



GET FOCUSED

NORTH QUEENSLAND CAMERA GROUP NEWSLETTER

May 2020

A Message From Maureen

Volume 3 Issue 21

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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.

Gee 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.

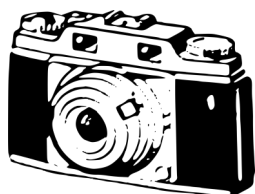
Thank you Garricks for your second year of sponsorship!

I would first like to thank those members who continue to support the group by posting their images onto the North QLD Camera Group Facebook page for us to enjoy.

I know how challenging it can be, keeping your life on track when all sense of routine has been thrown out the window. But as our lives start returning to some sense of normality, I believe what some of us may find is that the new normal looks considerably different from the old. So all we can do now is look for the positives and put your best foot forward.

At this time we are unable to tell you when we will hold our next group meeting however when we do, you may find that the meeting place has changed. For social distancing reasons and at our next committee meeting the committee will be considering all options, including social media platforms.

Over the last 5 weeks the Messages in Monochrome focus group, have been chasing the quintessential low-key & high-key image. Which is easier said than done in monochrome and is even more challenging in isolation!



A Message from Maureen continued

I am so delighted to see so many of you taking up the challenge and participating. Thank you and please keep the great ideas flowing.

This morning I saw and heard for the first time this winter Hermit Park's migratory Kookaburras, and what a delight! There is no travel limitation on our feathered friends and even today, we can travel further than a week ago. So please consider getting out there with your cameras, and tomorrow would be a great day to start. Whoops, that includes me.

All the best and let's charge those camera batteries now!

Maureen



Cradle Mountain, Tasmania
Maureen Carthy

Your NQCG Committee

President: Maureen Carthy

Vice President: David Thomsen

Secretary: Chris Brunner

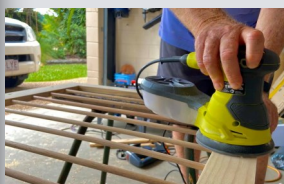
Treasurer: Philip Agnew

General committee: Andy Van Soest

General committee: Alan Ferrari

General committee: Iesha Stewart

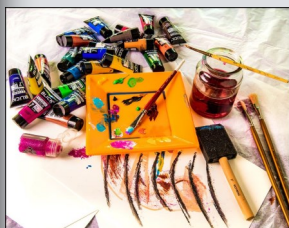
A selection of
images from
#boredombusters,



Baby gate under
construction
Julie Devery



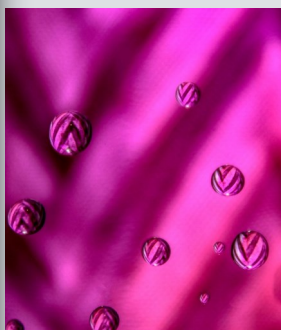
Biro
Marcia Bacon



How about getting
creative?
Maureen Carthy



Soap bubbles
Marcia Bacon



Water drops
Avi Treanor

2020 Competitions for May

Monochrome—Open

Division 1: Honour: Christopher Brunner—loving mother (Judge's choice)

Highly Commended: Liz Pope—Traditional Peruvian Lady, Julie Devery—Mia Rose, Andy Van Soest—Chubby Cheeks.
Commended: Sue Rutherford—Reading, Wendy Simpkins—My Friend the Gardener, Iesha Stewart—Noah, Peter Von Knorring—The Singer, Alan Cosmo—Baseball Bella.

Division 2: Highly Commended: Deanne Fowke—The King's Man (Judge's choice), Dee McMahon—Gem

Division 3: Highly Commended: David Thomsen—Harold Charters Towers Local

Open

Division 1: Honour: Christopher Brunner—On the Market (Judge's choice)

Highly Commended: Sue Rutherford—Small Tracks in the Sand, Liz Pope—The Andes meets the Atacama Desert, Julie Devery—Strolling along the Boardwalk, Andy Van Soest—Peaks and Spires, Wendy Simpkins—Lakeside Vista, Peter Von Knorring—Broadwater Creek, Alan Cosmo—Fly By, Maureen Carthy—Impending Storm

Commended: Avi Treanor—Water Rush, Alan Ferrari—Sense of Humour Street Series, Iesha Stewart—Protectiveness

Division 2: Highly Commended: Deanne Fowke—Unfurling (Judge's choice), Dee McMahon—A Walk in the Forest
Commended: Philip Agnew—Old School, Penny



*Congratulations to all the winners
For May!*

PLEASE VISIT MYPHOTOCLUB TO VIEW ALL THE ENTRIES
FOR MAY.



Set Subject— Song or Film Title

- Division 1:** Honour: Christopher Brunner-Blade Runner (Judge's choice), Sue Rutherford-Two of a Kind
 Highly Commended: Garry Mcgovern-The Eyes Have It, Julie Devery-Whiskey Glasses by Morgan Wallen, Maureen Carthy-I Don't Like Cricket, I Love It, Peter Von Knorring-Somewhere Over the Rainbow, Alan Cosmo-Cats Edit
 Commended: Liz Pope-Ice Ice Baby (by Vanilla Ice 1990), Wendy Simpkins-American Pie, Iesha Stewart-The Lion King
- Division 2:** Highly Commended: Deanne Fowke-Chopsticks (Judge's choice)
 Commended: Dee McMahon-Kookaburra Sits, Michele Beresford-Deep in the Heart of Texas
- Division 3:** Highly Commended: David Thomsen-Smoke Gets in Your Eyes– Wmbungles

Creative—Contrasting or Opposite Colours

- Division 1:** Honour: Garry Mcgovern-Electrifying
 Highly Commended: Wendy Simpkins-A Trio of Chillies, Christopher Brunner-Coral between alive and dead, Maureen Carthy-Battle of the Pegs, Alan Cosmo-Spoked
 Commended: Sue Rutherford-Flowers on Ice, Andy Van Soest-Hot Chilli Peppers
- Division 2:** Highly Commended: Dee McMahon-Fibonacci ala Drops (Judge's choice), Barbara Millard-Dying Leaves
 Commended: Philip Agnew-Coloured Paper, Deanne Fowke-Mandelbrot Oil in Water, Michele Beresford-Palm Island Dancers
- Division 3:** Commended: David Thomsen-Contrasting banded seascape colours



Left: On the Market

Christopher Brunner
Div 1 Open Winner



Unfurling

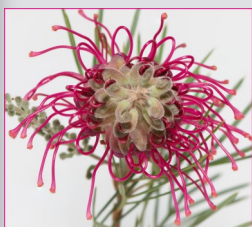
Deanne Fowke
Div 2 Open Winner



Wash your caps ready for the next adventure
Maureen Carthy



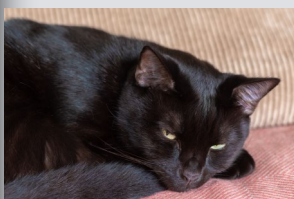
Washing up
Maureen Carthy



Billy Bonkers Grevillea
Wendy Simpkins



Self explanatory
Wendy Simpkins



One of us is bored
Wendy Simpkins

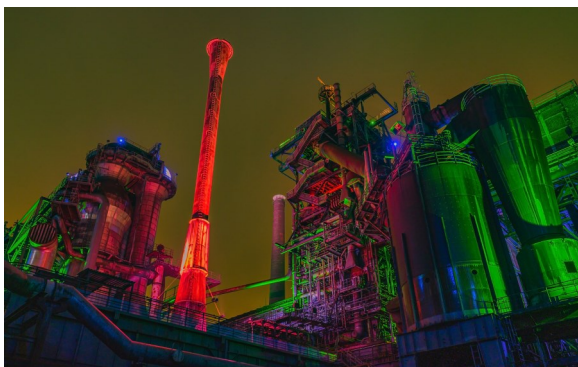
May Competition Results



Left:
Loving Mother
Christopher Brunner
Div 1 Mono Winner



Right:
The King's Man
Deanne Fowke
Div 2 Mono Winner



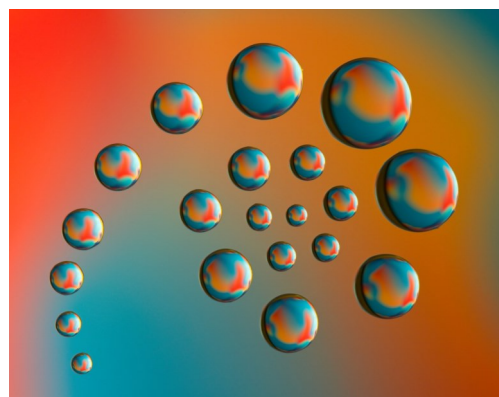
Blade Runner
Christopher Brunner
Div 1 SS Winner

Chopsticks
Deanne Fowke
Div 2 SS Winner



Left:
Electrifying
Garry McGovern
Div 1 Creative Winner

Right:
Drops and Swirls
Dee McMahon
Div 2 Creative Winner

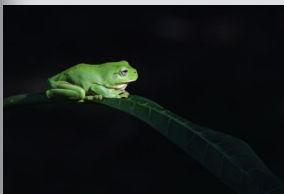


Weekly Challenge on Facebook page—7 images

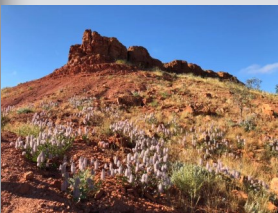
Peter Von Knorring - "The Tweetie Chronicles"



*Above and below:
Julie's beautiful grand-
daughter and fur
babies*



*Above and below: Sue's
in my yard images*



*Above and below:
John's images at work
in the west*



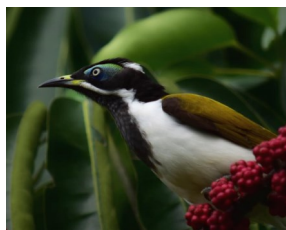
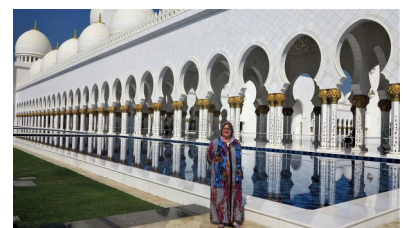
A Selection of other wonderful series shared on Facebook.



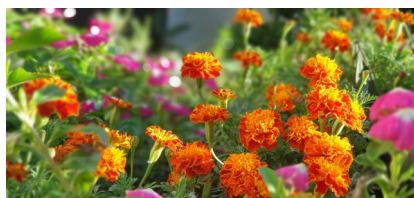
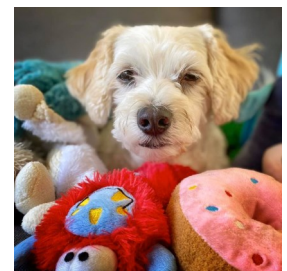
*Left and right: Avi's
restaurant*



*Left and right:
Barbara's travels*



*Left and right:
Dee's isolation at
home photos*



*Hazel's home
isolation photos*



Minimalism: Home Photography Activity by [Kent DuFault](#)

Accessed from Picture Correct 6 May 2020

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/minimalism-home-photography-activity/>



From Ilesha's series of a week of self isolating.



Above and below:
Camouweal Caves
John Rens



**Today we are
in Florence**

Above and below: If only there was no pandemic and Frog on Zinnia flower

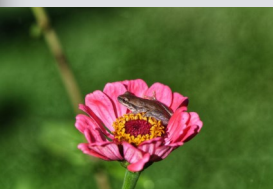
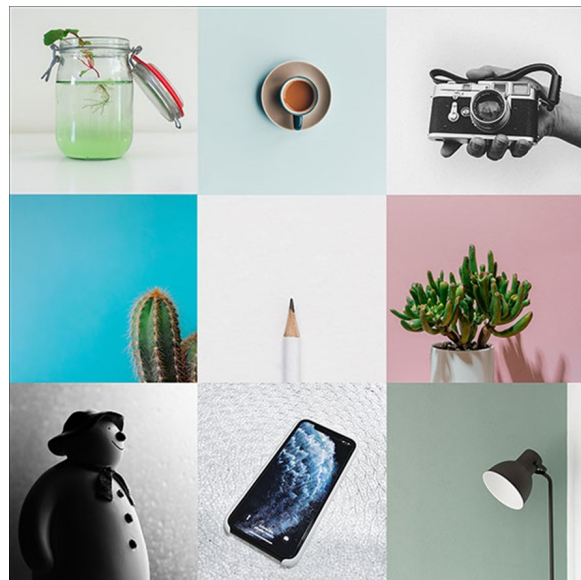


Photo by [Henry & Co.](#)

The definition of Minimalism is a genre of photography that emphasizes the extreme simplification of form, as by the use of shapes, colors, tone, and negative space.

To get started, you'll need to locate some objects within your home that have interesting shapes and colors.

Here's some inspiration for you.



Top left photo by [Maarten Wijnants](#), top center photo by [Annie Spratt](#), top right photo by [Leonard Rb](#), middle left photo by [Annie Spratt](#), center photo by [Yoann Silonine](#), middle right photo by [Ruslan Bardash](#), bottom left photo by [James L.W.](#), bottom center photo by [David Švihovec](#), bottom right photo by [David van Dijk](#)

MINIMALISM—HOME PHOTOGRAPHY ACTIVITY by Kent Dufault

Lighting

Next, you need to select your lighting. A window with indirect light (no direct sunshine), can be your best option if you are really new to photography. If you don't have an appropriate window, then you could do this activity on an overcast day.

IDEA: There are no set rules to photo creativity. Let some sunshine blast into your picture and see what happens! Having some additional lights does provide you with more control. If you don't own photography lights specifically, no problem. Try using table lamps, flashlights, or any other light source that you have around the house.

IDEA: If you use various light sources, and you're worried about the color balance, transform your project photos into monochrome black and white pictures!

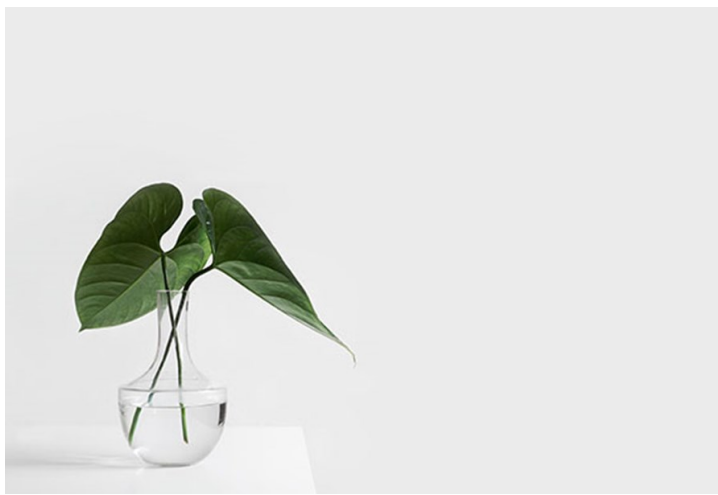


Photo by [Sarah Dorweiler](#)

Indirect window light will produce soft shadows and muted colors. This lighting scheme makes it easier to determine your exposure setting.



Photo by [Henry & Co.](#)

Bright sunlight through the window produces sharper shadows and vibrant colors. Determining exposure for this lighting scheme can be tricky. Take a test shot and adjust as necessary.

Next, you need a backdrop.

In most cases, you'll want to select a backdrop that sets off your chosen subject, either through color, tone, or texture.

Here are some suggestions.

- Various types of wood
- A wall in your home

- Bed sheets or blankets
- Art paper of varying colors
- Cardboard
- Vinyl sheeting
- Plastic – smooth or crumpled
- Tinfoil
- Pieces of rock or brick
- Countertops or tables

You get the idea. Once you start looking, you'll be amazed at what you can find around the house.

MINIMALISM —HOME PHOTOGRAPHY ACTIVITY by Kent DuFault



Photo by [Imani Clovis](#)

Setting Up

1. Putting your camera on a tripod is a huge advantage. It allows you to set up your picture and then make changes to your set or lighting while the camera doesn't move.
2. For a shooting mode, use aperture priority or manual mode. The goal is to set your depth of field so that everything you want in focus is actually in focus. Ideally, you're on a tripod, so the shutter speed

is less of a concern. If the shutter speed drops below 1/60th, I recommend the use of a cable release, so that you don't cause camera shake while taking your picture.

3. Start with a middle of road aperture, such as f/5.6 or f/8. Adjust as necessary to get your depth of field correct.
4. Set your ISO to 100-400. You want to avoid the digital noise that comes with higher ISO settings.
5. If you have the option, shoot in camera raw.
6. Auto white balance is acceptable if you're shooting in camera raw. If you're shooting in .jpeg, then you'll want to set the white balance to the appropriate light source.
7. Your choice of lens is wide open and based upon your vision of the final picture. Most of the time, you will likely be using a lens somewhere between 35mm up to 135mm, or a zoom lens within that range.



Photo by [Patrick Fore](#)

IDEA: Any white object can be used to lighten up the shadows in your picture. The white object is called a bounce card or a reflector, and it can be a wall, a bedsheet, a towel, or an artboard. Many professional photographers use a product called @Foamcore, which is a rigid foam-based board that you can buy at most art supply stores or some photography shops. If you want more light

popping off your reflector, take some cardboard and glue tinfoil to it. If you leave the foil smooth, it will reflect a brighter harsher light. If you crumple the foil up and then smooth it back out before gluing it onto the cardboard, the resulting light will be brighter but softer.



Photo by [Florian Klauer](#)

Negative Space

A large part of Minimalist composition is negative space. I'm sure you've noticed that all these example photographs have large areas of empty space surrounding the subject. This is a negative space. But don't take negative space lightly – it should, in some way, enhance your theme, thus adding visual energy to the composition.

MINIMALISM: HOME PHOTOGRAPHY ACTIVITY by Kent DuFault



Photo by [Helena Hertz](#)

Key Thought: Many subtle factors can contribute to your Minimalist photography. Your photo should contain liberal use of negative space. It should also be a very simplistic composition that makes use of only one to four colors – often one of those colors is a primary color. Also, shape and repetition are common elements within Minimalist artwork.



Photo by [Raphael Renter](#)

Skill Points for Minimalism

- ✓ Try composing your picture in a less literal sense (have some fun with it)
- ✓ Simplify, typically one subject works best in Minimalism
- ✓ Think in terms of negative space, shape, and color (try to send a **message** to your viewer)



Photo by [五玄土 ORIENTO](#)

Great News

You don't need fancy equipment to master Minimalism. You can do this – even with a smartphone camera. All you need is your creativity and some time.

Advanced Technique

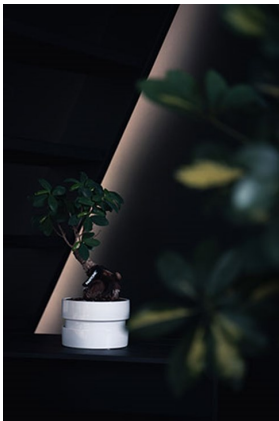


Photo by [Tim Christopher Klonk](#)

Minimalist photography is often portrayed as being light and bright. However, it doesn't need to be. In fact, low key Minimalist photography can be some of the most dramatic.

It does require a bit more effort with the lighting. That said, your results will be truly satisfying.

In case you're not sure what the term low key means...

Low Key Photography: A low key image is one that contains predominantly dark tones and colors. It should also include some small area of a white or bright tone to create a full tonal range picture. The example photo (above) is an excellent example of a low key Minimalist photograph.

IDEA: Study the low key photograph above. Did you notice how the photographer created layers in the image? Your minimalist photos don't require a flat background. Creating Minimalist layered photography is an advanced skill. But you can do it. To experiment with this skill, you need to focus on the lighting.



Photo by [Anshu A](#)

Post-Production

Minimalism doesn't require fancy post-processing skills. However, you can further enhance your vision with post-processing should you desire.

This is one area where presets and actions can be a lot of fun.

You've created your Minimalist set, and you've adjusted your lighting.

MINIMALISM: HOME PHOTOGRAPHY ACTIVITY by Kent DuFault

You take the picture.

Now spend some time running it through presets and actions for various creative options.

The last example photo (above) is a perfect example of post-production taking a Minimalist photograph to the next level. You can even perform edits like this on your smartphone using apps like Snapseed and Lens Distortions.

How did you do?

Once you've finished your Minimalism photography project, sit back and look at the results.

- Does your subject command immediate attention?
- Does your background complement the subject without overwhelming it?
- Does your lighting draw attention to the color, shape, and lines of your subject?
- Did you make use of negative space?
- Was your exposure accurate?
- Did your depth of field capture everything in focus that you wanted it to?
- Did you experiment with different light sources and types of light?
- How was the color in your final image, or did you go black and white?
- Was your final image sharp?
- Did you play around with post-production?
- Do you feel that your final photograph powerfully conveys your thoughts to a viewer?

For Further Training and Exercises:

65 beautifully designed & printable [Photography Action Cards](#) are now available that will give you over 200 photography assignments, covering everything you can imagine. They are *currently 88% off today* if you want to try them out.

Focus Group Messages in Monochrome – Maureen Carthy

It will be no surprise to most that I am a passionate photographer, and the one genre that makes my heart sing is Monochrome.

I was brainstorming ideas for re-establishing my Monochrome Focus Group at the North Queensland Camera Group. I thought long and hard about different and interesting approaches, for a program that would be self-generating and one that would be challenging and hold our interest.

I thought why couldn't we reach out to other groups in Queensland? Why couldn't we have feedback from other respected photographers outside our group and what are other groups doing in this area? I asked the question of Mt Gravatt Photographic Society and their Monochrome group were doing exactly what we had been doing during 2019. Cheryl Swartz believed that what I suggested was an interesting concept so we launched Messages in Monochrome immediately.

How it works:

A Facebook page is ideally required, dedicated to your Monochrome Imagery.

We have a monthly challenge for 2 months and in the third month we have time to fine-tune our imagery. Those photographers who participated in either or both challenges may, if they wish, share their images with the other groups. The program and challenges are the same across all groups of Messages in Monochrome.

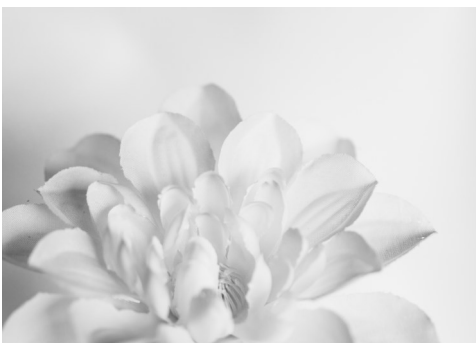
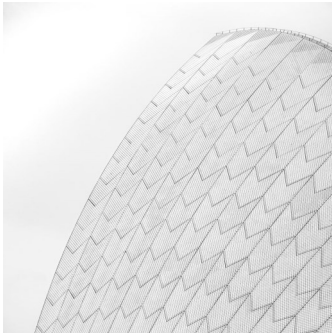
Members are encouraged to post an interesting article and video links. Messages in Monochrome members are encouraged to visit the Facebook pages of other groups, to comment if they wish, and be inspired.

I have at NQCG invited externally recognized monochrome photographers to assist our members in growing our skills and I am so thrilled with the images that our Messages in Monochrome photographers are achieving.

Would you like to be part of Messages in Monochrome? If so please feel free to give me a call - Phone 0419 739 667

Messages in Monochrome Focus Group - April High Key Images

During April, our focus in this group was to learn about High Key images, what makes an image high key, and how to produce one. It was a great learning experience and having feedback from members helped us grow our knowledge. Here's a few High Key images from the group members' postings.



Row 1: Avi Treanor, Avi Treanor, Barbara Millard

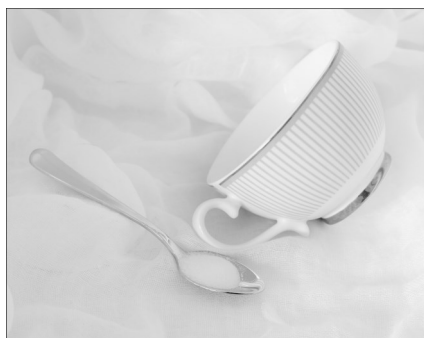
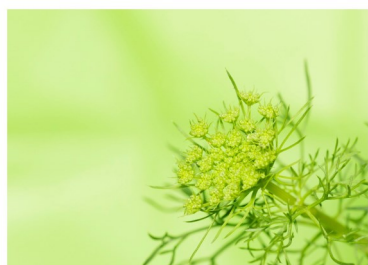
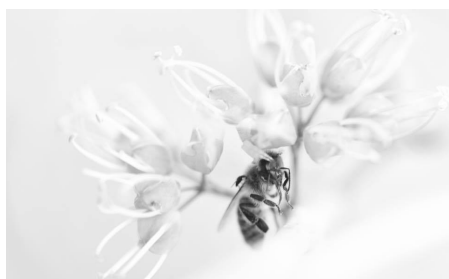
Row 2: Chris Brunner, Chris Brunner, David Thomsen

Row 3: David Thomsen, Dee McMahon, Dee McMahon

Row 4: Diane McIntyre, Diane McIntyre, Julie Devery

Row 5: Julie Devery

Messages in Monochrome Focus Group—April High Key Images



Row 1: Marcia Bacon, Marcia Bacon, Maureen Carthy

Row 2: Maureen Carthy, Sue Rutherford, Sue Rutherford

Row 3: Sue Tapp, Sue Tapp, Wendy Simpkins

Row 4: Wendy Simpkins, Maureen Carthy, Penny Thomsen

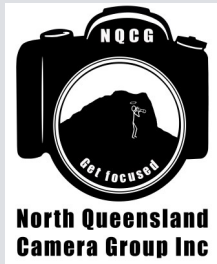
Row 5: Barbara Millard, Penny Thomsen

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**

Places in and around Townsville to visit for exercise, enjoyment and photography!

Palmetum

Anderson Park and Queens Gardens

River walks from Kelso to The Village

Jezzine Park and Strand

Magnetic Island

Bushland Beach

Saunders Beach

Toomulla Beach

Rollingstone Beach and Mystic Sands area

Paluma

Cungulla

Woodstock area

Ingham area

Cardwell area

Ayr-Burdekin area

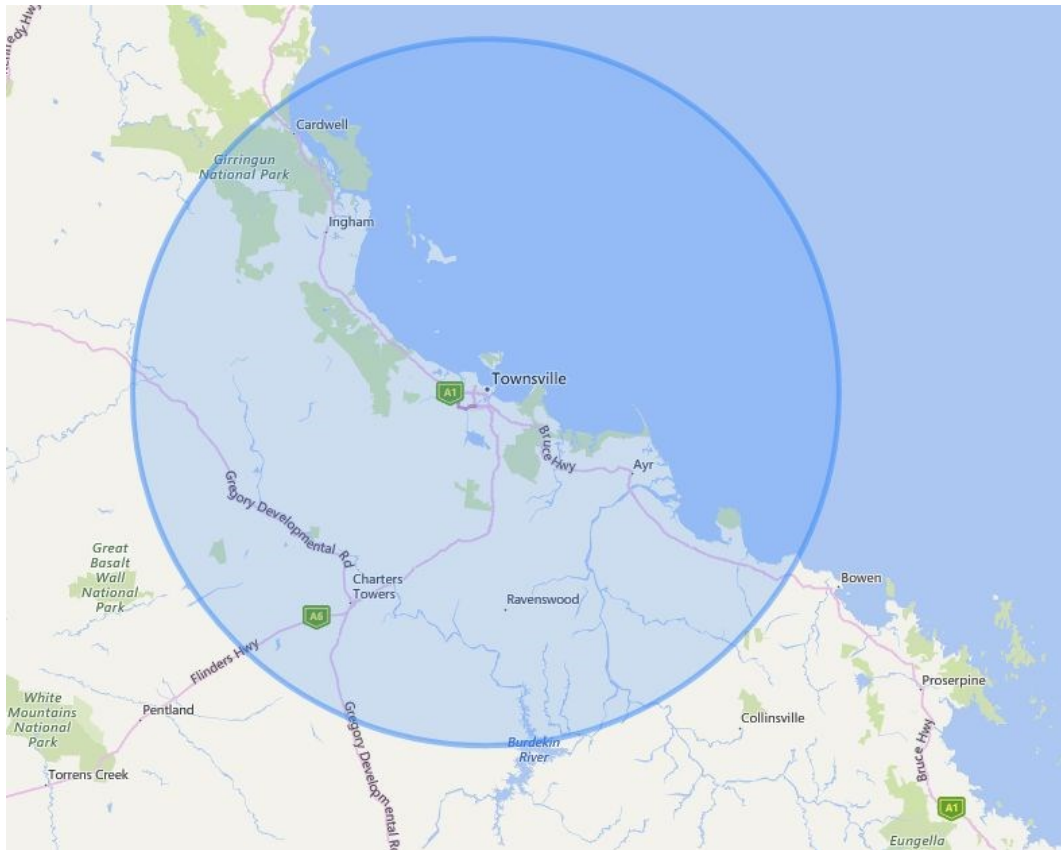
Ravenwood

Charters Towers area

**CHECK OUT THE MAP BELOW—150km radius from
Townsville**

www.nqcg.org.au

This map indicates 150 kilometre radius around Townsville. It's a big space to explore!



2020 Gold Field Ashes Field Trip - Report and Photos by David Thomsen

The annual Gold Field Ashes cricket carnival is held over the Australia Day long weekend. Over the years it has become very popular with cricketers from all sorts of ages, abilities and backgrounds:

The Charters Towers Cricket organisers are renowned for putting on a very popular Carnival

There are over 270 teams nominated to play.

Teams come from all over Queensland, and some, further afield.

Under a draw system and depending on their grade, each team was given a 3-4 game schedule advising where and when games were to be played. The draw organised teams from A grade through to B1, B2 and B3. The latter two being more social, fun and costume orientated.

It seemed the 20 oval Airport Reserve was the place to be for most B2 and B3 games.

Fun and frivolity were encouraged by such rules as no B2 or B3 players can be given out on the first ball. Bragging rights were on offer for winning teams and reputations enhanced for those sporting innovative or frivolous costumes.

Numerous photo opportunities were on offer.

In my case I attended for a few hours on the Saturday. Upon driving to Charters Towers' and meeting fellow photographers at Listner Park, we drove to The Airport Reserve where there were 20 games in progress. It seemed we were spoilt for choice. We soon got busy shooting a range of fun, action and human-interest photos. I was pleased at how willing the locals were to pose in action or team photos. I used my Tamron 18 – 270mm zoom lens and took photos of players bowling or batting, player groups, spectator action, drink waiters and other human-interest shots. It was also most enjoyable to freeze-photograph airborne cricket balls being bowled at or hit away by batsmen/women.

The Airport Reserve also had an abundance of shade trees as well as refreshment and toilet amenities. Another noteworthy venue was the York Street Cricket grounds where the clubhouse was licensed, airconditioned and served a range of light meals.

Am I going to next year's Gold Field Ashes Carnival? Definitely.



Left: Black Bream fielding

Right: Chatting up

Below left: Stepping back to cut

Below centre: The Big Show

Below right: Winners are Grinners



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

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

11x14" Canvas Print

CONGRATULATIONS

camerahouse



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

Facebook Group Banter

April's theme was an innovative one—thanks to Julie! It was #boredombusters and we had some different ones entered this month. Speaking for my efforts, it was more about fun than skill! Yours truly picked up the honour this month and the new challenge is #within50km. Now we can travel a little further, you may be inspired to take the camera. If not, there's plenty around the house and garden too!

Join us on Facebook to see some fabulous images and participate in a monthly challenge. May challenge is #within50km



Winner #boredombusters
Wendy Simpkins
Looloo and a New Garden