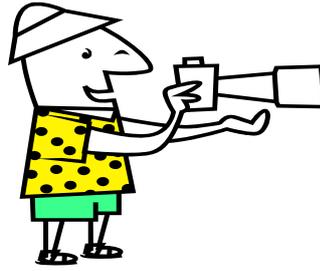


Thru The Lens



July 2009



The official
newsletter of
Parklands
Photographic Club

Our website
www.parklandsphotoclub.org.au

Newsletter email
parklandsphoto@people.net.au

Hi folks!

Well, winter's half over and there have been plenty of things happening. We have a couple of important items to act upon: especially the Ballarat club outing, and our upcoming interclub comp vs Preston Camera Club – please see below for the details. Reminder: only 3 images per member for August's **Open** competition.

The recent [Photowalk](#) went very well – with almost a dozen of our members joining almost 50 photographers walking around Brunswick.

I have attached our recent judge's information sheets regarding portrait photography to the email with this newsletter.

The committee is mindful in encouraging everyone to learn from each other. The monthly judges' opinions are just that: 'opinions' – please use their thoughts to spark further discussion and debate – we should keep asking questions of each other and developing a greater appreciation of the skills and experience that exist within our club. Even a complete novice can provide a refreshing insight – so don't be timid ... let's keep chatting learning (including from the judge).

Cheers, Paul

What The Duck



July competition results – *Water*



Water: the word
First place – Paul Grinzi



Drop
Second Place – Paul Grinzi



Melting moments
Third place – Emi Taylor

Highly commended:



Droplets
Ken Lu



Where does the water go?
Cheree Dodson



Bay of Tranquillity
Paul Grinzi

Club news

- **August meeting**

Our next monthly meeting will be held on **Thursday 13th August**. The theme is 'Open' and you have until Sunday (2nd August) to submit your photos (**note: up to 3 only**) to Kath (0421630138). Remember to prepare/bring along your photos for the following September (theme = "Architecture").

- **Parklands-Preston interclub**

Our club will be hosting Preston Camera Club this year in September (24th). This night will include the annual inter-club competition. Each club will submit up to 20 large prints and 20 small prints for the competition.

- ▶ Small prints are limited to a maximum size of 15 x 20cms (6" x 8"). Maximum **mount board** size permitted is 20 x 25cms (8" x 10").
- ▶ Large prints are to be limited to a **minimum** size of 20 x 25cms (8" x 10"). Maximum **mount board** size permitted is 40 x 50cms (16" x 20").

We need to collect and prepare our club's entries within the next 4 weeks – our club aims to represent every member with at least one image. Please start preparing your submissions –any photo is OK (it doesn't have to have been previously entered and the usual restriction of 'no previous club winners' doesn't apply for the inter-club. Please bring them along to the August meeting.

- **Club Outing: *Ballarat Foto Biennale – September 12-13th***

We are planning on attending this second yearly photography event (which goes all month) on the above weekend. If we have enough interest, we'll organise a venue for some group accommodation (for the Sat night). I will email about this separately. More info about the all-month event can be found [here](#).

- **Recent Worldwide Photowalk: Brunswick edition**

[Check out the photos](#) that were taken from our walk ... and spot our members in this group photo:



Exhibitions, Events & Competitions

- ***Otways in focus - Otways Tourism 2009 Photographic Competition***
The competition is open to all. All shots are to be taken within the highly attractive Colac Otway Shire. There is a valuable set of prizes on offer including a total of \$1000 in cash, and over \$3000 worth of tourism prizes such as accommodation in the area. ENTRIES CLOSE September 14th 2009. More info: <http://www.otwaysinfocus.com/>
- ***Jetstar Photographic Competition***
The airline, Jetstar, is currently running a photography competition that is free to enter and has some great prizes. There are numerous categories and 'destinations' to submit some entries. Have a look now and submit your favourite images. Details available at: <http://www.jetstarphotocomp.com/>. Entries close July 31st 2009.
- ***'Thanks Dad' photography competition***
This photography competition aims to capture that special moment between the child and the man in their life. More info and entry forms available at <http://www.thanksdadphotos.org.au/>. The Thanks Dad Photo Competition closes on August 25th.
- ***BHP Billiton Cannington Waltzing Matilda Photography Competition and Exhibition***
This photography competition (theme: "outback") has \$500 worth of prize money. Entries close July 31st. More info: <http://www.matildacentre.com.au/gallery>

Websites of the month

- <http://freephotoguidesaustralia.blogspot.com/> - a site where photographers submit brief outlines of various photographic regions. Worth looking at if you are interesting in visiting somewhere. You can even submit your own entry.
- http://www.liquidsculpture.com/fine_art/indexnojs.htm - a gallery of great water drop photography – some of these put my image (2nd place this month) to shame.
- <http://www.canonblogger.com/> - a good blog about photography (not just Canon stuff!) – thanks to Jason for allowing me to re-publish the "5 Ways To Improve Your Photographs" file included in this newsletter.

Quote of the month

"A photograph never grows old. You and I change, people change all through the months and years but a photograph always remains the same. How nice to look at a photograph of mother or father taken many years ago. You see them as you remember them. But as people live on, they change completely. That is why I think a photograph can be kind."

-Albert Einstein

Victorian Association of Photographic Societies Inc

In conjunction with Caulfield Photographic Society Inc

IMAGE EVALUATION SEMINAR 2009

Where?	St Peter's Church Hall Cnr Ames Avenue and Neerim Road MURRUMBEENA
When?	Saturday 22 August 2009 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Cost?	\$30.00
What do I get?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Illustrated presentation and discussion• Printed notes• Light refreshments• Tea and coffee on tap
Who are the presenters?	Paul Robinson, AFIAP, AAPS, SSAPS, SSVAPS assisted by John Commin, AAPS
Enquiries?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call Paul Robinson on 0409 625 700• Call John Commin on 03 5963 4179
Bookings?	Call Susan Rocco on 03 9530 9253 by Thursday 20 Aug 2008

VAPS Photographic Tour 2010

VAPS is planning another photographic tour in February 2010.

Again Vietnam will be the destination. The tour will be for three weeks.

There are lots of great photographic opportunities on this tour.

The tour will go from Sapa in the north of Vietnam to the Mekong Delta in the south, and will finish with four days in Cambodia.

Approximate cost is \$4,800 twin share.

For further information contact: John Commin 03 59634179
Johncommin@iprumus.com.au

Or Fred Everett 03 56252155
feverett@dcsi.net.au



5 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Choose interesting subjects

With the camera market expanding in geometric proportions, one of the best ways to make your imagery stand out is to be unique. This does not mean to take pictures that no one else takes, but to present pictures in a unique way. Too often, people think that being unique means taking pictures no one else has taken. Okay, so you took that picture of a tape dispenser. No one else has a picture of a tape dispenser in their gallery right? Well, not necessarily, because with as many of us as there are, the odds of finding a subject matter that has not been taken is much more challenging.

Additionally though, you need to ask yourself whether the subject matter (a tape dispenser), is even something that is inherently interesting. It could be that there are not many galleries of tape dispensers all over the internet simply because tape dispensers are not all that interesting. I mean no offense to tape dispenser aficionados, but there likely is not much of a market for tape dispenser photography.

You need to be selective in your subject matter. Ask yourself why you are taking the picture. When out recently with a friend, he pointed out a wood duck to me in the water, suggesting that I should capture the duck on camera. I asked myself whether I needed another picture of a duck on my hard drive and whether I would ever print it or not. When I answered no to both questions, I put my camera down. If it's not a compelling image for you or does not have any impact on you as a photographer– it likely will not be compelling or have an impact to viewers or buyers.

2. Be aware of lighting and its impact on your picture.

We all know about the golden hours, right before sunrise and right after sunset, but this does not mean we can't shoot at other times of the day...life goes on outside of these hours. What it does mean is that we need to be more careful about the impact lighting has on our pictures. Is the light directly overhead? Are there shadows? Is there cloud cover? What impact does this have on the lighting? What direction is the light coming from? What about interior lighting – are you using strobes or flashes? A great website, www.strobist.blogspot.com has a wealth of information on lighting and how to accentuate it and make your subjects just fly off the print. Dramatic lighting can make or break an image, and it's something to think about before tripping the shutter.

3. Watch out for distractions

Often times, in our excitement to capture a moment, we will include something that, in retrospect, we really wish wasn't there to begin with. I was at a wedding last summer and the photographer had the wedding party all lined up for a formal pose, with the scenic greens of the golf course behind them. The problem: the marker was jutting straight up behind the head of the bride! I didn't realize it myself as I was off to the side, taking causal pictures as an attendee, rather than as the formal photographer. My two shots were easily fixed, but I bet the computer time spent for the pro was a lot higher to clean that up in several dozen photos after the fact! Hopefully it made a lasting impression on her though, and she'll be more attentive to that in the future.

So, before pressing that shutter, take a moment to visually scan around the viewfinder or display – and look for errant objects that may detract or distract from the main subject. While yes, some things can be fixed afterwards, it's always better to get it right in camera!



4. Be aware of your gear choices

With the quality of gear on the market these days, we have to worry less and less about limitations or lower image quality in the gear that we use. Certainly, with bodies that can produce 22-megapixel images, and zoom lenses that can magnify the eye of a fly with tack sharp results, it's no wonder that more and more people are becoming avid photographers.

While the gear can definitely be a contributing factor, there are always limitations to consider. For example, you certainly would not want to shoot a rock concert with a cell phone camera or a macro lens. Equally, you would not want to take your expensive SLR camera down to the beach while horsing around playing Frisbee. Camera bodies and lenses have varying degrees of durability and purpose. In particular, it helps to remember the effects some gear selections can have on pictures. For example, it is always helpful to remember that wide angle lenses will have more distortion at the edges, and longer lenses will compress subjects that are further away. Focal length and depth of field capabilities will also contribute to how much of the background is out of focus, and how blurry that background is. As another example, portraiture usually gets its best results when everything but the subject is out of focus and blurred, thus moving the viewer to look at the subject rather than the background. Being aware of the effects lenses and bodies have on images, as well as the limitations of their focal lengths and f-stops can help you in composing your shots according to the purpose of the lens. Ultimately, the goal is to have more keepers and fewer throw-away shots. By shooting with your gear choices in mind, you can positively impact your keeper percentage.

5. Watch for colorful contrasts.

While there are always exceptions to this rule, photos will generally be more appealing if you have good contrasts in color. Complementary colors that work well together can bring life to an image. Additionally, contrasting colors can also do the same thing. When out with a photo club recently, I saw a flower and not only did it have some water dewdrops on it, but sky in the background was a stark blue. The blue and the red of the petal really made the decision to capture a "no-brainer" for me.

What about black and white photography? While there may not appear to be colors in this form of photography, there are tonal ranges and the contrast of black against white and vice versa is yet another way that we can really make pictures come to life.

Another type of photography is lomography where colors are intentionally of unusual contrast, saturation, and are bland in their presentation. While this does have a certain niche appeal, it is unlikely that "Lomo" photography will extend into widespread usage.

Ultimately, only you can decide what you want to do with your images, and what images work best for you. Adhering to a set of rules discourages creativity and thinking of new ways to express yourself. So, if you feel that you've got the basics down pat, by all means, venture into new territories with gusto. For the rest of us though, general rules and guidelines that provide a frame of reference (sorry for the "frame" pun), can help us focus on what needs improvement in our own endeavors. Hopefully the above listing of things to remember will be of use, and provide a helpful frame of reference to those that would like to become better as photographers.