

GEELONG CAMERA CLUB

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

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“Kaniva Tree”

By Terry Reichl

Awarded a merit

March EDI Open A Grade

2022

THE PRESIDENTS PEN

Is the digital camera, as we know it, on borrowed time?

During the history of photography, there has been continuous development in the tools for creating and printing photographs. Since the invention of the primitive heliograph by French pioneer Nicéphore Niépce in 1822, the changes in photography over the past 200 years have been astonishing.

From Niépce's heliograph to the Daguerreotype process then to William Henry Fox Talbot's paper-based calotype negative and salt print processes. Then came a shift from plate to film introduced by George Eastman in 1884 which was followed in 1888 with the Kodak camera. Then in 1925 came the Leica 35mm format to still photography and then followed 35mm Kodachrome introduced in 1936. During the following decades, still 35mm b&w and colour photography continued to sit alongside various other formats such as 10x8; 5x4; 6x6; 6x4.5; 120mm roll film; polaroid and so on.

Then a paradigm shift occurred from all of these formats with the introduction of the digital camera first invented by Kodak in 1986 and in 1995 the Kodak DC40 and the Apple QuickTake 100 were the first digital cameras marketed to consumers. The other major development was Photoshop V1.0 being released in 1990.

Since its invention and subsequent improvements, we have seen a substantial increase in the ownership of digital cameras and the making of photographs supported by a variety of digital tools and platforms for photographers to enhance and display their work.

Are we about to see another paradigm shift in photography? I have just viewed a video whereby a professional photographer has produced an extremely acceptable 72 inch (in the old money) print, on the long side, of a seascape using an iPhone contrary to the expectations of obtaining a satisfactory A4 or A3 print. The seascape was ostensibly all edited in Lightroom mobile and Photoshop on his iPad.

The kit he used was an iPhone 14 pro max with 1Tb storage (\$2,769!!). He used a few lenses from an Italian company ReeFlex which screw into the aperture on his phone case which is also magsafe. The app he used for his long exposure photo was ReeXpose from the manufacturer who made the lenses.

To up-scale the image to the 72 inch size, he used Topaz Gigapixel AI and sent the resulting file (12,932 x 17,280 pixels) to a professional photolab for print production.

Apparently, Apple have over 800 engineers working just on improving the camera and it's technology and therefore, these technologies will only improve and in some cases vastly.

So is the writing on the wall for our current crop of digital camera technologies?

Paul Franks

"To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them." – by Elliot Erwitt

The Month That Was – March 2023

Welcome back to “The Month That Was” for March 2023 which comprises of an aggregate of club events, including images, which took place during the month. A light version as a couple of events were either a practical or a social outing.

Enjoy!

GCC MARCH COMPETITION MEETING 01/03/23

The club competition, held on 1st March for Open Prints, Open EDI's and Altered Reality EDI's), was adjudicated by guest judge Sam Mariani whose interests are Travel and African wildlife.

Sam is from Melbourne and a member of the Preston Photographic Club and is very well travelled to parts of Australia, Europe, Africa and Asia.

During the judging, Sam remarked on keeping an eye on the foreground and in particular, remove any negative space that will detract from the main subject. Further, watch out for the contrast levels and depth of colours as sometimes these will need to be increased to remove "flatness" and give the image more dynamic range.

At the end of the judging, Sam gave a presentation of his photographs from India, particularly street and portrait scenes which were predominately in black & white. Those in colour demonstrated how colourful India is for photographic endeavours.

Congratulations to all the winning entries on the night which comprised of a considerable number of excellent images as usual. The winning images can be viewed on the websites [Gallery](#) page.

GCC MEMBERS CLUB NIGHT 15/03/23 – Guest Speaker Paul Rushworth

The evening was devoted to our guest speaker Paul Rushworth, a Werribee Open Range zookeeper and a photographic enthusiast.

Paul introduced us to his background being raised in Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia and showed us pictures of his time growing up and living with nature and as well as showing us the dramatic landscape of the highlands and escarpments.

Moving to New Zealand and then arriving in Australia, he has spent a decade at the Werribee Zoo pursuing his wild-life passion following on in his father's footsteps who was one of Africa's early park rangers and a pioneer in wildlife education.

During the evening, Paul, also a passionate bird-watcher, presented a large array of exemplary photographs of bird-life along with some African wildlife and flora. Besides some of the usual techniques of bird photography, he informed us that on the odd occasion he has climbed trees to get the shot but more recently has been using a drone. After gaining special permission from the Zoo, it seems that the local bird population ignore the device probably under the presumption it's just another bird.

A very informative evening filled with some great inspirational photography that was concluded with a Q&A session and several private conversations with Paul afterwards.

GCC BIRDS & NATURE SIG OUTING 18/03/23 – YOU YANGS

An intrepid mob of bird and nature photographers gathered at the You Yangs Visitors Centre. We were very glad that we had arranged to meet early as it was going to be a hot, blustery day.

After convening, a lot of discussion was had about equipment with the inevitable chat about 'how big is yours?'

A briefing and map distribution was held by Sue before the group scattered to close by locations: Big Rock, up the top and to small dams to find birds and other critters.

The birds were a bit elusive but some photographers managed to capture some images. Some chose to seek invertebrates and crawl through the undergrowth to capture some 'bugs'.

Those who braved the conditions had a friendly first outing for the new SIG. We all look forward to many more.

Some images will be shown at the next club-room meeting on April 18 at 7.30pm. Check the SIG Facebook page for further details.

GCC MEMBERS CLUB NIGHT 22/03/23 – NAUTICAL THEME & TEAM CHALLENGE PRESENTATION

In preparation for the next set-subject theme, the evening was kicked off by Denise who presented a fantastic range of sail boat photographs captured by herself and Tom. The shots, mostly taken from being on the water, showed all the action of competitors usually participating in sailing competitions on Corio Bay.

Whilst much of the photography featured action, some images show-cased the serenity and calmness that can be enjoyed in sailing. It was not just about the boats as sailors were captured in various forms of activity as well as photographs of artefacts that are nautical.

After fielding some questions from the floor, the next part of the evening was devoted to the Team Challenge presentation. Two weeks prior, photographers went to one of four locations - Barwon Heads, Geelong Library, Eastern Beach and Torquay - to attempt the 10 photo challenges assembled by David R.

In excess of 150 photos were displayed from 18 photographers who wanted to be challenged. A wonderful array of imagery met the brief and a large proportion of photographers were able to create images to meet all 10 challenges. Amazing to see the similarities of images but also the differences captured in the same location.

An informal chat was held with the participants to understand the why's and wherefores of their image making on the evening.

CLUB SYLLABUS

The club syllabus for next month as per below. Please note and be aware that the syllabus is subject to change after publication within this newsletter. Visit the GCC website to keep up to date on the syllabus front.

APRIL 2023

Sun 2nd Sunday Outing –

- Queenscliffe (Nautical Theme in preparation for set subject)

Wed 5th Competition Night: –

- Open Prints, Open EDI's, Set Subject EDI's "Trees/Forests"
- Entries due for May Open Prints, Open EDI's, AR EDI's

Thur 6th Lightseekers In-house

Wed 12th Education Night

- Practical and Presentation on Portraiture by Brett Furguson

Thur 13th Lightseekers Field Trip

- Trentham & Surrounds

Mon 17th Committee Meeting

Tues 18th Birds & Nature SIG In-House

Wed 19th Guest Speaker: –

- Steve Day on B&W Architecture

Thur 20th Lightseekers In-House

Wed 26th Education Night: –

- The Psychology of Colour by Sheryle Griffiths

Thur 27th Lightseekers Field Trip

- Portraiture at Paper Mill site, Fyansford

MAY 2023

Wed 5th Competition Night: –

- Open Prints, Open EDI's, A/R EDI's
- Entries due for June competition: Open Prints, Open EDI's, Set Subject EDI "Nautical"

TECH CORNER

Is the creation of photographic artistry using any sort of camera about to become redundant? Is AI (Artificial Intelligence) going to rule the photographic realm of image making?

Continuing the theme from the Presidents Pen, let's explore where the future of photography is possibly heading. As previously mentioned, the upscaling of an iPhone image was achieved by Topaz Gigapixel AI. Topaz has a range of other AI offerings such as Sharpening AI, DeNoise Reduction AI which are now integrated into our post production processes in Lightroom and/or Photoshop.

Of course Topaz are not alone. Lightroom and Photoshop have imbedded AI tools, there are the DXO tools, Skylum Luminar AI, as well as several others.

AI is becoming the norm in our photographic processing world and I haven't even mentioned the AI software built into cameras.

However, AI has just taken a huge jump in what it is able to achieve for the "artist" and will become a massive disrupter. You may have heard recently about ChatGPT which interacts in a conversational way using advanced reasoning. It is able to follow complex instructions in natural language and solve difficult problems with accuracy - not with total accuracy but it will get better. Microsoft has invested multi-billion dollars into the company behind ChatGPT to deploy its AI models across Microsoft products.

To illustrate further how serious AI is becoming, we have the likes of Google, Amazon and IBM who are leaders in AI and machine learning, all developing this field of technology. Do you recall Watson – IBM's AI tool – won a USA Jeopardy competition against human contestants and that was 10 years ago?

Now recently, AI generated images have been entered into and won artistic or photographic competitions including in Australia. This is the thin edge of the wedge!

Recently Adobe released Firefly (in Beta form), their AI Art Generator. You are able to use everyday language to generate new content. As Adobe has written, "*Firefly is gearing up to include context-aware image generation so you can easily experiment and perfect any concept*".

I don't propose here to deep dive into the how's, what's and wherefores as you can use Mr. Google or Youtube to undertake your own research but suffice to say, AI is moving at a rapid pace and any resulting generated imagery will become difficult to discern from the regular camera generated photograph.

The issue of AI is going to challenge all the rules around images for photographic competitions as you will not be able to distinguish between an "Altered Reality" (Creative) image and a customary produced photograph.

All of the above is food for thought, so I ask you, is this the beginning of the end for photographic clubs and photographic competitions?

MARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

PRINT OPEN A GRADE

JUDGE: SAM MARIANI



First Place

"Pomegranate and Skull"

By Heather Prince

Second Place

"Female Mosquito"

By Ketut Suwitra



Third Place

"Milford Light"

By Sandy Mahon

MARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

PRINT OPEN B GRADE

JUDGE: SAM MARIANI



First Place

"Boeing Stearman Flying Above"

By Judy Medwell

Second Place

"Winter Views"

By Brian Farey



Third Place

"Wave Catcher"

By Sue Wilson

MARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

A AND B GRADE OPEN PRINT MERITS

JUDGE: SAM MARIANI



A Grade

“Kangaroo Grass”

By Peter Roupas

B Grade

“Summer Swimmer”

By Robert Long



B Grade

“Morsel”

By Sue Wilson



MARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

EDI OPEN A GRADE

JUDGE: SAM MARIANI



First Place

"Me Myself and Covid"

By Dee Kelly

Second Place

"Happy with Life"

By Frank Kennedy



Third Place

"Beach Rock KI"

Shelley McKiernan

MARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

EDI OPEN B GRADE

JUDGE: SAM MARIANI



First Place

“Delectable Pairing”

By Meredith Bain

Second Place

“Yellow Faced Honeyeater”

By Darryl Martin



Third Place

“Leader of the Pack”

By Geoff Russell

MARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

A AND B GRADE OPEN EDI MERITS

JUDGE: SAM MARIANI



A Grade

“The Queen and the Drone”

By Frank Kennedy



A Grade

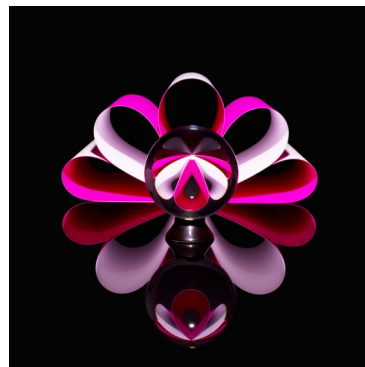
“Grasses at the Wetlands”

By Sheryle Griffiths

B Grade

“Paper and Glass”

By Heather O’Flynn



B Grade

“Right Here Girls”

By Lauren Holmes



MARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

EDI FILTERED REALITY

JUDGE: SAM MARIANI



First Place

"Raining"

By Ketut Suwitra

Second Place

"In Her Own World"

By Judith Wood



Third Place

"Dream State"

By Heather Prince

MARCH COMPETITION RESULTS

EDI ALTERED REALITY MERITS

JUDGE: SAM MARIANI



“Light Painted Imagination”

By Mick Kupresanin

“Break Free”
By Sheryle Griffiths



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

LIGHTSEEKERS



We visited the Geelong Wool Museum this month, where the International Wildlife Photography Exhibition was displayed. There are several categories in this competition, in some of which photographers enter quite disturbing images of wild animals interacting with the urban environment, and with people. On the other hand, there are photos showing the beauty of animals in their wild environment. These photos are often captured by dedicated photographers, who wait hours for the right conditions, or who travel through very difficult terrain, to get the image. The Exhibition is an inspiration to me to try a little harder, or wait a little longer, to get that great photo.

Quite a different lesson was learned on our trip to Camperdown. The forecast did not take into consideration local Western District conditions, and some turned up in shorts, to a bitter morning with wind and drizzle. We wandered around the lovely Botanic Gardens there, thinking we were not going to get a good shot that morning. On reviewing images at home, I was amazed at the richness and colour of the foliage that the rain had brought out. The weather did clear later in the morning, and we all enjoyed a trip to a new location with lots to offer.

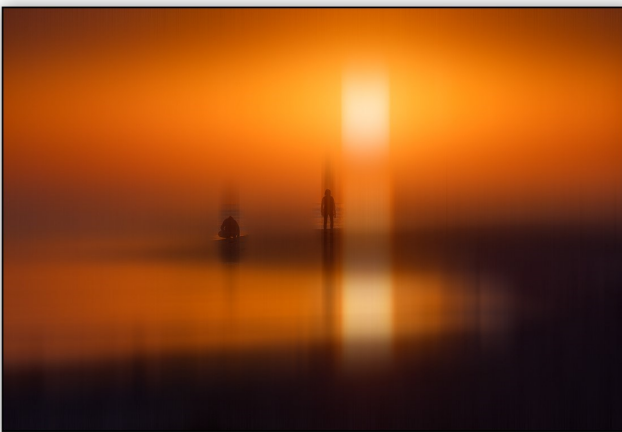
Our first Challenge of the year is due in a few weeks, Mono images of shape and texture. The photo below, from Allan Wilkins, is a good example of this.

Chris Reichl



CREATIVE SIG

The last two meetings were crammed full of creative activity. We were treated to a presentation by David Potter about the unexplored attributes of the brush tool. David's Photoshop knowledge continues to amaze us. Our homework task has been to explore the Adamski effect - a method of using blur techniques to create movement and a dream-like feel to images. Some beautiful images were created. The next homework challenge is to include a pumpkin in an image. We can't wait for our next meeting to see what the Creatives have come up with!



Dee Kelly



Lyn McConnell

Adamski Effect images



Heather Prince

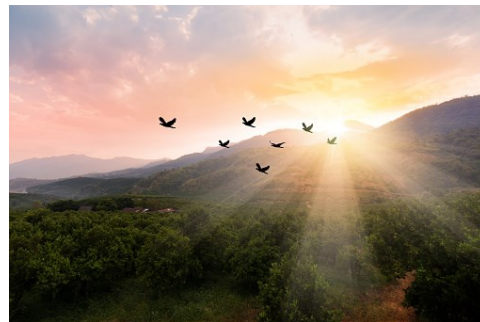


Phillippa
Alexander



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

BIRDS AND NATURE



We had our first outing to the You Yangs recently with 9 in attendance.

It was rather a blustery day to say the least. Most of the birds were not coming out to play until the winds died down later in the morning. Sue had supplied maps which she had highlighted where we were most likely to find some birds. Some ventured far afield whilst others stayed around the carpark and were captivated by a pair of Galahs who were nesting in a hollow high up in a gumtree. Their antics kept the photographers busy for quite a while.

Our next meeting will be held on the 18th April in the club rooms at 7.30pm where we will show what birds and bugs we have taken on our outing or at other times, followed by an educational.

Sandra

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2022/2023

Full Year, from July

- > Single: \$65
- > *Concession Single: \$55
- > Full-Time Student: \$55
- > Family (2 people): \$95
(Additional members \$35 each)
- > *Concession Family (2 people): \$80
(Additional members \$30 each)

**Concessions: Aged Pension, Govt Seniors Card, Unemployed, Full-Time Student, Disability Pension.*

** See Treasurer for pro-rata rates applicable from January-July.

Studio Hire: \$20.00 using your own studio lights.
\$40.00 + \$50 refundable bond,
if using the Club's studio lights.
(conditions apply)

Darkroom: \$ (currently unavailable)

PRO RATA MEMBERSHIP FEES

2023

January to End April = 50% of Full Year fees

- > Single: \$32.50
- > Concession Single: \$27.50
- > Full-Time Student: \$27.50
- > Family (2 people): \$47.50
(Additional member \$17.50)
- > Concession Family (2 people): \$42.50
(Additional member \$17.50)

May to 30th July

All Fees = \$nil

Or, 25% for Voting & Competition Rights

- > Single: \$17.50
- > Concession Single: \$17.50
- > Full-Time Student: \$17.50
- > Family (2 people): \$27.50
(Additional member \$12.50)
- > Concession Family (2 people): \$22.50
(Additional members \$12.50)

To pay by EFT: submit your payments to

Westpac Bank

Geelong Camera Club

BSB: 033622

Acct: 400835

Or go to any Westpac bank and pay your membership subscription directly.

You Must Include Your Name and Member Number in the Transaction

Cash and cheques will no longer be accepted by the treasurer.