

February 2025



Here's what has happened over the holidays and what's to come!

Welcome back to Camera Club for 2025. We've had a few changes over the holidays. As previously mentioned, there was a coup in the newsroom and I rolled Alan for the job of Editor of the UBMCC newsy letter.

Our first exhibition night was held following the AGM on 3 February, how did you go?

As a testament to my lineage of photography, my Great-Grandfather was a keen photographer around the Richmond area, see below for an example of his work.

We are excited to announce the results of the Committee elections held on 3 February 2025. Thanks so much to Rob and Eve for all their work and welcome to the new lambs.

Also, last year's survey - what did we want and when did we want it? All will be revealed.

On 17 February we have a guest speaker for our first Information night of the year, notebooks to the ready!

Finally, I've added a few little gems in there just to keep you reading until the end.

Meredith

On the River Grose by C. M. Pitt



In this newsletter you can expect:

AGM & Committee news and 2024 Survey results

Exhibition Night news

Clicks and Comps

Information Night preview

What's coming - Exhibition night calendar

Office Bearers and contacts

Framed (what is it and how do we do it?)



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting at 7.00pm on Monday 3rd February 2025 at the Katoomba RSL Club Auditorium, Lurline Street, Katoomba

Chair: Rob Skinner, President.

The AGM commenced at 7.07pm

Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM

Motion: That the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting distributed by email to members be confirmed.

Carried

1. President's Annual Report

Motion: That the report on the activities of UBMCC presented by the President and distributed by email to members and attached to the minutes be received.

Carried

2. Financial Report

Motion: That the financial statement presented by the Treasurer and distributed by email to members and attached to the minutes is adopted as a true and fair reflection of the financial position of UBMCC.

Carried

3. Elections

With the agreement of the meeting, Rob Lipscombe, UBMCC Public Officer, acted as Returning Officer for the elections.

President

Nomination: Lisa Nicolle Buchan – **declared elected unopposed**

Vice President

Nomination: none – **the position remains vacant**

Secretary

Nomination: Geoff Atwood – **declared elected unopposed**

Treasurer

Nomination: Greg Pitty – **declared elected unopposed**

Committee Members

Nominations: Debbie Marsh, Janet Scott, Jillian Lynch, Stuart Munro, Bruce Hunter – **all declared elected unopposed**

4. Outgoing President Rob Skinner and outgoing Secretary Eve Taylor were thanked for their contributions to the club over the past several years.

The AGM closed at 7.16pm

Upper Blue Mountain Camera Club 2024 Survey – A Basic summary

In November 2024 a survey was sent out to gain both feedback on the past year and ideas for 2025. Questions related to:

Club nights - why attend Exhibition cycle - set themes - Judging/critiquing	Information nights - Workshop - Presentation - A night in parts - Portfolios - Show and Grow	Media - Newsletter - Website - Facebook page	Looking forward to 2025 - community involvement - what hope to gain - How support the club - strengths/weaknesses - Particularly enjoyed
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Eleven members responded either in full or in part. There were **20** non-responses.

A wider summary of the responses will be emailed to all members and a more detailed survey response with recommendations has been submitted to the committee.

As expected, the love of photography, seeking inspiration, and a desire to learn more/improve photography are the primary reason members join the club. Social connections and learning from other photographer's works as well as having the opportunity to show work and receive feedback were cited as reasons for staying.

The broad range of subjects, guest judges and speakers, friendliness and helpfulness of everyone were regarded as strengths of the club. While the loss of outings in the second half of the year was seen as an area needing improvement.

Exhibition and Information nights

The majority of respondents liked the new format and cycle of exhibition evenings. The year comprised of 9 exhibition nights with 1 'Open' evening, 4 'Theme' evenings and 4 evenings that were 'Open' and/or 'Set'. The final themed evening enabled members to present three images as a mini 'portfolio'. When entering images for the exhibition night members were influenced by: Available time, Interests, Skill level.

There was some confusion about how the 'Open and Set' exhibition night worked.

Concern about the use of AI was expressed later in the survey.

Themes

The majority (8 of 11) respondents said that they would like to repeat the same main themes (Scapes, Mono, The Natural World) in 2025. One member saw them as a 'fallback' if no other themes were available. One member didn't mind. One member didn't respond.

Judging /critiquing

Members showed greater satisfaction with judging /critiquing than at the end of 2023. Seeing some improvements although it was felt that these were inconsistent. There continues to be concerns regarding the length and range of comments. There were also some concerns about scores.

Clarity about resubmission of images following the exhibition evening was raised.

Information evenings

Information evenings followed a new format in 2024. After an initial workshop on matting (which was well received) the evenings rotated over a period of three months through: 1) Presentation – Mono, The Natural World, Visions in Mono with Dex 2) A night in (*) parts – Portfolio plus; Bracketing, Creating a Slideshow, Minimalist photos and theme Q & A 3) Show and Grow - Presentations (Mono, The Natural World, Visions in Mono with Dex) Most workshops and presentations were attended by 60-70% of responding members. Non-attendance was usually due to being away or ill

All presentations were received well and variously described as helpful, fun, entertaining, stimulating, relevant. The presentation, 'Visions in Mono with Dex' was particularly well received.

Night in Parts (Portfolio plus; Bracketing, Creating a Slideshow, Minimalist photos, theme Q &A) This year we retained portfolios but also included time for skill development. The opportunity for Q&A to ask questions about upcoming themes was also planned but under-utilised.

Attendance by the respondents varied between 45% and 73%

Portfolios – Three of the respondents completed a portfolio with one member commenting that they were “an interesting exercise”.

All three respondents that had completed a portfolio stated that they would like to complete a portfolio again next year. In total, the number of respondents wishing to complete a portfolio were:

Next year (2025) - 4 yes, 1 maybe, 5 'No'

In 2 years (2026) – 3 yes (plus the assumed 'yes' from above), 1 maybe, 1 unsure, 1 undecided, 1 'No'

Show and Grow Initial provision was made for greater opportunity of feedback on images using 'new' techniques in the 'Show' part of 'Show and Grow'. The uptake on this was low. There were two presentations; The Exposure Triangle, Minimalism

The presentations were seen by the respondents as comprehensive and informative, inspiring.

Media

All responding members read the newsletter. 7 of these members also visited the website and 4 visited Facebook.

Looking forward to 2025

Thanks was expressed towards the committee for its achievements including Interclub and specifically to our outgoing president, Rob Skinner for both his calm and tireless leadership. Respondents were interested in supporting club through contributions to the newsletter and or leading outings

Moving into 2025, members wanted to continue to be inspired by and learn from other photographers and to learn more about photography, new techniques, more skills as well as being inspired and motivated to get out and take photos.

Subjects desired for inclusion in our information sessions in 2025 were given as; Flash photography, more on technical skills, postproduction (LR, PS and other programmes), how to critique your own images/more on what makes a good image, what and how to edit before touching the computer, photojournalism, fundamentals/techniques of Black & White photography.

Possible community involvement/activities were given as; Informal stalls at community events, community radio, exhibitions - including exhibiting again at the Anglican church fair in Wentworth Falls, some form of involvement in schools. Photograph historically significant buildings (infrastructure) in the mountains.

Exhibition Night

Fiona Carter



Perfect Score and Members Choice Colour



FIONA CARTER

The image was titled "Spotted" and is of a Spotted Pardalote which I believe is a female. It was taken at the Lake Pillans Wetlands in Lithgow in the morning light.

It was taken on a Sony 7R4 with a 100-400mm lens and a 1.4TC @ 560mm.

It was taken at f/8, ISO 2000 and 1/1600s. The image has been cropped.

Members Choice Mono



David Mansfield
Lake Eyre Paddle



David Mansfield

Exhibition Night Cont.



Rob Skinner
Coire nan Lochan



Fiona Carter
Waiting For Santa



Alan Daniel
Spinebill

Clicks & Comps



Architecture: Honorable Mention - Michael Peck (Australia)

A moment in Melbourne when early morning low cloud or mist was enveloping the high risers in the CBD. Taken from a back-streets hotel balcony.



Associated Press 100 Photos of 2024: An epic catalog of humanity

In nearly 100 countries and all 50 U.S. states, visual journalists with The Associated Press are eyewitnesses to the world's news, and have won 36 of AP's 59 Pulitzer Prizes since the award was established in 1917.


AP News | Dec 7, 2024




PHOTO 2026 Open Call

By clicking "Start Submission", you agree to be contacted by the host regarding this opportunity.

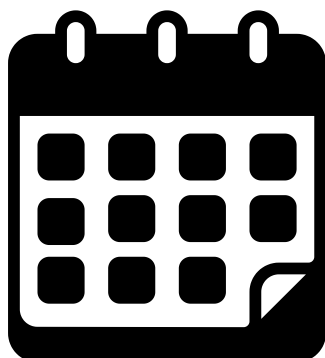
Pictor

 Instagram: [Great BM local street photographer](https://www.instagram.com/jbl_street_photographer)
https://www.instagram.com/jbl_ackwell66/

 Facebook: [Anti-AI campaigning photographer](https://www.facebook.com/VerityMilliganPhotography)
<https://www.facebook.com/VerityMilliganPhotography>

INFORMATION NIGHT 17 FEBRUARY

SAMUEL MARKHAM: LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPOSITION



Samuel Markham Photography
<https://www.samuelmarkham.photography/home>

Artist Description - Samuel Markham is a self-taught landscape and wilderness photographer based on the South Coast of New South Wales, Australia. Photography entered his life in 2011, transforming the way he perceives the world and instilling in him a profound gratitude for nature's intricate details that he once overlooked. His artistic endeavours are grounded in a profound respect and awe for both nature and its almighty creator, seeking to convey reverence through the images he captures. Over the years he has developed a fascination with dramatic light and atmosphere. Driving him on an endless journey to capture those elusive moments that encapsulate the essence of freedom. In 2023 he was crowned the Overall Winner of the 'Australian Geographic 2023 Nature Photography of the Year' for his image "My Country Burns" taken during the horrific 2019 / 2020 Black Summer bushfires that devastated Australia.

Presentation Description - I'm thrilled to present "Landscape Photography Composition," where we will explore both basic and advanced techniques for capturing stunning landscape images and understanding how light interacts with different locations. As the "Australian Geographic 2023 Nature Photographer of the Year", with a rich background collaborating with Canon Australia, Australian Photography Magazine and the Australian Museum, I bring a wealth of experience to this topic. In this presentation, I will share my photography journey, delve deeply into compositional techniques, and offer insights into how to enhance your landscape photography. We will also have a Q&A session to address your queries, and I will provide a brief overview of something I call "The Map" and my Landscape Photography Workshops, which will include an exclusive discount for attendees.

UMBCC Program 2025

17 February Landscape Photography Composition - Samuel Markham

3 March Open + Framed (see following pages for explanation)

17 March AI in photography - Michelle Kennedy

Office Bearers/Contacts

President	Lisa Buchan	ubmccpresident@gmail.com
Secretary	Geoff Atwood	ubmccsecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Greg Pitty	ubmcctreasurer@gmail.com
Newsletter	Meredith Pitt	ubmcc.news@gmail.com
Website	Debbie Marsh	https://upperbluementnscamerclub.com.au/

Thank you for reading!

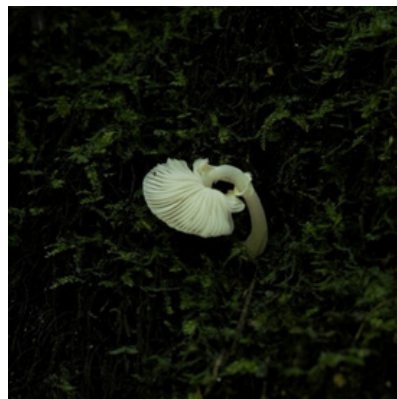
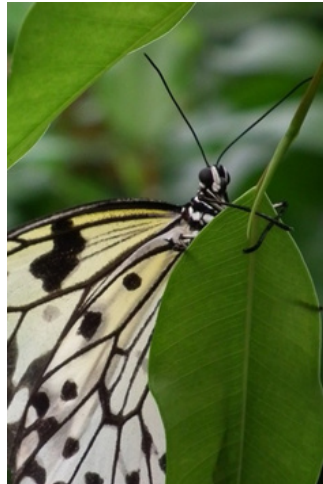
What's in the frame?

By Debbie Marsh

Used in composition, 'framing' involves choosing what you include within a photograph and what you leave out to create a composition that directs the viewer's attention to the main subject.

Commonly, natural foreground elements such as trees/branches or rocks are used. Equally man-made structures such as buildings or parts of buildings in the form of doorways and windows can be used. These elements and structures often provide a neutral background but may hold contextual detail.

The following images ©Debbie Marsh are all examples of framing.



While we may instinctively frame a subject using physical elements, framing can also be achieved or enhanced by the use of camera angle, light & shadow, and colour contrast. In the example below there is an evolving story of a day at the beach. Leading lines are in place, but the image can be strengthened through the removal of extraneous content.



By reducing the image to exclude elements that are unnecessary to the story, the edges of the photo become the boundary frame.

Removal of the excess beach background also brings a balance to the dark and light areas enabling the viewer's attention to stay in the foreground rather than drifting towards the background scene. Furthermore, weighting of the dark clothing retains our eye within the frame rather than drift out as we view the chip bag.

Additionally, the line of vision between the front gull and the pack of chips is now apparent. The eye is led up to the chips, then back down the legs to the gulls again and so on. The wide aperture used when taking the photograph also assists in maintaining attention on the story seen by the photographer by softening detail in the background. The rule of thirds is also 'in play', bringing the viewer's eye to the gulls.

March exhibition night – Open and/or Set

The challenge for the UBMCC March exhibition night Set Subject option, is to focus on 'Frames' within photography. As always on an Open and/or Set Subject exhibition night, members may submit up to 3 photographs in any genre or combination of DPIs and/or prints.

Images may be entirely 'Open' – Name and submit in the usual way e.g. [DPI] followed by a space, the image title, underscore, your initials in Capital letters.

[DPI] A Day at the beach_DMA

Images may be entirely 'Set' – Precede the image title with Frame then leave a space before adding the Title. Submit in the usual way. e.g. [DPI] followed by the set theme, a space, the image title, underscore, your initials in Capital letters.

[DPI] Frames Hopeful_DMA

Images submitted may be a mix of 'Open' and 'Set'. Ensure that you name each image according to the category that you are placing it in. Then submit in the usual way.

Do NOT duplicate an image and place it in each of the Open and Set categories.

Similar images should not be submitted in a single exhibition night. Commit to whether it is to be submitted as Open or Set and Colour or Mono.

By preceding your image title with the set subject (e.g. Frames) you ensure that it is judged/critiqued accordingly.