



NEWSLETTER



“There are always two people in every picture - the photographer and the viewer”

Ansel Adams

Above is the stunning photo “Ogre Spider” by our very talented member, Cheryl Burnham. This photo was selected by the editors of **National Geographic**, from a total of **15,672** entries, to be included in a finalists’ list of just 24 photos. For more on this wonderful achievement and to learn more about Cheryl, see the article inside.

In addition, another of our members, Wendy Ellis, achieved success recently at the Red Hill Show with one of her photos, gaining 3rd place. Well done, Wendy!

A reminder to all members that the annual **VAPS Convention** is fast approaching. This year it will be held at the Mercure Hotel in Geelong, with a busy 2 days of activities planned for the weekend of **May 24 & 25**. There is a lot to be learned from the workshops and the organised photo shoots held during the Convention, as well as the chance to see the range of photos entered in the exhibition, and meeting like-minded enthusiasts. There is also a dinner held on Saturday night. If you can’t make it for the weekend, you can attend for 1 day only, or just visit the exhibition. Please see the **VAPS website** for more details.

A very warm welcome to all our new members – we encourage you to ask questions of any of our members to help you improve your photography. There is not a person in our meetings who was born knowing everything! Whether you need help with understanding your camera, mounting your prints, or learning how to email entries – just ask!



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.....

On the 16th March a few members went through the images to be submitted for the VAPS Interclub Competition and these were delivered on the 24th March**. Now it's matter of waiting until May for the Convention in Geelong to see how we went. I believe the judging will actually take place on the 12th April. **Editor's Note: Please see the list of entries in this Newsletter.

It is 'officially' autumn now, so it will not be long before the autumn colours will start to appear. Once we have had a few cold mornings, the colours will certainly change and provide many attractive images.

There are many vineyards on the Mornington Peninsula which you can try. For those who have cameras that are capable of Infra-red, vineyards are good for that too, but you need a warm sunny day so there is lots of infra-red radiation about.

A little further afield are the Alfred Nicholas Gardens in the Dandenongs that are very photogenic, as are many other locations in the Dandenongs.

If you have more time and petrol, then a trip to Bright and Harrietville in the Ovens Valley can provide interesting photo opportunities.

Because autumn skies are often not too bright and not too overcast, this time of the year often has lovely sunrises and sunsets.

A reminder in regard to the June competition. It should be photographed on the 25th of April. "Anzac Day" – the photograph should be of an Anzac Day related event. If it is to do with a sporting fixture then it should be of the Anzac Day ceremony that precedes the event and not the sport.



Happy snapping everyone!!

"Feeding Time"
Tony Breen



Congratulations to:
Jenny Maddocks
Member of the Month for April




Cheryl Burnham

Following Cheryl's recent wonderful success with her entry in "National Geographic", I visited Cheryl and her "tripod carrying" husband, Denis (who is an accomplished photographer in his own right), to ask her more about her photographic journey.

Like many of us, Cheryl loved photography as a child, and indeed, took many "posed" shots of her very patient family in her early years. Later, Cheryl enjoyed scrapbooking, and photography was an integral part of this hobby.

Then, along came digital photography. For Cheryl, it opened up the wonderful world of photography – no waiting for a week for photos to be developed, then having to throw out half of them (something to which a lot of us can relate). For the past 8 years or so, Cheryl has taken more and more photos, and improved with perseverance and time. Cheryl is blessed to have an "eye" for photography, which simply cannot be taught.

Cheryl uses a Nikon D700 camera, and her tips for great photography are:-

-  READ YOUR MANUAL. Cheryl admits hers is "dog-eared", due to her constant reference to this most important of documents.
-  Don't over-process your image. Set your shot up correctly, be aware of your background and try different angles. A little cropping, sharpening and maybe some lightening, is all Cheryl does.
-  Most importantly, get it right in the camera. Cheryl shoots in RAW. You can't take a bad shot in the camera, and expect post-processing to fix it.

To view Cheryl's photo on the "National Geographic" website, visit:

<http://yourshot.nationalgeographic.com/stories/biodiversity.com>

Cheryl's photo received 1,571 "Favourite" votes (the next nearest received 905!).

“FIGHT THE FUD” – By Terry Lane

Published in “The Age” Green Guide – April 3, 2014

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For more articles written by Terry, see dpexpert.com.au

Let's start with a bold assertion: There are no bad cameras. Whatever camera you buy it will take better pictures than most of us are capable of imagining.

This being the case it is a waste of time and a cause of unnecessary anxiety to agonise over the pixel level image quality of one camera compared with another. Our advice is to shake off the FUD and buy the camera and start taking pictures.

FUD stands for fear, uncertainty and doubt. You know the feeling? Fear that this camera is not as good as that one because some reviewer or sales person says so. Uncertainty about the right time to buy: there will be a new, better, cheaper model next month. And doubt about your ability, with limited knowledge, to make an informed choice. Well, we are here to help. We have tried them all and there is not a dud amongst them.

From time to time, just for reasons of ego and reassurance, we enter online photo competitions. From our best results – either first or second – we see that the photos were taken with Canon, Nikon, Pentax, Panasonic, Olympus and Sony cameras. (We don't own all these cameras – they were what we were testing at the time.) These include full frame, APS-C (the common DSLR sensor), micro four thirds and compact cameras. One second place was taken with a low priced Canon compact. Overall the price range of the winning cameras is from a few thousand to a few hundred with Canons at both ends of the price scale. And the picture that ranked 216th was also taken with a Canon, proving something-or-other.

A couple of pals who are outstanding photographers, both owning the best Nikon DSLR equipment, tell us that on recent travels they hardly ever used their heavy cameras, preferring instead to walk about with compacts – an Olympus in one case and a Sony in the other. They are not about to abandon their DSLRs but they are acknowledging that it is more important to match the camera to the task in hand than to agonise over the difference in pixel quality between models. They both took superb photographs with their little cameras because they are fine photographers.

“Autumn Leaves”
Wolfram Steinke



“Cherry Topper”
Ernie de Vleiger



“Morning Mist Bright”
Wolfram Steinke



“Fasta Pasta”
Ernie de Vleiger

VAPS ENTRIES – 2014
Congratulations to all selected.

OPEN PRINTS SECTION

Steve Zonneveldt – “Point Lonsdale Lighthouse”
Pat Jemmett – “First Fungi of Autumn”
Barry Mills – “A Briars Tree”
Ernie de Vlieger – “Cherry Topper”
Ann Gibson – “Marmalade”
Tony Breen – “Nectar Quest”
Barry Mills – “Surf Boat and Rowers”
Trish McKeown – “Flinders Street Angle”
Cheryl Burnham – “Walking in the Fog”
Gail Penny – “Stingray Bay”
Richard Bartrop – “Prismatic Springs awaits the Storm”
Trish McKeown – “Ethan”
Cheryl Burnham – “Old Tree at Sunrise”
Gail Penny – “Tiger”
Richard Bartrop – “Golden Hour”

DIGITAL EDPI

Richard Bartrop – “Anyone for fresh snout?”
Jenny Maddocks – “Eyes off my supper”
Pat Barden – “Bearded Man”
Bob Thornhill – “Boardwalk”
Helen Gleeson – “Dietes after Rain”
Andrew Raff – “Emperor Gum Moth Caterpillar”
Jill Fidler – “Evening at Port Melbourne”
Steve Zonneveldt – “Ferris Wheel”
Helen Gleeson – “Jellyfish Muggia Italy”
Jenny Maddocks – “Golden Gate Bridge”
Bob Thornhill – “Kimberley Moon”
Richard Bartrop – “Eyes off my Supper”
Steve Zonneveldt – “Lake Catani”
Ernie de Vlieger – “Majestic Maheno”
Cheryl Burnham – “Ogre Spider & Moss”

APRIL EVENT CALENDAR

Two “Don’t Miss” events: The Good Friday Appeal
and
ANZAC DAY

Gardening & Plants Expo – Silvan – April 5 – 6

Healesville Picnic Races – April 5

Tarra Warra Festival – Healesville – April 5 – 6

Creswick Gem Show – April 5 – 6

Autumn Festival @ Garden of St Erth – April 5 – 6

**Victorian Historic Motorcycle Championships – Broadford
April 5 – 6**

V8 Supercars at Winton – April 4 – 6

The Man from Snowy River Festival – Corryong – April 3 – 6

Gardens of Glenlyon Grand Opening – April 12 – 13

Telopea Gardens Open Weekend – Emerald – April 12 – 13

**Australian & South Pacific Pipe Band Championships
Ballarat – April 11 – 13**

Sunraysia Multicultural Festival – Mildura – April 12

Como Gardens – The Basin – April 12 – 13

RYE – Kids Festival – April 18 – 21

APRIL EVENT CALENDAR

Rip Curl Pro – Bells Beach – April 16 – 27

Bendigo Easter Festival – April 18 -21

Tarra Festival – Yarram – April 18 – 21

Kerang Cup – April 19

Omeo Rodeo – April 19

Australian Billy Cart Championships – Corowa – April 19

STAWELL GIFT – April 18 – 21

**Eastern river Beaches Festival – Thompson’s Beach Cobram
Rubber Duck Racing – April 20**

Emerald Lake Park Easter Treasure Hunt – April 20

Great Western Rodeo (at Great Western) – April 20

Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival – April 19 – 20

**Moora Working Draught Horse Muster –
The Max Seamer Memorial Event – April 20 at Moora**

Golden Horseshoes Festival – Beechworth – April 18 – 20

Falls Creek Easter Festival – April 18 – 20

Pyrenees Festival – Avoca – April 25