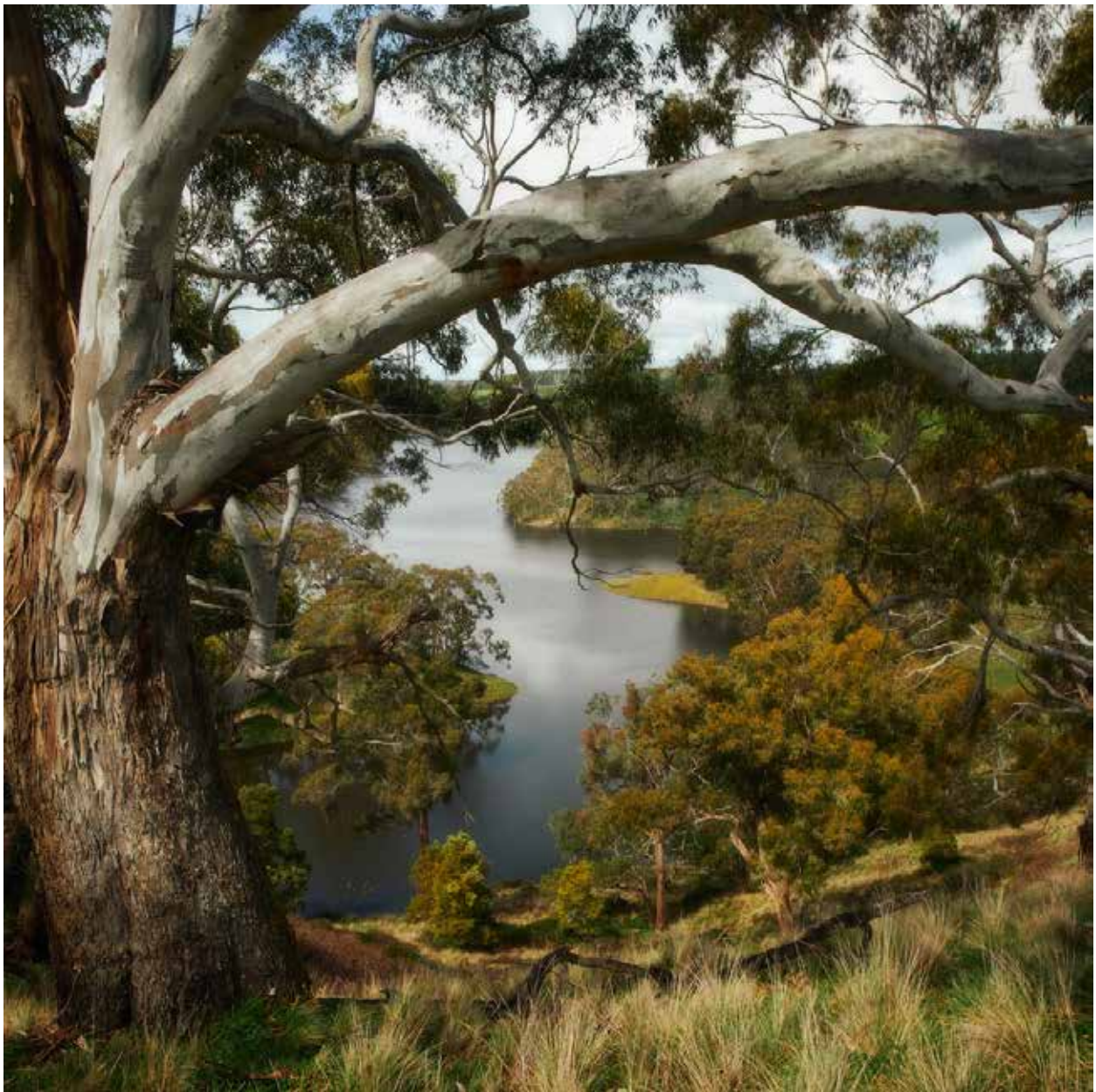




The APRIL 2021 Flare

ballaratcameraclub.org.au

B A L L A R A T C A M E R A C L U B I N C .



Lal Lal Reservoir - Dan O'Donoghue

Presidents Report

Mark Bevelander | President Ballarat Camera Club Inc.

One of the many spectacular jumps made by Ben Fairbanks on Sunday 28 February.



April 2021

Next Informal Imaging Night:

Mon April 12, 7.30 pm at Bibby's Place.

Next Club Meeting: Wed 14 April

Judge: Neil Sinclair

Annuals Competition 2019-2021

We're already into April and the year's moving along. Consequently now's a good time to start thinking and planning for organising your images and prints for submitting them to be judged as part of the Club's major event - The Annuals.

The rules are simple, select up to 9 images that you've entered into monthly competitions from between 1st September 2019 until 31 August 2021. Images can be a combination of EDPIs or prints in any of the following categories:

- Open – Colour
- Open – Monochrome
- Landscape / seascape
- Nature
- People / portrait
- Creative
- Portfolio



Note that if you have previously entered an image as an EDPI you can enter that image into the Annuals as a print or vice versa. As long as the image is only submitted once. More details will follow.

Please renew your membership

Fees (\$65) were due on 1st Feb., 2021 and can be made payable by cash, cheque made out to "Ballarat Camera Club Inc." or by direct deposit into the Clubs' bank account:

B.S.B 063 507 Account No: 1016 1116

Account name: Ballarat Camera Club Inc.

Annual Safari

It's not too late to book. Come along and take photos dawn, sunset and night with others who share your passion.



The venue is Peterborough on the Great Ocean Road.

We are staying at the "Great Ocean Road Tourist Park" from Friday 30 April til Sunday 2 May.

Come along and enjoy some great photography, happy hours and friendly dinners.

This is to confirm the VAPS Convention will be a virtual event held over the day of June 6 2021 (instead of the originally scheduled Wangaratta event). This decision has been made with regret but with the health and safety of club membership paramount given the vaccine rollout in Australia has only just started.

Further details will be provided on the speakers and the program at a later date. Suffice to say there will be an array of very impressive professional photography speakers on various topics of interest.

March 2021 Competition Judging Sheet 2021

Image Title	Maker	Score	Honour /Merit	Judge Comment
Section Slide - Large Print Set Rural Scene				
The Farm	Steve Demeye	9	Acceptance	Not sure if the subject is the canola or the farm and want to know what is to the left of the frame. Good use of a drone - not making the mistake of flying as high as possible because you can. Good use of soft light, but a little overdone with the grad for my taste - flattens the image.
Two Gums	Trevor Bibby	13	Honour	Nice use of the red filter, great subject for black and white. Well balanced. Nit picking, but a little dodging on the background tree on the right would give even more balance.
Section Slide - EDPI				
Antelope Canyon Weed	Murray Mc Eachern	10	Acceptance	Find my eye wandering a bit. The strong textures bottom left are pulling me away from the weed, which is really the subject. Slot canyons are amazing, but can be hard to compose because it all looks good. I think a tighter crop and a more limited depth of focus would make the image stronger.
Boatyard	Frank Carroll	8	Acceptance	The extreme wide angle suits the curved shape of the boats and a great sky. I find the crop is a little extreme and want to see more of the subject. Both the masts and the trailer are cut at an odd point. Maybe a lower viewpoint with that wide angle perspective and great sky would make for a more powerful image.
Daylight Hours Only	Anne Carroll	8	Acceptance	Love the colour palette, but don't find myself settling anywhere in the frame. The sky is weak and ends up sending you out of the image. The texture of the water is great and I feel the subject is almost the picket and is's reflection with the boat as a secondary part of the picture. An alternative is a square crop losing the sky altogether. I think this would make the image stronger
Delicate Arch	Murray Mc Eachern	8	Acceptance	The sky and the foreground are taking away from the subject. The shot is in the middle, a landscape crop of the centre of the image, around the arches and two steps to the right to reveal the amazing snow covered mountain in the background (providing that didn't end up in a fall down a precipice) would make a much stronger image. The contrast of the ochre , dry foreground and the cold, snow covered peak is the story here.
Drowned	Daniel O'Donoghue	13	Honour	Nice shot. Hard to provide a focal point in a location like this, but the tree camera right does the job nicely. Good choice going black and white and letting the clouds blur. Classic Australian landscape.
Fairy Wren in the mist	Mark Bevelander	9	Acceptance	Great subject, like the monotone with the burst of blue. The mist does not come across as real. It should have more glow and vibrance, the overall effect is flat rather than everescent. More contrast and a tighter crop would help.
Fearful Fun	Frank Carroll	11	Merit	Han Solo was frozen in Carbonite - this lad looks to be frozen in Opal. Nicely cropped with the wave running along the top and good colours in the water. My only criticism would be the skin tones - flat and lacking a human colour. A little local correction would give much better separation and lift the whole image.
Fern Undergrowth	Steve Demeye	12	Merit	Very nice. lots of depth both tonally and focally. I find myself obsessing about the orange twig bottom centre. Maybe a local adjustment here to make it less prominent would help. The texture in the ferns is great, but a little over saturated. Nice image.

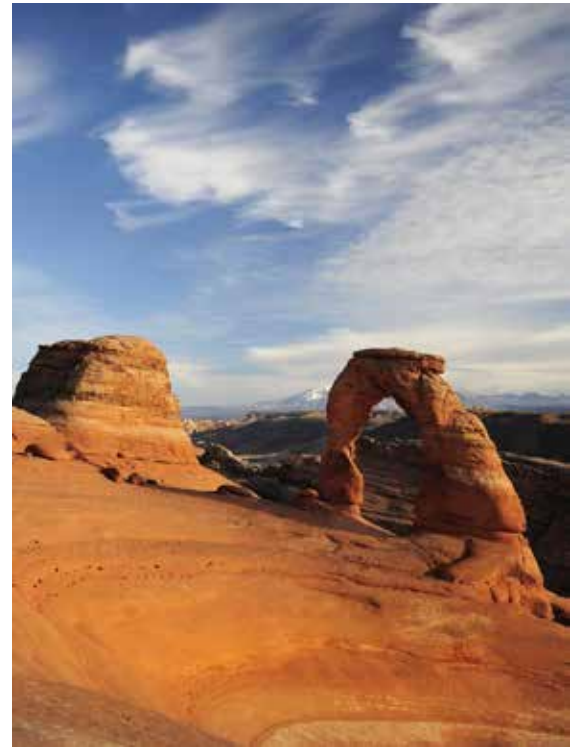
Grand Canyon in Snow	Murray Mc Eachern	9	Acceptance	Nice image but lacks a dominant subject. The tree on the right is the obvious candidate. The contrast between the snow and the red canyon is the story here and would be better served by concentrating on that snow covered tree against the red rocks beyond.
Here's Looking at You	Trevor Bibby	8	Acceptance	Looking at you but the eyes are not sharp. Very difficult to get these shots, but the eyes are paramount even if it is a bug.
Lake Catani	Trevor Bibby	9	Acceptance	Great sky, nice colours and tone, but the composition is lacking. Very close. Half a step to the left would have separated the top left of the rock from the foliage, giving it a stronger outline and taken it out of the dead centre of the image. Centering objects does convey calm and solidity, but also diminishes the importance of the subject, with such great texture and shape, brought out by the back 3/4 lighting this rock deserves more.
Like a candle in the wind	Ken Marsh	7	Non Acceptance	It may be the electronic file I am looking at, but this has sharpness issues. I am looking at the bug on the leaf. Colour contrast is great and the shallow depth of field is the right way to go but you have to nail the focus on the subject.
Newlyn reservoir	Daniel O'Donoghue	10	Acceptance	I love Newlyn reservoir and this is a bit I haven't seen before. Nice image but I have some worries about the colour balance. The image looks very cold, the hills in the background are white and the clouds are purple. Love the gradation in the water and the composition, although I would like to see more of the post on the left and the white blob on the right could be burnt in to make it less prominent..
Pink Tips	Steve Demeye	14	Honour	What's not to like - great colour contrast, sharp, and water droplets. The blue tone at the bottom of the picture has me interested, maybe more could be made of that and I feel there is another picture there with a tighter crop, putting the centre of the flower on the top right third. That leaf mid right is screaming to be made a hero.
Pride goeth before the fall	Ken Marsh	7	Non Acceptance	I see the picture as the two men on the rock. A vertical crop of that section would be weird and quirky. The people around them do not add to the image and the centred composition doesn't work. Cudos for seeing a journalistic moment but the composition does not tell the story, too much empty space.
Purple Aggy	Judy McEachern	10	Acceptance	Great colour and texture. Sharpness and noise is a bit of a problem here. The front petal really needs to be sharp throughout - it could be the electronic file I am looking at but it does not look sharp all the way. The choice of a black background is absolutely right, suits the colours perfectly, just watch the contrast range as the stem is blowing out. A little fill card and capturing in raw will give you a huge amount of leeway in post processing.
Queenscliff Pier	Bree Lusk	11	Merit	Like the water blur and the composition, centered, but suits the subject. Exposure or post production is a bit off. Highlights on the rails are gone and overall saturation has suffered as well. Hopefully this was shot in a raw format which will allow you to bring back that detail and saturation.
Rain at Loch Ard	Judy McEachern	11	Merit	Never put your camera away because it is raining. The atmospheric of rain, mist, dust are brilliant. Nice movement of the water and you wouldn't get that green hue on a sunny day. This is a different view that I have not seen before. Only thought is that I would like a bit more sky as I feel the composition is a bit squashed.

Ready Set Go	Anne Carroll	9	Acceptance	Nice shot - would add a little subtle vignette to mimic the natural feel of the water and keep the eye in the shot
Skye Road	Judy McEachern	9	Acceptance	Great location, but the road is the hero here. Bit of dodging and contrast on the curve would make this image pop.
St Georges Lake	Steve Demeye	10	Acceptance	Lovely calm day, great reflections and right to centre the horizon for that reason. Lacks a point of interest though.
St Joseph's star trails	Bree Lusk	11	Merit	I know how technically hard these shots are - all in the pre planning. The stars look a little over exaggerated to me. The sky no longer looks like night. All credit for getting the right position at the right time. maybe pull back the post processing and give a more natural look.
Sunrise at Bermi	Anne Carroll	8	Acceptance	I would be looking at that amazing detail in the rock or the cloud formations. The human subject is not required. There are so many crops of texture in this frame that would be stronger.
The Need for Speed	Geoffrey James	7	Non Acceptance	It's a picture of a plane. Not easy to get I know as they move quickly, but nothing here to excite unless you love planes in which case - brilliant. Sorry, technically good but not artistically up there. If you could get a matching sky colour as the exhaust and frame it better , then a winner.
Tiger Stare	Geoffrey James	8	Acceptance	Not sure the eyes are sharp and a bit of motion blur.
Tourist Road	Geoffrey James	7	Non Acceptance	Horizon is not straight and a little loose in the composition. Would be stronger if you had positioned the drone directly above the road (as long as there was no traffic as that would be illegal)
Waiting	Ken Marsh	8	Acceptance	Text reflection is a distraction. Sharp and well exposed, could benefit with a tighter crop.
Watch me jump	Bree Lusk	9	Acceptance	Nice moment - missed focus on the eyes, but that is a seriously hard ask in the moment.
Where the River Meets the Sea	Frank Carroll	9	Acceptance	Lacks a little contrast in both image processing and composition. Crop and tighten he composition - runs off to the left, and bring back some contrast. Post processing has left halos around the rocks.
Section Slide - EDPI Set				
Rural Scene				
A road less travelled	Ken Marsh	7	Non Acceptance	The road sign blocks the subject. Step to the right. Over processed and please don't put on watermarks.
After the harvest	Ken Marsh	7	Non Acceptance	Lacking a subject and not sharp, but that could be the file I am looking at. Composition is vital and a subject that is hero in th frame is so important. Here we have three that all fight for dominance.
Anyone for fresh tea	Vera Paulin	11	Merit	Good connection with the subject, background is a little flat. Could you have continued with the connection and got the subject in a clearer position to emphasise him over the background?.
Around the back of Ulura	Betty Bibby	8	Acceptance	Light is flat and composition not great. The tree i dead centre and not supported by the surrounding trees. Get low, get closer, pick a detail. find a different angle rather than eye level.
At the end of the day	Vera Paulin	11	Merit	Like the idea of putting the sun behind the tree. Off balance composition and lacking shadow detail. You had a connection here - walk up and talk to the people and get some close shots.The two on the right would have posed I'm sure and a great BG.

Better Get On With It	Anne Wilson	9	Acceptance	Flat and lacking detail and contrast - easily fixed in post production. Good use of the drone - more about finding a different perspective than being a flyboy. Dusk is great, bit of extra post production would pull a huge amount out of this shot, assuming you shot raw.
Blades	Geoffrey James	8	Acceptance	composition is a little off here. tighter crop maybe, but not sure it can be saved.
Claiming the Road	Judy McEachern	10	Acceptance	Can see it as book cover with all that head room for text. As a stand alone picture, it is a bit loose. Love the line of the barrier.
Dog Rocks	Betty Bibby	9	Acceptance	Love this part of Victoria. This lacks a bit of depth. The tree is brilliant, but the half and half composition does not do it justice. Feel like we are too far away to feel how unique this landscape is. Light is good, overcast with a dramatic sky is so demeaned - the sun does not always shine and landscape is not always represented at it's best in that light.
Emptying	Vera Paulin	9	Acceptance	Good timing, tighten it up - keep the context but lose the unnecessary parts of the frame.
Farm Shed	Murray McEachern	8	Acceptance	Can see where you are going here. Crop hard and follow the path. The s curve of the road is great, crop to the left of the writing on the shed, go black and white with a high contrast profile.
Farm Track	Judy McEachern	7	Non Acceptance	Make sure your horizons are straight. This has great potential. Find the detail. A tight shot of the reflection with the mad distortion or a look along the fence line with the texture of the posts. The colours are great, but the view has no focus.
Golden Bales	Anne Wilson	9	Acceptance	Lacks a focal point. I can see a shot around the lower left with long shadows and the texture of the grass.
Head to Head	Anne Wilson	10	Acceptance	Nice moment, captured well. A little over processed - top half and bottom half look like two different pictures.
Icelandic Vista	Carol Hall	10	Acceptance	Nice tones, a little loose in the composition. Feel there are two shots here. Go left and have the roadway leading to the chalet or go tight on the building on the left with the track above it.
Just Grazing	Trevor Bibby	9	Acceptance	A little too much foreground I think. Panoramas are hard and when cut in the middle by the horizon can become very static. Love the sheep, crop off the bottom and let them be more of the subject, even if it means more sky.
Lal Lal Reservoir	Daniel O'Donoghue	13	Honour	Nice view of Lal Lal. Good composition and detail. Cental Highlands Water would be more than happy to use that for its annual report cover.
Looking For Shade	Anne Wilson	9	Acceptance	Great subject engagement, but you cut off his feet! and the is a little half and half.
Making pots	Vera Paulin	10	Acceptance	Nice light - magic hour. Little lacking in shadow detail and sharpness. Could be the electronic file.
No More Cropping	Murray McEachern	10	Acceptance	Have the sun looking straight at you. Don't believe Kodak when they say have the sun over your shoulder. So love the way the light falls. Need to pull up the shadow detail and very warm colour balance which looks a little unnatural. Takes me back to the highlands. Would love to see some shots around that stone wall....
Pathway to the distant village	Mark Bevelander	8	Acceptance	Lacks a subject to draw you in.. Beautiful light.
Precious Water	Betty Bibby	10	Acceptance	Fascinating find. Would love to see more detail - a little wide, too much foreground. Understand the idea of centering the tank, but a few steps back and a longer lens would give it more prominence.

Rural Relics	Carol Hall	7	Non Acceptance	Very busy - find the detail in the scene and simplify it.
Silo	Geoffrey James	11	Merit	Nice drone shot. Feel like I wan't to rotate it and make it symmetrical. Great light.
Sunset Silhouette	Bree Lusk	10	Acceptance	Nice use of 3rds
The Flocks Out	Anne Wilson	9	Acceptance	Nice moment, but over processed. Halo's around your subject and way over sharpened.. Could be cropped to get rid of some of the headroom.
The Woodsman's Hut	Carol Hall	10	Acceptance	Nicely composed saleable image. Lift in the shadows would be a benefit.
Thirsty Beasts	Vera Paulin	8	Acceptance	See the series here. Please go tighter and concentrate on the subject. The man bottom right and the group on the right is a distraction, the scene is the men on the island with the cattle in the background. What is left out of a shot is as important as what it put in.
Vineyard at sunset	Mark Bevelander	10	Acceptance	Beautiful light. Composition is not great. Walk in closer and hero some grape leaves. The frame is also cut straight in two. Neither the foreground or the background id hero.
Vineyard Panorama	Carol Hall	14	Honour	Very nice - would make a corporate brochure
Wide Brown Land	Carol Hall	9	Acceptance	light is not great - re-shoot at a better time of day.
Section Slide - Large Print Open				
Eggs	Rebecca Nicolandos	12	Merit	Nicely done - good light and tones. Texture on the cloth pulls away from the eggs - simple post fix.
Smooth Riding	Anne Carroll	14	Honour	Great brain warp. Like the concept, but have a little trouble with the composition. Maybe I should, as the image is very weird. I find I am leaning to the left.... This is clever observation. If there is a wider version I would like to see it.
Sticks in the Mist	Betty Bibby	9	Acceptance	Needs to be cropped in my humble opinion. The bottom 1/3rd is not adding anything to the image
The Breakaways	Trevor Bibby	7	Non Acceptance	Know this landscape well. Colours are of course great, but no subject point.
The Mystic	Frank Carroll	9	Acceptance	Nice atmosphere but don't get the story. Great depth with the foreground foliage and the background rocks.
The Sun goes down over Lake Tyrrell	Betty Bibby	8	Acceptance	Beautiful colours, but no subject.
Under the Pier	Steve Demeye	10	Acceptance	Nice composition, but over processed - HDR is a good tool but can be overdone

Some Images from March's Competition







Syllabus 2020 -2021

From the Interclub Coordinator

Club entries for the **2021 VAPS Interclub Competition** have been selected for uploading to the VAPS website. These are:

VAPS 2021 Competition		
1	Bay of Islands	Judy McEachern
2	From My Window	Anne Carroll
3	Looking for platypus	Mark Bevelander
4	Molten Sea	Judy McEachern
5	Motherly Love	Carol Hall
6	Pink Tips	Steve Demeye
7	Ready Set Go	Anne Carroll
8	Abandoned Shed	Bree Lusk
9	Something Fishy	Vera Paulin
10	Sunset at Lake Tyrrell	Betty Bibby
11	The Night Window	Steve Demeye
12	The Ugly Duckling	Anne Wilson
13	Tree at Dog Rocks	Daniel O'Donoghue
14	Two Gums	Trevor Bibby
15	Barn Owl	Bree Lusk

Steve Demeye
Interclub Coordinator

May

Open/Set - "Found in the Shed"

An image depicting an object or objects typically found in a garage or shed. The object should be photographed in situ (ie within the shed/garage).

June

Open/Creative/Set - "A Leaf"

Image can include many leaves but must feature one leaf - dead or alive, complete or skeleton. May include fern fronds but not blades of grass.

July

Open/Set - "Liquids"

Any substance in liquid state - can be any shape or form. You are challenged to be as creative as you dare. The liquid must dominate the image. Must not include or be a part of large bodies of water.



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