



GET FOCUSED NORTH QUEENSLAND CAMERA GROUP NEWSLETTER

February 2020

A Message From Maureen

Volume 3 Issue 19

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GARRICKS CAMERA HOUSE

They get the picture.

Which is why Garrick's have agreed to support the North Queensland Camera Group!

To be in the monthly draw for an 11 X 14 Canvas print, all members need to do is come along to our meeting which is normally held the first week of the month.

Gez Whiz! That amounts to getting your membership back.

I am sure we all have an image in mind that would look wonderful on a canvas.

This monthly canvas print offer is limited to one canvas print per member per year.

Thank you Garricks for your second year of sponsorship!

A big welcome to our new members, Allan, Peter and Marg. We hope you enjoy being a part of our group.

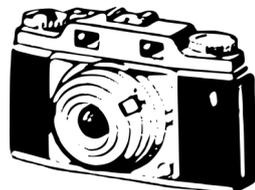
I was pleased to see everyone so enthusiastic at the February meeting. And I look forward to seeing you having some fun with your photography in 2020 and taking the next steps in your photographic journey.

The question is, what is it you want from your photography? It helps if you understand that. Most of us will be striving for something slightly different, so give it some thought. My advice is that you keep focused on that goal. However, don't be afraid to take a look outside the box. Maybe set yourselves a photographic project. It doesn't have to be a mammoth one.

Like all things, we learn from experience and the group can take you so far. We can give you opportunities to shoot & you will hear feedback from the competition judges which will help guide you along the way, and the L & D actively contributes to our knowledge.

We will only ever get from the group, what you are prepared to contribute. So please participate, share your successes and your learnings, ask questions and have some fun. Then you will see it returned twofold.

With digital cameras, photography has never been so easy and rewarding.



A Message from Maureen continued

What do I believe makes an outstanding image? Here are a few ideas to consider.

- A story line or subject which jumps up and bites the viewer.
- Eye contact is important, so try to get the subject to make eye contact with the lens. That's a winner every time.
- Is there a point of focus? There should be a subject we can identify.
- Don't clutter the image with unnecessary details, watch the background, question the image crop & use software compositional guides.
- Images that ask a question or impart an emotional feeling in the viewer. Some of these are: peace & tranquillity, tension, compassion, love or fear.

Remember: Today the mobile phone allows everyone to take an acceptable photograph in the eyes of the community. So the challenge is how do you make your images stand out from the crowd?

Maureen Carthy



Waterdrop Tree *Dee McMahon*



Frozen Flowers 1 *Sue Rutherford*



Storm Approaching Richmond *John Rens*

2020 Competitions for February

Monochrome—Textures and Patterns

Division 1: Highly commended: Iesha Stewart—Keeping Cool (winner),
Garry McGovern—Nature Does It Again, Commended: Julie
Devery, Liz Pope, Sue Rutherford

Division 2: Highly commended: Deanne Fowke—Kiwi (winner), Dee
McMahon—Pomp and Pagentry, Phillip Agnew—Pebble Walkway,
Commended: Penny Thomsen

Open

Division 1: Honour Images: Marcia Bacon—Spinner Dolphins (winner),
Maureen Carthy—Windswept Highly commended: Garry
McGovern, John Rens, Peter Von Knorring, Commended: Julie
Devery, Sue Rutherford, Alan Ferrari

Division 2: Highly commended: Dee McMahon—Yawning not Growling
(winner)

Division 3: Commended: Chris Richardson—Sunflower on the Strand
(winner)

Set Subject—Looking Down

Division 1: Highly Commended: Julie Devery—Watching the Clouds
(winner), Wendy Simpkins—Tidal Flow, Marcia Bacon— Did You
Mention Food, Avi Treanor—That's It Had Enough, Commended:
Alan Cosmo, Sue Rutherford

Division 2: Highly Commended: Michelle Beresford—Dam Crossing
(winner)

Division 3: Merit: Chris Richardson—What You Looking At
(winner)



A Marmot who
wouldn't look at the
camera
Wendy Simpkins



Curlew
Marcia Bacon



I'll give it some thought
Barbara Millard

Congratulations to all the winners this month! And special thanks to
those who organized the Myphotoclub membership. It has been a
time saving measure which is appreciated by everyone.

PLEASE VISIT MYPHOTOCLUB TO VIEW ALL THE ENTRIES
FOR FEBRUARY.



2020 NQCG AGM 5 FEBRUARY 2020

Our AGM was held straight after our first club night using the “Myphotoclub” programme. What a success that was. It relieves the pressure on the competition organisers and the powerpoint presenters on club night.

After some nominations were accepted and the remaining positions were thrown open, the following positions on our management committee were filled.

President: Maureen Carthy

Vice President: David Thomsen

Secretary: Chris Brunner

Treasurer: Philip Agnew

General committee: Andy Van Soest

General committee: Alan Ferrari

General committee: John Rens

General committee: Iesha Stewart

Congratulations to all our elected members and we wish you every success in your endeavours on our behalf this year.



It's All About the Feathers

John Rens

#wildlife

TIPS AND TRICKS : LOW LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY



At the Ross Dam
 Peter McFarlane



Great Blue Heron,
 Vancouver
 Wendy Simpkins



At the Ross Dam
 Peter McFarlane

HOW TO

TAKE PHOTOS IN LOW LIGHT

EXTERNAL FLASH

- When you are taking pictures of people or objects
- Consider using a diffuser to lessen the harsh shadows

DSLR

- Camera with manual controls
- High ISO
- Burst shooting capabilities
- Ability to shoot in RAW

LENS

- Preferably with an aperture below f/2.8
- Look for one with image stabilization or vibration reduction

REMOTE SHUTTER RELEASE

- You can shake the camera when you press the shutter release, a remote should help to eliminate that shake

TRIPOD

- To steady your camera & reduce shake
- Essential for long exposures

HOW TO GUIDE:

- Put your camera in aperture priority mode**, this will ensure that you control all available options.
- Crank up ISO.** This may result in an image with additional noise, but this can be fixed with some post-processing (shoot in RAW if available).
- Use a large aperture.** Larger apertures let in more light.
- Slow down shutter speed.** The longer your shutter is open the more light that will get in.
- Use an off camera flash.** Try to direct the light so that it doesn't hit your subject straight on, try deflecting the light to soften it.
- Use your camera's exposure compensation capability.** The scale on many of today's DSLR's allow from -3 to +3 stops in 1/3 stop increments. Dial the exposure compensation to the positive side to purposefully "overexpose" the photograph.

SETTING'S FOR YOUR CAMERA:

	Tripod	Flash	ISO	Aperture	Exposure
Indoor	-	✓	High	Wide	Fast
Hand Held	X	-	High	Wide	Fast
City Lights	✓	-	Low	Medium	Long
Stars	✓	X	Low	Medium	Long
Light Painting	✓	X	Low	Narrow	Long

QUICK TIPS:

- Shine a light** on your subject and auto focus on that, then turn your light and auto focus off and take the picture.
- Do not be afraid** to turn up your ISO, crank it up as high as you need, do not worry about the noise, get the shot.
- When using a flash** bounce the light off a wall or other object will help to reduce harsh shadows on your subject.
- Motion blur** can be a cool effect, experiment with a moving subject and a longer exposure time.
- If your camera, or lens has **image stabilization** make sure its on.
- Do not be afraid** to make a mistake, you can learn a lot from a mistake.
- Hand-held shots** should be no slower than 1/60th of a second other wise use a tripod to reduce blur.
- Buy a **50mm lens** f/1.8.
- If you aim your camera towards the **north star**, the stars will appear to spiral.

WHAT IS ISO: How sensitive the camera sensor is to light.

WHAT IS SHUTTER SPEED (EXPOSURE): How long your shutter is open, allowing light to reach the sensor.

WHAT IS APERTURE: The diameter of the lens opening, which controls how much light gets to the sensor.

LIGHT GRAFFITI AND PAINTING WITH LIGHT:

- Wear dark clothing.
- Find a dark location.
- Set your camera shutter speed to a long exposure, 20+ seconds or bulb setting.
- Set your camera on a tripod.
- Press shutter.
- Begin painting with your flashlight, sparkler, or glow stick.
- Experiment with aperture, ISO and shutter speed until you get the look you are going for.
- Check your work and try it again if you are not happy.

TAKE A PHOTOS LIKE A SNIPER:

- Brace yourself and your camera against wall, ground or other solid object.
- Relax when you hold the camera, a tense hand will cause you to shake the camera.
- Avoid zooming in on your subject.
- Take a deep breath, and exhale slowly then photograph.
- Gently press the shutter button and leave your figure on it.
- Triple tap your subject (take multiple photos in a short succession).

Low Light Photography Tips

[Posted in Picture Correct 31 January 2020]

Low light photography is something that we all must deal with as photographers. Whether you're taking photos with a point and shoot during an evening out, shooting a wedding party or capturing a landscape at dusk it's important to understand the basics of shooting with low light. Photography is all about light. Low light photography is no different, and it offers new challenges and opportunities for creativity. Here is a helpful infographic on the subject:

Additional Low Light Photography Tips:

1. Crank up the ISO. The higher the ISO number, the more sensitive the camera's sensor is to the light that is reaching it. The additional noise that is generated by using a high ISO can be filtered out somewhat in post-processing. Sometimes the extra grain adds a little something special to the shot. Shooting in RAW format allows for the most flexibility in post-processing.

2. Use a larger aperture. The larger the aperture, the more light is entering the lens. Shooting at f/5.6 lets in more light than shooting at f/18 (remember, the lower the number, the larger the aperture).

3. Slow down the shutter speed. More light is captured the longer the shutter remains open. Keep in mind that a good rule of thumb for clear hand-held shots is no slower than 1/60 of a second.



Bennett's Wallaby
Maureen Carthy



Cobber the Curlew
Penny Thomsen



Rock Wallaby at Ross
River Dam
Wendy Simpkins

TIPS AND TRICKS : LOW LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

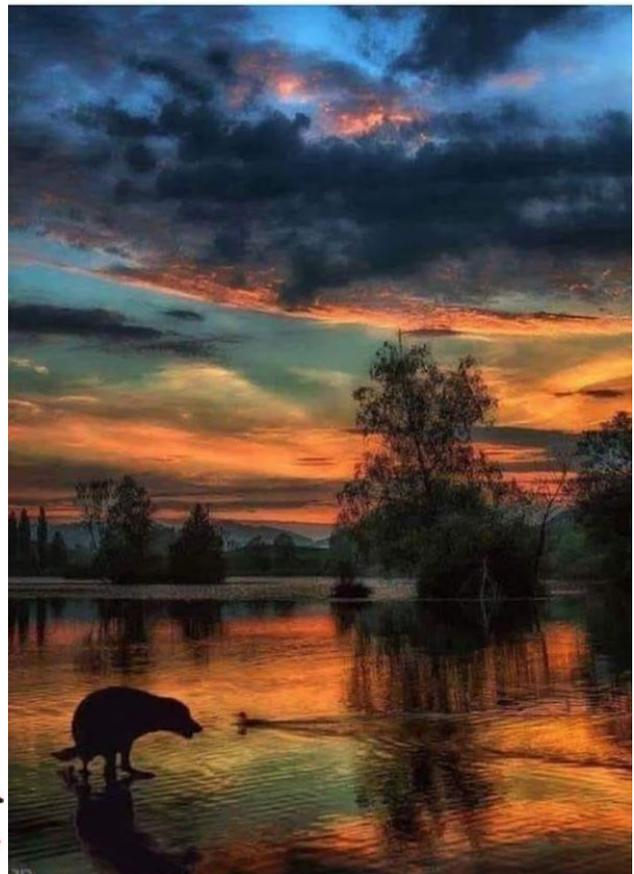
Use a tripod if you're shooting at anything slower than that, though I have had success at slower hand-held shots using lenses with image stabilization.

4. If you do have to use a flash, try to avoid the on-camera pop-up. It tends to flatten the appearance of the image because the light is hitting the subject directly. Invest in an off-camera flash, angle light so that it is not directly in front of the subject, and use reflective surfaces and diffusers to soften the light. Strategically placed constant light (such as tungsten lamps using soft white bulbs) work excellently for providing additional ambient light without sacrificing the atmosphere of the setting.

5. Use your camera's exposure compensation capabilities. The scale on many of today's DSLR's allow from -3 to +3 stops in 1/3 stop increments (my 7D is +/-5). Dial the exposure compensation to the positive side to purposefully overexpose the photograph.

Thank you Diane....
I love your sense of
humour!

I thought I'd finally got the perfect
picture! But no!



GET FOCUSED

NORTH QUEENSLAND CAMERA GROUP NEWSLETTER

Contact the Editor

Any suggestions for articles?

Contact Wendy at

newsletter.nqcg@gmail.com



The group for all photography
lovers in North Queensland

DATE CLAIMERS:

Mission Arts Exhibition 29 Feb—7 April Mission Beach
Info at www.missionarts.com.au

Super Full Moon March 10 Gather some friends to
practice night photography 3.47am rising.

Come and Try Polocrosse Day March 22, 9am-1pm
Southward Road in Stuart.

Salon of Excellence PSQ Closing date 27 March. Winners
announced at PSQ Mackay 2020.

PSQ 2020 Mackay May 1—4 Conference details at
www.psq2020.com

Saunders Beach Sunrise 23 May Sunrise Shoot 5.45am
for a 6.36am sunrise. Light breakfast included.

www.nqcg.org.au

S.A.F.E. GROUP Goldfield Ashes Excursion Saturday 25 January 2020

David Thomsen organised a day trip to Charters Towers on the Australia Day long weekend to check out some of the 240 teams who made the annual trek to the Towers for some activity and socialising. We met up at Centenary Park then chose to go to the weir before the sun was too high in the sky. The weir was still overflowing from the recent rains and we had some fun there for a half hour or so. From there, we drove to the airstrip area where the social games were being played. And yes, they were pretty social.

The light was challenging. It was overcast and if you wanted some speed for your shots, you needed to play around with the settings until you hit the jackpot. One of the teams we followed seemed to have a drinks break every 10 minutes. I only found out recently that the competing teams negotiate the rules just before play, so it was obvious what was important to those 2 teams!

It was a great day and gave you loads of opportunities to do some candid photography.

Thanks David, for thinking of this activity then following through with the planning for this trip. I'll be there next year too!

Some images from the carnival are on the following page.

GOLDFIELD ASHES EXCURSION 25 January 2020



Goldfield Ashes
Portrait
Maureen Carthy



How's That?
Maureen Carthy

Wendy & David
Maureen Carthy



Scared Hitless
Maureen Carthy



The Dress
Wendy Simpkins

Coffee Break
Phone photo by the lovely café owner!



Drinks cart—Ashes
style
Wendy Simpkins

Extra Security
Wendy Simpkins



Garricks Camera House are sponsoring a **Lucky Door prize** again this year. To gain a ticket, you must attend Club Night. Members are restricted to one win only.



Garricks
we get the picture

11x14" Canvas Print

CONGRATULATIONS

Ph: 07 4725 4711
Shop 8a Building 1
Domain Central
103 Duckworth St
Garbutt Qld 4814

camerahouse

Don't forget to keep a lookout on the website for new information....

Facebook Group Banter

The #creativeChristmas December competition was won by Dee and she set us the challenge of #wildlife. These images were all so lovely, and the winner was Sue Rutherford with a great image of kangaroos at a water trough in the interior of the state. Sue tells me now that that property has received 12 inches of rain and the grass is growing again!

Sue has set us the challenge of sunrise.....easy for some but tough for those who like to lie in in the mornings! Can't wait to see the images though!

Join us on Facebook to see some fabulous images and participate in a monthly challenge. February challenge #Sunrise



Winner #creativeChristmas
Dee McMahon

Winner #wildlife
Sue Rutherford
At the Trough for a Drink



Images from #wildlife



Just having a catnap
Barbara Millard



Cassowary at Mission Beach
Chele Bero



Wandering wild and free on
Maria Island
Dee McMahon



Rock Wallaby Joey at
Magnetic Island
Diane McIntyre



A Beady Eye
Hazel Wilton



Lovely young leopard was getting a bit bored of silly tourists

Jesha Stewart

Images from the Facebook competitions



A Blue Winged Kookaburra
Avi Treanor



A Sea Eagle at Magnetic Island Having a Stretch
Diane McIntyre



Mr Cheetah just finishing his little yawn—
Zimbabwe
Ilesha Stewart

Spinner Dolphins off the coast of Napali, Hawaii
Marcia Bacon



A Whale of a Time *John Rens*



You got Food?
Julie Devery

Images from Facebook Competitions



Above: Siesta Time at Tower Hill Reserve *Penny Thomsen*



Right: Osprey at Ross Dam *Peter McFarlane*

Here are some images recently shared on the Facebook page. Enjoy!

Editor's note:

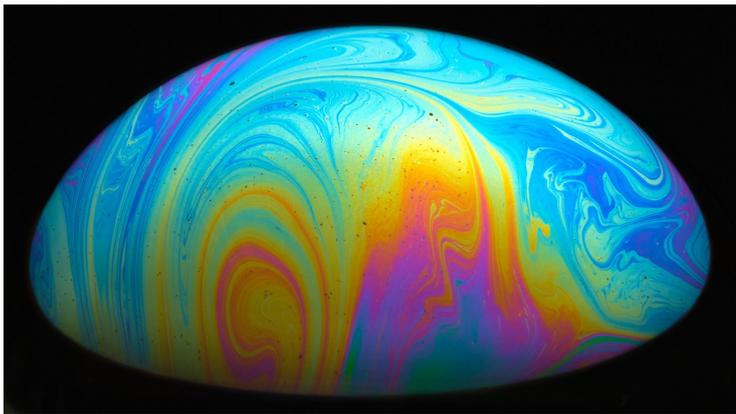
BUY SWAP SELL

If you have any items for sale, please email me with the details and a picture for the next newsletter in April.

Email address is on the front page.



Julia Creek *John Rens*



Bubble Planets *Dee McMahon*



Frozen Flowers 2
Sue Rutherford

