

JUNE



2024

GREETINGS!

Winter has arrived - and you can feel it in your waters! Brrr.

Still, there's no reason to neglect your camera with winter offering so many opportunities for interesting and creative images. And I'm not just thinking shiver-induced ICM work!

Picture crisp, clean air, light smatterings of snow (maybe), frosty grasses and loads of other great reasons to keep the batteries charged and the camera close. Winter can be brilliant!

In this issue you'll find....

- All the gong-worthy shots from the exhibition night
- Committee Corner - what's changing and what's not.
- The wash-up on the outing to Coachwood Glen.
- Click-worthy photography stuff from around the web
-

...and loads more.

Dive on in!

JUNE EXHIBITION NIGHT

Wollongong pro-photog SUE CURTIS graciously critiqued images on the June exhibition night.

Sue managed to get through the entire night single handed, sharing insights, and avoiding repetition on what turned into quite a marathon session.

She obviously knows her way around a photograph and floated ideas and suggestions in a thoughtful and positive way. I'm sure we all came away with new focus and lots of inspiration.

Many thanks Sue for a very entertaining evening.

You can see some of her own work on her web site [here](#)



Judge's Choice - Macro

Tiny Terror - Stuart Munro



'Tiny Terror' was a stacked macro shot of an Australian Bull Ant (also known as Bulldog Ant) of the Genus *Myrmecia*.

I built a little studio box from foam core and lined it with yellow art paper. I then set the ant (collected from

Kanangra Boyd out near Jenolan Caves) on the flower in the set-up (I don't know which species - I'm a zoologist not a botanist).

It was lit from overhead by a small lamp and also a diffused off-camera flash.

The camera was set up on a macro rail and starting at the front area of focus (the antennae) 33 images were captured incrementally through the focal plane; the final image was a stack of these 33 images.



Judge's Choice - Colour & Members' Choice Colour

“Salt of the Earth”- Janet Scott



– The man made salt lakes of Useless Loop in the Shark Bay region are a photographers paradise when it comes to colour and texture.

This image was taken from a Cessna 206 with the doors off to enable a clear shot of the landscape below. At the time we were flying at about 1,800 feet, with 30-40 km wind that whipped up the surface water on this salt lake to create an addition texture to the already crusted surface, which is colloquially called ‘The Crackle’.



Judge's Choice - Mono & Members' Choice MONO

Sparkle till the end - Emanuel Conomos

It was late last Thursday afternoon, when I rushed out to see if I could find a "micro" subject, for this month's exhibition.

I spotted this little white object, no bigger than a raisin, in amongst some dead plants, that looked like a candidate.

I was surprised to see the 'pappus' of the flower, still in good condition, considering how old the flower seemed to be.

I took it inside and used a combination of natural light from the window, and a hand held torch, against a black background.

Taken with Olympus OMD-EMII and a 60mm Olympus Micro lens, using focal stacking.



Judge's *SPECIAL MENTION*

Sid Recalls Ned at Yulara - Greg Pitty

Not Sid and Nancy, but Sid and Ned. It couldn't have been anything else.

At certain times of the day, the hard light and shade would fall this way on the painted surfaces of Yulara and for me it recalled moments from Sidney Nolan's *Ned Kelly* series from the late 1940s.

I liked the dimensionality the scene offered. You are in conversation with Ned, larger than life, a commanding presence. The hollow black rectangle and the rich ochres. The symmetry. It was all ready-made and asked to be taken. A very wide angle, up close. 1/1000sec @2.8 to accommodate the intense light. The shadows then looked after themselves.



Judge's Choice - Overall

Scary Loo - Alan Daniel

On a recent NZ trip I had a whole day of just wandering around solo with nothing to do but take photos. It's such an indulgent pleasure.

This little scene popped up in the afternoon light with the huge redwoods casting long shadows over a local park near Wellington. The trees had been planted in a line as a windbreak and that line lead straight to the public toilet for the park. I don't normally take photos of public toilets, but who could resist this one?



Taken hand held with a Pentax K3-ii with a DA* 50-135 lens at 75mm, f/4 and 320/second. Processed in Silver Efex and LR

OUTINGS- COACHWOOD GLEN

It's always a treat to go on a photo shoot with Emanuel...
and the fungi outing was no exception.

The morning was surprisingly chilly but Rob, Andy, Eve, David W and Bill joined Emanuel in Blackheath and headed to Mermaid's Cave high up on the Megalong Valley Road as a drier alternative to the advertised Coachwood Glen. We had a steep clamber down stone steps to a small waterfall and creek – no mermaids sighted and no proper cave either but we did find a variety of fungi including several clumps of tiny bright red ones spread out over a wide area so we all had space to do our own thing. It was a very pretty area to explore.

There were many highlights: photographic queries were asked and answered; a head torch and a pair of glasses were lost and then found; Emanuel brought hot flasks, cups and a variety of beverages for everyone as well as baking some delicious biscotti especially for us; and, lastly and perhaps even best of all, a tree trunk or large branch fell with a terrifyingly loud crash just as Andy and I were leaving but, very fortunately, no-one happened to be in the wrong spot at the wrong time. Rob and Emanuel, the last two remaining, were sighted still upright, safe and sound (phew!) before we headed back up the hill to the car. Many thanks to Emanuel for his warm generosity in all things as always and for hosting this outing.



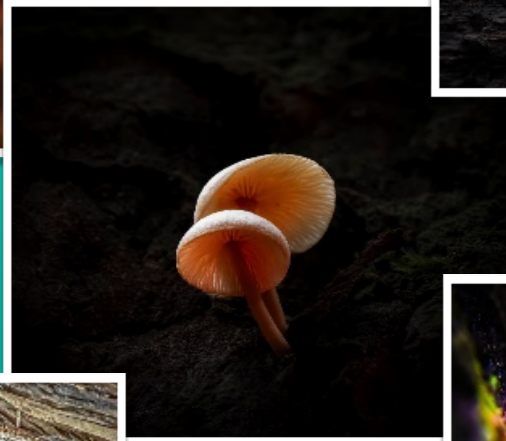
Eve



Rob Skinner



Emanuel



Andy



David



Bill

Your June outing is to the amazing
BLUE GUM SWAMP TRACK

(see below)

COMMITTEE CORNER

.... a peek inside the engine room

Members Choice

The committee is committed to the simplification of the Members' Choice process on exhibition nights.

From now on, there will only be two categories -

- Colour &
- Monochrome

(Each category includes both prints *and* DPI)

This means you only have to note your favourite colour image and favourite mono image from night.

Simple!

Clicking around the web...

Exceptional Astro Images

We all love astro shots, although perhaps we're less fond of being out in the dark on a cold winter's night to get them. Stay warm on the couch and check out these competition winning shots...[here](#).

Wildlife Photogs Beware!

Sometimes people get carried away with their photography, and forget that they might be dealing with wild animals. Check [this link](#) and be reminded of the value of situational awareness.

VIVID is ON!

Sydney's annual light extravaganza is happening right now. You have until the 15th of June to catch the excitement. Check the website [here](#)

Splash the Cash!

Got a few blank walls at home? Got some spare cash? Splash it around and get yourself some iconic images at this high end photography auction. See [here](#) for the images and details

JUNE OUTING!

On Friday 21st of June we're heading down the mountains to Winmalee to explore the **BLUEGUM SWAMP TRACK**.

The scenery features tall blue gums (go figure) with verdant green ferns below, which makes for stunning images. You can expect trees, birds, animals (possibly), insects and some of the best leading lines imaginable.

Meet at the (small) carpark at the very end of Whitecross Rd, Winmalee at 8:30am. Be prepared to walk for 30mins on an undulating firetrail.

Due to the small carpark, car-pooling will be a thing. We can coordinate as we get closer.

Detailed emails to follow soon.

Club Contacts...

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Newsletter Alan Daniel email ubmcc.news@gmail.com

AI will take all photographers' jobs!

....and here's AI accepting the job.

