Upper Blue Mountains Camera Club Inc.

Newsletter

Our guest judge for the 2nd May exhibition evening was the ever ebullient and very talented mountains photographer Richard Bulley. Who, if you go back over the records, was a member of the Upper Blue Mountains Camera Club all those years ago.

Thanks from the committee and members go to Richard for taking the time to attend and for providing to us the opportunity of having both our digital and print work critiqued.

His insightfulness about photography, comments about the composition of images, advice and constructive feedback in general terms about photography were excellent.

We now have the opportunity to put the advice he provided us into practice.

The evening with Richard provided some great insights to improving our members already high standards of presentations.

If you haven't already taken the time and had a look at his work it's . . . *http://www.richardbulley.com.au*
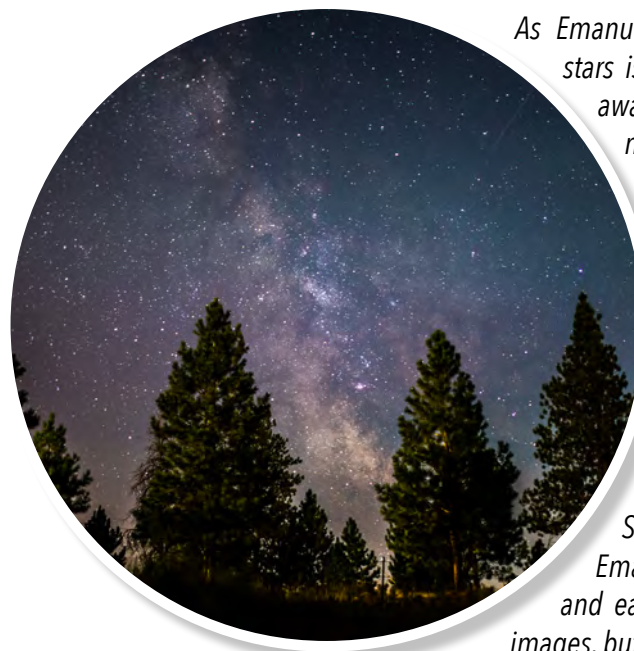
As Emanuel said learning how to photograph the stars isn't just about great images – it's getting away from the city lights, staying outside when most people have retreated to their beds, and standing under a view that's stunning from nearly anywhere in the world. While the limited light makes photographing the stars tricky, both the experience and the final images make it a challenge worth mastering. Thanks go to Emanuel for his presentation. It was both most informative, interesting…and illuminating (pun intended).

Stressing that with the right settings, Emanuel says a camera can literally mix heaven and earth! The night sky creates some stunning images, but since cameras are at their worst in the dark, photographing the stars is also one of the trickiest types of landscapes to shoot. Autofocus is useless, a tripod is a must, and to top it all off, you're fumbling with all those camera controls in the dark. Being able to take a snapshot of that universe is something new under the sun. And it's great fun too.

Member's Choice
Colour Print of the Month

"Gostwyck Sunrise"

"Gostwyck" refers to Gostwyck Station, a sheep grazing property 10 klms. from Uralla on the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales.

Gostwyck was founded in 1834 by the Dangar family who built a small chapel in 1921 using bricks made on the property.

A public road runs through the property past the chapel and there is an avenue of Elm trees leading to the chapel.

The magnificent tree lined avenue of over 200 Elms was planted by a worker who was brought out from England specifically for the task.

It's a popular location for photographers, particularly in autumn when the Elms turn to gold and the Boston ivy covering the chapel turns a crimson red.

This image was taken at sunrise on a cold winter's morning with the rising sun burning through the early morning mist behind the bare trees.

Harley

M e m b e r ' s   C h o i c e

Monochrome Print of the Month

"Near Life's End"

One of the things we hope for in photography is to be in the right place at the right time. The day this photograph was taken I was out on a walk enjoying the resilience of the beautiful Blue Mountains landscape, it was well after sunrise, when I walked passed this dead looking tree.

What had caught my eye was the way it stood out against the morning sky with the slight wisp of cloud in the background.

I moved around so the sun, which was still fairly low on the horizon, lit the tree up from the side, having said to myself . . . *"this just might look nice in monochrome"!*

I was in the right position to use a polarizing filter, in order to darken the sky, which in turn helped to bring out some of the detail in the fine cloud as well as the bright parts of the tree branches.

The conversion to monochrome was largely done using "Silver Effects Pro"

Camera details: Olympus OM-DII, 1/40sec, *f*15, ISO 200

Emanuel

"The Storm Cometh"

Many photographers - or even wannabe photographers - often say they never leave their camera gear behind. While I do aspire to this practice it's not really a habit for me yet.

However, needing to go to Katoomba shops for a few necessary items late on a January afternoon I noticed some change in the weather so, before leaving home I went back to grab my camera bag.

After doing the shopping required, I drove out to a couple of likely spots to 'sus' out a good outlook for the impending storm. After driving past some of the good local lookouts I settled on the trail near Boars Head - overlooking the beautiful Megalong Valley.

There were already ominous clouds showing to the south and south-west which had the makings of a good storm. I didn't have to wait to long, as the storm front was moving in quite fast.

So quickly adjusting some settings, I fired off a few shots. By this time there was lightning and thunder happening on the distant hills.

As many would appreciate it's not easy to capture lightning, let alone a lightning strike. To achieve this I set the camera to fast continuous mode, burst mode, and started shooting periodically not knowing if I was actually capturing the lighting flashes or not. It wasn't too long before I realised that it may not be all that wise to hang around with the storm now rushing towards me. So very quickly I retreated the 100 metres or so back to the relative safety of my car. After reviewing the 50 plus exposures I had just taken I was pleased to find I had just one with a lightning bolt showing. In closing, just a couple of words about post processing, . . . I normally shoot landscape scenes using 'Auto White Balance' but due to the changing light on this scene it was necessary to tweak this considerably in Adobe Camera Raw afterwards to get the 'feel' of the warmth of the late afternoon sun while also keeping the 'greyness' of the coming storm.

Settings and details for this image were…
Nikon D7100 – Focal length = 22mm on my trusty Sigma 17-70mm – 33mm equivalent on Full Frame, ISO800 – f/11 @ 1/125s shooting in Continuous Mode with Raw and Fine jpg - approx 8 frames/sec.

Greg Wood

Cropping is easier than you think. When it is planned carefully, cropping can greatly improve the composition and visual impact of your digital image.

Cropping is an easy and an important step to consider when you're editing your images.
Which ever image editing program you're using it will have a crop tool that lets you trim, or eliminate, the edges of an image.
Not every photo image you take needs cropping though, however, the visual impact and composition of many images can be greatly improved when they are thoughtfully cropped.

How to crop your digital image

To crop an image, open it in your photo editing program and click on the crop tool. Place the crop tool on one corner of the image and then click-and-drag to select the area you want to keep. The cropped area will appear darker(or lighter, depending on the program you are using.

When you're satisfied with the new composition, click the image or press Return (Mac OS) or Enter (Windows) to complete the process.

Remember two things before cropping

Always work on a copy of an original, rather than the original image itself. Some programs automatically open a copy or save your work as a copy. If you work on an original, make a mistake and then save the image, the changes are permanent and cannot be undone. However, if you have preserved your original, you can start the process again using a duplicate copy.

Pixels are removed whenever an image is cropped. If you crop and the resulting image looks pixelated or is jagged, undo the action and try cropping less of the area.

You can crop larger areas when photos are shot at a high resolution rather than a low one. Keep this in mind before taking your photos and make sure your camera is set to its highest resolution and image quality.
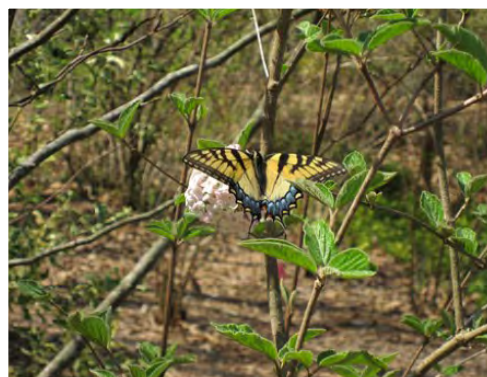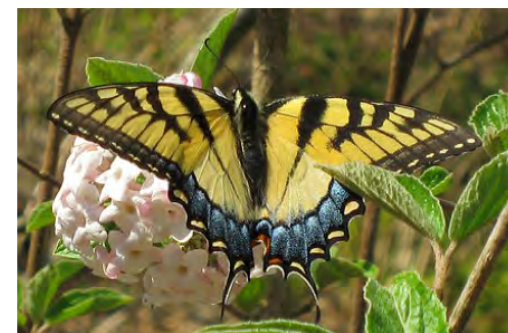
Three reasons to crop an image
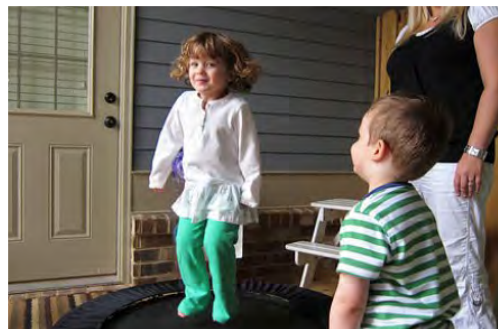
Improve the overall composition . . .

Remove distracting elements . . .
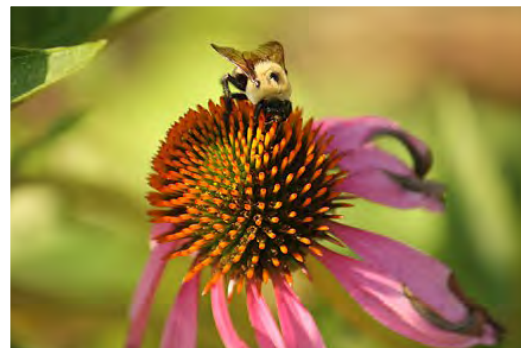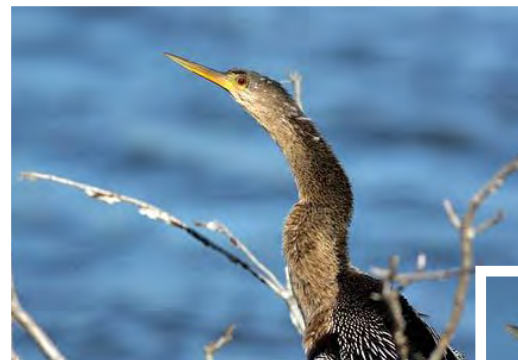
Focus on the main subject . . .
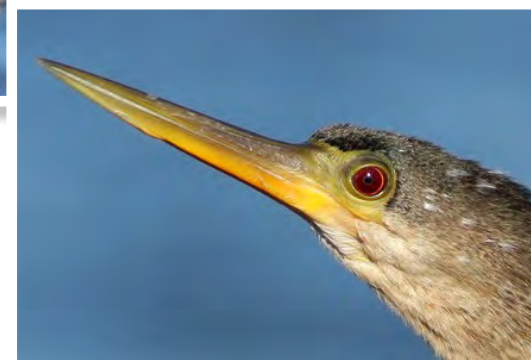
Three more reasons to crop an image

Change the orientation . . .

Change the aspect ratio . . .

"Zoom in" on the subject . . .

A Christmas wish!

. . . the efforts of a bored Graphic designer

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE A WOMAN WHO LOVES PHOTOGRAPHY AND WAS BORN IN JULY

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CAMERA CLUB INC.

10 for $25.00

PICTURE MOUNTING BOARDS