

F22: Southside Camera Club newsletter



Volume 31 – Issue 2: March 2023

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Meetings

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

Third Thursday of the month

Next meeting Thursday 16 March 2023: Monochrome photography presented by Len Metcalf

It is great to have Len Metcalf to be our presenter at the March meeting. Len is a professional photographer specialising in digital black and white photography. He will talk about monochrome photography, texture, shapes, patterns and composition, concepts that will improve your black and white photography. Len is an educator, with over 30 years in professional creativity education. Len is known for creating his own iconic style within the Australian landscape.



What's on this month

Date	Meeting, excursion, walkabout or group event	Speaker/convenor
Wed 8 March	Astro Interest Group	John Mitchell
Thurs 16 March	Meeting: Monochrome photography	Len Metcalf
Sat 25 March	Portrait Interest Group	Mark Stevenson
Sun 26 March	Campbell Park Woodlands	Mark Stevenson

Reports

President's report

The February meeting was very well attended. Nine of our members gave a short presentation on an aspect of photography they are passionate about. It was wonderful to hear from these talented photographers and I have had excellent feedback. Thank you to all the speakers for their time and efforts.

Mohamed kicked the night off with bird photography, which requires finding the birds and making creative bird photos. It's about framing the scene around the bird in such a way that the final image is pleasing to the eye and conveys important context, such as where the bird lives. Mohamed says he studies the birds' behaviours and what they interact with so he can anticipate where they may be and how to shoot them.

Shane told us about his Men's Shed portrait project. He said he aims to take great portraits that are more than a good picture of someone. He hopes it tells their story. Shane spoke about the challenges of taking photos of reluctant subjects, the lighting and having to work quickly.

Jakub spoke about architectural photography; he sets his alarm for 4 am to be ready for dawn's beautiful light. He aims to showcase the interesting vantage points of buildings and highlighting their intriguing features. These can be purely artistic images, or they could be for clients. He likes to experiment with analogue cameras and expired film with exception result. Some of Jakub's images have been honoured in recent awards.

Macro photography is Malcolm's field of choice, from insects and close-ups of flowers. His photos make the small appear larger than life. Malcolm's gear is simple: a flash and diffuser and then it's all about the exposure. He explained that even though speedlight flashes are extremely useful for macro photography, and produce sharp images, the light does not always look flattering. Diffused light looks more natural and generally more pleasing to the eye. Malcolm then explained the four ingredients that are needed to expose the subject perfectly and make a black background.

Tony spoke about abstract photography, he uses perspective, movement, light and scale to add emphasis to details of the subject. Abstracts are all about point of view. Zooming in on rocks or a fast flowing river to find intriguing perspectives. He is always extremely respectful of the environment he is working in and would never disturb it for a better shot. Capturing unusual views of familiar objects and landscapes alters the world we see into an unexpected, often unrecognisable image.

Photomontage or photo composites are one of Norm's area of interest, he explained it is a technique of layering multiple images together and blending scenes to produce idealised imagery. Often described as surreal fine art photography that tells a story. Developing ideas, collecting photos and then digitally transforming the elements to make an captivating image.

One of Tim's passions is aviation photography. Sharing the handheld techniques he uses to capture the magnificent aircraft soaring around the sky or on the ground. He has tried and true camera settings for propeller planes to show movement and others for jets.

John's passion is astrophotography and he shared how he captured the stunning night starscapes and light painted images. It is a form of long exposure photography. There are some prerequisites: it helps if you are a night owl; a wide angle lens; a sturdy tripod; and a torch to light paint in interesting foreground subjects. Some Astro photography can be achieved

with basic equipment, however there are plenty of other specialised gear that allows more complex images.

Geoff spoke about a useful phone app called Photo pill. It is a planning tool, prediction of best locations, exposure calculator, guide where to focus for maximum depth of field and much more.

After the coffee break and the group reports, we discussed updating the Club's projector, screen, and monitor calibrator. It was explained that a screen would ideally be attached to the wall, so the Seniors Club executive had been asked for permission. Then in order to proceed with the purchase of the projector, screen, and a monitor calibrator, a motion was put to the vote. The proposal was carried unanimously. Tim will go ahead and purchase the items. Rob W and Tim H were thanked for their research into the equipment. The replacement of the laptop and studio lights will be considered in the next financial year.

Nicky Bazley-Smith
President

Astro Interest Group meeting report

Some of the group set up on the Badcoe rest stop to experience the Milky Way rising on Saturday 18 February at 2 am. It was mainly about tracking but cameras and tripods were used as well.

John Mitchell

Portrait Interest Group report

Mark Stevenson
Portrait Interest Group Convenor

Future events and meetings

Astro Interest Group meeting

The next astro interest group meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 March, 2023 at 7.30 pm.

The zoom link is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82769005535?pwd=SVdabExGZC9HVONINUgvd2RpWDIhQT09>

We'll discuss the recent month as far as astro photography and we'll now include the aurora lights as a topic as one member of this group successfully photographed the event, which occurred on 27 February.

The next new moon is on Wednesday 22 March 2023. Usually 7 days either side of this date are suitable for astrophotography. The Milky Way is rising around 11.30 pm on 22nd March. This makes it easier for people to get out and photograph the night skies.

John Mitchell

Guthega weekend 28–30 April

For those who haven't been to Guthega I have attached some details about the ski lodge where we stay.

I have had the privilege of owning a share in this ski lodge since before it was built in the mid 1970's and have been pleased to be able to share it with Southside Camera Club members for more than ten years.

I especially encourage new members of the Camera Club to come on this weekend. It is a great opportunity to get to know other club members and to immerse yourself in photography

for two days and to learn lots about photography from the other members.

Regardless of the weather we always find interesting things to photograph from panoramas to macro and everything in-between.

Bookings are on a first come, first served, basis. If I get a lot of bookings I may need to ask some who come as singles to share a room but this has only happened on a few occasions.

The ski lodge is spacious, warm and comfortable so regardless of what the weather throws at us we can roast marshmallows in front of the fire.

For bookings send an email to: rob_wignell@hotmail.com. I need to know how many people you intend to bring and if you can give another member a lift (or if you need a lift). I can't guarantee transport but it has worked out well over the years.

If you need any more information, please call me on: 0416 055 322.

Rob Wignell

Screen calibrator

Following the vote at the February Club meeting a ColorChecker Display Pro has been purchased for use by Club members.



I have volunteered to look after the calibrator and, by the time that the March newsletter is published I expect to have produced a set of instructions on how to use it.

It wasn't until I bought a printer that I discovered the concept of a colour managed workflow in photography. My first efforts in printing were nothing like what I had produced on my screen.

The concepts behind a colour managed workflow are quite complex and have led to publication of international standards and high levels of debates about the nature of colour.

Fortunately, the implementation of a colour managed photographic workflow is relatively simple and it starts with calibrating our screens.

If you take photos and view them on your computer un-edited and never ever expect to share them then there is not a lot of value in calibrating your screen. If you use any sort of software to make adjustments to your photos then please consider booking the ColorChecker Display Pro and run the simple step by step process that will adjust the settings on your screen so that your image will appear as close as possible to the same shades of colour and brightness on any other calibrated screen.

Similarly, when sent to a calibrated printer, an image that has been processed on a calibrated screen, will appear in print as close as possible to the image when it is on your screen. This can give you greater confidence when sending an image to a

print service that it will come back looking how you wanted it to look.

I have spent a lot of time over the past five years learning about calibration for printers so that they get the best out of the particular paper, ink and printer combination that is being used. In doing so I have also learnt a lot about calibrating my own screens and have acquired numerous pieces of equipment for doing this.

I will be pleased to help anyone who wants to use the Club equipment to calibrate their screen. I have had a first run with the Club's new calibrator and the process is fairly straightforward and, once the software has been downloaded and installed, takes about 15 minutes. It is 15 minutes well worth spending.

I can be contacted at:

rob_wignell@hotmail.com or

0416 055 322.

Rob Wignell

Sensor cleaning

The Nikon Z7 is a mirrorless camera and, unlike the Z9, it doesn't have a protective shutter to cover the sensor when changing lenses. However, for cleaning, this makes access very easy.

I was concerned about cleaning the sensor of this camera because the sensor has in-body image stabilisation (IBIS) and the Nikon documentation on sensor cleaning is to send the camera to Nikon and they will send you a quote for cleaning.

The main concern is that the IBIS mechanism could be damaged from cleaning pressure. However, after having viewed a [video by Nigel Danson](#), who also used a Nikon Z7, I thought it was time to be brave.

I used Full Frame Sensor Cleaning swabs from Amazon. There are different sizes for different sized sensors. There seems to be a lot of brands that all seem to do the same thing. For cleaning fluid I used a few drops per swab of Diggers isopropyl alcohol, which I think I got from JayCar in a 125 mm spray bottle. I have also seen it in Bunnings. I basically followed Nigel Danson's guide, except that I used two swabs and did the process twice.

I took two images. The first is an out of focus image of my lounge room ceiling before I started cleaning. The second is an out of focus image of a cloudy sky outside. In Lightroom Classic for both images I significantly increased the Dehaze slider to accentuate the spots.

In the first image there is a mass of mess. In the second image there is one slight remnant, which I will leave for a while as it will be trivial to fix in most images. However, the detail of these spots is not visible in the resolution of images in the newsletter.

One of the advantages of film was that the sensor was only exposed once and always with the lens attached. Sensors in digital cameras with interchangeable lenses are more at risk, even when the internals of the camera are well designed and worse if they are not.

I am relieved and pleased with the results. The swabs and isopropyl alcohol cost about \$50, but I have enough for another 20 or more cleans, so, compared with a Nikon service, I have saved a few dollars too.

Rob Wignell

Subject to change. Forward queries/suggestions to outings@southsidecameraclub.org

Outings and excursions are subject to change. If you are able to fill the gaps contact:

outings@southsidecameraclub.org

Date	Meeting, excursion, walkabout or group event	Convenor/speaker
Thurs 6 April	Virtual outing: Make it simple–minimalist	Zoom: Laurie Westcott
Wed 12 April	Astro Interest Group	John Mitchell
Tues 18 April	Tidbinbilla	Rob Wignell
Thurs 20 April	Meeting: Getting to know your camera	
Tues 25 April	ANZAC Day	Mike Woolley
Fri-Sun 28–20 April	Guthega	Rob Wignell
Sat 29 April	Portrait Interest Group	Mark Stevenson
Thurs 4 May	National Arboretum Autumn colours	TBC
Thurs 4 May	Virtual meeting: Autumn yellow	Zoom: Laurie Westcott
Wed 10 May	Astro Interest Group	John Mitchell
Thurs 18 May	Meeting	Angela Robertson-Buchanan
Sat 20 May	Bendora Arboretum	Brian Moir
Sat 27 May	Portrait Interest Group	Mark Stevenson
Thurs 1 June	Virtual outing: small and macro	Laurie Westcott
Wed 7 June	Astro Interest Group	John Mitchell
Thurs 8 June	Fungi: Cork Oak Forest	Julie Taylor
Thurs 15 June	Meeting	
Sat 24 June	Portrait Interest Group	Mark Stevenson
Sun 25 June	Old Parliament House	Mark Stevenson
Thurs 6 July	Winter Village Civic or Reptile Park	Helen Dawes
Thurs 6 July	Virtual outing: Winter – using smallest aperture	Laurie Westcott
Wed 12 July	Astro Interest Group	John Mitchell
Thurs 20 July	Meeting	
Sun 23 July	Kingston Foreshores	Brian Moir
Sat 29 July	Portrait Interest Group	Mark Stevenson
Wed 2 Aug	Super moon rising	John Mitchell
Thurs 3 Aug	Virtual outing: Winter – sky	Laurie Westcott
Wed 9 Aug	Astro Interest Group	John Mitchell
Thurs 17 Aug	Meeting	
Sat 26 Aug	Portrait Interest Group	Mark Stevenson
Sun 27 Aug	Namadgi National Park	Julie Taylor/Laurie Westcott
Thurs 31 Aug	Super moon rising – second chance	John Mitchell
Thurs 1 Sept	Virtual outing: Corners	Laurie Westcott
Tues–12–14 Sept	Canola/silo art road trip	Julie Taylor
Wed 13 Sept	Astro Interest Group	John Mitchell
16 Sept –	Floriade	
Thurs 21 Sept	Meeting	
Sun 24 Sept	Stromlo – sunset/light painting	Brian Moir
Sat 30 Sept	Portrait Interest Group	Mark Stevenson
Thurs 5 Oct	Virtual outing: Framing for spring	Laurie Westcott
Wed 11 Oct	Astro Interest Group	John Mitchell
Tues 17 Oct	Murrumbatman	TBC
Thurs 19 Oct	Meeting	
Sat 28 Oct	Portrait Interest Group	Mark Stevenson
Sun 30 Oct	Rose Gardens: Parliamentary Triangle	Mark Stevenson
Thurs 2 Nov	Virtual outing: Wet, using the rule of thirds	Zoom: Laurie Westcott
Wed 8 Nov	Astro Interest Group	John Mitchell
Thurs 16 Nov	Meeting:	
Sun 19 Nov	Sunset: Mount Ainslie	TBC
Sat 25 Nov	Portrait Interest Group	Mark Stevenson
Tues 28 Nov	Camera basics: Weston Park	Outings Group
Sun 3 Dec	Christmas gathering by Lake Burley Griffin	
Thurs 14 Dec	Meeting: Year-end Show & Tell	

Contributions from Shane Baker

Stop shooting blurry photos

Are you tired of blurry bird-in-flight photos? Wanna know the #1 reason for them? It's picking the wrong shutter speed!

Over the years, I've troubleshot hundreds, maybe thousands, of other photographers' images, and when it comes to bird-in-flight work, there's no question about it: shutter speed is the biggest problem I see. Sometimes it's too slow and causes motion blur. Other times it's too fast and turns the image into an unrecoverable mess of noise.

The key is knowing the PROPER shutter speed for your subject - and in less than 12 minutes, you'll know everything you need to consistently pick the best shutter speeds for your bird-in-flight work! Watch the [youtube video](#).

Shane Baker

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.

Equipment list

Item	Custodian	Contact email
Elinchrome studio lighting equipment	Julie Taylor & Mark Stevenson	shinboner266@gmail.com
Colour Munki screen and printer calibrator	Mohamed Rageeb	mohrageeb@gmail.com
Fixed lighting kit: stands, light sources, extras	Mark Stevenson	shinboner266@gmail.com

Office bearers

Committee			
President	Nicky Bazley-Smith		president@southsidecameraclub.org
Treasurer	Tim Heenan		treasurer@southsidecameraclub.org
Secretary	Kumar Sukumar		secretary@southsidecameraclub.org
Ordinary member	Geoff Morrison		
Ordinary member	Warren Hicks		
Public Officer	Tim Heenan		
Non-committee positions			
Walkabout/excursion	Laurie Westcott, Rob Wignell, Helen Dawes		outings@southsidecameraclub.org
Portrait Interest Group	Mark Stevenson	0404 283 212	portrait@southsidecameraclub.org
Astro photography	John Mitchell		astro@southsidecameraclub.org
Newsletter Editor	Alison Milton	6254 0578	newsletter@southsidecameraclub.org
Website Manager	Brian Moir	0414 834 249	webmaster@southsidecameraclub.org

The Club online

Web site

www.southsidecameraclub.org/

Please send material for the web site to 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



*Horses, Crookwell
Bob McHugh*

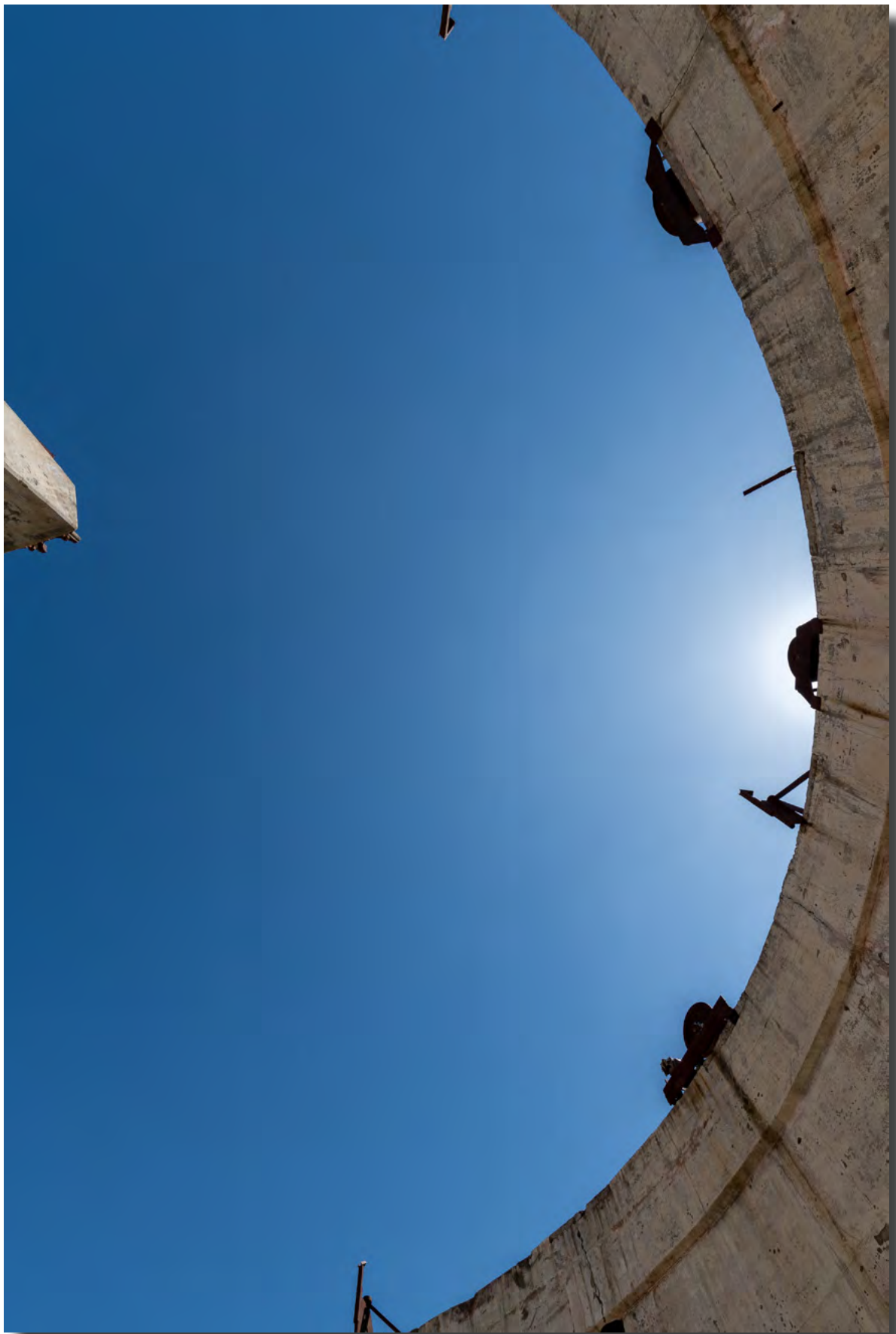


 Sukumar

*Offices in Woden
Kumar Sukumar*



*Mt Stromlo
Mark Stevenson*



*Mt Stromlo
Mark Stevenson*



*Mt Stromlo
Mark Stevenson*



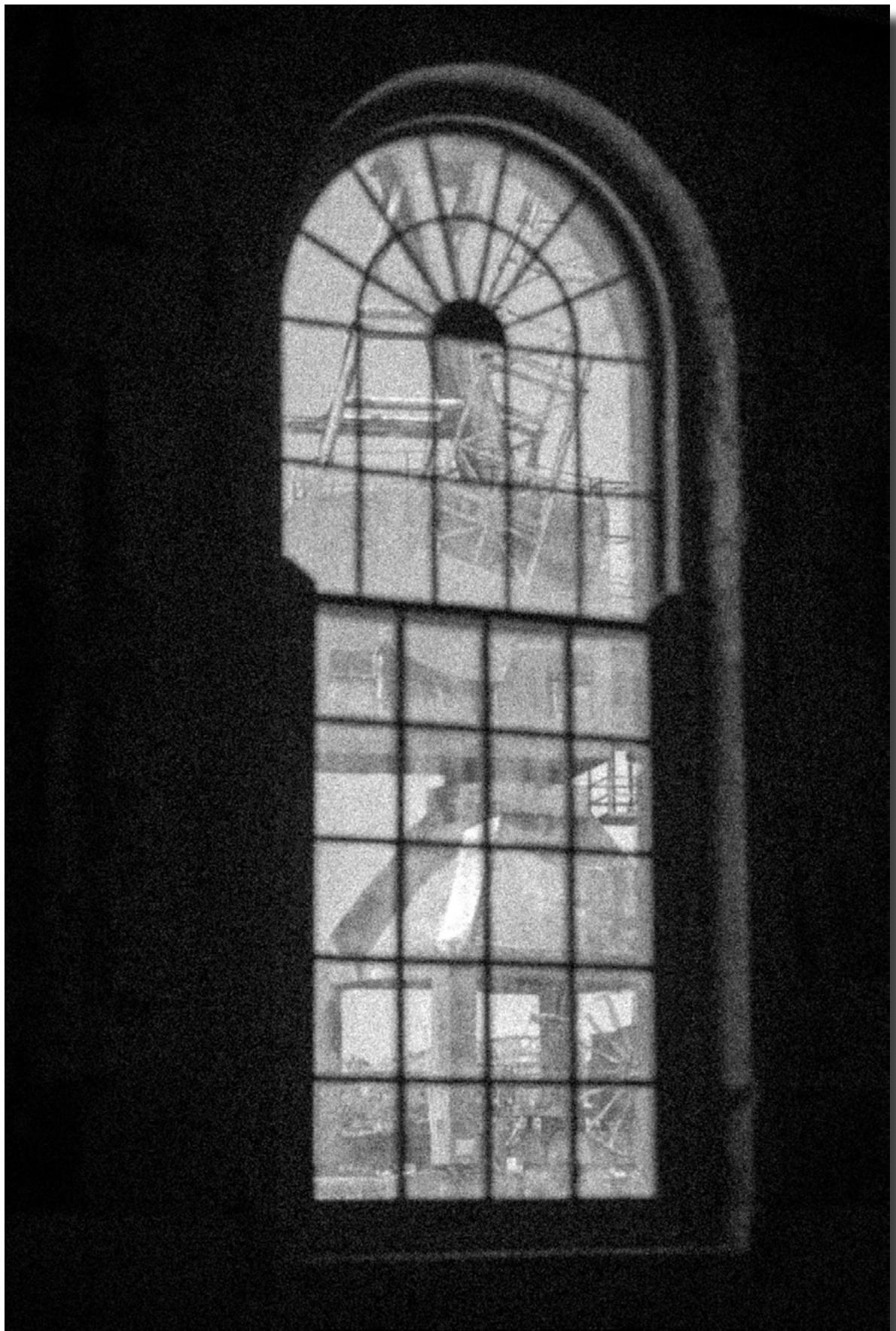
*Cookies Beach at sunrise
Rod Burgess*



*Cockatoo Island industrial precinct
Warren Hicks*



*Cockatoo Island industrial precinct
Warren Hicks*



*Cockatoo Island industrial precinct
Warren Hicks*



*Cockatoo Island industrial precinct
Warren Hicks*



Shadow - of a lamp post.
Nikon Z9 with Z 24-70mm at 50mm, ISO 64, 1/160 sec and F/11
Shane Baker



*Pete - a member of the Midland Men's Shed
Nikon Z9 with Nikkor 85mm f/1.8, ISO 64, f/4 and 1/200sec - with Godox AD 400 Pro flash
Shane Baker*



*Paddy - a member of the Midland Men's Shed
Nikon Z9 with Nikkor 85mm f/1.8, ISO 64, f/4 and 1/200sec - with Godox AD 400 Pro flash
Shane Baker*



*John - a member of the Midland Men's Shed
Nikon Z9 with Nikkor 85mm f/1.8, ISO 64, f/4 and 1/200sec - with Godox AD 400 Pro flash
Shane Baker*



*Jan - a member of the Midland Men's Shed
Nikon Z9 with Nikkor 85mm f/1.8, ISO 64, f/4 and 1/200sec - with Godox AD 400 Pro flash
Shane Baker*



*Nan Tien Temple pagoda, Wollongong
Alison Milton*



Cascades and Casuarina
Bob McHugh



*Glacial tarn at dawn, New Zealand
Giles West*



*New Zealand base camp
Giles West*



*Mount Cook and braided river, New Zealand
Giles West*



*New Zealand finale
Giles West*



*Azure Kingfisher Thompsons Flat, Cotter River
John Mitchell*



*Gippsland Water Dragon, ANBG rock garden
15 frames in camera focus stack & composition, hand held. Canon R7 with RF 100 -500 L IS USM
John Mitchell*



*New Holland Honeyeater - Banksia Serrata ANBG
John Mitchell*



*Australian Darter, Jerrabomberra Wetlands
Kumar Sukumar*



*Intermediate Egret, Jerrabomberra Wetlands
Kumar Sukumar*



*Macro walk, Australian National Botanic Gardens
Kumar Sukumar*



*Squirrel monkey, National Zoo and Aquarium
Mark Stevenson*



*Pebbles at Raymonds Beach
Rod Burgess*



Spotted gums in fog
Rod Burgess



Magpie with Redback spider
Rod Burgess



*Cockatoo Island industrial precinct
Warren Hicks*



*Old World War battlements, Hill Sixty, Port Kembla
Alison Milton*



Street art, Batemans Bay
Alison Milton