



From the President's Bunker

Hi Everyone,

This message comes from the turbulent waters somewhere south of the roaring 40's.

As you read your December newsletter I will be on the high seas of the Southern Ocean, exploring the Subantarctic Island, as well as Macquarie Island and all its wild life.

Why not take the opportunity over the summer break to get the camera out and knock off some of those task subjects for next year's club competitions?

Look forward to meeting again in Lakes Entrance on Saturday 14th January for our evening shoot or at our January workshop!

Happy Snapping

Vicki



Contents

Editorial News	2
What's On	3
Champs in the Making	4
The Year that was <i>Ronnie Curtis</i>	5



I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe & happy 2017.





Editorial News

Barbara Rogalla

Hello to one and all, and welcome to the last newsletter for the year. Thank you to the members who have passed on their encouraging comments throughout the year. Watch out for even greater changes in 2017, once we have purchased a better Laptop and better software.

No effort is achieved in isolation. Many people have contributed to the production of the newsletter. Most notably are Rene Blin and Peter Hart for their proof reading, and Vicki Jesty and Ronnie Curtis for producing ongoing content.

There are also several members who have contributed to the *My Stuff* and *Profi at Work* series; either by writing directly, or by sharing verbal information and photos.

Behind the scenes are Vicki Jerrett, who publishes the newsletter every month on the internet, and Bruce Jennings for lots of photographs and advice.

Then, there are those members who have sent their photos from our field excursions. Many thanks also to the Committee, who unreservedly have stood behind the newsletter initiatives over the year.

Elden Marshall deserves a special mention, because he inspired me to start the *Profi at Work Series* at the beginning of the year. He also provided personal photographs, to shape the current look of the newsletter. Let's not forget his wife Shirley, for feeding me lots of cake to enhance my thinking; not to mention the waist line.

All of these contributions generally blend in the background, without attracting much attention. Nevertheless, they are conducive to the wonderful activities, enjoyment and camaraderie at EGPS throughout the year.

Also thanks to Ronnie Curtiss for writing and sourcing images for our photographic journey throughout 2016, *The Year That Was*.

A wonderful Christmas and best wishes for a successful 2017 to you and yours.



What's On, at a glance

Next Workshop is on Wednesday 14th December.

Be there at 7 pm, for a 7:30 start.

And don't forget to dress up in a Christmas theme, and bring a plate to share. Keep it small, we don't want lots of leftovers.

Another feature is the judging of the **Feel the Cold Competition**.

End of the Year BBQ will be at Buchan on Sunday, 11th Dec. People wanting to go for a walk along Springs Creek before the BBQ meet at McDonald's in Bairnsdale at 8 am, then meet the others at the Bruthen Bakery at 8:30. If you plan to go only through the caves, meet others at the Buchan Caves Reserve at around 11:30 am.

It is BYO everything for the BBQ.

Our first field trip for 2017 is 14 January, for an evening photo shoot at Lakes Entrance. We meet at the jetty. Bring some spare cash for a take away meal.

What's on Elsewhere

Winning prints of the **47th National Ballarat Photography Competition** will be displayed in the Ballarat Art Gallery from 10th Dec 2016 till 15th Jan.

Entries for the **Maitland International Photographic Salon** close on 16th Jan. For details, see maitlandsalon.myphotoclub.com.au/

Entries for the **National Photographic Portrait Prize 2017** have now closed. Winning entries will be displayed at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra from 1st April until 18th June 2017.
www.portrait.gov.au



The next **Special Interest Group** is on Wednesday, 18th January 2017 at 7 pm at the Historical Museum Hall, McAuley Street, Bairnsdale. Bring your laptop and questions, and any images you wish to work on.

Please note there is no Special Interest Group in December.

Entries for the **Pets/Animals Comp** close on 25th Jan 2017.

Pets and animals could include your pets, birds, fish, horses, cows, any domesticated animal, wild animals or

The VAPS Annual Convention, and also the VAPS Interstate Photographic Convention, are being held concurrently on 27th and 28th May 2017 in Frankston. Watch the VAPS newsletter for updates.



Champs in the Making

Best of the Year awards for 2016

Well done, all who diligently submitted their work to the comps throughout the year.

Congratulations to those, who accumulated the most points.

The centre photograph shows the winners with their trophies. Your photos have been an inspiration at the workshop, as we listened to the critiques of the judges.



The Year that was Ronnie Curtis

And what a great year it was, with so many opportunities for travel and photography.

Thank you, Ronnie, for writing this synopsis, and for sourcing photographs from the different field trips. Thank you also to the other members who also contributed with their photographs. Their work has been duly acknowledged. (Editorial comment).

The first field trip for 2016 was a social occasion, with nineteen members and their families enjoying the evening light at Lakes Entrance. We enjoyed a picnic tea on the foreshore, before heading across the footbridge to photograph the setting sun with the crashing waves in the foreground. The carnival was still in town, so it was over to the surf club and hire boats area, to try and capture the reflections of the Ferris wheel and other moving rides in the water. Then, we ventured inside to take the side-shows.

It has been decided to start 2017 in a similar way. A good chance to see what new toys Santa has brought the good boys and girls.



In February we had twelve photographers try motion shots at the Canni Creek Races. Members brought along their family and friends for a BBQ lunch and a few bets on the side, while wandering around taking horses, jockeys, fashion on the field, and the racing scene in general. This has been a regular event for the past few years. It gives the newer members a chance to get to know the others in a casual atmosphere, over a sausage or two and a few laughs. The longer standing members are happy to pass on a few hints on how to set the camera to capture the motion, as the horses pass us on the barrier. It is also a great opportunity to see who uses a camera similar to yours.



Cape Conran was the destination for our first over-nighter for the year **late in February**. We rented two cabins, which accommodated fourteen of us at West Cape Cabins. The owner Mick has a great set up and was on hand to make our three days most enjoyable. The sky was cloudy, so we came away with some great dramatic shots of Salmon Rocks, East Cape, Cape Conran and of the rough coast. We also had a day's trip up to the McKenzie River Rainforest, driving through the Cabbage trees to get there. Members enjoyed a night's activity of painting with light around a fire pit, photographing Mick's old truck that he has set up as a stage. We had planned to do some Astro photography, but the sky was not right. So we settled on some indoor flash work and a few reds.



The morning of **March 13th** was very cloudy. It was bleak. It was foggy. It was so bad, many just rolled over and went back to sleep. But thirteen extremely keen members roughed up, put on rain jackets and headed to Paynesville, just before the sun rose to see the Marley Point yachts come around Raymond Island and cross the finish line at the Yacht Club rooms. Not many could boost a great shot. Instead, most were keen to go to Bruce's for a BBQ breakfast and headed home mid-morning.



It was off up the mountain to the **Omeo Rodeo on Easter Saturday**. Mary, John and Ronnie were the only takers. We were keen to compare the Omeo and Buchan Rodeos for spectator and photography reasons. We were rewarded with some great shots from different vantage points. The next day five members did go to Buchan. Indeed, two of those Buchan shots won various comps throughout the year; within the club and also in the Mornington B grade comp, Interclub comp and VAPS. We should all go next year.



April, autumn leaves. The 24th of April saw sixteen photographers carpool from McDonalds in Bairnsdale and pick up a few extras as they passed through Bruthen on their journey up to Swifts Creek and the Cassilis Gold mining area.

There were many planned stopping places on the way up the Great Alpine Road.



Rows of Poplar trees lined the river, and Autumn leaves were coloured up in peoples' gardens and lined the streets of Swift Creek. We stopped alongside the river for some lovely shots. A member who was born in the area took us up the side roads for some great vista shots.

We enjoyed a picnic lunch in the park, before we visited a former member at her stone house near the Cassilis mine for afternoon tea. We said we would supply our food, but there were homemade treats on the kitchen table. So we all congregated around a lovely fire that warmed our backs.



Photo:
Tony Harrison



Our second overnigher was held at **Wilson's Promontory in May**. Two nights and three days. Again the weather was not very warm, but it did prove great for cloudy atmospheric photos. Sixteen members enjoyed the great accommodation in The Arthur Lucas lodge. A few had to climb up to a bunk bed, but those members who booked in early were given a bottom bunk or single bed.

Sunrises and Sunsets at Norman Beach, Squeaky Beach and Whiskey Bay, together with long walks during the day to special lookouts such as Tongue Point, or long walks along park tracks to sensation-ally rough beaches covered in seaweed, drift wood and shells. Friendly lorikeets, Kookaburras and seagulls posed for us before we set off to cross Tidal River and climb the hill to view over the ocean.





The first night saw us all out on Norman Beach, lined up with our tripods for some fun, with steel wool set alight and twirled over knee deep water. (Thanks to a non-photographer husband who rolled his jeans up.) This activity had been prearranged with the rangers.

We also had some volunteers pretending to be ghosts as they lunged around in the dark while a torch was occasionally cast over them. The second night was wet so we used sparklers to trace around a person's body and make shapes in the dark while having the cameras set on a slow speed using the BBQ area for shelter.

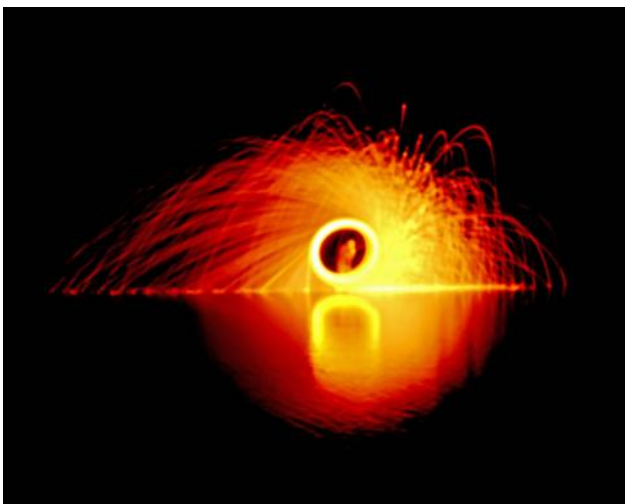
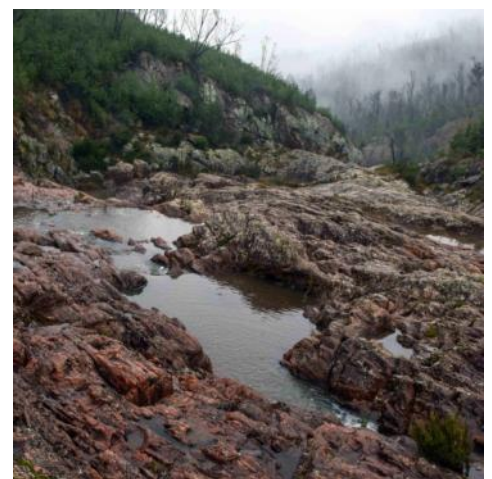


Photo: Keith Bone



June 18th, another wet day. The plan had been to go to Young's Creek waterfall, but upon investigation it was decided it wasn't the most exciting waterfall to photograph. It was only a short fall and mostly man-made, so a detour was made to Raymond Creek Waterfalls near Orbost. A high waterfall with a big walk to the bottom. The misty rain kept a lot home with their cameras safety dry.

Photo:
Mary Sowa



About 6 made the walk and were rewarded again with some great shots. A number of members would like to do this trip again on a dry day. The group decided on a side trip back to Conran; a favourite place for our club. More coastal shots before coffee and the drive home.

Photo:
Bruce Jennings



July 6th. With a new financial year approaching and new members joining, it is a great time to have our annual walk around Bairnsdale. It was a local trip near home, in the middle of winter. A mixture of new and experienced photographers set out around our town, a place we are supposed to be familiar with. But there were some tasks to challenge how well we really knew the place where most of us live, work or shop. We were made to look for shapes, lines, fret work, patterns, photograph food, buildings, modes of transport, etc. The photos were shown at the following workshop. The experienced members showed the new ones how to look for leading lines and use the rule of thirds, how to enhance their photos and draw the viewer into and around the shot, how to use small F stops to highlight the subject while blurring the background, or a larger F stop number to make the whole picture sharp.

Photo:
Veronica Chadwick



Photo:
Val Bragg



On August the 6th the Bairnsdale Historical Society took EGPS members through the Bairnsdale cemetery, telling us stories of the first settlers to the area and showing us their resting places. They also told us about the more famous Bairnsdale and district people who have been buried here. It was certainly an interesting night for the large group that attended.



Photo:
Judy Blion



Only two members and three associates went to the **Trafalgar Holden Museum on September 10th**. Unfortunately the rest missed a very interesting day with our own personal guide telling us all about Holden. It was a subject that he, Peter, was obviously very interested in. We saw cars that you'd expect ready for the compactor, but instead were on their way to be lovingly restored back to their original state. Peter pulled away the rope barricade, to make it easier to get a great photo and let us get closer to the cars. There was even a short movie about the cars, as they ran off the production line year after year. The cars that were on display are regularly changed around so it is always worth a visit.



The Interclub Photographic Competition between 6 Gippsland clubs was the excuse to travel to Briagolong on October 1st for the opening of the Exhibition and the announcement of the winning club. This year East Gippsland Photographic Society were the winners. Photos were selected from all the club members, who chose to put their best photos that had to have been taken in Gippsland, for the selection committee to pick. Only ten could be chosen which, makes it a hard job.



Twelve members made a day of it and visited The Blue Pools and the Quarry. Both are lovely photographic spots near Briagolong, as are a few buildings around the town. Other members travelled to the exhibition over the next two weeks.



The official field trip for October was to The Channels near Newry. It took two trips for the field trip officer and friends to find them, but it was definitely worth it. On the day, nine members went. That was quite enough, as the track down to the river was rather narrow and the rocky edge we had to walk along was tough. There was only a small amount of vantage spots that you could get to without having someone else in your shot.



A trip away was held as recently as the 18th of November, with fifteen members travelling to Geelong. We stayed at Bellarine Lodge at Drysdale, which members have voted our best accommodation yet. It had everything. Almost everyone had a bottom bed and there was plenty of space in the dining lounge area to spread out. It was all go with plenty to see, and do as planned. The weather this time was very hot.



The Bellarine Steam Train coming, going and coming again. It passed right behind our lodge and proved a fun activity, as after a couple of trips the driver was looking out for us to blow the whistle.



The final Field Trip for 2016 will be held on the 11th of December, with members meeting at McDonalds in Bairnsdale at 8 am. We'll carpool before meeting up with the others at Bruthen at 8.30 am and head to the Buchan caves reserve for a walk along Spring Creek; hopefully to the waterfall before meeting late comers at around 11.30 am for a BBQ lunch and walk around the reserve. Anyone wishing to tour the caves can do so. BYO everything including a chair. As there wasn't a sheet handed around at the last workshop please let the field trip officer know if you are attending.

Take the time to check out next years' trips. If you have something to add please do so. There is always something in Monday's paper that happened on the weekend before, which I would have loved to have attended. I bet I wouldn't be the only one. Here are a few: Lakes Entrance at night, the Canni Creek Races social day, Cape Conran weekend, Melbourne weekend including the Zoo, Walhalla, a boat trip on the Lakes, Waterfalls, Mt Baw Baw weekend, Walhalla in Autumn, Tarra Bulga and Sale Wetlands, an Astro night, Light painting and a day to the Dargo area.

