



SHUTTERBUGS

Newsletter of the Camberwell Camera Club

Inc. No A7980D ABN 51 428 767 268

Volume 40, No.5, May 25th 2009

CAMBERWELL CAMERA CLUB HAS MUCH PLEASURE IN WELCOMEING THE FOLLOWING CLUBS TO OUR 2009 INTERCLUB COMPETITION.

ROSANNA CAMERA CLUB

DIAMOND VALLEY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

EAST GIPPSLAND PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

A warm welcome to the representatives from the above clubs who are able to attend our meeting tonight and enjoy the comments on the competition entries from Robert Groom, tonight's Guest Judge and Speaker. After Robert's presentation a tasty supper can be enjoyed while all aspects of photography and associated subjects can be debated between members of all clubs in attendance..

We sincerely hope that all visiting members have an enjoyable evening and return home safely.

Proven Ways to Reduce Shake in Photography

To get good photographs you usually have to hold the camera steady. The most common equipment to help counter camera shake is a tripod. This is the classic tool to make your photographs sharp and crisp. It is by far the steadiest method and produces great results time after time. But there are a few things to think about.

If you are going to use a tripod indoors it doesn't have to be as sturdy and rough as an outdoor tripod needs to be. The heavier the tripod the more stable it is and I have learnt a rule that says "for every 100mm lens focal length the tripod should weigh 1kg". So if you are planning to use a 300mm telephoto lens the tripod should weigh about 3kg.. I am not sure how accurate this rule is but it should give you some kind of guideline. Keep in mind that some expensive tripods can be both stable and light.

If you do not need to have the tripod set at full height, extend the upper parts of the legs first since the lower parts are thinner and therefore not as stable. Some tripods have the ability to raise a post in the centre to maximise height even more. Do not use this feature unless you really need to since the centre post is more unstable.

Monopod

A monopod is a great alternative to tripods and hand held. You cannot have a shutter speed of one hour on a monopod as you can with a tripod or not even 30 seconds – but that's not the target market for a monopod. They are a more mobile tool to help you stabilise your shots without having to carry round a tripod and monopods are far more simple and quick to set up.

It can take some time getting used to a monopod and the most effective way to use it is to have its foot placed against your back foot. Do not just have the monopod stand in front of you; this will not give enough stability

to help you very much. Try finding a good posture where you can hold the camera as steady as possible.

Hand Held

This is the most common way to take photographs and most of the time it will do just fine, but there are ways to take advantage of your surroundings and changing your stance to help you with stability.

Always **hold the camera close to you**, inhale and hold your breath for the duration of the shot. Don't just tap the shutter button – you want to press it down and hold down the finger a short while before lifting it again to minimise camera shake.

If you are using a telephoto lens or other lens that is somewhat heavy or long, place your left hand under the lens and grasp it – do not hold the camera body with both hands if you are using a heavy lens.

Keeping as **low a profile** as possible is a great way to increase your stability. If possible, lay flat on your stomach with both your elbows on the ground. Not as stable but another good stance is with one knee on the ground and the other one at a 90 degree angle.

Leaning against a tree or wall is another great way to take the stability of something else and help to make you more stable. If possible place the camera against the tree/wall to maximise stability. The same goes for rocks, logs, railings and more or less anything you can find to rest your camera on. On many occasions it can be more helpful to rest your camera on a rock than using a monopod.

One last trick I learned from a friend of mine; take your left hand and place it on your right shoulder, take your camera in your right hand and place it on your left elbow/forearm - this might take some time getting used to but the result is a very stable stance that works great with telephoto lenses.

Continued on page 2

There is a general rule in photography that says that your shutter speed should be at least equal to the reciprocal of your lens focal length to minimise unwanted camera shake. This means if you use a 100mm telephoto lens the shutter speed should be no greater than 1/100 sec, if you are using a 300mm lens the shutter should be at least 1/300sec. This rule was designed for 35mm film cameras so when using the above rule do not forget to compensate for the smaller sensors of most digital cameras. If your camera has a crop factor of 1.5 then with a 100mm lens the shutter speed must be at least 1/150 sec or with a 300mm lens, 1/450 sec.

(This article by Fredrik Silverglimth is taken from the website <http://www.tutorial9.net/photography>)

DIGITAL JOTTINGS – JUNE 2009

Over recent months we have been fortunate to listen to two news paper photographers tell about their work and their interests – one at a Club meeting and one at the VAPS muster. Two things that they have in common: neither of them relies on software to produce good photographs and secondly they both have the best job in the world. They can't both be right on the second count! But it does show the importance on developing an eye for a photograph. No matter how long you have been taking photographs you have to continue to strive for perfection.

This does not mean that Photoshop type programs are not important tools particularly in the area of experimental photography. They allow you to stretch your imagination and produce images that are either difficult or impossible to produce in the camera. It just go to show that there is no beating a well composed, sharp, accurately exposed, subject for an interesting photograph.

Peter Brady

2009 VAPS MUSTER.

The VAPS Muster was held at Breamar College, Macedon over the weekend of the 16th – 18th May. The muster is organised by the VAPS Committee aided by the local camera club which in this case is the Macedon Ranges Photographic Society. On the Saturday there were Talks, an AV on a trip to Vietnam and Cambodia by local camera club members and workshops on Asset Management, Photoshop, Portrait Photography using live models, as well as the opportunity to photograph Hanging Rock and other landscape features. During the day, participants could view entries in the print section of the Interclub competition. These were housed in the grand main building of the school and offered much inspiration as the standard was high. Saturday evening was the presentation dinner. Camberwell received some significant recognition: George Thomas received a Merit certificate for his entry "Downsizing" and Lucy Tucker was awarded a 50 year bar for her active membership of Camberwell Camera Club. Well done to both Lucy and George. To round the night off and after a good deal of tension both Edith and Doug won camera bags in the raffle.

On the Sunday there were more interesting talks, viewing of the AVs, a BBQ lunch and more time for photography before most headed home, although there were more activities planned for Monday



The Sunday Barbe-Que

The numbers, but not the enthusiasm, were down a little this year so why not put it in your diary for next year. You will be guaranteed of a good photographic week-end.

Peter Brady

Melbourne Camera Club Outing

The next MCC monthly outing for all members is on **Tuesday 2nd of June** for a walk through **Collingwood's backstreets**.

This precinct is rich in handsome heritage-listed buildings (breweries, factories and warehouses) as well as art galleries and garment wholesalers, not to mention some good coffee and lunch spots.

For starters, meet at 10:30am at the Tribeca complex (old Victoria Brewery), corner of Powlett Street & Victoria Parade, East Melbourne (Melway Reference: 2G E1). Transport is by tram to Stop 16 on Victoria Parade (opposite Wellington Street), Routes 23, 24, 34, 42, 109.

With thanks,

John Adlam

DIGITAL GROUP

As George will not be well enough to hold the June meeting at his place we will be experiencing a new venue. We are grateful for the offer of Bob Shanks to allow us to hold the next Digital Group meeting in his residence on Monday 15th June at 8.00pm. For those who do not know his address please see Bob tonight or ring him on 9885 9332 or 0419 358 001 later.

TONIGHT'S GUEST SPEAKER & JUDGE

Robert Groom is a very well known photographer who has taught photography at the Melbourne Camera Club for the last 15 years and runs his own business as an IT consultant in photography.

At the VAPS Muster last week-end he gave us a most interesting, and I feel unique, presentation on Digital Asset Management for Photographers. I am looking forward to hearing what he has to tell us tonight and I am sure we will not be disappointed.

Matt

PORTRAIT GROUP

Rebecca is holding another portrait workshop on Sunday 28th June and she will be interested in hearing from you tonight if you wish to attend. This session is titled "Enlighten Yourself" and will be all about the finer points of lighting the subject for successful portraiture. She will be demonstrating the use of our recently purchased studio lights.

CAMBERWELL MID-WEEK OUTING

The June outing will be to the Bendigo Art Gallery on Tuesday 16th where a variety of activities should provide an interesting and enjoyable day. We will travel to Bendigo on the V/Line train which leaves Southern Cross at 9.15 a.m. and return in the afternoon.

The Bendigo Art Gallery is one of Victoria's leading galleries and at this time is able to offer two outstanding exhibitions – one photographic and one high quality art.

A Camera on the Somme 1816 – 1919 – the Grinton brothers and the 38th Battalion.

The First World War was an industrial war of global proportions which looms large in the Australian psyche. It was into this world conflict that two young brothers from central Victoria, Jack and Bert Grinton, found themselves serving in the trenches of France and Belgium. 90 years later an extraordinary find brought a treasure to light. Inside a biscuit tin stored for decades in a shed on the Grinton farm – and headed for the rubbish – was a large collection of negatives and photographs; images taken by Jack and Bert Grinton between 1916 and 1919 with the camera they carried with them during the war.

Archibald Prize 09.

In the same gallery will be the touring exhibition of the Archibald prize 2009. As the exhibition will not come to Melbourne it is an excellent Opportunity to view the best of the entrants for this sought after prize.

Entry by gold coin donation.

Peter Brady

LUCY TUCKER

Lucy joined the Camberwell Camera Club in 1957 and although she and husband Ray moved to Queensland some years ago she still keeps in touch with members through Edith who sends her shutterbugs each month.

Lucy turned 91 this month after 52 years involvement with the club during which she spent 16 years as Vice President, 12 years as Competition Steward and for many years hosted the Slide Group in her home.

Lucy is a Life Member of Camberwell Camera Club Inc. and at the VAPS Muster in the Macedon Ranger last week-end Peter collected a 50 Years Badge from the President of VAPS for forwarding to her.



Peter Brady receiving Lucy's 50 Year Badge from VAPS President Jim Weatherill

NEXT MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER

David Tatnall is renowned for his luminous images of the Australian landscape. A number of his photographs have achieved iconic status as emblems of successful Australian nature conservation battles.

Largely self-taught, Tatnall turned to fine art photography in 1975. He has exhibited widely and his work is represented in many public collections including the National Gallery of Victoria, the State Library of Victoria, Monash Gallery of Art and the Australian Embassy in Washington.

He is an authority on large format photography, as well as low-tech (pinhole) photography, exhibiting in both formats. He most commonly uses either a 4x5 field camera with 75 mm, 90 mm, 150 mm and 210 mm lenses, or a large format lens-less pinhole camera, hand-made from gleaned materials.

He recently received an Arts Project Grant from the City of Melbourne to make a series of images of the City on an 8x10 pinhole cameras. The resulting work has been exhibited in Melbourne & the Warrnambool Art Gallery.

At present he has images on exhibition in Italy, USA and Melbourne.

He conducts regular workshops, and acts as Artist in Residence at a number of school campuses where he passionately passes on his knowledge of photography and conservation.

He has been awarded a Life Time Contribution Award by Parks Victoria, and an Honorary Life Membership of the Victorian National Parks Association, for his lasting influence on nature conservation in Victoria through photography.

THANK-YOU

Thank-you to all those who submitted work for selection in the VAPS Interclub Competition and to the Judging Panel for their deliberation. If your work was not selected don't give up and try your new work next year. Photographs are your vision not the judges.

In the Top 5 Open Print Aggregate: Camberwell was 3rd out of 40 clubs. In the Top 5 EDPI Aggregate: Camberwell was 18th out of 32 clubs.

Ruth was our only entrant in AVs. We hope to see her entry at the June meeting.

Our entry in small prints was incomplete – more entries next year please.

Peter Brady

Knox Photographic Society Interclub

Camberwell has been invited to participate in the above competition. Details are as follows:

The subject is **Open** and entries to be in **Monochrome**.

Large Prints: (Maximum Size mounts 16" x 20")

Novice Small Prints: (Maximum print size 5" x 7")

Recommended mount size (8" x 10")

Electronic Projected Images: (Must be in JPEG, sRGB colour and maximum pixels: 1024 wide x 768 high)

Entries to be given to Bev at the June monthly meeting on the 22nd. Digital files can be emailed to Bev before 29th June if you so desire.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Digital Group Meeting: To be held on Monday 15th June at the residence of Bob Shanks at 8.00pm. **Not at the usual venue of George's.** (See article page 2)

Workshop Group: The advertised workshop, *Super Panoramas Pt 2*, with Barney Myer on Tuesday 9th June has been **cancelled** and will now be held sometime in July. More information in the next issue.

Portrait Group: To be held on Sunday 28th June in the RSL hall at 2.00pm. Titled "Enlighten Yourself" Bec will discuss portrait lighting, (Details Page 2)

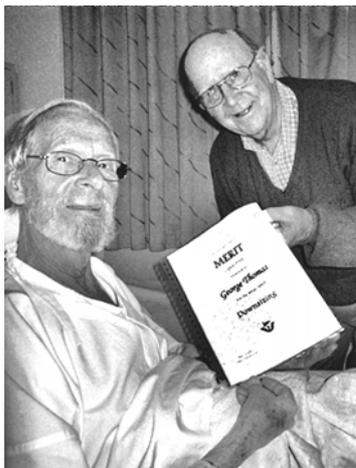
Camberwell Mid-week Outing: To Bendigo Art Gallery by train on Tuesday 16th June. Train leaves Southern Cross Station at 9.15am. (Details page 3)

Melbourne Camera Club Outing: Tuesday 2nd June to photograph the Collingwood back streets. Meet 10.30am corner Powlett St and Victoria Pde. (Melway.2G E1) (See details Page 2)

June Monthly Meeting: Just a reminder to bring all your entries for the July competition to this meeting. Subject "Water/Marine".

GEORGE THOMAS

Most of you will know George who, to all intents and purposes, is Camberwell Camera Club. There are only a



George receiving his VAPS Interclub Merit Certificate from Peter while relaxing in hospital.

few members who have been in the club longer or done more for the club. Unfortunately George is experiencing health problems that at present refuse to heal. He has been in Cabrini hospital for over a week and is expected to be there for quite a few more. We wish him the very best for a quick recovery and hope he will be back with us in the not too distant future.

April Digital Group Meeting

To start off the evening I began with a demonstration of *Tonal Mapping* which is a method of really boosting midtones and bringing a flat photo to life. If you get *Digital Photography and Design* magazine you can follow the tutorial by **Mark Galer** in the Feb/March issue on P58. We used adjustment layers and blend modes to get to the point where we could combine everything we had done to one layer on top of the stack.

Tip: Stamp Visible – With the top layer selected, hold down CTRL-ALT-SHIFT keys, then press "E". Combines all previous steps into one layer at the top of the layer stack.

This layer was then desaturated (CTRL-SHIFT-U) and changed to soft light blend mode which had a dramatic effect increasing the contrast. We finished off with Shadow/ Highlights and Hue/Saturation adjustment layers.

Next we viewed a couple of video tutorials. The first was on Content Aware Scaling in Photoshop CS4 where Photoshop protects important picture elements (eg people) from being stretched when scaling up a photo. The next one was all about simplifying the Pen Tool (p). We tried to put this into practice but it wasn't as easy as it looked!

Ruth then showed how she uses Photoshop Elements 6 to capture photos and save them on the hard drive. This brings them into the organizer which allows you to tag them with meaningful keywords to assist you when searching for them later. She then showed us how she prepared her photos of Leonard Cohen for use in her AV. This involved copying layers and using the Multiply blend mode to increase density, followed by a dose of High Pass Sharpening. The finishing touches were applied by cloning out distracting objects on a separate layer on top of the stack. Very important because it is non destructive and easy to recover from if you stuff it up.

To finish off, Ruth treated us to her AV of Leonard Cohen's concert which was skilfully done and appreciated by all.

We then unwound with lovely coffee and bikkies supplied as usual by George. *Braham Sacks*

AV GROUP

The July 6th AV Group meeting at Ruth's residence will be a demonstration of "ProShow Gold" for beginners. Ruth would much appreciate those who wish to attend contacting her and letting her know. She is looking forward to a significant number attending to enjoy this interesting evening.

PRESIDENT: Don Weston 9822 5019. HON. SECRETARY: Edith Conway 9899 1784

EDITOR: Matt Moore LAPS - email mdentm@netspace.net.au

Visit Camberwell Camera Club Inc. www.camberwellcameraclub.org.au

**NEXT MEETING: JUNE 22ND 8.00pm, RSL HALL, 403 CAMBERWELL RD, CAMBERWELL
ALL WELCOME**