



WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY'25 ISSUE OF THE LEADING LINE – Dennis Archibald

I recently announced that your club committee has decided to transition club activities to a new website following the crash of the MyPhoto Club website last year. As you can appreciate this was not a decision we took lightly or quickly.

During February we will be holding several zoom sessions to present the new website, show you it's features and provide access to the site. Our February competitions will run on the current MyPhoto Club website, but we intend that the March competitions will run on the new site.

I encourage you to join the zoom briefing sessions, ask questions and once given access explore the new website.

Our next club night will be held at the Valentine Bowling Club on Wednesday 12TH February at 7.00pm.

New Members

Welcome to new members Toni Woodcock and Peter Heidegger. Hope to see you at one of our upcoming meetings.

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY – Greg Carruthers

The activities and tutorials for February are summarised below and are contained in the calendar below:

- Wednesday 5th February at 7.00pm – zoom session to introduce the new club website.
- Thursday 6th February at 7.00pm – Scapes Interest Group zoom session with David Richards
- Sunday 9th February – Closing date for entries into the February club competitions
- Wednesday 12th February – Club Night at VBC – 7.00pm start
- Saturday 15th February – new website opens and members gain access
- Saturday 15th February – Scapes SIG photoshoot with David Richards
- Sunday 16th February – Street Photography Interest Group outing – “either side of the Channel”
- Wednesday 19th February – Lightroom SIG zoom session with Greg Carruthers at 7.00pm
- Thursday 20th February – zoom session with Roy Killen on new website



- Saturday 22nd February - Astro SIG with Greg Carruthers photoshoot
- Monday 24th February at 9.30am-. Coffee catch-up at Lake Macquarie Sailing Club.
- Wednesday 26th February – Presentation at VBC tba



February Club Calendar

February						2025
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
03	04	05 Zoom Session with Dennis Archibald and Roy Killen on new club website, 7.00pm start	06 Scapes Interest Group zoom session with David Richards, 7.00pm start	07	08	09 February Competition Entries close 11.59pm
10	11	12 Club Night at VBC 7.00pm	13	14	15 New website access opened. Scapes SIG Photoshoot with David Richards -	16 Street Photography Photoshoot - "Either side of the Channel"
17	18	19 Lightroom SIG with Greg Carruthers by Zoom at 7.00pm	20 Zoom Session with Roy Killen on new club website, 7.00pm start tbc	21	22 Astro SIG photoshot with Greg Carruthers - location tba	23
24 Coffee Catchup - Lake Macquarie Sailing Club 9.30am	25	26 SIG Presentations at VBC - tbc	27	28	01	02



2025 External Competitions News

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

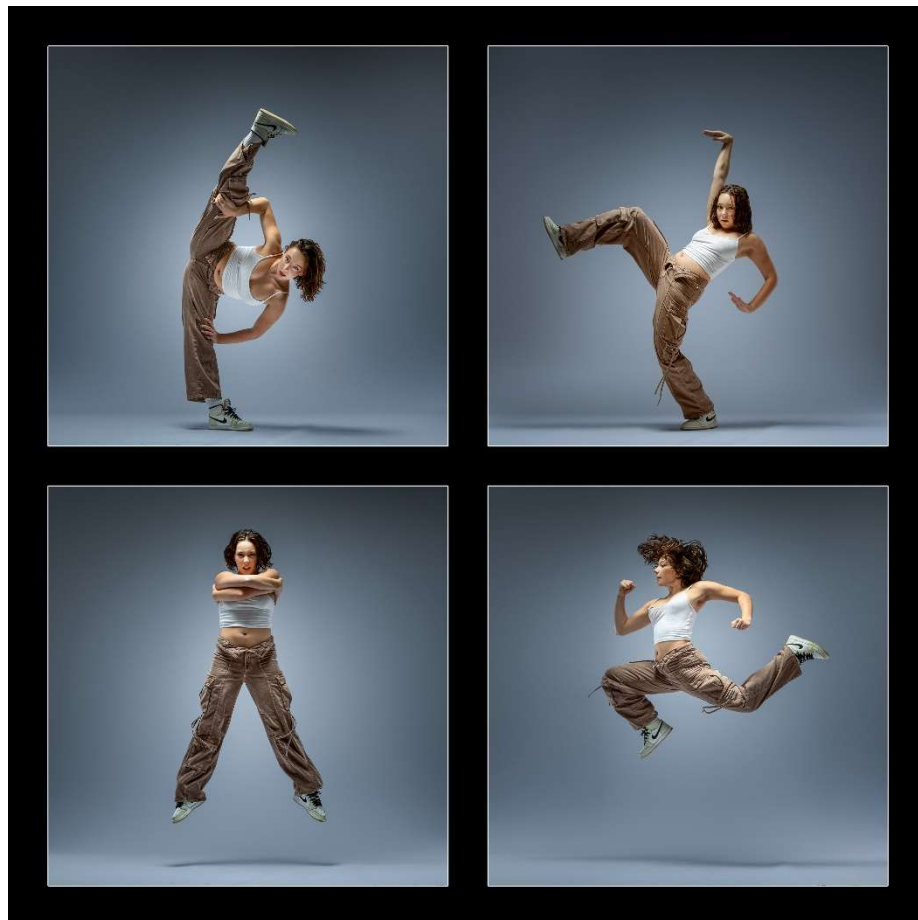
Congratulations to Stephane Thomas who achieved an 8th placing in the Capture Awards Art and Conceptual Category with his image “The Final Bow”.



His image “dance with Sofia” was a finalist in the People category.



Whilst in the Australian Photography magazine 2024 Photographer of the Year Awards his image “My Favourite Pants” received a top 20 finish in the People category. Well done Stephane.





February Club Competitions

Judges for February 2025 are:

- PRINTS - Colour and Mono – Brad LeBroque
- DIGITAL - Colour – Margot Hughes
- DIGITAL - Mono – Chris Mannweiler
- DIGITAL – Set Subject – Jen Carrigan

February Set Subject – Leading Lines

Definition:

Leading lines are a compositional technique where human-made or natural lines lead the viewer's eyes through a photograph to the subject or the heart of the image.

Judging Criteria:

Your image should have a strong composition with an obvious leading line leading to the heart of the image. This will rely upon you deliberately aligning or arranging prior to taking the photo by adjusting the composition (by either shifting your body or the camera). The line may be man-made or a natural leading line. They can be straight or curved, horizontal, vertical or diagonal. Image may be in colour or monochrome.

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.

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.



The following club members had images selected to represent LMCC in Round 2 of the PSA Interclub competitions:

Colour Digital: Stephane Thomas, Carol McGrath, Bill Chambers, Chris Prior, Jennifer Carrigan, Greg Carruthers

Monochrome Digital : Stephane Thomas, Carol McGrath, Bill Chambers, Alan Hinde, Shane Wallwork, David Richards

Nature Digital: Bill Chambers, Alan Hinde, Roy Killen, Trevor Cotterill, Chris Mannweiler, Jennifer Carrigan

Photo Travel Digital: Jennifer Carrigan, Alan Hinde, Roy Killen, Trevor Cotterill, Dennis Archibald, Helen Walker, Margot Hughes, David Richards (2 extra images to make up for 2 disallowed images in Round 1)

Photojournalism Digital: Mark Dewar, Margot Hughes, Roy Killen, Helen Walker, Chris Prior, Dennis Archibald

Colour Prints: Bill Chambers, Stephane Thomas, Margot Hughes, Greg Carruthers (The print sections have only 4 entries.)

Monochrome Prints: Stephane Thomas, Bill Chambers, Steve Wallis, Roy Killen

Results of these competitions should be available in early March.

All club members are encouraged to start thinking about their entries for Round 3 that closes on 1st March. 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.

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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.



INTEREST GROUPS NEWS

The groups, their respective mentors and news are listed below. It is not too late to get involved. 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 – Bill Chambers.
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 – Stepane Thomas.
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.
9. Please check the club calendar for dates and activities.



How do you Shoot? – Chris Prior

I just love aperture priority especially if travelling as it has me ready for anything that just pops up. Not having to guess the exposure or fiddle with any dials can be the difference between getting or missing the shot.

By choosing aperture priority I set the aperture and the camera sets the appropriate shutter speed to result in correct exposure. f4 & f5.6 are my favourite settings as they usually cause the camera to pick a fast enough shutter speed to give a sharp image. If I want some blur I just go to f16 or f22 and camera picks a slow speed.

More often than not I use exposure compensation at the same time; usually anywhere from a third to one full f stop either way based on lighting conditions where I am confident the camera, without my intervention, will under or overexpose; say at sunset or for bright white water which I encounter a lot with surf photography.

Aperture priority is not fully automatic nor fully manual but a combination of the two providing me with the best of both worlds where the camera and I work together as one.

Sound complicated? It really is not.

Bird in flight:

A one of totally opportunistic shot captured from the upper deck of a cruise ship. I was shooting sardines breaking the water surface as the bird flew beneath me. Camera was set in aperture priority on f4 and it selected 1/4000 second (ISO 400) resulting in a sharp well exposed image.



Surfer:

My camera was set in aperture priority on f5.6 and it selected 1/4000 second (ISO 400). I deliberately set minus two thirds of a stop exposure compensation so the white water would not be overexposed.





JUST 3 – David Richards

It's been three years since I joined Lake Macquarie Camera Club, so thought it is worth looking back at my journey so far with the club, by showcasing some of my images. I have learnt a lot in just three years, I regret not joining a camera club sooner.

I do get asked what my favourite genres are, these three images suggest my preferences are for the reality genres – Nature, Travel, and Photojournalism.

Shower Time

We travelled around Botswana on a safari camping trip (4WD truck). It was not on a dedicated photography tour, so I had to balance my need for suitable image opportunities versus the needs of the other tour members. At this waterhole there were a large group of elephants playing in a waterhole, but I noticed this guy happened to be on his own, so I followed his actions closely.





A well worn path

After reading every mountaineering book by Chris Bonington, a lifelong goal was to trek to Everest basecamp in Nepal. A twenty-one day trek took me through this wonderful region. This image captures a local yak herder ferrying trekkers equipment up through the Nepal region – Everest Base camp trail to be exact. As a trekker you learn to always stand on the side of the trail away from the edge, as Yaks are big, heavy and strong!



Guatemala Volcano

Fuego volcano can be seen from Antigua, Guatemala. It is known as high active. Sadly an eruption in 2018 affected 1.7million people in Central Guatemala, with a further eruption in 2023.

That said, it was a trekking and photographic opportunity that I could not miss. It was tough hike, a 900m ascent up volcanic scree and ash. You quickly learnt not to walk behind anyone, otherwise you ate their dust in the truest sense.



Heavy cloud on the first evening resulted in us seeing nothing, whilst an early start pre-dawn the next morning positioned us on the approach ridge line for sunrise. The wind was very strong, I had to bunker down behind a rock just to keep the camera stable. It did not disappoint.





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.

Jim Zuckerman

Jim Zuckerman is an American photographer <https://www.jimzuckerman.com/> who sells online courses, eBooks and conducts regular photo tours to many of the most photogenic places in the world. He is an educator with a very relaxed and concise way of explaining things. I went on Jim's 2015 Venice Carnevale photo tour and had a wonderful time photographing models in stunning costumes that he arranged in beautiful settings around Venice. One of my images taken on that trip follows:





You can subscribe to Jim's monthly E newsletter and to his daily blogs. I find them interesting and informative. As an example.

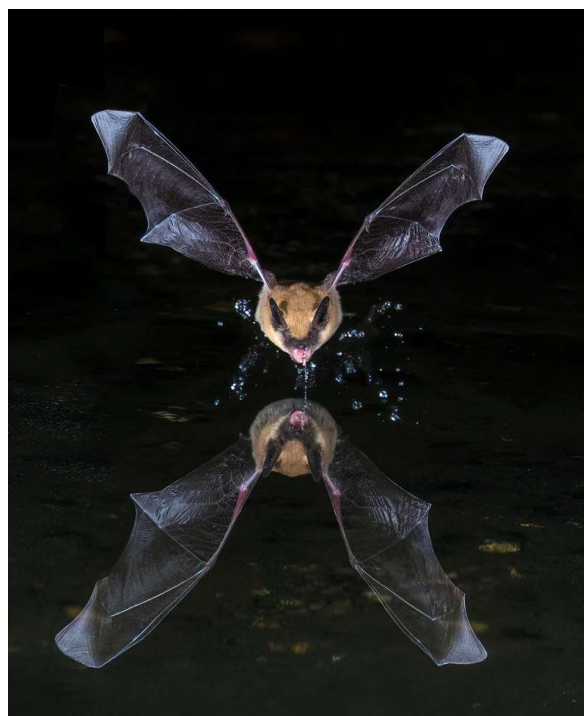


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Drinking on the wing

Jan 12, 2025 | By: Jim Zuckerman

[Share](#)



My tastes in photography are as broad as anyone I know. Yesterday's post was carnival in Venice with incredible costumes in a medieval environment, and today it's a brown bat drinking on the wing in the middle of the night. Tomorrow, it could be almost anything -- photo microscopy, a cathedral ceiling, an abstract, a tribal village in New Guinea. Weird, I know, but that's how my mind works. To photograph the bat, an electric beam was positioned across a small artificial pond (about 12 feet wide), and when bats came to drink they'd break the beam and trigger two flash units positioned on either side of the water. I had prefocused on the beam with a 400mm focal length. The shutter was left open for 15 seconds, waiting for the action. If no bat triggered the beam in that time, I simply opened the shutter again and, again, waited. The other settings were $f/16$ and 1250 ISO. I made exposure tests to make sure everything was correct.



Thanks to Roy Killen for this video on street photography by Pierre T. Lambert who does provide some free downloadable sheets on camera settings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGDAwftG5g>

Thanks to Naomi Nichols who provided the following:

- Parallel, an exhibition of photography by Kristin Harrigan, at A to Zen in Toukley from 8 March. This link will give you more information. https://www.facebook.com/events/s/parallel-the-photography-of-kr/1545094842865240/?mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=cLKMXHLJsO3gjlUA&share_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fshare%2F15m9KX7CtA%2F%3Fmibextid%3DwwXlfr
- Australia Lustre a book by Trent Mitchell. <https://www.trentmitchell.com>
- Loft Law a book by Joshua Charow. <https://www.qbd.com.au/the-loft-law/joshua-charow/9788862088152/>
- Other People's Homes by Sandy Weir. <https://affirmpress.com.au/browse/book/Sandy-Weir-Other-People%27s-Homes-9781922992048/>

“My fave podcasts are”:

- “So, you want to be a photographer” by the late Gina Milicia. Over 300 fabulous listens
- “Peta Pixel” - American, but has been running forever and so informative (mostly techy stuff)
- “Photomissions Focus” by Stephen Finkle (Queenslander). Talks about little tech, but mostly about shooting and encouragement

Thanks to Ruth Keech

I came across this Photography exhibition that may interest members, particularly those that do underwater photography. It is on until 27th April.

<https://www.sydney.com/destinations/sydney/sydney-city/city-centre/events/ocean-photographer-the-year-0>

Thanks to Bill Chambers

Close-up Photographer of the Year - <https://www.cupoty.com/winners-6>

For the portrait photographers:

From 121 clicks.com - <https://search.app/vK5yNCbMY9tWqWFD9>

“The 2024 portrait photography scene has been nothing short of groundbreaking, with artists pushing creative boundaries to capture the human experience in stunning, evocative ways. This



year's award-winning portraits blend technical mastery with raw emotional storytelling, featuring diverse subjects and unique settings that highlight cultural richness and individuality."

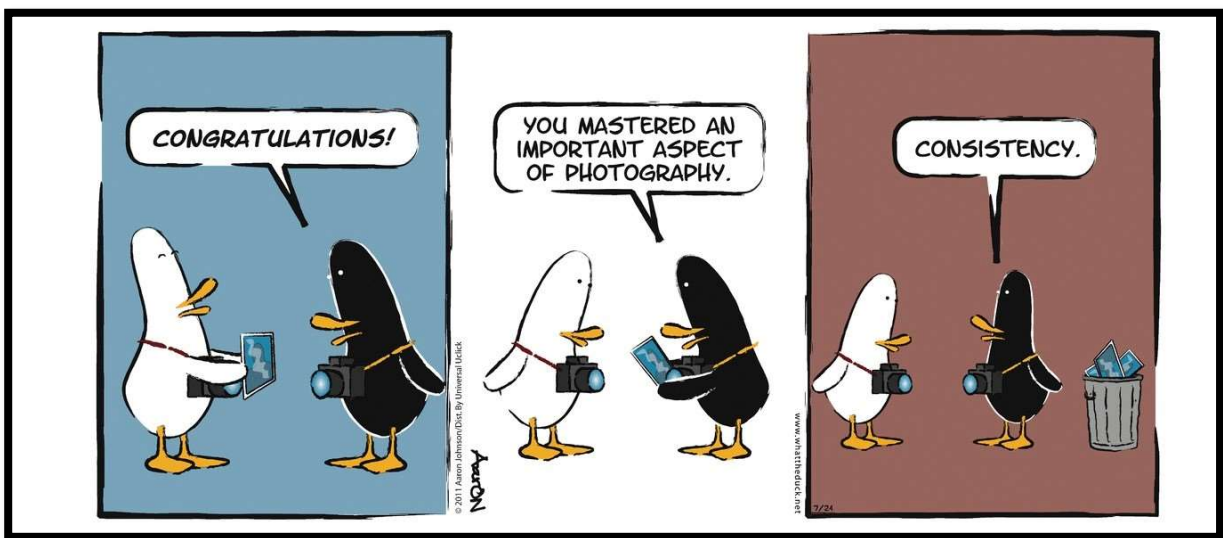
For stunning cityscape monochrome images in 1 x 1 format: [The benefits of the square photo format | Trevor Sherwin Photography](#)



Thanks to Bill Chambers for these words of wisdom.

“St Peter and Lucifer were at the gates admiring the clouds when the subject got onto photography. They couldn’t agree whether Heaven or Hell had the best photographers so they decided to arrange a photo contest. St Peter rubbed his hands with glee and Lucifer demanded to know why he was looking so smug. “Well,” said St Peter, “in Heaven we have all the best photographers”

Lucifer slowly raised his head, grinned and replied “Ah, but we have all the judges...”



For the Macro Photographers – Bill Chambers

Mobile phones are incredible tools, but sometimes the image sharpening AI can make a real mess of things:

These two photos are of a female *Megachile serricauda* bee on the same flower in my backyard. The first one clearly shows the white hairs between the tergites (abdominal sections) and was taken with DSLR and macro lens. What you see is what you get.

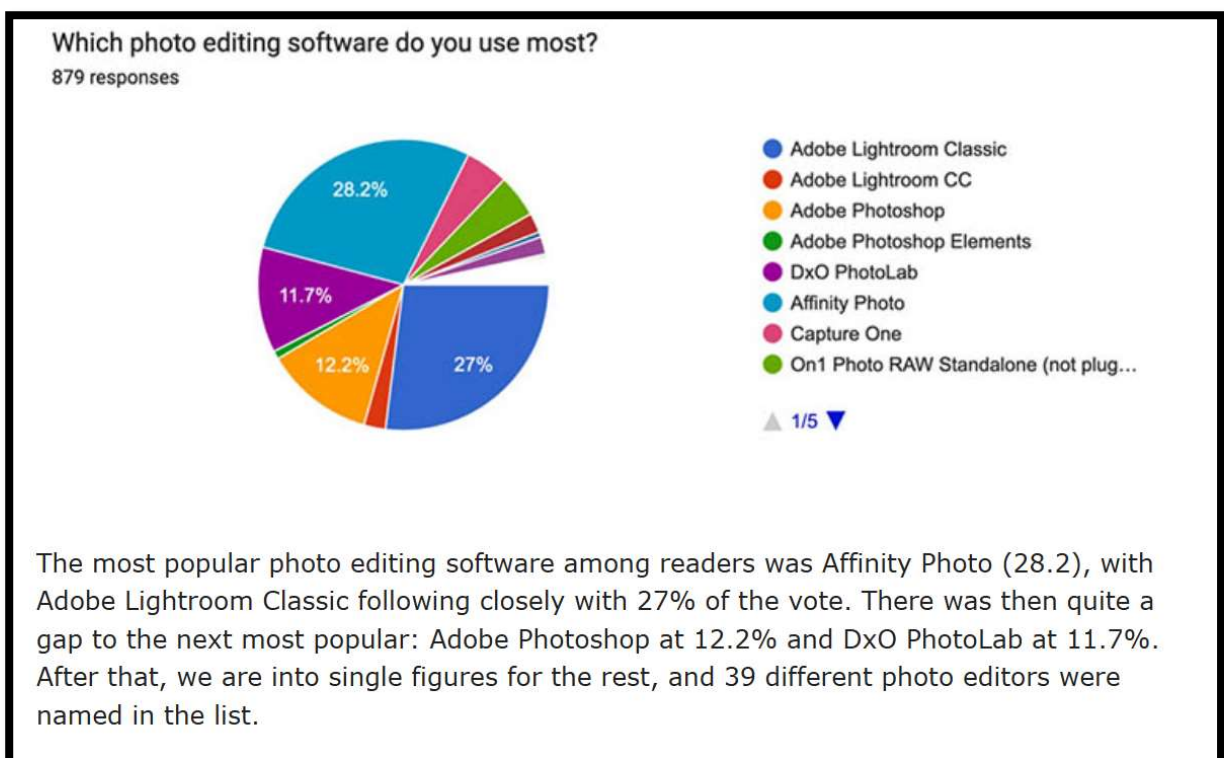
The second image was taken with my Samsung galaxy phone, but this time the phone's AI takes the image and interprets the white hairs as a solid band, which transforms this native bee into the African Carder Bee without anyone's consent.





Photographic Editing Software Poll Results

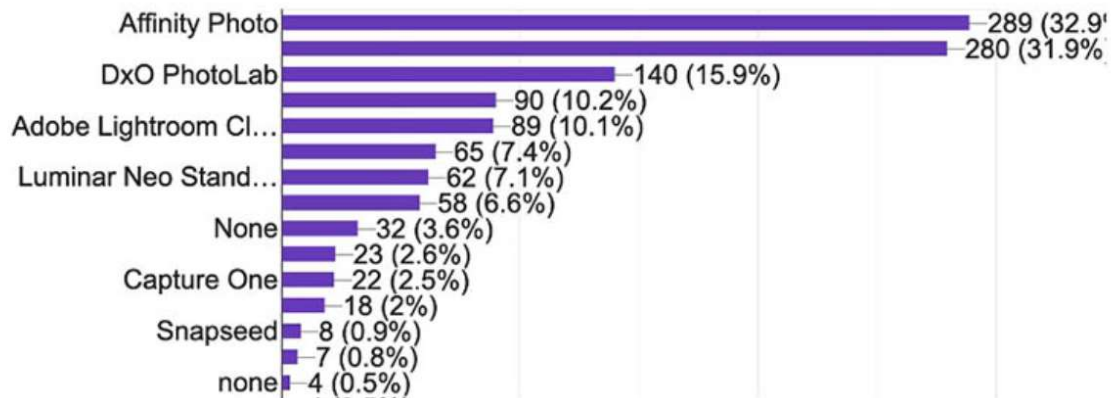
I also subscribe to a monthly newsletter called Lenscraft by a UK based landscape photographer called Robin Whalley - <https://lenscraft.co.uk/> . In Robin's January 25 edition he published the results of a poll he conducted on which photo editing software his subscribers use. There were 879 responses. With his permission here are the results.





What other photo editing software do you use?

879 responses



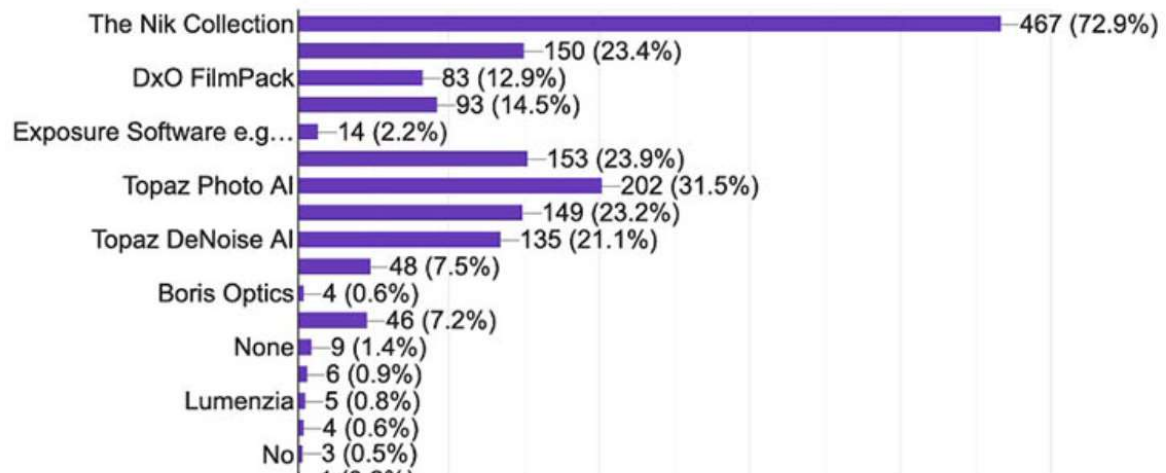
When it came to the question of what other software you use, Affinity Photo was the number one choice again, at 32.9%. I then realised that there was a lot of double-counting going on. When I checked, almost 30% of people who said Affinity Photo was their main photo editor also listed it as their other photo editing software. Therefore, I'll declare Adobe Photoshop the next most popular, with 31.9% of the vote.

Other notable applications were DxO PhotoLab (15.9%), Apple Photos (10.2%), and Lightroom Classic (10.1%) before we were into the single-digit results. In total, there were well over 60 different packages listed.



Do you use any plugin software? (optional)

641 responses



Regarding plugins, a huge percentage of those responding used the Nik Collection (72.9%). The actual figure is probably higher as there were many responses where individual Nik plugins were named rather than the Nik Collection.

After the Nik Collection, there were several Topaz plugins, including Topaz Photo AI (31.5%), Topaz Gigapixel AI (23.9%), Topaz Sharpen AI (23.2%), and Topaz DeNoise AI (21.1%).

Other popular plugins included DxO PureRAW (23.4%) and DxO ViewPoint (14.5%). I was however surprised that Luminar and On1 weren't more popular, although they did come up in answers to the earlier questions.



Is there any other software you use regularly, and if so, why do you think it's important?

There were 213 wide-ranging responses to this question, and summarising the results isn't easy. I did however notice some common themes in the answers:

- Many people like using Adobe Bridge to manage their photo libraries. I stopped writing about Bridge a few years ago after a new release caused it to crash my Mac within seconds of loading. Now that it is working on my new Mac, I may need to begin covering it.
- ACDSee was another popular package. I also like this software and used it heavily when I first went digital. The Mac version always lagged behind the Windows version, but the company has begun to address this in recent years. This is another good choice for managing photo libraries, and the editing tools are pretty powerful, depending on which version you buy.
- TK Actions was popular among Photoshop users. This is a Luminosity Masking plugin for Photoshop, and I have and use it a lot, along with Lumenzia (which is also mentioned). Both are very good choices, in my opinion.
- FastStone Viewer was popular with Windows users to manage their photo libraries. FastRaw Viewer also received a similar number of mentions and, I believe, is available on the Mac as well as Windows.

Robin stressed the following – *“The only thing to be aware of is that a lot of people who buy Affinity Photo find my books and website. As there aren't many people covering Affinity Photo, that might explain why their numbers are so high.”*



Newcastle Show – Photography Exhibition 2025

Katherine James has been asked by the Newcastle Show Committee to organise a Photography Exhibition at the 2025 Newcastle Show, which will be held from Friday 28th February to Sunday 2nd March

There will be 3 sections, Colour, Monochrome and Nature, with two entries per section per photographer.

Prints will not be returned unless a return pre- paid self- addressed package is supplied. Note, this will not apply to LMCC members.

- Each entry must be on a 400 X 500 matt board
- Entries MUST be received by January 15th

Entry Forms can be obtained by downloading from the club website in the Post from 4th December.

You can drop off your prints to Katherine's home address by prior notification or pass to Katherine at the February Competition night at VBC on Wednesday 12th February.

Katherine James

Unit 4/ 6 Nioke Place, Charlestown

Lake Macquarie NSW 2290

Email: Katherine.44@bigpond.com

Ph: 0421 921 353



Are you comfortable photographing people? – Dennis Archibald

Seems like a straightforward question doesn't it. We are in a camera club; we all have our camera or camera's but if someone asks us to take some photos at a family gathering or official function do you feel comfortable doing that? What is it in this process of pointing our camera at another person, carefully composing the shot, focussing the camera and then pushing the shutter button that makes us feel uncomfortable?

For me it all comes down to the fact that we are entering into a relationship with our subject. As the photographer we are hoping to create a good image, well exposed and sharp, and one that does some justice to your subject. Your subject on the other hand may be concerned about their appearance, are you capturing "their good side", what are you going to do with their image once you have taken it? They may have very good reasons why they don't want their photo taken.

In some cases, we may be taking photos for a third person or party. They want images to promote their business or activity. I think we can all think of situations like this.

In the end it comes down to three things. Yourself, your subject and what are you trying to achieve. What will the image be used for? If you take some time to explain to your subject what you are doing and why you are doing it, how will the image be used. If you go through that process then there is a good chance that you will avoid misunderstandings, your subject will be more relaxed and engaged in what you are doing and may even be willing to assist in achieving the outcome you are looking for.

If you don't feel comfortable in this process and you would like to get better at it a good way is to participate in photoshoots at Valentine Bowling Club (VBC) functions. One way we can support VBC is to come along to their events and social functions to capture images that you then provide to the club for promotional purposes. In many cases you will be photographing neighbours and people who live in the community we live in. If you would like to be involved please let me know. Following are a couple of images taken by Julie Brooks at a recent VBC function – "A night with Irish Albert".





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.



Critique Corner

Critique Corner aims to help members to fine-tune potential entries by gaining feedback from other members before the image is entered into a competition.

All members, regardless of experience are encouraged to upload images and make comments on images. The aim is to help each other to develop both your image capture and processing skills, and to take the judges' point of view when assessing an image. There are no grades within this activity.

Each member can upload one image per category. Once uploaded you can use this image in an upcoming competition. You can remove the image and replace it with another image whenever you choose.

The critique corner is accessible from the Members page as shown below or click on the image and it will take you there!



Lake Macquarie Camera Club Inc.

 DENNIS ARCHIBALD

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Members Page

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Published

2024 collections ready to view and comment on

Search:



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