



# SHUTTERBUGS

Newsletter of the Camberwell Camera Club

Inc. No A7980D ABN 51 428 767 268

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION – TELL THE STORY

Every picture tells a story and one of the arts of photography is making it clear what is the story you are trying to tell.

The key to great photography is to develop a clear understanding what it is about the scene that compels you to take the photograph in the first place. This is the underlying story of the photograph. It may not be an action; it could be a mood, a texture or just the beauty of a landscape. There are many stories to tell so photography is a rich art form.

The eyes and the brain create their own composite image of the world while the camera captures its own harsh version of reality. The photographer needs to understand how their camera and lens alters the perception of a scene.

Part of the art of photography is seeing beyond the obvious and using the camera to bring a different view of the world to make the viewer stop and think.

Photography is a visual language and an effective photograph creates its own reality.

### **Understanding the Camera View**

Cameras and lens impose their own view on a scene and the process of visualisation is bending that view to suit the photographer's purpose. The photographer needs to understand how the limited angle of view of the camera lens frames a scene and prioritises parts of it. Then the impact of the variables, such as aperture and shutter speed, and how they can enhance the photographer's visualisation of the scene needs considering.

Choosing the focal length of the lens gives a very different view of the scene. Shorter focal length tends to exaggerate the depth of objects in a scene while longer focal length tends to compress the distance between objects.

Shutter speed is a critical factor in portraying a sense of motion in a still image.

### **Positioning the Subject in the Frame**

There are rules of composition such as the rule of thirds, which are guides where to position the critical aspects of a scene that will support the photog-

rapher's visualisation. Another device is using lines and patterns in the scene to lead the viewer's eyes to areas of the scene the photographer considers important. Even if compositional techniques are not used, the photographer needs to consider them to avoid creating distractions from the story.

### **Hidden Meaning**

This can be the most difficult and complex part of composing an image. There can be many subtle meanings and connotations conveyed by the image created by the cultural context of the viewer. This meaning derives from the viewer's perception rather than the photographer's intention, so where the image is to be displayed needs to be factoring its composition.

A simple example from our stories is typically good guys wear white, while the villains wear black. Some viewers may interpret the choice of colour and exposure levels as value judgement of the subject. Semiotics, the scene of signs, is an important tool for deeper analysis of the hidden meaning in images.

*(This article was written by Philip Northeast and copied from a web site "Photography-techniques")*



*Narbethong Bush Fires – Farm Truck*

## PORTRAIT WORKSHOP



*Nat*

*Nick*

*Laurey*

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March the Portrait Group held their first workshop for the year. Under the expert guidance of Rebecca Nicolandos some twelve members and three models toured some of the graffiti decorated lanes of Melbourne city. After ten minutes of useful and informative instruction from Bec we split into three groups with a model each and proceeded to fill our memory cards with anything from useless to exciting portrait shots. Using the decorated walls for background the models were asked to hold poses from sophisticated to absolutely ridiculous. The models, Nat, Laurey and Nick, were unbelievably co-operative and seemed happy to carry out our wishes. I expect that they are hopeful that some of the unflattering poses do not go any further than the computer monitor

We photographers had a ball relying on Bec to suggest most of the unusual poses. Two hours seemed to go all too quickly when we wished our models good-bye and headed home preparing to spend the next few weeks endeavouring to get something remotely satisfactory for entry into this year's competitions.

*Matt*

## WORLD WIDE PHOTORAPHIC COMPETITION

CIWEM (The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management) runs the Environmental Photographer of the Year, which is one of the fastest growing photographic competitions in the world. In 2008 we received over 1,400 entries from over 40 countries –we are hoping to increase this in the 2009 competition.

This is a serious competition that seeks to celebrate photographers who use their ability to raise awareness of environmental and social issues. It is open to all professional and amateur international photographers of any ages. This year's categories are Changing Climates; A World of Difference; Quality of Life; The Natural World; and the Young Environmental Photographer of the Year (Under 21). EPOTY encourages entries that are contemporary, creative, experimental, resonant, original and beautiful.

I hope you may be able to forward this email onto your members and friends, encouraging them to enter via [www.ciwem.org/arts/photographer](http://www.ciwem.org/arts/photographer). The competition is open until 5pm on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

Many thanks and best wishes,

**Emily Doyle**  
**Press and Marketing Officer**

## Audio Visual Competition

The Australian Photographic Society is running an Audio Visual Autumn National Exhibition 2009 with entry to the competition open to all photographers resident in the Commonwealth of Australia. This is an open competition with no restriction on subject matter and a maximum length of 12 minutes. All sequences must however be entered into a section defined as either Documentary, Humour, Theme, Music Poetry Song, and Natural History.

A maximum of 4 sequences can be entered per author and each must be on a separate CD, accompanied by an entry form, a FICHE and a \$10 fee per entry.

The entry form and the AV Identification Sheet (FICHE) can be down loaded from <http://www.a-p-s.org.au>

Please come along to our next Audio Visual meeting on Monday 4th of May at 8pm, to watch, ask questions and share your knowledge.

Regards, *Ruth*

## Digital Jottings:

Our last mid-week outing took us to Narbethong where we were able to view first hand the devastation following those terrible bushfires. Starting from the Black Spur Inn we were taken by bus to three properties where the owners had prior knowledge of our visit and had approved of our presence. Two of the properties were houses while the third was a farm



Although we traveled as a group with members of the Melbourne Camera Club, each photographer worked independently. One of the ultimate aims is to produce an AV which can be presented to the people of Narbethong. On viewing the results, one of the intriguing things will be how different the interpretation by 19 different photographers, both in terms of what they saw and how they interpreted the image. (We ended up with 19 as John Adlam from MCC who organised the day fell ill on the day of the tour.) The differences will come from photographic style and subsequent interpretation. We will see part of the answer tonight when we see some work of the Camberwell group.

*Peter Brady*

## A PHOTOSHOP TIP FROM DON

### Revealing the Brushes Palette

If you right-click on your image when a painting tool is selected, a brushes palette will appear.

If your brush cursor has suddenly changed from a brush shape to a crosshair, you have probably pressed the Caps Lock key by mistake. Simply release Caps Lock to return to the brush shape cursor.

## RESULTS OF OUR MARCH MONTHLY AGGREGATE COMPETITION

SUBJECT: Four Legs

JUDGE: John Chapman EFIAP ARPS FAPS

## LARGE PRINTS

Place	Title	Author
1 <sup>st</sup>	"Hand in Hand"	Deborah Mullins
2 <sup>nd</sup>	"Buenos Aires Tango"	Michael Persin
3 <sup>rd</sup>	"The Two Udders"	Matt Moore
4 <sup>th</sup>	"Piano Stool"	Don Weston
5 <sup>th</sup>	"Absorbed"	Don Weston



*Deborah Mullins receiving her certificate for 1<sup>st</sup> place in Large Prints from John Chapman*

## SMALL PRINTS

1 <sup>ST</sup>	"Paws for Concern"	Sue Welsh
2 <sup>nd</sup>	"Well Balanced"	Deborah Mullins
3 <sup>rd</sup>	"Pier Legs"	Deborah Mullins
4 <sup>th</sup>	"Cooling Off"	Sue Welsh
5 <sup>th</sup>	"Model Legs"	Elizabeth Franks



*Sue Welsh receiving her certificate for 1<sup>st</sup> place in Small Prints from John Chapman*

## PROJECTED IMAGES

1 <sup>st</sup>	"Alien Invasion"	Sue Welsh
2 <sup>nd</sup>	"Boots"	Deborah Mullins
3 <sup>rd</sup>	"Oblivious"	Sue Welsh
4 <sup>th</sup>	"4 Legged Seagull"	Bev Bryceson
5 <sup>th</sup>	"The Beastie"	Matt Moore

## SPECIAL MENTION

"Can We Go Now"	Charlotte Bradley
"Human Whirligig"	Deborah Mullins



*Bev Bryceson receiving her certificate for 4<sup>th</sup> place in Projected Images from John Chapman*

## OUR NEXT MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER

(Robert Groom)

In the camera club world I'm best known for my slides of sports and action photographs; I judged the Camberwell Interclub Competition in 2000 when the set subject was "Sport". These days I no longer use film but I still enjoy the challenge of photographing fast moving subjects, especially my two young children.

I joined The Melbourne Camera Club in 1990 and I have been the coordinator and lead teacher of the 'Introduction to Photography Course' there since 1995. This twice-yearly course has now become so popular that it is a major factor in the ongoing success and viability of the Club. Many people who have attended the course to learn more about their cameras have subsequently become enthusiastic and active MCC members.

A couple of years ago I recognised an opportunity to combine my passion for photography with my professional experience in IT so I started my own business providing training and IT consulting for photographers. I now regularly teach private courses and workshops on all levels of photography and I specialise in implementing IT solutions for professional photographers. I will be presenting a talk and workshop on 'Digital Asset Management for Photographers' at next month's VAPS Muster. I'm not sure what I'll talk about at your May monthly meeting, but I certainly intend to spend far more time discussing other people's photographs than showing my own.

I look forward to receiving the entries for the competition and visiting Camberwell again on 25 May. Best Regards, *Robert Groom*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Audio Visual Group:** The next meeting is on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May at Ruth's residence starting at 8.00pm. Entries for the APS A.V. Autumn National Exhibition closes on 15<sup>th</sup> May. (*Details on page 2*).

**Committee Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at the residence of Sue Welsh on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May starting at 7.30pm.

**Portrait Group.** The next workshop will be on "Product Photography" (Still Life) at our Club Rooms on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm. If you have not already booked with Rebecca see her tonight or contact her on [becnicolandos@gmail.com](mailto:becnicolandos@gmail.com) or 0419 114 075.

**Monthly Meeting:** On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May. This is our annual Interclub night with visiting representatives from competing clubs. Do not forget to bring a plate.

**VAPS Muster:** To be held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May in the Macedon Ranges. You have until Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> to register if you wish to attend.

**Midweek Outing (Camberwell):** To the Victorian Police Museum in the World Trade Centre. Meet at the Museum at 10.30am on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May. (*See article opposite*)

**Midweek Outing (Melbourne):** To Sherbrooke in the Dandenong Ranges. on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Meet at Miss Marple's Tea Rooms in Sassafras at 10.30am. (*See article below.*)

### MELBOURNE CAMERA CLUB OUTING

The next MCC monthly outing for all members is on **Tuesday 5th of May at Sherbrooke in the Dandenong Ranges**. As always, Camberwell members are welcome to attend.

We will visit both the Alfred Nicholas and George Tindale Gardens to enjoy the autumn colours. Pleasant venues for morning tea and lunch are also assured.

For information on the Sherbrooke area go to:

[www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/resources05/05\\_0320.pdf](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/resources05/05_0320.pdf)

For starters, meet nearby at 10:30am at Miss Marple's Tea Rooms, 382 Mt. Dandenong-Tourist Road, Sassafras. (Melway Reference: 66 F10)

With thanks,

*John Adlam*

### CAMBERWELL CAMERA CLUB INTERCLUB

A reminder to all members that our 25<sup>th</sup> May meeting is our Interclub Competition night for 2009. On this evening we host the following three other competing photographic organisations:

Diamond Valley Photographic Society

Rosanna Camera Club

East Gippsland Photographic Society

As these organisations have been kind enough to help us by agreeing to compete, it is our duty to express our appreciation to their representatives on this night by giving them a warm welcome. This can be best expressed by as many members as possible attending this meeting and enjoying their companionship.

I sincerely trust that all who have not as yet given Bevelee your entries to this competition, have brought them for her tonight.

To assist with the supper I have been instructed by our Secretary to remind those attending to please bring a plate of tasty treats to go with the cups of tea/coffee. If for any reason you cannot, or forget, to do this, Lorraine would be glad to relieve you of the small sum of \$4.00.

*Matt*

### TONIGHT'S GUEST SPEAKER

Mark Smith is a Photographer with the Herald-Sun newspaper. He will talk to us tonight about Editorial Photography. This is something different and should be most interesting.

*Matt*

### VAPS Annual Muster

This event is being held in the Macedon Ranges on the weekend of 16th and 17th May 2009. It is a great weekend of photography and an excellent opportunity to take photos, learn something new, listen to great speakers, and meet like-minded people. You have until Thursday to register. Visit the [VAPS website](#) for details.

### CAMBERWELL MID-WEEK OUTING

Our mid-week outing for May retraces ground previously traveled. The Victoria Police Museum (VicPol) in the World Trade Centre has been moved to the Lower Concourse. A new exhibit entitled "In the Line of Duty" has been installed in the Museum. It is here at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May that we will meet to start our outing.

We will then have the opportunity to turn our lenses onto the *Exhibition and Conference Centre, the Polly Woodside and Webb Dock*. Remember that the *Polly Woodside* has recently been liberated into the Yarra River where we hope it still resides. All good material when you remember that Water/Marine is our topic for the month of July.

*Peter Brady*

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Visit Camberwell Camera Club Inc. [www.camberwellcameraclub.org.au](http://www.camberwellcameraclub.org.au)

**NEXT MEETING: MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> 8.00pm, RSL HALL, 403 CAMBERWELL RD, CAMBERWELL  
ALL WELCOME**