



f22: Southside Camera Club Newsletter

March 2014

Club Meeting – 7:30 pm on Wednesday 12 March 2014
at the Burns Club, 8 Kett Street, Kambah

Events

Monthly Meeting topics for 2014

Meeting Date	Topic	Presenter
12 March	War Photographers	Helen Hall
9 April	Photographic Equipment Sales Business	Jim Whitton (Ted's Manager in Canberra)
14 May	Colour space management and monitor calibration	Warren Hicks
11 June	"TBA"	AIPP Photographer

Meeting Date	Topic	Presenter
9 July	How do you approach taking your photos - panel discussion	Warren Hicks to Chair
13 August	Judging Photographs	TBA
10 September		
8 October		
12 November		
10 December	Annual General Meeting	Warren Hicks to Chair

Monthly Excursions for 2014

Date	Event	Location	Coordinator	Comments
Sunday 9 March, 2014	Balloon Festival	Meet on the Commonwealth Ave side of Regatta Point Building	Norm Fisher	6:45 am start. Please note that if it is raining, there is low cloud, or high winds, then the balloons will not be flying.
April	Kowen Forest - Glenburn		Dennis Lovatt	Col McAlister
May	South Durras			
June	Photo walk with restrictions e.g. B&W or limited number of shots			
July	Gundaroo photo walk			
August	Wide field astrophotography			
September	Winery/Tulip farm			
October	Spring snow photographs	Guthega	Rob Wignell	Weekend trip. Stay in Guthega ski lodge.
November				
December				
	Model aircraft photography (in flight action)		Rob Wignell	Some time in Autumn. Normally Sunday morning.

SSCC February Excursion –Canberra Multicultural Festival

Bev Baley reports on the excursion to the Multicultural Festival:

This year's Multicultural Festival was the largest yet. It has been expanding each year. This year it extended along City Walk, Petrie Plaza, and two blocks of London Circuit, right round the fountain pool in Civic Square, plus the car-park to the north-west of the North Gold Pillared building.

There were seven stages in that area, and it seemed strange that the sounds from any one didn't seem to interfere with any of the others. There were also some buskers – small groups entertaining in the lee of buildings.

Tents were everywhere, and it truly had a multicultural atmosphere. Food of many varieties was available, some in areas of other food stalls, and others mingled amongst information stalls.

The temperature was unfortunately in the high 30's, which was very tiring, but everyone seemed to be having a good time. Large groups of chairs were lined up in front of the stalls, those in the sun mostly empty. People borrowed some of these to sit in the shade of the nearby buildings. The coolest spot was in the passageway from Civic Square to the Canberra Museum and Gallery (the Northern Gold Pillared building, Here was a small group of entertainers and a few dozen chairs. This is the only place I found a cool breeze, which was quite refreshing.

Photo opportunities were everywhere. Often the main difficulty was in getting a good view of what you wanted to photograph, as the crowds were quite thick, especially in shady areas. The merry-go-round was very popular.







The Club group met at 11.00am and spent two hours taking in the atmosphere before re-meeting for coffee at 1.00 pm. (Photos by Bev Bayley)

DIGSIG - 2014

The February DigSig was held at the Burns Club on Wednesday 26 February. There was a good turn up of people and Shane Baker gave a valuable presentation on cataloguing, and how to maximise the value of Lightroom by using keywords and metadata.

The convenor, Dennis Lovatt, pointed out that there were no more DigSig meetings planned for the remainder of the year due to a lack of volunteers prepared to give presentations. Rod Burgess rescued the situation by volunteering to talk next month about printing and printing papers. The beautifully detailed prints that he showed us during Show and Tell emphasise that he has some valuable knowledge to share. Dennis also volunteered to give a presentation about Digicam, open source software used for cataloguing images. This still leaves us short of presentations for most of the year. I urge all members to think about giving a presentation on a topic in which they are interested. The research necessary for a presentation is well worth the effort as it is an excellent way to learn about a subject thoroughly. At present, most of the presentations are being given by a small subset of members, not because these people wish to hog the limelight, but because there is a paucity of other volunteers.

To show that I am prepared to put my money where my mouth is, so to speak; I volunteer to give a DigSig presentation on a relevant topic sometime this year. I have no idea what it will be about, but now that I have opened my big mouth I at least have the incentive to start doing some research.

Software Buddies

If you get need help with using post production software, a few club members have volunteered to try and help sort out problems using Photoshop Elements, Photoshop Lightroom, Photoshop Creative Suite and Apple Aperture. The contacts are:

Photoshop Elements: Peter Bliss at bliss.images@yahoo.com.au

Photoshop Lightroom: Peter Bliss at bliss.images @yahoo.com.au

Photoshop Creative Suite: Graeme Kruse at gkruse@bigpond.net.au

Apple Aperture: Claude Morson at claudemorson@gmail.com

Reports

February Meeting Report

The February meeting was held at the Burns Club at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 12 February. The President, Warren Hicks, chaired the meeting.

Themes for Show and Tell

In an earlier meeting Warren suggested that Show and Tell could be enhanced by giving our members the opportunity to take photographs based on various themes. This was agreed to and Warren has produced a table with the themes for the next four quarters.

In Warren's own words:

At the last club meeting we discussed having some set subjects, that members if the choose, could use to focus their photography. The idea is that at the end of the period members could bring their images to show and tell and compare their interpretation with other members. Some things to remember:

1. This is definitely not being done as a competition, pseudo or otherwise, just an opportunity to focus your phototaking and compare your shots with others. This often happened around excursions anyway.
2. It does not replace the usual open show and tell - feel free to carry on as usual showing whatever photos you want.
3. Have fun, I'm sure there will be some interesting left field interpretations and some equally interesting traditional takes on the subject matter, I look forward to seeing the great images.

Here is the table of themes

Months	Theme	Comments	Relevant links
February - March	Food	Street food at the multicultural festival, food on a plate, a person enjoying it, food being produced, fruit on a tree, food still on the hoof, wasted food ...	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_photography http://digital-photography-school.com/food-photography-an-introduction
April – June	Old	A person, a building, a vintage car, an autumn leaf, a weathered landscape feature - the time scale is relative.	
July - September	The colour red	The image must contain a distinct red element. It could be an item of red clothing, a red background, red lighting, a de-saturated image retaining only red, use your imagination.	
October - December	Still life/table top	Still life photography is the depiction of inanimate subject matter, most typically a small grouping of objects. Still life photography, more so than other types of photography, such as landscape or portraiture, gives the photographer more leeway in the arrangement of design elements within a composition.	http://photography.tutsplus.com/tutorials/10-tips-to-get-started-with-still-life-photography--photo-8278

Treasurer's Report

Iain Cole reported that currently the club has \$2,169 in the bank and \$300 cash which he will be banking as soon as possible.

Presentation

Bob McHugh and Rod Burgess gave a presentation on the subject of photographing a major event. Their interesting talk included a slide show which they made of the event that they used to illustrate the subject of the presentation: a 1,200 kilometre bike ride from Sydney to Melbourne. The talk provided useful information on the planning that is needed to successfully photograph an extended event and the quality of the photographs from the slide show was proof that they successfully achieved their goal.

Club Websites

<http://www.southsidecameraclub.com/>
flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/southsidecc/>

Walkabout Group

The walkabout to the Kingston foreshore was held on Thursday 27 February. There was a good turn out of about a dozen people and no doubt some of the photos taken will be displayed at our next meeting.

The excursion concluded with an enjoyable coffee and a yarn at the Glassworks Coffee Shop/Restaurant.

Bev Bayley has submitted an article about this walkabout, which due to size considerations, I have decided to hold over until the April edition.

walkabout Group Calendar 2014

Date	Location
20 March	Queanbeyan
17 April	Wee Jasper
15 May	Botanic Gardens
19 June	Uriarra Crossing - Photography and Picnic

Relay for Life (A call for volunteers)

The Relay for Life is an annual event organised by the Cancer Council to raise money for cancer research. The event is held in cities around the world and Canberra's relay will be held at the AIS Athletics track on March 29 and 30, 2014. This year the event will include an attempt to break the Guinness world record for the most heads shaved simultaneously.

Chris Fitzgerald volunteers to photograph the relay to provide the organisers with a valuable set of publicity photos, but he needs other volunteers to assist him to get a wide enough range of shots. I can personally vouch for the fact that the relay is a great opportunity to take some interesting photos, particularly if you enjoy taking action shots of people. Chris is especially looking for photographers to document the World Record Head Shave on the Saturday 29th March, 2014 starting around 4 pm and running to 6 pm. They are trying to shave 100 heads and would like to get a photograph of each one for the Guinness Book of Records. As this record is within a two hour period Chris will need all the help he can get.

If you wish to enjoy an unusual photography experience, please get in touch with Chris and he will give you more details. He can be contacted on 0407012257 or by email at chris.fitzgerald55@gmail.com

Industrial Photography

A number of emails sent between some members recently, gave rise to a possible future presentation on industrial photography. It began with an email from Claude Morson about the recent demolition of the ER&S chimney stack in Port Kembla. The demolition can be viewed at: <http://media.brisbanetimes.com.au/news/nsw-news/port-kembla-stack-demolition-5181949.html>

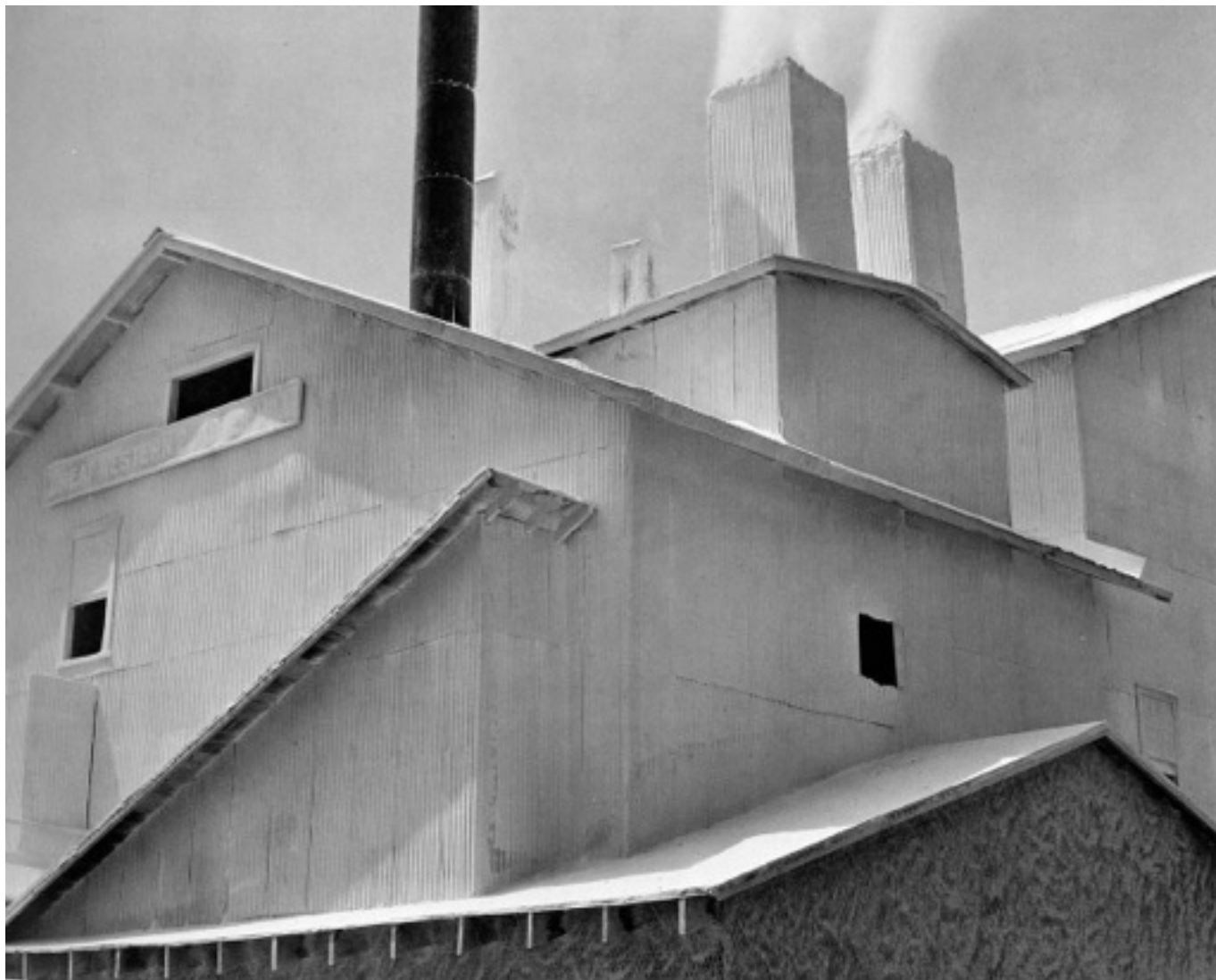
Claude photographs the stack and other industrial sites whenever he returns to his hometown of Wollongong. Here are some examples:



The photo below is an archive photo taken between 1963 and 65, unearthed by Claude when he was researching the history of the stack. The building to the left of the stack construction is Port Kembla Primary, Claude's old school. Look carefully and you will see him waving from the top window (joke).



Rod Burgess contributed to the discussion and provided a scan of an Edward Weston photo "Plaster Works, Los Angeles" 1925.



Finally here is a photo I took at the old Yarralumla Brickworks in 2008. This location may be worth considering for a future excursion.



Club Equipment

The Club has a number of items of photographic equipment which may be borrowed by the members.

Some of these items are described below.

Polaroid 120 Film Scanner

The Polaroid 120 Film Scanner is a professional grade scanner that can scan 35mm film in strips of up to 6 frames, 35mm slides and medium format film images up to 6x9 cm. It scans at 4000 dpi and can produce very large files if used at maximum detail. For a review from Mac World see: <http://www.macworld.com/article/1021246/polaroid.html>

The original software for the scanner is unlikely to work on any current model computers but if you have a Macintosh from 2001 the copy of Silverfast AI should load and operate without problems. A better solution with current computers is to use VueScan software written by Ed Hamrick. VueScan is extremely good scanning software and Ed is constantly releasing upgrades and subtle improvements. It has been designed to output RAW files from the scans to capture maximum detail. An added value is that VueScan will drive thousands of different scanners and runs on current versions of Windows, Mac OSX and some versions of Linux. VueScan software can be purchased at: <http://www.hamrick.com>

The main downside of this scanner is its connectors. It has SCSI 2 and Firewire 400 output connections. Both of these are somewhat outdated but still available. If you have a Windows desktop computer with a spare "slot" on the main board, you can install a SCSI 2 card. Adaptec SCSI 2 cards seem to sell on eBay for between \$25 and \$80. All recent Macs, except the MacBook Air, have a Firewire 800 or Firewire 400 connector in older models. The club has a Firewire 800 cable with a Firewire 400 connector that will let you use a recent Mac with the Polaroid scanner.

Ed Hamrick supplies a substantially informative VueScan Users Guide and one of his keener users has produced a book called The VueScan Bible (The missing manual) available from Rocky Nook.

In summary, there is a lot to learn about scanning but, if you have a tea chest full of family slides that need scanning to bring them under control, then the Polaroid 120 will produce professional results. *Rob Wignell*

Contact Rob Wignell if you wish to borrow this scanner.

Elinchrom D-Lite 4 Studio Flash Set

The Club has a studio flash set you can borrow. It's an Elinchrom D-Lite 4 studio flash set comprising two 400 watt-second heads, with stands, triggering cable, etc. with softboxes, a couple of brollies, the propriety Elinchrom EL-Skyport wireless trigger system, and a few other bits and pieces.

Confused? What does that mean? What can this system do?

Firstly, there's the question of power and unfortunately, there seems to be no agreed conversion between Guide Numbers (as used for on-camera flash) and watt-seconds used in studio flash "monoblocs" such as the Elinchrom. What I can say is that our set puts out an incredible amount of light. In fact, it produces so much that in small areas, dialling down the flash is essential.

Secondly, these systems are about *manual photography*. While your preferred on-camera flash is almost certainly controlled by your camera, studio flash is about manual control of your camera and adjusting the flash output to get the right exposure.

But it's not that difficult. (Trust me!) This portrait was made in a dark room using just one of the heads shooting through a white umbrella. Easy – and I'm no expert!!



Once you've set up, you have two powerful flash units at your command with modelling lights and both soft box and umbrella diffusers. Each flash can be individually controlled and the wireless triggering system (which sits in your camera's hot shoe) works very well.

Exposure can be worked out using trial and error and your camera's histogram display, or a flash exposure meter such as the Sekonic L-308s can be used. The meter definitely isn't essential, but will save time – and as a light meter, they are useful for general photography.

The main things to bear in mind are:

- Book the kit out in advance through the Club officers.
- Give yourself enough time to watch the instructional DVD. It's well worth watching – especially if you're a first time user.
- Allow time to assemble the softboxes – if you plan to use them. Putting them together is a classic "hold your tongue the right way" situation, but once you've done one, the other is relatively easy.
- Always allow time for the heads to cool down before packing the set away.

So ... next time you're planning a shoot where light may be a problem – give the Elinchrom set a thought!

What's in the box?

- Two 400 watt-second heads, with stands, triggering cable, etc.
- Two collapsible softboxes.
- Copies of the manual and a “how to” DVD.
- One shoot-through and one silver reflector brolly.
- Elinchrom propriety EL-Skyport wireless trigger.
- Lastolite TriGrip Diffuser/reflector.
- An extension power cable on a reel.

Details of the set can be found here: <http://www.elinchrom.com/product/D-Lite-it-4.html>

Shane Baker



Other Equipment

Other items of club equipment include calibration devices: a Color Munki monitor/printer calibrator (which is apparently not currently working) and an EyeOne monitor calibrator.

News

National Portrait Gallery

PROMO: Portraits from prime time

Opens on Saturday 22 March

Tickets \$10 or \$8 members/concessions, under 18s free
Includes entry to the *National Photographic Portrait Prize 2014*

This exhibition goes behind-the-scenes and into the spotlight with professional photographers and the stars of Australian television, music and comedy. Whether negotiating the logistics of a big publicity shoot or quietly capturing moments on set during filming, the photographers' stories are intriguing and compelling. *PROMO: Portraits from prime time* offers a fascinating insight into the contemporary photographic portraits that surround us and the art and skill of the professional photographers who create them. The exhibition features the work of Peter Brew-Bevan, Martin Philbey, John Tsiavis, Ben King, Giovanni Lovisetto, Abigail Varney, Michelle Day and Julian Kingma.

National Photographic Portrait Prize 2014

The National Photographic Portrait Prize is an annual event intended to promote the very best in contemporary photographic portraiture by both professional and aspiring Australian photographers. The Gallery offers a prize of \$25,000 for the most outstanding photographic portrait.

The National Photographic Portrait Prize Exhibition for 2014 will open on 22 March at the National Portrait Gallery and continue until 1 June. The winning portrait will be announced at the exhibition launch on 22 March 2014.

National Museum of Australia Torres Strait Islander Gallery

Until 27 April 2014. Free

Bipotaim: Stories from the Torres Strait is an exhibition of striking photographs, stories and objects about the lives, culture and identity of Torres Strait Islanders. Bipotaim means 'before time' in Torres Strait Creole and refers in a general way to 'olden times'.

People from islands across Australia's northern frontier are depicted in David Callow's portraits. They compare current and traditional ways and practices and reflect on changes that have occurred in the Torres Strait during their lives.

The photographs in Bipotaim are complemented by objects from the National Museum's Torres Strait Islander collections.

Bipotaim was developed by the Gab Titui Cultural Centre in partnership with the National Museum of Australia. The exhibition is on show at the National Museum in Canberra until 27 April 2014.

DP Review

I have copied the titles of DP Review articles to give a scannable view of the articles that appeared in last month's DPReview.

All the articles can be found at: DPReview.com

1 February

- Sony releases firmware update for QX10 and QX100
- Exposure: Chef April Bloomfield on smartphone food photography

2 February

- SmugMug Films: Pulse-pounding aerial photography

3 February

- Challenge of Challenges 2013: the results are in
- Hasselblad HV is restyled Sony SLT-A99 with 'tough as nails' construction
- Fujifilm X-T1 real-world samples gallery
- Readers' Choice: Best Gear of 2013 Awards

4 February

- Good to go: Living and shooting with the Fujifilm X-E2
- Tamrac launches rugged-looking photo messenger bags
- Nikon Capture NX 2.4.6 adds D3300 support, improved white balance

5 February

- Ricoh WG-4 and WG-4 GPS debut with premium rugged specifications
- Ricoh announces WG-20 entry-level rugged compact

- Ricoh announces HD Pentax DA AF 1.4X AW rear converter
- Ricoh promises 'reference products' including CMOS 645D at CP+
- Pentax firmware v1.02 for K-3 allows bracketing by AA filter mode
- Artist Emma Jaubert Howell prints photos onto hand-blown glass

6 February

- Fujifilm X-T1 images added to studio test scene
- Tamron develops 16–300mm F3.5–6.3 superzoom for APS-C SLRs
- Tamron to make new 28–300mm F3.5–6.3 superzoom for full frame SLRs

7 February

- Nokia Lumia 1520 camera review
- Getting to grips with the GH4: a quick summary
- Panasonic announces 4K-capable Lumix DMC-GH4
- Nikon releases Coolpix P340 pocketable compact with Wi-Fi
- Nikon Coolpix P600, P530, S9700 go big on zoom range
- Nikon Coolpix AW120 and S32 waterproof cameras make a splash

8 February

- 2014 Sony World Photography Awards finalists revealed
- 500px 'Prime' is a licensing marketplace with 30% cut for photographers

9 February

- Humans of New York: Behind the scenes with Brandon Stanton

10 February

- Blackmagic Production Camera 4K available now for \$3000
- Sigma unveils radical DP2 Quattro with re-thought ~19.6MP Foveon sensor
- MEGA iOS app adds PhotoSync feature

11 February

- Nokia expected to launch forked Android phone at MWC
- Yonity lets smartphones access photos stored on your computer
- Nikon 18-55mm F3.5-5.6G VR II real-world samples gallery

12 February

- Nokia Lumia Icon brings 20 megapixel PureView to Verizon
- Nikon D5300 review: Approachable, yet serious

- Sony a6000 First Impressions Review posted
- A quick look at the Canon PowerShot G1 X Mark II
- Canon PowerShot G1 X Mark II adds faster lens and AF to big-sensor body
- Sony a6000 promises world's fastest AF and 11 fps subject tracking
- Canon announces entry-level Rebel T5 (EOS 1200D) and macro ring light
- Olympus developing 7-14mm F2.8 and 300mm F4 'Pro' lenses
- Sony pins \$1500 price tag on E-mount FE 70-200mm F4 G OSS
- Got zoom? Sony introduces DSC-H400 with enormous 63X zoom
- Canon unleashes PowerShot SX700 HS travel zoom
- Waterproof Canon PowerShot D30 dives deep
- Sony Cyber-shot DSC-WX350 puts latest tech into travel zoom body
- Canon PowerShot ELPH 150 IS, 140 IS and 135 compacts introduced

13 February

- Shaking up the market? Sony a7R review posted
- LG launches LG G Pro 2 phablet with 4k video
- Cosina updates Voigtländer Nokton 25mm F0.95 with clickless aperture
- SLR Magic creates Anamorphot 1,33x – 50 lens adaptor for movie makers
- CP+ 2014: Hands-on with Sony a6000
- CP+ 2014: Hands-on with Sigma DP2 Quattro
- CP+ 2014: Hands-on with Canon PowerShot G1 X Mark II

14 February

- John Stanmeyer wins World Press Photo of the Year
- CP+ 2014: Nikon stand report
- CP+ 2014: Fujifilm shows new 50mm teleconverter for X100S
- CP+ 2014: Canon stand report

15 February

- CP+ 2014: Fujifilm interview - 'The only way is to keep innovating'
- A look inside Sigma's lens factory

16 February

- CP+ Sigma interview - 'We survived because we make unique products'
- CP+ 2014: Things we found that had been cut in half
- CP+ 2014: Fujifilm stand report

17 February

- Kowa to make three manual focus lenses for Micro Four Thirds

- CP+ 2014: Nikon Interview - 'our cameras need to evolve'
- CP+ 2014: Selected highlights of the show

18 February

- Sony FE 35mm F2.8 ZA Carl Zeiss Sonnar T* lab test report
- Your camera's best amigo: Miggo Strap and Grip review

19 February

- Exposing another side of Sochi

20 February

- Hands-on with the GoPro Hero 3+ Black Edition

21 February

- Adobe update adds Fujifilm color profiles to Adobe Camera Raw 8.4 RC
- Fujifilm firmware updates: 56mm lens compatibility and improved OIS
- Don't leave pictures stranded: Eye-Fi Mobi SD card review

22 February

- Meet 'The Archivist' at National Geographic
- Google's Project Tango creates 3D-maps of your surroundings

23 February

- Enter the Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition

24 February

- Samsung Galaxy S5 adds 16MP camera with 4K video
- Sony Xperia Z2 brings 4K video to its flagship smartphone
- Fujifilm X-T1 and XF 10-24mm F4 R OIS (beta) samples gallery
- Weak Yen masks hard times as Mirrorless and DSLR sales decline
- SanDisk ups microSD capacity to 128GB with new card
- Shooting Raw with the Nokia Lumia 1020

25 February

- Elevate your movement: Cinetics Axis360 review
- A camera for all weather? Shooting with the Fujifilm X-T1 + Japan gallery
- New and improved: Nikon D4s First Impressions Review posted
- Nikon D4s: CP+ Hands-on and interview
- Nikon announces flagship D4s professional DSLR

- Nikon releases beta version of next-generation Capture NX software
- Huawei MediaPad X1 takes on Nexus 7 and Kindle Fire HD

26 February

- CP+ 2014: Olympus - 'our reason to exist is to push the envelope'
- Nikon to offer D600 shutter replacement to address 'dust' issue

27 February

- Olympus OM-D E-M10 shooting experience and studio tests published

28 February

- Snapseed features creep into Google+ for Android app

Note from the Editor

Hello Everyone

A conversation with Laurie Westcott after the Kingston Foreshore walkabout set me thinking about the attitude that we bring to photography and the effect it may have on the images we produce. Laurie mentioned the Elvis at 21 Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery featuring photos by Alfred Wertheimer and how Al's attitude of just making the best of the photographic opportunities on offer, resulted in truly iconic photographs that have irrevocably captured a moment in history. At the time Elvis had not yet become famous and Al himself admitted that if he had had the opportunity to take the photos some years later, he "might have screwed it up by trying to improve upon reality".

This reminded me of the contrast between how I might go about taking a photograph with my DSLR compared with my iPhone and the comparison between the sets of images produced. Certainly the DSLR images may be better composed, sharper (well usually), and have greater detail, but I have to admit that a percentage of my iPhone shots have a quality of spontaneity absent from most of my DSLR shots. Of course I am only commenting on my own efforts here and I don't presume to imply that this observation applies to the majority of photographers, but I would be interested to hear your comments (written or verbal) on your own experiences.

One piece of advice that I hear repeated many times is that aspiring photographers should always carry a camera as you never know when a unique opportunity will arise. This advice is not so easy to follow if you insist on lugging a DSLR everywhere, but with the advent of small point-and-shoots and a camera in every mobile phone, it is a rare occasion that most people don't have some form of camera on them.

Perhaps another category we could add to Warren's list of themes is "fortuitous moments captured on mobile devices" (there will be a small prize for anyone who can come up with a less awkward title).

Cheers
John Franze

PS The Elvis at 21 Exhibition closes on March 9.

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