

# F22: Southside Camera Club newsletter



Volume 31 – Issue 4: May 2023

## Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| What's on this month  | 1 |
| Next meeting Thursday 18 May:<br>Landscapes, presented by<br>Giles West | 1 |
| <b>Reports</b>  | 2 |
| President's report  | 2 |
| Portrait Interest Group report: April<br>2023                           | 2 |
| <b>Future yearbooks</b>   | 2 |
| <b>Image noise</b>  | 4 |
| <b>Contributions from<br/>    Shane Baker</b>                           | 5 |
| <b>Online resources</b>   | 5 |
| <b>The Club online</b>  | 5 |
| Web site  | 5 |
| Facebook  | 5 |
| flickr  | 5 |
| <b>Equipment list</b>   | 5 |
| <b>Office bearers</b>   | 5 |
| <b>F22 gallery</b>  | 6 |

## 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<br>\$495.80 (\$24.79 per book) |
| Hard cover  | 20 identical books with free shipping<br>\$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<br>(Based on last year's book of 36 pages) |   |
|--|---|
| Soft cover   | \$25 each for 30 books<br>\$19 each for 50 books<br>\$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.

|            | <b>Blurb</b><br>(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](mailto:apm56@optusnet.com.au)

*Subject to change. Forward queries/suggestions to [outings@southsidecameraclub.org](mailto: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.

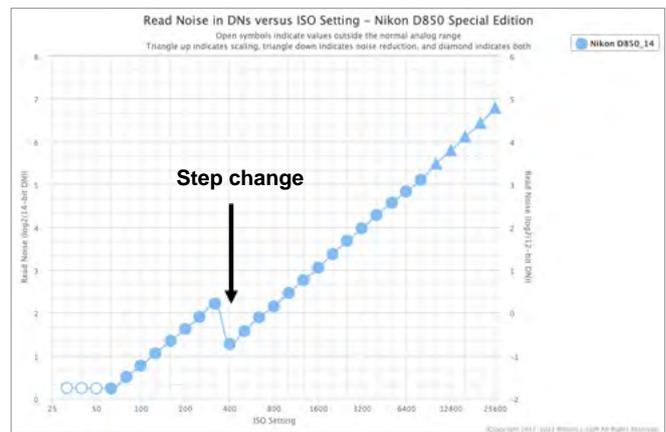
### Dual ISO characteristics

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](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.

## Equipment list

| Item  | Custodian                     | Contact email  |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Elinchrome studio lighting equipment              | Julie Taylor & Mark Stevenson | <a href="mailto:shinboner266@gmail.com">shinboner266@gmail.com</a> |
| Colour Munki screen and printer calibrator        | Mohamed Rageeb                | <a href="mailto:mohraqueeb@gmail.com">mohraqueeb@gmail.com</a>     |
| Fixed lighting kit: stands, light sources, extras | Mark Stevenson                | <a href="mailto:shinboner266@gmail.com">shinboner266@gmail.com</a> |

## Office bearers

| Committee       |                    |  |  |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|
| President       | Nicky Bazley-Smith |  | <a href="mailto:president@southsidecameraclub.org">president@southsidecameraclub.org</a> |
| Treasurer       | Tim Heenan         |  | <a href="mailto:treasurer@southsidecameraclub.org">treasurer@southsidecameraclub.org</a> |
| Secretary       | Kumar Sukumar      |  | <a href="mailto:secretary@southsidecameraclub.org">secretary@southsidecameraclub.org</a> |
| Ordinary member | Geoff Morrison     |  |  |
| Ordinary member | Warren Hicks       |  |  |
| Public Officer  | Tim Heenan         |  |  |

| Non-committee positions |   |              |  |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|--|
| Walkabout/excursion     | Laurie Westcott, Rob Wignell, Helen Dawes |              | <a href="mailto:outings@southsidecameraclub.org">outings@southsidecameraclub.org</a>       |
| Portrait Interest Group | Mark Stevenson                            | 0404 283 212 | <a href="mailto:portrait@southsidecameraclub.org">portrait@southsidecameraclub.org</a>     |
| Astro photography       | John Mitchell                             |              | <a href="mailto:astro@southsidecameraclub.org">astro@southsidecameraclub.org</a>           |
| Newsletter Editor       | Alison Milton                             | 6254 0578    | <a href="mailto:newsletter@southsidecameraclub.org">newsletter@southsidecameraclub.org</a> |
| Website Manager         | Brian Moir                                | 0414 834 249 | <a href="mailto:webmaster@southsidecameraclub.org">webmaster@southsidecameraclub.org</a>   |

## The Club online

### Web site

[www.southsidecameraclub.org/](http://www.southsidecameraclub.org/)

Please send material for the web site to [webmaster@southsidecameraclub.org](mailto: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](mailto:president@southsidecameraclub.org)



© Iain Cole

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



*Circle. Agapanthus black and white  
Iain Cole*



*Last Gasp. Same flowers, different day  
Iain Cole*



© Iain Cole

*Floating in the dark. Nasturtium leaf  
Iain Cole*



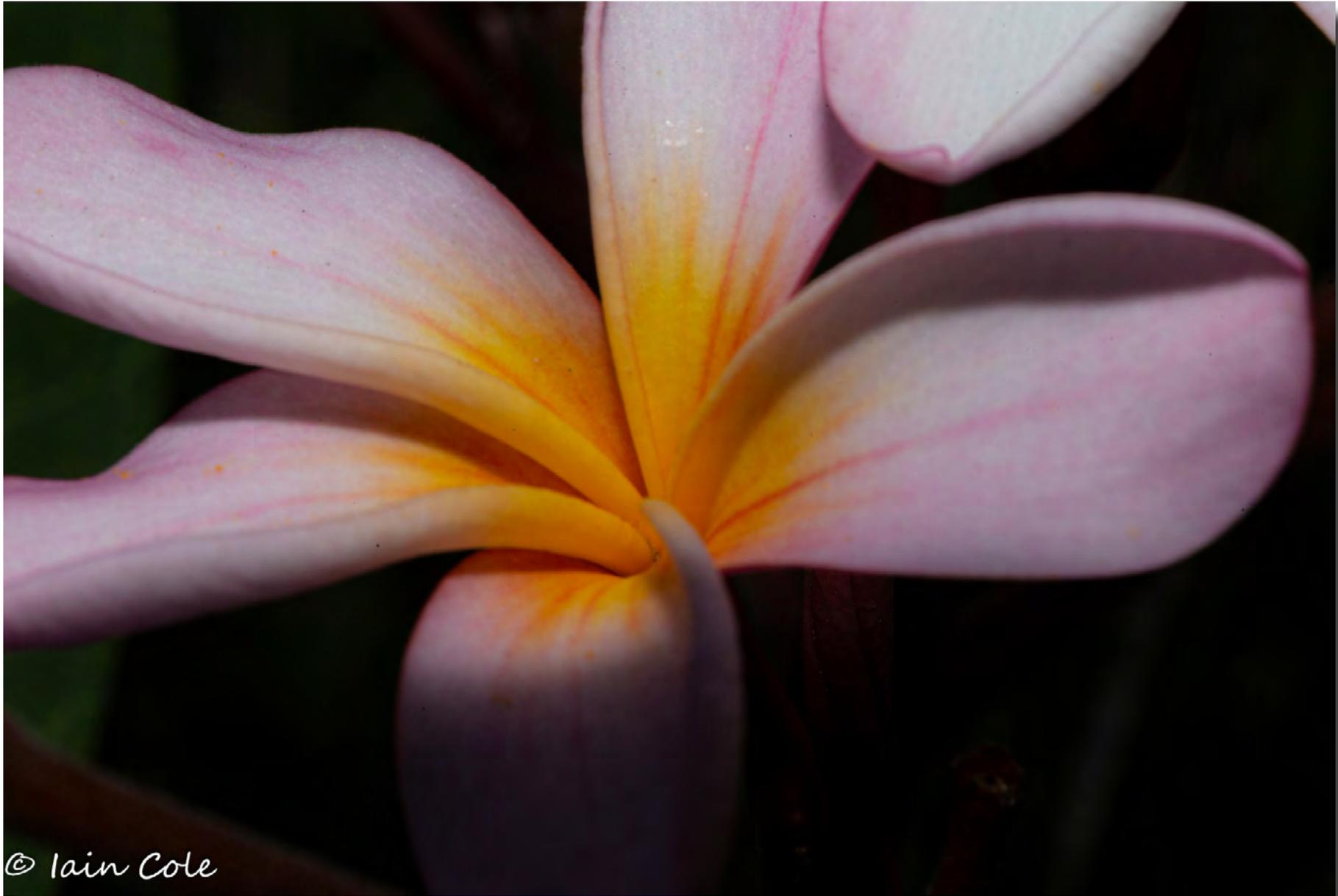
*Coolomon Ridge  
Robert Triggs*



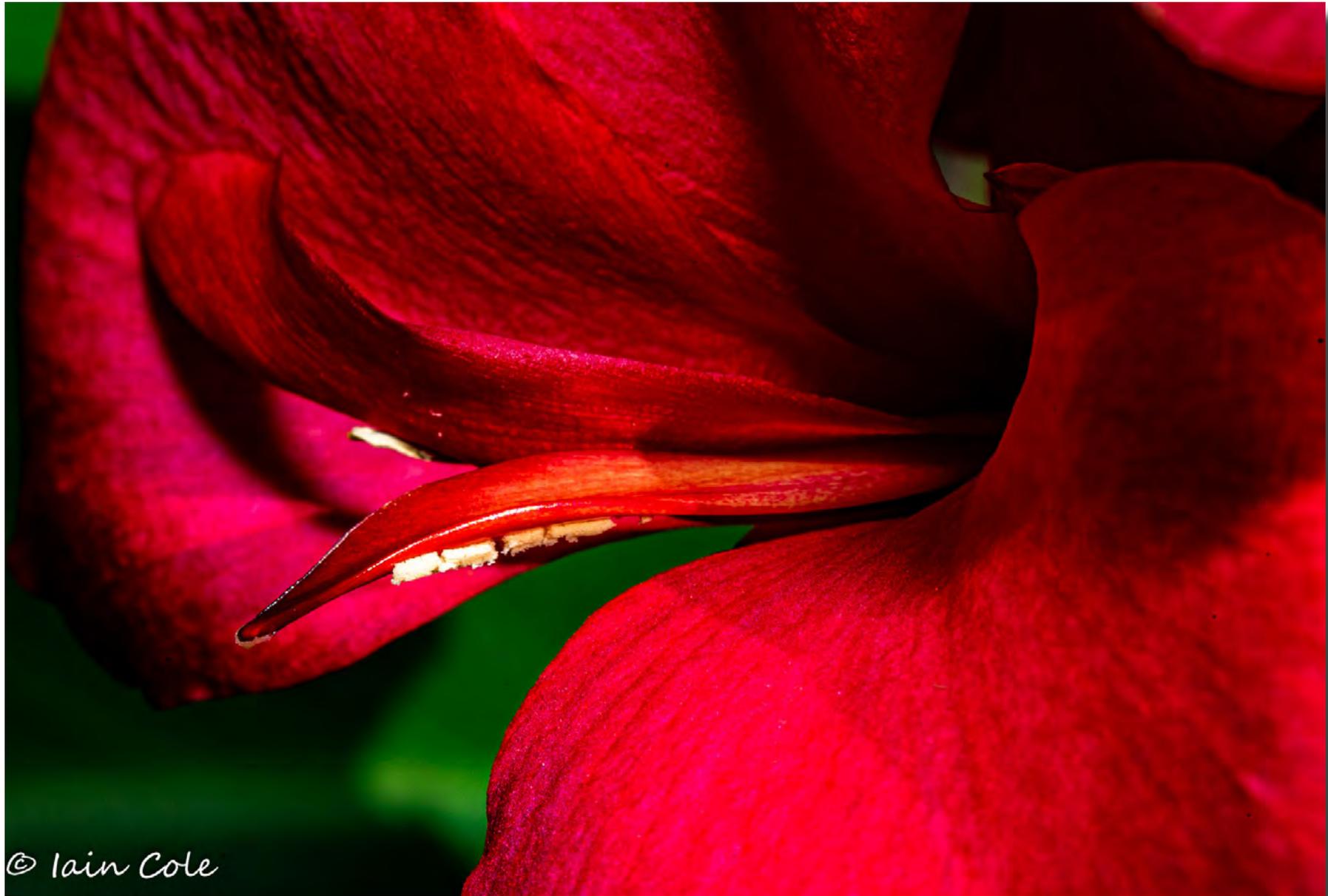
*Alison Milton*



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



*Colour Palette #2. Frangipani center  
Iain Cole*



© Iain Cole

*Colour abstract. Calla lily detail  
Iain Cole*



*Awakening. Cordyline budding  
Iain Cole*



© 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*