

Newsletter, December 2019



President's report

Somehow, it's Xmas already. It still feels like we're just getting over last year's over-indulgences, but it's time to loosen the belts, open the presents and take a well earned rest on the couch once again.

It's also time to take stock as a club, looking left, right and left again before tripping on the curb and falling headlong into the traffic of 2020.

This year was very good for the club. Finances are solid, membership and attendances are up. Even more importantly, participation is up as well. This is what we want most of all – a club full of active, engaged and

improving photographers who are keen to show their images and have a chat on club nights. Of course a few of us just come along for the TimTams, but that's to be expected.

We had a few notable highs in 2019. You and your club won top score at the Interclub against some stiff competition. We made connections with other groups that will last into the future – the Blackheath Horticultural Society, the Iris Society and Ironfest are all working with us now to our mutual benefit.

2020 is already looking promising. There's the new TAFE course in March and May (see diary), a Federation of Camera Clubs (FCC)



Animated discussions during a pause in the judging at the end of year exhibition night [photo: Michael Peck]

judging course at Bathurst, more outings, more themes and all the

usual exhibition and info nights. Please check our [on-line calendar](#)

for details as they emerge.

Hawkesbury Club is keen to link up for outings and workshops next year, which will add a whole new level of interest.

And of course there is Lady Luck in January, the Ironfest promo in February, Hounslow in March and much, much more. It's going to be a fun year.

We'll be installing a new upstairs bar in the club's executive jet – right next to the jacuzzi. Of course only committee members will get to use this, so don't hold back when the time comes to volunteer!

Your committee has done an amazing job up to now, but a few positions will become vacant in 2020 and it could be your turn. Think about it.

No doubt, 2019 was a great year, but 2020 is promising to be even better and with your help, we can pretty much guarantee that.

Make sure you get your images ready for your next exhibition night on February 5th and do your best to leave the judges speechless. At least that way we'll have a chance of leaving on time.

Lastly, I hope Santa brings that new lens/camera/tripod that you so desperately need. More importantly, let's hope Santa brings rain ... lots and lots of rain.

And that's it. On behalf of the committee I wish you a safe, relaxing Xmas and blue skies above.

We'll see you, and your wonderful new images in the new year.

Cheers

Alan Daniel

President

UBMCC



Streetwear at Lady Luck 2019. See Diary for next year's event details [photo: Alan Daniel].

Letters

23 November 2019

To the editors:

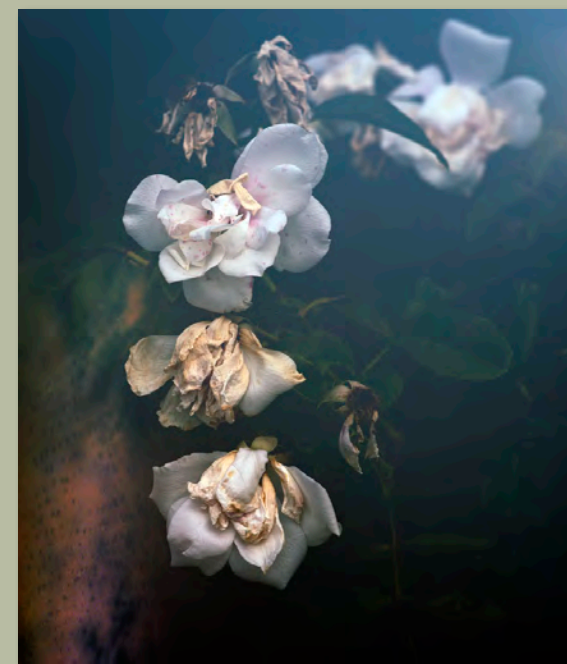
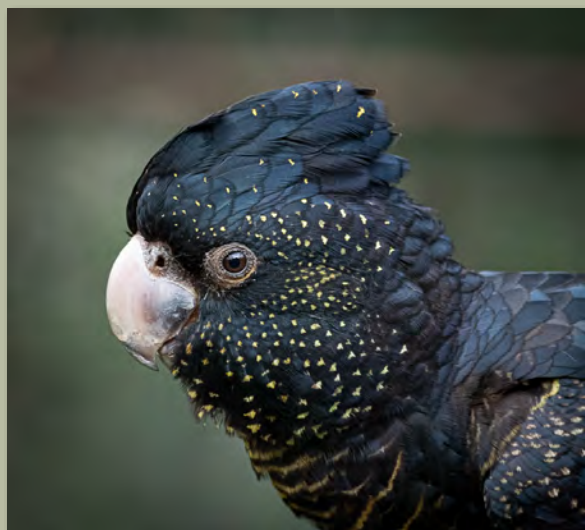
What a great info night the last meeting was. The club is really bounding along. As a long term member and judge, I would like to support Greg Wood's point that the critique is more important than the score. Over the years the score has always been considered unfair and imbalanced.

We learn more from discussing images, both digital and print from all the members, rather than winning the best number. It is wonderful, but, we are a victim of our own success. The fact that we have so many entrants for exhibition nights, means, whatever we are doing, it is working.

Next year's committee will have a hard job matching this year's committee's work.

David Mansfield

End of year winners, judged by Nicola Read



First place winners at our end of year exhibition were as follows: DPI: *Flecked with gold* by Geoff Attwood (left); Mono Print: *Surf explosion* by Emanuel Conomos (middle); Colour Print: *Do you still love me* by Rob Skinner (right).

To view these images in larger size, as well as the second and third place winners, please go to our Flickr albums page (click [here](#)). Note that the images will appear roughly in descending score order.

Pentaxian Yearbook

OK, OK, OK. Not every club member owns a Pentax camera and lenses, let alone cares about the manufacturer's legion of fans. And it is not telling tales out of school to disclose that not only is the club president a Pentax devotee, but so too is your newsletter team – ergo this item about Pentaxians and the Pentaxian Yearbook. (Canon/Nikon/Sony/Olympus/FujiFilm diehards can stop reading now if you so wish.)

Cameras, lenses and accessories aside, what draws many Pentax owners to the brand is its comparatively small size; the feeling that being a Pentax user comes with free membership of a tight-knit family. This perception – true or not – is probably a strong factor in the genesis of the Pentaxian Yearbook, which is a 'best-of' annual produced by users for users. Perhaps it is a Pentaxian's bias, but I find it hard to imagine a Canonian Yearbook produced on the same peer-to-peer basis.

The yearbook began life as a Facebook page for [Pentaxians](#) that to this day still has only 290 followers. The Facebook page founders, Stephen Obermier (Germany) and Bela Nagy (Hungary) are the brains behind the yearbook, which is exceptional in that it is produced without a contest and without a jury.



John MacGillivray: *Pentax K1000*. This SLR film camera (1976 – 1997) is fondly remembered by Pentaxians and photography students alike for its rugged simplicity and ease of use.

The 2018 yearbook (the second) comprises 243 images, one per page. The page format is square, so entrants have a wide choice of image shape to choose from: they can command as much, or as little, of the space on the page as they please. Most importantly, every photographer is allocated precisely the same space.

Eleven photographers from Australia are in the 2018 edition, including local man (well, he's from Glenbrook) Eddy Summers, who featured

in the newsletter this year in an article on Ironfest. The others are: Al Burkun; Sheridan Hetherington; Jo Taghipour; Linda Fury; Jordan Cantelo; Alistair Dunlop; Richard Dermody; Raymond Clack, Ian Clark and Rob Ellisdon. Some are self-employed photographers, most are amateurs, like ourselves.

There are images from every corner of the world. There are quite a lot of portraits (this seems to be a European speciality; must be the cold, indoors weather, though the inclusion of a number of nudes blows this theory out of the water). Several photographers have chosen street photography, some of which are really great. There's the usual smattering of shots of children; some unusual sports images; landscapes, urban and rural; architecture; and a lot of fauna and flora. There's not much by way of experimental or abstract photography but this might not be the case in the 2019 – Pentax's 100th anniversary – edition, for which entries closed earlier this month (sorry).

You can download the 2018 Pentaxian Yearbook [here](#) for a leisurely perusal before the 2019 comes out early next year. Who knows, it might even persuade you to trade in your Canon/Nikon/Sony for The Real Thing?

Liz Morgan

Diary

TAFE Statement of Attainment in Adobe Photoshop Course

Blue Mountains TAFE at Wentworth Falls is offering a five-week Statement of Attainment in Adobe Photoshop in March and May 2020.

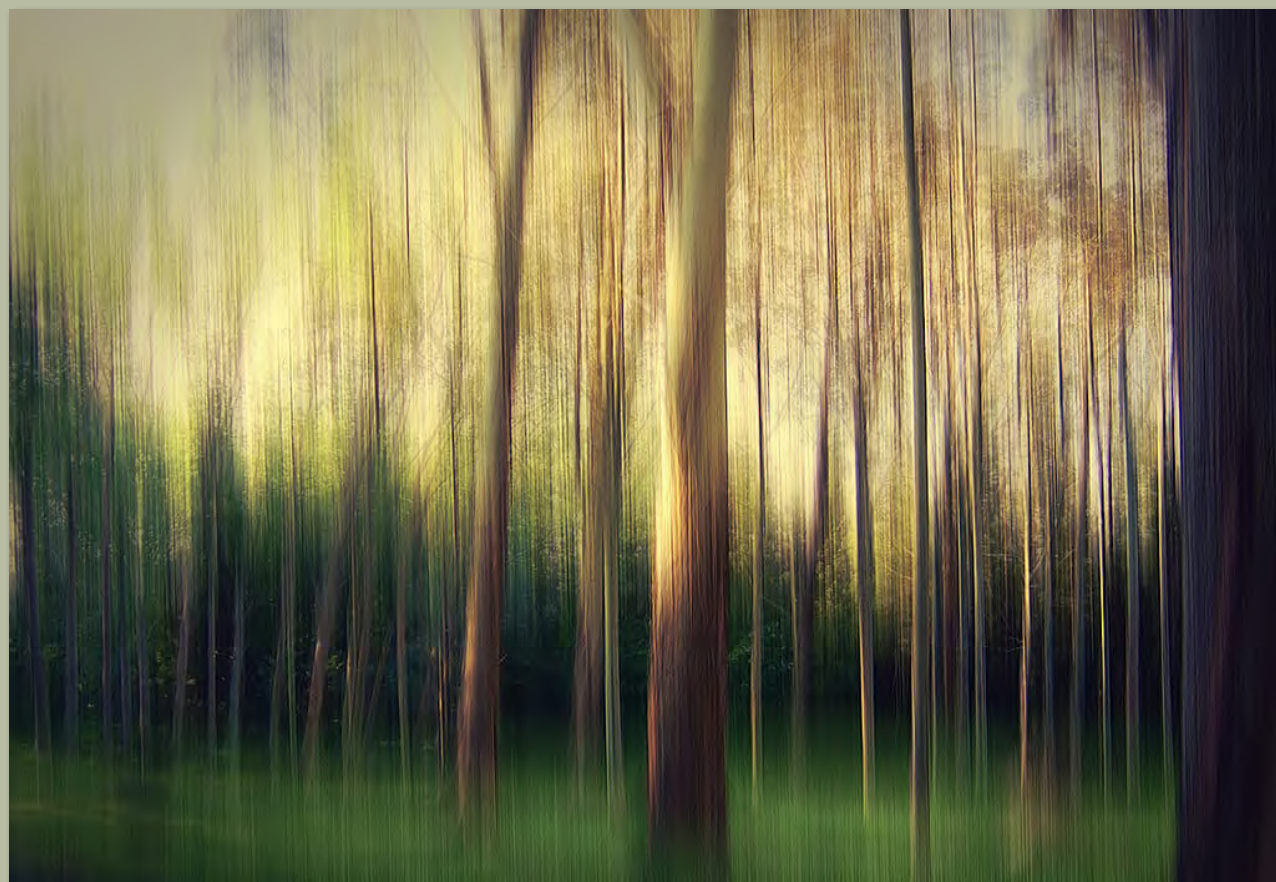
Enrolments for the March session (3 March to 1 April, on a Wednesday morning, 10am to 1.30pm) are already closed because the course is full (with 18 enrolments).

However, it is possible that some people who enrolled will not turn up on the day, so if you are still keen to do this course get in touch with the customer service staff in Wentworth Falls (try Helen Simpson on 4753 2019) and get yourself on the reserve list.

There are still places on the May course (6 May to 3 June, Wednesday 10am to 1.30pm).

This information was confirmed by the head teacher of design at TAFE's Nepean Arts and Design Centre in Kingswood, Xanthe Long, who held an information session at Blue Mountains TAFE on 13 December.

Just so you know, because the Photoshop course is very elementary no knowledge of Photoshop is assumed. Neither do you need to be familiar with Lightroom.



Elizme: ~ *Transcend* ~ [view more at the photographer's Flickr page, click [here](#)]

The teacher, Liz, has a design background and will tailor the course to the creative skills and practices of the entire class. Ergo, if we are all photographers, she will tailor the course to photography but this might not be the case!

This is a wonderful opportunity for club members to think/shoot/process outside the square and let those creative juices flow.

Ridgewood Camera Club 2020 International Photo Exhibition

The Ridgewood Camera Club of Ridgewood, New Jersey, USA, is now accepting entries for our 37th Ridgewood International Exhibition and invites the members of our Camera Club to participate.

The Photographic Society of America, Projected Image and Nature Division (PSA 2020-059), recognize the Ridgewood International Exhibition. The Exhibition is open to all - you do not need to be a PSA member to enter.

A panel of three judges will score the images entered and participants may earn "Acceptances". Acceptances are often seen as photography boasting rights. They can also count toward Star Ratings and other PSA distinctions.

The Ridgewood International brings together individuals who have a mutual interest and love of photography. We may all speak different languages, but we do have one language in common, that is the "Language of Photography".

This year, the Ridgewood Camera Club is again inviting photographers worldwide to take part and enter their best images in the Exhibition.

There are four entry sections:

- ~ Projected Image Digital – Color
- ~ Projected Image Digital – Monochrome
- ~ Nature Digital
- ~ Nature Digital – Wildlife

All of the information about the Ridgewood International is posted on the Ridgewood Camera Club website www.ridgewoodcameraclub.net.

There you will see "International Exhibition" on the left sidebar. From there you can see all of the information including the entry rules, the entry form and the fees.



Kearns: *Sweet baby boy*, a people's choice from Ridgewood Camera Club.

8-12 January: Parkes Elvis Festival

This has to be one of the best festival events for photographers, professional and amateur alike.

Parkes is choc-a-bloc for five days of incredible Elvis doppelgangers and gorgeously dressed guys and gals. The festival is in its 28th year and getting bigger and bolder every time.

If you can't make Parkes, you can try getting yourself to Central Station early on Thursday 9th January to catch revellers boarding the Elvis Express. The train leaves between 9am and 9.30am close to the platform where the Blue Mountains train arrives.

For more information click [here](#).

10 January: Lady Luck Festival



Sydney Swing Katz at the 2017 Lady Luck Festival.



Reuters: Ken Keith, Mayor of Parkes and Elvis impersonator aboard the Elvis Express in 2018.

The Lady Luck Festival 2020 will be held at the Carrington Hotel, Katoomba, from 10.30am until 11pm on 10 January.

It's usually a hot day, and the light can be very unforgiving for taking photographs (especially of all those highly buffed classic cars) but the costumes, hairdos, rockabilly dancing are not to be missed.

People are mostly only too happy to pose for you, or don't mind being in your viewfinder. Give it a go, if you haven't been before. You won't be sorry.

Click [here](#) for the day's programme.

15 February: Ironfest Promo Shoot

The club has been invited to participate in the event again this year. Photographers are to meet at 10am on Saturday 15 February at the State Mine.

Those who went in 2019 were challenged by the high-summer, daytime conditions but learned a lot, and came back brimming with ideas and challenges to be met another time.

Keep an eye on the latest diary items in the What's On section on the website: click [here](#).



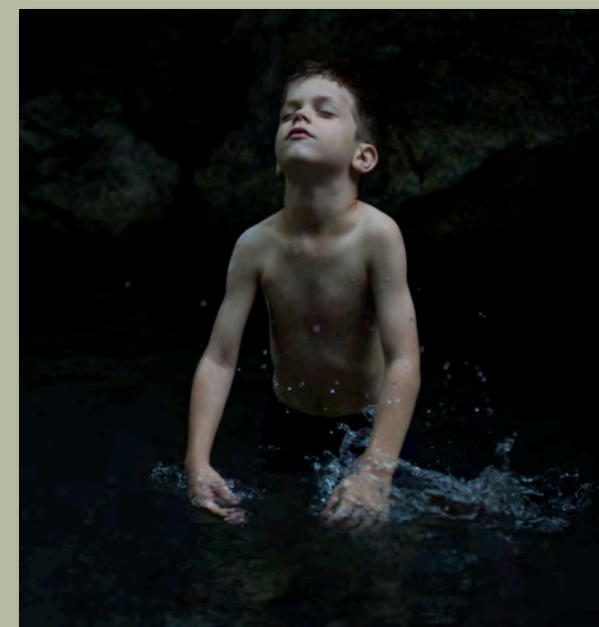
The theme for Ironfest 2020 is "Gothic", and the dates for the event have now been set: the weekend of 18 and 19 April, at the Lithgow showgrounds.



Scott Gilbank: *Envy*, Regina Weir's cosplay creation, Ironfest 2019.

Blue Mountains City Art Gallery 25 January - 22 March 2020

The Blue Mountains Cultural Centre at Katoomba is hosting two exhibitions concurrently from 25 January. Thirty-nine images by Australian photographers, selected from over 3,000 entries, comprise the National Portrait Gallery's *National Photographic Portrait Prize 2019* exhibition.



First prize winner Rachel Peachey: detail from *Taking the waters*.

The other exhibition, *Blue Mountains Portraits*, is a celebration of our local, diverse community. More than forty artworks in a wide range of styles and media will be on display. For more details, please click [here](#).

David Malin
Awards: Winning
Sky Photos, at the
Sydney Observatory
until 28 January

Spectacular, award-winning photographs of the night sky from the last two years are on display at the Sydney Observatory, 1003 Upper Fort St, Millers Point.

The images in this free exhibition were judged by renowned astrophotographer Dr David Malin.

For more information about the exhibition please click [here](#). For more astro and scientific photography, and more about David Malin, click [here](#).

Winning Sky Photos is a presentation of the Central West Astronomical Society (CWAS). To see winning and honourable mentions from the 2018 CWAS AstroFest, please click [here](#).



Matthew Hudson: Supermoon behind the Opera House.

WWW

Vote now! 2019 Lumix People's Choice Award

It's still not too late to cast a vote for the LUMIX People's Choice Award in the UK Natural History Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.

The finalists' shots are incredible and if you want to have a say in who gets the top gong, click [here](#).

British photographer Sam Rowley's intriguing shot (right) of two mice fighting over a crumb on a London Underground platform might just take the biscuit!

Voting closes on **4 February**.



© Sam Rowley

WWW

Yes, but is it art?

Without doubt we are living in an age that is simply drowning in images, where almost everyone, from a very young age, creates photographic images as “content” for a host of social media and numerous other platforms.

In his recent *Fstoppers* post Nils Heiningert revisits the old debate over whether or not photography can be considered art. He observes that with modern cameras much of the craft – once considered part of the “art” – of photography, has become considerably less important.

To read more, click [here](#).



Photography as “drawing with light” ... but is it art?

WWW

The extraordinary life of Lee Miller

Picture the scene. Your mother has died and you are sorting through her things. She's not your average mother: she's been a fashion model in New York in the 1920s; a member of the Surrealist art movement in Paris in the 1940s; a war photographer who posed nude in Hitler's bath; a model painted by Pablo Picasso.

She learnt the art of photography from Man Ray. As colleagues and lovers, they developed solarisation, a technique reversing the negative and positive parts of a photograph to produce halo-like outlines enhancing lights and darks.

By the time of her death, your mother has become a gourmet cook, living a reclusive life in the English countryside. You, her son, are clearing out the farmhouse attic and, voila! Stashed in boxes are more than 60,000 negatives, and some 20,000 prints and contact sheets of her work. You are Anthony Penrose,

and your mother is Elizabeth Miller, aka Lady Penrose, aka Lee Miller, who died aged 70 in 1977.

Miller's work has been in the public domain for some time, but only a tiny fraction of the archive discovered in the attic. Now some 3,500 images are online (click [here](#)) and they tell an incredible story; of Miller, and of the rapidly changing times she captured in her broad-ranging work.

Yet another 'chanced-on' find of an important photographer's work, it makes one wonder what will happen to the collections of the digital age? Will someone chance upon a corner of a great server in the sky in centuries to come? Discover the archives of the Upper Blue Mountains Camera Club and those hitherto unheralded great photographers?

We can dream, can't we?

Liz Morgan

Listen to a BBC Radio 4 feature on Miller's fascinating life [here](#); and more about her life [here](#).



Man Ray: *Solarised Portrait of Lee Miller*, c.1929.

WWW

Upload yourself!

No, we are not about to suggest that you go Instagram-crazy with selfies on the edge of escarpments or at the fire front or even in the safety of your own home. However, we are encouraging you to spread your images a little more widely, even globally, by getting them published by our ABC, and also by the BBC. Here's how.

ABC

The ABC publishes a gallery of photos each week that have been taken around Australia. The galleries are usually the last item on the news web page, but you can go directly to them [here](#).

You need to sign up for an ABC account (free) before you can upload any images.

The selected photos can also be viewed on the Instagram page [here](#).

If you have an Instagram account, you can very easily share your

photos with the ABC simply by tagging them with #abcmyphoto.

BBC

Each week the BBC publishes a gallery of readers' pictures on a set theme. Images can be submitted by photographers worldwide.

Up to three images can be entered per theme and they must meet the following criteria: images should be sent as JPEG files; they cannot exceed 5Mb in size and ideally should be much smaller - around 1Mb is preferable. If you re-size your images just as you do for club DPI submissions then you should be good to go.

For more information, the upload link, and to see the current theme and images selected from previous themes click [here](#). You can also click [here](#) to upload your images..



Penni James: *A rainy trip over Sydney's Anzac Bridge (as the passenger).*
Submitted to the BBC for the theme "bridges".

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Submitting images



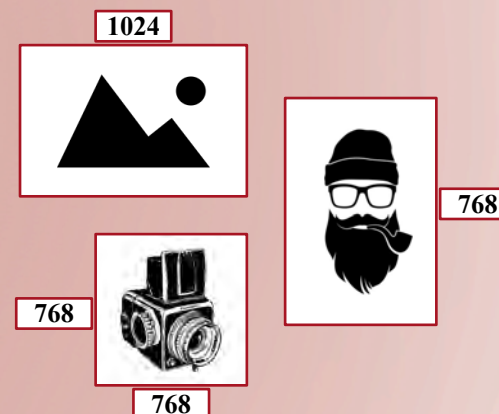
Apple Mail users: after attaching your images please ensure you select

Image Size: Actual Size

Whether submitting a DPI or digital images of your prints the required format to match the projector is a maximum width of 1024 and a maximum height of 768 pixels.

For a landscape format image, set the longest side to 1024; for portrait, set the longest side to 768, and for a square image, all sides are 768.

Please ensure you name your image file in the following format: {title}_{initials}.jpg e.g. wombling wombats_JX.jpg.



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