



# IN FOCUS

Newsletter of the Northside Creative Photography Club

JUNE 2018

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I have decided to become a World class photographer.

"That's a little presumptuous John", you may say. Perhaps, but I don't think so. The thing is, I am already a photographer. All of us are. So, what remains to be determined is just what sort of photographer I aim to be. 'Also ran' doesn't suit my self-image but neither does 'better than average' nor even 'good'.

You see, any descriptor, other than 'World class', will be limiting. If it takes X-degree of effort to produce a better than average image, how much does it take to produce one that is World class? Let's say the answer is 10-X. If I only think of myself as a bit better than average, I'm never going to make a 10-X effort. There's no need to.

Naysayers will quickly point out that a 10-X effort is no guarantee of World class success. True, but it's also no guarantee of failure whereas a 1-X effort is. I've read plenty of biographies of successful photographers and their 'secrets to success' are often similar. Know your gear, practice, work hard and don't be afraid to fail, are the ones which come up time and time again. And that last one I figure I have nailed already. *(But, I'm keeping my failures so that, when I do become a world class photographer, I can, with all due humility, smile and assure my fans that I'm really only human).*

We have over 80 potentially world class photographers at NCP. A few can be clearly identified right now. Others have a layer or two to scrape off for their light to shine. That's where I'm coming from.

As author Karen Lamb wryly observed, "A year from now you may wish you had started today."

John Pettett

*"Farrier"  
From weekend at Scone  
4-7 May 2018  
John Pettett*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wed 6 June**

Competition: "You are here"  
Judge: Sandra Dann

**Wed 13 June**

Committee Meeting

**Wed 20 June**

Members' presentation night

**Wed 4 July**

Competition: "Texture"  
Judge: Tanya du Toit

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



## CONTACTS

POST:  
PO Box 192 Gordon  
NSW 2072 Australia  
WEB:  
[www.ncp.org.au](http://www.ncp.org.au)

EMAIL:  
For general enquiries:  
[ncp@ncp.org.au](mailto: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

## MEMBERS' PRESENTATION NIGHT 20 JUNE

The Members' Presentation Night will be a great opportunity to present a sample of your work. This is not a competition but rather a showcase of members' work. Don't be shy! Show the club what you've been working on. You may have a particular interest that you'd like to share, or images that you feel are unsuitable for competition but that you love or would love to get feedback on. Images should be on a topic or theme of your choice and you will have the opportunity to speak about your work.

- Prints, photobooks, electronic images and audiovisuals are all acceptable. AVs should be no longer than 4 minutes.
- To assist with planning, please send us the details of what you will be presenting - ie, the number of prints or electronic images and details of the program used to create AVs so that we can display them correctly for you (eg. ProShow Gold or Pictures to Exe etc.)
- Members are also encouraged to send their EDI entries prior to the night (email to [ncp@ncp.org.au](mailto:ncp@ncp.org.au)). If your file is too large to email, please contact us and we will arrange a Dropbox transfer. If this is not convenient, please bring your electronic images and AVs on the night on a CD, DVD or flash drive.

Closing date for sending details is Sunday 17 June.

## MALCOLM FACKENDER PRESENTATION 16 MAY

Malcolm delivered what he had promised – some tips to "make your photographs stand out in the crowd". In an excellent presentation he covered just about everything we need to know about composition, colour, lighting etc, and illustrated each point with stunning examples of his work. His photography tours are very popular and you can find out more here: <http://spotlightonasia.com/>

## 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, 1920pixels wide. To ensure our newsletter goes out on time, please have any submissions emailed to the editor at [ncp@ncp.org.au](mailto:ncp@ncp.org.au)

**MATERIAL DEADLINE: Fri 29 June or prior**

## PHOTO RALLY 2018

The Subject is Birds and Animals, and entries must be submitted as prints. Photographs must be taken between Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May and the end of June. Our outing to Taronga Zoo on Saturday 26 May has already provided some excellent photographic opportunities. The Photo Rally will be judged on Wednesday 18 July. Bring up to three mounted prints on the night (colour or monochrome). Triptyches will be regarded as one entry. Entries will be judged on the night with the winner receiving a cash prize of \$100. This is an informal competition - there are no merits or special merits, and no points are awarded.

## SCONE AUDIOVISUAL

An Audiovisual of the Scone week-end away will be shown at the club on Wednesday 15 August. Participants are advised that 30th June is the revised deadline for you to upload your entries via the link at: <http://www.ncp.org.au/index.php/forums/image-upload-page/> When preparing your images, please remember to use your initials as the first part of the filename. The upload page will only permit a maximum of 6 uploads. If you wish to add more, please email them to Jan Glover.

## NEW SIZE FOR EDI

We are now able to increase the height of our EDIs to 1200 pixels. The width remains unchanged at 1920 pixels. Remember, these are maximum dimensions. (ie Maximum width 1920px, Maximum Height 1200px). It's OK to go under but you can't go over.

Check out Club Competition Rules under the Competitions tab on the website for all the details.

## Save Small JPEG

Save Small JPEG is a script I wrote for Adobe Photoshop that offers a simple and quick preset based way to export JPEG images from Photoshop.

“Out of the box” the script is set to export individual images to meet our competition requirements. With the script, you open your image in Photoshop, run the script, click Save As, fill in the name and click Ok and your image is exported ready to upload for EDI.

By “preset based”, I mean that all the settings for exporting an image are given a name, then when you want to create an image with those settings you just choose the appropriate name and let the script do its thing.

The script also offers some presentation options. For example, the Ironfest prints I showed at the last meeting had a black border. To do this, I had created a preset in the script for 8x12 inch (2400x3600 pixels) jpegs where the image was scaled to 90% on a black background, rotated to fit. I then used the script to process my folder of images into a subfolder called prints and took the results to officeworks on USB drive for printing using their Kiosk.

For more about the script see: <https://codebybrett.github.io/savesmalljpeg/>

I'm interested in feedback, so if you use the script, let me know how you go with it.

*Brett Handley*

## Free Course at Hornsby TAFE for Photographers

This will suit those who are in the early stages of their photography pursuits and others who want to consolidate the basics. It starts on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and runs every Monday and Wednesday at either 3:00 – 5:00pm or 6:00 – 8:00pm for 12 weeks. And, best of all, it is free.

The aptly named, David Pix, Photography Coordinator for Hornsby TAFE, will give us a 5-minute summation of the programme at our next meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June. You might get a few words with him before the meeting starts but his presentation will give you all the information you need. He'll also be leaving some brochures.

## COMPETITIONS

### 30th Sutherland Shire National Exhibition of Photography 2018 (SSNEP)

Opening date: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

Entries Close: Sunday 12th August 2018

This is an all digital exhibition with entries to be submitted online via the exhibition website.

Online Entry Form:

<http://www.ssnepe.org.au/>

## Blue Mountains Workshop

Blue Mountains Photography Group (BMPG) is holding their biannual workshop on the weekend of 18/19 August. Keynote presenters are Jackie Ranken and Mike Langford, the well-known principals of the Queenstown Centre for Creative Photography. Details can be found here:

<http://www.bmpg.org.au/workshop2018/>

Several members plan to attend the Saturday workshop. The cost is normally \$145 for the day, but we can obtain a discount if at least five NCP members register at the same time. Please contact Jan Glover if you wish to attend.

Quite a few members attended the last workshop 2 years ago, and reported that it was an extremely enjoyable and interesting day.

(Don't forget that NCP has a model shoot lined up for Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> but BMPG's Saturday event may still be of interest.)

## EXHIBITIONS

### State Library of NSW

#### World Press Photo 18

Until Sunday 24 June

View the world's best photojournalism from 2017, selected from the prestigious World Press Photo Contest, now in its 61st year.

Macquarie St Sydney

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/>

## Time is... Time was... Time is past...

Interpretations in photographs by  
John Bardell - Susan Buchanan - John Chapman - Jan Glover  
Wednesday 20 June - Sunday 1 July 2018



Opening event  
with the Artists  
3pm Sunday 24 June

11am-5pm  
Tuesday to Sunday  
(not open Mondays)  
Art Space on The Concourse  
409 Victoria Ave, Chatswood



[www.nebuliarts.com](http://www.nebuliarts.com)  
[exhibitions@nebuliarts.com](mailto:exhibitions@nebuliarts.com)

**Nebuli Arts**

Willoughby Council is gratefully acknowledged for  
the provision of the Art Space on The Concourse



# OUR DAY AT THE ZOO



For many of us, Taronga is one of those places we know well but haven't been to for a long, long time. Around fifteen of us renewed that acquaintance on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May and had a whale of a time.

As you well know, there aren't actually any whales there. But, I'll bet you didn't know there aren't any lions either. Can you imagine that? No lions at the Zoo. They seem to be out for agistment for a year or two while they build a new home for them. Anyway, the rest of the Zoo was still there and pretty much as we'd remembered it.

One of the things that dawns on you as you perambulate the precincts is that the Zoo is a variable experience. For example, several of us checked out the new Tiger Trek presentation in the morning and felt it was a dud. We spotted one sleepy tiger on top of a Jeep and that was it. Nothing to see. But, go back at feeding time and WOW. It was showtime and we must have taken hundreds of photos.

Same was true with the gorillas. The early light on their dark bodies was splendid. A little later, and in shade, there was nothing but grey, sleepy shapes. Then, in the later afternoon, a combination of low sunlight and feeding time brought sights not to be missed.

Another pleasant surprise was the quality of food available. We started our visit at 9:00am with a coffee (and breakfast for those who needed it) at the excellent café at the Zoo's main entrance. Come lunchtime we found tasty salads, wraps etc and really, really good chunky beef and Guinness pies at The View restaurant.

Well, there was so much more to see and do. We took all day and still didn't cover it all which makes the merit of an annual pass worth considering. Check out the Zoo website and figure out what might suit you.

Some of our images are here with this article but, I suspect that most of us are hiding our best lights under the proverbial bushel. After all, the reason we went to the Zoo was to get a flying start on our 2018 Photo Rally. The topic this year is Animals and Birds and we certainly got plenty of them. Of course, you don't need to go to the Zoo but it's not a bad idea.

Take the family, the kids, the grandkids and definitely have a pie.

*John Pettett*

*See more of our Zoo images in the Photo Gallery at:  
<https://photos.ncp.org.au/Outings>*





## Weekend Away in Scone 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018

For our first weekend away this year we went to Scone in the Upper Hunter Valley, to photograph the activities held during the annual Horse Festival. We also anticipated shooting some pretty landscapes but the land was brown and dry, except for the paddocks belonging to the famous horse studs in the region, which were well irrigated and looked impressive.

Our main accommodation was at Lake Glenbawn Cottages, where 23 of us occupied 5 cabins. Another 7 participants chose to stay in alternative accommodation, which presented unforeseen difficulties as we had no phone reception at the cottages and could not effectively communicate our impromptu evening plans. A lesson learned for next time!

On Saturday, most of us divided our time between the farriers' competition, tent pegging championships and polo matches. I was personally amazed at the amount of physical effort involved in making a horseshoe, and the amount of smoke created during the fitting process. The lighting conditions were a challenge, but there was plenty of action to photograph, and surprisingly few other spectators. Tent pegging was happening nearby, mainly watched by a handful of families supporting their teams – and a handful of NCP members. A long lens was required, and some expertise in panning would have been helpful! It was almost as fast and furious as the polo matches which were held outside Scone in a little town called Gundy. The atmosphere was warm and relaxed, but the competition on the field was fierce. Continuous shooting at a fast shutter speed was my approach. I soon filled up the memory card, but was later able to select a few interesting shots.

On Saturday evening we decided to have happy hour overlooking Lake Glenbawn at sunset. The lake is in a National Park and is normally a popular fishing spot, but the water level had receded well beyond the launching ramps so there were no boats. It was calm and peaceful and we enjoyed a good selection of Hunter Belle cheeses (courtesy of Susan) and a few beverages. Fortunately we all made it back without hitting any kangaroos – which were around in large numbers.

Sunday morning was the festival street parade – a grand event which involved the closure of the New England Highway and

the northern rail line for 2 hours! Some of us went into town early to watch the preparations, which awarded the best photo opportunities. The parade was headed by horseback riders, starting with the mounted police, a contingent of Light Horse Brigade veterans, the tent pegging teams, and local equestrian organisations. Four local schools had enormous floats, vintage car owners followed, and all were accompanied by the Upper Hunter Marching Band and a Pipe Band. The local community was out in force.

The afternoon continued with the same festival competitions, and the final of the Peisley Cup at the polo ground. It was exciting to watch, and sometimes there was a bit of extra 'atmosphere' as the horses kicked up clouds of dust from the dry ground.

After all that excitement, we were treated to more fun as Bruce volunteered to 'spin the wool' over Lake Glenbawn after sunset. More drinks and nibbles were enjoyed, and some attempts were made to photograph the Milky Way. A fitting end to an action-packed weekend. My thanks to all of you for helping to make this a very friendly and enjoyable occasion.

*Judith Bennett*



*See more photos of the weekend at:  
<https://photos.ncp.org.au/Outings>  
The audiovisual will be shown at the club meeting on Wed 15th August*



## AFTER SCONE

On Monday after leaving the Glenbawn Holiday Cottages, we drove north west to Belltrees then Moonan Flat (about 50km north west of Scone), a small village where there is a hotel, a post office and old suspension footbridge across the Hunter River. Then we drove on to Ellerston - another 27km along mostly dirt roads. Ellerston is a large property that was owned by media mogul Kerry Packer and since his death is run by other members of the Packer family. The property also boasts some of Australia's best polo fields, and we had seen the large team of Ellerston players and ponies at the polo matches near Gundy. Apart from running thousands of cattle and sheep, Ellerston also has polo fields, a golf course and luxury resort (hidden from the road behind high fences).

We spent the following two nights at Peterson's Guest House and Winery on the outskirts of Armidale. The historic homestead known as Palmerston is listed on the state heritage register, was built in 1911 by members of the Dangar family.

Around Armidale there are a number of scenic drives, and we took #19 which first took us to the nearby Dangars Falls (which was completely dry due to the drought), then on to Gostwyck where we photographed the historic Deeargee Woolshed (built in 1872 and still in use today) and All Saints Chapel which was covered in red virginia creeper (a photographer's delight except for the fact that there were hoses twining around the scene, watering the grounds). Then on to the delightful town of Uralla with its historic streetscape and interesting shops, including the Uralla Wool Room and the Pie Mechanic (Venison, bacon, red wine and green lentil pie or rhubarb custard tarts??). Back on the southern side of Armidale we visited the New England Regional Art Museum. (<http://www.neram.com.au/>). The Gallery hosts the Hinton Collection of Australian art – and includes works by Streeton, Roberts, Heysen and Lindsay – a must see. Other exhibitions are constantly changing, but we were fortunate to see an excellent display of printmaking (including the Refuge series by Dianne Fogwell), images of the "New England High Country" by local photographers, and "Salient" – the work of twelve leading Australian artists (including Euan Macleod) who visited the First World War battlefields of the Western Front a century after the conflict that claimed so many lives. (This is a travelling exhibition which will be shown at the Bathurst Regional Gallery during August to October, and at the Anzac Memorial Sydney from 22 Oct to 17 Feb 2019).

The homeward drive took us past the picturesque Dangar's Lagoon near Uralla (a great bird watching location), Thunderbolts Way and Heatherbrae Pies.

Jan Glover



Images from top:  
Historic Palmerston (Peterson's Guest House);  
Gostwyck Woolshed; All Saints chapel at Gostwyck;  
Dangar's Lagoon near Uralla.