

APRIL



2024

GREETINGS!

No exhibition night this month, consequently there are no images to showcase. You're devo'd. I'm devo'd. We're all devo'd.

Still, the news must go on!

In this issue there is stuff to keep your mind distracted while your body goes through the chocolate heebie-jeebies as Easter winds down.

The club has new members. Read up and learn who your next best mate with a camera will be. Many thanks to Alan, Lui, and Meredith for putting your heads on the block.

We have a timely reminder about security - especially relevant for those heading overseas. Cameras are tempting targets for thieves and you don't want to be the next victim. Watch, listen and learn.

The club outing to Govetts Leap went well. If you missed out, don't be upset. Read all about it, and then pile on the pique. It was epic!

Learn what the committee is up to. Hint - it's not all darts and cocktails

There's a video on why you need to get up early...and how to do it. You'll want to check out the tips for killer Black & White images.

There's loads of other stuff so dive on in....

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK...



Lui Friscioni

Katoomba has been home for around 18 years. I moved here from Merrylands in Sydney's West. As long as I remember I have been attracted to the mountains.

In Sydney I was a sculptor and ran a business creating and recasting things for the garden - gargoyles and other.

I supplied some nurseries and gift stores in the mountains. When my Katoomba outlet closed I took the opportunity to come up and open my own shop.

I studied art at Meadowbank and did a couple semesters of photography in the days of film. I gave up when things went digital.

Picked up a canon EOS 50d quite a few years back but didn't do anything up until now and still consider myself a novice. Haven't done enough of anything to say what I like to shoot most but macro is interesting, landscape and still-life appeals. The local wildlife is uncooperative.

Photo editing: I just use the freebies Gimp, Krita and

Canon software. Haven't done much of any.

I don't do any social media for photography but I keep an eye on local community pages.

By joining the camera club I'm hoping for inspiration and the opportunity to learn with an exposure to a wide range of work.

My other hobbies include red wine, keen gardener & really bad banjo player.

Thanks and can I say I'm very pleased to have been able to join the club.

Meredith Pitt

I moved up to the mountains in winter 2017, straight into an un-insulated, bare-floorboards cottage in Katoomba, to test my mettle. Two years later I found a well-insulated place in Blackheath with a great slow-combustion fire.

Before the mountains, I lived in Cremorne for about 20 years. Pretty & convenient but no community.

I attended a couple of residencies at Varuna in Katoomba, writing poetry, in the years leading up to moving. It was those weeks that showed me the possibilities of mountain living. I had been searching for community, preferably a creative one, and I love the cooler weather and glorious autumns. I found community very quickly and have been blissfully happy.

Photographically, I'm still a beginner - I don't practice enough and don't really know what I'm doing most of the time but persevere with manual mode or at least aperture priority. I use a Nikon D7500 with Nikkor 18-200mm (f3.5-5.6) & my trusty iPhone. For editing I have Lightroom but mostly use whatever came on my Apple laptop.

I really enjoy shooting derelict, or at least decaying buildings, street scapes/urban scenes and a bit of landscape because that's where we live, but prefer the detail rather than the big picture stuff.

To this end, at the end of May I'm travelling down to Bright to attend an Intimate Landscapes photography workshop being run by Jeff Freestone. I'm hoping by then to be holding the camera the right way round. I've joined the camera club in the hope of some regular meet-ups/excursions to help me become more familiar with my camera and to get to know other keen photographers in the local area.

When not taking photographs I love to travel, with an interest in the food and wine of wherever I happen to be. Also, I've been fiddling around with mixed media art, using a gelli plate to print, make little 3D scenes inside boxes etc, courtesy of a couple of weekend workshops I attended at the Blackheath Art Society last year. Then there is the garden and the dog, one a necessity the other a pleasure. I look forward to meeting everyone and hope to have many adventures with you all.



Alan Di Lucca



I have been in the mountains for about 15 months. We moved from Stanwell Park on the South Coast. We have lived on the coast for most of our lives but when we stayed at Chalets in Blackheath we fell in love with the area.

Originally we just bought a holiday home here but when we first came up to settle in we just didn't go back.

I've dabbled in photography for about 20 years. I understand the technical side of photography pretty well (thanks to YouTube and online courses) but obviously the real talent comes in the composition and artistic components. Still struggling with that.

I'm using a Sony A7RV with a variety of lenses in a desperate attempt to improve my abilities with the gear I use - not really working. I love using Photoshop and Lightroom but tend to go overboard so trying to pull myself back on that.

Any & all photographic subject interests me.

I've typically done landscapes and macros.

I used to be on Instagram and Facebook but

stopped that when I realised I was taking photos to get likes rather than enjoy myself.

I've joined the camera club for the camaraderie and inspiration to get out there and take photos.

Constructive criticism is also a big drawcard.

As well as photography I'm interested in anything computer related and reading.

Cheers

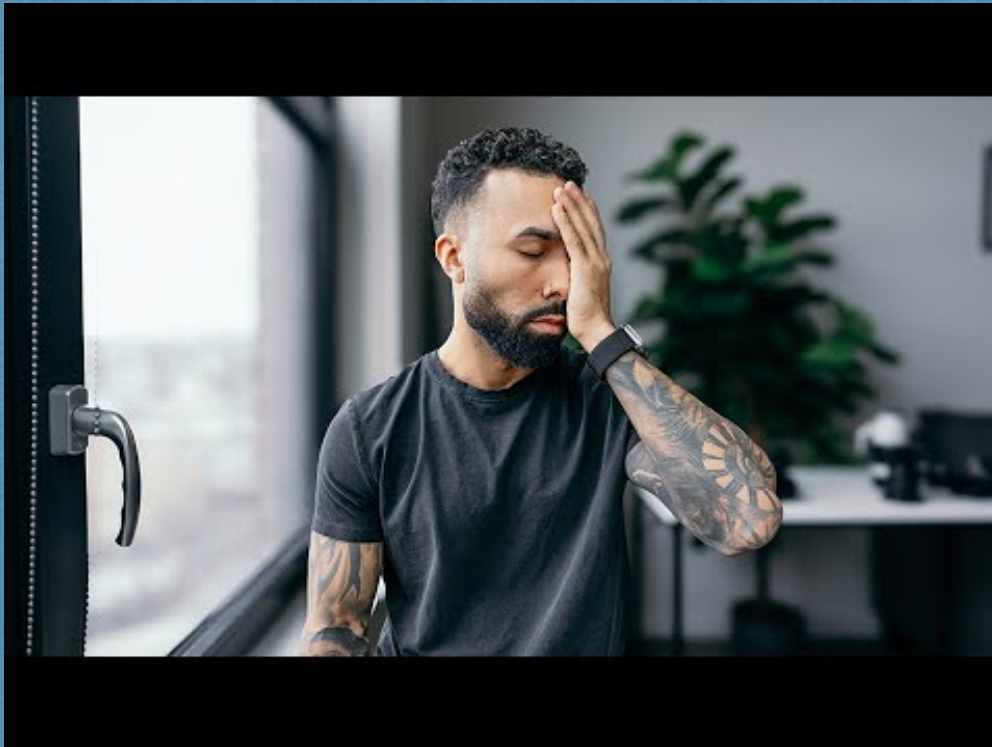
Alan

Hang on to your Camera

This man isn't playing with super glue. He's just lost a very expensive pile of camera gear! Theft can happen anywhere and to anyone and is always devastating. While it seems to be less of a problem up here in the hills, a little vigilance can be a good thing.

Think about it next time you're down in the big smoke, or especially when traveling OS. This video relates to Italy, but thieves operate everywhere. Read the comments to get a feel for just how common this is.

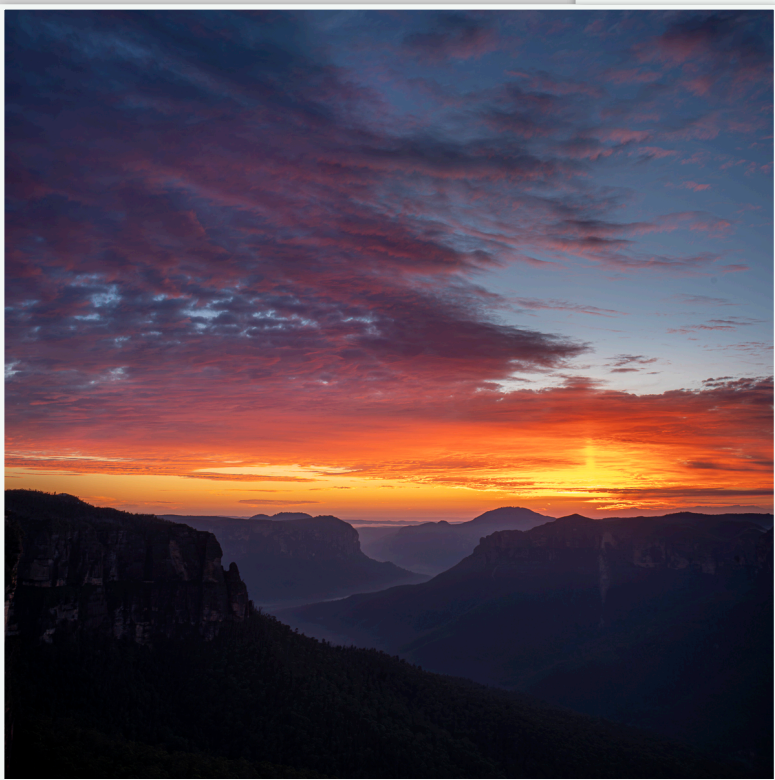
Watch & learn (and be careful with that super glue).



WINNERS ARE GRINNERS!

Saturday 23rd March saw an optimistic few at Govetts Leap, hoping to catch a sunrise and bag some shots. I don't think any of us were quite prepared for what happened.

Rob, Eve, Deidre, Bill, Emanuel and I turned up for this outing, which asked so little and gave so much. All we had to do was get out of bed a little early, and make the short drive to Govetts Leap. Even I could manage that!



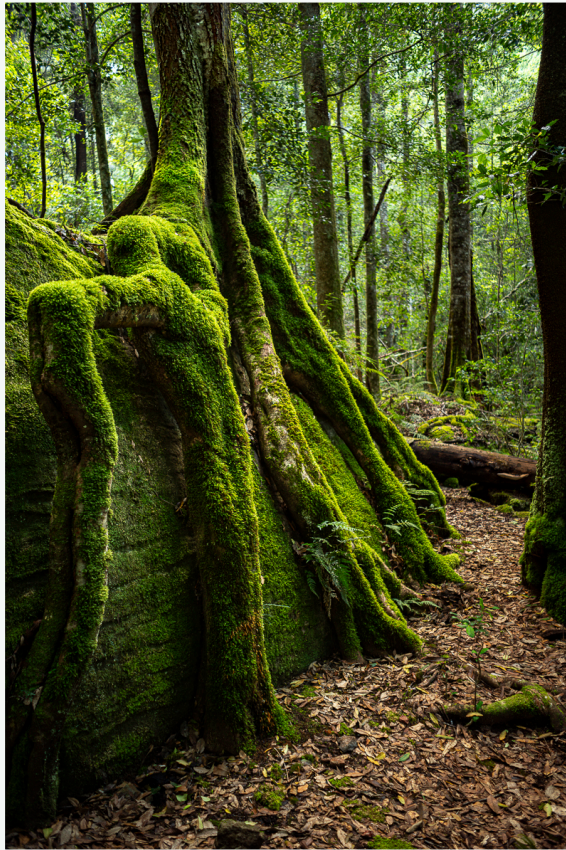
For that minimal effort we were rewarded with one of the most amazing sunrises in years. Incandescent colours shot through layers of cloud and lit up the morning sky. Vivid oranges, yellows, pinks and magentas rose up against the pale blues and darker indigos of the sky. Down below, the Grose, had just enough mist to show off the twists and turns of the valley and give definition to the landscape. It was visual drama on steroids.

The conditions on the lookout were also ideal. Calm and warm (well... "Blackheath warm") with only a small crowd to share it with. The brilliance of the show hushed everyone to silence.

In fact the only sound to break that silence was a distinct "PLINK" as a very expensive Lumix lens-hood bounced off the railing and into the abyss below - followed by barely audible sobbing.

We can all thank Emanuel for sacrificing to the sun gods that day. They were obviously very impressed with his offering.

To wind down we stopped in B-Town for a warming coffee. And then, because too much photography doesn't exist, we ducked down to Coachwood Glen to see what could be found. Not so much in the way of fungus or mushrooms unfortunately, but the magical light was there to do its tricks with the mossy creek and jungle greens. Heaven for camera types and not a leech in sight.



I'm sure all of us who went on this outing came away with more than we could have (or should have) hoped for. Big smiles and full SD cards. It doesn't always happen that way, but you have to be in it to win it.

The next outing will be to

Mt Wilson

on Thursday **11th APRIL**.

Will you be there, or read about it?

Choose wisely :)

Committee Corner (a peek inside the engine room)

This is only a small club, but it takes a bit of work to keep it rolling. All this work falls on the shoulders of the committee which this year is made up of ...

- Rob (president),
- Eve (secretary),
- Greg (treasurer),
- Stuart
- Janet
- Debbie
- Jillian
- Geoff

They meet monthly to thrash out what will happen and when, and who will do it and how.

The March committee meeting was largely taken up with fleshing out the year ahead, locking in exhibition nights, themes, outings, and info nights. This is now locked and loaded.

Also discussed was involving more members in the set-up/pack-up on exhibition nights. Helpers are also needed for events like Interclub and other events. Stand by for more on this.

The member survey was discussed and the committee is already implementing changes in response to your suggestions. So far the changes include adjusting the scoring system, plans to use the microphone more effectively and planning more outings. Your input is greatly valued and will have real impact on the way the club works. Thanks to all those who filled in a survey.

**NEXT OUTING is
Mt Wilson on
Thursday 11th April.
Watch for emails soon**

Darwins Walk and the
Grand Clifftop Walk are
now open.

As locals it's almost your
duty to explore these and as local
photographers you'll be wanting to get the
absolute best shots possible.

Try days with interesting (but safe) weather.
Choose a misty morning. Choose dawn
and dusk. Choose weekdays to avoid the
crowds, or weekends to feature the
crowds.

The photographic possibilities are endless,
so go and wear out your walking shoes
and thrash that shutter button.

IRONFEST is BACK!

WHEN - 27th-28th APRIL

WHERE Foundations
Portland

Different venue, different
style, but lots of

characters and loads of fun for photogs. Watch the
website for updates and details and keep at least
one day free. This is a MUST-DO (!!) event.

<https://ironfest.net/>

Black and white is all the go lately.
We've recently heard Peter Hill's
talk and we have a MONO exhibition
night in May.

Here's a few quick tips to get you
up to speed and polished with
mono.

(Link)

Finding it hard to get
out of bed early for
photography? Get
help with motivation

from our favourite Pom, Thomas
Heaton...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

Club Contacts...

President Rob Skinner email: gunnertoday@outlook.com

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Newsletter Alan Daniel email ubmcc.news@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS to our own Janet Scott, who place exceptionally well in the Asia Pacific Photography Awards recently. Janet achieved a Highly Commended” for her 18th place in the “Pure” section where images are RAW, straight out of camera with no editing permitted. If that’s not the definition of good photography then I don’t know what is.

Awesome result Janet!

See the Pure Section finalists [here](#)

Perhaps you’d like to enter a serious competition yourself? It’s a great way to test your metal and see where you stand in the the bigger picture :)

Have a look [here](#) and dive in!

Read the conditions and requirement carefully and make sure your images comply. **Good luck!**

Here’s a link to a hard working photographer from the coast. Samuel is contacting camera clubs to drum up interest in his workshops. Some of you may be tempted, others may just like to look at his work.

[https://](https://www.samuelmarkham.photography/)

www.samuelmarkham.photography/

Thanks to Eve for sending the link.

Freeman Patterson is a prolific and wise photographer from Canada. He travels widely and has an enthusiasm and passion for his craft that is hard to match. Each month he produces a newsletter that lifts the spirit and opens windows on techniques and all manor of things photographic. Each one is like a cosy fireside chat and I highly recommend subscribing (it’s free). You can read his latest one [here](#)

There is an easy
way to find the best
subjects, bathed in
the most beautiful
light, and it works
every single
time...

Leave your
camera at home

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