



Getting the most from your membership

Alan Bennett
5/9/2016

Images copyright Alan Bennett unless specifically acknowledged.

Agenda



- Introduction
- What the club offers
- What should you do
- Understanding the judging process
- Post processing
- Developing a workflow
- Examples

Introduction

- Waverley Camera Club (WCC) was formed aims to promote all forms of photography, whilst fostering community spirit through the use of workshops, competitions and outings. Since then the club has expanded and grown and now numbers over 100 members. Most members live near Mount Waverley but some travel some distance as this is the best camera club in Australia!
- The club offers a range of services to members and welcomes photographers from absolute beginners all the way to professionals - many of which are actively involved in club activities, holding tutorials, running courses and working on the committee.
- The most attended event is the monthly judging night which is held on the first Tuesday of the month. There are 2 sections for entering images, A grade a B grade. A grade is for the experienced photographer and B grade is for people newer to photography and those looking to improve. Each month we have a different judge who brings their own unique insights to club members that are keen to learn and progress their photography.

<http://www.waverleycameraclub.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/WaverleyCameraClub/>

A full calendar month looks like this

January						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Training

Judging

Creative

Workshop

Flash & portrait

Mentoring

City walk

Weekend away

Outing

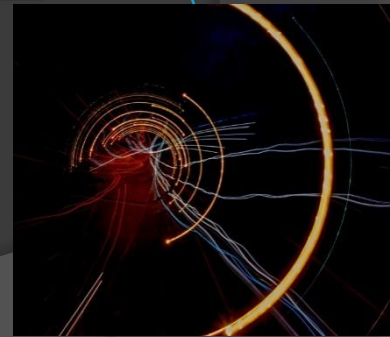
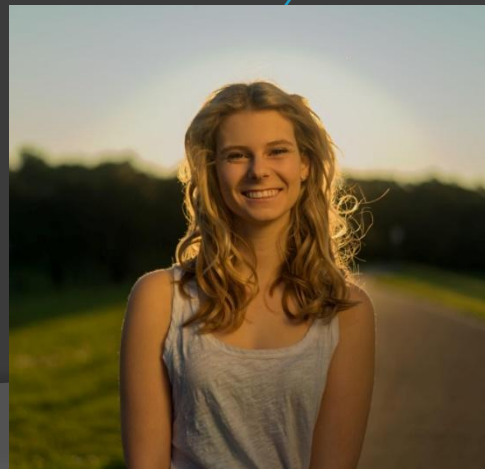
What should you do?



In a word..... **participate**

- ✓ Attend as many events as you can
- ✓ Listen
- ✓ Ask questions
- ✓ Do your own research
- ✓ Try to put what you hear into practice

Examples from of my participating



January						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Understanding the judging process

Judging...

- Is there a more controversial topic?
- The judge has the hardest role, to be honest & constructive, impartial
- There are no definitive rules
- Judges use their own judgment (pun intended)
- Learn how to become emotionally detached from your images – be objective
- Check WCC website for competition rules
- Q. “Why didn’t my image win?” A. Because the judge thought another image was better (buy a brick, build a bridge – and get over it)
- Q. “Can I get a second opinion?” A. Only by entering the image in another competition. The judges decision is final



What's the worst that can happen?



5 worst outcomes -

#1 image rejected as it is deemed that it doesn't comply with the criteria - and you disagree

#2 the judge does not find any positives in your image but plenty of things to “work on”

#3 the judge makes suggestions on how to improve your image and you're already tried them all

#4 there are other similar images to yours and one of them gets an award and you don't

#5 you have a clever title and no-one cares

Maybe #6 is you never come back??

5 best outcomes -

#1 you win image of the month in all 3 categories

#2 the audience gasps, you hear "wow" from those around you

#3 your image is unique, innovative, impressive

#4 the judge can't find any significant weaknesses

#5 you are motivated

Maybe #6 is you get promoted immediately to A grade??

Top 10 Rules



1. Know the rules / break the rules*
2. Rule of thirds / golden ratio
3. Simplify
4. Fill the frame
5. Aspect ratio
6. Tonal range
7. Leading Lines
8. Diagonals
9. Space to move
10. Backgrounds
11. Colours, textures, moods

* yes, I know there are 11 rules, refer to rule 1

Tips

- Impress the judge, impress the judge, impress the judge
- Know your camera - be able to change modes (aperture, shutter, ISO), focus modes, manual, understand DoF, lens selection, bokeh....at a moment's notice
- Light is (almost) everything
- Remove/minimise weaknesses
- Emphasise strengths
- Start using RAW now even if you aren't ready
- Histograms are your best friend, followed closely by 'blinkies' – learn to use exposure compensation
- Develop a workflow – use limited tools only and add more as you gain confidence
- Backups...aaaah, I deleted what?!

Workflow

- ◉ Adopt a regular set of processing steps (workflow)
- ◉ Keep using it as you gain confidence
- ◉ Experiment with sliders, options
- ◉ Start to add other suggestions from judges, others
- ◉ Eventually you will develop your own workflow(s)

Examples



My first comp entries!



Love that orange tinge?

Not another seagull?!

Original image = Fail?



After post processing = prize winner



Other people's art

- judge may reject —
except if entered
in a photo-
journalism
competition

Fail?

You decide.





Nice images...but

It's been done before...

Fail?
You decide.



“Nice record shot...”



Nikon D800E 1/200 f7.1 ISO 100 @ 155mm

Slow down that
shutter speed

Nikon D800E 1/50 f10 ISO 100 @ 50mm

If at first you don't succeed, try again



My recent entries!!

What a difference
a year makes



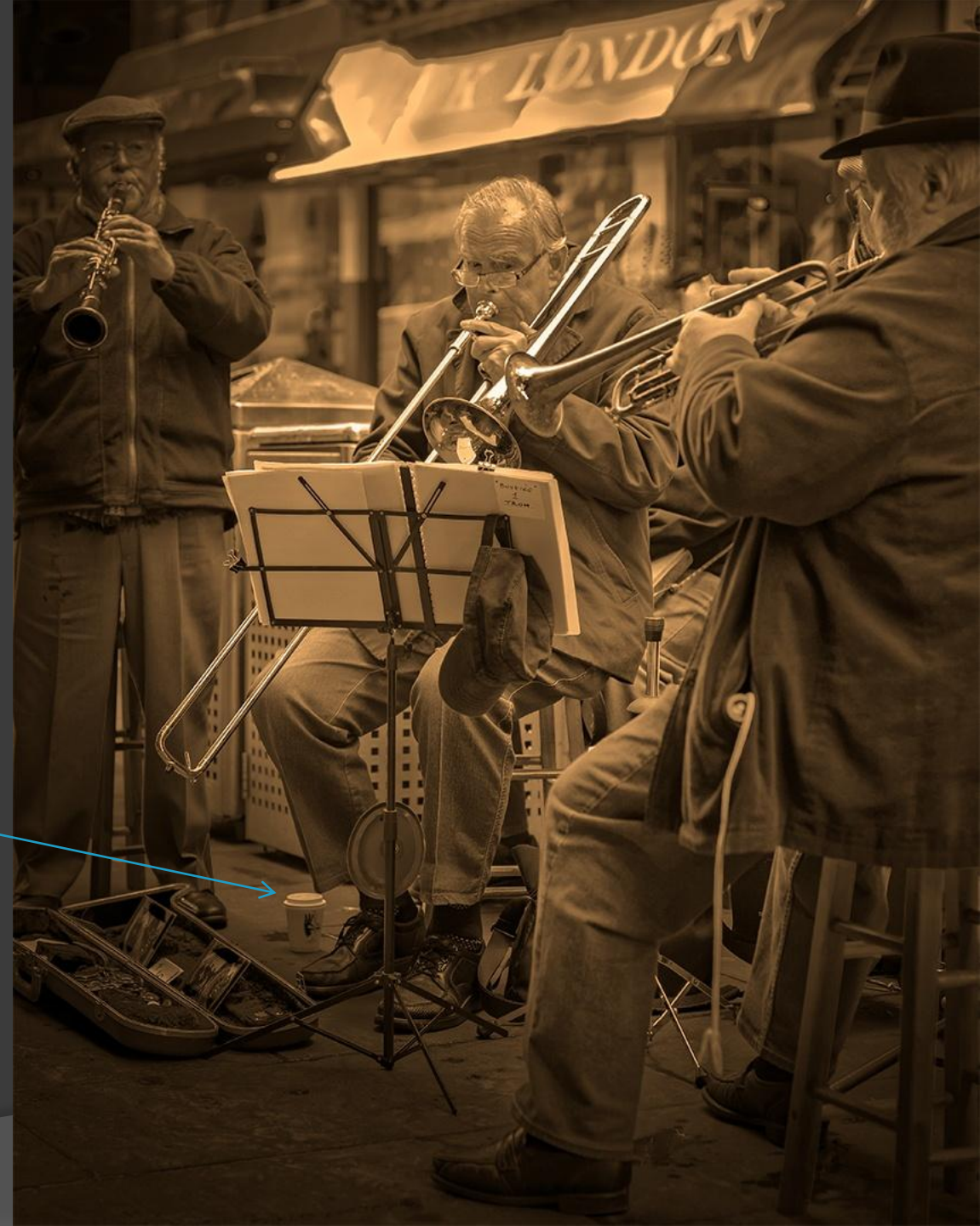
Just when you think you have 'made it'



Judge – “I’m being picky,
but...”

Great trombone player – bad coffee cup

Fail?



Creative Photography



If I can do this after a few sessions you can too



Quotes

“

There are no short cuts – Paul Spence

Don't be lazy – Anthony Yap

Ask questions and keep asking – Lenore Pedrina

You don't take a photograph, you make it – Ansel Adams

”

4 STEP process to improving



- ◉ See the light
- ◉ Take the image
- ◉ Edit it to bring out the best
- ◉ Present it for feedback



Henri Cartier-Bresson: Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst

Lao Tzu: The journey of 1,000 miles begins with one step

Daniel Coyle (The Talent Code): 10,000 hours of practice -> world class skill

Post Processing – some options



Software	Best for	Not so good for
Adobe Elements	Beginners to intermediate	Advanced editing
Phase One	Advanced	Everyone else
GIMP	Free! Advanced users	Beginners
Corel Paint Shop Pro	Windows only. Beginners to intermediate	Advanced
Adobe Lightroom	Intermediate to advanced	Beginners
Adobe Photoshop CC	Intermediate to advanced	Beginners
Google NIK	Anyone	-
DxO Optics Pro	Advanced	Beginners

Taking the image is the hard part, post processing is the fun part

ref: <http://www.techradar.com/au/news/photography-video-capture/cameras/best-photo-editing-software-1284627>

Which Camera?

DxO Mark

Snapshort

Senscore



	Model	Mpix	Sensor Format	Launch Price	Launch Date	Overall Score	Portrait	Landscape	Sports
	Sony A7R II	42.4	Full Frame	\$3198	Jun. 2015	98 1	26.0 3	13.9 18	3434 2
	Nikon D810	36.3	Full Frame	\$3300	Jun. 2014	97 2	25.7 5	14.8 1	2853 15
	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX1R II	42.4	Full Frame	\$3300	Oct. 2015	97 3	25.8 4	13.9 17	3204 6
	Nikon D800E	36.3	Full Frame	\$3300	Feb. 2012	96 4	25.6 6	14.3 6	2979 10
	Sony A7R	36	Full Frame	\$2300	Oct. 2013	95 5	25.6 7	14.1 13	2746 17
	Nikon D800	36.3	Full Frame	\$2999	Feb. 2012	95 6	25.3 8	14.4 4	2853 14
	Nikon D600	24.3	Full Frame	\$2100	Sep. 2012	94 7	25.1 10	14.2 8	2980 9
	Nikon D610	24	Full Frame	\$1999	Oct. 2013	94 8	25.1 11	14.4 5	2925 13
	Nikon D750	24.3	Full Frame	\$2300	Sep. 2014	93 9	24.8 19	14.5 3	2956 12
	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX1	24.3	Full Frame	\$2800	Sep. 2012	93 10	25.1 11	14.3 7	2534 19

Camera

1 Nikon D3300

2 Nikon D750

3 Nikon D7200

4 Nikon D5500

5 Nikon D5300

6 Sony A6000

7 Nikon D5

8 Nikon D810

9 Canon EOS Rebel T6i

10 Canon EOS Rebel T5i

Camera

1 Nikon D5 – 1170

2 Nikon D4s – 1141

3 Nikon D4 – 1108

4 Nikon Df – 1103

5 Sony A7R II – 1099

6 Sony A7S II – 1061

7 Sony A7s – 1042

8 Nikon D810 – 1039

9 Nikon D810E – 1032

10 Canon 1D X Mk II – 1021

Who do you believe?

Which lens?

Nikon AF-S Nikkor 50mm f/1.4G vs Sigma 50mm F1.4 DG HSM A Nikon vs Carl Zeiss Milvus 1.4/50 ZF.2 Nikon



View comparison selection ▶

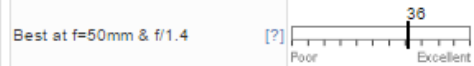
Scores Specifications Measurements Tested with

Nikon AF-S Nikkor 50mm f/1.4G



tested on Nikon D800E

DxOMark Score



Lens Metric Scores

Sharpness	[?] 21 P-Mpix
Transmission	[?] 1.5 TStop
Distortion	[?] 0.4 %
Vignetting	[?] -2.1 EV
Chr. aberration	[?] 7 μm

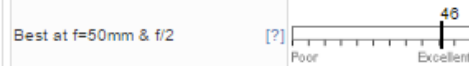
DxOMARK

Sigma 50mm F1.4 DG HSM A Nikon



tested on Nikon D800E

DxOMark Score



Lens Metric Scores

Sharpness	[?] 35 P-Mpix
Transmission	[?] 1.8 TStop
Distortion	[?] 0.1 %
Vignetting	[?] -1.2 EV
Chr. aberration	[?] 9 μm

DxOMARK

Carl Zeiss Milvus 1.4/50 ZF.2 Nikon



tested on Nikon D800E

DxOMark Score



Lens Metric Scores

Sharpness	[?] 33 P-Mpix
Transmission	[?] 1.6 TStop
Distortion	[?] 0.3 %
Vignetting	[?] -1.6 EV
Chr. aberration	[?] 8 μm

DxOMARK

Street pricing:

Nikon \$484

Sigma \$1,082

Carl Zeiss \$US1,199

Quality varies, how much are you prepared to pay?

Some Favourite websites

Technical comparisons

<http://www.dxomark.com/>

<http://www.lenscore.org/>

<http://snapsort.com/compare>

General articles & tutorials

<https://photographylife.com/>

<http://digital-photography-school.com/>

<http://www.cameralabs.com/>

Buying/selling

<http://www.gumtree.com.au/>

<http://www.ebay.com.au/chp/cameras>

<http://cameraexchange.com.au/>

Photography – general

<http://postcodeproject.com/about/>

<http://www.andrewsgibson.com/blog/>

<http://jamesb.com/>

<http://www.markgaler.com/>

<http://www.leswalkling.com/>

<https://www.steveparish-natureconnect.com.au/>

<http://marysvillephotography.com.au/>

<http://www.teddytan.com.au/>

<http://www.backcountrygallery.com/>

<http://northrup.photo/>

<http://photoserge.com/>

<https://www.slrlounge.com/>

<http://www.smlxl.com.au/>

<http://www.dsrlrbodies.com/newsviews/>

<http://photographyhotspots.com.au/>

<http://nikonrumors.com/>

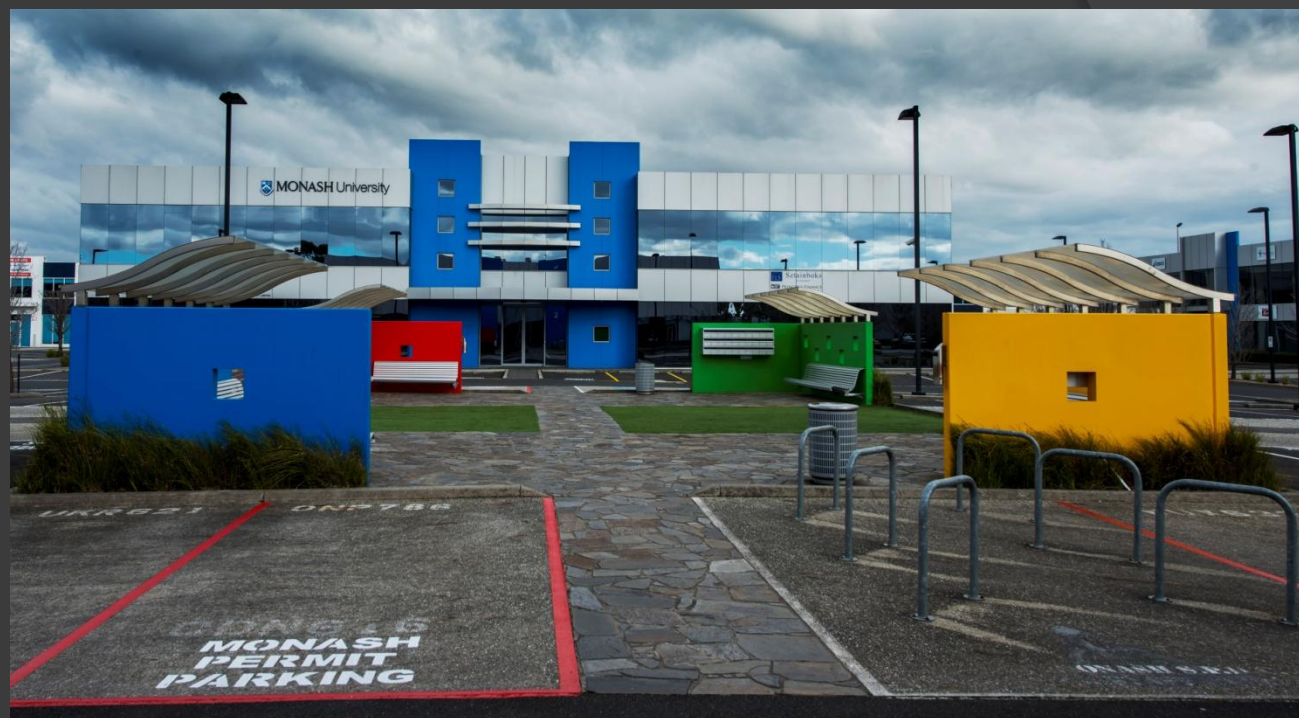
Freebies

- ◉ Strobist lighting 101: <http://strobist.blogspot.com.au/2006/03/lighting-101.html>
- ◉ Google NIK: <https://www.google.com/nikcollection/> - free software!
- ◉ Gimp: <https://www.gimp.org/> - more free software
- ◉ <https://au.pinterest.com/>
- ◉ <http://expertphotography.com/free-photography-ebooks/>
- ◉ Adobe Lightroom presets: <http://digital-photography-school.com/8-sites-for-free-presets/>
- ◉ Photoshop textures: <http://mcpactions.com/2009/12/17/texture-sites/>
- ◉ Checkout your library and Zinio – you can legitimately download dozens of magazines for free – including several photography ones

Which one do you prefer?



Out of the camera...



...and 10 minutes later

Images can always be improved



< end >

