

BELMONT 16S PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Meetings held every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Belmont 16 Foot Sailing Club.

October 2016

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Who's Who in the Club

Patron: Les Porter 49585840 www.lesporter1.com.au

President: Roy Killen email: roykillen@mac.com

Vice President: Katherine James

Secretary: Richard Strange

Assistant Secretary: Jill Helps

Treasurer: Peter Finch

Committee: Phil Woodman and Susan MacNeil , Bev Woodman,

Carole Lormer, Alex & Barbara Hunter, Peter & Sheila Stanley,

Training Co-ordinator: Susan Slack

EDI Co-ordinator: Richard Strange

Membership Co-ordinator: Alma Wyllie

Webmaster Co-ordinator: Colin Woods

Editor: Erin Bonvino email: erin@bongroup.com.au

Please feel free to contact any of the Committee members to discuss club matters and to have those matters raised at a Committee meeting. The Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month.

Monthly Club Program

Club Monthly Meeting
Program for 2016

1st Wednesday
Committee meeting

2nd Wednesday
Training Night

3rd Wednesday
Competition night

4th Wednesday
Training Night

Monthly competitions include Print Colour, Digital Colour, Small Prints, Digital Set Subject

The list and definitions of Set Subjects can be found on the website.

Monthly competitions also have:- Nature Prints, Nature Digital – on the odd numbered months – January, March, May, July, September

Monochrome Prints, Monochrome EDI – on the even numbered months – February, April, June, August, October

Digital and Print Entries must be uploaded onto our website by midnight the Sunday before our competition night.

Club Image of the Year (IOTY) on 3rd Wednesday in November.

No Competition December

*Check the website for
Competition Rules and
Definitions*

LAKE MACQUARIE NATIONAL

Entries are now open for the Lake Macquarie National Exhibition of Digital Photography that is being organised by our club. Full details are available at <http://lakemacnat.myphotoclub.com.au> or simply click on the (My Photo Clubs and Comps) menu item on our club website.

Entry is simple. The image and file sizes are exactly the same as for our monthly club competitions.

The sections of the competition are colour, monochrome, nature and Australian landscape.

Please help to make this inaugural competition a great success by entering. Don't be shy – any images that have gained merits or honours in our club competitions are certainly good enough to enter.

TRAINING NIGHTS

The list of training sessions for the rest of the year can be found on the club website under the For Members>Training Activities menu item.

MANTARA RESULTS

The Mattara Photography Exhibition Peoples' choice went to Jade Kennedy for his great photo called “Redhead Galaxy”, a photo incorporating the Redhead shark tower with the Milky Way.

Jade is a member of the Newcastle Photographers group on Facebook so be sure to check the page out and become a follower. Jade also had the second most votes for his “Osprey with it's catch”.

Jan Swinhoe gained the third most votes for her entry, “Pretty in Pink”, a beautiful soft coloured print of a butterfly landing on a pink flower.

A BIG “Thank you” to all who entered.

After 10 years I have resigned from Mattara, so again, thank you to all who have supported the exhibition over those years.

Written by Katherine James.

“Photography
is more than
a medium for
factual communication
of ideas. It is
a creative art.”

Ansel Adams

Image Of The Year

It is time to start thinking about your entries for the Image of the Year (IOTY) competition that replaces our monthly competition in November.

The process is really simple – just click on the “image of the Year entry” quicklink on the left of the home page of the club website and select the images that you want to enter in each category of the IOTY. You do not have to upload your images – just select them by clicking on “Enter” under the relevant thumbnails. If you change your mind later you can come back and “Withdraw” any of your entries.

COMMENTS ON MONTHLY COMPETITION ENTRIES

If you have a few spare minutes, click on the “View Image Galleries” quicklink on the website homepage, visit one of the galleries and add some comments to your images or images of other members. Everyone likes to know what other members think of their images.

BORROWING CLUB EQUIPMENT

Club members are entitled to borrow the following equipment:

- Flatbed scanner for scanning prints, slides and negatives
 - Mat cutter for preparing print mounts
- Spyder for calibrating monitors and generating printer profiles
 - Guy Gowan Instructional DVDs
 - Lens align system

Please contact Alex Hunter if you wish to borrow any equipment

Tel:49467390 or email alexhunter37@bigpond.com

A TRIP AND AN EXPERIMENT

by Roy Killen

Although I am a firm believer that what is in your head is more important than what is in your camera bag, I was an early adapter of digital technology. Over the years I have purchased many digital cameras and a wide range of lenses. Therefore, it was inevitable that I would be curious about the benefits and shortcomings of mirrorless cameras. No matter how many reviews I read, for me, there was only one way to find out if such cameras were suitable for my style of photography - so I bought one, a Sony A7Rii (full frame, 42MP). In recent years, the majority of my photographic subjects have been “nature”, quite often taken through a long lens. To replicate the capabilities of my existing equipment for this style of photography was going to be a very expensive exercise, so I decided to take a different approach and purchased just one lens, a 55mm prime. These purchases were made just a few weeks before I set off on a four week trip to the USA and I very deliberately chose not to take any other camera or lens. This short article summarises my experiment.

Before leaving home I familiarised myself with the mechanics of the camera - not difficult because the A7Rii has all the usual controls that are found on a DSLR. Some adjustments of technique were necessary because of the electronic viewfinder (I don't like using the rear screen when taking shots) but this was not a serious issue. I knew that taking just a 55mm lens was going to be a serious challenge but I reasoned that being able to stitch images in Photoshop and being able to take in-camera panoramas would partially compensate for not having a wider angle lens. I also considered that the 42MP capture would give me plenty of room for cropping to compensate for not having a long lens. Before leaving home I knew there would be one issue, the very short battery life (around 200 shots instead of the 1000 that I was used to with my Nikon DSLR) so I took spare batteries. I could charge the batteries each night but there were days where I definitely needed the spares. I could have taken a battery grip that held two batteries but that would have counteracted two of the clear advantages of mirrorless cameras - small size and light weight.

The first few days of our trip were spent in Vancouver, Canada. This provided an opportunity to photograph cityscapes, buildings, people and some scenery. To familiarise myself with the city, on the first day I took a hop-on hop-off trolley ride and was able to shoot from an open area both while the trolley was stationary and moving. The results were impressive in terms of the technical quality of the images, but not great in terms of content - blame it on the jet lag! As I suspected, the small size of the camera eliminated any suspicion that I was a ‘serious’ photographer and that gave me plenty of freedom to take people shots such as this one of a protest in the middle of a major intersection in the heart of Vancouver.





From Vancouver we travelled by train to Portland Oregon and from there by rental car to San Antonio, Texas. We drove about 4000km through Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. We made day-by-day decisions about where to stop and what to visit and this part of the trip took 15 days. We then had 10 days in San Antonio with most of that time taken up at the Photographic Society of America (PSA) conference. There were opportunities for a great variety of photography - landscapes, animals, birds, people, events, buildings, etc., so I was able to test the capabilities of the camera under a wide range of conditions. The following images give a sample of that variety.



My theory that I would be able to stitch multiple shots to compensate for not having a wide-angle lens, or use the in-camera stitching to produce a panorama, proved to be valid as illustrated with these images:



Three images stitched in Photoshop (original is 17108 pixels wide)



In-camera panorama (original is 8192 pixels wide)

I thought I would be able to crop heavily to compensate for not having a telephoto lens also proved valid - up to a point. As the following image illustrates, cropping a 7952x5304 pixel image to the 1920x1200 pixel size we use for club competitions uses only about 5% of the original image but the result is still good enough quality to use as an EDI (but obviously not as a large print) not a 70-200mm lens (or an even longer lens) that I might normally use on a trip like this was not a great disadvantage for images that I might use in EDI competitions.



I even tried cropping more heavily to 900x563 pixels (which uses less than 1.5% of the original image) and then enlarging it to 1920x1200 pixels. The result is still acceptable quality for EDI.



Of course, if the image had been captured with a long telephoto lens that gave an angle of view equivalent to the heavily cropped image above then the image would have many more pixels and potentially much better quality. However, I consistently found that having only a 55mm lens and not a 70-200mm lens (or an even longer lens) that I might normally use on a trip like this was not a great disadvantage for images that I might use in EDI competitions.

The Sony A7Rii does not have a built in flash and I did not take an external flash. However, I was pleasantly surprised at the results I achieved in low-light conditions with high ISO settings. For example, this shot was taken in a fairly dark museum at 1/60sec and 80,000 ISO (yes 4 zeros). Can you guess what the subject is?

In summary, the Sony A7Rii performed well. Its small size and light weight were a big advantage and the image quality was extremely good. The single lens had limitations but there were ways around many of them (including using my feet more than I would have if I was using a zoom lens). As a general purpose or 'travel' camera it is convenient and versatile. Will I be using it for nature photography? Probably not, for two reasons. First, the response time from turn on to taking the first frame is much longer than with the DSLRs that I normally use and this can mean missing the shot. Second, the electronic viewfinder introduces a noticeable delay between shots when taking single shots (pressing the shutter release for each shot). Again, this could mean missing the shot when the scene is changing rapidly. For nature photography I will stick with my DSLRs. Will I be buying a range of additional lenses to use with the Sony to make it more versatile? No. There are adapters available that allow Canon and Nikon lenses to be used on the Sony but at this stage the adapters for Nikon do not retain the full function of the lenses (autofocus, etc).

Some final comments on the trip. The USA is an easy place to get around by car, particularly if you stay off the interstate highways (too many crazy drivers) and avoid the big cities (too much traffic and too many fly-overs). A GPS is very handy, but sometimes you have to ignore it. Accommodation is plentiful and services such as Trip Advisor are a convenient way to find good accommodation that you can book day-by-day as you decide where to go and what to do. Doing your own thing gives you much more flexibility than being on an organised tour. Keeping in touch with home is easy - we found fast, free Wi-Fi in all hotels/motels, coffee shops, restaurants, etc. (even on the train and in a taxi). So email and FaceTime (the Apple video communications system that works over Wi-Fi) gave us regular communication without the cost of data roaming on our phones. Time to start planning the next trip!



HELP NEEDED

Six times a year our club is permitted to run the 'lamb tray' raffle in the 16s on Thursday and Friday night. This is an important source of income for our club and it is one of the reasons that our membership fees can be so low. Selling the raffle tickets is a simple process - the sellers sit at a table and wait for customers, you do not have to move around the club. If you are able to assist with this task, even for just one night, please contact Katherine James or Barbara Hunter.

SUPPORT THE BELMONT 16s

Don't forget to continue to show your support for the 16s by using your membership card when purchasing food and drinks in the club. The more you spend on food and drinks in the club the more chance we have of getting a subsidy from the 16s at the end of the year.

The judges for the remainder of the year are:

OCTOBER 2016

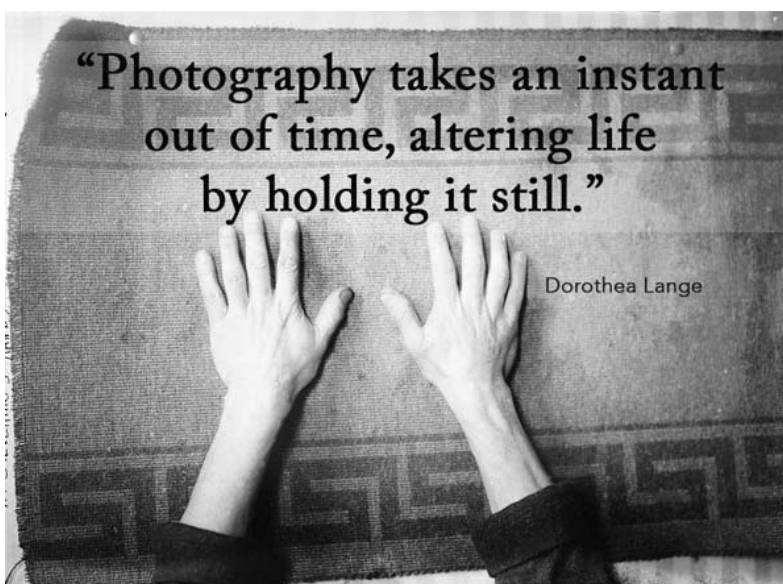
October Prints – Ilona Abou-Zolof

October Colour EDI – Atrhur Roy

October Monochrome EDI - Ilona Abou-Zolof

October Set Subject EDI – Warren Veivers

IOTY – Luciano Vranich, Jennifer Horsnell & Craig Parker.



BEHIND THE LENS: - WITH DENISE (DEE) KEAVY

Full Name: Denise Keavy - (Dee)

A Little About Me: I live in lovely Nords Wharf with husband and elderly Labrador (Reggie).

I grew up in Sydney and studied Medicine there at Sydney University and upon graduating. I moved to Newcastle to further my career in Anaesthetics.

My first interest in photography was in high school where we developed our own B&W images.

I am currently shooting with a Pentax K7 above the water and a SONY RX 100 III in a Nauticam housing under the water. I have a two wet lenses (macro and wide angle) that allow me to shoot different styles on the same dive. Until recently I was using iPhoto for my limited editing. Now I am a Light-Room beginner with a lot to learn.

Favourite styles: landscape, wildlife and macro.

Favourite dive destination: Any where with tropical water

What should be banned: Selfies

Wish list: Better zoom lens for the Pentax.

Hates: 1. cleaning my underwater gear.

2. Carting camera gear internationally

Bucket list photography destination: Antarctica

Loves: Cooking, travel and Japanese food.

Favourite colour: Blue

Hobbies and other interests: Sailing, skiing, 4WD.

Favourite Saying "They say that people can be divided into two groups. Those who see the glass is half full and those who see it as half empty. I just want to know who keeps drinking my wine. - Actually I am a glass is half full person and slightly OCD!!!



A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR;

Well I checked the calendar this morning and it's only 10 more Friday's to Christmas!!!

Which reminds me. Barbara has asked me to remind you all our Christmas Party is on Sunday 4th December at the 16's. And the menu will be announced shortly.

A big thank you must go out firstly to Dee Keavy for being our feature member in "Behind The Lens".

And a MASSIVE WELLL DONE to our President "Roy Killen. Fabulous information and what a trip!!!

Now. I haven't featured Editor's Choice, in this month's SKIFFY as I want everyone to please just take note .

"There is a special award for the most successful exhibitor who is a member of one of the NPF clubs"



So Until next month...

Bon x

Erin Bonvino

Be Bold. You Can Be Boring When You Are Dead ...

Belmont 16's Photography Club <http://belmont16s.myphotoclub.com.au/>

When
people as me

"What
Photography
equipment
I use?"

I tell them

"My Eyes"

-

Anonymous

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