



# IN FOCUS

Newsletter of the Northside Creative Photography Club

DECEMBER 2017

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### Another Year of Highlights

Wow! Is all I can say. What a big year we've had. And what a wonderful year it's been. I'm still enjoying the afterglow we all felt at our Portfolio Presentation on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Did you know that over 100 people attended?

But you were there. You know what we did through the year; the away trips, the monthly outings, workshops, comps, presentations and the biggest, portfolio programme we've ever had. Best of all, it seems to me that we enjoyed doing it together.

With 2018 rushing to greet us, we've already crafted much of next year's programme. There's an article within this newsletter to let you know some of the things we have in mind. Our first away trip, in May, merits your attention and an indication of your potential interest. Booking deadlines and so on...well you know the drill.

There is also a special tribute, in this issue, to Susan Buchanan who was awarded Life Membership at the AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Our final meeting for 2017 is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. On this evening, point score winners will be announced, and every member may contribute entries to the Top Shot Competition. Details can be found within this newsletter. Just as importantly, it will be a social night. We'll be welcoming guests from other clubs plus many others we met as judges and presenters through the year. It will be a grand occasion to celebrate a happy year of creative photography.

This is one not to be missed.

Except that I'm going to miss it. Anne and I are going on a month-long trip over Christmas. To get where we need to be by certain dates, we just had to leave no later than the 6<sup>th</sup>.

But I know you will all enjoy the party and the Top Shots and seeing who takes out the point score awards. Have a nice break over Christmas and New Year and may this holiday season be everything you wish for.

John



*"A slice of Newtown" From the outing on 19th November - John Pettett*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Wed 6 December

Gala Night and Topshot Awards

### Wed 7 February

Social Night

Social Night: Subject – "Mysterious"  
Enter up to three images based on the theme of 'Mysterious.' EDI or prints. First, second and third prize winners will be determined by popular vote. We will be showing the Mystery Bay AV, the 3-way club challenge AV and judging of images from the November outing to Newtown.

See all details at:  
[www.ncp.org.au](http://www.ncp.org.au)



**Season's  
Greetings  
to all**



## CONTACTS

POST:  
PO Box 192 Gordon  
NSW 2072 Australia  
WEB:  
www.ncp.org.au

EMAIL:  
For general enquiries:  
ncp@ncp.org.au

To contact individual members of the committee use the "Contact Details" page on our website.

THE CLUB MEETS AT:  
Lindfield Uniting Church Hall,  
Pacific Highway, Lindfield  
(Corner Provincial Road)  
On the 1st and 3rd Wednesday  
of each month  
at 7.30 for an 8pm start.

PRESIDENT:  
John Pettett  
(m) 0438 500 862  
(h) 02 9410 1007

VICE PRESIDENT:  
Jan Glover: 02 9498 3916

SECRETARY:  
Donald Gould

TREASURER:  
Doug Sinden

COMMITTEE:  
Judith Bennett  
Susan Buchanan  
Shane Clarkson  
Hemant Kogekar

WEBMASTER:  
Hemant Kogekar

## GALA NIGHT Wed 6th December 2017



Our end of year Gala Night will be a social night combined with Topshot - a celebration of the wonderful work done by the club during the year. You can enter up to six of your favourite prints and EDIs (maximum 2 per section).

All images must have been displayed at the club during this year.

The images could have been entered in any competition, including the Creative Night, but do not have to have received an award. They could be images from an Outing display, an image submitted for review on an Image Review Night, from the "Illusion" challenge in February, an image from this year's Portfolio, or they could have been displayed on the side stands on a Presenter's Night.

They must be presented in exactly the same format they were originally, and must not have been altered or improved in any way. They should be **your** favourite images.

### How to enter

There is no need to complete the registration form on the website.

EDIs should be uploaded on Sunday night 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec by 8pm. Prints should be brought to the hall before 7.45pm, with the title and your name on the back.

### On the night

Please bring a plate of finger food, savoury or sweet, for sharing. Wine, soft drinks and tea/coffee will be provided by the club.

A slide show of EDI images will start the evening.

Awards for the Point Score winners will be presented during the evening.

Topshot winners will be chosen by popular vote. Each member will be given 3 voting slips to vote for their favourite Colour Print, Mono Print and EDI. The overall Topshot winner for 2017 will be chosen from the category winners by a show of hands.

So come and enjoy the Gala Night. It will be a wonderful celebration of our work and a great social night.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

At the Annual General Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017, the following were elected to the committee:

**President:** John Pettett

**Vice-President:** Jan Glover

**Secretary:** Donald Gould

**Treasurer:** Doug Sinden

### Committee:

Judith Bennett

Susan Buchanan

Shane Clarkson

Hemant Kogekar (Webmaster)

A vote of thanks was given to the following members who were retiring from the committee:

Chris Spraggon (Secretary)

Alison Seccombe

Judy Watman

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2018

The committee has decided to maintain the annual membership fee at \$65.

Subscriptions may be paid by direct deposit from 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Details are on the renewal form [here](#).

Cash payments at the hall will be taken from the first meeting in February.

Please bring the correct cash in an envelope with your name on the front.

Cheques may be posted to the club PO Box.

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

We invite you to contribute to In Focus. If you have images you would like to see appear or a story with or without accompanying images, we would like to hear from you. As a guide, photographs should be saved as high quality .jpg, 1024 pixels wide.

To ensure our newsletter goes out on time, please have any submissions emailed to the editor at ncp@ncp.org.au

**MATERIAL DEADLINE: Fri 2nd March or prior**

## Susan Buchanan now a Life Member

At our AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> November, Susan was awarded our highest honour which is that of Life Membership.

Phrases like 'richly deserved' and 'tireless work' quickly come to mind. They're true, of course, but seem so inadequate. And we all know why.

Just consider this. Susan joined NCP in 2002. She quickly immersed herself in club activities. So much so, that a couple of years later she was elected President, a position she held for 10 years. During this time, Susan set the standard which has served NCP so well. Since her presidency she has continued her many contributions to NCP life, including the enormous jobs of hosting and mentoring new members' meetings and portfolio meetings.

Susan remains on the club management committee, holding the position of Public Officer. If you ever wondered what is the club's registered address, well here's a clue. Most of us have been there many times; especially this year. And that is just one example of how Susan has given, of herself and her resources, to the club and to each of us individually.

As one of the most 'in demand' judges, speakers and presenters, Susan also shares her expertise with the wider camera club community. Her knowledge of photographic history, artists and techniques is legendary. (And she has the books to prove it).

We could have no finer friend and mentor than Susan. We are proud and grateful that she is one of us.



## Looking ahead to next year

Our programme for 2018 is coming together nicely.

The first thing you need to do is put Wednesday 7th February in the diary right now. That's our opening event for the year. It's mostly a social evening but there will be the usual photographic challenge. Enter up to three images based on the theme of 'Mysterious.' They can be EDI or prints. First, second and third prize winners will be determined by popular vote. We'll also have a showing and judging of images from the November outing to Newtown PLUS the AV from Mystery Bay and the 3-way club challenge AV.

Two weeks later we'll have a fascinating presentation from Pamela Pauline. She'll be showing us how she goes about capturing her fine art images of the Northern Beaches and other Sydney highlights. Just to cap it off, Pamela will also be taking us on a dawn shoot at Mona Vale on March 17.

The programme's not complete yet but the early part is pretty much there. The very popular Analia Paino will be judging our first competition for the year on March 7, John Swainston will be presenting on March 21 and we have outings to Mardi Gras (that's going to be a big one), the Biennale at Cockatoo Island and a visit to Taronga Zoo to open our annual photo rally.

Then there's the big weekend away to Scone and the Upper Hunter Valley 4th – 7th May. Judith has a separate article in this edition of In Focus which should whet your appetite. It's promising to be another wonderful away trip. Judging on attendances at Bathurst and Mystery Bay this year, it's also likely to be very popular. Please take the time to register your interest.

The whole programme will be up on the website very soon. Check it often as things can, and do, change from time to time.

## PORTFOLIO BOOK

Dawn Zandstra is putting together a book celebrating the 2017 Portfolio. The book will feature images from each participant and will be around 100 pages and will cost under \$50. Please contact Dawn if you are interested in purchasing a copy. The book is available to members/friends/family etc - not just those who participated in the Portfolio.

## 4th to 7th May 2018 - Trip to Scone for the Horse Festival

The committee is planning a weekend away to Scone in May 2018.

The weekend of 5 and 6 May will offer a lot of photo opportunities including a rodeo, a polo match, farriers' competition, tent pegging, vaulting and a grand street parade

There will be other interests such as wineries or a scenic drive to Barrington Tops, and we could do things on route such as a visit to historic Maitland Gaol, and a stroll around Singleton.

Proposed accommodation will be at Lake Glenbawn Holiday Cottages, on the banks of Lake Glenbawn near the dam wall, just 15 mins drive from Scone. They have 10 cabins, each with a queen and 2 twin rooms, bathroom, living and dining area and full kitchen. There is also a communal BBQ area in the grounds.

If you are interested, please contact Judith Bennett via our contacts page:

<http://www.ncp.org.au/index.php/contact/contact-us/>



## The Wash up: Portfolio 2017

I am not going to compliment, praise or exhort anyone – I have done plenty of each of these over the past year to the point that any more threatens to become clichéd and I certainly don't want that!

What I will do is repeat the quote that I used at the opening of our exhibition:

“At our best and most fortunate we make pictures because of what stands in front of the camera, to honour what is greater and more interesting than we are. We never accomplish this perfectly, though in return we are given something perfect – *a sense of inclusion*. (My emphasis.) Our subject thus redefines us, and is part of the biography by which we want to be known.”

*Robert Adams – Why People Photograph.*

The sense of inclusion is perhaps one aspect of the portfolio process that has been simmering under the surface the entire time - not unacknowledged but perhaps deserving of more attention. It made itself known in many and varied ways from afternoon teas to help offered and received, problems solved and an overarching confidence in the process brought forward from previous years and

now generously shared. So, it is this simmering, roiling sense of community, of inclusion, of being greater than the sum of our parts that I want to salute. I encourage you to build on the relationships that have formed over the past year and use them as a springboard to further photographic exploration.

I have said my personal thank you's and have had many thank you's sent my way. There are a couple of things still to be acknowledged however: firstly the generosity of Shirley Steel and the Blue Mountains Photography Group for the providing their brand new stands and to Jim Crew and Lane Cove Creative Photography for supplying additional stands as well. Their abundance went a long way to allowing us to show the work to its best advantage, as anyone who came along to the exhibition could attest.

Congratulations.

*Susan Buchanan*





## PORTFOLIO EXHIBITION NIGHT 15th NOVEMBER

Over 30 members exhibited their portfolios on Wednesday 15 November. It was the result of months and months of hard work, especially for our mentor Susan Buchanan who held meetings at her home at least twice monthly, and more in between. Emeritus Professor Des Crawley provided written assessments of each portfolio - unfortunately he was not able to attend on the night. President John Pettett presented Susan with a book of Annie Leibowitz Portraits, and a card signed by all participants. Shane Clarkson talked about his first experience with the portfolio process, which he had found challenging and satisfying. The hall was packed with photography and people. Over 100 people attended, many coming from other clubs to view our work. The quality of the work was outstanding and ensured our club lived up to its excellent reputation.



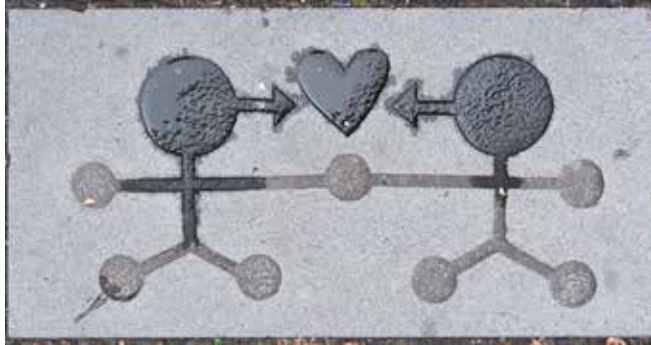
*Clockwise from top left: Shane Clarkson talks about his Portfolio experience; Shane's black and white images of rock pools using a tilt-shift lens; Pauline Plumb's fabric installation; the Portfolio exhibition at the hall; Judith Bennett with her beautiful monochrome images of the Tsechu Festival in the hidden kingdom of Bhutan. Judith's portfolio received the highest accolades from Professor Des Crawley. Graham Ramsay's colourful scenes of the hustle and bustle of Sydney awaking. John Pettett's clever film posters depicting himself in film roles.*



## NOVEMBER OUTING

Sixteen of us met in Newtown for the monthly club outing. The market was charming but very small. Looking on the ground we could see a myriad of street artworks. King Street has kept its elegance from late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century and photographing these buildings is worthwhile as we don't know how long they will survive. But once we ventured out of King Street we are bombarded by some gigantic and others tiny graffiti. Their message was very often obscure to me and perhaps a reflection on our times. We had a hearty pub lunch before going on our way. The weather was pleasantly cool and the light subdued.

*Jacques*



## SUMMER IN SYDNEY

The angophoras are shedding their bark and putting on a colourful show in the streets and bushland around the north shore and northern beaches. The trees below are only a few metres from my home, and display wonderful colours and patterns. I like to use the portrait orientation to emphasise the vertical patterns. Keep the plane of your camera lens parallel with the area you are photographing in order to get best depth of field, and choose as small an f/stop as possible. Using curves in Photoshop will help increase contrast and colour, I did not increase saturation. To avoid strong shadows, photograph on a bright but overcast day. *JanG*





## Mystery Bay Trip – 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017

### A Rookie's Report! by Nigel Streatfield

Mystery Bay is around a five and a half hour drive from Sydney so most of us arrived mid-afternoon Sunday, and after locating our accommodation, set about exploring the area on foot. We soon discovered photo opportunities of the local wildlife - wallabies, king parrots, rosellas and lorikeets and a short walk to nearby Billy's Beach.



The next morning we set our alarms to get down to the beach in time for sunrise and took some great photos of the rocks, waves, and the distant Montague Island. After breakfast we discovered the birdseed in our cottage, and after a few minutes, it became clear that this was expected by the local birdlife – that was rewarded by some great close-ups as the birds argued over the food.

We then headed out to explore the other beaches in the vicinity and got some more great shots before heading over to Central Tilba for a wander round the village and a welcome visit to the local pub. Dinner followed at The Tilba Teapot Café with great food, a few wines, and some good conversation.

On Tuesday we headed for Bermagui, and first stop was Camel Rock. When you approach from the car park, this rock looks a bit like a camel - surprise, surprise!, The best pictures were to be found when we

walked along the beach behind the rock, and although it then looked nothing like a camel, it does make for a fabulous photo - to the extent that we went back again later that afternoon, and again the next morning, and one of our party even went again later in the week!

Bermagui has a few other photogenic highlights including the Blue Pool, the harbour, a number of lookouts and the bay where we spotted the first whale of the week.

On Wednesday, after a hour or so at Camel Rock, we headed for Mogo Zoo, which gave us the chance to photograph the animals. After a bit of time we were rewarded with some shots showing their characters as they played, fed, preened, or just held us with a stare. We finished there just as the rain started, so obviously it was time to head home!

In the evening as the rain continued to pelt down and we headed for the Tilba Valley Winery for wine tasting and an excellent dinner cooked by the owner.

Thursday morning saw us at 8 am on board the "Dreamtime" to Montague Island. We started off with some whale watching and were lucky enough to see a couple of whales breaching within about 20 minutes of leaving port.



On approaching Montague Island, we visited the seal colony at the north of the island, before heading into the wharf where we were met by the National Parks guide. Our tour included a trip to the top of the lighthouse and an excellent explanation of the role of the lighthouse keepers of the past and the park rangers of the present. Continuing on we braved the "angry birds" as we walked towards the southern and western parts of the island for more photos, before heading back to the boat and the

return to Narooma.

After lunch we took the opportunity to visit Glasshouse Rocks – from the lookout above, and then with a bit of slippery climb down to the beach to get some



great shots as a storm headed in from the south. As we were walking along the beach I was shooting one of the rock formations and was photo-bombed by a whale as it proceeded southbound! We shot for as long as we dared before the storm moved in and just made it back to the car in time. Big day!

On Friday it was a case of "And now for something completely different". We headed for a "junk yard" near Cobargo, where the owner had rescued old farm and industrial machinery and turned it into a museum / exhibition, both indoors and out and it proved a great subject for photography, despite the drizzle that lingered after last night's rain.

In the afternoon, as the sun came out, I decided to head into Narooma and cruised around the various turquoise waterways searching for a final set of shots to complete the week.

Saturday we were homeward bound.

## GIFT IDEAS

### **Soviet Bus Stops Volume 11**

by Christopher Herwig, Damon Murray.  
On the heels of his bestselling Soviet Bus Stops, photographer Christopher Herwig locates fresh wonders of the Soviet vernacular in Georgia, Ukraine and Russia itself

### **Journeys into the Wild**

The Photography of Peter Dombrovskis

### **Annie Leibovitz**

Portraits 2005-2016

### **Botanica Magnifica**

Hardcover Folio Large Sized Edition  
Portraits of the World's Most Beautiful Rare Flowers and Plants.  
Two hundred and fifty stunning photographs by Hasselblad Laureate Award winner Jonathan Singer.

### **Australasian Nature Photography**

The year's best wildlife and landscape photos from the Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year.

### **Lonely Planet's Beautiful World**

Sublime photography of the world's most magnificent spectacles.

### **Photography**

#### **The Definitive Visual History**

By Tom Ang  
Photography is a beautiful lavishly illustrated reference book tracing the history of photography from its origins in the 1800s to the global phenomenon of digital photography.

### **Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards**

By Paul Joynson-Hicks  
The funniest photographs of wildlife from around the world collected here in one must-have book that is perfect for animal lovers

All available from Booktopia

### **The High Country 2018 Calendar**

Beautiful black and white images of the high country of NSW and Victoria.  
Available from [www.richardwhite.com.au](http://www.richardwhite.com.au)

#### **NOTE**

**If you cannot open any of the hyperlinks in this issue by clicking on them, please copy and paste the URL into your browser.**

## EXHIBITIONS

### **ACP Project Space**

#### **Always will be. Barbara McGrady**

Until 09 December 2017  
Curated by Sandy Edwards, [Arthere](http://Arthere.com).  
Barbara McGrady is a Gamilaroi Murri yinah (woman), Sydney based-photographer from the north west of NSW and Southern Queensland, who has been documenting contemporary Aboriginal history since the 1970s.  
ACP Project Space, [72 Oxford Street](http://72OxfordStreet.com),  
[Darlinghurst](http://Darlinghurst.com)  
[www.acp.org.au](http://www.acp.org.au)

### **Art Gallery of NSW**

#### **Pat Brassington – The body electric**

Until 11 Feb 2018  
<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions/pat-brassington/>  
<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/whats-on/>

### **Australian Museum**

#### **Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year**

Until Sunday 10 December 2017  
Cnr William & College Sts, Sydney  
<https://australianmuseum.net.au/landing/agnpy/>

### **Black Eye Gallery**

**Gifted.** Australia's most talented photographers are on display.

Dec 4-24

#### **Lost Vegas – Tim Levy**

Jan 30 – Feb 11 2018  
[www.blackeyegallery.com.au](http://www.blackeyegallery.com.au)

### **Penrith Regional Gallery**

**Landing Points.** Eleven artists respond to Tracey Moffatt's landmark photographic exhibition *Up in The Sky*.

Dec 2 – March 4.

[www.penrithregionalgallery.org](http://www.penrithregionalgallery.org)

### **Blue Mountains Heritage Centre**

#### **Edge of Light**

Monochrome Images of wild places.  
Dec 2- 31  
End of Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath.  
<http://ianbrownphotography.com.au/contact/>

Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards  
Have a laugh at some not so serious photography:  
[https://www.comedywildlifephotography.com/gallery/2017\\_finalists.php](https://www.comedywildlifephotography.com/gallery/2017_finalists.php)

## COMPETITIONS

Competition listings can also be found at:

<http://www.a-p-s.org.au/index.php/exhibition/comps>  
<http://www.photocontestinsider.com/>

International Photographer of the Year  
Entries close 10 December 2017  
<https://iphotographeroftheyear.com/>

Wildlife Photographer of the Year  
Entries close 14 December 2017  
This is one of the most prestigious wildlife competitions in the world and is run by the Natural History Museum UK. There are 16 categories in the adult competition, so no excuse not to enter! And there is a one off fee of £30 UK for up to 25 entries.  
<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/wpy/competition.html>

36<sup>th</sup> Newcastle Exhibition of Photography  
Entries close Wed 10 January 2018.  
Prints only.  
<https://newcastlenational.myphotoclub.com.au/>

Maitland International Salon of Photography.  
Entries close Mon 15 January  
Print and digital sections  
<https://maitlandsalon.myphotoclub.com.au/>

Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year  
Entries close 25 January 2018  
Photographers from around the world are invited to submit their nature and wildlife photographs from the bioregion of Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica and the New Guinea. All Entries must have been taken within the 7 years prior to the end of the Competition Period.  
<https://naturephotographeroftheyear.com.au/>

#### **INTERESTING...**

Winner of the Darebin Art Prize 2017 is Claire Lambe for her photographic work, *She never speaks about herself, she could be anything*.  
Lambe's winning photograph shows a wooden office-like chair in the midst of a photo-shoot, and the title of the work appears as a subtitle at the bottom of the image.

<http://artguide.com.au/claire-lambe-wins-darebin-art-prize-2017>