



# NEWSLETTER



**“Lake in Autumn”**  
**Denis Burnham**

**“No matter how sophisticated the camera, the photographer is still the one that makes it.” - Doug Barlow**

We're nearly half way through the year, and the cooler weather will mean fewer opportunities for outside shots. However, it also means that we can concentrate on indoor activities, such as portraits (Mother's Day is great for using family as guinea pigs), as well as the chance to catch up on photo editing and organising files. It also gives us time to experiment with different techniques and subjects, as well as being the perfect time to get to know our cameras better. (Read your manual!) Take the time to practice your macro shots, just using every day items – buttons, beads, leaves, feathers, etc....., the possibilities are endless, just use your imagination.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a very big “thank you” to Gail Penny and Wolfram Steinke for their recent fabulous presentations. Not only are Gail and Wolf Committee members, they also work full-time, and yet still found the time to put together these informative sessions for our benefit. I know personally I gained so much from them and appreciate these experienced photographers being so willing to share their knowledge.



## A note from the President's desk.....

Autumn is well and truly here and we've had those few cold mornings to make the colours of the vines and trees turn. So see what you can capture before the next strong wind day blows it all away. You might even get some colourful panoramas.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of this month the VAPS convention will be held at the Mercure Hotel in Geelong. If you are not attending any of the talks or workshops it is still worth the trip to have a look at the photo exhibition, which does include some images from our members. The area around Geelong also has many things to photograph, so make a day of it.

I hope that at least a few of you will have been inspired by the talk on panoramas on the 29<sup>th</sup> and will have a go at taking some. Remember you don't need expensive gear to take good panoramas and there are free stitching programs around. Your camera may have even come with some. Get practicing, next year panoramas may be one of the monthly competition topics.

Happy snapping everyone!!



**"Quiet Time"**  
**Jill Fidler**



**“Retired”  
Pat Jemmett**



**“Seawinds in Autumn”  
Bernice Gilbert**

Congratulations to:  
PAT BARDEN  
Our Member of the Month  
for May

### “Equipment versus Talent”

As this month’s opening adage declares: “No matter how sophisticated the camera, the photographer is still the one that makes it”

This is true – and something we all need to keep in mind. There are photographers who have the wherewithal to have the best of everything – cameras, lenses, tripods, studio lighting, filters, software and so on. In addition, sometimes they’re lucky enough to have the time to indulge their passion. They can, and often do take some absolutely stunning photos. **And so they should!**

For the rest of us with limited means, either financially or time-wise, we can only do so much. However, this should in no way ever discourage us from trying to be the very best photographer we can.

Always remember that all the money in the world can never buy talent.

I met a gentleman recently who had the very best of everything. In fact one lens alone was worth \$15,000 – yes, that’s not an error – fifteen thousand dollars! A financial outlay of that magnitude was beyond my comprehension and I was keen to see the photos that all of this produced. I was amazed to see how very “ordinary” they were. Conversely, I also have a friend who only has an iPhone as her camera. Yet she has what this man hasn’t – she has an “eye” for photography and takes some fabulous photos. If she were lucky enough to have his equipment, she would be an award-winning photographer.

So please don’t feel that if you don’t have the best of everything, you can’t take great photos. Follow the “rules” – check lighting, backgrounds, horizons, sharp focus, perspective, etc... and you’re half-way there. Most importantly, like anything in life, practice, practice, practice! Cast a critical eye over your photos, or ask a family member or friend for their input. Think of how the shot could be improved. I promise you that your much better than you think.

Whilst good equipment can make a good photographer better, the best equipment in the world won’t make a poor photographer good.



"British Admiral Beach, Flinders Island"  
Gail Penny

## FOR SALE

Adobe Premiere Elements 11

**Turn your videos into something spectacular!**

**This is THE best video editing software on the market**

**RRP \$145**

**Pat Jemmett has an unused copy available for \$75!!**

**Please phone Pat on 0488 523 343**

**“EQUIPPED FOR THE TASK” by TERRY LANE**

For more of Terry's articles, please see his website: [dpexpert.com.au](http://dpexpert.com.au)

**“Buying a Nikon doesn't make you a photographer. It makes you a Nikon owner.” Anon**

That may be so, but having a big camera with a whopper lens certainly impresses the spectators.

The best, general purpose digital cameras are the Nikon D800 and the Canon 5D MkIII. These full frame DSLRs are magnificent and if your consumer imperative is to own the best then go for them.

However, if you intend to chronicle the family's growth and holidays and share them on the interweb then these majestic cameras are overkill. And if you plan on carrying a camera bush-walking then they will be a pain in the posterior. Let's match camera form to function.

**CAMERA CLUB COMPETITION:** Digital single lens reflex plus the best lenses you can afford. Ditto for bird photography. (Reckon on \$1-3000 for the camera body.)

**FAMILY CHRONICLE FOR THE INTERWEB:** A good compact camera - Canon, Nikon, Olympus, Sony, Fujifilm or Panasonic, they are all good, particularly the top of the range from each maker. Some have eye-level viewfinders which is always desirable. (\$4-800 will buy a top compact).

**TRAVEL:** For going about inconspicuously and without a great weight on the shoulder strap you need a mirrorless interchangeable lens camera (a milc). These smaller cameras have the advantage of taking different lenses which tend to be small and relatively inexpensive. Olympus, Panasonic, Sony, Samsung and Fujifilm make milcs and Sony has a pair of milcs - the a7 and a7r - that have full frame sensors like the big Nikon and Canon cameras, but in a small, light body. (\$450 to \$2500 - there's a lot of choice.)

**TRAVEL IN EUROPE AND ASIA:** Add a wide angle lens to the kit lens that comes in the box. You'll need it in the cathedrals and castles.

**TRAVEL IN AFRICA:** Add a telephoto lens. That gets a closeup of the wild-life without becoming their lunch.

**CHILDREN, FLOWERS AND PETS:** Make sure that the camera has a tilting LCD monitor. These subjects should always be photographed on their level, not from above. A tilting LCD enables you to hold the camera below waist level and look down at the viewfinder.

Once you have decided the type of camera you can be guided by feel, aesthetics, brand prejudice and price. Dearer is usually better, meaning more features but not better image quality. Don't tell the salesperson that you "just want a fully automatic camera where I don't have to think." That way lies contempt. Say "I want a camera where I am completely in control" even if, right now, you don't mean it. That excites respect.

## WHAT'S ON IN MAY!

\*\*\* MOTHER'S DAY \*\*\* – Sunday, May 11

VAPS Conference – Geelong – May 24 & 25

Celebrate Corroboree – Healesville Sanctuary – till May 25

Gippsland Arts Exhibition – Warragul – May 1 – 31

52nd Bright Autumn Art Show – till May 18

Ballarat Heritage Weekend – May 10 & 11

Lavandula Autumn Harvest Festival – Shepherd's Flat – May 10 & 11

Beechworth Music Festival – May 10

High Country Harvest Festival – Beechworth – May 16 to 25

Good Beer Week – May 17 to 25 – Check the website for more details

Great Ocean Road International Marathon – May 17 & 18

Hamilton Pastoral Museum – Vintage Machinery Rally – May 17 & 18

Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Show – May 17

The Beer Train – Puffing Billy – May 18

La Fiera Italian Festival – Myrtleford – May 20 to 25

Australian Chainsaw Carving Championships  
Mt Dandenong – May 23 to 25

Lost Traditions at Gulf Station – May 25

