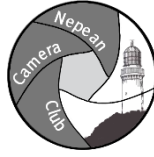


Snapshot



Newsletter of Nepean Camera Club May 2024



"Eat My Dirt" Sue Raff



"Coming Down" Pan Constanti

May Program

DATES	EVENT	ACTIVITY	PHOTOGRAPHY TOPIC	OUTCOME
Tuesday May 7	Club Meeting	Show Images for Topic 2 - Discuss Topic 3 - Close up/Macro Techniques	Topic 3 - Autumn on the Mornington Peninsula - Flora/Botanical Images	Understand different approaches for Flora/Botanical Photography
Wednesday May 22	Photoshoot	Andrew Raff's place		Use of close up/Macro photography - Flora/Botanical images
Thursday May 30	Social Gathering	Talk about Flora/Botanical photography		Socialising



in focus

NCC Rosebud April Stats

4435 Photo Views

Total Since May 2022 to January 2024

306681 Photo Views

Check us out on Flickr.



-Several club members have provided summer photos or photos from our first 2024 shoot.
Check them out!

-Not sure how to access Flickr ?
Google search NCC Flickr and press the search button.
Follow to our page and check out the photos.

Add your photos to the display by sending them to Mike's email: mike.lyons111@gmail.com

PS. don't forget to name the photo and put your name to it.



**6th April Photo Shoot
Mornington Peninsula
Motorcycle Club
Hastings**



Isn't it funny in life how sometimes a small setback turns out to be one of life's great gains? Such was the case with our sports photography presentation and subsequent photoshoot. Matt Krumins, through other commitments had to delay his March 5 presentation until April 6 . All who were present at the April meeting will agree Matt delivered an outstanding presentation on photoshoots for motorcycles. It was full of great information and challenges for all levels of photographer. Who would have thought we would be shooting a fast-moving sport in Aperture Priority? Armed with Matt's tips and heightened confidence, the Saturday photoshoot at the Mornington Peninsula Motorcycle Club resulted in a great attendance. We checked the records; it was our highest attendance on record. The photographic results speak for themselves. Here are some from a variety of club members with many more on Flickr and Facebook. A selection has been forwarded to David for inclusion on our web page.

If you haven't forwarded some photos to us for Flickr please do so.



"Riding the Rim" John Clayton



"Up and Away" Gunda Wright



“Bike 20” Lynn Nankervis



“Powerup” Jeff Nankervis



“Coming Down” Mike Lyons



“Fresh Air” Gail Penny

Social Gathering Dromana Foreshore

Monday 29th April 2024

A small group gathered at Dromana for coffee and a chat. Subjects discussed ranged from recent trips, camera manuals, future trips, football to a damaged lens hood.

Next social gathering at Dromana is scheduled for Thursday 30th May



Learn the art of flower photography.

Contributors Derek Boyd, Jake Braught

Create beautiful images of flowers using perspective, composition and lighting techniques. Plus, get editing tips from the experts to bring out the best in your flower photos.



Why photograph flowers?

Flowers are a naturally photogenic subject matter — a joyful expression of colours, textures and shapes. Photographing flowers celebrates the beauty of plants and is an effective way to get better at various photography skills. “It’s a great place for beginners to start, but it can also be very advanced,” says photographer Derek Boyd. “It’s like that saying,

'Easy to learn, hard to master.'" But by paying attention to the angle, framing, lighting and editing of your shots, you can go from simple flower pictures to beautiful images of blooms that stir emotions and evoke a second glance.

Gear up for flower photography.

You don't need much to get started. Here are a few items you can gather before you head out for your first floral photography adventure.

Just your phone.

The only piece of equipment you truly need is a camera and your phone's camera will suffice in a pinch. "It's always with you and if you have one made within the last four or five years, it will take amazing photos of flowers that you can even print in fairly big sizes," says photographer Jake Braught. "Phones have a tendency to overexpose photos. To better see what your phone is capturing, turn up the brightness of your screen, then adjust the exposure of the photo. I recommend turning the exposure down a bit to preserve more details."



A DSLR and a 50 mm lens.

A DSLR camera and lens will give you more options for creating flower photography at the professional level. "My go-to lens is a 50 millimetre," says Braught. "It's a great lens for starting out, whether you're photographing flowers or portraits. I have an 85-millimetre lens for portraits and flowers, as well. A big advantage of these two primes (non-zooming) lenses is that they have wide apertures that create magical blurry backgrounds due to the shallow depth of field."

A tripod and cable release.

A tripod will help to eliminate camera shake to make your flower images sharper. A cable release will allow you to step away from your equipment while you take your shots. Take advantage of your steady camera by playing with various settings to see how they affect your photos. "You can do some really cool stuff with tripods," says Braught. "If it's near dusk and you do a long exposure, leaving the shot open for a few seconds, you can get some movement that makes the flower look like a painting."

Reflectors.

"The reflector is one of my favourite tools for flower photography, especially outside. It's handy for filling in shadows," says Boyd. "Because you're getting a lot of low angles and shadows, it helps to redirect the sunlight."

Plan your expedition.

Create memorable shots of beautiful flowers using these flower photography tips and tricks.



- **Try different times of day.**

"I like to shoot at sunset or sunrise. Those are the better times," says Braught. "But flower photography is forgiving, because you can also take shots in the middle of the day and play with the shadows."

- **Don't aim for perfection.**

Accidents can bring about interesting results. "Not every photo is going to be technically perfect and sometimes your best ones aren't," says Braught. "You can capture movement or blur that brings in some other emotion you wouldn't normally get."

Bring props.

Use a spray bottle to add water droplets. Frame your lens with plastic wrap as a diffuser for dreamy light distortion. Create lens flare by holding fallen flower petals near the edge of the lens. Refract the light shining onto the flower with a prism or fractal lens. "It's always fun to experiment," says Braught. "Anything see-through can be held in front of your lens to distort things in unique ways."

You can learn a lot from flowers.

Flowers are a model even the shiest photographer can direct. And their colours and textures are a playground for getting better at photographic techniques and camera settings. Learn some of the lessons below through flower photography.

Composition is key.

"The number one thing I learnt from flower photography was composition, putting your main subject in the right place in the photograph," says Boyd "and using objects in the foreground and background to frame your subject." Use the rule of thirds to build a good composition — no matter if you're doing a close-up of a single flower or a full frame of an entire garden — and take a lot of photos at different angles. "Try getting down at the ground level and shooting up at it," says Boyd. "Taking photos from above can be great as well," Braught explains, "The thing about flowers is they can look completely different from different angles of even just a few degrees."

It's better to underexpose.

"Always err on the side of underexposing your photos," explains Braught. "Whether you're shooting on your phone or a DSLR, once you get into post-processing, you can always lighten the photo, because the data is still there. But if a photo is overexposed, the data is destroyed for any blown-out areas." Turn your exposure down a touch on your phone or narrow your aperture by closing your f-stop to a higher number value. Increasing your shutter speed can also help.

A shallow depth of field is forgiving.

Shooting with a shallow depth of field keeps the subject of your photo in focus and everything in the foreground or background blurry. A shorter focus distance is helpful when you want to take emphasis away from certain objects in your frame that are less attractive. "A building in the background or trash on the ground, a lot of times, a shallow enough depth of field will wash that out for you so you don't have to worry about it," says Braught.



Use a wide aperture for this look, but don't overdo it — unless your intention is to focus only on certain parts of the flower. "An aperture in the ballpark of 5.6 to 8 gives you enough depth of field for the entire flower to be in focus but your background and foreground to still be blurry," says Boyd. Remember to increase shutter speed when your aperture is wide open, so you don't overexpose your image.

Edit your flower photos.

"A big part of flower photography for me is editing," says Braught. "That's where I bring the tones and the mood to the photo." Make quick edits from anywhere with Adobe Lightroom and then dive into deeper transformations with Adobe Photoshop.

Use Lightroom presets for instant enhancements.

Create your own customised filters and find ones from photographers you like with Lightroom presets. “There are presets that do what I would try to do manually but quicker,” says Boyd.

Adjust temperature and tint.

Check the white balance of your shots in camera. Then fine-tune tones in your photos in Photoshop by applying a Curves adjustment. “I like to make my white point pure white or a little on the cooler or bluer side of the spectrum,” says Braught. “You have to strike a balance. If I pull a photo’s temperature down a lot, I will then go into Tint and bring some of the magenta out of it.”

Play with contrast, saturation and texture.

“Contrast and saturation are the two things I like to mess with the most,” says Boyd. “I like things to look more dramatic.” Try messing with your settings to see what speaks to you. Increasing saturation can add an element of dreaminess. Decreasing it all the way to black and white can help you to emphasize composition and contrast. “I love the look of film photography grain so I add it to my digital photos in post,” says Braught. “Adding some grit helps your photos feel more tactile and timeless.”

Try focus stacking.

Combine photos from your mobile phone or a DSLR to create one image with multiple focal points in sharp focus by focus stacking. See if you can create a photo where an entire bunch of flowers or even an entire garden is in focus.

**Get started in floral photography.**

Images of flowers can vary widely — from your typical sunny photo of a field of daffodils to an overcast shot of a single dried rose at an unexpected angle. See what moods you can illustrate through creative flower photography.

Explore your neighbourhood.

“A lot of my inspiration and photos come from walking around my neighbourhood,” says Braught. “It’s a nice way to capture the history of my neighbourhood as well as find beauty in the everyday stuff.”

Set up still-life shots at home.

Go to the florist, order a flower delivery online or pick wildflowers. Then set up your own still-life shots at home. “I make my own arrangements to work on interesting compositions,” says Boyd.



Find flower photographers you like online. Get acquainted with their work and don't be afraid to keep in touch with questions. "The photography community is friendly and willing to share tips," says Braught. Then get started shooting flowers on your own. "Take a lot of pictures, even if you really like the first one you took," recommends Boyd. "If you take more, nine times out of ten, the first one you took won't be your favourite."



Members in the **Spotlight**

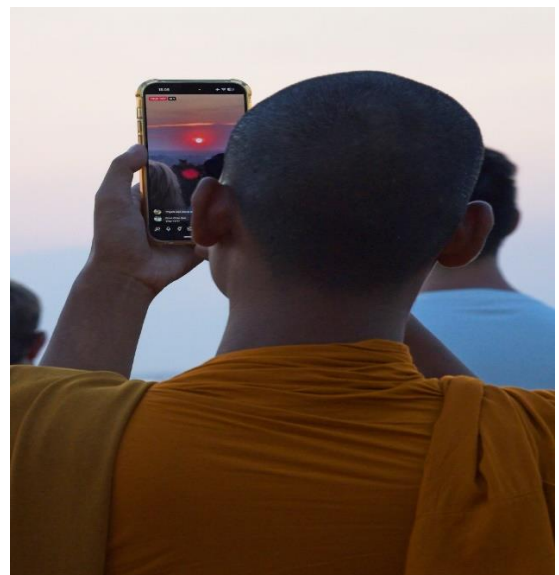
"You don't take a photograph, you make it." - Ansel Adams

Portrait and Lighting Workshop with Matt Krumins Lyn Nankervis



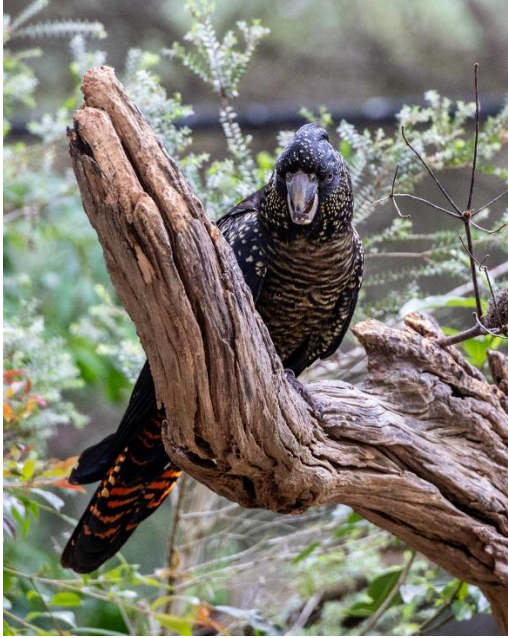


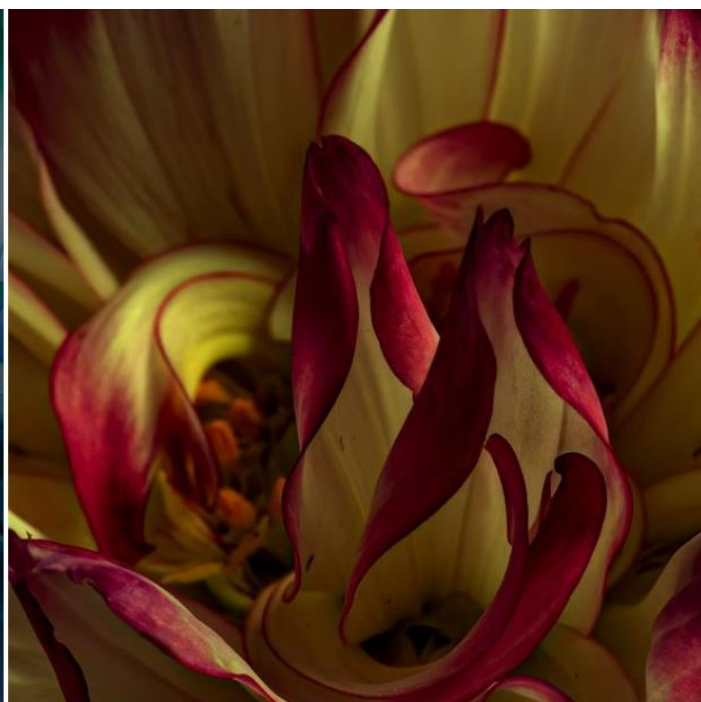
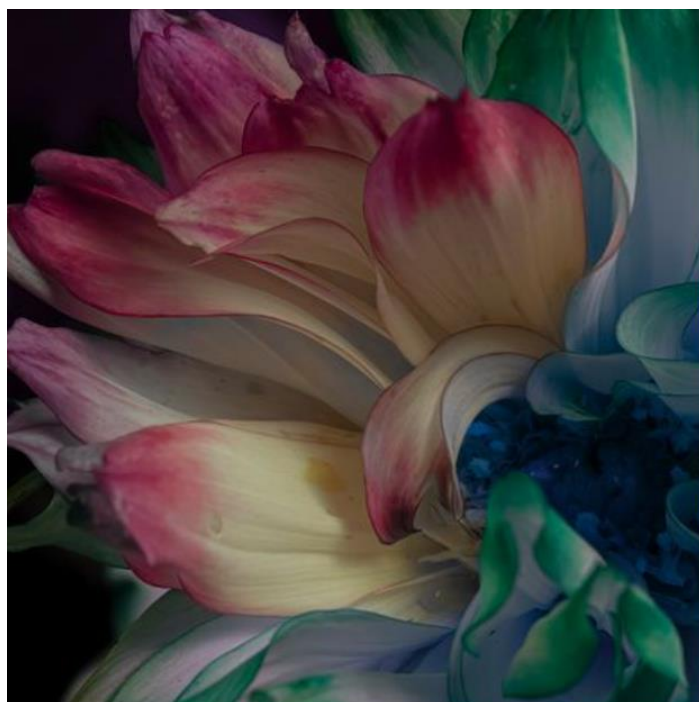
Visit to Cambodia Alex Thexton





Healesville Sanctuary Lynn Nankervis





QUICK TIPS

ACTION
RUNNING DOGS

HOW TO SHOOT...
ACTION



RUNNING DOGS

KIT CHECKLIST...
70-200mm telephoto, Servo or C-AF

FOR YOUR FIRST SHOT, TRY...

TIPS FOR GETTING A GREAT SHOT...

- Track ahead of the dog and leave space in the frame for where it's going to run to, rather than space behind it.
- Dogs can be very expressive, so don't forget to look out for funny or interesting facial expressions.

Ross McLaren

When the dog is at rest, try to get a backlit shot – take a spot meter reading from the dog's coat.

LANDSCAPES
OLD BOATS

HOW TO SHOOT...
LANDSCAPES



OLD BOATS

KIT CHECKLIST...
16-35mm zoom or wide-angle prime

FOR YOUR SHOT, TRY...

TIPS FOR GETTING A GREAT SHOT...

- Compose the image down the length of the boat, rather than from the side, leading to distant elements of interest.
- Use a narrow aperture like f/16 and focus on the prow of the boat to ensure that it's in sharp focus.

Future

Beware of overexposing the sky so use a graduated ND filter or try bracketing the exposures.