

Skiffy

Belmont 16s Photography Club



Welcome to the January 2023 Edition

Welcome to this month's edition of our Photography Club newsletter. skiffy16sphotographyclub@gmail.com

Happy New Year to all! I hope you have had a festive season filled with love, laughs, fun and lots of photography! I hope you have been capturing those important moments and getting to the heart of what this time of year means for each of us. I'm also very much looking forward to seeing many of your precious images as part of our upcoming print competition nights - the first one being only next week - so get your entries in and show everyone the delights of your image treasure trove.

The weather has not disappointed us this Christmas season, what a delight to see the sun, feel the warmth in the air and watching our gardens grow. Unfortunately, I have spent a lot of time trying to get rid of weeds without killing my precious plants, trees, lawn and flowers! Now to spread a very thick layer of mulch that I'm hoping will stop the weeds and unwanted grasses...I see a lot of wheelbarrowing in my future...sheesh...

Don't forget to check out our amazing results in the PSA Interclub competitions!

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Judging and EDI Set Subjects

With Di Schofield

Next Club Print Competition Evening:

7pm Wednesday 11th January 2023

Entries must be submitted online by:

11:59pm Sunday 8th January 2023

Judges this month:

Prints: David Richards

EDI Colour and Nature: Dion Viljoen

Set Subject: Peter O'Brien

Maitland International Salon.

[Maitland International Salon](#) is now open.

Group discounts are available - enter with a friend or, multiple friends.

The 2023 Salon has 6 sections

Closing Date: 11:59pm Saturday, 7th January 2023

Judging Complete: 28 January 2023

Report Cards: 11 February 2023

SET SUBJECT JANUARY 2023

A Face to Remember

Peter O'Brien Judge

Photography is now so common that a lot of people just snap away without thinking, and treat the images as a normal part of our throwaway society. Photography is a powerful tool to preserve history and memories. So often, there is regret that a photograph has not been taken. Capture the face of someone who is close to you. The subject should not be posed. The image must portray their character. Studio or set-up images are not acceptable.

Welcome to 2023

With Dennis Archibald, President

Our first Club night for 2023 will be at the Valentine Bowling Club at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11th January for an extraordinary meeting of Members along with our monthly print competition.

Our meeting will start as normal at 7.00pm. The first item on the agenda will be to hold an Extraordinary Meeting that will vote on "winding-up" the Belmont 16s Photography Club.

The motion to be put is as follows:

- To authorise the club Committee to apply for registration of a new photography club as an incorporated association.
- To transfer the assets of the Belmont 16s Photography Club to the new incorporated club at a date determined by the Committee.
- To cease operation of the Belmont 16s Photography Club at a date determined by the Committee.

Members can vote on this motion through one of the following means:

By attending the meeting in person.

By attending the meeting via ZOOM using the link available on the club website. The ZOOM meeting will be opened at 6.50pm.

By submitting a vote via email to the Club Secretary - Susan Slack. Sue's email address is gordon.slack15@bigpond.com

Early voting via email opens on 1st January 2023 and closes on 10th January 2023.

I am hoping to see as many members as possible at our January meeting but if you can't come in person then please endeavour to join via ZOOM or, participate in the vote by submitting an email vote to our Club Secretary - Susan Slack.

Following the Extraordinary Meeting there will be a short presentation by Bob Todd on his experiences undertaking one of the PSA (Photographic Society of America) courses and then refreshments and the commencement of our January Print Competition judging.

Again, can I encourage members who are attending the Club nights to join the Valentine Bowling Club (VBC) as social members. The Club is allowing us to use their upstairs function room without charge for our meetings and they welcome any support that our club can provide in return.

Zoom Report

With Greg Carruthers

Zoom presentations occur on 2nd and 4th Wed of each month at 7pm and everyone is welcome. The calendar for future workshops can be found on the website under the Zoom Presentation Calendar link.

REMINDER: the link for all club Zoom workshops can be found on the website

Like to join in? Not sure how? Please contact Greg Carruthers
0410 629 620 or, gkcarruthers@gmail.com

See the latest post on the website for more information and how members can become involved.

Upcoming Presentations and Workshops

With Greg Carruthers

Zoom Presentation

18/01/2023 - What's new in Lightroom CC for 2023

This session will look at all the latest updates for Lightroom in particular the new masking features including AI subject and portrait selection.

In Person Workshop

25/01/2023 - A hands-on workshop (content to be advised) at Valentine Bowling Club

This year it is hoped that workshops will be a mixture of Zoom sessions and hands-on activities or photoshoots at various locations. It may be that photoshoots etc will not occur on the usual 3rd and 4th Wednesday of the month but, will need to be held on the weekend or another time.

It is important that the Committee tries to present activities and workshops that meet the requirements of the members.

This being the case please make suggestions via email to myself or other Committee Members. What is it that you would like to learn in 2023?

Do you have a suggestion for a workshop or activity?? Ideally we need activities that appeal to both beginners to accomplished photographers and everyone in-between.

We need suggestions from our members!

Raw Challenge 2023

With Greg Carruthers

The Raw Challenge is currently in hiatus but, never fear, we will return in the not too distant future after a little zhuzhing up!

Set Subjects for 2023

January – A Face to Remember

Peter O'Brien Judge

Photography is now so common that a lot of people just snap away without thinking, and treat the images as a normal part of our throwaway society. Photography is a powerful tool to preserve history and memories. So often, there is regret that a photograph has not been taken. Capture the face of someone who is close to you. The subject should not be posed. The image must portray their character. Studio or set-up images are not acceptable.

February – Urban wildlife

Colin Schofield Judge

As Nature photographers we are so used to ignoring scenes featuring animals and birds that include a human element that it is sometimes hard to rethink the rules for urban wildlife photography.

We tend to say I don't have much wildlife near me but really anyone can encourage some wildlife by offering inducements of food to land in your own backyard. Magpies, kookaburras, butcher birds, seagulls can all be seen eating and sometimes stealing hamburgers, chips, mince meat, grains that we, as wasteful animals ourselves, would normally throw out. Visit the local parks or shopping centres for ideas. Also, you may see smaller critters such as frogs in a drainpipe, snakes curled up on a chair or in a shed, lizards who enjoy the warm spots we leave out for them. Mammals such as possums may also live right near you. The links below may have some helpful ideas also. The last link is a book reference but could be considered helpful as it is aimed at Australian urban scenes.

<https://www.naturettl.com/urban-wildlife-photography/>

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2021/02/urban-wild-photography-tips/>

<https://www.bookdepository.com/A-Guide-to-Urban-Wildlife-Prof.-Christopher-B.-Daniels/9780733328039?>

[redirected=true&selectCurrency=AUD&w=AF45AU9SS9RQ22A8VTJS&gclid=Cj0KCQjw1vSZBhDuARIsAKZlijRaVSsx3yl5QfgJyNfm5OEcwXXIjWiZJi7h6zA2PeJgrj3tFTlkssaAtCkEALw_wcB](https://www.bookdepository.com/A-Guide-to-Urban-Wildlife-Prof.-Christopher-B.-Daniels/9780733328039?redirected=true&selectCurrency=AUD&w=AF45AU9SS9RQ22A8VTJS&gclid=Cj0KCQjw1vSZBhDuARIsAKZlijRaVSsx3yl5QfgJyNfm5OEcwXXIjWiZJi7h6zA2PeJgrj3tFTlkssaAtCkEALw_wcB)

March – Macro

Bill Chambers Judge

True macro is accomplished with the help of a dedicated macro lens which can be used to accomplish a minimum of 1:1 object magnification. However, even without a specialised macro lens, utilising cheap Close-Up Diopter lenses (screw in to filter threads), close up photography accomplishes its outcome of capturing a high degree of detail and texture in its subject matter. The resulting macro images show an amount of detail that cannot be captured by the naked eye.

Using Everyday Objects as Macro Subject Matter

One of the best things about macro photography is that it can make even the most ordinary subjects look fascinating. When looking to capture macro subjects, consider camera settings that leverage:

- Depth of field
- Shutter speed
- Aperture (f-stop)
- Texture and colour

To help you get you started, here is a list of everyday objects you can use to experiment with macro photography:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| - Fruit / Vegetables | - Flowers/Leaves |
| - Feathers | - Kitchen Utensils |
| - Toys | - Water Droplets/Rain |
| - Stones/Rocks/Sandstone/Brick | - Eyes |
| - Stationary | - Handwriting |
| - Buttons | - Jewellery |
| - Cutlery | - Paint/Peeling/Spots |
| - Smoke | - Tinfoil |
| - Seeds | - Matches |
| - Insects | - Needles |
| - Bark/Moss/Fungi | - Shells |
| - Pencils/Pens | - Coins |

Now that you have a better idea of the types of objects that can be used for macro photography, it's time to make the genre your own with your personal touch.

Macro photos make a great addition to a photographer's Portfolio because they show off one's skill knowing which aperture, shutter speed, and camera lens to use.

April – Motion Blur

Dennis Archibald Judge

Motion blur is a long exposure photography technique that lets you convey the feeling of movement or action in a still image.

Whereas some action shots freeze a moving subject with fast shutter speeds, motion blur uses slow shutter speeds for long exposure photos that blur the point of movement.

Adobe defines motion blur photography as follows - "Whether you want to create a sense of speed with taillights streaking down a highway at night or capture the abstract look of people crossing a busy intersection, motion blur lets you see a scene in a way that lets you express a new perspective on reality.

<https://www.adobe.com/au/creativecloud/photography/discover/motion-blur-photography.html>

Images may be in colour or monochrome and will be judged by how well the photographer has captured a feeling of movement and how does that movement contribute to the storytelling of the image.

May – Rain through a window

Julie Brooks Judge

Rain can be dramatic or it can be subtle, and as a photographer, it makes for unique photographic opportunities that most people don't think about until they see it in an image.

Capturing rain through a window is a wonderful technique for creating abstract rain imagery. Look for patterns in the raindrops and bright lights or colours outside the window for more interesting results.

Of course, not every rainy window picture is equally beautiful. To get a striking photo, you'll have to think carefully about your subject, technique, and composition.

Experiment with bright colours and bokeh, take images in mono, make the subject in your composition recognisable or, add a subject to the window.

June - Texture in Photography

Ruth Keech Judge

Texture is the variation in depth of the surface of an object and refers to the way an object feels to the touch or looks as it may feel if it were touched. The appearance of this in a photograph can change with choice of lighting, focus, shutter speed and how far you are away from the object. A successful shot will give the viewer a sense of what the feel of an object is through the choices they make before they press the shutter button.

The purpose of this topic is to make the texture the main subject in the picture rather than enhancing another subject. Choosing the best lighting, distance, focus and shutter speed to depict the texture chosen will be used in judging. For the purposes of this competition, the textures should be captured in camera. Textures added using Photoshop are not allowed.

<https://digital-photography-school.com/texture-design-element/>
<https://shotkit.com/texture-photography/>

July - Night Photography

Bob Todd Judge

Night Photography can solve one of the major problems we all face as photographers which is that we are faced with ordinary scenes that just aren't very interesting. But the same scenes shot at night can make a really interesting photograph. While I don't mind if the night sky is included I am not looking for shots that are specifically or mainly Astro photography.

There are many sources for inspiration, here are a couple:

Beginner's Guide to Night Photography

<https://www.adobe.com/au/creativecloud/photography/discover/night-photography.html>

The Ultimate Guide to Night Photography (digital-photography-school.com)

August - Lake Macquarie Landscape

Roy Killen Judge

A landscape image of any part of Lake Macquarie. It must have the lake as a significant part of the image and include a strong foreground element to add interest.

Images will be judged on their pictorial qualities, story-telling and originality.

The image must be taken after 1st January 2023.

September – Shooting an interesting shopfront

Sue Slack Judge

We walk past great shopfronts every day and there is no need to travel far to shoot some of these. You may want to feature the whole front, the display, signs and you may want to include people, dogs, flowers etc in your shopfront photo. These can give different perspective and scale to the shot.

If you are stuck, click on this link below which has some handy hints to get you started. Remember to take lots of shots at different angles but straighten horizons, etc.

Composition will be key here and helps tell a story about the shopfront.

<https://www.theshopkeepers.com/how-to-shoot-a-shopfront/>

October – Animal or Human *Living* Body Parts

Helen Walker Judge

Part of the body must be the main focus of the image. No whole of body images. Animal or human, e.g. eyes, hands, feet, hair, chest, etc.

Can be colour or mono and must be taken from live subjects.

Macro Photography without Breaking the Bank

with Bill Chambers

So, Santa forgot to leave that super-duper Macro lens that you were hoping for...?

Never fear, I'll show you a few ways to get higher magnification with some relatively inexpensive gear.

Anyone can do Macro photography; however, it does require some less-than-standard equipment. Nevertheless, this equipment is available at many different price points. You can start out very simply and when the observation of minute details draws you in even more, you can splurge for higher-end equipment.

Standard Macro photography is defined by a magnification of 1:1 - objects are projected on to the sensor at their actual size. With increased magnification, we gradually move to the realm of Super Macro. For an 18mm wide object that fills the entire (Full frame) 36mm sensor plane, you'll get 2:1 magnification. If you are able to shoot a 9mm object, the magnification is 4:1, and so on. Beyond 4:1, we enter what is commonly referred to as Extreme Macro.

Extension Tubes are easily found and these attach between the normal lens and camera body. This way, only an enlarged cut-out from the centre of the image is sent to the sensor, magnified according to the length of the tube. As there is no glass in an extension tube, it doesn't degrade the image in any way from the lens you are using. They are usually sold in sets of 3 and can be combined to give different magnifications.

The cheapest variety are simple metal or plastic tubes - so automatic diaphragm (f-stop) control is no longer available. More expensive versions have electrical contacts that transfer your lens's information & control to the camera.

The other thing to consider is that the tubes reduce the amount of light that travels to the sensor. Adding more adaptors only increases this loss of light. The use of external flash or high-power LED lighting becomes more important as magnification increases.

Macro Converters work like a magnifying glass that brings the object you are shooting closer to you. They can usually be found at a low price. Unfortunately, their optical quality is sometimes low as well. It is merely a magnifying glass screwed into the filter thread.

Cheaper macro converters can result in optical defects due to their convex shape. The centre of the image is sharp, but the edges are blurry. This problem is caused mainly by the converters that function as a magnifying glass. For this reason, it is better to use macro converters that are made up of two optical groups with a flat front side. For example, the Raynox DCR-150 or DCR-250. These will either screw into the front filter thread of your existing lens, or in the case of the Raynox, will simply clip on.

Macro converters are also marked with dioptre strength. Generally speaking, the larger the dioptre strength, the more macro you'll get. I personally have tried many dioptre strengths from +4 to +16 - however they become very challenging to use as dioptre number increases!

Depth of field at this distance is truly tiny. The problem is not only sharpness, but also keeping the plane of focus in the right place. When shooting handheld, it's simpler to manually set the minimum distance beforehand and then gently rock your body with slow movement get the object into the plane of focus.

Enlarger Lenses. For those who have dipped their toes into the Super Macro world & would like to go further, the use of Enlarger lenses from the film darkroom is a relatively cheap & easy way to go. Les Porter, (our club Patron) can help you out with a good selection of 2nd hand enlarger lenses that can be used on extension tubes or old film-era bellows units to give superb results up to 5:1 magnification.

For those who would like to try this approach, one of the best enlarger lenses out there is an El Nikkor (Nikon) 50mm f2.8 'N' lens, although there are many others you could try.

There will be further presentations on presentation and workshop nights in 2023 that cover Super Macro Enlarger lenses, as well as the popular Extreme Macro presentation for those who missed it previously.

Photographic Society of America (PSA)

Interclub Photographic Competitions

With Roy Killen

An overview of the PSA Interclub competitions and the definitions for all sections can be downloaded for the "Club Documents" page of the club website. If you have questions about any of these definitions please contact Roy Killen.

Please remember that you cannot enter any image that has been used to represent the club in any previous PSA Interclub competition. If you are a member of several clubs (e.g. Belmont and Wangi) you can enter for only one club.

Belmont 16s was quite successful in Round 1 of the PSA Interclub competition. We achieved the following:

Colour: THIRD place out of 25 clubs in Group B. Bill Chambers gained a Merit. Alan Hinde and Terina Vale gained Honourable Mentions.

Monochrome: FIRST place out of 17 clubs in Group B. Helen Walker and Chris Prior both gained Merit awards - meaning their images were in the top 10% of the 102 entries that came from 17 photography clubs around the world.

Nature: Seventeenth place out of 26 clubs in Group A. No individual awards.

Photo Travel: FIRST place out of 25 clubs in Group A. Diane Schofield gained a Merit award. Margaret Hughes, Jennifer Carrigan and Helen Walker all gained Honourable Mentions.

Photojournalism: Thirteenth place out of 19 clubs in Group A. Bob Todd gained a Merit.

Entries are now open for Round 2. Please upload your entries before 1st February. If you have any questions, please contact Roy Killen at: roykillen@mac.com



Bob Todd - "Rescued" - Merit in Photojournalism.



Bill Chambers - "Tiger Moth Portrait" - Merit in Colour.



Chris Prior - "Impenetrable" - Merit in Monochrome



Helen Walker - "Through the break" - Merit in Monochrome



Diane Schofield - "Blue Mosque" - Merit in Photo Travel.

Our Photography Club Instagram

If you have some images you'd love to share please go to our Insta account and post some images for our members and followers to enjoy. An excellent opportunity to strut your photographic stuff online. Instagram is a social media site that was developed specifically for people to post, share and comment on photo's from Club members.



Buy, Swap & Sell

With Julie Brooks

Email me a photo or two of your item, a brief description including the important tech specs, your price and contact details.

It's been pretty quiet on the Buy, Swap and Sell page this past year! If you have anything that you'd like to buy, sell or swap please let me know.

Two of our members, Brenton & Beryl Elsey, due to a downsizing of their home recently, they have decided not to continue exhibiting prints (lack of storage), and have the following items available 'free to a good home': Large Print Mats (mostly 12" x 8", a few A4 and 10"x10") - very good condition

Cut-outs suitable for Small Prints - new

2 x Carry Bags - very good condition

It will be first in first served so, if you are interested in obtaining any of these items please contact Brenton on: 0438 997 310.



I recently purchased a Sony full frame mirrorless camera after feeling like I outgrew my trusty Canon EOS 80D. Still an absolutely awesome camera that I really can't justify keeping with my new gear 😞. If you or someone you know is interested in purchasing this camera feel free to message, call or email me if you'd like to find out more.

What's On

4/01/2023, 7pm Committee Meeting (Conducted over Zoom)	7/01/2023, 11:59pm Maitland International Salon entries due.
8/01/2023, 11:59pm January print & EDI entries due.	11/01/2023, 7pm Club night including print competition.
18/01/2023, 7pm Zoom Presentation What's New in Lightroom	25/01/2023 In person workshop details to be advised.
31/01/2023, 11pm PSA Interclub entries due.	

Critique Corner

Critique Corner aims to help members to fine-tune potential entries by gaining feedback from other members before the image is entered into a competition.

All members, regardless of experience are encouraged to upload images and make comments on images. The aim is to help each other to develop both your image capture and processing skills, and to take the judges' point of view when assessing an image. There are no grades within this activity.

Each member can upload one image per category. Once uploaded you can use this image in an upcoming competition. You can remove the image and replace it with another image whenever you choose.

The critique corner is accessible from the Members page as shown below:

Members Page

[VIEW ALL MY ENTRIES](#)[POINTS SCORES](#)[MEMBERS DIRECTORY](#)[CRITIQUE CORNER](#)[MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL](#)

Club Equipment

With Greg Carruthers

Please contact Greg if you would like to borrow any of the club's equipment, so if you need to borrow the mat board cutter, Spyder, scanner or, you would like to purchase mat boards to mount your images.

Greg's details can be found in the members link on the club website.

Normally, Greg would bring some boards along to competition nights for members to purchase at \$2 per board. However, as we are not having competition nights at the moment and you'd like to get ready for when we do please contact Greg via text or email to arrange supply and pick up.

Stay Connected



Club Website

[Belmont 16s Photography Club](#)

Committee Details

President	Vice President	Secretary	EDI & Judge Co-ordinator
Dennis Archibald	Greg Carruthers	Susan Slack	Di Schofield
Treasurer	Membership Co-ordinator	Webmaster	Zoom Coordinator & Equipment Loans
Liz Woods	Joy Thomas	Colin Woods	Greg Carruthers
Presentations Co-ordinator	Social Activities	Newsletter Editor	Club Patron
Greg Carruthers	Barb Hunter & Katherine James	Julie Brooks	Les Porter 4958 5840 www.Lesporter1.com.au

Committee Members

Barbara Hunter, Bill Chambers, Bob Todd, Diane Schofield, Greg Carruthers, Julie Brooks, Katherine James, Phil Whiteman, Ruth Keech and Roy Killen.

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 at 7pm on the first Wednesday of each month.