

F22: Southside Camera Club newsletter



Volume 31 – Issue 4: May 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 18 May: Landscapes, presented by Giles West

My interest in landscape photography was inspired by National Geographic images, and such photographic greats as Peter Dombrovskis and Frank Hurley. I find the early morning and early evening light and the shadows fascinating and try to capture these as best I can and still prefer the way film (Fuji velvia and provia) captured these effects. I rarely use film these days however, in many ways still apply film techniques to digital photography, rarely manipulating images. The image has to work as it is and at most I apply a bit of D lighting using the Nikon software.



What's on this month

Date	Meeting, excursion, walkabout or group event	Speaker/convenor
Wed 10 May	Astro Interest Group	John Mitchell
Thurs 18 May	Meeting: Happy snaps from a landscape tragic	Giles West
Sat 20 May	Bendora Arboretum	Brian Moir
Sat 27 May	Portrait Interest Group	Mark Stevenson

Reports

President's report

The meeting was very well attended, six of our members gave very informative presentations about how they setup their cameras to suit their style and photographic needs. The aim was to enhance our understanding of the camera as a tool and encourage conversations to help each other. Judging by the discussions over the coffee break it did just that. Thank you to all the speakers for their time and generosity.

It is time to review your photos and consider submitting some for the club yearbook. Make contact with Alison for details.

Our May speaker is Giles who will be sharing experiences from recent trips to New Zealand and Nepal where natural beauty, history and geology are in abundance. From the mountains to rivers, and forests, lots to explore. Hope to see you there.

Nicky Bazley-Smith
President

Portrait Interest Group report: April 2023

The group's April meeting was held across from the Yarralumla Play Station in Weston Park off Prescott Lane. The venue is a popular spot for outdoor gatherings, including weddings and birthday parties.

The morning was bright, sunny and quite still for the duration of the meet. As always, when photographing people, the bright sunshine presented some issues when posing our model and required a little thought to reduce some strong shadows. Photographers overcame the shadow issues in a number ways, including the use of fill in flash or placing the model with her back to the sun, which can result in some impressive backlit hair highlights. And of course the use of some dense shade from the colourful trees around the (unfortunately recently drained) pond, which we had hoped would provide an opportunity for some reflective shots, particularly given how still the morning was.

Nevertheless, the autumn colours of the trees, as well as the paths, bridges and rocky outcrops surrounding the pond provided a variety of backdrops for photographers to work with.

Coffee, cake and conversation afterwards was had afterwards at the nearby Play Station cafe.

Mark Stevenson
Portrait Interest Group Convenor

Astro Interest Group

The astro interest group meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th May at 7.30 pm. We will reflect on the recent aurora event that's continued. I invite everyone to showcase their recent images during this meeting.

The next new moon is on Saturday 20 May.

John Mitchell

Future yearbooks

As you may be aware, fewer members seem to contribute to the yearbook each year. One member has suggested that this is because the cost of buying a single copy is quite expensive. Although members don't have to buy the book and a high quality PDF version is available from the Club's web site. I would be interested in hearing from members whether the cost of

the book is a contributing factor for not submitting photos; or any other reasons.

At the moment we use the online Blurb option but I have started exploring whether there is a cheaper alternative. I personally use Photobook Australia and they offer greatly discounted specials as well as bulk purchase options. I am looking at getting a quotes from local printers. There are advantages and disadvantages between the various options.

The following gives a comparison based on a 40 page book, which has been about the average size in recent years.

I'm not aware of the quality of the binding from the local printer (or printers) but I do know that the Photobook Australia binding is of a good quality and equivalent to that of Blurb.

I would like to get comments from members on their preferences on going forward with the publication of future yearbooks.

	Photobook Australia (current offers)
Soft cover	20 identical books with free shipping \$495.80 (\$24.79 per book)
Hard cover	20 identical books with free shipping \$680.10 (\$34 per book)
(Free shipping is not always on offer but the bulk buy is. Prices are variable depending on the current offers)	

Advantage is that bulk offers of 10 or 20 identical copies are always available. They are offered as a pre-purchase deal but I can create the book then wait till the best deal to order copies. Negotiation can be made for more than 20 copies.

If a member misses the bulk buy, there is the opportunity to buy additional copies when special are offered; currently a 40 page soft cover \$21.95 or a hard cover at \$23.95. Individual postage is currently around \$14, still making this cheaper than Blurb. These offers are constant but prices do change. So there is an option to order late copies.

Disadvantages. Need to take advance orders. It may mean that only one type of binding is available unless there are orders for more than 10 copies for each of a hard and soft cover. There may also be an issue if orders are not for exactly 10 or 20 books. As Editor, I would be willing to organise the bulk buy.

Can only produce low quality proof PDF. Photobook Australia don't offer the same book size as Blurb, so the books would be A4.

Local printer (Based on last year's book of 36 pages)	
Soft cover	\$25 each for 30 books \$19 each for 50 books \$15 each for 100 books
Hard cover	n/a from this printer. Need to investigate others

Advantages: Possibly the cheapest price (not knowing the negotiated price for more than 20 copies from Photobook Australia). Also, this quote is based on 36 pages against 40 pages. Can print at the current size or A4 at same cost. Can specify any number required. No additional postage cost. Possibly able to print both soft cover and hard cover options.

Can produce high quality PDF without paying for it.

Disadvantages: Will need to take advance orders from members. No ability to print additional copies if members change their mind and want to buy a book.

	Blurb (Based on last year's book of 36 pages)
Soft cover	\$51.34 (inc postage)
Hard cover	\$68.95 (inc postage)

Advantage is that Members can choose between three options and the books are available for years to come.

Disadvantage is the cost. There is a 10% discount for orders of 10 or more, which also reduces the postage cost but this is only if a member is willing to organise this.

Can get high quality PDF but it has to be purchased. (I've always paid for this without seeking reimbursement.)

I agree that Blurb is getting too expensive so before I prepare the 2022 yearbook:

- Which of the two alternatives would you prefer?
- Would you be more willing to contribute if the cost of buying the book was less expensive?
- Would you prefer hard cover or soft cover?
- If choosing Photobook Australia, would you be willing to change your selection to either soft cover or hard cover if the required numbers were not obtained for your preference?
- Any other comments or suggestions?

Please send me your responses and comments to me at apm56@optusnet.com.au

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

Date	Meeting, excursion, walkabout or group event	Convenor/speaker
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	Angela Robertson-Buchanan
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	

Image noise

Malcolm Watson

Introduction

At the recent club meeting on Camera Settings there was some enthusiastic discussion on image noise and how or when to minimise this. Many interesting points were raised but there was little time available to discuss the primary cause of noise and the interesting dual characteristics of many modern sensors. The dual characteristics have practical implications for a variety of high end cameras from popular manufacturers, such as Nikon, Fujifilm, and Sony.

Although noise occurs in all file formats, for simplicity, the below discussion refers explicitly to RAW files. For other formats, the same principles apply but interpretation of image output is complicated by the post-capture image-processing.

Cause of noise

Image noise is the random variation of brightness that arises from the image sensor and capture circuitry of a digital camera. Image noise is usually considered to be an undesirable by-product of image capture that obscures the desired information. It is a function of the relative strength of the noise signal to that of the available light being photographed. It thus varies with camera settings that control the amount of light entering the camera, i.e. the aperture and shutter speed.

Noise and ISO settings

Although ISO settings can change the visibility of this noise, they are not the cause of the observed noise. ISO settings change the brightness of the image already captured by the camera (including the noise) and do not, as such, add any additional noise to the image. If you notice noise in your image, it means you had an insufficient external light signal.

The primary cause of the noise when using a higher ISO (together with a faster shutter speed or smaller aperture to give a consistent exposure) is that the sensor receives less external light and the noise makes up a greater percentage of the total signal being amplified.

Noise visibility in shadows

Noise becomes visible in dark parts of an image, when you lighten them in post processing. In these parts of the image, the noise signal is a higher proportion of the total signal due to the low level of external light available. When lightened, you see more detail but also more noise.

Dual ISO characteristics

Some modern cameras have dual characteristics such that there is a step reduction in noise at a moderate ISO values due to an adjustment in the electron capacity of the camera's sensor. This is frequently the case for cameras with Sony sensors. Basically, the lower ISO's are optimised for high dynamic range and the higher ISO's for noise reduction.

The nature of this change is illustrated in the diagram of ISO versus read noise for the Nikon D850 (from https://www.photonstophotos.net/Charts/RN_e.htm). The values plotted are for the same image exposures.

The ISO values at which changes occur vary with cameras, e.g.

- Nikon D850 - ISO 400
- Sony A7R3 - ISO 640
- Sony A7S3 - ISO1600



ISO and dynamic range

Dynamic range is the number of stops between the maximum and minimum light intensities that can be recorded in a photograph. Increasing ISO reduces dynamic range due to cropping of the higher light intensities. The amount of cropping is roughly equal to the number of stops that ISO is increased above the camera's base ISO. For example, the Sony A7R3 loses between 0.8 and 1.2 stops in dynamic range per stop increase in ISO (depending on the ISO value selected).

Practical outcomes

Two practical outcomes for photography are:

- To reduce noise one must let more light into the camera by increasing aperture and/or decreasing shutter speed
- If your camera has dual ISO characteristics, it is better to use higher ISO values close to the step change, e.g. the D850 ISO values between 400 and 640 have less noise than that at 320 ISO.

References

1. Dan Fox, ISO on Sony cameras is often INCREDIBLY misunderstood: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gisj6Og3xCI>
2. Photons to Photos: <https://www.photonstophotos.net/index.htm>
3. Tony Northrup, High ISO does NOT cause NOISE! (but f/Stop & Shutter do!): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jkf31w7fwU>

Contributions from Shane Baker

Anthony Morganti LR tip: worst case scenario

If you've somehow lost a file without a backup and recovery software isn't working. If you use Lightroom, there is something you can do to salvage something. Anthony demonstrates this is his [video](#).

Steve Perry: Six wildlife photography mistakes

In this [video](#) Steve talks about six mistakes almost everyone makes when photographing wildlife.

Steve Perry: Back button AF with mirrorless

Once upon a time, when DSLRs roamed the land, Back Button AF was the automatic go-to for many - even most - photographers. However, with mirrorless taking over at a blistering pace, things are changing. Many are questioning the wisdom of using BBAF and, indeed, many have switched back to shutter release AF.

Should you?

In this video, Steve discusses why BBAF is less important for mirrorless shooters than it is for DSLR fans, but why it still might be the best option for some shooters.

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.

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

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	mohraqeeb@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



*Is that a Pistol in your pocket? Miniature Hibiscus mutant
Iain Cole*



© Iain Cole

*Circle. Agapanthus black and white
Iain Cole*



© Iain Cole

Last Gasp. Same flowers, different day
Iain Cole



Floating in the dark. Nasturtium leaf
Iain Cole



*Coolomon Ridge
Robert Triggs*



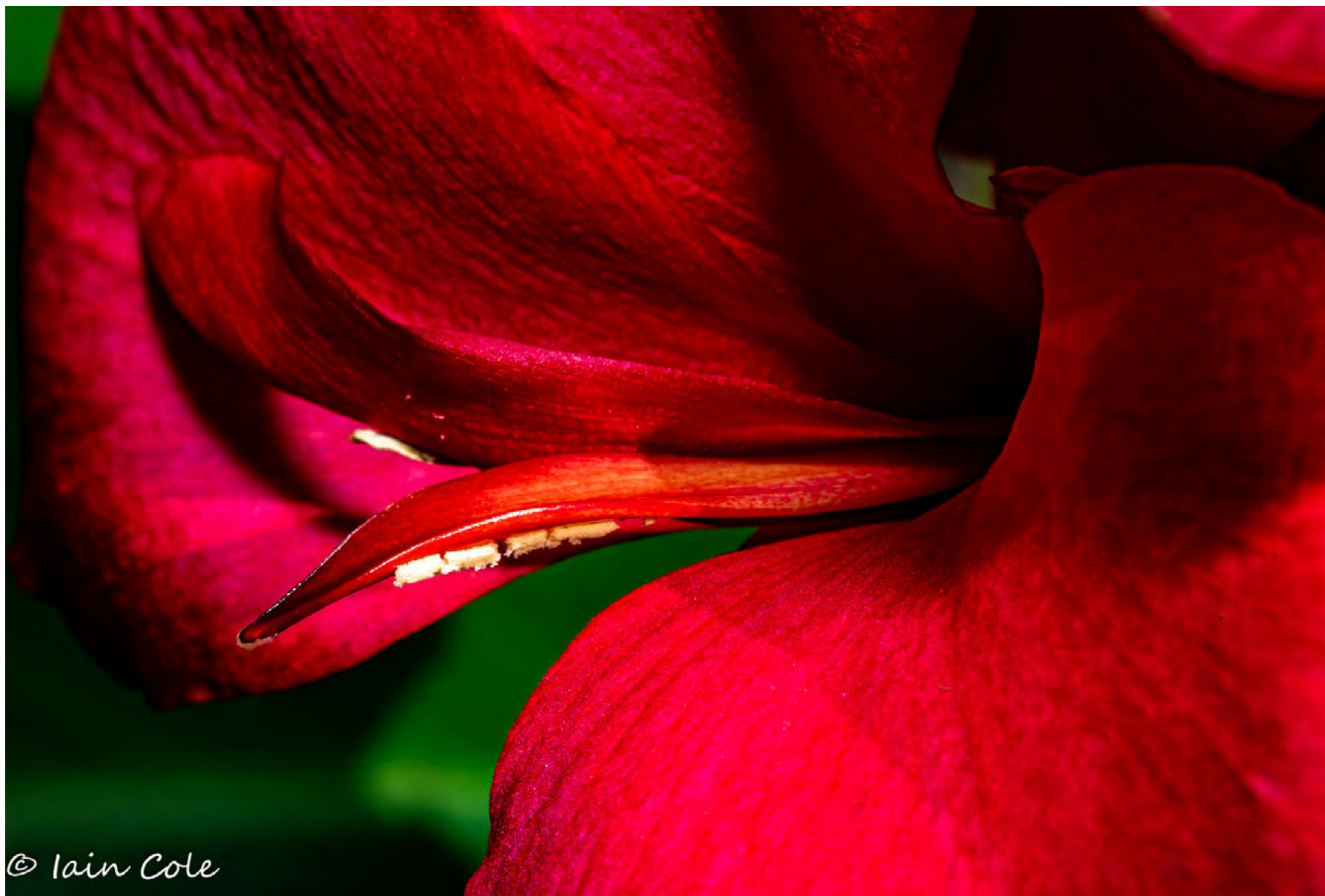
Alison Milton



Colour Palette #1. What can I say, I love these Passionfruit flowers
Iain Cole



*Colour Palette #2. Frangipani center
Iain Cole*



*Colour abstract. Calla lily detail
Iain Cole*



*Awakening. Cordyline budding
Iain Cole*



*Spiky. Pine cone and seeds
Iain Cole*



© Iain Cole

Carrion Flower about to burst
Iain Cole



Robert Triggs



Southern Brown Bandicoot
Robert Triggs



*National Zoo and Aquarium
Mark Stevenson*



*National Zoo and Aquarium
Mark Stevenson*



*Portrait Interest Group April 2023
Mark Stevenson*



*University of Southern Queensland Japanese Garden
Mark Stevenson*



University of Southern Queensland Japanese Garden

Mark Stevenson



*National Arboretum
Laurie Westcott*



*National Arboretum
Laurie Westcott*



*National Arboretum
Laurie Westcott*



*National Arboretum
Laurie Westcott*



Grey Teal Duck
Alison Milton



*Painted water tanks, Cowra, NSW
Alison Milton*



*Japanese Gardens, Cowra, NSW
Alison Milton*



*Japanese Gardens, Cowra, NSW
Alison Milton*



Creek near Yass, NSW: taken from a moving bus. Alison Milton