



F1 The Flare

October 2022

ballaratcameraclub.org.au

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



"A Yarra Sunset" by Ken Marsh

Presidents Report

Mark Bevelander | President Ballarat Camera Club Inc.

DIARY ITEMS

Annual General Meeting: Wed October 12, 7.30 pm
Annual Awards, Saturday 26th November 7.30 pm

Main issues when photographing through windows

1. LOOK FOR SINGLE-GLASS WINDOWS

Modern hotels often have double or even triple glass windows. With them, there is a reflection from the inner pane and another reflection from the outer pane. The additional glare and internal reflections sometimes cannot be totally eliminated even with the tips below. If possible, try to avoid them.

3. TIME YOUR SHOOT SO THAT THE WINDOW IS NOT LIT

When the sun strikes a window, not only it creates glare, but any defects and dirt become more visible. Try to time the shoot when the window is in the shade. If the building casts shade on parts of the window, position yourself to shoot through that part. That's just not the sun, though. Be careful that windows can be illuminated from outside at night. The darker it gets, the more problematic it is, especially with double glass windows.

4. USE A LARGE APERTURE

Shallow depth of field minimizes the effect of window glare and defects by reducing depth of field. In fact, with a wide open lens, you can even shoot through a fine grid – such as mosquito net – without it showing in the picture when it rests against the lens.

5. SHOOT FROM AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE WINDOW

Besides helping reduce reflections, this reduces the effect of window glare and dirt by pushing them out of the depth of field area. The closer you get to the window, the more its surface gets out of focus.

6. BEWARE OF VIBRATION IF TOUCHING THE GLASS

If shooting straight, resting the lens against the glass creates enough of a seal to eliminate reflections. However, if using an SLR, the contact against the glass amplifies the vibration caused by the mirror. In that case, use live view.

7. SHOOT AS STRAIGHT AS POSSIBLE

The more directly you look through the glass, the fewer reflections you get. At a large angle, you get light that bouncing inside the window glass, causing a displaced ghost image, more noticeable with double-glass windows. A lens with shift is ideal because it let you shoot with the lens straight on, while varying the composition. Also, note that wide-angle lenses capture more reflections than longer lenses.

9. TURN LIGHTS OFF AND MOVE AWAY BRIGHT OBJECTS

To avoid reflections, the key is to make the interior as dark as possible. Naturally, you'll want to turn off all the lights if you can. Also move away from the window bright objects such as lamps, and cover white sheets. In order to make the room darker, you might be tempted to draw the curtains, leaving only an opening for shooting, but this is counter-productive. Most curtains have a light-colored lining to reflect the heat, which will also bounce light back onto the glass.

10. WEAR DARK CLOTHING

You will be standing close to the camera, so make sure to wear something that doesn't bounce light back to the glass!

12. BRING A DARK CLOTH

Use a dark cloth over the camera so that you create your own dark space. In a pinch, draping a dark T-shirt around the lens can work, but it can be difficult control its intrusion into the picture.

Annual General Meeting-Wed Oct 12

That time of the year is coming up where we renew our Committee. Please consider nominating for the Committee. A number of office holders are not re-nominating and the Committee is currently, significantly undermanned.

"Please support your Club by attending this meeting."

Co-operation Between Clubs

Discussion are being held between the Committees of our Club and the Ballarat Photography Group to work together more closely.

A trip is scheduled for both clubs, to the

2. Clarksdale Bird Reserve Sunday 13 November

Submit your photos on FaceBook

Are you on Facebook? If so, join the **Photographers of Greater Ballarat Group**

at: [tinyurl.com/5n8jprw5](https://www.facebook.com/groups/tinyurl.com/5n8jprw5) and look at others' images as well as sharing your own.

September Images - Judge: Mark Bevelander

October 2022 Competition Judging Sheet 2022

Image Title	Maker	Score	Honour / Merit	Judge Comment
Section Slide - Open (EDPI)				
A Waterfall enters the Sea	Frank Carroll	11	Merit	A dramatic coastline with one focal point being the waterfall cascading down the cliff. It is a dull day which results in a flat light overall. I wonder if more was made, using a portrait view, of the waterfall and the water running down on the beach whether that I might add more power to the image.
A Yarra Sunset	Ken Marsh	11	Merit	An atmospheric moment in the early morning on the river. I like the counterpoint between the people in the boat and the wanderers on the boardwalk. Strangely, the sun reflection on the one window pane on the building on the left side of the river adds real interest. The one negative of this image is the level of noise on the darker areas, perhaps the ISO level was set too high to nullify any camera shake.
Burnt Out	Trevor Bibby	10	Acceptance	Such a variety of colours and shapes here. The various angles and shapes of the grass trees do provide some interest and does lead your eye to the top of this image. This type of busy image would benefit from having one object, shape or colour which forms a difference from other parts of the image for the eye to zoom into.
Camp Street	Anne Carroll	13	Honour	A powerful image, sharp throughout captures interest. Very low level of noise, given it's a night shot. The starbursts are real focal points and are generally caused by refraction across the aperture blades implying a high aperture setting (small hole). The roof line on the top left of the image forms a leading line into the distance.
Central Square	Ken Marsh	10	Acceptance	Definitely a cold, winter's day in Ballarat. I like the low angle this image was taken at, The light and colour on the buildings is good and sharp. The far left of the image cause some distraction as does the gutter in the lower left. I do think adding a moving car to the near left would add a point of interest for the viewer to grab onto.

Cormorant in the Rain	Murray Mc Ea	9	Acceptance	Great capture of the bird on the tree branch and a good bokeh background. However there are some issues in regards to the level of noise which has caused an overall softening of the image as well as the front feathers of the bird being blownout.
Cutie	Frank Carroll	13	Honour	Wonderful image, nice and sharp with a distinct catchlight in the eye of the bird. The fact that the bird is engaged with probably some food possibility adds interest to the image.
Flooded River	Judy McEache	11	Merit	The river is certainly flooded and the swirls in the water adds interest here as did the reflections in the still water. I wonder, though whether if the photographer had taken a few steps back the end result may not have appeared to be so crowded.
Fordson	Trevor Bibby	12	Merit	This image contains a story of past times of this tractor. The un-mown grass adds to that story in that the relic here has become part of the scenery. The angle taken of the tractor is good, a shame that it was in shade and I wonder if the photo was taken from the other side whether it would add more warmth and clarity. I do find that the path and road in the background does distract somewhat. Perhaps some discreet cloning here?
Lady in Red	Vera Paulin	14	Honour	There are many things I like about this portrait. That it's tightly cropped adds to the person's personality and that she's not looking into the camera encourages a natural perspective. There's just enough smile to bring out the slightly open mouth and smile lines around her eyes. Combined with the bright colours of her head dress and the bit shown on her left shoulder combines well with her ear rings. A great photo all round.
Lake Reflections	Anne Carroll	11	Merit	A good panoramic zoom shot of Lake Wendouree. The rippled reflections provide the real interest in this photo and to bring those more to the fore I would suggest cropping out half of the sky. Also the orange float is very distracting.

Life's Tough with Twins	Betty Bibby	11	Merit	Sometimes a minimalist shot results in a very interesting photo. However the rule of thirds does become more important in this type of photo and I would have cropped out a bit to the left of the tree. It might be that the photographer had wanted to keep the cloud formations in that bit.
Looking Up	Trevor Bibby	12	Merit	Great photo. The light is good, the angle is perfect and the trees form a leading line into the centre of the crown of the trees where there's a glow of sunlight on the leaves.
Morning Flight	Judy McEachern	14	Honour	How difficult is it to capture a bird in flight and have every part of the bird and sharp without motion blur. The sun is in the perfect place to capture the catchlight in the eye. The sky is dull enough not to take over from the clarity on the bird.
Oliver and Bailey	Lyn Fowler	9	Acceptance	While this is a very cute photo showing the dogs concentration on some activity, I cannot understand why both dogs are not in focus, when the left one has a greater degree of interest due to its flowing hair. This dog is too distinct to be regarded as a bokeh background.
Rural view	Betty Bibby	10	Acceptance	I like the way the hills on both sides slope down to form a bowl effect, also the two thorn bushes frame the whole image well. Unfortunately, one of the main points of interest is that the leading line of the stone wall is not completely in focus and neither is the far back of the image. Perhaps a higher aperture setting here would overcome this.
Sea Pool	Frank Carroll	14	Honour	This is a beautiful image. The rock wall on the left is as sharp as a pin and the warm colours create a great contrast with the cool sky. The reflections provide a mirror image with no ripple on the water. A lovely photo.
Should have gone to Specsavers	Vera Paulin	14	Honour	Another great portrait. The man here while looking directly into the camera lens still exhibits an expression full of meaning, reinforced by the complex age wrinkles. The scarf and the hat provide a balance and contrast for the face. The background is soft and doesn't intrude.

White Butterfly	Betty Bibby	13	Honour	Great capture with the eye of the moth perfectly in focus. Given macros have a limited depth of field it's quite a task to get the right focus given the insect can move at any time.
Your Table is Ready	Ken Marsh	10	Acceptance	Interesting angle and perspective on this B&W image. The title is amusing but the background is distracting, cropping this out would improve the image but the pail would have to be shifted to a lower plane.
Section Slide - Set - "Silhouettes" (EDPI)				
Bare Winter	Anne Wilson	13	Honour	This is an atmospheric image where the soft orange light clearly outlines the branches of the tree to form a substantial silhouette. A lovely image.
Cocoanut Palms	Murray Mc Ea	11	Merit	The silhouettes of the palm trees definitely stand out, however there's a bit too much black here and perhaps the image would also be improved by some more colour in the background.
Dusk on the Barwon	Anne Wilson	13	Honour	I love the leading lines of the bridge which causes the eye to move from the figures to the orange sky in the distance. Can I be cheeky and say how fortuitous it was for those figures to be at that place at the right time?
Icarus	Murray Mc Ea	13	Honour	Fascinating picture of eagle against the wisps of clouds and particularly, the refracted colours showing around the bird.
Lone Beast	Anne Wilson	11	Merit	Great sky with tree silhouette balancing the right hand side of the image with the cow and the fence. A minor point is that the head of the cow is partially obscured into the foreground black reducing the effect somewhat.
Moeraki Boulders	Carol Hall	10	Acceptance	While the boulders do form a silhouette in the background, it is the foreground that dominates this picture with the light shining on the wet rocks and the water. The black half circles of the boulders actually form a negative part of this image.

Peaceful morning	Vera Paulin	10	Acceptance	The silhouette of the face here is quite striking but I'm not sure how the title relates to this and the viewer is left wondering where the story is of this image.
Posts at Cat Bay	Judy McEachy	12	Merit	A great capture of the broken jetty with the clear silhouettes of the cormorants. An improvement to this image would have been if the photographer had put the jetty to the right of the frame which would have taken in the light on the water and used the advantage of the rule of thirds.
Skating into the Light	Sonia Bickley	9	Acceptance	While the composition is good here the photo has far too much grain in it possibly from over cropping as well noise from the dark scene.
That Wanaka Tree	Carol Hall	14	Honour	Classic view of the NZ Wanaka Tree wonderfully silhouetted against the backdrop of the alpine mountains. Great composition with good depth of field all the way through.
The Memory Remains	Carol Hall	12	Merit	The complex tree forms a wonderful silhouette against the colourful sky. The pool of water in the right foreground does form a distraction and I think the image becomes more powerful with the right hand side of the image cropped out.

Syllabus for 2022 - 2023

The Syllabus for the next 12 months has been approved.

The Committee has also approved a minor variation of the 'Creative' definition to align the Club's definition with the Australian Photographic Society:

APS DEFINITION OF CREATIVE:

Creative/ (E) - Creative or experimental photographs display a novel effect because of an unusual combination of objects and /or unusual viewpoint.

Photographs in which the images have been modified during or after exposure by using an experimental technique are also eligible in Creative/Experimental sections.

The photograph must always have a basic photographic image. Digital manipulation processes may be employed provided the original photograph was exposed by the entrant.

Syllabus Companion

8

November
"Through a Window"

Definition:

A window is defined as an opening for the purpose of admitting light or air. "Through a Window" is therefore defined as a picture taken through an opening designed to admit air and light in a building or form of transport. It may be taken through glass, but in all cases, some evidence of the opening surround, or a reflection must be included.

Sample Image



Sample of September Photos





*SERENDIP BIRD SANCTUARY
SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER*







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