



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10



Yarra Ranges Photographic Society

August 2008

In this Issue

The Presidents report 3

4 **Warragul Day Trip**

5 **Winners are Grinners**

6 **Photoshop & Lightroom Tips**

The Hot Tip 7

8 **Photography Tips**

The Toy Box 9

Coming Up 10

The Yarra Ranges Photographic Society meets every third Wednesday of the month at Coldstream Community Centre, Kelso Road, Coldstream, Victoria (Melway 281 B10) at 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start.

Our camera club has a wide range of activities based around photography, including:

- A photo competition each month
- Regular guest speakers
- Workshops on most aspects of photography from composition to technical details to digital manipulation
- An annual weekend trip
- Trips to view National photo competitions
- We also have a monthly newsletter.

For further information on our camera club, please contact Dave on 5962 4043

Competition rules

- Images may be entered in any of 4 sections: Large colour print, Small colour print, Black and white and Projected images (35mm Slide transparencies or digital)
- All prints must be mounted, framing is not permitted
- A "small" print is 5"x7" or 128mm x 179mm (area of image that can be seen) or smaller. Irregular shaped prints (eg panorama) must show an area less than 35 square inches (230 cm²)
- Slides are to be spotted on the bottom left corner when viewed correctly/normally
- A maximum of 6 images per person may be entered on any night (even if multiple topics)
- A maximum of 3 images may be entered in any one section (eg 3 large prints, 3 slides)
- The same image may not be entered in multiple categories
- Any digital manipulation is permissible, but image shown must be created from image(s) taken by the person entering the competition.

Entering Digital Images

- Digital images should be brought on the night on a memory stick, DVD or CD
- Images will be loaded onto the laptop computer, so please allow adequate time for this prior to the meeting starting at 7:45pm
- Images should be sized to 768 pixels in height. For landscape orientated images this will probably be 1024 x 768 pixels, or for portrait 576 x 768 pixels. Images should be saved as a high resolution JPEG image.
- See page "How to resize your images" for info on how to do this!
- TIFF images and images not sized to 768 pixels in size will be accepted provided overall file size does not exceed 2MB. Please ask for assistance if you are having trouble working out how to size images.
- Please save images with your name as the file and number 1 to 4. If you put the number first (eg 1 Dave Blair, 2 Dave Blair, 3 Dave Blair) this will help mix them up when projected, rather than all your images being shown together.



The Presidents Report

The July meeting changed quite a bit from what we were all expecting, when unfortunately Shelton Muller was called away at the last minute with a family emergency. Instead, we had our competition of "patterns, texture and mystery" photos, which saw a lot of macro images, including some very muddy looking cake mix... The range of images was very good, and it certainly seemed that the topic got people looking at interesting sections of overall scenes to grab interesting elements.

Good to see many of you out at the workshop at Maroondah Dam on the last weekend in July. We had a quick talk about white balance, followed by a session on how to use shutter speed to create different effects. I think everyone who came managed to; a) find the shutter speed setting on their camera (!) and b) manipulate it to create some different effects. Effects such as freezing action with fast shutter speeds (eg 1/250 second) or using the flash (top picture – you can see why I am not a portrait photographer!) or getting creative blur with slow shutter speeds (eg 1/15 - 1/2 sec) and using panning to blur backgrounds, but (hopefully) not the subject (two images below of Neil, same shutter speed, left not panning, right panning with Neil as he walked past).

Next up was Neil, who took us through the basics of setting up a portrait, including seating (and strapping down!) the model (or a rather excited "hunting bear" as was the case – thanks to Hanna Taft for posing for us all). Neil made comment on lens choice (longer lens 80-150mm best), backgrounds (not distracting, not too close therefore blurry), positioning the model, difficulties of shooting hands in images and lighting the subject. Luckily we had already learnt about freezing action with fast shutter speeds!

After a change of scenery and moving to the BBQ area for lunch, Bill showed us some fancy methods of shooting macro images. It was rather like a scene from the 'Curiosity Show' (I'm sure our older members will remember), with some "kitchen draw science" involving rolls of aluminium foil, sticky tape, water pipe and tripods, but I think I could say everyone there learnt a few tricks about lighting subjects very close to your lens using a standard on camera pop up flash to very good effect.

The results of the member survey are in and hopefully will help direct the club over the next couple of years. I think in summary you could say that generally you all seem fairly happy with the current format, but would like additional workshops to help you learn. As you would all be aware, our meetings are fairly full as they are, so we are looking for ways of creatively finding some time to give you what you want, without ruining the things you most like about your club. We will be trying a few things over the coming months, so please bear with us, and, more importantly, if you have comments about the different meeting formats we try, PLEASE tell us! Thanks to all those that took the time to fill in a survey.

The full details of the survey results are on the club's website, but a few key results worth highlighting include:

- The majority of members want to keep the start time at 7:45pm and finish at 10pm, although most are also happy to go late if the speaker is good. The monthly competition and feedback from judges are the most important things at our meetings to our members with guest speakers and 5 minute workshops also popular. Everyone who responded shoots digital with some shooting some other prehistoric form of the art as well.
- The 5 most popular topics for workshops are Photoshop basics, night/dark, white balance, action and flash. Tied in 6th place were Photoshop advanced, macro, lens choice and focus/blur. Many people wanted everything! In general, regular/short workshops were preferred and most wanted these during meetings at a semi-advanced level.
- Favourite type of outings was quite mixed, although exhibitions and more day trips were popular. Motels just edged out camping, though very few actually wanted more weekend trips.

I look forward to seeing you all in August for our next meeting which will be "Landscape/seascapes and cityscapes".

Dave



Warragul Trip

Warragul Trip - 27th July, 2008

At 8.00 am on Sunday 20/7/08 twelve shivering starters climbed out of the fog & misty rain of the River Street car park, Healesville, into the warm and comfortable Community Bus; we were away on another trip to check out "The Warragul Nationals".

Joe drove (thanks Joe) and Bill navigated. With a quick and basically uneventful trip, apart from a roadside stop for morning tea, we arrived in Warragul quite early, found our way to the exhibition and did the usual perusal of the prints. Everyone went from being in awe of some prints, discussing which we would have awarded prizes to (not always those chosen) and wondering about how some of those slides got a prize at all. I still believe that our members are as good if not better than most.



Due to our early arrival, we needed to fill in some time before lunch which was booked for 1.00pm. A quick enquiry and the Warragul members told us that there was a Farmers/Craft Market ten minutes down the road, at Lardner Park, so off we went. The guys on the gate at the Market must have thought we were a bus load of "oldies" out for the day (driver excluded of course), because they let us in for free and then, as we drove around the car park, we were waved on until we were able to park right behind the first stall. This was good because it was still a bit cold and wet, with intermittent showers (not great weather for oldies! – Ed)!

We all had a great time at the market; the main purchases seemed to be fresh fruit & vegies, at what seemed to us to be very reasonable prices. The problem was that the aroma of hot food & coffee was hard to resist just before lunch - the stronger amongst us managed! Some of us (no names mentioned) fell for cute nicky-nackies along the way and flower pots as well. The concern then was fitting it all into the bus to go home - we did! It seemed like no time at all before we were off to La Porchetta in Warragul for lunch, where we all enjoyed a glass of wine, some Pizza or other Italian fare, (which is impossible to describe - you had to be there) good company, a few jokes and then, all too soon, it was time to head for home. We had a great day.

Thanks to all those who participated and made it such a great day,

Jeanie



Winners are Grinners

Results of July competition

Topic: Mystery/Pattern/Macro

Judge: Dave Blair and Neil Follett

Small Colour Photos

NO IMAGE

1st **Wendy Power**
2nd Wendy Power
3rd Margaret Monk
Merit Hazel Murphy

Large Colour Photos

NO IMAGE

1st **Derek Jones**
2nd Carol Kayall
3rd Rosie Hughe
Merit Margaret Monk

Black and White Photos

NO IMAGE

1st **Rosie Hughe**
2nd Rosie Hughe
3rd Richard Hunt
Merit Rosie Hughe

Projected Images

NO IMAGE

1st **Des Erwin**
2nd Kirsten Chinn
3rd Andrew Blair
Merit Judy Archer



Photoshop & Lightroom Tips

This month: Part 1 - Fine-tuning Mirror Reflections

... some options and alternate scenarios

I think the black and white is very elegant, but a little too stuffy and formal. Let's add a bit of color to offset the steely grays of the camera. Create a new layer and simply fill it with the color you like.



The last (and optional) step is to add a Gaussian Blur to the reflected image. In realism, the reflection will never be perfectly clear. While you may like it, and keep it, I like to throw it off just a bit -- so I'll add the most slight blur.



The amount of Blurring depends on resolution. More blur for higher resolution. But for the sake of loading times for my captures, I've kept this a low resolution image, so .5 or so blur does the trick.



Take a different approach

Now, let's try an alternative, borrowing from Apple. Notice how their gradation is actually radial, and is offset to the lower left corner. We'll simulate that by switching our gradient to radial. (Radial Gradient Diagram)

Notice in the diagram above, I've placed a solid black layer behind that gradient. You can lighten or darken your gradient by simply changing the transparency of the gradient layer with a solid black layer behind it. Make the highlight hot spot as intense or subtle as you wish.

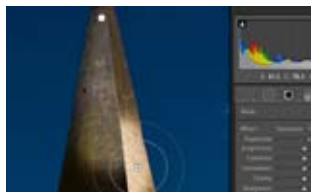
Next month: Let's take a look at Oblique reflections...



The Hot Tip

“Lightroom is”
a photographers best friend.....

Adobe® Photoshop® Lightroom® 2 offers powerful new and enhanced features across the entire program to help you streamline your digital photography workflow. Sort and find the photos you want faster, target specific photo areas for more precise adjustments, showcase your talent using more flexible printing templates, and more.



Local adjustment brush **New**

Enjoy more flexible, accurate enhancements by targeting a specific area of a photo for dodging, burning, and other local adjustments.

64-bit processing support **New**

Utilize the advanced memory handling capabilities on the latest Mac OS and Windows® systems.

Flexible print packages **New**

Quickly arrange a photo for printing multiple sizes on one or many pages with flexible and customizable templates to make the most of paper and ink every time you print.

Improved organizational tools **Enhanced**

Sort and filter large volumes of photos using powerful metadata filters to quickly find just the photo you want.



Nondestructive photo editing **Enhanced**

Adjust and enhance color, exposure, and tonal curves nondestructively on more than 190 camera raw file formats, as well as JPEG, TIFF, and PSD files.



Streamlined Photoshop CS3 integration **Enhanced**

Enjoy tight integration with Adobe Photoshop software for streamlined use of Smart Objects, panorama stitching, high dynamic range (HDR) functionality, multiple layer workflow, and more. See your edits automatically updated in Lightroom.

Multiple monitor support **New**

Add a second monitor and enjoy more room to work. Support for multiple monitors enables you to configure your workspace to manage image workflow and presentation more efficiently.

Extensible architecture **New**

Take advantage of the wide range of plug-ins to help you quickly and easily transfer images to your favorite sharing sites and photo labs.

Volume management **New**

Freely manage and organize your images across multiple drives, and continue to work with the high-resolution previews — even when your originals are offline.



Batch processing **Enhanced**

Quickly import large volumes of photos from cameras or camera cards and automatically rename files, organize them into folders, and make nondestructive adjustments.

Output sharpening **Enhanced**

Improve the appearance of your photos with enhanced algorithms that can automatically sharpen photos when you export files or output print and web creations.



Photography Tips

By Dave Blair

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 (underexposed) the image will be.

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.



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

If you have a great tip that you would like to share send it to shutterbug99@mac.com

caught in the web

Some cool websites to pass the time

www.planetphotoshop.com

(Tons of photoshop information)

www.apple.com.au

(Makers of the best computers on the planet)

www.photoshoper.com

(National Association of Photoshop Professionals)

www.prophotoshow.net/blog/index.php

(Gavin Seim's photography site and blog spot)

The Toy Box

Resources and Gadgets



Canon EOS-1Ds Mark III

DPreview's in-depth review of the Canon EOS-1Ds Mark III, Canon's flagship full frame digital SLR and the current 'big daddy' of the professional DSLR market. As well as upping the resolution to a class-leading 21.1 megapixels the Mark III boasts a raft of improvements and refinements over the Mark II, the camera it replaces.

[Click here for the full review](#)



Pentax K20D

Pentax has unveiled its latest mid-priced DSLR - the K20D. The camera is based around the successful K10D body with the addition of a 14.6 megapixel CMOS sensor and sees the addition of live view for the first time on a Pentax DSLR. It also features this season's de rigueur feature: an expanded dynamic range function.

[Click here for the full review](#)

Podcasts

The easiest way to learn anything



It still surprises me that so many people just don't know or have even heard of iTunes or podcasts.

Podcasts are a fantastic source of information for learning or listening to the latest news from your favorite hobby. I have learnt so much from one show in particular "Photoshop User TV" which has gone from a smooth little video podcast on Photoshop to a syndicated show on the Fox network in the USA. Over the next few months I will introduce you to some of the best podcasts on photography and it may help find other points of interest.

In coming months....

20th August, 2008 - August club meeting. Competition topic – Landscape/seascape/cityscape. Can members please have a think about what questions they would like answered (5min answers) relating to cameras/photoshop/printing etc so we can have an impromptu workshop after judging.

17th September, 2008 - Interclub at Ringwood (instead of normal meeting at Coldstream clubrooms). Hosted by the Maroondah Photographic Society. Starts at 8pm. Location - Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood. Melway 49 H10. Last year didn't go very late. Photos for entry will be selected from winning entries collected throughout the year. If anyone has entries they wish to submit for possible selection, please get them to Cindy at the August meeting.

4th September – 4th October - Daylesford Photo Biennale this year is in Ballarat! Website details - www.daylesfordfotobiennale.org

15th October, 2008 - October General meeting. Guest speaker will be David Hollands. For those lucky enough to hear this amazing wildlife (specifically birds of prey) photographer speak last time I am sure you will agree we are very lucky to be able to host David once more. This is a night not to be missed.

18th/19th October, 2008 - Annual October trip. Mansfield and surrounds is the destination. Old fashioned "how to host a murder" planned for Saturday night. Final deposit is needed at the August general meeting please (total \$220).

15th and 16th November 2008 - Lilydale show. YRPS (that's us) will be running the photo competition again, but members can still enter. Anyone that can volunteer their time to man the stall on the days will be greatly appreciated.

Reminders

- The monthly competition topics are listed in the syllabus which can be found on the website. A hard copy can be obtained from committee members at the general meetings.
- After each monthly competition we want to collect images (prints) for entering in interclub and the end of year competition. The competition steward will be collecting these and keeping them in the club's art folder. If this presents a problem please let us know on the night.
- If anyone has an image or presentation they would like to give, we are looking for one of our members to present at the August meeting. We may have a couple of people do a short show, or someone do a longer one. Please ensure there is a theme (eg a trip somewhere, etc). Contact a committee member if you would like to show everyone your images.
- To project digital images please note that they should be 768 pixels high and saved as a JPEG image. To ensure meetings start on time please arrive early so they can be downloaded onto the clubs computer.

Next month - RedBubble the website that is taking the world by storm



Editor: Phillipa Chester
Page layout: Adrian Jeffs

Thanks to Derek Jones of

Breen Printing

for printing our club's newsletter.
Breen Printing – for your printing needs
11 Hunter Street, Healesville 59625177