



F/STOP

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE FEDERATION OF CAMERA CLUBS (NSW)

May 2020

Federation of the Camera Clubs (NSW) Inc. PO Box 49 Macquarie Fields NSW 2564 www.photographynsw.org.au

President's Message

Autumn is upon us, and what beautiful weather we have been experiencing. I am sure most of you are tired of being caged, and itching to get out of seclusion. But how lucky are we, in Australia, to have a government who acted swiftly and managed to contain a deadly spread. We must be, along with NZ, the envy of the rest of the world

As the NSW government is now easing and lifting many restrictions due to Covid-19, I am certain many will want to get out to photograph our wonderful autumn colours. Always such a joy.

Our Top Shot competition for 2020, is now closed and the judges have started work on the images. Due to the restrictions from Covid-19, it was impossible to have judging in person, and also for the same reason to have a print competition.

However because the judging needed to be carried out remotely, I have been able to source judges from interstate. This has of course been impossible before, due to the high cost of travel. I thought you may be interested to know who the judges are. We have John North and Pia Jessen from Brisbane, both award winning photographers and international judges. From Victoria, I acquired Bronwen Casey, Heather Prince, Mieke Boynton and Adrian Donahue, also all award winning photographers, and well known judges. And from NSW we have Brian Russell and Craig Parker, both superb nature photographers, and judges.

I do hope you have all remained well during this very trying period, and are now contemplating a return to living an almost normal life. Of course the virus will be with us for some time yet, until a vaccine becomes available (hopefully). We will need to live with the virus, but safely, by practising social distancing for some time yet. Unfortunately international travel will not be feasible in the foreseeable future.

Until next time, stay safe and well.

Kerry Boytell

EFIAP/b, MAPS



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Our Judges have been busy judging the 1200+ incredible images entered this year!

JOIN US LIVE ONLINE ON 14 JUNE 2020 AT 2:30PM FOR THE RESULTS!

The Event Link will be emailed to all the participants for TopShot 2020 as well as posted to our Facebook Page.

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Clubs in the Covid-19 Lockdown.

As we all know, clubs are no longer able to meet face to face during this period. Fortunately we live in an age where we are able to use technology to stay in contact with each other by a variety of computer conferencing programs, including Zoom. This has not been ideal, but better than no contact at all.

It has meant that club committees have also had to make decisions on how to run the club meetings and competitions. This has not been easy, and not all members have agreed with some of the decisions that have been made, but remember that your committees are trying to do their best under unusual circumstances. One of the great benefits of competitions as a part of the club's program is that it gives us exposure to other member's images and ideas, which then gives us the opportunity to discuss photography and develop our own skills. Thanks to a number of image hosting platforms, most clubs have been able to continue hosting competitions, or member's portfolios, all be it limited to digital formats.

There have been some advantages. I have been told of a club being able to organize a presentation by an out of state photographic presenter that the members could access on line. Under normal circumstances the club would have had to cover the travel and accommodation costs for the presenter. It has also meant that FCC judges can still view and comment on competition entries, and in some cases meet with the club members on line to discuss the entries. Unfortunately this is limited to digital images, and as a print worker, I miss the opportunity to view other photographers prints.

Even though we are over the initial hump of the pandemic lockdown, and restrictions are slowly being eased, I suspect that it will be some time till we are able to meet together as we did previously. It is our hope that the FCC Interclub will be able to be held as an actual exhibition, but a decision on that will be made closer to the time it is scheduled for, and will depend on restrictions in force at the time.

The **Head On** photography event did a great job in adapted to the circumstances. It was great to be able to log in to the opening event to see the announcement of the section winners, and hear from most of them about their image which had won. **Head On** did a great job, giving access to the various events on line over the two weeks of the festival so that we could participate in the presentations and discussions that they had organized. I am looking forward to seeing some of the exhibitions that they have undertaken to organize once the restrictions have been lifted.

I would encourage club member to persevere with their photography, use this time to develop photographic and photo editing skills, and stay in contact with their fellow club members. Apologies for the late publication of F/Stop this month, but circumstances have prevented me from working on this month's edition until now.

Jeff Akers

FCC F/Stop Editor, FCC Vice President

Murray's Images.

Many of you may have seen the images of the bush fire regrowth that were projected onto the sails of the Sydney Opera House on Australia Day this year. These images were taken by Murray Lowe. Murray is a member of the Central Coast Leagues Club Camera Club and is a long standing member in the camera club movement. He was initially a member of the Ryde Eastwood Leagues Camera Club, where he served as club President for a number of years, and when he moved to the central coast, he joining the club there.

Here is his story of the images.

"My story, started when after 3 weeks of the fires ripping through parts of Kulnura, an area west of Wyong and north of Central Mangrove, a good friend and I ventured out to the fire grounds to see what damage had been done. We were pleasantly surprised to find early stages of the bush regrowth.

After capturing some images, we returned home, and that night, I posted seven of my images on my Face Book page. To my surprise, comments began flowing in at such a pace, it wasn't possible to keep up with replies. I went to bed that night at around 11:00 pm.

When I checked the next morning, the "share" at the bottom of my post had reached around 4,000, and as I watched over the next 3 days, the counter stalled at just under 44K shares, due to it being posted on my personal page. I will never know how many shares or the reach it really had due to this limiting factor, and I received over 6,000 comments. I will never really see them all.

In the initial stages, I set up a proposal to sell images in print and on canvas and donate the proceeds to the Red Cross for fire victims. Kennedy Media in London contacted me to handle my images for media distribution throughout the world. The images have also been seen on news broadcasts globally, and with this came requests for radio interviews, with BBC2 in London, ABC Australia podcast, CBC Canada, to name a few.

This was a totally overwhelming experience and one I will never forget. I did manage to sell around 55 Prints of various sizes all over Australia, with some going to France, Germany, UK, Taiwan, and USA. I also sold 15, 90 x 60cm and 100 x 75cm canvas's around Australia, mostly of image No. 2, which was my hero shot.

In the end, I was able to donate in excess of \$1500 to Red Cross. The Icing on the cake, was when NSW Government approached me with a request to project 3 of my images blended, together, on to the sails of the Sydney Opera House on Australia day. It just blew me away, and they gave my daughter and I access to the top of the Overseas Passenger terminal to record it all on my own cameras."

See some of the images below and on the next page.





a fuzzy concept

The famous Ansel Adams once said “There is nothing worse than a sharp image of a fuzzy concept.”

Here are two projects Clubs can promote during the COVID-19 closedown that will help members “sharpen” up their photographic ideas.

Conceptual photography. Conceptual photography is photography that illustrates an idea. It stretches us beyond the more common photography of things (people, landscapes, nature, still life, architecture etc.).

Think of what is happening to you at the moment. For example it could be “COVID-19”, or “isolation”, or “empty shelves”, or “hoarding toilet paper”, or “social distancing”, or “stuck at home” or “family” or “isolation”.

Choose one of those ideas. Now think about how you could photograph that idea using things lying around your house: fruit, toys, furniture, clothing, people, exercise equipment etc.. For example, when you think of COVID-19 you might think of objects such as face masks, or hand sanitiser, or a pantry where all the food has been replaced by toilet paper. Use these objects in your house to make a still life, or a self-portrait, or a Photoshop composite that somehow links back to your original concept. Now do it again using a better composition or lighting of your objects, or different objects, or start again with a new concept.

Make a series. A series is a collection of around 20 or so photographs that all have a similar style or composition. Go through the past year or two of your photos, pull out the 40 or so photos you really like – whether they won awards or not. You may even have some photos you love that the judges hated. Do they have anything in common? Although you will have taken your photos at different times and in different places they may have a similar subject matter, consistent use of one colour, repetition of a particular feature, a recurring mood, or perhaps the same camera angle. Select twenty or so images which have that common element, print them out and leave them somewhere you can see them all. Ask others what they think of the photos. After a few weeks, you will see some of your photos will keep their interest. Toss the others out.

Now you have some options. Deliberately take future photos based solely on your common theme. After a year or so you will have your own unique series. Alternatively, you may see a pattern in your best photographs that you want to change. For example, if all your photos are taken at eye height, start taking them from ground level, or from other perspectives.

Both these projects will build the photographic skills of Club members while we wait out COVID-19. They will also help you develop your own style or “photographic voice” and – if you want – produce images you can turn into your own unique photobook or photography exhibition.

An occasional article on improving your photography by Don Munro, Secretary, Pennant Hills Photography Club.

Photography Competitions

Mosman Photography Awards

The Mosman Photography awards opened for entries in April and entries close on the 19th of June 2020. There is a ‘Youth Section’ which has three different competition subjects that can be entered. They are ‘Comedy Pets’, ‘Faces in Safe Places’ and Smartphone Photography @ Home’

The ‘Open Section’ has 4 different sections that can be entered. They are ‘Landscape Portfolio’, which can include landscapes, seascapes and cityscapes. The other sections are ‘Life in the time of social isolation’, Art Portfolio’ and ‘Analogue film portfolio’. It is possible to enter 3 images in each section.

For more information go to <https://mosmanphoto.myphotoclub.com.au/>

Everybody at MyPhotoClub



If your camera club uses MyPhotoClub to host their website, you are able to enter the occasional competitions they run. At present it is possible to enter images in the ‘From a Window’ competition.

Entrants are asked to submit an image of a view from a window. The window can be from home , or any location, and does not need to be lockdown related.

There is a limit of 1 image per person. The competition ends on May the 31st.

For more information go to the ‘Everyone at MyPhotoClub web site at <https://everyone.myphotoclub.com.au/>

If your club does not use MyPhotoClub and is looking for a hosting site, There is a special offer to clubs that can be seen later in the issue.



The 11th Digital Photography Awards are open to all photographers in Australia and its territories. It opened for entry in April, and entries close on the 22nd of June 2020. The sections available for entry are Open, Monochrome, Nature, Portrait, Macro and Creative.

It is expected that judging will be completed by the 7th of July 2020. For more information go to the web site at in this https://www.a-p-s.org.au/index.php/exhibition/adpa_Acceptances

Acceptances gained in this exhibition may be applied toward APS Honours



Sutherland Shire National Exhibition of Photography

The 32nd Sutherland Shire National Exhibition of Photography opens to entries on the 1st of June 2020. And close on Sunday, the 2nd of August 2020.

The 4 sections available for entry are Open Colour, Creative, Open Monochrome and Nature.

More information can be found at <https://ssnep.org.au/>



Entries in the Queensland international circuit open on the 1st of June and close on the 3rd of August. They will be judged on the 15th and 16th of August and results will be available by mail from the 30th of August.

There are 4 sections available for photographers to enter. Open Colour, a Theme section, which is action, sport or movement, Monochrome Open, and nature **Images entered in the Theme section – Action, Sport or Movement need not necessarily be of people but may be drawn from the natural world or depict inanimate objects.**

For further information about conditions, definitions and costs to enter this circuit go to <http://www.queensland-photo.com/>



PHOTO BOOK COMPETITION

ENTER BY 21 AUGUST TO WIN \$1900 in PRIZES



HOW TO ENTER

- + Entry is free
- + APS and non-APS Camera Club members are invited to enter
- + Entries must be submitted as printed books
- + There are two categories: Portfolio and Storytelling
- + Enter a maximum of one book into either or each category
- + There is no limit to the subject, format, length or print method

Winners announced September 2020.

Prizes include \$500 cash + \$1400 in photo book vouchers

Full competition and Memento Pro special offer details at

momentopro.com.au/APSBookComp

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MyPhotoClub

For Photography Clubs and Competition Hosts

Free use for Camera Clubs until April 2021

email colin@myphotoclub.com.au for details

Hi, I'm Colin Woods, developer of a unique photography club and competition solution called MyPhotoClub.

Camera clubs around the world have had their activities severely limited, with most relying on physical meetings for their activities and income generation. Because of this I am offering MyPhotoClub to any club, at no charge until April 2021.

Consider using this offer to supplement or establish online competitions and activities within your club immediately.

Clubs taking up this offer only need to pay a fee if they wish to continue with the service beyond April 2021. The ongoing fee is \$5.00 per member every six months, commencing April 2021. The system can be used as a competition entry portal for the club, or as a complete website.

Currently over 35 clubs with over 1,100 members use MyPhotoClub. Also many regional and state bodies within Australia use MyPhotoClub for InterClub and individual competitions between member clubs.

The Australian Photographic Society uses MyPhotoClub for all of their competitions.

Features available with MyPhotoClub

Communication

- Simple and efficient communication through posts to the website
- Automated email messaging of each post's contents to members, subscribers, potential or previous entrants.
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Competitions

- Online competition entry
- Image dimension, size & type checking
- Acknowledgment messages sent to entrants
- Competition results message
- PDF catalog of results produced
- Full archive of images & results data
- Fully customisable award and scoring.
-

Judging Methods

- **Remote judging** – comments and awards for each entry given by a single judge
- **Online scoring** – multiple judges enter a numeric score for each entry
- **Keypad judging** – USB keypads to record a numeric score •

Membership management

Online payments for **competitions, catalogs, membership & events**

Members profile pages

- Photo & photography-related bio
- View and comment on images entered by the member
- Re-use of entries
- Members can nominate previously uploaded images for entry into other club competitions or any competition hosted by MyPhotoClub

Competition galleries

- View slideshow and comment on all images entered in completed competitions/upload activities
- Comments trigger email alerts
- Members can vote for favourite entry.

Competition Management

- Grades and grading management
- Point score management

Workshop and development activities

Critique corner

- upload an image for all members to evaluate and suggest improvements

Reference file provision

- provide a raw file and invite members to upload their processed version

provide instructions on how to do an activity – then upload the result.

There is no limit to the number of competitions and images within the club system.

Each camera club does things a little bit differently, and through careful design & consultation, MyPhotoClub has the capacity to cater for these variations.

More than happy to discuss by email or zoom.

MyPhotoClub

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ONLINE WORKSHOP AVAILABILITY

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Facebook

F/Stop News and Article Contribution

The F/Stop newsletter depends on your contributions. If you have any articles that may be of interest to our members, please email them to – fccstopeditor@gmail.com.

Articles could include: Camera hints, Photoshop hints, travel, nature or sport photography and/or local photoshoots. Also information on awards, competitions, exhibitions, or on upcoming events, workshop, event reports, or book reviews etc.

Don't be limited by this list! Anything that might interest photographers is acceptable.

Please send articles in Microsoft word or plain text format with photos attached as separate files. Submitted images should be a jpg file with a maximum size of 50 – 80kb.

In order to ensure your article is included in the next newsletter, please submit it by the 20th of the month.

President	Kerry Boytell nswfccpresident@gmail.com
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F/Stop Editor	Jeff Akers fccstopeditor@gmail.com .
General Committee Members	Alan Hitchell Allan Rose Chris Kenyon Cathie Stubbs
Webmaster (non-committee position)	The website is maintained and administered by the Myclub website administrator under instructions from the F.C.C. committee

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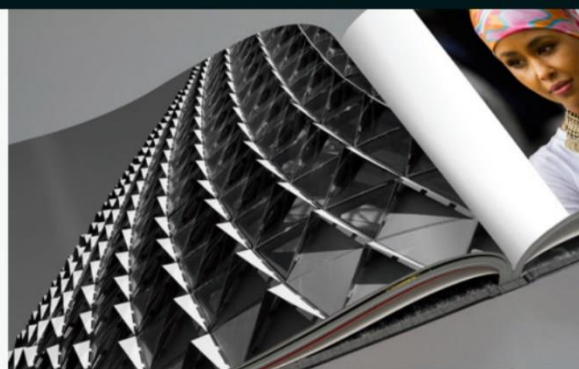
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Photo by Michelle Kennedy, Photographer & Erika Camera House employee.

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Invitation to our Camera Club Program

Momento Pro is Australia's oldest on-demand photo book producer and we're delighted to now offer members of approved Camera Clubs and Photographic Societies access to our professional service that includes inkjet printing, ICC profiles, more papers and finishes. Members will receive 30% off their first order and 10% off all other orders.

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