering Nikon cameras to Mac computers, but among its many features is the possibility of time lapse. But note that you need to check that your Nikon model is compatible with the software and that you are running a recent upgrade to the Mac OS. On the other hand, intervalometers are not expensive.

Daytime Long Exposure Photography

Still on the theme of using longer than usual exposures, [Swee Shiong Chong writes about taking photos during daytime](#) but with long exposures (Nighttime of course offers a different experience). Such images are often seen these days since long exposures became fashionable and we became accustomed to seeing waterfalls in which the water is creamy rather than frozen crystal-clear, or surging surf where the sea looks more like a cloud than surf. In this article, the author talks about using ND or Neutral Density filters to allow long exposures when light levels are high. There is a



technique to this: if you put the ND filter on before you focus, you won't be able to see anything much in the viewfinder so you need to focus first and read the exposure and only then add the filter. Of course, the filter means you have to adjust the exposure for the much lower light level available to the camera. A useful device is

NDCALC, a small app available for both iPhone and Android which will calculate the extended exposure time required.

Mangrove Photography Award

[The Mangrove Action Project](#) was created in 1992 to promote the importance of mangroves all over the world. This photo, *The Dancing Mangroves* by Harry Pieters, Indonesia, is one of the many featured in this year's [Mangrove Photography Awards](#). One of the judges for the competition was Cristina Mittermeier said that these awards offer



"a chance for photographers to raise their voices for the protection of one of the most critical and threatened ecosystems. Through impactful imagery and visual storytelling, we can rally people to action, sparking empathy and connection to our natural world".



Photographing Your Best Friend

Always so glad to see you, forever your best friend is your dog. Of course, we snap photos of them from time to time, particularly while they are puppies, but surely they are worthy of a true portrait or two in their short lives? As it happens, several photographers

have written about photographing pets, and especially dogs, in the last few months. Ken Dufault, for example, wrote about [At Home Pet Photography](#). His pets included guinea pigs, cats as well as dogs, but his points are worth considering. So too are the points made by Jaime Rowe in [Dog & Puppy Photography Ideas](#), although some might draw a line at climbing a tree so you can get a photo of your dog looking up at you... And Debora Gattuso offers [3 Quick Dog Photography Tips](#). Dogs are like children — they never look where you want them to look, they move very quickly and they are easily bribed by food. You have to be quick, on your photographic toes as it were, but the photos at the end of the day are a memory to treasure.

Bob Hay
Presenter