



# NEWSLETTER



***“Photography is an art of observation. It has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.”***      ***ELLIOTT ERWITT***

Well, we're half-way through the year, and the days are slowly getting longer (‘though not warmer!). On the miserable wet days, take the time to do some “housekeeping” of your photos. This is the perfect time to sort, delete and edit and organise your shots. The more organised you are, the easier it is to find “that shot”, when you're looking for competition entries.

July also brings with it the time for paying Club Membership fees. These can be paid at any of our meetings, or on-line by electronic funds transfer (it's far easier than it sounds!). Fees are \$40 for General Membership and \$20 for Social Membership (which means you aren't eligible to enter competitions). Don't forget that this fee also includes your VAPS Membership. Please be aware that regardless of the payment method ALL members are required to complete a Membership Renewal Form (available at our meetings, or on-line).

For those wishing to pay on-line, details are as follows:-

Account Name:      **NEPEAN CAMERA CLUB INC.**

Bank:      **BENDIGO BANK**

BSB:      **633108**

Account:      **145904215**

Please ensure you enter **YOUR NAME** in the **DESCRIPTION** field, so we know who's paid.

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## *A note from the President's Desk.....*

We end the financial year with 50 members and it's time to renew your membership.

Planning for next year's program is under way but we are still short of workshops and guest speakers. Anyone who knows of someone who would be good have as a presenter, please pass the details to Pat Barden. Better still, ask Pat for the calendar of available dates and see if you can get a commitment to a few alternative dates from the person before passing the details to Pat.

A number of our members are interested in macro photography (photomicrography). Depth of field can be a problem with close up photography. One way to overcome this is by using image stacking. This is when you take a series of photos that are focused at different distances along the object and then stacking in the in-focus section of each image to get an overall in-focus image. There are a variety of photo stacking programs available, Zerene Stacker, Helicon Focus, Photo Acute, Photoshop which are paid for and CombineZ, Startrails.

Startrails? Yes, Startrails! In astrophotography, image stacking is used to increase the colour detail in the images by "adding" the information from a number of images together. (Please see examples of Wolf's work re "stacking" on the next page.)

It is also worth having a look around the internet for topics on using image stacking to increase the depth of field in landscapes. It is more work but can be really worth the effort for the final result. (Editor's Note: Please also see the article from Terry Lane in this Newsletter re stacking.)

To aid the interaction of club members, if someone has been on a successful outing with your photography, or even a trip that was interesting, perhaps you would like to share it with the other members by writing an article in your newsletter, and remember any photos you wish to share send them to Trish.

Happy snapping everyone!!





Image number 6 of 12 shots taken to “stack” together to get a clean crisp result.

Photos: Wolfram Steinke



The final result of stacking four images together.  
Note the crisp, sharp edges.

*July's Member of the Month:*  
**ROSALIE ARNOLD**  
*Congratulations, Rosalie.*

## MEMBERSHIP CONFIDENTIALITY

There have been a couple of requests recently regarding the availability of our Membership List to fellow members. As such, I encourage you all to read the statement below, and take note.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to make it very clear that the Membership List containing personal information such as addresses, phone numbers and email addresses is NOT, and ***never will be*** made available to any member or third party.

Should any member wish to contact our Members regarding an event, outing or such like, the correct procedure is to notify either the Secretary, Pat Barden (who can if appropriate, send an email on your behalf to the Members), or alternatively, send details to me, for inclusion of your event in the Newsletter.

Should you wish to contact only one or two specific members, I would encourage you to do so at our meetings, where there is more than ample time at our “tea break”. If you wish to contact a member between meetings, then simply contact any of the Committee members, who will pass on your request to the member concerned, and they can contact you, should they wish.



“Abandoned Boat”  
Helen Gleeson





“Once a Homestead”  
Wolfram Steinke



“His and Hers”  
Anne Reynolds

**“WHEN THE PICTURE STACKS UP”**

by Terry Lane

First published in “The Age” - October 18, 2012

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**[dpexpert.com.au](http://dpexpert.com.au)**

The other day the conversation turned to the subject of macro photography and the art of taking pictures of very small objects.

The problem, as we are constantly being reminded, is that it is almost impossible to get the front, back and everything in between of a small object in focus at the same time. Devotees of the great Attenborough will know that his camera wizards have invented a new type of lens just for the purpose of taking video of an in-focus ant in the foreground and an also in-focus David behind.

Compact cameras, with their inherently greater depth of field due to their small sensor area, cope with close-ups well. As the sensor gets larger, right up to full frame, focus becomes more of a problem. Using a dedicated macro lens on a DSLR, stopped down to just before the f stop where diffraction becomes a problem, is a starting point.

With critical focus, low ISO, small aperture and a slow shutter speed, it goes without saying that a tripod and remote release (or at least using shutter timer delay) are essential, but even then front to back focus can be difficult. The solution may be focus stacking.

Suppose the subject is a dandelion with a leaf sticking out of the stem. If you want everything from the far edge of the seed globe to the tiny seed wings on the front to be sharp, then give focus stacking a try.

Set the camera to manual focus and exposure and take a series of shots, focusing sequentially from the back edge to the front of the subject. DSLRs don't have the best focusing screens for this job and it is a counsel of perfection to replace the default screen with a plain matte glass type, something that is easy on some cameras and nearly impossible on others. Anyway it is only the sort of thing you would do if you intend to take thousands of photos of insects, jewellery, coins, toys or small flowers.

Four to five exposures is usually enough to cover every plane in the subject area. For processing you need software that will align and blend the images into a single, sharp photograph. Photoshop CS5/6 will do it, as will PhotoAcute (\$149 [photoacute.com](http://photoacute.com)). Picolay is free ([picolay.de](http://picolay.de)) and does a reasonable job but is slow aligning images. Zerene (\$89 from [zerenesystems.com](http://zerenesystems.com)) is also very slow but has good output if you use Stack/Align and “stack all (both)” for best results. There is a 30 day trial version.

In Photoshop the process is: open Bridge and locate image set. Select images. Go Tools/Photoshop/Load files into Photoshop layers. Photoshop opens with layers stacked. Select all layers. Hit Edit/Auto-align layers/Projection Auto. When that's done hit Edit/Auto-blend layers/Stack images. When the process is complete flatten layers. The result is slightly miraculous.

Photoshop CS5/6 and PhotoAcute do the best job and Zerene is the cheaper alternative. Be prepared to experiment with the arcane settings.



Photos by Terry Lane that accompanied the article on the previous page.

## WHAT'S ON IN JULY!!

Yes, it's cold! Yes, it could even rain! However, there's plenty on around the State for you to enjoy in the middle of winter.

Balloons Over Mildura - July 6 to 12

Swanpool "Bald Archy" Exhibition - till July 20

Christmas in July - Sovereign Hill - till July 13

Christmas in July - Mt Baw Baw - till July 13

Winter Wonderland - Healesville Sanctuary - till July 13

Redwood Carnival - Maryborough - July 11 to 13

15th Winter Miracles Orchid Show - July 19 to 20  
B & T Orchids - 30 Wiseman Road, Silvan

Bach by Candlelight - Montrose Town Centre - July 20

Meeniyon on Fire - July 19

9th Annual Mornington Bay Run - July 20

Australian Sheep and Wool Show - Bendigo - July 18 to 20

Camp Oven Cook Off - Kooriong - July 20

Open House Melbourne (various locations) - July 26 to 27

Glenlyon Fine Food and Wine Fayre - July 27

Echuca-Moama Blues Festival - July 25 to 27

