

# Flare



December 2023

ballaratcameraclub.org.au



Lake Learmonth *by Neil Sinclair*

- **Dates to Remember**
- **January BBQ**
- **February Outing**
- **Inspiration – Abstract Photography**
- **Geelong Interclub**

## Dates to Remember: 2024

### January BBQ

January 17<sup>th</sup>

At Betty and Trevor Bibbys place.

*BYO everything.*

Bring your prints for entry into the February "Avian Photography" competition.

The last date for entries into the Feb competition is the 19<sup>th</sup> January. So please bring your prints to the BBQ or make arrangements with Sonia to deliver them to her.

### February Outing

February 5<sup>th</sup>

Twilight Walk – Abstract Photography

*Meet at 7:00pm at the Trades Hall in Camp Street.*

### Geelong Interclub

24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at the Geelong club clubrooms.

Bring your print entries along to the clubs meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

*See details on Page 15*

### February 14<sup>th</sup> 2024

*(Valentines Day)*

and First meeting night for 2024

Open/Creative/Set – "Avian Photography"

*An image of a bird in flight or perched in their natural habitat. The image should exclude man made elements.*

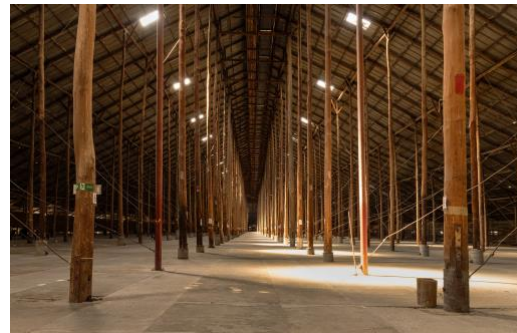
This is the first meeting to be held in our new clubrooms at the **Eastwood Centre** in Dana Street.

### Annual Camp 2024 – April 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

Murtoa – Home of the "Stick Shed"

*The only remaining Grain Store built during World War 2*

*More details next in months newsletter.*



## Presidents Report – Betty Bibby

Well another year draws to a close and we have finished the year with November being an interesting month.

Mieke Boynton's presentation on Abstract Photography Styles was inspiring. We will expand on this theme with a street walk in February, beginning at Camp St.

The Annual Presentation was a well, attended event but due to no electricity on the evening saw us re-convene on the Sunday morning. Thank you once again to all who helped make this a successful event.

Jeremy's presentation was interesting, his film portraits portfolio has a distinctive high contrast vibe.

Unfortunately, the Christmas BBQ drew a poor number but those who attended enjoyed the companionship and pleasant weather at the Buninyong Gardens.

2024 will see us at our new venue in Eastwood St.

So please have a safe and happy festive season and remember to rekindle your enthusiasm for photography in 2024. Looking forward to see where your photography journey takes you next year.

Take care, Betty



A full summary and photos of the Annual Presentation Night will be included in the January Flare.



# Abstract Photography

*Our Set Subject for the March competition.*

*"A pictorial and pleasing arrangement of shapes and colours which are not easily recognisable as known objects". (Artistic/Creative)*

Abstract Photography isn't easily defined.

An abstract photograph can evoke many different interpretations, views or opinions as it is conceived or imagined outside of the common perception of reality. These images can make us pause for thought, even make us question what we are seeing.

Abstract photography is not representational. Lines and shapes can add depth and impact to your image.

Think about the use of light and shadow to highlight textures.

Use colour to add atmosphere and intrigue to your image.



Intentional Camera Movement.

*While using a longer exposure than normal move your camera sideways, up and down or in a circular motion while the shutter is open.*

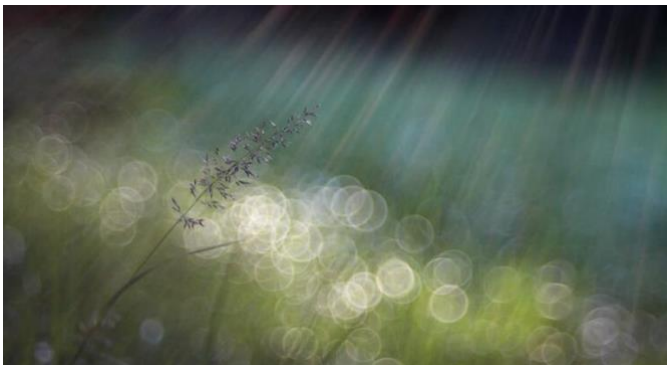


Think about using Light and Shadow combined with movement to capture landscape in a different way

This image was highly commended in the “Expressions & Impressions of the Landscape” category in the Landscape Photographer of the Year 2023 Competition.



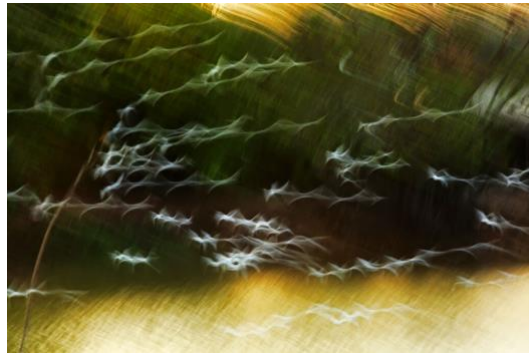
A macro lens is ideal for picking out close-up details when focusing on texture, however, you also have the option to zoom and crop in post-production



Using patterns in water, reflections and droplets can make for really interesting shots. Objects or subjects within the reflection aren't always in focus or recognisable, but that allows the viewer to use their imagination to interpret the image.







By intentionally moving the camera or taking a multiple exposure, you can transform recognizable landscapes into intriguing abstract images.

Using a shallow Depth of Field, F4 or F5, will give your images a soft dreamy background.

Colours will blur, and the outlines of each branch will melt away.



A long exposure of flowing water can change the way the subject is perceived.

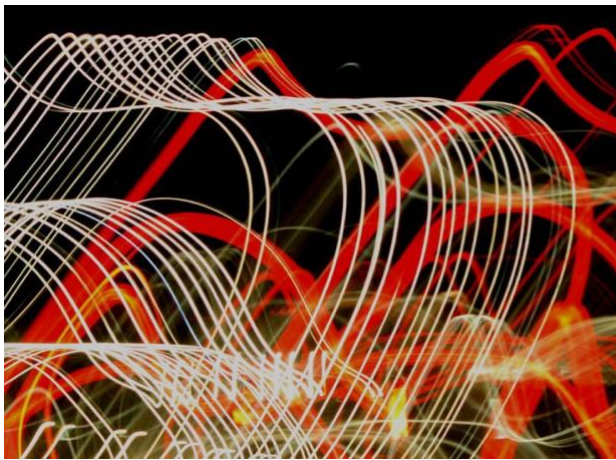
Combining water motion with camera movement can also produce interesting results.





Experimenting with interesting or unique textures can add excitement to your image. Focus on a section of the subject to find and create new ways of looking at an object.

By isolating a fragment of a scene and concentrating on the textures and shapes of everyday objects, you can turn a photo of an old radiator with peeling paint into something else that focuses on pattern, colour, light, and texture.



Try taking a photograph of the patterns created by smoke or steam.

As with all photography, lines and shapes can really add depth and impact to your image. Focus your attention on bold, strong shapes such as straight edges and angled corners or anything geometric. Alternatively, you could always opt for a range of organic shapes such as flowers, leaves or pebbles.

More than likely, you will have been drawn to a particular object or subject to photograph, due to its textures.





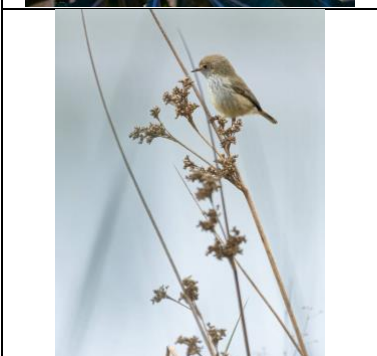
Abstract Photography is all about experimenting with different styles and techniques. There is no right or wrong just use your imagination.

*Above all have fun!*




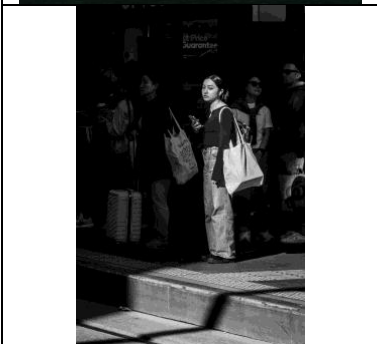

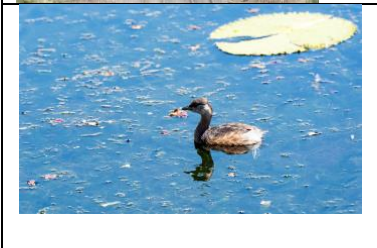







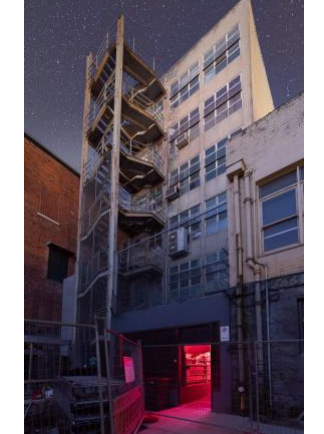
## Ballarat Camera Club – Competition Results September 2023 Judge – Neil Sinclair

### EDPI Open







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|    | <p><b>A Bridge in Rome</b><br/><i>By Frank Carroll</i></p> <p>Score 12<br/><i>(Merit)</i></p>    | <p>Well composed and captured with a sharp image throughout.</p>   |
|    | <p><b>Airy Fairy Tern</b><br/><i>By Frank Carroll</i></p> <p>Score 13<br/><i>(Honour)</i></p>    | <p>Bird in flight, always a tough task. This seems to have "ticked" all the boxes. The Tern's eye is sharp as is the near wing. The background soft and supporting. Well done.</p> |
|   | <p><b>All Points to Heaven</b><br/><i>By Steve Demeye</i></p> <p>Score 12<br/><i>(Merit)</i></p> | <p>Stunning image. Monochrome and lighting combined well. Sharp and night sky as well.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Banksia</b><br/><i>By Betty Bibby</i></p> <p>Score 13<br/><i>(Honour)</i></p>              | <p>Colour and shape, wow. I like the inclusion of a bee at work.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Brown Thornbill</b><br/><i>By Carol Hall</i></p> <p>Score 12<br/><i>(Merit)</i></p>        | <p>Good composition and subject placement. I felt that the image of the Thornbill is a little soft.</p>  |









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|    | <p><b>Camelia</b><br/>By Anne Carroll</p> <p>Score 8<br/>(Acceptance)</p>                      | <p>Very soft and lacking definition on throughout.</p>  |
|    | <p><b>Cervantes</b><br/>By Betty Bibby</p> <p>Score 11<br/>(Merit)</p>                         | <p>I felt the monochrome didn't do justice to unusual landscape. The composition and resolution were good and invited the viewer's continued exploration.</p>                       |
|    | <p><b>Cuddling Up</b><br/>By Carol Hall</p> <p>Score 12<br/>(Merit)</p>                        | <p>What can I say ?? An Image of a nightmare in the sky ? Colourful an invites the viewer to examine the subject further, sharp as a tack.</p>                                      |
|   | <p><b>Downcast</b><br/>By Ken Marsh</p> <p>Score 13<br/>(Honour)</p>                           | <p>I like it.It speaks to the viewer of wanting to know more of what the young shopper is thinking, or worrying, or dreaming..An excellently captured "street" shot.</p>            |
|  | <p><b>Full Head</b><br/>By Mario Gross</p> <p>Score 11<br/>(Acceptance)</p>                    | <p>A well captured subject but out of focus.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Grebe at Parrys Creek Lagoon</b><br/>By Betty Bibby</p> <p>Score 11<br/>(Acceptance)</p> | <p>Good capture, however with the light source on the Grebe's right side the details of it's head are lost. The debris on the water detracts and competes for visual attention.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Incubation Duties</b><br/>By Carol Hall</p> <p>Score 14<br/>(Honour)</p>                 | <p>great capture, the bird's eyes tell what is happening.and the details of bird and eggs are excellent.</p>  |







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|    | <p><b>Jurien Bay</b><br/>By <i>Neil Sinclair</i></p> <p>Score 10<br/>(Acceptance)</p>  | <p>Great leading lines taking your eye along the pathway and the people in the distance centre you towards the end of the jetty.<br/>Nice sunset but I find the dominant first solar light distracting.</p>  |
|    | <p><b>Lake Learmonth</b><br/>By <i>Neil Sinclair</i></p> <p>Score 12<br/>(Merit)</p>   | <p>What a lovely day with the vibrant blue sky and the clouds to give this image great depth.<br/>Excellent depth of field. The reeds at the side of the jetty take your eye further into the photo. I wonder if it would have more drama if you converted it to Monochrome?</p> |
|    | <p><b>Morning Visitors</b><br/>By <i>Trevor Parry</i></p> <p>Score 12<br/>(Merit)</p>  | <p>Lovely photo. The 2 birds are captured in fine detail. The only thing I could suggest is to lightly soften the backgrounding with post capture software.</p>  |
|   | <p><b>Nap Time</b><br/>By <i>Trevor Bibby</i></p> <p>Score 11<br/>(Merit)</p>          | <p>A pleasant, well exposed image.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Navigator</b><br/>By <i>Mario Gross</i></p> <p>Score 13<br/>(Honour)</p>         | <p>Steam still "lives" and is appreciated in this "tribute". Coming through the bluestone bridge with the clouds of steam creates activity. Great shot.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Night at the Gym</b><br/>By <i>Frank Carroll</i></p> <p>Score 12<br/>(Merit)</p> | <p>Interesting scene. The fact that it is night is shown with starry sky and at the same time the buildings construction is clear and sharp. Well done.</p>  |


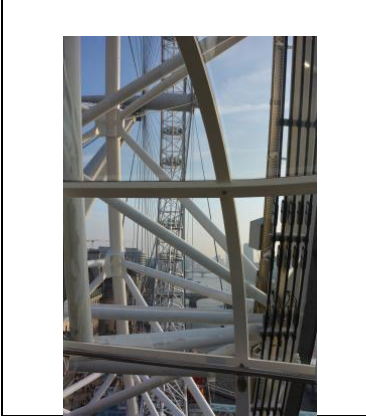



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|    | <p><b>Nigretta Falls</b><br/>By <i>Neil Sinclair</i></p> <p>Score 11<br/>(Merit)</p>       | <p>Wonderful waterfall and a great example of the Australian countryside.<br/>Perhaps the image would have more impact if you used a slower shutter speed.</p>                 |
|    | <p><b>Orchid</b><br/>By <i>Judy McEachern</i></p> <p>Score 9<br/>(Acceptance)</p>          | <p>Lovely shot of one of nature's most attractive creations. The composition is excellent but the end result is let down by lack of clarity.</p>                               |
|   | <p><b>Oriental Lilies</b><br/>By <i>Sonia Bickley</i></p> <p>Score 10<br/>(Acceptance)</p> | <p>lovely subject, well placed in the photo but lack of sharpness lets it down.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Protesting Modi</b><br/>By <i>Ken Marsh</i></p> <p>Score 14<br/>(Honour)</p>         | <p>An excellent capture of a street protest. The central "victim" is well placed alongside the poster, half Modi, half Hitler. The photo reaches into the viewer's heart.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Ringneck Parrot</b><br/>By <i>Trevor Bibby</i></p> <p>Score 12<br/>(Merit)</p>       | <p>Lovely to view. Colour clear and attractive, background not competing for the viewer's eyes. I wonder if the subject's head and eye could have had little more clarity.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Rosella Launching</b><br/>By <i>Trevor Parry</i></p> <p>Score 9<br/>(Acceptance)</p> | <p>I feel like I'm moving towards a colour explosion. The partial "freezing" of the Rosella explains the image, however I can't appreciate the scene enough to like it.</p>    |

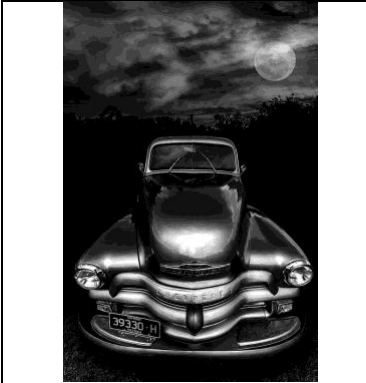

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|    | <p><b>Salad Days</b><br/>By <i>Vera Paulin</i></p> <p>Score 11<br/>(Merit)</p>           | <p>A good shot of a good meal. The clarity of the rendition of the face including the eye is all excellent. The background is soft and supporting the facial details.</p>  |
|    | <p><b>Seeds in the Breeze</b><br/>By <i>Trevor Parry</i></p> <p>Score 11<br/>(Merit)</p> | <p>Dancing with the wind. Imaginative, however the yellow flower in the background is diverting the viewer's attention. Need to remove it.</p>   |
|   | <p><b>The Fiddler</b><br/>By <i>Ken Marsh</i></p> <p>Score 14<br/>(Honour)</p>           | <p>Top shot. Street photography at its best. The "Fiddler's eyes and expression talk.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Tucker Time</b><br/>By <i>Sonia Bickley</i></p> <p>Score 12<br/>(Merit)</p>        | <p>A macro shot that's different, The spider's web gives a feeling of neglect and together with the hole in the nearest "fruit" completes the "story"</p>  |
|  | <p><b>You Rang</b><br/>By <i>Vera Paulin</i></p> <p>Score 13<br/>(Honour)</p>            | <p>An Adams Family follower ? Beautifully composed and executed.</p>   |
| <b>EDPI – Set Subject - Industry</b>  |  |  |
|  | <p><b>Behemoth</b><br/>By <i>Judy McEachern</i></p> <p>Score 9<br/>(Acceptance)</p>      | <p>Indeed a monster brought down to earth. Unfortunately the sun was on the wrong side of the creature. I feel that in post capture the photo could have had the subject lightened with the background left exposed as we view this image.</p> |




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|    | <p><b>Fish Farm Workers</b><br/>By <i>Murray McEachern</i></p> <p>Score 10<br/>(Acceptance)</p>    | <p>Industry captured, however I feel the "stage" is too large and distracting our attention to the workers. (Thank heavens for red)</p>   |
|    | <p><b>Hard Work Happens Here</b><br/>By <i>Vera Paulin</i></p> <p>Score 14<br/>(Honour)</p>        | <p>Easy on the eye with excellent lighting and sharp image from roof to the crankshaft.</p>   |
|   | <p><b>High Tank</b><br/>By <i>Murray McEachern</i></p> <p>Score 7</p>                              | <p>An interesting photo that lacks sufficient visual clues to explain its purpose and that of the petrol/oil tank and how that address's the subject for this month's competition.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>It's a Long Way to the Top</b><br/>By <i>Judy McEachern</i></p> <p>Score 14<br/>(Honour)</p> | <p>This mind boggling WA mine is an amazing sight and this image displays the size and depth of the pit. Sharp and well chosen to demonstrate the size of the machines that carry the proceeds of the mine for processing..</p> |
|  | <p><b>Pippi Longstocking</b><br/>By <i>Anne Wilson</i></p> <p>Score 14<br/>(Honour)</p>            | <p>A clear, well focused image which shows the process from the cotton entering the spindle and the stocking emerging at the "foot" of the machine.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Sock it to Me</b><br/>By <i>Anne Wilson</i></p> <p>Score 12<br/>(Merit)</p>                  | <p>Although the image on its own might not explain the "industry", the title does, Excellent image, sharp, good lighting .</p>  |

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|   | <p><b>The Answer my Friend</b><br/>By <i>Anne Wilson</i></p> <p>Score 14<br/><i>(Honour)</i></p> | <p>And what an industry power is. I like this work of art at work and find it pleasing to the eye. Yes I know not everyone sees eye to eye with their placement.</p>  |
|   | <p><b>The Eye</b><br/>By <i>Murray McEachern</i></p> <p>Score 12<br/><i>(Merit)</i></p>          | <p>An interesting view of the London Eye from the inside rather than the usual travel photo. The industry of Tourism is a major money earner now for many countries .The image is clear, sharp and well executed.</p> |
|  | <p><b>The Weed Cutter</b><br/>By <i>Trevor Bibby</i></p> <p>Score 7</p>                          | <p>I had to check the Syllabus for November and would believe that this doesn't meet the definition as nothing is created, manufactured or results in products being manufactured. Sorry !!</p>                       |





**EDPI - Creative**

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|  | <p><b>Moonlight Chevy</b><br/>By <i>Steve Demeye</i></p> <p>Score 13<br/><i>(Honour)</i></p> | <p>A professional job with mastery of Post processing.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Silverado Ute</b><br/>By <i>Steve Demeye</i></p> <p>Score 12<br/><i>(Merit)</i></p>    | <p>Another striking and professional submission.</p>       |

**Large Prints – Creative**

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|  | <p><b>Lambley Poppies</b><br/>By <i>Betty Bibby</i></p> <p>Score 13<br/><i>(Honour)</i></p> | <p>Dream like "soft" coloured flowers floating through the frame. Imaginative and pleasing.</p> |
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| Large Prints - Open  |  |   |
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|   | <b>Beach Patterns</b><br>By <i>Murray McEachern</i><br><br>Score 10<br><i>(Acceptance)</i> | An imaginative photograph of nature at work with every wave that comes ashore. However it left me unmoved with the rock seemingly at the focus of the photo.    |
|   | <b>Blue Hills</b><br>By <i>Murray McEachern</i><br><br>Score 11<br><i>(Merit)</i>          | A gentle and relaxing image of rolling hills and distant mountains.   |
|   | <b>Scotland</b><br>By <i>Judy McEachern</i><br><br>Score 14<br><i>(Honour)</i>             | A pleasing "portrait" of countryside with a simple visual attractor, a lonely weather beaten tree. Simplicity can be a beautiful.                               |
|  | <b>Stick Shed</b><br>By <i>Judy McEachern</i><br><br>Score 13<br><i>(Honour)</i>           | The largest "shed" in the Western District I believe and as such, a large image to capture the staggering interior. Beautifully composed, captured and printed. |

## Geelong Interclub Competition 2024.

One of the activities undertaken by the club is to enter into an annual photographic competition with the Geelong Camera Club. Whilst we have had a brief hiatus in conducting this rivalry (*thank you Covid*), we are looking to restart the competition early in 2024. Each club takes a turn to host the event. In 2024 it will be the Geelong's club turn to host the event. This will take place on 24th March 2024 at the Geelong club clubrooms.

### What You Need to Do...

Submit 3 EDPI images and 3 Large Print images for preselection by the 14th February 2024 which happens to be the first club meeting of the new year.

Electronic versions (JPEG's) of all images should be uploaded in the usual format onto the Website with the usual rules being applied. The competition title on the clubs website is "**BCC GCC Interclub 2024**".

Images can be anything you like but should be *your best work*. The only caveat being that images must not have been entered in previous Geelong interclub competitions. This means that you can enter images that have not been entered into Ballarat Camera Club monthly competitions.

The club urges you to take part in this competition as we have not won it in some time. It would be fantastic if 2024 was our year.

## 2022/2023 Committee Members

President

Betty Bibby

[president@ballaratcameraclub.org.au](mailto:president@ballaratcameraclub.org.au)

Vice President & Interclub Co-ordinator

Steve Demeye

[13swinton@gmail.com](mailto:13swinton@gmail.com)

Secretary

Anne Wilson

[secretary@ballaratcameraclub.org.au](mailto:secretary@ballaratcameraclub.org.au)

Treasurer

Murray McEachern

[treasurer@ballaratcameraclub.org.au](mailto:treasurer@ballaratcameraclub.org.au)

Committee Member

Trevor Bibby

Committee Member & Flare Editor

Judy McEachern

Web Master

Betty Bibby

Outings Co-Ordinator

Print Steward

Sonia Bickley

ABN 65 055 234 508 - Reg Number A0004054f

