



WELCOME TO THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE LEADING LINE – Dennis Archibald

March is behind us and April is here. Cooler weather ahead, a change of seasons and different light. A chance to take some different images.

I am writing this after our Mini Print night. You can find more details in this issue, but I was impressed by the range and quality of entries. Members clearly considered their entries, which showcased their diverse interests. Well done to everyone who participated and to Gregg Carruthers for planning and leading the night.

Our next club night will be held at the Valentine Bowling Club on Wednesday 2nd April at 7.00pm.

New Members

Welcome to new members Laticia Ferris, Manjul Agarwal and Rob Oyston. Hope to see you at one of our upcoming meetings.

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL – Greg Carruthers

The activities and tutorials for April are summarised below:

- Wednesday 2nd April, committee meeting via ZOOM
- Thursday 3rd April, Scapes SIG with David Richards via Zoom at 7.00pm
- Sunday 6th April at 11.30pm, closing date for April club print and digital entries.
- Monday 7th April – Photoshop Interest Group with Roy Killen at 7.00pm.
- Wednesday 9th April – Club Print night at VBC commencing at 7.00pm
- Thursday 10th April, Lightroom SIG via Zoom with Greg Carruthers at 7.00pm
- Monday 14th April – Photoshop Interest Group Zoom session with Roy Killen, 7.00pm start.
- Tuesday 15th April – Macro SIG by Zoom with Bill Chambers, 7.00pm start
- Thursday 17th April – Street Photography Interest Group Zoom with Dennis Archibald at 7.30pm
- Monday 21st April – Photoshop Interest Group Zoom session with Roy Killen, 7.00pm start.
- Wednesday 23rd April – Tutorial night at VBC. Topic tbc, 7.00pm start.



- Monday 28th April at 9.30am-. Coffee catch-up at Lake Macquarie Sailing Club.
- Monday 28th April - Photoshop Interest Group Zoom session with Roy Killen, 7.00pm start.
- Wednesday 30th April – Astro SIG - Photoshoot – with Greg Carruthers, 7.00pm. Details tbc.

The best and most immediate way to see what's happening in the club is to look on our new website at the Calendar, and then select the Agenda option. Then you will see what is on each day through the month. A summary appears below.

April						2025
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
31	01	02 Club Committee Mtg. via Zoom 7.30pm	03 Scapes Interest Group zoom session with David Richards, 7.00pm start	04	05	06 April Club Competition Entries close 11.30pm
07 Photoshop Interest Group with Roy Killen via ZOOM - 7.00pm	08	09 Club Night at VBC 7.00pm	10 Lightroom SIG Zoom Meeting with Greg Carruthers @7.00pm	11	12	13
14 Photoshop Interest Group with Roy Killen via ZOOM - 7.00pm	15 Macro SIG with Bill Chambers 7.00pm.	16	17 Street Photography Interest Group Zoom Session - Dennis Archibald at 7.30pm	18	19	20
21 Photoshop Interest Group with Roy Killen via ZOOM - 7.00pm	22	23 Tutorial night at VBC. Details to be announced	24	25	26	27
28 Coffee Catchup - Lake Macquarie Sailing Club 9.30am Photoshop Interest Group with Roy Killen via ZOOM - 7.00pm	29	30 Astrophotshoot with Greg Carruthers.	01	02	03	04



2025 External Competitions News

Last month we reported on those members who had done well in the Maitland International Salon. Unfortunately, we missed a few. Well done to the following members.

 <p>Maitland International Salon of Photography 2025</p> <p>FIAP Honourable Mention Mono PSA-PPD-MA-Large Prints</p>  <p>Toorale shearing station David Richards FAPS QPSA</p> <div> <div>Colin Woods Salon President</div> <div>Debbie Sutton Salon Secretary</div> </div> <div>     </div>	 <p>Maitland International Salon of Photography 2025</p> <p>Salon Certificate of Merit Colour PSA-PPD-CA-Large Prints</p>  <p>In a hurry David Richards FAPS QPSA</p> <div> <div>Colin Woods Salon President</div> <div>Debbie Sutton Salon Secretary</div> </div> <div>     </div>
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Colour Image – Bronze Medal – Megan Willis



Nature Image – Honourable Mention – Trevor Cotterill

Please let us know if you have had success in competitions external to our normal club competitions.



April Club Competitions

Judges for April 2025 are:

- PRINTS - Colour and Mono – Chris Prior
- DIGITAL - Colour – Steve McGrath
- DIGITAL - Mono – Greg Carruthers
- DIGITAL – Set Subject – Dennis Archibald

April Set Subject – “People on the Street”

Definition: Despite the hustle and bustle of towns and cities they can be lonely places. People are often lost in their own world, interacting with nothing but their phone or tablet. Your challenge is to capture the loneliness of city/town life by capturing an image of a single person who is self-absorbed and not interacting with the world around them.

Judging Criteria: A monochrome image of a single person, captured by the member after 1 December 2024. Composite images are not allowed. Entries must comply with the Club Rules on the use of AI. Images will be assessed based on adherence to the theme, creativity/originality, and technical quality. Images that will score best are those that effectively convey the feeling that the subject is adrift in their own thoughts, oblivious to what is happening around them.

Photographic Society of America (PSA) and Interclub Competitions

Our club is a member of PSA, which allows us to participate in the PSA Interclub competitions, where we compete against clubs from all over the world. Full details about how these competitions are conducted are in the Club Documents section of the club website and the latest PSA competition news can be found on the club website at **Competitions/PSA Interclub Competitions**.

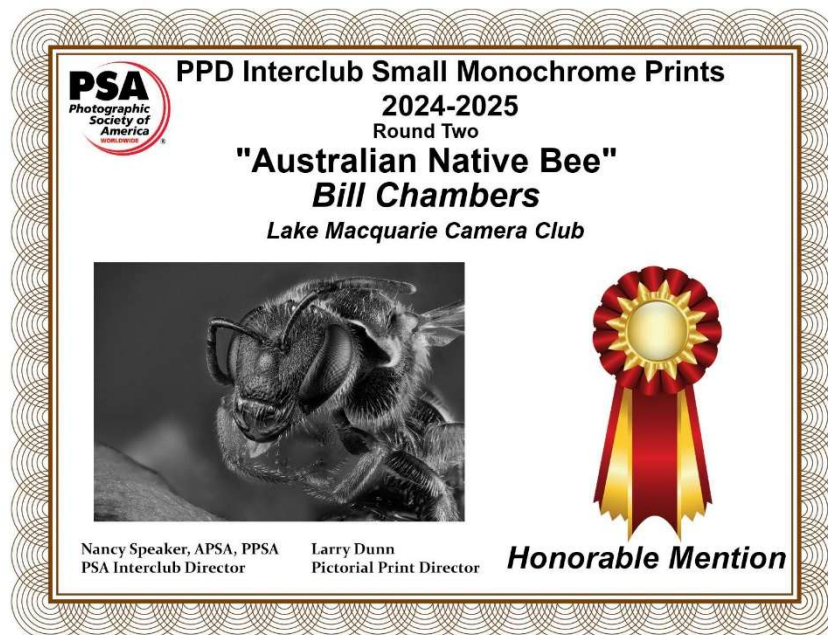
In previous years, our club has been very successful in the Digital sections – Colour, Monochrome, Nature, Photojournalism and Photo Travel.

This year, we have expanded our participation to include the Colour and Monochrome Print sections of the Interclub. If your image is selected to represent our club, the club will subsidise the cost.

All the results for Round 2 have now been received and can be viewed on the club website – Competitions/PSA Interclub Competitions/Round 2 Results 2024/2025.



In Round 2 in the Monochrome small prints, LMCC gained 3rd place out of 15 clubs - just 1 point behind the two clubs that gained equal first place. Three club members gained awards in the monochrome print section.





In the Colour small prints LMCC gained 9th place out of 16 clubs - 9 points behind the club that gained first place. No awards were gained.

In the Colour digital section LMCC gained 6th place out of 26 clubs - 10 points behind the club that gained first place.

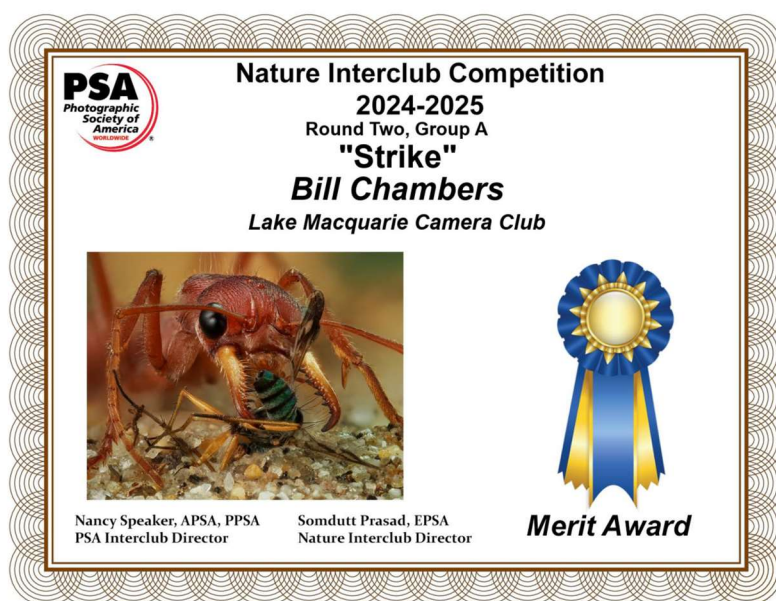
Stephane Thomas was awarded a Merit for his image "Mim Wheeler".





In the Nature digital section LMCC gained 11th place out of 24 clubs in Group A - 13 points behind the club that gained first place.

Bil Chambers was awarded a Merit for his image Strike".



Roy Killen was awarded a Merit for his image "The battle is over".



In the PHOTO TRAVEL DIGITAL category LMCC gained 3rd place out of 23 clubs in Group A - taking LMCC into 2nd place for the season.



Dennis Archibald was awarded a HM for his image "Dye Works".



Jennifer Carrigan was awarded a HM for her image "Eileen Doran Castle".





MONOCHROME DIGITAL. LMCC gained 10th place out of 26 clubs. Stephane Thomas was awarded a Merit for his image "Ella".



PHOTOJOURNALISM DIGITAL - LMCC gained 5th place out of 22 clubs. Roy Killen gained a HM for his image "Jetpack inversion".





Round 3 Selections

The following club members had images selected to represent LMCC in Round 3 of the PSA Interclub competitions:

COLOUR DIGITAL: Chris Prior, David Richards, Bill Chambers, Roy Killen, Jennifeer Carrigan, Margot Hughes.

MONOCHROME DIGITAL: Greg Caruthers, Margot Hughees, Chris Manweiller, Shane Walwork, Helen Walker, Bill Chambers.

NATURE DIGITAL: Bill Chambers, Bob Todd, Jennifer Carrigan, Chris Mannweler, Trevor Cotterill, Roy Killen.

PHOTO TRAVEL DIGITAL: David Richards, Jennifer Carrigan, Chris Prior, Dennis Archibald, Helen Walker, Roy Killen.

PHOTOJOURNALISM DIGITAL: Chris Prior, Chris Mannweile, David Richards, Roy Killen, Helen Walker, Margor Hughes.

COLOUR PRINTS: Bill Chambers, Greg Carruthers, Steve Wallis, Roy Killen (The print sections have only 4 entries.)

MONOCHROME PRINTS: Steve Wallis, David Richards, Greg Caruthers, Shane Wallwork.

Results of these competitions should be available in late April.

When submitting entries for the PSA competitions the only restriction is that you cannot enter an image that has previously been selected to represent LMCC or Belmont 16s.

If you have any questions about the PSA Interclub competitions, please contact Roy Killen.





PSA Courses

As well as our club being a member of PSA, several of our members are individual members of PSA. Among other membership benefits, they can participate in the free online courses offered by PSA. Club members who complete a PSA course and then make a short presentation about it at one of our club nights are eligible to have the first year of their PSA membership fee reimbursed by the club. For details of these PSA courses and other benefits of joining PSA, please contact Roy Killen who is the Australian Membership Director for PSA.



Mini Print Night

The winners from the night were selected by those who attended.

 <p>Chris Mannweiler – 1st Place</p>	 <p>Bettina Damme – 2nd Place</p>
 <p>3rd Place – Jen Carrigan</p>	 <p>4th Place – Kay Chambers</p>

INTEREST GROUPS NEWS

The groups, their respective mentors and news are listed below. It is **NEVER** too late to get involved. It's great to see a flurry of activity with more people joining groups. This month a special thanks and welcome to Chris Prior who is taking over from Bill Chambers and is leading our Beginners Group. Thanks to Stephane Thomas for his time leading the Studio Lighting Group. Until we find a suitable replacement Dennis Archibald is your point of contact for this group.



If you would like to join one of these groups just contact the nominated mentor.

1. **Beginners Group** –the basics of camera craft and/or basic image editing. Mentor – Chris Prior
2. **Lightroom** – Learn and share the tips and tricks of using Lightroom Classic as your main image editing program. Mentor – Greg Carruthers.
3. **Astrophotography** – Learn the basics of capturing and editing nightscape images including the Milky Way, star trails and foreground interest. Mentor- Greg Carruthers.
4. **Studio Lighting** – Concentrating on portrait photoshoots using speedlights (flash), **and/or LED lighting**. Mentor – Dennis Archibald.
5. **Macro Photography**– Learn how to master the techniques involved in capturing and editing Macro images. Mentor – Bill Chambers.
6. **Scape Photography** – ‘Scape’ Photography – capture and editing of Landscapes, Seascapes and Cityscapes, including the opportunities presented during Blue hour and Golden hour. Mentor – Dave Richards
7. **Photoshop**– Training via Zoom conferencing on Monday nights – Mentor – Roy Killen. Meetings will start again later in the year if there is sufficient demand. If you are interested in participating in this group, please email Roy Killen.
8. **Street Photography** – gear, camera settings, street etiquette, photoshoots – Mentor – Dennis Archibald.

Please check the club calendar for dates and activities.



Ian Armstrong's image taken on a recent Scapes Photoshoot.

Valentine Bowling Club Photoshoot

A big thanks for Jen Carrigan and Anne Frodl for capturing some images for Valentine Bowling Club's recent Paint n Sip function. Their images were well received.

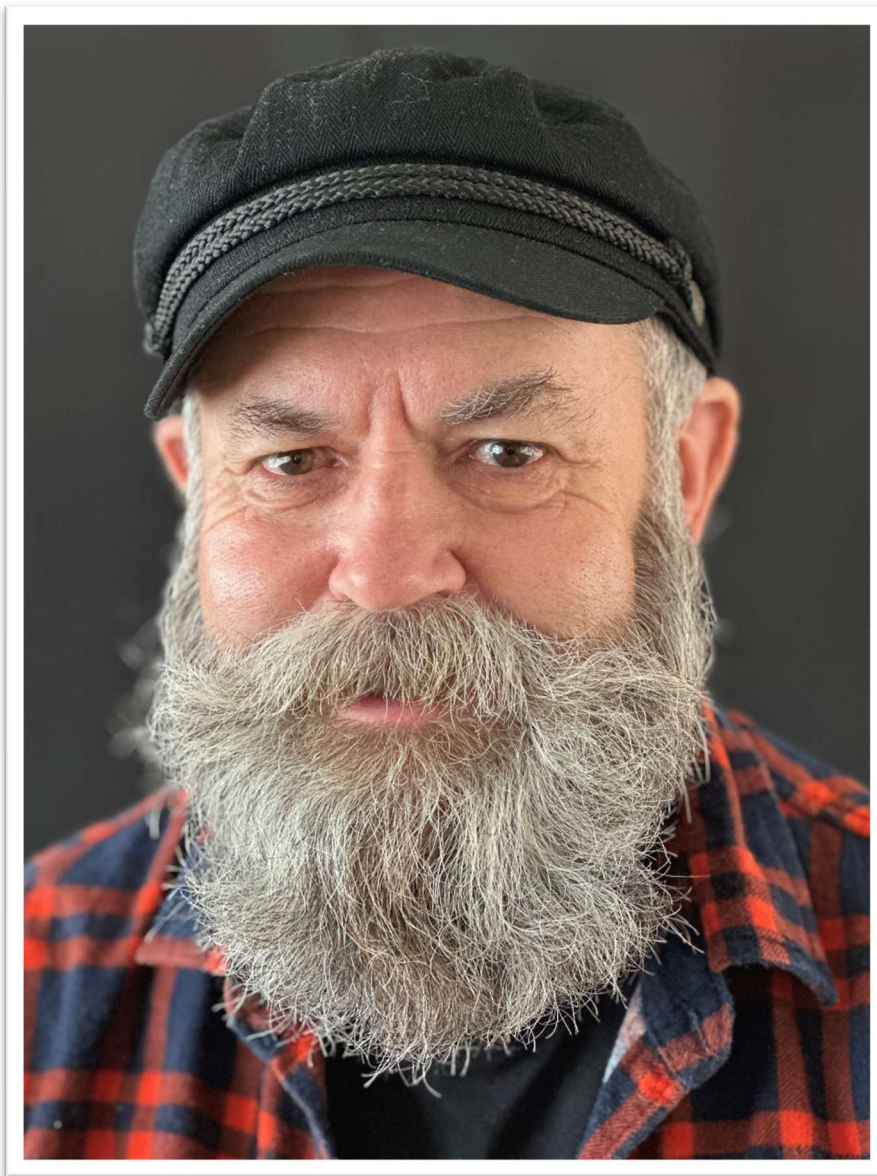




Just 3 – Katherine James

My friend Peter

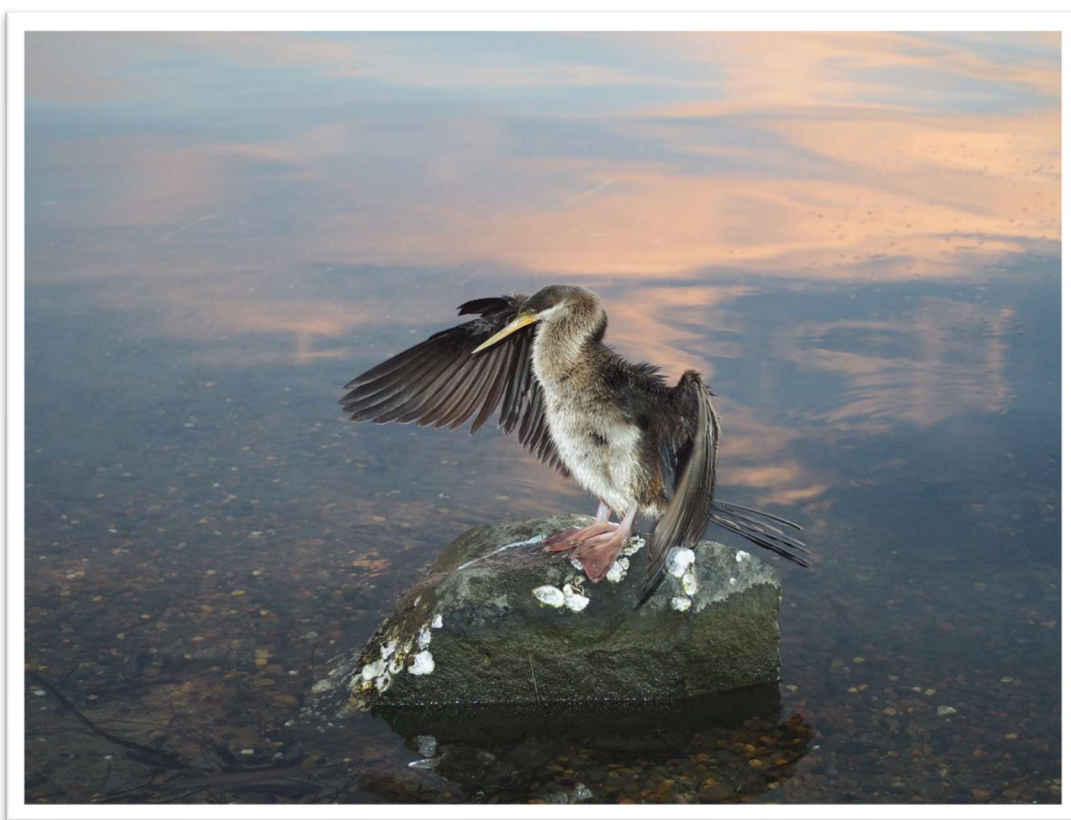
Peter is a friend from Belmont 16s who loves to be there for people and children. Peter is the official Santa every year when his beard gets coloured white. I'm not a person who likes beards, but he was prepared to sit for me as long it took until I forgot how to set up the studio lights, so I put down the camera and picked up the phone.





The Cormorant

The cormorant was just sitting on his favourite rock at Warners Bay. I just moved closer and closer to him all the time talking to him, yes people looked at me as if I was stupid, but it worked, the bird kept turning his head in different poses for me, after 8 or more photos I left him to dry in peace.



Sunrise at Albany

This photo means so much to me. It was the last Western Australian trip with my cousin.

The first morning in Albany I got up and there was this brilliant red showing through the bushes. I grabbed my phone and this is what met me. The early morning had a chill to it as can be seen by the people walking the beach in coats. I feel sorry for the guy talking on his phone missing the entire beauty of mother nature. He walked the entire length of the beach and back and he talked on the phone the whole time.



Worth a Look?

I'm sure club members have different ways of informing themselves on photography in its many forms and applications. Whether it is subscribing to magazines, borrowing books or magazines from the library or following people on social media or YouTube. Each month we will include some links to news stories on the internet, competition results and well-known photographer's work. If you have an item of interest, please let us know. A special thanks for the contributions received this month:

- There is a documentary series on SBS on Demand now featuring seven Australian photographers, called Language of Light. "Looks at seven Australian photographers, each with an impressive body of work and unique photographic style." My quick reading of the seven photographers that are featured would indicate that their work would be broadly classified as photojournalism. The first episode features the work of Ponch Hawkes – "Feminist photographer Ponch Hawkes' pictures explore themes such as female bodies, sports, circus performers, relationships and identity. Her large body of work is a significant part of the Australian Feminist art movement."



- Here is another image from an American photographer Jim Zuckerman's daily blog - <https://www.jimzuckerman.com/>





This is an agama lizard I photographed in Namibia. I wanted to fill the frame with the reptile, but my 500mm f/4 Canon couldn't focus within 15 feet. If I took the picture from that minimum focusing distance, the subject would be too small in the frame and wouldn't have the visual impact I wanted. So I placed a 25mm extension tube between the telephoto and the camera body, and now I was able to shoot from a much closer distance and still have the lizard sharp. Fortunately it didn't move at all while I was adding the tube. I took the shot from about 8 feet, and the camera settings were 1/60, f/14, and 1000 ISO. I used a tripod because there is no way the picture would be sharp if I hand held such a heavy lens especially with this kind of magnification.

- Our May Set Subject topic is Still Life. As always please read the judging criteria on the club website but if you are looking for some inspiration you can check out the link below from the website 121 Clicks – *"Still life photography has the power to transform everyday things into captivating works of art, highlighting the beauty in objects that might otherwise go unnoticed. Source: 121clicks.com"* - <https://search.app/oof5MzNY1WBLEhFY9>
- Repeated from last month. There is a very useful Photography Show on Channel 10 app. "Ten Play" and on YouTube. Simply do a search for "Snap Happy Photography Show" and you will be able to see series 7 on Channel 10 or earlier sessions on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYE4KHJVI2E>

This is an Australian production that takes you all over Australia and explains how their images were taken and then for some of their images how they are edited. It's well worth a look. Easy viewing 20min each episode often featuring well known Aussie photographers.

- If you spend some time wandering the streets of Newcastle you would be aware of several public art works displayed on the walls of buildings, a bit like silo art which is appearing throughout rural Australia. This website takes you to a list of artworks in Newcastle, some will be familiar, but some may be new. - <https://visitnewcastle.com.au/insider-guides/outdoor-art-gallery>



New Club Website

The new club website is up and running at <http://www.lakemacquariemcameraclub.com> . Login details have been sent to all members. If you did not receive your login information or you have any trouble logging in please email one of our webmasters, Roy Killen at roykillen@gmail.com or David Richards at lakemacquariemcameraclub@gmail.com

All club and PSA competition entries **MUST** be made on the new website. We recently sent out an email to all members about the limited remaining time you have to access the previous club MyPhoto Club website. In case you missed it is copied below.

*"We are now operating our camera club on our **NEW** website. You can still access your account on the **OLD MyPhoto** club website but this access will not be available forever and we would like to see that access finish by the **end of April**.*

Most members, if not all, will have the images they previously uploaded available on their home computers and most members have a system for determining how those images scored in club competitions. Roy Killen has prepared a guide which is attached to this email which will allow you to download your past competition entries made on the MyPhoto club website and to then determine which images have scored Honours or been entered more than three times therefore precluding them from being entered in competitions in the future.

It is your responsibility to comply with club competition rules so if you need to, please avail yourself this opportunity to download past images whilst you still can."

You can access the guide for downloading images by clicking on the following link - <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/iu6bnr2v50bt2d89vss8/Download-Images-from-MPC.pdf?rlkey=tmhirtzt688xj9gpg4gcmioup&dl=0>

Two of the new features on the website are the Special Interest Groups and the Special Interest Discussion Forums. Under the My Account>My Groups menu you can join any of the Special Interest Groups and this will make it easy for the group leaders to contact you. If you also subscribe to the relevant Discussion Forum under the Information for Members>Discussions Forums menu you will be kept up to date with the activities of the group.

We have now run our first club competitions on the new website, for both PSA Interclub Round 3, as well as our March club competition. Everything worked very well, a big thanks to Phil Whiteman.

For information about our club entries for **PSA Interclub Round 3**, go to Competitions > PSA Interclub Competitions > Entries Round 3 2024-25. You can also see our PSA Interclub results and individual awards.

Results and judging comments have now been published for **March Colour EDI** and **March Nature EDI**. At the time of posting this newsletter, the **March Set Subject** is still being judged. Unlike our old website where judging of all the competitions had to be finalised before we could post the results, our new website allows us to post results and judging comments once a



specific competition has been finalised. So, if for example you have entered the Colour EDI competition, you will receive an Email to advise once the results have been completed and posted for that specific competition.

You can view the results several ways:

- For your own results, go to My Account > My Competition Images, and then search for the relevant competition (eg March 2025 Digital Colour). You will see your image awards and judging comments.
- To view all members results, go to Competitions > Competition Results, and select the relevant Competition (eg March 2025 Digital Colour).

The results are shown in the following order: Advanced Grade (Honours Judges Choice - Honours - Merit - Accepted), then Open Grade (Honours Judges Choice - Honours - Merit - Accepted). Scores relate to the Award given. Honours/Judges choice will be awarded 10, Honours - 9, Merit 8, and Accepted 7 to 1. The reason for the range of scores relating to Accepted, is to give members a guideline of the improvement opportunity to lift their image from Accepted to a Merit award or higher.

Note that the scores shown here do not relate to our Yearly Point score system. Our Point Score system remains unchanged (the award of Honours Judges Choice = 7 points; Honours = 5 points; Merit = 3 points; and Accepted = 1 point).


Life Members


The following screenshot will be difficult to see but it is a copy of a page in our new website where we list our Life Members. To make it easier to read I have copied the text at the top of this page.

“Lake Macquarie Camera Club (previously Belmont 16s Photography Club) has been in continuous operation since March 1973. This period of time is testament to the hard work of members who have participated in the club's activities and management.

Community clubs such as ours can only exist and function through the work of members who volunteer their time to run the club, fill the office positions, and provide support and education to other members. Life membership of our club is bestowed on members who have provided outstanding service to the club over an extended period of time. It is not awarded lightly.”







Lake Macquarie Camera Club

Dennis Archibald

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LIFE MEMBERS

Lake Macquarie Camera Club (previously Belmont 16s Photography Club) has been in operation for 60+ years. This period of time is testament to the hard work of members who have participated in the club's activities and management.

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The Life Members of our club are:

- Brian Davies
- Ken Field
- Margaret Denton
- Alex Hunter
- Barbara Hunter
- Judy Heath
- Katherine James
- Carole Lorimer
- Roy Killen



Munibung Hill

Munibung Hill is a prominent landmark at the northern end of Lake Macquarie and is bordered by the suburbs of Warners Bay, Speers Point, Boolaroo and Macquarie Hills.

If you have a reasonable level of fitness and take things slowly a climb to the top of the hill provides stunning 360-degree views of the local area and down Lake Macquarie.

A few months back Andrew Slee and Stuart Carter from the Munibung Hill Conservation Society (MHCS) visited our club. Their conservation society is advocating for the protection of Munibung Hill as a public reserve and is pressing Lake Macquarie City Council for funding to implement a management plan for the site. You can find out more about MHCS at the following link - <https://www.munibunghill.com/>

Andrew has now joined our club, and we are exploring ways in which we can collaborate to our mutual benefit.

To assist MHCS in their advocacy work Bill Chambers from our club and Ian English from Wangi Camera Club have captured some fantastic drone images of Munibung Hill using two DJI Mini 3 Pro drones to showcase an aerial view of the entire area.

Bill and Ian also presented the MHCS with images taken at ground level by conventional photography showcasing some of the flora, fauna & fungi found in the area. Some of these images, as well as drone footage, will assist advocacy work to ensure that Council implements the Munibung Hill Management Plan and associated Concept Plan.







THE LEADING LINE

THE LATEST NEWS & VIEWS FROM
LAKE MACQUARIE CAMERA CLUB



April 2025 - Issue 20.





Some of these images will be printed and provided to MHCS for their advocacy work.

Another aspect that MHCS is pursuing from a conservation perspective is light pollution and they are nominating Munibung Hill as a Dark Sky site for inclusion on the international register of Urban Night Sky Places. - <https://www.munibunghill.com/urban-night-sky-project/urban-night-sky-place/>

Light pollution is having a devastating impact on migratory and native wildlife and MHCS is providing advocacy on this issue.

Members of our astrophotography group will appreciate the negative aspects of light pollution when photographing the night sky. Access to the top of Munibung Hill for photography at night is not good at present but in the future may provide a great location.



Belmont Wetlands Photography Competition

Last year at one of our club nights Shane Smith the senior ranger at Belmonts Wetlands came along to discuss an upcoming photography competition. Here are the details.

Get Ready for the Belmont Wetlands State Park Photography Competition!



We're excited to announce the launch of our Photography Competition, running from **March 1 to June 30, 2025!** Whether you're a seasoned photographer or just starting out, there's a category for everyone:



Landscapes – Capture the breathtaking beauty of Belmont Wetlands.



Flora and Fauna – Highlight the native plants and wildlife that call the park home.



Enjoying Nature – Show us how people connect with nature (surfing, fishing, and more).

Award Levels:



Kids (under 12)



Youth (12–18)



Open (all ages)

How to Enter:

1. Head to the Belmont Wetlands State Park website.
2. Access the Photography Highlights panel on the homepage.
3. Read the Terms and Conditions.
4. Upload your photo with your name, contact phone number, and email.



Awards will be given to the winner in each category, and the winners will be announced at a special **Awards Event**

The winning photos will be featured online on our website!

Get your cameras ready and start capturing the beauty of Belmont Wetlands today!  



“This project is supported by Lake Macquarie City Council through its Events Funding Program.”



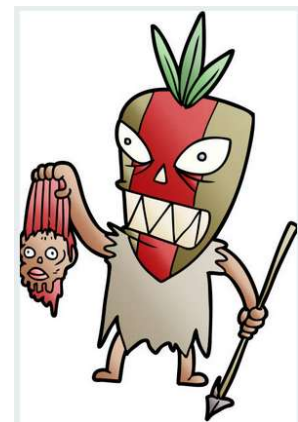


Bill's Dastardly Cannibals & Missionaries Puzzle

In last month's newsletter a particularly perplexing problem was presented.

- Three missionaries & three cannibals come to a river they want to cross. A canoe at the bank will only carry two people. The river is full of crocs / piranha / other nasties.
- All the missionaries can row, but only one of the cannibals can row (he'd been to Oxford). The canoe must be rowed across & back each time.
- If at any time, on either side of the river, cannibals outnumber missionaries, then the cannibals will eat the missionaries, which, understandably, the missionaries don't want to happen.

Problem: How do they cross safely?



The Solution

For those who think it can't be solved, & those still struggling with coins on paper:

M=Missionary **C**=Either of the non-rowing cannibals **C2**=Cannibal who can row

1. C and C2 go over
2. C2 comes back
3. C and C2 go over
4. C2 comes back



5. M and M go over
6. M and C comes back
7. M and C2 go over
8. M and C comes back
9. M and M go over
10. C2 comes back
11. C and C2 go over
12. C2 comes back
13. C and C2 go over





North Queensland Wetland Tour – Shirlene Lawry

We did the wet season this year in Kutini-Payamu National Park in the Iron Ranges in Far North Queensland. I had a little bit of an idea about what to expect and then again, no idea! We did the tour with Faunagraphic tours, a birding and wildlife tour business based out of Brisbane.

We flew into Cairns the day before the tour started and stayed overnight before an afternoon flight into Lockhart River. We were away for 8 days and 9 nights. The team were at the airport to greet us and our group of 6 split between the two 4-wheel drives and headed back to our accommodation- the Greenhouse, which was a very short drive from the airport.

We were greeted by the owner of the Greenhouse and had a brief safety rundown and told about mealtimes and we settled into our accommodation. The Greenhouse is unique, and you are totally immersed in the rainforest. The bed was comfortable, and the air conditioner was icy cold, each room had an ensuite and a comfortable verandah to relax on during down time. They have Wi-Fi at the accommodation and you can make and receive phone calls on your mobile etc. Coverage was iffy when you were out and about through the day, but I kinda liked that. The meals were more than adequate and were all home cooked. They had some booze at night if you felt like a cold one - which we did - and in the evenings the group gathered before dinner for a few drinks and nibbles which was really nice.

One afternoon one of the guides pulled a tree python out of the bush next to where we were sitting having a drink and then told us all about it. The python wasn't really impressed and was a bit sassy so she put it back in the bush... right next to where we were sitting...

You are on the go pretty much as soon as you arrive. There's no time to waste. We were hanging out the windows of the 4WD with torch in hand at night looking for frogs and snakes. I am terrified of snakes and was so surprised at how brave I became on the very first night. I was legging it out of the car as soon as they spotted something and right behind the first person there. Not silly enough or brave enough to go first!

We spent most of the time in the 4WD drive and would hop out when our guides either heard or saw the birds, snakes, frogs, etc. so if your mobility isn't that great it is easily doable. Those who are a little more fit will enjoy the tour equally.

The mornings started at 5.30 for breakfast, into the cars at 6.00, back in time for lunch at 11.30, siesta if you like or you could walk around the accommodation looking for birds etc and then back out at 2.00 for the afternoon. We would get back about 4.30 in the afternoons in time for a shower etc before dinner at 6.00 then back out again in the evening until 10.00ish.



One morning we took off really early to do a sunrise over the boulders at the beach near the township - it was amazing. This was a bit out of the ordinary, but the guides were really happy to accommodate it. It was so worth it!

We photographed all of the endemic species including the Papuan Pitta, Yellow-Billed Kingfisher and the Palm Cockatoo. We also saw a range of reptiles and frogs including the Green Tree Python and managed to get a photo of a blue tailed monitor which was pretty rare and a baby Green Tree Python which is actually yellow.

All of the guides are expert photographers and helped out with settings and night photography and also had any additional gear you may have needed. They don't take their cameras out while they are with you, they're there for you.

I sat for a few afternoons in a hide waiting to get a photo of a bird. Lucky, I had a water bottle and a large packet of peanut M&Ms as the first afternoon it didn't show. I did end up getting a great series of the bird so for me it was so worth it.

The guides are excellent. They go up for 10 days before the season starts, get their eyes and ears in and do a lot of leg work to find the species before the guests arrive. I was amazed at how good my ears and eyes switched on by the end of the trip.

Things to remember if you decide this is for you - get some Good Riddance mozzie and midge repellent (nothing else works), plan what you might do before and after the tour (Cairns has some really good photograph opportunities), don't worry how much gear you take just pay the extra you won't regret it, don't pack snacks (there is a little store in Lockhart River that has all you need), take a big cup (the ones at the accommodation are a bit small if you like a good cup of tea), see if you can get into a group with photographers, the twitchers just wanted to tick and flick and move on quickly which didn't suit taking photos.

I had a great time away and loved the opportunity to be away from everything fully immersed in photographing something I don't see every day and I had post tour blues for a while when I got home. Would I do it again, absolutely. Would I do it differently, absolutely, especially now that I know what to expect.

Here is a link to Faunagraphic's website if you want to check them out
- <https://www.faunagraphic.com.au/>





Selecting the Best Memory Card for Your Use

Understanding SD card labels can be challenging due to the various symbols and numbers found on modern cards.



The important factors in choosing a memory card are speed, capacity and the type of device you're using it in. Having the most capacity at an affordable price is ideal, but it's also important to have a memory card that has a fast enough write speed to capture all your footage without any errors. Depending on your needs and usage, you'll want to think about choosing the memory card with the correct format.

Some photographers prefer several smaller cards over one large card to reduce the risk of losing photos if a card corrupts. For shooting in RAW format, with files around 50MB or larger, U1 or U3 speed cards are beneficial.

DSLR and mirrorless cameras can shoot in burst mode, capturing many images consecutively by holding down the shutter button. The images first go into the camera's buffer before being written to the memory card. A fast memory card is crucial for quick data transfer, especially in burst mode, to prevent the buffer from filling up and causing delays.

Check your camera's specs for the recommended speed class.

Speed Class Ratings

One of the most important aspects about the classifications labelled on the memory cards is the speed class. Some cards are often labelled with a combination of two, which can be a little difficult to understand.

What do we mean when we talk about speed class ratings? For starters, we're talking about data read speeds and writing speeds.









As camera technology improves, memory card manufacturers needed a way to demonstrate the speed capabilities of their memory cards. Fortunately, speed classification is standardized so consumers always know what to expect when investing in new memory cards.

The SD Association maintains these standards for SD and Micro SD cards.

Three Main Classifications for SD Cards:

- **Speed Class:** The original classification, denoted by a large "C" symbol. It includes:
 - C2 (2MB/s)
 - C4 (4MB/s)
 - C6 (6MB/s)
 - C10 (10MB/s)
- **UHS Speed Class:** Commonly used by photographers.
- **Video Speed Class:** For high-resolution video recording.

Older C-class cards might not need replacing unless you're recording 4K video or higher. Understanding SD card speed is essential and simpler than it seems.

Speed Class	UHS Speed Class	Video Speed Class
		
"Speed Class" Mark 	"UHS Speed Class" Mark 	"Video Speed Class" Mark 

U1 vs U3 SD Cards

The next speed class up is the UHS (Ultra-High Speed) Speed Class and it's denoted with the "U" symbol. There are two ratings within the UHS Speed Class:

U1 (UHS Speed Class 1): minimum write speed of 10MB/s

U3 (UHS Speed Class 3): minimum write speed of 30MB/s



Historically, U1 cards were considered top-tier; however, U3 cards have now become more prevalent. The U1 and U3 designations indicate write speeds—U1 supports up to 10MB/s, whereas U3 supports up to 30MB/s.

This distinction in speed is crucial for managing large image and video files generated by modern cameras.

Cameras that produce high-resolution images, utilize high-speed burst mode, or record 4K video perform optimally with U3 cards. Nevertheless, U1 cards are generally adequate for entry-level SLRs and point-and-shoot cameras.

Referencing your camera's specifications to determine the preferred SD card speed recommended by the manufacturer can also be advantageous. As camera capabilities and resolutions continue to advance, purchasing the highest quality SD cards available ensures futureproofing.

- U1: 10MB/s - Suitable for 1080p video, RAW and JPEG images
- U3: 30MB/s - Suitable for 4K video, RAW images shot in high-speed burst mode

UHS 1 vs Class 10

Class 10 represents the highest speed available for an older type of SD card technology. Since 2009, UHS (Ultra High-Speed) technology has become widely adopted, utilizing a newer data bus technology found in contemporary cameras.

To utilize a UHS card, the camera must support UHS technology. In terms of write speed, UHS 1 and Class 10 are both capable of achieving a minimum write speed of 10MB/s. Given the identical speed, the decision between UHS1 and Class 10 cards will depend on the type of card compatible with your camera.



Minimum sequential write speed	Speed Class			Corresponding video format			
	Speed Class	UHS Speed Class	Video Speed Class (new)	8K video	4K video	Full HD / HD video	Standard Video
Card image				The necessary speed varies by each recording/playback device condition, even in the same format.			
90MB/sec			V90	✓			
60MB/sec			V60	✓	✓		
30MB/sec		U3	V30	✓	✓	✓	
10MB/sec	10	U1	V10		✓	✓	✓
6MB/sec	6		V6		✓	✓	✓
4MB/sec	4					✓	✓
2MB/sec	2						✓

How Often Should SD Cards Be Replaced?

Replace SD cards at the first sign of issues or every 2-3 years. They are prone to physical damage and wear from use, making them suitable only for temporary storage and transfer to devices like hard drives.

Situations to Watch For:

Physical Damage:

If you notice warping, splitting, scratches on contact points, or any other visible damage, replace the card immediately even if it's expensive.

Degradation Over Time:

SD cards degrade over time. Properly formatted cards can last a few years, but they are not reliable long-term storage of images beyond 5 years.

How to Choose an SD Card: Bottomline



Selecting an appropriate SD/Micro SD card for your device is important to ensure optimal performance and minimize the risk of image/data loss. A card that is too small might not provide sufficient storage space when needed, while a card that is too slow might hinder the device's ability to write files properly, potentially resulting in data loss.

Assess your requirements, choose a suitable card, and your device will operate more effectively. Remember that an SD/Micro SD card is not considered reliable for long-term storage beyond 5 years.

- **Bill Chambers**





FOR SALE:

Nothing this month.



Frame Today Club Sponsorship

We are pleased to announce that our club has accepted a sponsorship arrangement with Frame Today at Warners Bay. In return for promoting Frame Today at our club events, on our website and in our newsletter, Frame Today will provide:

- one monthly print voucher of up to A3 size.
- an annual ready-made frame to fit an A3 print valued at \$129.
- a 30% discount on printing, backing and mounting services to members of our club when they join the free Frame Today's Art Society.
- Members can apply on the following [link](#).

Each month the print voucher will be awarded by lucky draw to one of the Judges Choice winners for that month, includes all EDI and print competitions.

The annual frame prize will most likely be awarded as part of the prize for the overall Image of the Year (IOTY) winner at the end of the year.

If club members have any specific questions about the services that Frame Today offer, they can have a chat to Peter Treloar and Laurie Connolly.



Club Committee

Following the AGM in August we now have a new committee in place for the coming year.

Position	2024 - 2025
President	Dennis Archibald
Secretary, Public officer	David Richards
Vice President and Training Co-ordinator	Greg Carruthers
Treasurer	Ruth Keech
Competition Coordinator	Phil Whiteman
Social Functions	Barb Hunter
Social Functions	Katherine James
Membership Coordinator	Joy Thomas
Training, Grading Officer	Bill Chambers
PSA Coordinator and Training	Roy Killen
Newsletter	Julie Brooks/Dennis Archibald
Committee Member	Lynda Beeston
Committee member	Stephane Thomas
Committee Member	Steve McGrath