



Prism NEWSLETTER



President's Piece

Hello everyone.

Here we are at mid-year and what a good thing to have the easing of COVID-19 restrictions to Stage 2. Hopefully you are taking the opportunity to pack up your camera and explore further afield within the borders of this beautiful state.

I'm sure you would agree, it's been another great month with some excellent speakers including Rob Heyman (Natural light and Portraiture), and Focus group with Ray Shorter and Nick Lefebvre (B&W). It's also important to acknowledge the judges who have put in additional time and effort to deal with the high volume of images and adapting to the online environment, as well as the QCG team behind the scenes making it happen including the Riley's, Rob Champion and Byron Queale.

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Apart from bringing you more exciting events and speakers this month, the big ticket items for the Committee are in navigating the COVID environment and finding a suitable venue for future meetings. The easing of restrictions opens up the possibility of a return to Bardon Hall. However, it is unlikely, certainly in the near future, as the operators have advised it can only accommodate a maximum of 13 people under socially distanced arrangements.

The recent survey showed many members are keen to return to face to face meetings. There are also members who are not ready for face to face at this time, given the uncertainty of COVID-19 and wish to continue with Zoom. The upshot is that regardless, there is much more interest than available seats at Bardon Hall.

So, the Committee is actively seeking a venue that can accommodate members in a socially distanced way, and also has the technology to cater for all needs. We will continue to ZOOM and let you know if we find a venue.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the survey and to Anne and Gaye for putting it together.

Great news—first Photoshoot outdoors

The easing of restrictions was well timed. The Photoshoot, organised by Esther at the Arboretum in Sherwood, was a huge success—no social distancing required between camera and the birds and a great time had by all getting together again.

Read on— There is lots on this month too.

BE AWARE



SOCIAL DISTANCING

President's Piece Cont.

What's next

- June 4 – Guest Speaker—Your Personal Project with Dean Holland
- June 18 Competition Judging Portrait and Open
- June 20 Portrait Group TBA
- June 25 Focus Group—Post Processing with Ben Stoffl

Get you images in for this months Portrait and open competition

- June 4 Entries Due for Portrait and Open
- July 2 Entries due for “Looking Down” and “Open”

Jasmine Westerman
President

Dean Holland... Sneak Peek

Coming soon to QCG....

Topic - Get 10x the satisfaction, last 5x longer and cure yourself of GAS (Gear Acquisition Syndrome) with a personal photography project.



A personal photographic project gives you a laser focus, boosts your confidence, and earns you precious matrimony points. But they're hard to start and hard to stick to. Dean will implore you to find your passion and use that as a springboard for a project that might need a week, or might need a lifetime. On the way, you'll see Dean's successes and complete failures. Dean's current project is “The Stereotype Project”. Zoom in on Thursday night to find out more...

Dean Holland is a Brisbane based photographer, educator, and photography business owner. As a photographer he specialises in family, wedding, charity, and commercial photography. In business, he is the principal of Take Better Photos, a small enterprise dedicated to helping everyday people take better photos.

He has more than 20 years' experience as a photographer and a PhD “*in helping folk access and understand technical stuff*”. He strongly believes that photography should be a joy, not a maths exam and that photos should be a fun celebration of life.

He started Take Better Photos in 2007 to share some of the fun and excitement of having great photos of family and holidays, through photography courses in Brisbane (and now further afield). His idea is to capture the truly priceless moments in life - the ones you'll want to show your grandchildren. quickly grew beyond all expectation and won heaps of awards. Of late Dean has taken to running many of his courses virtually online utilising the Zoom platform.

More than 1% of Brisbane has done a course with Take Better Photos.

Dean also holds joint photography workshops with Steve Parish, one of Australia's best-known photographers, an inspiration for using photography to rejuvenate a passion for life. He continues to add new photography courses including World's first and only jargon-free iPhone Photography course.

For more information and to view some of Dean's work, check out Take Better Photos website <https://www.takebetterphotos.com.au/>

Speaker Rob Heyman – Portrait and Group Photography using Natural Light



Rob Heyman

Rob is a Brisbane based photographer who is a Triple Master of Photography with the Australian Institute of Professional Photography. He is recognised as one of the leading portrait photographers in Australia and internationally and is often asked to speak at photographic events both here and overseas. Rob is a photographer with a wealth of knowledge in portraiture and family photography and is a guru with black and white.

Check out some of his amazing work on his website - <https://heymanports2.blogspot.com/>.

His talk focused on two primary subject themes.

1. Portrait photographs (head and shoulders which aligns with our June set subject criteria) and;
2. Group/family photos.

Both taken outdoors using natural light. The presentation was accompanied by a large selection of Rob's images from over the years. He also gave us a quick demonstration of his, very time efficient, Photo Shop postproduction work flow.

His talk was a timely adjunct to Gaye, Gosh and Anne's focus group session from two weeks earlier leading up to this month's "Portrait" set subject competition.

His approach to portraiture photography is to choose natural outdoor locations with optimal light conditions and backgrounds.

Key tips and take-aways and secrets included:

Apply the KISS principle – Keep It Simple Stupid. In other words, "If it's not required, leave it out.

Rob's 3 ½ rules of family and group portrait photography.

1. Ensure a good interesting background (one that would make a good standalone landscape image).
2. Ensure a good solid foreground (one that doesn't allow the main subjects to "fall off" the bottom of the frame). i.e. insert the "victims' creatively into the scene.
- ½. Finally ensure the light is right and best for the shot.

Best light is in the last hour of the day prior to sunset. The next best is the first hour after sunrise.

Odd numbers of people or groupings of people are best when composing the shot.

Preferred clothing – mid-tones to dark.

Images that sell well have both ears showing and the subjects smiling.

Rob's preferred aperture settings:

Typical - f2.8 to f4; Close ups - f5.6 (and never higher)

Rob's preferred lens (full frame):

24mm to 70mm; 70mm to 200mm; 100mm macro



Eager ZOOM participants

Still Life and Open Judging



Ruth Horton



Another great turnout for the online ZOOM judging of Still Life and Open by Ruth Horton. Ruth provided great feedback on the images for all.



Fast Food by Mandy-Watson-

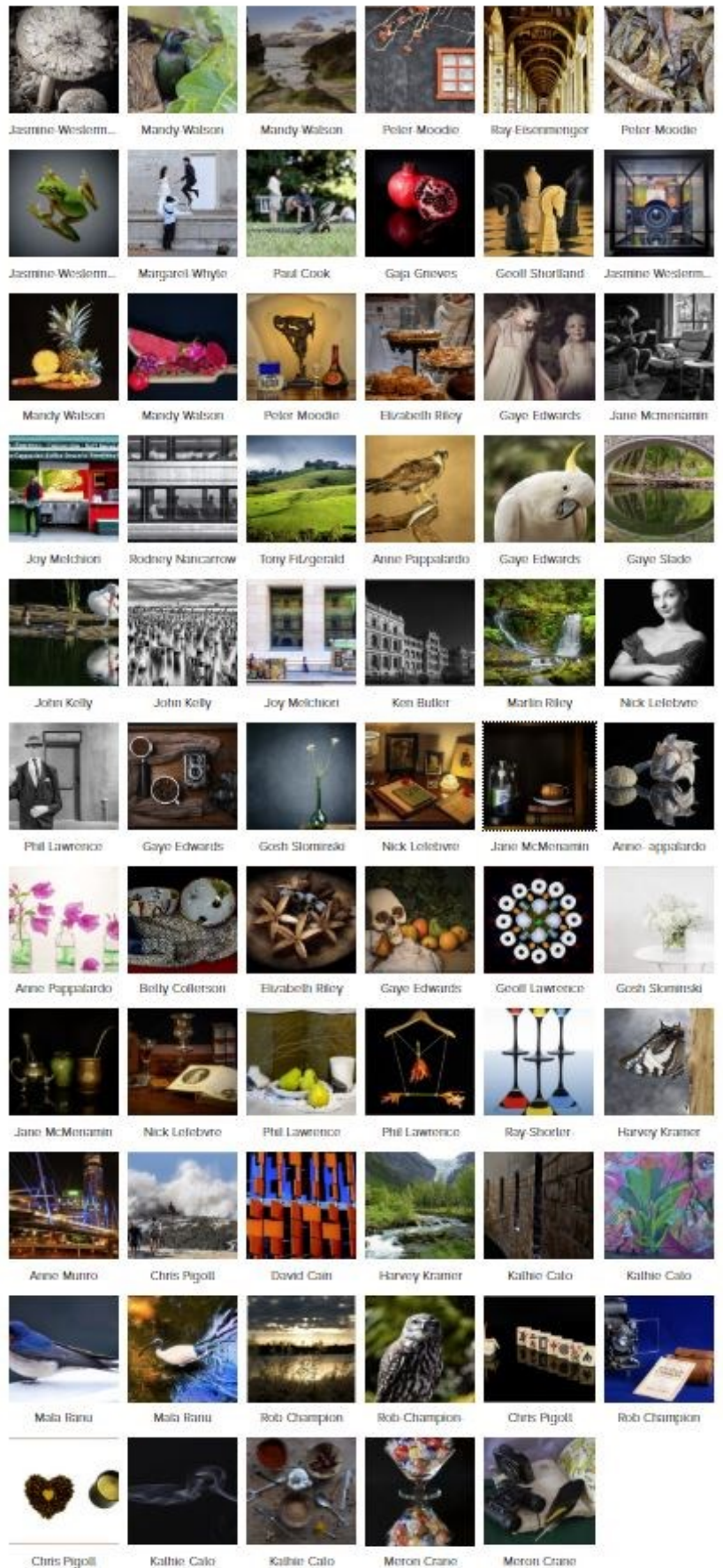


Framed-In-Orange by Peter-Moodie

Still Life and Open (judged by an Artist)

Competition 21 May 2020

Merits and Honours awarded by Ruth Horton (internet Zoom live judging)



May Portrait Group

Last month's Virtual Portrait Group challenge was to use the theme "HEROES WEAR MASKS" as inspiration for their home portrait session. Virus protection measures are seen every day in the media so it's a familiar concept. Thank you to the members who once again entered the spirit of these monthly photography challenges. Please check out their images in Galleries on our website and see who and what dressed up, down and all around in masks of so many styles! Here's a couple of masked heroes by Margaret Whyte and Rodney Nancarrow. There are exciting plans for 20 June 2020's Portrait Group - watch for your email.



Image by Margaret Whyte

Images below Left to Right
 Gaye Edwards, Mala Ranu,
 Eliza, Max Biddlestone,
 Chris Pigott



Have you entered your Portraits for the June competition yet, entries close 11pm 4th June on the My Photo Club portal



Image by Rodney Nancarrow



Anne's Blogs



ON THE QCG VIRTUAL COUCH WITH KATHIE CATO

<https://www.qcg.org.au/new-blog/onthevirtualcouchwithkathiecato>



ON THE QCG VIRTUAL COUCH WITH NICK LEFEBVRE

www.qcg.org.au/new-blog/2020/5/10/on-the-qcg-virtual-couch-with-nick-lefebvre



ON THE QCG VIRTUAL COUCH WITH ANNE PAPPALARDO

<https://www.qcg.org.au/new-blog/2020/5/7/on-the-qcg-virtual-couch-with-anne-pappalardo>

Focus Group Black & White Photography—Nick Lefebvre & Ray Shorter

Our May 2020 Focus Group saw our second on-line zoom session, and it was an outstanding success! The session on The Art of Black and White Photography was run by two of the club's most talented exponents of black and white photography, Ray Shorter and Nick Lefebvre.

A number of members have shown a real interest in this form of photography both in terms of competition entries but also at our end of year survey where there was a request for more education through Focus Group. As a result, the committee decided to include a both a black and white competition (April Open) and a Focus Group session dedicated to techniques in capture and post processing for black and white.

Ray kicked off the session with a detailed description of the principles of black and white photography, and the importance of tonal range in selecting an image suitable for black and white conversion. He also demonstrated some different methods of conversion to black and white using Lightroom and Photoshop and recommended using the Black & White tab and Black & White Mix sliders (in Lightroom) or Black & White adjustment layers (in Photoshop) rather than simply desaturating. This retains more flexibility for further post processing using sliders to adjust tonalities based on the original colours of the image.

Nick followed by demonstrating some of his favourite Lightroom techniques. His winning image 'Afternoon Stroll' was expertly converted through darkening of the sky, fine adjustments in texture, clarity and contrast and finally selective sharpening. He also demonstrated similar techniques on a portrait, this time reducing texture and clarity to improve skin tones and working separately on the eye features for a more pleasing result. Nick also has a passion for street photography and shared some of his wonderful images from around the world.

Ray finished off the session by demonstrating some post processing techniques to create more emotional interpretations in black and white images. In his city landscape he first replaced the sky and then used creative blurring to create an emotion of feeling trapped in city canyons. He then demonstrated how nature images can be made more moody and dramatic, using sky replacement and 'reveal and conceal' techniques to draw the viewer's eye to the main subject. Most people were in awe of the artistry of Ray's conversions.

It was fascinating seeing the contrasting styles used by Nick and Ray to create beautiful imagery. Our thanks go out to Ray and Nick for their time and generosity in sharing their personal images and techniques.

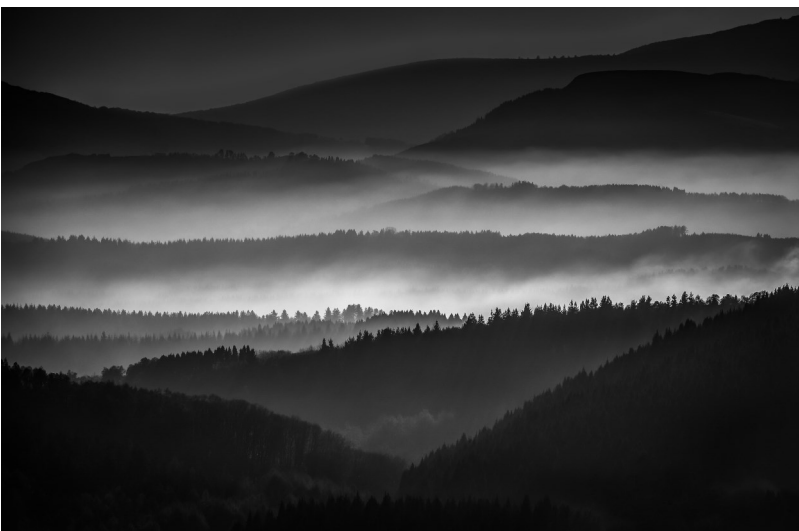


Image by Nick Lefebvre



Image by Ray Shorter

Photoshoot Outing in the year of Covid-19—Sherwood Arboretum

It was great to see so many of our QCG photography friends face to face for the first time in months, and how much sharper and in focus they looked than in Zoom.

The universe co-operated by sending glorious weather – sunny blue skies and perfect temperature. We were obviously pleased to be outdoors, and engaged in a pastime so dear to all, photographing any birds in sight, the landscape, the flora, each other, you name it.

I arrived armed with two big guns – a Tamron SP 150-600mm zoom and a Nikon Phase Fresnel 300mm telephoto, which I use with a Nikon D750, ready for those birds lurking around the lake and elsewhere. Ken took his camera too, and even got into the swing of things, snapping some kookaburras perched on trees near the river.

We spend two and half very pleasant hours at the Sherwood Arboretum. We met a good many QCG mates, and reconnected face to face. Better than seeing our pixelated faces in Zoom any day!

Let's hope Covid-19 continues to ease, to allow us more opportunities to enjoy such activities. Thanks Esther Andrews for organising

Jane McMenamain getting up close and personal with the local wildlife whilst enjoying the Photoshoot outing



Image by Peter Moodie



Article and images by Betty Collerson

Competition Corner



Competitions Officer—Elizabeth Riley

Our May competition, Still Life and Open, attracted another record number of entries – 155 entries from 44 members. This competition is traditionally judged by an Artist, and this year local art educator and practising artist Ruth Horton volunteered her time. The judging night was again presented via Zoom. To keep the night to a reasonable length, Ruth discussed a selection of images, while all images received comments in MyPhotoClub. Members had produced still life images with influences ranging from Cezanne to pop art, and COVID-19 isolation was a recurring theme. Ruth’s comments on Still Life highlighted the importance that simplicity, careful arrangement of objects, subjective use of tone and texture and an implied human presence can have on creating an image that draws you in. Her judging of the Open category reinforced the concept that often the most successful images are those which tell a story.

Next month’s competition is ‘Portrait and Open’. The definition for ‘Portrait’ is the one used for the Interclub DPI competition later in the year. You can find it in the QCG Handbook and on the MPC entry page – and here.

Portrait: A closeup picture of a person or persons in which the face, facial features as well as facial expressions are predominant. This topic may include candid photographs and formal portraits.

Must be a live human being (manikins, statues, ornaments will not be accepted).

Ignore at your peril!

This month the club also trialled a feature of MyPhotoClub that allows members to judge images. The Online Scoring function allows members to anonymously score all images in a competition, then ranks the images based on the combined scores. Online Scoring was used to kickstart the selection of 20 images to represent the club in the APS Australian Cup competition. A big thank you to all of the members who submitted entries for consideration. Thanks also to those who took part in the online scoring, and to Tony Fitzgerald, Anne Pappalardo and Martin Riley who made the final selection. The 20 images below have been entered on behalf of the club. APS is also using MyPhotoClub, which simplified the entry process.

QCG entries for the APS Australian Cup

Afternoon Stroll - Nick Lefebvre	Before Footprints - Louise McDonald
Moroccan beggar - Joy Melchiori	New York from Brooklyn - Tony FitzGerald
King of Kings Beach - Anne Pappalardo	The Engraver - Ken Butler
Humming Bird - Betty Collerson	The flower of the cannonball tree - Elizabeth Riley
Two Bridges - Gaye Slade	Dragon Fly - Mandy Watson
Commotion in the nest - Jane McMenamin	Twisted Stunted and Beautiful - Harvey Kramer
Surfers Sunrise II - John Kelly	Nærøyfjord in Flam Norway - Paul Harrop
In my dreams - Gaye Edwards	The Musician - Roger Bartlett
Dawn of a Post-Corona World - Ray Shorter	Fashionista - Phil Lawrence
Elephant Spray - Martin Riley	Anterior - Jasmine Westerman

Still Life Competition Results — (judged by a practising artist). Guest Judge Ruth Horton

B Grade – Still Life – DPI

From a simpler time	Rob Champion	Honour
The Mahjong Player	Chris Pigott	Honour
Self Evident	Chris Pigott	Merit
Spice collection	Kathie Cato	Merit
Smoke	Kathie Cato	Merit
Chocolates	Meron Crane	Merit
Bird fancier	Meron Crane	Merit

AB Grade – Still Life – DPI

Knights and Bishops Rule	Geoff Shortland	Honour
My Life in a Box	Jasmine Westerman	Honour
Favourite Fruit	Mandy Watson	Honour
Pomegranates	Gaja Grieves	Honour
Memories of the 1920s	Peter Moodie	Merit
Delicious Reds	Mandy Watson	Merit

A Grade – Still Life – DPI

Lest we forget	Nick Lefebvre	Honour
Flowers in a green vase	Gosh Slominski	Honour
Creative Stimuli	Gaye Edwards	Honour Most Apt Title
Brilliant Bougainvillia	Anne Pappalardo	Merit
A La Paul Cezanne	Gaye Edwards	Merit
Tea for Three	Jane McMenamin	Merit
Collectibles	Jane McMenamin	Merit
Beach walks remembered	Anne Pappalardo	Merit
Recuerdos of Japan 02	Betty Collerson	Merit
The Offering	Philip Lawrence	Merit
Pick Me	Philip Lawrence	Merit
White Flowers	Gosh Slominski	Merit
Cook books	Nick Lefebvre	Merit
Native	Elizabeth Riley	Merit
Reflecting on Cocktails	Ray Shorter	Merit
Corona Virus Panic	Geoff Lawrence	Merit

Open Competition Results— (judged by a practising artist). Guest Judge Ruth Horton

B Grade - Open – DPI

Outta my way Big Fella	Harvey Kramer	Honour
Blue Swallow	Mala Ranu	Merit
Kurilpa Bridge	Anne Munro	Merit
Norwegian wilderness	Harvey Kramer	Merit
In my Dreams I am a Peacock	Mala Ranu	Merit Most Apt Title
Should We Follow Him ?	Chris Pigott	Merit
Last rays	Rob Champion	Merit
What are you looking at?	Rob Champion	Merit
Around the bend	Kathie Cato	Merit
Street Art	Kathie Cato	Merit
Orderly Disorder	David Cain	Merit

AB Grade - Open – DPI

Fungi Tart	Jasmine Westerman	Honour
Framed In Orange	Peter Moodie	Honour
The wealth of Russia	Ray Eisenmenger	Honour
Ship Rock	Mandy Watson	Honour
Fast Food	Mandy Watson	Honour
Green Showerscreen Frog	Jasmine Westerman	Merit
My Autumn Leaves	Peter Moodie	Merit
Serenade	Paul Cook	Merit
Wedding photographer Central Park	Margaret Whyte	Merit

A Grade - Open - DPI

The Covid Blues	Jane McMenamin	Honour
Hot Pizza, Anyone want Hot Pizza?	Joy Melchiori	Honour
And Out Came the Sun Again	Tony FitzGerald	Honour
In My Dreams	Gaye Edwards	Honour
Anticipation	Elizabeth Riley	Honour
Sydney Commute	Rodney Nancarrow	Honour
Comprehension	Gaye Edwards	Merit
A New York moment in time	Joy Melchiori	Merit
Mirror Mirror	Gaye Slade	Merit
Forest Ferns At Horseshoe Falls	Martin Riley	Merit
King of Kings Beach	Anne Pappalardo	Merit
No Exit	Philip Lawrence	Merit
Narcissus' Ablutions	John Kelly	Merit
BW portrait	Nick Lefebvre	Merit
Casino at Sunset	Ken Butler	Merit
The Secret Spot	John Kelly	Merit

Last Word...



Ben Stoffl

June Focus Group

Our June Focus Group will welcome back Ben Stoffl. Ben showed us some of his remarkable images in the first speaker session of the year and has generously agreed to share some of his post processing techniques. Stay tuned for this one as we will be asking for a bit more audience participation! The detailed plans for the June Focus group will be unveiled shortly!



Smoke by Kathie-Cato



QUEENSLAND CAMERA GROUP INC.

QCG meets 7:30pm – 1st and 3rd Thursdays (online until further notice)

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