



The **Flare**

OCTOBER 2021
ballaratcameraclub.org.au

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



Covered in Snow
Murray McEachern

Presidents Report

DIARY ITEMS

Next Informal Imaging Night:
Delayed due to Covid

Next Club Meeting: Wednesday 13 October 7.30 pm by Zoom.

Next Club Outing: Wildflowers Saturday 21 October

Commencement of Biennale: Now partly open

Annuals Competition Sat 27 November

Springfest Sunday 28 November

With the removal of the travel restrictions in Regional Victoria, there are many opportunities for photographers to take advantage of the Spring activity in both bird and wildflower photos.



8 Tips for Photographing Wildflowers

1. Use a tripod, one which can be adjusted low to the ground.
 2. Wait for an overcast or cloudy day. The sun can blowout parts of the flower.
 3. Get familiar with techniques of manual focus. Some cameras have indicators when an object is in focus.
 4. Use a shutter speed of 1/200 or faster and an aperture to create a bokeh background (f1.8-f4).
 5. ISO setting at 200.
 6. Use a lens with a short minimum focus distance (macro) although a telephoto lens can do the trick from a distance.
 7. Use focus stacking to broaden your depth of field either within the camera or by Photoshop or other software.
 8. Use the RGB histogram to check exposure, NOT the LCD preview.
- Remember to leave no trace...

Our next Club Meeting will be on **Wednesday 13 October** and it will be by Zoom.

The **Ballarat Biennale** is now partly open. It presents a great opportunity to freshen up our own skills by viewing others achievements. In particular go and view our members' presentations.

Please note that the acceptance of prints for club competitions (except for the Annual Competition) has been suspended for the remainder of the year due to Covid restrictions.

Our next Club outing will be a Spring Wildflower and Orchid hunt. It is scheduled for Saturday 21 October with the likely venues being either the Enfield Forest or the Brisbane Ranges.

I will send out an email a few days before the date to finalise the time and meeting place.

This will be a great opportunity to get close to Nature with a group of likeminded photographers. If you haven't done this type of photography before there will be lots of support available on the day.

Syllabus 2021 -2022

October

Open/Set - "Slow Shutter Speed"

A shutter speed that slows down what we naturally see. Speed to be slower than 1/10 sec. It must be obvious in the image that a slowshutter speed was used. (For example motion blur) (Technical)

November

Open/Creative/Set - "The Colour Blue"

An image highlighting the colour blue. The blue may dominate the image or be a single item that occupies a small but pictorially important part of the image. Images relying on blue skies as the main subject or are manipulated using cool colour temperatures (white balance) are not acceptable. (Artistic/Creative)

February

Open/Creative/Set - "A Gate"

A gate any type or size. The gate maybe open or closed. (Artistic/Creative)

March

Open/Set - "Low Key"

Manipulating light to draw attention to a specific part of the subject while at the same time keeping large mounts of shadows in order to add depth to the image. (Technical)

April

Open/Set - "Panorama"

An image with a wide format or field of view. Can be taken as a single image and cropped or by stitching together two or more images. The image must be at least twice as long as it is high. (Technical)

September 2021 Competition Judging Sheet 2021

Image Title	Maker	Score	Honour /Merit	Judge Comment
Section Slide - EDPI Open				
Blue Wren	Sonia Bickley	9	Acceptance	A very difficult subject as they just don't stop moving. You have captured the luminous blues in the feathers very well and the background is nicely blurred. There is a lack of sharpness in the image especially on the wren. It seems the focus point is on the tree bark not on the eye of the wren. Next time try a greater depth of field and focus on the birds eye. Cropping off the lower half of the image would help to make the wren the centre of attention.
Dead Tree Road	Steve Demeye	12	Merit	Snowgums are one of our favourite trees. We like the way the road leads the eye into the scene. B&W is a great option as the stark trees stand out well against the background. The clouds add to the overall impact of the scene. Maybe try using a little less contrast which would bring out the tones in the darker leafy areas of the trees and also soften the clouds a tiny bit. We feel that cropping the very left of the image to make the road a bit more central would add the overall impact of the scene.
Heavy Bombers over Lake Wendouree	Ken Marsh	11	Merit	Great title. Right time right place to capture the swans in flight. In this instance the background is a bit intrusive. Try panning or using a smaller depth of field to blur the details of the background more. The swans are well placed, flying into the frame although in a perfect world it would be better if they were separated a bit more. A bit more light on the black feathers would allow us to see more details. There is also quite a bit of noise (grain) in the background which indicates that you may have used a fairly high ISO. Consider cloning out the yellow buoy in the water as this tends to grab the attention.
Island Arch in winter	Carol Hall	11	Merit	A great spot to photograph. A touch more brightness would help the colours come to life and a slightly longer exposure would help to blur the water a bit more. It appears that you have focussed on the rear stack as the focus gets softer nearer to the front of the image. A greater depth of field may help. There are four sensor spots in the sky that need to be removed (by cloning).
Long view to the Apostles	Carol Hall	11	Merit	Beautiful light on the cliffs and the apostles and the panorama format suits the subject. We would suggest that you go even further and crop out a third to half of the foreground. Also add a bit more saturation and contrast to the cliffs to really bring out the colours and textures.
Mullawallah	Ken Marsh	12	Merit	Beautiful colours and light and the right time of day. The colours and textures in the tree trunks stand out well. Moving to the right a bit would stop the tree branch from hiding the reed bed. Straightening the horizon would also help to keep the water from draining out of the wetlands.
One in every family	Leo Ryan	11	Merit	This image captures the crazy antics that pelicans do with their beaks. The white/light areas on the birds and guano are washed out leading to a lack of detail in the feathers and beaks. The overall exposure could be reduced to give more depth of colour and texture. Not easy in such bright sunshine.

Origins	Frank Carroll	11	Merit	An interesting shop making for a great photographic subject. In this instance we think you have tried to include too many elements. The shop with all the intricate metal work and decorations has enough to hold our interest. We would suggest that you crop out the shops on either side as well as above and wait until the people have moved away or include just one person either entering or leaving the shop or perhaps looking in the window. The colours, patterns and textures are great although the whole image needs straightening.
Pretty	Frank Carroll	13	Honour	The colours are spot on and the eye has a catch light. The feathers have definition/separation although just a smidge soft. The eye and beak are sharpest part of the image. The background is nicely out of focus although we find the dark line running diagonally across just a little distracting. That said we cannot tell the swallow where to pose so you have done well.
Sun and Showers, Bay of Martyrs	Carol Hall	13	Honour	A wonderfully moody image with great atmosphere. Here you almost have two photographs in one. The top half would stand up well on its own and the bottom half could be a slightly more abstract view of the waves, rocks and light. The whole image works well also. We would like to see the image "straightened" just a bit as the waves appear to be rushing uphill. This could be an illusion but we think the image would benefit from doing this. The sky could be lightened a little but there is just the right amount of detail in both the light and dark areas to hold the viewers attention.
Twisted	Anne Wilson	13	Honour	Snow gums and fog, you've made us even happier. These trees are always difficult to isolate when photographing. Here the fog is doing that for you and the main tree trunks stand out well. The colours are soft but that suits the scene. We suggest cropping a bit off the left side and bottom to remove some of the messy branches and the weeds in the foreground. A tiny bit more contrast would further enhance the colours and shapes of these beautiful high country trees.
Water Wheel	Steve Demeye	14	Honour	WOW! What a different take on a beach combing image. There is plenty of movement in the water and splash while keeping the details where they are needed. Well exposed, well framed with no distractions.
Winter Evening at the Lake	Ken Marsh	13	Honour	The colours around the lake are really stunning on an evening like this one. The image is sharp throughout and there are good reflections in the water on the right. The only distraction is the pathway in the bottom left hand corner. Cropping the left of the image up to the trees would help to minimise this.
9ft Post	Murray Mc Eachern	10	Acceptance	This is a good topic for a B&W image. The numbering and lettering on the post do provide a level of context. I would have liked a little more contrast and the back post does intrude a bit on the overall image and I would have liked to have seen it more blurred.
A Dusting of Snow	Murray Mc Eachern	13	Honour	This images is all texture and light with great contrast between the front rock structure and the background rocks receding gracefully to highlight the front. The dusting of snow adds well to the image, without that, it would have been a completely different picture.
Evening Glow	Judy McEachern	12	Merit	This image has to be in the Outback to get those bright orange colours. It's a beautifully structured image with the foreground being dominated by the large eucalypts and the trees across the water leading the eye into the distance. For me, it just signals peace and contentment.

Fixer Upper	Daniel O'Donoghue	11	Merit	A very detailed image which doesn't quite look real. Almost too detailed and over sharpened? It is an interesting subject let down by the harsh lighting and post processing. For an old house perhaps a softening of both the lighting and colours would suit better. We would like to suggest cropping both sides and some off the bottom to help concentrate attention on the house.
High Sierras	Murray Mc Eachern	10	Acceptance	The juxtaposition between the foreground and the hills in the background is quite interesting. The colours are quite striking and the image is sharp throughout. However I do feel that these two element compete with each other to the extent where there's no clear point of interest. Still, a striking picture.
Isolation	Judy McEachern	10	Acceptance	Isolation certainly strikes a chord here, although that feeling is lessened by the narrow strip of buildings being the only aspect of this image that the eye can rest on. I wonder if the background forest was more visible that this would provide a great balance.
Lightning in the clouds	Mark Bevelander	11	Merit	A very moody sunrise. Interesting colours and lighting both from the sunrise and the lightning in the background. There is a lot of graininess/noise in this image which takes away from the beautiful colours of the sunrise especially the pinks on the top of the rock formations. Consider cropping out the small rock which is partially visible on the right side of the image. There is a dark vertical line, slightly visible, about halfway between the right stack and the edge of the image.
Razorback Panorama	Daniel O'Donoghue	14	Honour	A beautiful image full of colour and light. It is sharp front to back with movement in the sea and the clouds. Has focus stacking been used here? Consider moving the camera slightly to the right to show a little less of the land and get the whole rock stack in the scene.
Star (s)Truck	Daniel O'Donoghue	15	Honour	Love the title. Wonderful image which is sharp front to back You have managed to capture fantastic colours in both the sky and the truck. The lighting inside the truck and on the grass in front of the truck could (in our opinion) be reduced just a little as we find it competes with the luminosity of the sky.
Streaky sky in the morning	Mark Bevelander	14	Honour	Stunning sky, colours and movement. The exposure in the pastel colours of the sunrise light is well handled. Beautiful colours also in both the rocks and water. For us the only distraction is the patch of sand in the foreground. We suggest a small amount of cropping to reduce this area.
The Observant Parrot	Mark Bevelander	9	Acceptance	You had very difficult lighting conditions here which have resulted in a very grainy image which is not quite in focus. We think that because of the low light the shutter speed was too slow causing camera movement. A crop to the left of the tree trunk would help to remove the bright area which is taking our attention away from the parrot.
Yellow Fungi	Judy McEachern	11	Merit	Beautiful and sharp throughout the fungi. The colour is natural and the background is beautifully out of focus, as is the foreground bit of ground.

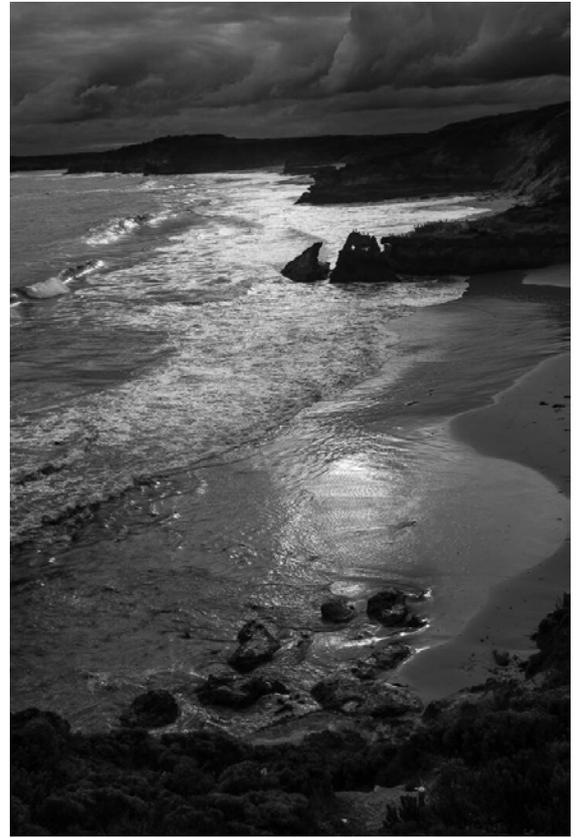
Section Slide - Large Print Set Mans Best Friend				
Play It Again Sam	Steve Demeye	15	Honour	The relationship between the dog and the musician is obvious here. The image is pin sharp where it needs to be using great depth of field to separate the don from the background. The use of black and white with what looks to be a slight sepia tone has worked really well.
Section Slide - Large Print Open (Large Print)				
A Bit Chilly	Judy McEachern	10	Acceptance	This is a wonderful shed with so many rustic elements to it. Which makes me wonder why it's not more central to the image. I tried cropping the hill out and it became, to my mind, a much stronger image, bringing out the shed as well as the ground to the right of the shed.
Jokusarlon Lagoon	Murray Mc Eachern	10	Acceptance	Take out two-thirds of the sky and the ground, and frozen lakes, seem to stretch out and become more dominant. A great moody shot, a pity there wasn't a figure somewhere to provide some scaling.
Mangrove edge	Leo Ryan	10	Acceptance	Mangroves can be tricky to photograph as they are usually found in high contrast lighting conditions which is what has happened here. This has lead to overexposure of the image. Some blurring has occurred on the right and the bottom of the picture from the leaves of another mangrove which act as distraction. Perhaps moving to a different position would have helped on this occasion. Using a greater depth of field would help to improve the overall focus of the image.
Water Under the Bridge	Steve Demeye	14	Honour	The lighting here is beautiful. Great subject matter and the soft moving water leads the eye into the image and under the bridge. We feel that a crop to the left of the image would help to concentrate the viewers attention on the water flowing under the bridge. The image is sharp from front to back. The only improvement we can suggest would be to remove the branch from the very front of the frame.
Section Slide - Large Print Open (Large Print Open)				
Covered in Snow	Murray Mc Eachern	14	Honour	I like all the elements in this image. Firstly the touch of colour adds so much by balancing with the white snow and black rocky foothills. The fence to the left leads your eye into the centre distance with the line of trees, also the subtle banners of light in the sky works well here, merging with the mountain top to keep the eye to what's important, the foreground shrubs and trees.
Kookaburra	Judy McEachern	12	Merit	Great capture! The bird is super sharp and a wonderful catchlight in the eye. There's a slight fuzziness on the feathers at the top of the head but that's really nitpicking.
The Lone Fisherman	Mark Bevelander	10	Acceptance	A thoroughly ethereal image. Perhaps a little overexposed but the soft pastel colours lend a beauty to this image. That said there is an overall lack of sharpness. In this case the boat and fisherman as well as the posts "need" to be sharp. If you can go back and try again please do so as the sharpness is all that is missing.

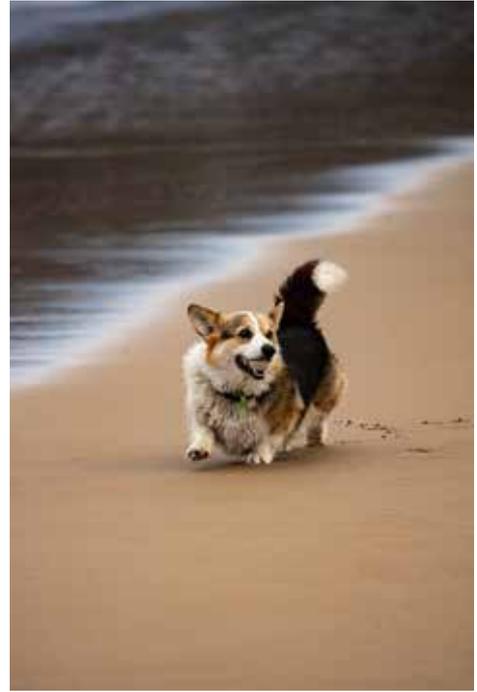
Section Slide - Small Print Set Mans Best Friend				
Tired out farm dog	Leo Ryan	12	Merit	The face says it all. The expression has been beautifully captured. The use of black and white here is a great choice and it is well exposed and sharp where needed. That said you always need to keep the background in mind as the post, table or chair leg and scattered leaves are a bit of a distraction.
Section Slide - Small Print Open				
Twins on a Mullock Heap	Mark Bevelander	11	Merit	Black and white suits the image well. The trees stand out well against the sky. The sky is a little bit grainy/noisy which could be reduced by the use of a lower ISO. Consider cropping out some of the shadows in the foreground and also cloning out the cattle feeder on the right side of the mullock heap. There is a large dark spot beside the top of the left tree (if you enlarge the image it becomes easier to see) which may be a sensor spot or something on your lens. Of more concern is a dark vertical line in the clouds on the right side of the image. These are sometimes caused by cloning from the edge of the image.
Section Slide - EDPI Set Mans Best Friend (EDPI)				
Eyes for You	Leo Ryan	11	Merit	What a soulful expression. You have framed the dogs face very well and haven't made the mistake of trying to fit it all in. You have done well getting in close to centre our attention on the dogs face but the image is let down by the soft focus on all but the right eye. A little more depth of field would help to improve this. Also you have exposed well for the eyes the other areas of the image are a little overexposed resulting in some loss of detail in the fur. Finally try cloning out the errant whisker and adding a little more contrast.
Fun on the Beach	Vera Paulin	11	Merit	He is obviously having fun. The colours and lighting are good but we can't really see the expression on the dogs face. Perhaps taking the photo from a lower angle would help. Consider cropping a little off the top and bottom of the image to really concentrate our attention on the dog.
His Lordship	Vera Paulin	11	Merit	Who owns the beach. What a difference it makes getting down the a lower angle when photographing a subject low to the ground. This time we are engaging with the dog and his enjoyment of the beach. Well done considering he was moving towards to you at the time.A faster shutter speed and greater depth of field as well as focussing on the eyes would help to sharpen the facial features.
King Louie	Anne Wilson	11	Merit	Creatively framed. Whether photographing portraits of pets, people or other wildlife, the first rule is to focus on the eye/eyes. In this case the nose is the sharpest spot. Increasing the depth of field would help to have more of the face in focus. We like the use of black and white for this image. There are a couple of specks and a stray hair between the eyes that could be cropped out. Just being fussy here.

Little Doggie Playing Tennis	Frank Carroll	13	Honour	A very cute little dog captured mid stride and obviously having fun. Sharp where it needs to be with the background nicely blurred. The photographer has got down to dog level concentrate our eyes on the dog. Consider cropping top and bottom to make it into a square format to further draw our attention to the subject. There are a couple of sensor spots near the edge of the water which need to be removed (cloned out).
My resting spot	Leo Ryan	10	Acceptance	Well framed with good lighting and colour. A beautiful expression has been captured here. However the image is let down by a lack of sharpness throughout. We would suggest that a higher ISO and maybe the use of a tripod would help with this as it looks to be camera movement.
Roxy	Anne Wilson	14	Honour	The eyes have it. Very sharp (even the reflections of the windows behind the photographer). There is good detail in the black fur and, although a little grainy, the soft striped background adds just enough interest without being intrusive.
The Big Wave	Vera Paulin	11	Merit	A good action shot. The colours are good and it has been well framed. We would have preferred eye contact with the photographer but we can still see the expression on the dogs face and a catchlight in the eye. It leaves the viewer guessing of the expression was one of enjoyment or fear. The focus is a little lacking but once again the dog and water are both moving. Perhaps a faster shutter speed would help but there is a balancing act needed here to still keep some movement in the waves.
Who's Got the Ball	Steve Demeye	14	Honour	Stunning image , stunning dog groomed for the occasion. Great technique and beautifully sharp throughout. The soft blur of the background and and the lighting add to the overall atmosphere. There are a couple of errant hairs which could be cloned out near the dogs nose.

Images from September 2021









Biennale Open Program

Now re-scheduled to finish 9 January 2022

<https://ballaratfoto.org/event-category/open-program/>

Anne and Frank Carroll
VENUE
Forge Pizzeria
14 Armstrong St North
Ballarat

TIMES
Mon-Fri 12pm-9pm
Sat-Sun 8am-9pm



If you already had a booking during the lockdown period contact info@ballaratfoto.org to re-schedule.

Vera Paulin
VENUE
Saigon Allee
30 Armstrong St North
Ballarat

TIMES
Wed-Thu 5pm-9pm
Fri-Sat 12pm-3pm, 5pm-9pm
Sun 12pm-4pm



Mieke Boynton and Matt Palmer
Photosynthesis
Fairbanks Eye Gallery
•28 Aug - 24 Oct





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