

AUGUST



2024

AHOY AHOY!

August ... when winter gets serious.

Great to see two of our newer members maxing the scoreboard at Monday's exhibition night! Our judge Graeme Cam was in fine form - despite being worn out after a hard day, and I'm sure all of us came away with insights and thoughts on how we might improve our work.

In this issue you'll find -

- Members' choice for mono & colour
- The top scoring images
- Committee Corner - news from the wheelhouse.
- Interclub wash-up - all the dirt and mayhem as it happened
- Click-worthy time-wasting rubbish from the internet.

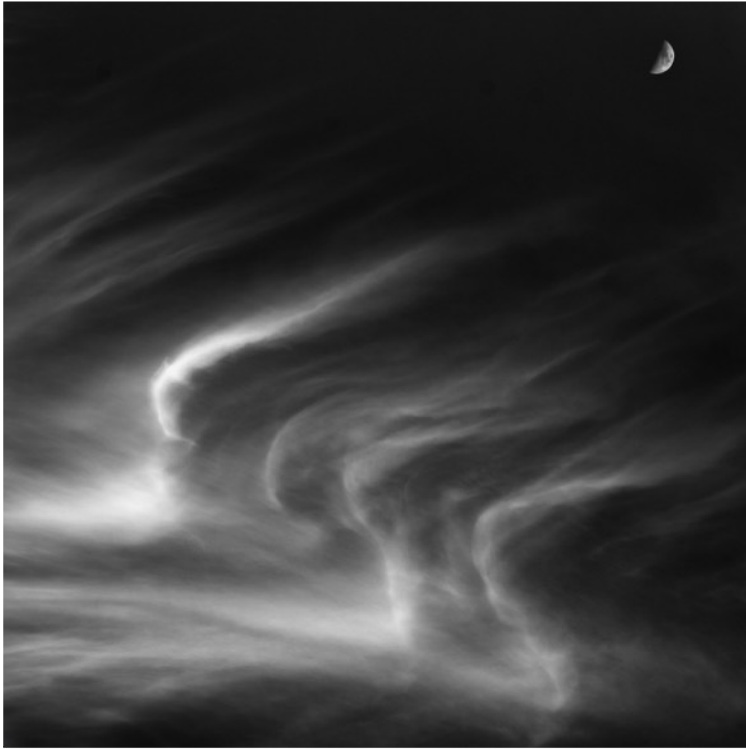
...and some other stuff that you'll probably ignore... but maybe shouldn't.

Wade in and get wet.

AUGUST EXHIBITION

MEMBERS' CHOICE - MONO

COSMIC STORM - Rob Skinner



I wish I could say that this image was captured after weeks of studying the weather patterns along with the phases of the moon but no, it wasn't the case, this shot was simply a case of being in the right place at the right time..... I think the technical term is "luck".



I was just wandering around my backyard one afternoon when I looked up and saw these wonderful cloud patterns, my pareidolia kicked in and I could see the 'four horsemen of the apocalypse' racing across the sky with the half-moon as the backdrop...I dashed inside grabbed the camera and fired away, within ten minutes the clouds had spread across the winter sky and the patterns were gone.Nothing extraordinary with the settings or the processing, a few minor tweaks in Lightroom, followed by a B&W conversion in NIK Silver Effects and a Cosmic Storm emerged.

MEMBERS' CHOICE - COLOUR

(Also scored 15!!)

MINNAMURRA SUNSET - Alan Di Lucca



The South Coast is a wonderful location for stunning sunrises. While I was living in Gerringong I used to regularly get up early and go to one of the little bays around the area. This morning I was in Minnamurra and was blessed with this beautiful sky. Taken with a Sony A7RII, I painted in creative lighting to highlight Rangoon Island and the foreground rocks.

The (other) 15's...

ARMS STRAIGHT - Meredith Pitt



This shot was taken on a photography themed tour in Bright, Vic. in late May/early June this year run by Jeff Freestone. We were fog chasing as that is one of Jeff's hallmarks, he likes the way the fog takes away the clutter in the landscape. So there we were on the side of a road with a chestnut grove and some fog, with the usual fences, ditches, tree stumps and bits of random farm equipment in the field.

Details: Nikon D7500; 18-200 Nikkor; ISO 100; f 6.3; ss 1/8s; fl 195mm; tripod used and a little tweaking in LR.

SOFT MORNING CURVES - Alan Daniel



This was taken on an early morning walk in April and shows a light mist, slowly flowing into the Jamison Valley at Wentworth Falls. The curves of the mist really appealed, along with the small trees silhouetted against the whites so I thought it might be worth a shot.

I had a nice 31mm prime in the bag and it seemed to fit the scene well enough. F/8 kept everything sharp, and a tripod kept things steady.

Later I cropped out some foreground and fiddled in Colour Efex to get the contrasty look you see here.

COMMITTEE CORNER.... news from the wheelhouse

Acknowledgment before meetings...

All club meetings will now acknowledge the former owners of the lands on which we meet. You'll be hearing these words (or similar)

We acknowledge the Dharug and Gundungurra peoples who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet. I would also like to pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

Change to email addresses...

The committee positions now have their own email addresses! This will help free up personal email accounts and be a help when committee positions change hands. The new position holder will have access to a history of emails and that should give each a valuable resource to draw on.

President ubmccpresident@gmail.com

Secretary ubmccsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer ubmcctreasurer@gmail.com

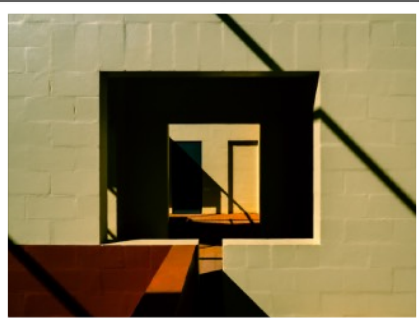
INTERCLUB WASH-UP

Interclub for 2024 is done and dusted. We may not have won, but the show went off smoothly and the all present were treated to a fast paced, interesting day with lunch and socialising and an eyeful of great photography.

The day was planned to a tee but an early phone call had judge Ben Pearce sidelined with covid. FCC judge Don Munro was faced with doing 120 images alone! Being a pro, he kept it interesting, informative and fresh all day long - an impressive effort!

Don stated that as the judge, he'd be looking for story, composition and technical excellence (in that order) and that he would be judging and scoring more harshly than usual, given the high standard of images on show. Fair enough - it was Interclub and all three clubs were offering up their very best work.

As the show got under way with the colour prints we could see that Don was staying true to his word - scores were harsh. Finally, at about the half way point, Greg's image "Sid Recalls Ned at Yalarra" got a glowing 15! Then Janet's "Embryonic" hit another 15. Things were looking good for UBMCC. Janet scored again with her "Valley Mist" image and things were definitely looking up. Three out of three 15's to UBMCC!



Next on the chopping block was Mono Prints.

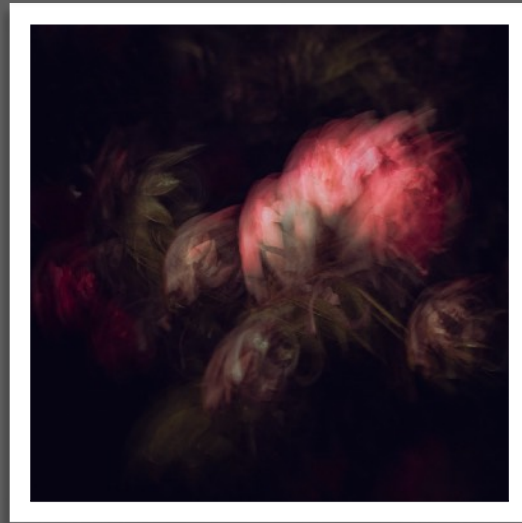
Again we did OK with Don liking Alan's "Tough Love" with a 15. Springwood struck back with Stephen Georgiou's beautiful pano shot "Three Sisters in Heaven" getting a top score.



Two sections down and two to go. Time for a lunch break to rest Don's brain and voice and let the audience fuel up for the afternoon session. At this point we can say a big thank you to our hosts, the Katoomba RSL. The venue really impressed with great service, tasty meals and short waits. Who doesn't love that?

Back in the trenches, Don was ready to take on the Creative Print section. He must have liked what he saw - he gave 6 top scores! These were spread evenly amongst the three clubs. Hawkesbury's Ron Rodgers and Geoff Higgins maxed out, as did Springwood's Stephen Georgiou and Shirley Steel.

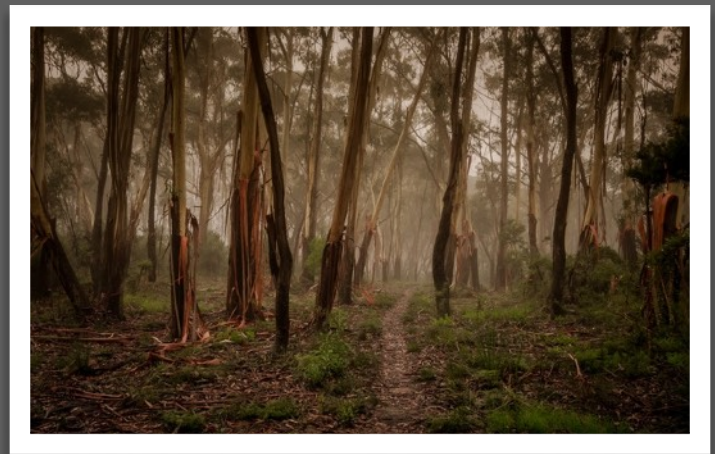
Space constraints prevent us from showing all six images here, but our two 15's were "Confluence" by Janet and "Not So Still Life" by Greg.



The final section was DPI and Don was still going strong. His critiques were full of carefully considered remarks and remained positive and constructive - the guy was unstoppable.

There were four images awarded top marks in this section - Springwood's Graeme Cam and A Dent for their shots "Umbrella Owl" and "Looking for a Medal" respectively and two for our club - Emanuel's "Orion" and Michael's "The Undressing".

And that's when the final whistle blew.



Don had made it through all 120 images and was still able to stand up and speak coherently. He announced his top shot in each section as follows...

- Colour Prints - "Sid Recalls Ned at Yalarra"- Greg Pitty UBMCC
- Mono Prints - Tough Love - Alan Daniel UBMCC
- Creative Prints - "Unmasked 2" Geoff Higgins HCC
- DPI - "Umbrella Owl" - Graeme Cam BMPG



Stu and Meg handed over the final scores and Rob read out the results.

The scores were Springwood - 511, Upper Blue Mountains - 504, Hawkesbury - 476

Springwood had won the day by a very tight margin, with us in second and Hawkesbury holding third. Congratulations to Shirley Steel and her team on a well deserved win.



There were many impression from the day but a few that stood out for me were...

- It's a wonderful experience to walk into a room full of beautiful prints.
- It's great to share a day like this with other photogs and to see what they shoot and how they present their work.
- The size of the prints from UBMCC was noticeable. We print large and it really makes an impact at an event like this.
- Our prints were mounted very professionally. All had stiff backings, clean mats and no signs of tape on the back. They looked great. Presentation didn't seem to be a factor for the judge but it certainly doesn't hurt to do a good job. Well done to those who took care of this important part of the process.
- Janet scored three 15's for her three prints - an outstanding result and possibly why she was still smiling at day's end. Congratulations Janet!
- Don Munro is an amazing judge. Concise, positive, knowledgeable and ignoring of minutia. Incredible and inspiring!
- Eve and the organisers did an outstanding job. They got around the speed bumps and took care of what mattered. Congratulations to all involved for a very enjoyable and successful day.



If you were there you had a great time and learned 120 ways to improve your photography. If you missed it, be there next year. Springwood get to run the next show so let's try to return the favour and get that trophy back.

Click-worthy time-wasting stuff

You've seen some amazing images from the Paris Olympics but one shot (yes, that shot) stands out above the rest.

Meet the photog and read how he hit the jackpot...[Here](#)

You can see more and read more [here](#)

Canon had a massive presence at the Olympics. Top-of-the-line gear for loan and a team of techs on hand for repair work. You've got to admire that sort of commitment to their customers

See more [Here](#)

Take a day off in September to catch this wildlife photography workshop run by Angela Robertson-Buchanan at the Australian Museum. Find all the details at this [link](#)

Have you watched [Gardening Australia](#) on the ABC on Friday evenings lately? The camera operators are raising the bar on flower and macro photography to new levels. Get inspired watching the pros, then race out into your own garden and give it a go. Whacky beards and crazy hairdos are optional.

Think you might like to enter a comp with zero entry fees and a huge prize pool?

People First Bank Photographic Awards

is now open.

A huge prize pool and no entry fee...what's stopping you?

All the details are right [here](#)

The Photographer of the Year

competition is on again for 2024.

Presented by Ted's Cameras it has nine categories so there's bound to be something to suit your style and interests.

Click [here](#) for details

Club Contacts...

President Rob Skinner email: ubmccpresident@gmail.com

Secretary Eve Taylor email: ubmccsecretary@gmail.com

Newsletter Alan Daniel email: ubmcc.news@gmail.com

AFFINITY for FREE !!!

Affinity Photo is now free for
6 months!

If you need a very good
editing package, at a great
price then Affinity is well
worth a look.

David Wallace has a huge pile
of lighting gear and accessories
for sale at very reasonable (give
away) prices.

There's way too much to list here
so contact him at the next
meeting or email him for details.

BRIGHT in northern Victoria, is a place of spectacular
scenery and ... photography workshops it seems!

Head down to Bright in September for 3 days of
photography workshop madness. Pick and choose which
ones to attend and skill up for the year ahead. If you like
taking photos you'll love this event.

Read all about it [here](#).

Big thanks to Meredith for the heads up on this.

“Photography
is art and art exists in
emotion.”

There are no solely objective criteria for the evaluation of a photo. The cropping, the light, the composition and the technique are all important elements, but photography cannot be reduced to them. There are many photos created in line with the “rules of art” which – as the definition suggests – do not go beyond good craftsmanship. Photography has a soul too, one that affects each of us.”

- PhotoVogue Italia Editors