



THE LEADING LINE NEWSLETTER

Latest news and views from
Lake Macquarie Camera Club

August 2026 – Issue 34



Federation of Camera Clubs (NSW)
Established 1954

WELCOME TO THE AUGUST 2026 ISSUE OF THE LEADING LINE



Hanging On – Kaye Chambers – Honours/Judges Choice July Colour Digital Open Grade.

In this issue:

- Images from the Street Photography Interest Group
- A story from Bob Todd on his PSA Bronze Portfolio Award achievement
- August offers from our sponsors Camera House Kotara and BenQ.
- Some images from our August guest speaker Yulius Santoso
- Just 3 contributions from Laurie Connolly, On Holidays in New Zealand with Allison Hayes and some Hidden Gems from Ian Armstrong.

My thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue.

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

New Members

No new members since last newsletter.

What's on in August

The activities and tutorials for August are summarised in the table below.

The best and most immediate way to see what's happening in the club is to look on our website Calendar, and then select the "Agenda" option. You will see what is on each day through the month. A summary appears below. Another action-packed month ahead!

August						2026
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
03 Photoshop Interest Group Zoom with Roy Killen - Gradients	04 Macro SIG Zoom Mtg. with Bill Chambers at 7.00pm	05 Club Committee Mtg. via Zoom 7.00pm	06	07	08	09 August Club Competition Entries close 11.30pm
10	11	12 AGM & Club Night at VBC 7.00pm start	13 Nikon Z SIG Zoom meeting with Greg Carruthers - 7.30pm start.	14	15	16
17 Camera Craft Interest group Outing - Photoshoot at Warners Bay Ice Skating - 7.00pm	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Guest Speaker - Yulius Santosa - VBC at 7.00pm	27	28 Street Photography Interest Group - Sydney Outing	29	30
31 Coffee catchup at Lake Macquarie Sailing Club at 9.30am	01	Notes:				

Our Supporters

Our club patron is [Les Porter](#)..

We are supported by Valentine Bowling Club - <https://valentinebc.com.au/>

Our Sponsors are:

- Frame Today - <https://www.frametoday.com.au/frame-today-store-locations/picture-framing-warners-bay>



- Camera House Kotara - <https://www.camerahouse.com.au/store/newcastle>

Camera House has promotions running through August for Nikon and Olympus Cameras. If you are about to purchase a camera from one of these suppliers you should contact the store for more information.

NIKON

KIT-NZ564GBXQD	
Components	
VOA100AA	Nikon Z 6 Body Only Full Frame Mirrorless Camera
VWC00101	Bonus Nikon 64GB XQD Memory Card

KIT-NZ6III64GBXQD	
Components	
VOA130AA	Nikon Z 6III Body Only Full Frame Mirrorless Camera
VWC00101	Bonus Nikon 64GB XQD Memory Card

KIT-NZ5II2420084BAG	
Components	
VOK170YA	Nikon Z5II Body w/ 24-200mm f/4-6.3
CHB-2145	Bonus ProMaster SDXC Performance 64GB (2.0) - V30 Memory Card
CHB-7244	Bonus ProMaster Impulse Shoulder Bag Medium - Gray

KIT-NZ50III1814084BAG	
Components	
VOK150ZA	Nikon Z50II with NIKKOR Z DX 18-140mm f/3.5-6.3 VR
CHB-2145	Bonus ProMaster SDXC Performance 64GB (2.0) - V30 Memory Card
CHB-7244	Bonus ProMaster Impulse Shoulder Bag Medium - Gray

KIT-NZFCBTWIN64BAG	
Components	
B51090	Nikon Z fc Black w/Nikkor Z 16-50mm VR & Z 50-250mm VR Lens Mirrorless Camera
CHB-2145	Bonus ProMaster SDXC Performance 64GB (2.0) - V30 Memory Card
CHB-7244	Bonus ProMaster Impulse Shoulder Bag Medium - Gray
CHB-AU002550	Bonus SmallRig Tripod for Nikon Nikon ML L7 Remote Control 3070

OM SYSTEM

Promotion Name: **Bonus BOSE Speaker**

Promotion Call Out: Complete your adventure with weather-sealed cameras and premium portable sound. Receive a bonus BOSE speaker valued at \$425 when you purchase select OM SYSTEM cameras

Dates: 01 August 2026 to 31 August 2026

Mechanics: When a customer purchase one of the participating cameras listed below, they are eligible to redeem their purchase via the OM website and claim their bonus Bose Speaker. Customers must complete the online redemption process and provide valid proof of purchase. Please refer to the attached Terms & Conditions for full details.

Redemption Web Page:

<https://explore.omsystem.com/au/en/promotions>

Participating Cameras:

V210040BA000	OM-1 MARK II BLACK BODY ONLY
V210050SW000	OM-3 SILVER BODY ONLY
V210051SW000	OM-3 SILVER 12-45 KIT
V210070BW000	OM-5 MARK II BLACK BODY ONLY
V210070SW000	OM-5 MARK II SILVER BODY ONLY

V210070MW000	OM-5 MARK II SAND BEIGE BODY ONLY
V210071BW000	OM-5 MARK II BLACK 12-45 KIT
V210071SW000	OM-5 MARK II SILVER 12-45 KIT
V210072BW000	OM-5 MARK II BLACK 14-150 KIT
V210072SW000	OM-5 MARK II SILVER 14-150 KIT

- BenQ – <https://www.benq.com/en-au/store.html>

At our club night in July BenQ representatives came along to talk about their business and products. They are keen to support our club and will be letting us know about special offers for members in our newsletter and on our website - Information for Members/Member Benefits

Current club member exclusives:

- All BenQ monitors: 10% off plus free shipping. Valid to August 30th. Use code: LMCC26
- BenQ digital signage 43" SL4304 \$899, plus bonus VESA mount adapter. Contact David Richards for further details

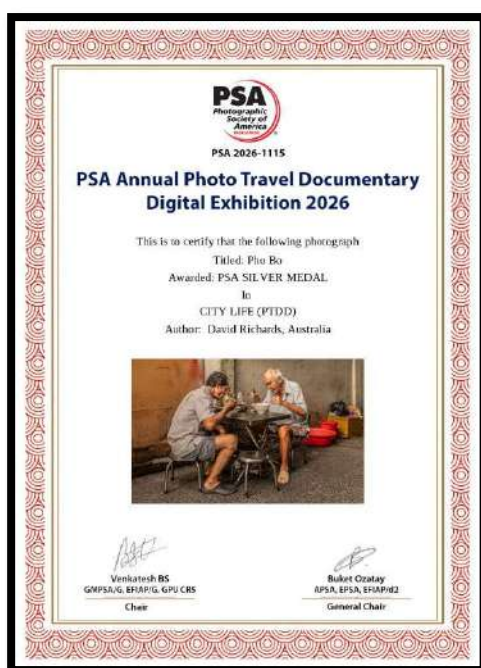
Member exclusive offers will be regularly updated. They will be promoted via this page and accessed via a unique coupon code.

2026 External and Club Competitions News

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

External Competitions

David Richards enjoyed success in the PSA Photo Travel Documentary Digital Exhibition 2026 with his image City Life. Well done, David.



Club Competitions 2026 – David Richards

Will your image be the 2026 IOTY Winner? Please remember that images must be entered into a monthly club competition during 2026, to be eligible to be entered into the IOTY 2026 competitions (subject to other club rules).

Our judges do not enjoy having to reject or disqualify images from competitions, so a timely reminder to ask you to refresh yourself by reading both the definitions and judging criteria for our 2026 Set Subjects, as well as our club competition rules. Where do you find them?

Set Subject competitions:

Go to **COMPETITIONS > Set Subjects 2026**, then scroll down to the bottom of the page where you can both view or download the Set Subject definitions and judging criteria. If you still have questions, reach out to the relevant club judge.

Club Competition Rules

Go to **COMPETITIONS > MONTHLY COMPETITIONS**. Here you will find the competition rules and definitions. Here are several common and recurring errors members make:

- you cannot enter the same image in a digital competition and a print competition in the same month.
- non-compliance with Nature definitions (particularly human elements)
- non-compliance with Monochrome definitions

August Club Competitions

Our judges for August competitions are:

- PRINT: Ian English
- DIGITAL Colour: Keith Seidel
- DIGITAL Mono: Jenni Horsnell
- SET SUBJECT: Margot Hughes

Entries close strictly at **11:30pm Sunday 9th August**, but please don't leave it to the last minute to submit your entries. Try and enter them at least a day prior, and then double check that your images have uploaded correctly. There is a lot of extra work created for our Competition Manager to sort out issues on a Sunday night.

August Set Subject - "Lens Wide Open"

Definition:

Images must be taken with aperture wide open at lowest F/stop possible. Such images should display a narrow depth of field. Your images must show your deliberate use of a low f /stop resulting in out of focus foreground, background and/or bokeh.

Judging Criteria:

Images can be colour or mono. They will be judged on creativity and originality as well as technical quality. Entries must comply with the club rules on the use of AI.



Our club is a member of PSA, and this 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 can be found on the



club website at **Competitions>PSA Interclub Competitions**. There you can also see the latest PSA competition news and results. In previous years, our club has been very successful in the Digital sections – Colour, Monochrome, Nature, Photojournalism and Photo Travel. Last year, we started entering the Colour and Monochrome Print sections and to date have enjoyed moderate success.

On the club website, if you click on the "**Galleries**" menu you can view galleries of the Round 1 ,Round 2 and Round 3 club entries for the PSA Interclub competitions.

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

PSA Interclub Round 3 - Digital Competition Results

All club images that were entered in Rounds 1, 2 and 3 can be viewed in the galleries on the club website. Click on the word "Galleries" on the menu (ignore the dropdown list).

Entries for Round 1 of the 2026-27 PSA Interclub season will open on our website in August. ALL club members are encouraged to participate. For any questions about the PSA Interclub, please contact Roy Killen.

PSA Courses

If you have a couple of hours a week to devote to improving your photographic knowledge and skills, you might like to consider joining the Photographic Society of America (PSA). Being a member of PSA has many advantages, one of which is access to a range of on-line education programmes, webinars and digital study groups. All of these are free to members of PSA. This page <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/education> has links to information about all these resources.

In the online education programmes the student is connected to an instructor who works with them (usually by email) to provide information, guidance and advice. Each online course consists of several lessons. Students are provided with written information, and they are required to undertake structured exercises and submit worksheets to demonstrate their understanding of the topic.

Existing courses for beginners:

- Digital photography
- Introduction to Photoshop

Courses for intermediate and advanced photographers:

- [Image Evaluation](#)
- [Image Critique](#)
- [Competition Images](#)
- Advanced Photojournalism
- Creating a PSA Portfolio
- Street photography
- Portrait photography
- History of photography.

The three courses in blue are particularly helpful for club members.

Image Evaluation – This is a 6-lesson course designed to assist the photographer to develop a basic understanding of the key elements that make a strong image and to be able to review their own images objectively.

Image Critique – This course follows on from Image Evaluation, giving the student skills to provide a critique for another person. This course is suitable for members who are involved in PSA Digital Dialogue or Study Groups where the members are required to comment on the work of others. It is also a brief introduction to the skills required to become a mentor or judge.

Competition Images – This is a two-part course with five lessons in each part. It is designed to assist intermediate and advanced photographers capture and process images suitable for entering in competitions from club level to international exhibitions. It is highly recommended that students complete the Image Evaluation course before enrolling in this course.



To learn more about any of these courses, select the course you are interested in from the link above and click the 'LEARN MORE' button. PSA members may undertake any or all the available courses, but only one at a time. Roy Killen can also provide additional information about these courses.

Free PSA Membership for Students

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) has officially launched a **free 2-year student membership program** to support and inspire young photographers.

This **digital student membership** is available to photographers who are **currently enrolled in school, TAFE or university** and can provide a **valid student ID**.

If you know a student who would like to take advantage of this offer, all they need to do is go to the PSA website <https://psaphotoworldwide.org> and select the "Join Now" link. Then, in the Student Program section, select "Sign up here".

If you have any questions about this PSA offer, please contact Roy Killen.

PSA Club Newsletter/Magazine Competition Results

We recently entered our newsletter –The Leading Line - January 2026 edition into the 2026 PSA Newsletter Competition. In entering the competition, we fell into the magazine category due to the length of our publication. We now have the results and some recommendations from the judges on how we could improve the publication for the benefit of our members. Some of these suggestions will be evident in this edition and I will keep "tweaking" our newsletter in coming editions.

As well as the layout of the newsletter we are also judged on the stories and content that the newsletter contains. In our instance the judges commented on Helen walker's "On Holidays – Shot In Texas" contribution with the comment:

"You have a wide variety of articles, though most are short and not in-depth. That said, I did enjoy Helen's article, "Shot in Texas," which had excellent photographs and an amusing narrative. "Hidden Gems" discussed the radial gradient tool and the illustrations were very good, but I do wish she had made the article a "how to" on the use of the tool. Your photojournalism story was well-done, particularly the photography of the Rising Tide Blockade. Without knowing anything about this protest (I'm from Chicago), I was able to get a very good idea of it, so you did tell the story in pictures well."

If anyone would like a copy of the Judges' comments, please let me know – bicton36@gmail.com



In our last edition we announced that our club has become a member of the **NSW Federation of Camera Clubs (FCC)** on 1st July this year. The FCC is the leading body representing photography clubs across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. With a proud history of promoting the art and craft of photography, the FCC currently supports over 72 affiliated clubs and a thriving community of more than 2,500 passionate photographers.

As a member club, our members and club will now have access to the following FCC resources and competitions. To facilitate this association keen eyed members will notice that the Home Page on our website now contains the FCC logo which contains a link to the FCC website.

As well as the PSA Interclub Competitions members and our club can enter the FCC competitions.

FCC Interclub competition

- club members can submit images into all the FCC interclub competition categories for free
- club members are limited to two images per category



- dates have yet to be finalised, entry to these competitions will open via the club's website during August, and close towards end September
- an internal judging process will then occur to determine the images that will represent LMCC
- there are nine categories, please note the specific definitions that apply to each category
- Colour and Monochrome images are allowed in all categories
- except for Nature, all creative approaches, photography techniques and post processing are welcome and encouraged (consistent with the Digital Art Editing and Post-Processing Policy)
- full definitions for the FCC interclub competition will be updated to the website shortly

The following is some further information on categories.

PRINT	
Fine Art Print	A printed photograph of any subject; which communicates a story, idea, mood or other creative intention; and where the printmaking significantly contributes to the impact of the photo. Printmaking includes, but not limited to, digital processes (inkjet, laser printing) and analogue processes (gelatin silver prints, cyanotypes). All entries MUST be mounted as described in the Print Handling Policy
DIGITAL	
Action	A digital image where action is the basis for the image's story, idea, mood or other creative intention. Includes, but not limited to, sports, wildlife, event and travel photography
Digital Art	A digital image that originated as one or more photographs taken by the photographer; which has undergone significant post processing; and which communicates a story, idea, mood or other creative intention. Editing and post-processing MUST be consistent with the FCC requirement
Flora	A digital image of any plant, part of a plant, or groups of plants which communicates a story, idea, mood or other creative intention. Includes, but not limited to, fungi, still life, landscape, some drone photography and macro-photography
Nature	A digital image consistent with the PSA/FIAP definition for Nature
Portrait	A digital image of a person or persons who are participating in the creation of the photo. At least one person in the image must have all or part of their face visible. Includes, but not limited to, self-portraits taken by the photographer, studio photography and portraits showing people in their work or other environment.
Scapes	A digital image of landscapes, seascapes or skies that depicts their beauty, emotional impact, history, environmental qualities, spiritual, symbolic or other significance. Subjects may include, but are not limited to, mountains, valleys, plains, rivers, forests, coastline, seas, skies, and storms. Human-made structures and people may be included as long as they do not dominate the image.
Staged	A digital image which is intentionally set up by the photographer; and which communicates a story, idea, mood or other creative intention. Includes, but not limited to, still life, pet, food and toy photography. Images which qualify for the Portrait category (see above) are NOT permitted
Urban	A digital image taken within a built-up environment (e.g. city, town, street or park); and which communicates a story, idea, mood or other creative intention. Includes, but not limited to, street, architecture, photojournalism, aerial, drone, urban landscape and travel photography

INTEREST GROUPS NEWS

To be part of an interest group, on our website go to “My Account”, then “My Groups”, and join the group you wish to join. This will ensure you receive emails with news on outings, photoshoots, ZOOM Meetings or other group activities. Similarly, also make sure you subscribe to the corresponding Group Discussion Forum. This will provide links to relevant websites, YouTube videos and downloads on the groups area of interest. To do this go to “Information for Members”, then “Forums”, then subscribe to the relevant Interest Group Forum.

In summary 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.

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

1. **Camera Craft Group** –the basics of camera craft and/or basic image editing. Mentor – Chris Prior.

Next outing will be to the Warners Bay Ice Skating rink on Monday 17th August at 7.00pm. Registrations are essential. Limit of 20. Our thanks to Andrew Dewar for arranging this opportunity.

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 – Studio Lighting Group** – We no longer have a leader for this group but intend to investigate sourcing workshops through our new affiliation with FCC. Watch this space.
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.

Zoom sessions of the Photoshop SIG will start again on Monday, 18th May. Meetings will then be held on the first and third Mondays of each month. The topic for the first meeting is “Processing Raw files in Adobe Camera Raw”. Following sessions will revise and expand on various Photoshop topics dealt with last year.

If you plan to attend these meetings, please go to the **My Account>My Groups** menu and click on the "Join Group" button for the **Photoshop Special Interest Group**. You will then receive emails to remind you of meetings.

For further information, contact Roy Killen.

8. **Street Photography** – gear, camera settings, street etiquette, photoshoots – Mentor – Dennis Archibald.

The group hold regular outings and shoot images on the street on different aspects of street photography. Members submit their images and share them with the group in discussions held via zoom conferencing. The aim of the group is to improve members ability to “see” opportunities and to build confidence in shooting in public places. The most recent topic was high contrast Black and White images. At the end of August, we will be off for our second photoshoot of the year in Sydney. This time exploring some of the inner-city suburbs. Details in the club calendar on our website.



Jim Sloan



Craig Dickman



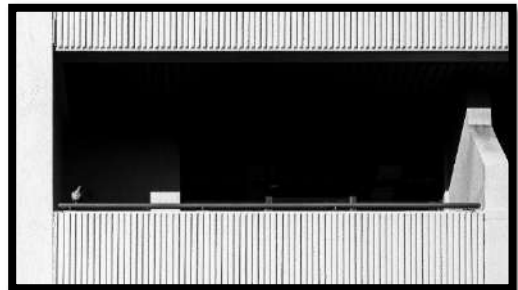
Anna D'Accione



Bronwyn Haddock



Andrew Dewar



Bettina Damme



Janene Rigby



Ian Armstrong



Alastair Macdonald



Julieanne Palmer

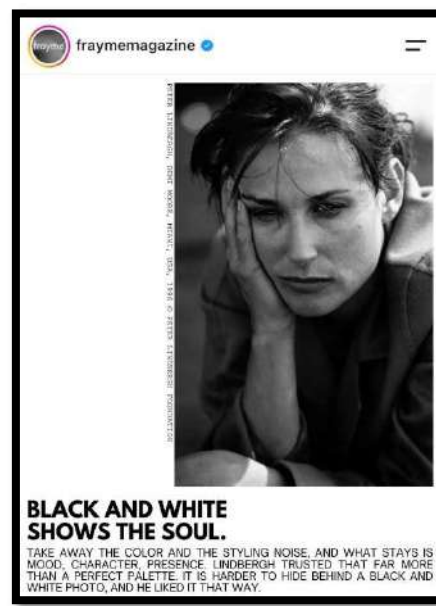
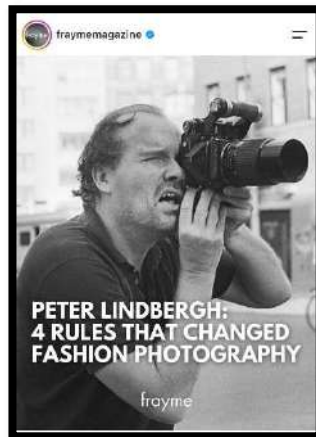


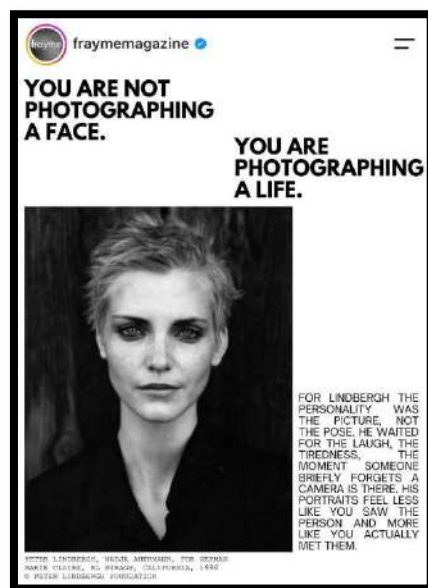
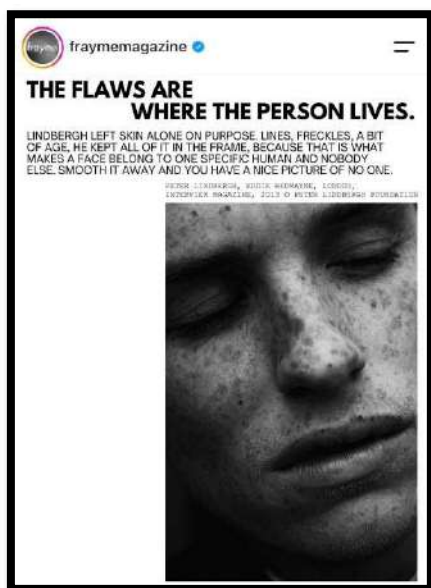
Debbie Hicks



Phil Whiteman

9. **Nikon Z Users** - share and learn menu options, focus modes, when and how to use them. It's an opportunity to learn and discuss ways of exploiting the camera's capabilities – Mentor – Greg Carruthers.
10. **Aerial Photography** – photography from drones and fixed wing aircraft. Mentor – Peter Harrison. Some images follow of a recent outing of the aerial special interest group to Catherine hill Bay, and the good news, all drones safely back to base!



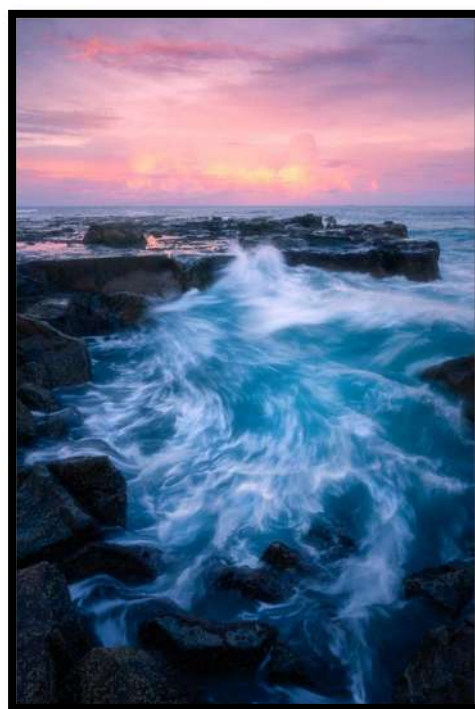


2026 It's a Knockout Results

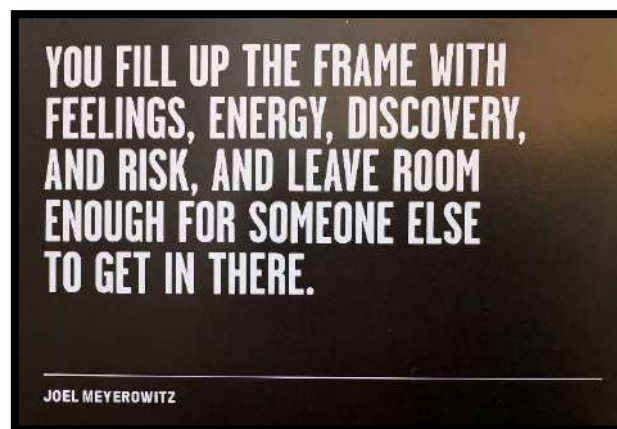
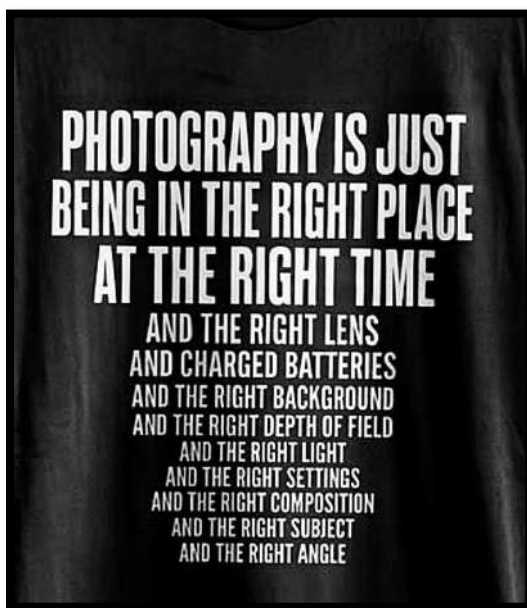
Many thanks to Greg Carruthers for again running a successful It's a Knockout competition in July. We had 26 entries with some very good images amongst the entries. Congratulations to Chris Mannweiler whose image finished in 1st Place, followed by Andrew Foster in 2nd place.



1st Place - Chris Mannweiler – Osprey Feeding



2nd Place – Andrew Foster – Gilmore 180



What's Coming Up?

Speakers

Our next guest speaker **Yulius Santoso** will be presenting to the club on Wednesday 26th August in the VBC Function Room.

Yulius (**IG: @photosbyyulius**) is a Sydney-based street photographer known for his cinematic and atmospheric imagery. His work explores mood, light, solitude, and the quiet poetry of everyday urban life — particularly at night, which has become a defining element of his photography.

Beyond photography, Yulius is passionate about building and nurturing creative communities. He established the Sydney Charity Photowalk in 2022, bringing photographers together through community-driven events and charitable initiatives. He has collaborated with brands including Sony, Fujifilm, and Panasonic Lumix, and has also worked as a photographer for the City of Sydney.

Alongside his creative work, Yulius runs a consulting business and teaches at the University of New South Wales.

Yulius' talk is focused on his background and storytelling through photography, covering his approach to creating atmospheric and cinematic imagery, the importance of light and composition, and how he has developed a visual style across both commercial and personal work. He will also share behind-the-scenes insights, editing style, and experiences from recent shoots and community projects. Some examples of his work follow.





If there is someone in the photographic world who you would like to invite to the club, then please contact Toni Woodcock and have a chat.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at Valentine Bowling Club on Wednesday 12th August at 7.00pm.

Just 3 – Laurie Connolly

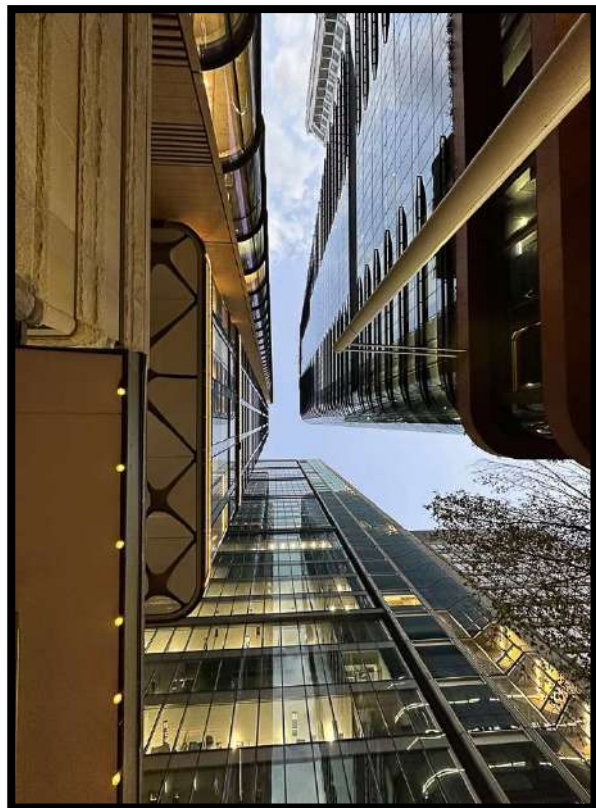
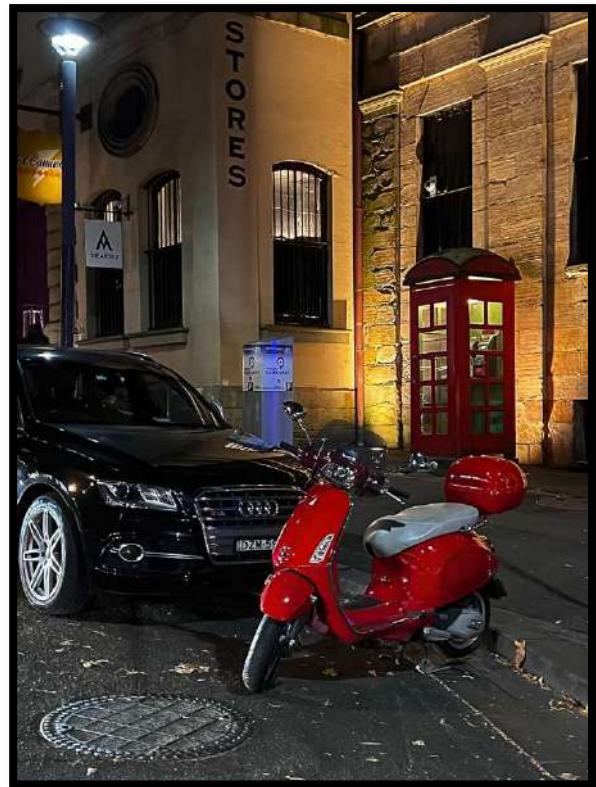
These 3 images are some of my favourites. I love to get out and about and these images represent some of my adventures.

My daughter lives in North Sydney and I look forward to my stays with her and the opportunity to walk across the bridge to some of my favourite places in the city.

The first image of the scooter was discovered by chance. I was walking to the train station to return to my daughter's place through The Rocks on my way home from Vivid. The composition with the red scooter parked in front of the red phone box was interesting and the soft light attracted me to the image as I like night photography as it provides a totally different lighting perspective as opposed to the day.

The second image was also taken on a recent visit to Sydney. Of interest is that this new building is on the original North Sydney Fire station site. The original fire station is heritage listed and is still there but has been given a new life and transformed into the Fire House Hotel. A new building some 80 floors high was built over the original fire station. The fire station had to remain in situ while the new building was constructed. There is a verandah at the back where I decided to stop for a coffee and was captured by the soaring image above.

My third image is typical of an evening walk along some of our beautiful beaches. We are blessed to live in such a wonderful coastal location that presents us with the opportunity, whilst enjoying this great environment, to take some interesting images. This image was captured at Merewether Beach one late afternoon. I was walking from Bar Beach toward Merewether Surf House. The sea mist was drifting in, and the light was changing as I approached the Surf House. It presented quite a nice, moody photo, and I was lucky enough to be following the four silhouetted walkers which added interest to the scene.





Holidays – Allison Hayes

Holiday time! Nothing better than to join a photographic tour in the South Island of New Zealand organised by John Armytage Photography and Craig Williams Photography, smack bang in the middle of Autumn.

Our adventures began in urban Christchurch and culminated in the dramatic fjordland of Milford Sound, before flying back home from Queenstown. This was my very first trip to New Zealand, so I was super impressed with the stunning colours on display as well as the wide-open landscapes, complete with snow on those wild mountain tops.

Of course, we had to battle the hordes of Chinese tourists at all the popular locations - the Church of the Good Shepherd, the Wanaka Tree and Tasman Glacier - as everyone was out to get the perfect shot in whatever manner took their fancy.

I had no idea the Church of the Good Shepherd was in such a scenic and stunning location, remote from other buildings, reflecting, in its solitude, the spirituality of its magnificent surroundings. I had only ever seen single, isolated shots of the church online so, once my awe abated, I set about taking a panorama of this vast vista sprawled in front of me. And the colour of that water - truly amazing!

The Tasman Lake Viewpoint offers breathtaking views over the vast Tasman Lake, its retreating glacier and the striking snowcapped mountains surrounding it. The climb up all those stairs to get a glimpse of Mt Cook and the floating icebergs was a highlight of the tour, but not necessarily for me. Here is a



small section of the view from the top.

A venture into Arrowtown allowed us to explore the lovely Autumn colours there. The town was hosting an Autumn Fair that weekend so there were lots of people, culture and colour to photograph.

Our final destination didn't disappoint. Milford Sound is wild, dramatic and magnificent with those monstrous rock extrusions climbing out of the water. A wonderful boat ride along the fjord was mandatory in the bright, sunny conditions that prevailed.

Along with some very pretty sunrises, pristine turquoise lakes, quirky townships (Arrowtown and Cromwell), a moody, rain-drenched Glenorchy, wine tasting at a Central Otago winery, yummy ice cream from Mrs Jones Fruit Orchard and even an aurora, the South Island certainly delivered.

"Kia Ora New Zealand", and thank you for all the magical photo opportunities, dressed in your splendid Autumn finery.



My Bronze Portfolio – Bob Todd

I have been a member of PSA since August 2021 and last September was thinking that I really hadn't taken advantage of it in the way that I maybe should have. Looking around their website, I saw the course on "Creating a PSA Portfolio" and thought that might be worth doing. I anticipated that as I had done 1 or 2 portfolios within our club, I would have a head start so I signed up to do the course in September 2025, thinking this will fill a few hours. Turned out to be a gross underestimate!

First thing was a message from Joanne Stolte the course co-ordinator asking me to have a zoom session as a "get to know each other". Joanne lives in California and, after a few hiccups with time zones, we had a zoom meeting and once she had seen that I didn't have two heads she decided to press on. She pressed me for a subject during that first meeting, and I hadn't really thought about it much, but with my bushwalking hobby I have lots of shots of Aussie wildflowers, so I blurted that out and off we went!

At that time, I had a lot of spare time on my hands due to car problems which prevented me from going pretty much anywhere. I discovered I had at least 30 different species of Australian wildflowers on my computer though not nearly as well catalogued as they should have been, which I spent a bit of time fixing.

By late October I sent Joanne a first draft. I explained that I had decided to go for the three primary colours and their secondaries, allocating green to be the background as there aren't that many green flowers. That left 5 colours – red, yellow and blue with purple and orange as the two secondaries. At that stage I didn't have a suitable green background and used an out of focus shot of the bush, but it was more brown than green! Joanne had referred me to a portfolio someone else had done on flowers for ideas, but I didn't really like it, each flower had a long stem and a very small flower draped across a very dark background. It looked like something you'd see in an old museum! And the flowers were not the main thing you saw in the image. I wanted to generate a feeling of being in the bush and really focussed on the flowers!

Joanne came back saying how impressed she was with the amount of work I had done and how amazed she was with what I was creating! Flattery will get you anywhere!

By 11 November, after a lot more toing and froing I had what I considered to be a good overview image (the mark 7!) along with a title and the overview statement. I was somewhat surprised when during our zoom session Joanne said "Well, you've completed the 3-lesson course, I wish you luck and it's been nice talking to you!" I then got an email from Stephanie Sioras congratulating me on completing the course, wishing me good luck with my portfolio submission along with a certificate proclaiming my completion! PSA likes Certificates!

So, I began to think maybe I should submit a portfolio!

I had a look at the next submission period – there are 3 each year and a max of 20 submissions are accepted in each period across all 3 portfolio levels (Bronze (10 Images), Silver (15 Images) and Gold (20 images)). The next submission opened on 1st February 2026, and it had been impressed upon me that there were always way more submissions than could be accepted so you needed to get in early.

So, I duly got up at some ungodly hour on 2 February (time zones again!) to submit my portfolio (by now Mark 9) along with the US \$90 fee, you submit the title, the overview statement, the overview image and separate shots of each image into the PSA website.

My Overview statement and image are shown below: -

Because of its remoteness and isolation, Australia has more native wildflowers than most countries. This portfolio highlights ten, Australian, Jewel-coloured, native wildflowers of the thousands that exist.



I was a bit nervous about some aspects of the submission particularly the shadow on image #4 and the repeated background. Joanne thought it looked like stained glass and liked it very much. We both also liked the two outer bottom images (#6 and #10) which suggested hands holding the rest of the image.

On 15 March I received the following email –

"Thank you for submitting your Bronze portfolio titled "Australian Native Wildflowers" for assessment. While your application was not successful, it only fell short by a total of 4 elements. This means that you are eligible to resubmit at a fee of \$40.

The problems in your portfolio were:

Statement of Intent: Punctuation, lower case Jewel. Suggest you simplify to one sentence.

Overview Image Background color bleeds into images. Perhaps grey background and space between images.

Image Comments:

4 Not sharp, background has distracting white areas. 5 Not sharp, flower not a good specimen.

The assessors see potential in your work and, with a few adjustments, a successful resubmission is very achievable. Gary Potts, who is copied on this email will be in touch to discuss your portfolio and offer advice for your resubmit if you would like to take advantage of the opportunity.

Please note that the closing date for resubmissions is 4 April 2026 - but you should make every effort to submit in advance of this date."

I send a copy to Joanne who was not happy, particularly with the comments about the background, I subsequently found out that of the 20 submissions 1 passed no problem, 18 got a similar re-submit e-mails, and 1 was totally rejected.

I was not pleased with myself for the two shots 4 and 5. When I looked at them again, they were very poor and I should never have submitted them in the first place!

Most of the other problems were easily fixed, the hard part was that I needed to replace images 4 and 5 and I didn't have anything suitable in my collection and it was now late autumn, so flowers were becoming scarce!

Then, two strokes of luck. I found a suitable replacement for #4 in my catalogue that I had missed earlier, and blue Scurvy Weed started to appear everywhere, so I rattled off a few dozen shots of that.

It also found it strange that the background got commented on for image 4 but nowhere else as I had used the same background for all 10 images, maybe the different layouts meant it was covered up in some of the other images. Nonetheless I dimmed it down and made sure there were no bright patches, changed the overall background to grey and moved the images apart a little bit. Gary also wanted me to swap images #6 and #10 so they pointed into the image rather than out.

I worked away on it and after more to and fro with my new mentor Gary Potts, I was able to resubmit well before the deadline of 4th April.



Gary told me that decision day was 10th April, when all 5 assessors would review the re-submissions.

At 4:27 am on 11 April (our time) I received the following email

"Thank you for submitting your corrected Bronze portfolio titled "Australian Native Wildflowers" for assessment. It is my pleasure to inform you that you were successful. The official results will be announced shortly on the PSA website. Your certificate and pin will be posted to you after the results have been announced. Congratulations on your successful application."

*Best wishes, Peter
Peter Nicholls
Director, PSA Portfolio Distinction Program"*

YEE HAH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

At this point I really should extend my thanks to both Joanne and Gary for their help, suggestions and general encouragement, I certainly would not have succeeded without them.

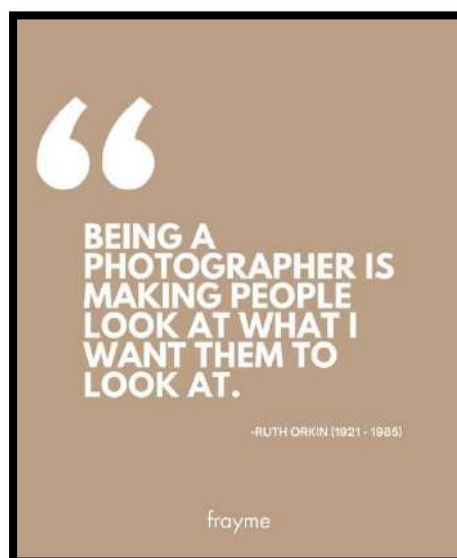
The final hurdle was to get my certificate and pin. They were shipped from Oklahoma on 10 June and it seems that the address had AU for the country instead of Australia and as a result the parcel spent several weeks travelling around the USA and back to Oklahoma several times before I suggested to change the package address. It finally left the USA on 28th Jun and arrived in Sydney on 7th July and arrived at my door at 3:46 on 8th July.



Having done all that the next questions is - Did I enjoy the process and would I progress to the silver level.

Answer - Yes, it was lot of fun, I learnt a lot, at times it was demanding and perplexing, but I am pleased I did it and probably once I can think of a suitable subject and build up a suitable number of shots I may well go for Silver.

Watch this space! **Bob Todd BPSA!**



Hidden Gems – A Blast from the Past – Ian Armstrong

I have recently converted my old slides and negatives into digital files, over 2,000 images converted. It is clear to me what an ordinary photographer I was. Looking for hidden gems, I came across my captures in Civic Park in 1977 when the Queen was in town. Were you there?

Queen Elizabeth II visited Newcastle on Friday, March 11, 1977, as part of her Silver Jubilee tour of Australia. Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, she flew into the RAAF Williamtown base before travelling to the city for a brief, two-hour public appearance.

The main objective of the royal stopover was to officially open the newly built Newcastle Art Gallery on Laman Street. The Queen declared it "a fine new Gallery to house an excellent collection of Australian works". Following the

opening, the royal couple took a stroll through the nearby Civic Park, greeting and accepting flowers from thousands of cheering locals and schoolchildren. They then departed the city aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia.

My images weren't great captures to start with but after wiping mould from the slides, scanning them using a flatbed scanner, the digital images were not great. Fortunately, the latest version on Topaz Photo AI and photoshop brought some life to them.



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.

- A special thanks to Ian Armstrong who produced a slide show with lovely backing music of images captured on the Street Photography outing to Sydney earlier this year. Highly recommended.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/4e55at8ft2g4kis3r3j/Sydney-City-Walk-14th-April-2026.mp4?rlkey=qs2lg2jj5dwzpj2t1rhuwwpy&st=j4gzqhzp&dl=0>

Affinity 3 – Photo Editing Software – An EBook by Robin Whalley from Lenscraft

You can purchase the book directly from Robin Whalley's website [Essential Affinity 3 Book - Lenscraft](#) or from Amazon.

Dear Dennis,

I recently announced the release of my new book, *Essential Affinity 3*. At the time, I mentioned that I was waiting for Amazon's printed proofs before I could release the paperback edition.

As it turned out, the proofs arrived much sooner than I expected, and the paperback is now available on Amazon.

For this edition, I've been able to use a larger 8.5" × 11" page size, making the examples easier to follow as you work through the editing project.

Like the eBook, the paperback teaches Affinity 3 by guiding you through editing a real photograph from start to finish. Download the accompanying RAW file from my website, follow the steps in the book, and learn the key tools and techniques as you edit.

The paperback is only available on Amazon and is priced at £29.99 (priced similarly in other currencies).

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Affinity 3 is one of the most powerful photo editing applications available. But for many new users, it can also feel overwhelming. With so many tools, panels, filters, features and adjustments available, it's difficult to know where to begin which techniques really matter.

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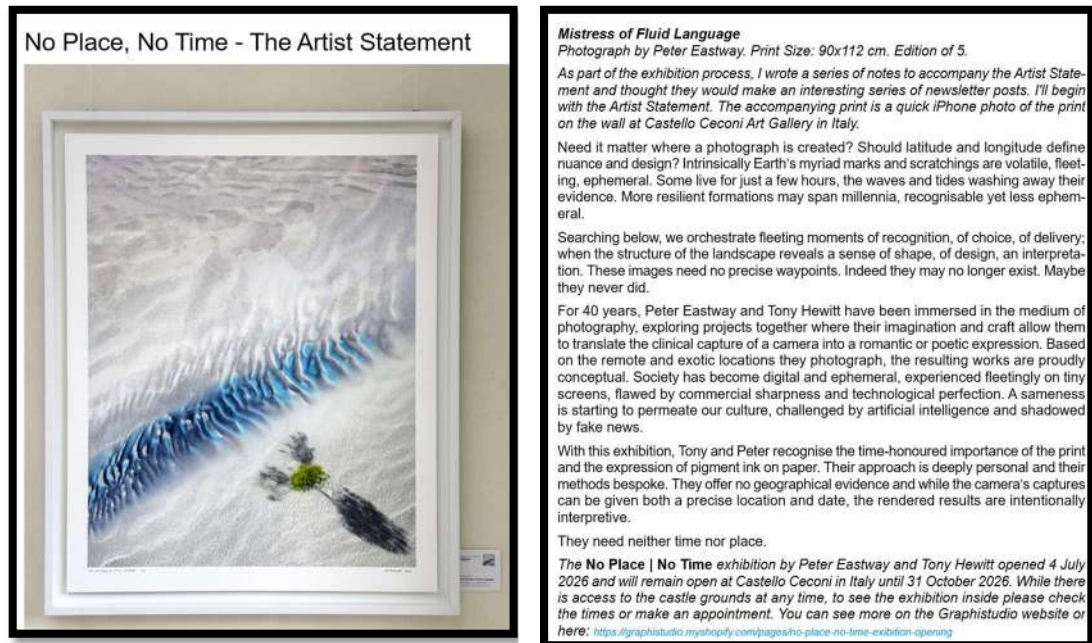
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[See all details](#)

- From Bill Chambers - Adobe Buys Topaz Labs & Why I Unsubscribed Matt Irwin"

https://youtu.be/Pfp-rc_WSo?si=r2NmhFYPfXzPY4IF

- From Peter Eastaway's Almost Weekly Newsletter



- From Bill Chambers

A long video (1:20) - but interesting - Why Minolta Cameras Disappeared

https://youtu.be/nIMJM_QQ5EQ?si=aNdJ8SREigRKGmpO

- From Bettina Damme

[Saul Leiter | The Independent Photographer](#)

- From Bill Chambers

Aerial Drones. 13 pages of interest to Drone operators - Sep 2025 issue of Silicon Chip magazine - Charlestown Library has a copy you can borrow.



Photography Quiz

The following Photography Quiz is taken from Jim Zuckerman's Monthly Newsletter – Photo Insights. You can subscribe to this monthly newsletter at <https://www.jimzuckerman.com/>

Photography Quiz

1. Which has more depth of field if the subject is 20 feet from the lens: A 16mm lens at f/4 or a 500mm lens at f/32?
 - a. 16mm at f/4
 - b. 500mm at f/32
2. How many f/stops are lost in exposure when using a polarizing filter?
 - a. One
 - b. Two
 - c. Three
 - d. Four
3. Large softboxes in a photo studio are designed to simulate what kind of light?
 - a. Direct sunlight
 - b. A cloud cover
 - c. Sunset glow
 - d. All of the above
4. Shooting into the sun with a telephoto can damage your lens.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. You can hand hold a camera and lens to do a 5-frame HDR, but the lens used should be:
 - a. A wide angle
 - b. A telephoto
 - c. A macro
6. When photographing something with multiple planes of focus, like a lion in tall grass, the only sensible option is to:
 - a. Use autofocus
 - b. Change focus point arrangement
 - c. Switch to a telephoto
 - d. Use manual focus
7. In the darkest conditions, what is the last color you can see before you see nothing?
 - a. Green
 - b. Red
 - c. Yellow
 - d. Blue
8. Back in the day, color infrared film with a yellow filter turned vegetation what color?
 - a. Yellow
 - b. Blue
 - c. Magenta
 - d. Black
9. Which of the following film cameras were *not* medium format?
 - a. Rollei Rollicflex
 - b. Hasselblad
 - c. Mamiya 7
 - d. Topcon

Answers on Page 30 of this newsletter.

Quiz Answers

1. a
2. b
3. b
4. b
5. a
6. d
7. a
8. c
9. d

FOR SALE/TO BUY:

Nothing this month.

Club Committee

The table below shows the current club committee members and the roles that they fulfil in the club. Our next AGM is fast approaching. All of the current positions will be declared void and nominations called for the coming year. Here is your chance!.

Position	2025 - 2026
President, Newsletter Editor	Dennis Archibald
Secretary, Public officer, Webmaster, Competition Coordinator	David Richards
Vice President and Training Co-ordinator,	Greg Carruthers
Treasurer	Ruth Keech
Social Functions	Barb Hunter
Social Functions	Katherine James
Membership Coordinator	Jim Sloan
Training, Grading Officer	Bill Chambers
PSA Coordinator and Training, Webmaster	Roy Killen
Club Night Projectionist	Julie Brooks
Committee Member	Allison Hayes
Club Gear Setup	Steve McGrath