



# f22: Southside Camera Club Newsletter

## November 2015

Club Meeting – 7:30 pm on Thursday 12 November 2015 at the Belconnen Soccer Club,  
cnr. Belconnen Way and Springvale Drive, Hawker

### Events

### Monthly Meeting Topics for 2015

Meeting Date	Topic	Presenter(s)	Notes
12 November	Do you remember slides!!	Giles West, Jennifer Thompson	Types, qualities and pros and cons.
10 December	AGM and show and tell		Bring your best photos for the year

### October Meeting Report

Rob suggested that those who are interested should meet at 6.30 pm rather than at 7.30 at our next Club meeting on 12 November. This early start would be to provide time to discuss options for the Club's Website and where we wish to take it in 2016 and beyond. In a subsequent email sent out to all members on Wednesday 4 November, Rob has expanded the topics of the extra discussion time to include suggestions for meeting topics and excursions for next year.

During a discussion about club assets, Paul Livingston indicated that he would like to pass on the Elinchrome Lighting Equipment to another custodian. Julie Taylor and Mark Stevenson volunteered to take over.

Jeff Cutting reported that the Rural Fire Service was currently holding a photographic exhibition of the fire history of our region at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre, and invited members to attend if they were interested. I subsequently visited this exhibition and found a very interesting collection of historical photos and firefighting equipment. Many of the photos were taken by Jeff Cutting during his many years of volunteering with the Rural Fire Service. Jeff has received some very well deserved recognition for his contribution to keeping our region safe during the fire season. More about Jeff in the F22 Gallery of this edition.

Denis Walsh suggested that the club should acquire a portable PA system due to the noise that we customarily have to contend with at our meetings. Laurie Westcott endorsed this idea. Denis agreed to make enquiries and report back at our next meeting.

### Treasurer's Report

As Iain Cole could not make it to the meeting there was no Treasurer's Report for October.

## Rob's Rant

For the past few years, Christmas sneaks up on me really quickly. In late November my wife and I will take our Avan down to Lake Conjola caravan park to meet up with some friends from Sydney for a couple of weeks fishing, walking, telling tall stories and generally not doing much at all. When we get back in early December I will discover that Christmas is approaching like a (insert suitable metaphor) and I am late with all my Christmas buying again.

Consequently I will be away for the November DIGSIG, the last to be convened by Dennis Lovatt, so I want to thank him for all his effort in advance of his final show. Dennis took over from Graeme Kruse at short notice two years ago when Graeme announced his unanticipated departure from Canberra. Graeme had run the DIGSIG for many years and left a big gap in our activities. Dennis has continued the DIGSIG with informative demonstrations that have covered a wide range of topics.

I look forward to someone stepping forward to take over from Dennis next year when the DIGSIG meetings are due to start in February.

We have been meeting at the Belconnen Soccer Club in Hawker since June and I wanted to summarise my perceptions of the highs and lows of this experience. My first response, in early May, was a feeling of great relief that we actually had a home for our club after our last meeting at the Burns Club in May.

One of our first meetings in Belconnen had to contend with a party of seventy in the dining room next door who had been to a funeral that day. Their reveries were much louder than our ability to share information and it wasn't until quite late that they finally left us to enjoy a quieter "show and tell".

All of our meetings have to contend with the background noise of the Thursday night meat raffle but it is relatively benign and is usually finished soon after 8:00 pm. Generally speaking this has been a significantly smaller disruption than the Bingo at the Burns Club which seemed to go all night.

The lighting for our room is controlled by a switchboard next to the kitchen, and worse, our lights and the dining room lights are linked. If we wanted to dim the lights we would have to dim the lights for the dining room as well. We have made the most of the lighting by placing our screen in a poorly lit corner and with the advantage of our powerful projector, we have been able to view digital images adequately. However, the lighting hasn't done justice to those amongst us who bring prints. They need brighter light for us to view their work. For the moment this is an unresolved issue that would be less of a problem if we controlled the lights in our room.

I don't know if we have lost or gained members or attendees as a result of our move to the northside. I have heard anecdotes that a few people have found the trip north difficult but there have been positive responses from members who live on the northside. The change of meeting night from Wednesday to Thursday could be equally significant in affecting attendance. Our loyal members from Queanbeyan have organised a car pool and that makes sense regardless of where we meet.

In summary, the move hasn't been catastrophically bad. However, there are some downsides in the utility of our room especially lighting and occasional noise, the members from the northside have benefited, members from the southside are mostly still coming but it takes them longer. Significantly, we are getting the room for nothing and haven't had to incorporate ourselves.

For next meeting in November I hope to trial a PA system to help overcome the ambient noise. (Thanks to Denis Walsh for putting some research effort into this.)

I have started talking to clubs on the southside and I can get a room in the Woden Tradies Club for \$150 per night. Apart from the expense, it is a relatively small room that couldn't take many more than 30 people, but it is quiet and we would have control of our own lights. I am also preparing a note seeking a payment exception under some sort of community obligation that registered clubs have to the local government to support community based clubs like ours. I think it is worth considering if we can get the room at a reduced rate (or free) but at the asking price I think there is better value around.

Other clubs I am in the process of contacting are: Eastlake Football Club; Deakin Soccer Club and the Hellenic Club.

I would like to have at least one of the monthly meetings on the southside to honour the name of our club.

In the meantime, the staff at the Belconnen Soccer Club have been positive and helpful and I will write to club management after our December meeting thanking them for their generous support during this year.

Finally, I would be very pleased to hear from anybody who has suggestions for accommodation next year, including those who support a continuing relationship with the Belconnen Soccer Club. Also, don't forget to send me suggestions for outings and meeting topics for next year so that this aspect of the AGM can be finalised as quickly as possible.

Best wishes.

Rob Wignell

## Monthly Excursions for 2015

Date	Activity	Organised by	Notes
14-15 November	Guthega	Rob Wignell	

## Walkabout Group

### walkabout Group Calendar 2015

If any member wants to organise a walkabout, then we are keen to publicise it in order to get the maximum turnout.

Date	Location	Organised by	Level
19 Nov	Tidbinbilla		Easy/ Medium

## Excursion Reports

Drive to Michelago, the Tinderries and Captains Flat

Thursday October 15 - by Laurie Westcott

The day promised to be warm as four of us met up at Kambah Village, car-shared and pushed on to catch up with others on the Monaro Hwy at the Johnson Dr. intersection. Seven of us all told. Owen brought his swag, intending to camp overnight on the Tinderries to catch the mountain scenery at sunset and sunrise. Driving towards Royalla, we stopped by the Solar Farm to see what impressions we could capture from the roadside. Moving on beyond Williamsdale we halted at the railway bridge slowly decaying to the left of the highway with a small stream flowing underneath from the hills to the east. We moved on a kilometre or so where the stream passed back under both the old wooden road bridge and, via a large round concrete tunnel, the railway line. The stream at this point formed a pool offering reflections along its vegetated and rock borders.

The small church on the highway and Michalego's railway station were next on our list. The station housed Michalego's op shop and was obviously the centre of some stop-go restoration. While the station's planter boxes may have lacked a good dose of TLC, we certainly gave the station and its setting a lot of attention.

From there we moved on up the mountain and though blessed with a couple of vantage points with extensive views to the west, our disappointment at the lack of safe off-road pull-overs was somewhat assuaged by the windy, hazy conditions. The prospect of abundant wildflowers on the top of the Tinderries didn't materialise and the few that were there were duly recorded. The area of the western face the road climbed still showed the effects of the devastating fire some years ago. We stopped for lunch in a cleared area of tussock grass near the remains of an old stockyard which provided some rustic photo opportunities.

Moving on, we drove down the mountain with open views across the widening valley to the T-intersection with the Jerangle-Captains Flat Road. Rather than turn

back at this point, Owen accompanied us into Captains Flat which we approached from behind the slag heaps of the old mine which formed a southern backdrop to the town. Stopping at the park near the river, we walked through the town noting the colourful Outsiders cafe was up for sale and only sold drinks now on the weekend (Sunday, I think) - they had "retired from food" which you could "get from the hotel". One of the former art galleries displayed some work in its window even though a 'for sale' sign was tacked on the building. Captains Flat still shows signs of having a future despite the many 'for sale' signs on buildings in the commerce area and the closure of the garage - a business was erecting new premises next to the hotel. Finally we left Owen to wend his way back up the mountain and await the next club meeting to know how his sunset and sunrise photos turned out.

Below are some of Laurie's photos from this excursion.



Royalla Solar Farm





Railway to Cooma in former times



Tinderries lunch stop and old stockyard



Colourful outsiders Cafe now for sale - business opportunity in Captains Flat for adventurous entrepreneur





Will you buy me in Captains Flat?

## Excursion to Settlers Trail in Namadgi National Park

Saturday 24 October - by Julie Taylor

On 24th October eleven of us met out at the start of the Settlers Trail in Namadgi National Park. It was a bit of a drive down to the bottom end of Namadgi but well worth it. The day was lovely with lots of sun, a nice breeze to stop us all getting too hot, and some cloud to make the sky more interesting. The Settlers Track is a moderate 9 km loop walk along a marked trail which takes you around three of the original huts built in Namadgi in the 1800's. The walk includes Brayshaws hut, the very rustic Waterhole Hut with some of the original fences and lovely run-down old yards, and Westermans hut with its dramatic red walls. It is a generally flat walk with gentle slopes and some lovely views across to Westermans hut from a couple of spots along the walk. The huts have been restored of course but are very original with some remnants of the newspapers used to paper the walls still present. There are also wonderful granite boulders and some very colourful lichens. It is a very historic part of Namadgi and for those who are interested the ACT government website has quite a bit of interesting information on the area: [http://www.tams.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/404591/The-Settlers-Track.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/404591/The-Settlers-Track.pdf)

Sheila and Owen opted for the shorter walk to Westermans Hut and Peter set himself up very comfortably at Brayshaws hut with his newspaper and settled in for the morning. The rest of us headed off gallantly on the 9km trek through eucalyptus woodlands, open grasslands and wonderful granite boulders. We were harangued by two masked plovers on our way to Waterhole hut but survived unscathed, and settled in at the hut for morning tea. Lots of photos later we were ready to head onto Westermans hut where we had the place to ourselves. We met up with Owen and some of us and sat on the verandah to have our lunch (those who couldn't wait had already eaten their lunch at Waterhole hut) and enjoyed the views and the peace and quiet. Westermans hut is where the boulders with the striking orange lichens are to be found and is a short walk back to Brayshaws hut where we settled in for our cuppas, and a chat before heading home mid-afternoon. A lovely day was had by all and lots of photos were taken. I have included a couple of my photos but I'm sure there are some much better ones out there - hopefully we'll get to see them at the next club meeting.













## F22 Gallery

### Jeff Cutting

Jeff has been a photographer for over 50 years. When I asked whether he would mind contributing some photos to the F22 Gallery he told me that he is currently compiling a 50 years retrospective document and lots of images to go into an album for his family. He has very generously adapted that document for this newsletter and included 10 of his own photos plus some very interesting old family snaps.

Last Sunday Jeff's wife Diane informed me that Jeff had a heart attack earlier in the week. Fortunately he is doing ok and is taking things easy. On behalf of everyone in the club I wish Jeff a speedy recovery and I hope we will see both him and Diane at the next meeting.

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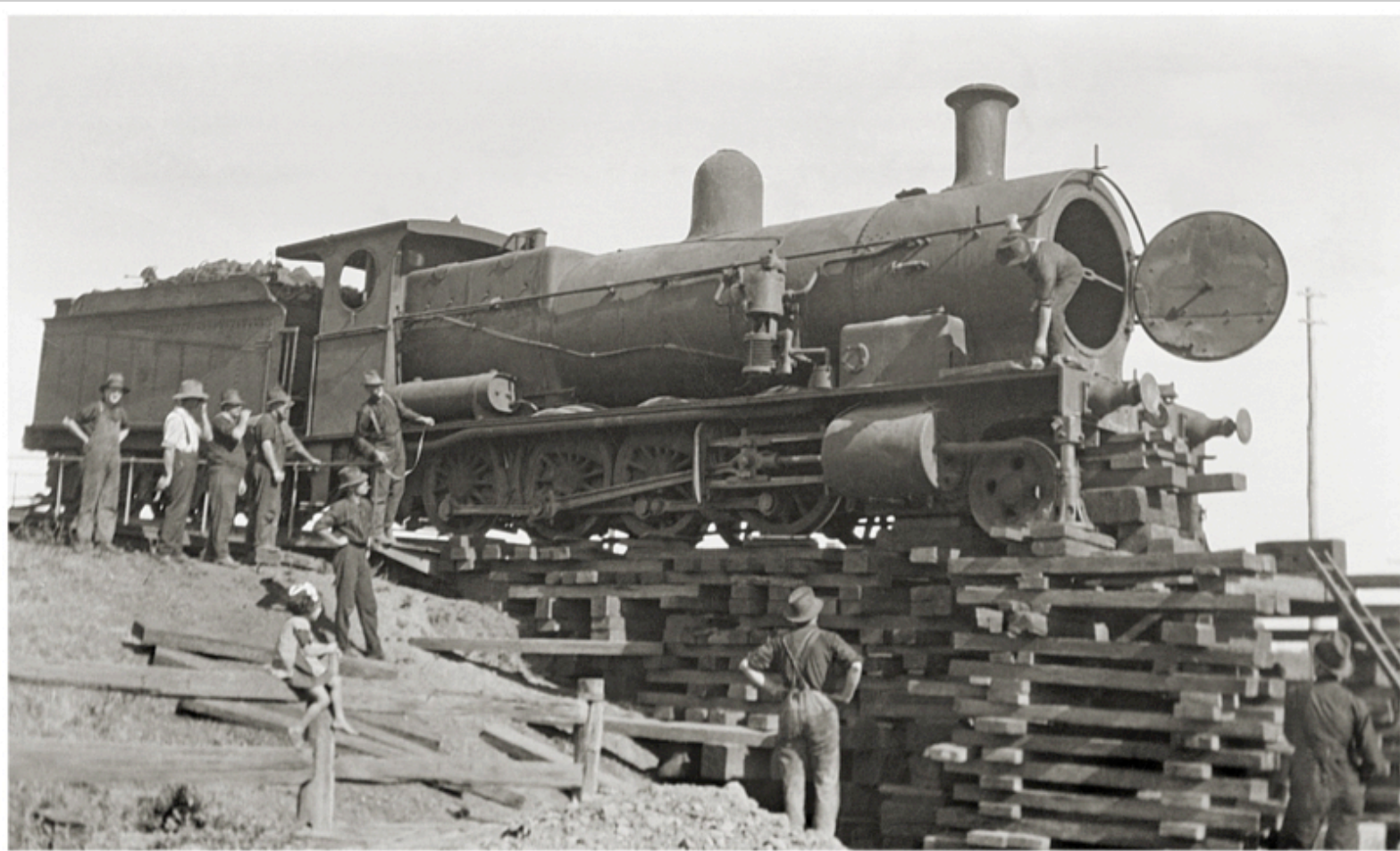
### Jeff Cuttings's 50 plus years of photography

Photography for me had its beginnings way back in my childhood with exposure to snapshots of rural life taken by my parents and relatives where they lived in small towns west of the Blue Mountains in NSW. Both of my parents came from large families and amongst their photographs were images of working in the fields, railway scenes, family and landscapes all of which stirred my passion for photography as a documentary tool.

With the purchase of my first camera my parents urged me to join a photographic club and the one chosen was the Photographic Society of New South Wales which met every Tuesday night at 100 Clarence Street Sydney. I was 16 years old and more than 10 years junior to any other active member and resident out in the western suburbs at Villawood whereas, most other members were from the inner suburbs and well off by comparison. Nevertheless I was keen to get on with making images of the fast diminishing steam train era (Working for the railways in various signal boxes I knew all the timetables and other happenings) as well as accidents and derailments, although I did this without my employer's knowledge and was nearly sprung once when I was seen exiting from a wrecked electric train carriage. Many years later when travelling near Sydney I heard reports of the Granville train derailment - Granville Junction was one signal box I had worked in - so I rolled up to the police lines and told them I was on assignment for the Salvation Army (a great fib) and got access to do my photography of this appalling disaster. Afterwards I donated all my images to the National Library in Canberra.

My personal photography is essentially documentary style and is not necessarily intended as artistic work as it has been done just to please myself - a personal record - so that most of my images spanning more than 50 years have not seen the light of day. Documentary intent, however I have been greatly influenced by the atmospherics in Australian impressionist art by such workers as Charles Conder, Arthur Streeton, Tom Roberts and Elioth Gruner, introduced to me by my father, an amateur landscape painter. Photographers I admire most are: Edward Curtis with his documentation of American Indians, Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen, Edward Weston and Jacques-Henri Lartique; all for their vision, although there are many singular images and collections by other workers that have greatly interested me.

The following images were scanned from old family negatives:-



Recovering a derailed locomotive that overan a turntable - possibly at Portland, NSW, Ca 1925

This photograph was possibly taken by my grandfather who worked at Portland Cements Works. The locomotive has no NSWGR fleet number so was privately owned.





*Haymaking near Millthorpe NSW, about 1938 with Dorothy Brown (left - Jeff's mother) and 2 Cutting sisters.*

This photograph was possibly taken by my father when my mother-to-be was visiting his family in Millthorpe.





*Wilf Cutting on bakers delivery talking to Dorothy Brown outside Bank of NSW Portland NSW about 1939*

This is not Bonnie & Clyde outside a bank but is my future father and mother delivering bread.

The following are some of my earliest images...



No.2 Melbourne Express at Lidcombe Junction, November, 1961. (Image taken when I worked at Lidcombe Signalbox)

One of my very first photographs taken one morning when the Melbourne Express was passing my signalbox.





*Porter at afternoon smoko, Merrylands signalbox*

*Jeff Cutting CA 1965*

Photographs taken when a porter at Merrylands Station came into my signalbox one afternoon for his smoko.





This was the first of two serious collisions at this crossing loop at the summit of the line between Unanderra and Moss Vale. My camera was a PENTAX Spotmatic with a 50mm lens; film was probably Kodak Panatomic X.



*"S" waggon loaded with limestone, one from a whole train, including the locomotive, derailed at Unanderra - 31 December 1962 Jeff Cutting 1963*

Taken with PENTAX Spotmatic camera; with Kodachrome slide converted to monochrome. This accident resulted from a runaway train where every vehicle including the locomotive was derailed.



One of my first photographs taken when I came to Canberra. I was staying in Barton House and wandered down to the lake with my 6 x 6 cm Mamiya camera using Tri-X B&W film. Negative scanned with a blue tone added for effect.



*Morning mist on Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra - Winter 1971*