

Capture that moment in time



June 2006

June meeting

by Dave Blair

Our June meeting saw Rob Sloane as guest visitor. Rob is the current President of VAPS –the Victorian Association of Photographic Societies. This is the umbrella organisation that oversees many of the competitions, outings and other things (like insurance) for camera clubs such as our own.

Rob provided some very useful comments on our 'Yarra Ranges' images, not to mention a little surprise that there were so many lovely spots out here! Rob also gave us a taste of his travel images from several far off lands and some Audio Visuals from the last VAPS nationals competition. All most appreciated – thanks Rob.

In the supper break we tried a new quick tech talk with Bill discussing exposure. We have had various feedback on this, some positive, some saying it's a good idea but they still want the social time of supper to be kept, others it was a bit too technical... As it turned out, I think it was possibly the wrong night to introduce it as we had hoped to hold it in the 'middle' room, but that one was occupied and as such, we held up Rob setting up so saw less of his work. We are trying to introduce a short (5 min max) simple 'lesson' on a regular basis, the problem is fitting it into the evening schedule. Any suggestions on this most welcome, please put in the suggestion box on club nights.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Member profile

Hilaire Alba



Beautiful ALGERIA, before Independence

leave the country. They left to either return to France or other countries to make a new life.

This is when myself, and my family travelled to France. It is here where I married Marie Helene, who I had previously met in Algeria and who had also been a resident there. We began our married life here and stayed there for eight years. Our first daughter, Jocelyne was born in France in 1965.

I was born in the region of North Africa called Algeria, in a town called Oran, which at the time was under French rule. Algeria is situated on the Mediterranean coast, enjoying warm weather all year round, making it as rich in agriculture as it is in history.

After some years of instability and unrest during its fight for independence, Algeria became independent in 1962, causing 1,000,000 French citizens to



During Ward time in The French army

During these eight years, I worked mostly in international exhibitions, creating displays for lingerie, perfumes and other products coming out of Paris and around France. I started my own business in window dressing and interior design before moving to Australia in 1969.

On arriving in Australia, we settled in St Kilda for the first few months. I began working in Melbourne as a window dresser in a large boutique. Later I worked in South Yarra with an Interior Designer, where I learnt more and gained confidence to start my own business once again.

I opened my first shop in Elsternwick, designing boutique interiors and furniture. It was then that I discovered the need to create children's furniture that would be practical, attractive and educational.

I set up a factory in Moorabbin with a shop in Hampton. In 1976, I then moved the shop to Armadale where the business was good and even more creative.



In Paris on holiday with Sabine



In Island Mare in New Caledonia after work

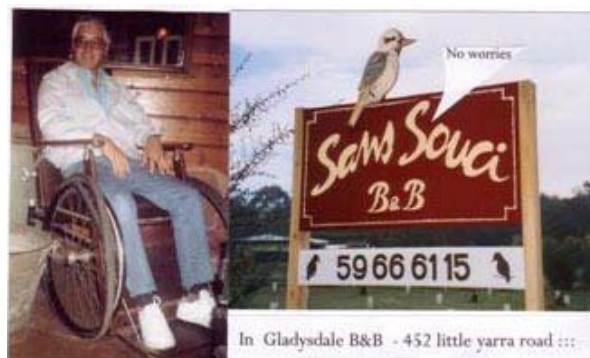
It was in 1976 also that our second daughter, Sabine was born.

After several years in Armadale, I decided to move to Gippsland, to a town called Inverloch. Here I opened a new furniture and kitchens factory. This led me to get involved with building and construction, so I became a builder and began designing houses from start to finish.

where better as times where quiet in Australia. I discovered that New Caledonia was an untapped market for well-constructed, cyclonic safe homes.

In 1990, after a couple of quiet years, I decided to have a look overseas to see if the job opportunities

I began to export steel framed kit homes, which are ideal for this part of the world. This went very well for me until 2002, when I decided to retire.



In Gladysdale B&B - 452 little yarra road :::

Now, my wife and I live in Gladysdale, where we run a Bed and Breakfast quest house. We enjoy tending to our guests and meeting new people. I have also joined the photographic club to continue my passion for creativity and art. I also enjoy creating my own frames for my photos; this keeps me occupied and always learning new skills.

FINAL FAST FIVE

What book are you reading:

Your favourite movie

What CD is in the player:

Who would you most like to meet: The no 1 soccer French player Zinedine ZIDANE (zizou) vive la France

Where would you most like to visit/travel to:

Dan Brown *Deception point, The DaVinci Code*

Casablanca

Latin American music by Ottmar Liebert Luna Negra

South America, Cuba and the Pacific islands

Who would ever have thought there was such breadth of image possibilities within one Shire. Well done to everyone – especially our new members who it seems are putting in some tough competition to the 'old guard' with some excellent images and keeping the standard of the competition very high.

Large colour print



Winner: Graham Taft
Second: Phillipa Chester
Third: Dave Blair
Merit: Bill Millar and Phillipa Chester

Black and white



Winner: Kirsten Groves
Second: Linda Lyons
Third: Bill Millar

Slide



Winner: Judy Archer
Second: Dave Blair
Third: Dave Blair
Merit: Dave and Judy

Small colour print



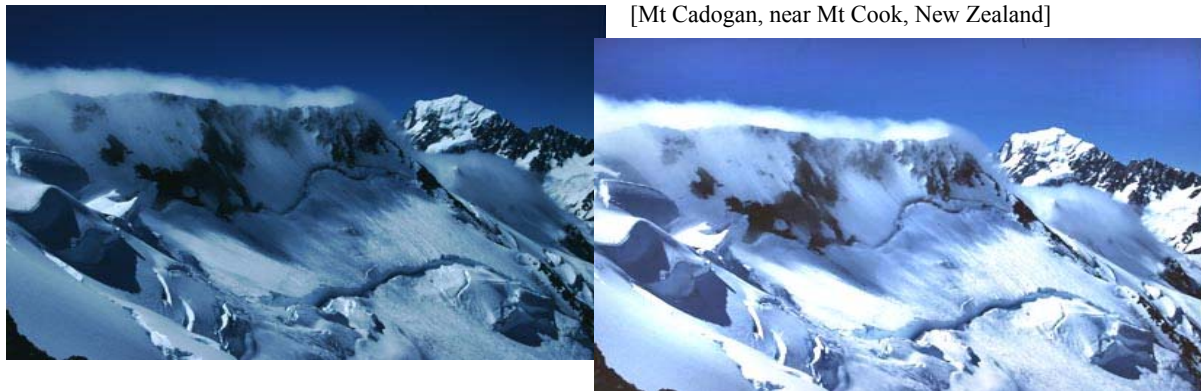
Winner: Wendy Potter
Second: Phillipa Chester
Third: Margaret Monk
Merit: Kirsten Groves

QUOTE: "Get your facts first. Then you can distort them as much as you please."
Mark Twain.

Thanks to Derek Jones of **Breen Printing** for printing our club's newsletter.
Breen Printing – for your printing needs 11 Hunter Street, Healesville 59625177

It's nearly that time of year, when the white stuff falls (more or less naturally) from the sky and many of us head up hill into the cold. Now camera metering systems, I think, are pretty trick. In all the variety of situations we shoot in, generally the on board metering of the camera will get the image within cooee of being a passable shot.

The two situations where this clever metering system consistently falls down, is shooting really dark and really light subjects. By this I don't mean shooting *in* the dark or under bright lights, but rather things that are predominantly black or white... which returns us to the snow.



[Mt Cadogan, near Mt Cook, New Zealand]

Above: How the camera recorded the scene of Mt Cadogan in the NZ alps on slide film (left) and how the scene really was (right) with light blue sky and white snow. Less detail, but a truer exposure.

In basic terms, what a camera tries to do with its metering is balance the length of time the shutter is open (shutter speed) with the aperture (f-stop) through which the light is passing to the film or digital sensor. The more light that comes in (either through the shutter being open longer or opening the aperture wider to let more light in), the *lighter* the resulting image will be exposed. The shorter the shutter speed/smaller the aperture, the darker (under-exposed) the image will be.



Ant on burnt tree trunk
- I had to under expose this image due to the dark background which makes up much of this

What the camera aims to do is get the resulting exposure for what ever the subject is to be the equivalent of a light grey tone (18% on a scale where 0% is pure white, 100% is black). This is because the most common subjects - lightly tanned fair skin, green grass or a blue sky are all around this '18% grey'. But what happens when we step out into the frosty air in the mountains and the 18% green grass is covered by 0% white snow? The camera tries to turn the actual white snow into 18% grey snow by letting in less light. As can be seen in the above image of the mountains in NZ. Another common 'white scene' is foggy misty mornings in the Yarra Valley. Your camera will

probably meter a scene such as that about 1-2 stops too dark, so you need to let that amount of extra light in (using longer shutter speed or larger aperture). One of the nice things about digital is you can check how your exposure is before you pack your camera back in its bag.

On the flip side, the most common black scenes I have found have been burnt forests (but there are plenty of other black subjects). These need to be under exposed (less light therefore shorter shutter speed or smaller aperture) from what the camera metering says will be correct.

*“Comfortable place on the couch, natures a stranger keep it out, haul away...
...Ignorance is bliss, haven't you heard, haul away...”*

Midnight Oil – *Redneck Wonderland*

Ever stopped and wondered what it is about photography that draws you in? I was flipping through a book I have on the photographs of exceptional, but relatively unknown (for how good his work is) Australian wildlife photographer Jean-Paul Ferrero. There was a quote in there from him:

“I've never thought that photography is an art.”

An interesting point of view and one that got me thinking about how differently people see photography. I know from my personal stand point, I agree with JPF to quite a degree. I certainly see my photography far less as art and much more about being a tool that is able to educate, to transfer information or feelings from situations or places that are too hard to describe or work better as a visual medium... a way of explaining the things I feel are important. That's why I keep putting images in our club comps that I know will never win, but I hope will get some of you thinking about where and why the image was taken. The dead emu with its leg stuck in the fence, the elephant's legs in chains or someone harvesting sea turtle eggs as they are being laid being good examples.



Sure, I like taking spectacular scenery shots or beautiful vistas, and now that I have digital I am finding I am taking a lot more 'arty' shots that ever before, just playing around with texture, colour and patterns (like these strawberry plants). But for me, these images never rival those that 'tell a story' and document things of importance (at least to me) in our world.

I think I have mentioned before about my visit up north to see a friend who shoots for Lonely Planet (travel images). We travelled for a week around the Daintree and Atherton Tablelands shooting shoulder to shoulder, both with similar levels of experience and similar equipment standards, but the images we produced were so different it was fantastic. While I was framing everything carefully to crop out the people and human structures, Paul was busily trying to get them all in. We would have a beach scene framed up when someone walked past and I would hear a burst of shutter activity at the point the person passed in front of Paul's camera, then a pause until the person had left and I would shoot.

I think our background experiences also have a huge effect on the quality and types of images we produce. Another quote from Jean-Paul Ferrero:

*“No one sets out to become a photographer and then discovers wildlife;
you're into wildlife first. Then comes the photography.”*

Understanding of your subject, I think, shows through in your images. Knowing what elements are important in any given scene that can be framed up a thousand different ways. I'm sure I could take a half decent photo of people or aircraft, but it would fall short of what Sean or Neil produce because they love photographing those subjects and immerse themselves in them. Budding authors get told to write on subjects they know. I would recommend the same for photography – shoot what you love.

Warragul day trip report

By Cindy DeLuca

Although Sunday morning greeted us with drizzle it didn't dampen our trip to Warragul. 14 people turned up including two visitors, Richard and Jenny, who said they had a lovely day and enjoyed all our company. Joe did a great job driving us safely to our destination and back, thanks Joe.



The main reason for our trip was to view the National Photographic exhibition and we weren't disappointed, it's really encouraging to me to see photos of this calibre and also to remind us that we have members producing quality prints of the same standard if not better (yay us! – Ed.).

Judges are only human and some have personal preferences and sometimes that reflects on their choices. We had a very nice lunch at the Serendipity Lavender farm and good day was had by all.

Online Odyssey

by Dave Blair

The only website for the photographers mentioned in the Photography exhibition are as follows.

Mark Boyle www.markboyle.com.au (Australian landscapes)

Photography exhibition - Mooroolbark

An exhibition entitled 'Contemporary Works on Canvas' will be held between 6th – 29th July 2006 at the Mooroolbark Community Centre, Brice Ave, Mooroolbark (Melway 37 H12). Doors open 9am to 5pm each day.

The exhibition will feature the work of 3 photographers, Mark Boyle, Tony Dimmock and Michael Gerrish.

ADAPT – Photography trade show – Melbourne

I sent around an email about this earlier this week re: the ADAPT show – (Australian Digital Art and Photo Technology). Held at **Melbourne Park Function Centre**, opposite Rod Laver Arena on Swan St (started Thursday 13 July and runs till this Saturday 15 July).

The show will have workshops on all things digital, a range of trade exhibits and a gallery/photo display of digital work. www.adaptshow.com.au

Cindy's Territory

We are still needing pics of our club members at play, workshop or outings for a display in the club meeting room, 6x4, or 5x7 no larger, bring them along to the next meeting thanks.

WELCOME

To our newest members Don Manning, Sandra Goss and Graham Taft.

Exhibition

If anyone is interested there is an exhibition of Photography at Yerring Station in Matt's Bar, MYHTS by Luke Ingram from 10th June till 31st July, admission free opening hours 10am – 5pm weekdays, 10am – 6pm weekends.

OCTOBER TRIP

Ballarine Peninsula 14th -15th October
Deposit of \$50 due at our July meeting or to Cindy (address on back of syllabus). Total cost of trip approx \$180 same as last year and will have an updated itinerary at the next meeting.

JULY our guest Judge and speaker will be **Chris Hillard** born in 1972 Studied photography a NMIT, started his own photography business specializing in Debutante Balls, School formals, Weddings and Portraits. Currently teaching Applied Photography at NMIT Collingwood and Fairfield campus. 1998 – 2001 Published Book “Voices, Faces, Characters”.
The competition topic in July is OPEN I suggest portraiture will be favoured.

QUOTE: “To the complaint, ‘There are no people in these photographs’, I respond, ‘There are always two people, the photographer and the viewer.’”
Ansel Adams (1902-1984).

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