



December 2016



*Merry
Christmas*

Window display shot with iPhone 5s - Boris M Struk



President's Message

Hello *ECC* members,

What a year we've seen! As I reflect on our accomplishments, I am humbled by the level of commitment from committee members and monthly helpers. I'm also very grateful ; it's been a real privilege to work with such a wonderful team.

We are already making plans for 2017, spearheaded by our 'Activity' night on January 23rd (a selection of members showcasing their images and sharing their story), followed quickly with the 'Moonee Valley Festival' on Sunday 26th February. Predictably, I do need to ask that you consider allocating some time to help ; it's actually a really nice day, with lots of opportunity to mingle with members and the public.

We are also still seeking your work for the exhibition in 'Brodle Hall', at the 'Incinerator Gallery'. A deadline will be put in place shortly, so if you are planning to be part of this, it may be wise to get your work together over the break. As per the Library display, we will be providing frames to house your beautiful images.

On another note, I would like to re-iterate certain details relating to our monthly competitions and their categories:

Please bear in mind that the 'Novice' category is strictly for those new to photography, not necessarily new to the Club. There is a 2 year limit of 'occupation' here : once that transpires, a member is required to move into 'Intermediate'. This allows for a softened transition, before hitting the peaks of 'Advanced'.

In the spirit of fairness, a member cannot remain in 'Intermediate' indefinitely. Similarly to the 2 year limit with the 'Novice' category, 'Intermediate' attracts the same constraints. To avoid points being forfeited for remaining in an incorrect category, kindly adhere to these guidelines. Please appreciate that this is not a penalty, but rather an equaliser, designed to create fair competition. A victory against less experienced members is a hollow one, and really should not be the goal.

Also, please read the 'Set Subject' definitions very carefully. Our judges will be advised to overlook entries which fail to meet the descriptors provided, so it would be in everyone's interest to stick to the outline. Once again, this is to maintain fairness and equality in the competition. These details serve to address some member concerns that have been brought forward; I trust that I have everyone's support and understanding.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a truly beautiful Christmas. Stay safe, enjoy your family . . . and perhaps take some photos, just for fun. Whatever you do, may it make your heart sing.

Joyful festive wishes to all,

Carmen



South Georgia & Falkland Islands

Glenda Smith

A memorable trip to the end of the world...

In late October/early November I travelled to South Georgia and the Falkland Islands on a commemorative 17 day expedition aboard the small ship, National Geographic Orion. We sailed from Ushuaia, Argentina, the southern-most city in the world. After 400 miles and 2 days at sea, we landed and hiked on two of the West Falkland Islands, New and Saunders Islands, and followed the coastline of Little Bense and Bense Island in zodiacs which was to whet our appetite for all that was to come. We then set off for another 3 days at sea to South Georgia, a mere 800 miles further on, deep into the South Atlantic Ocean.

One of only 58 passengers, I sailed with a group of 11 trekkers led by Peter Hillary and Jamling Norgay (the sons of Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay) who left the ship at King Haakon Bay and rejoined us at Stromness after having crossed South Georgia and its high peaks and glaciers following in the footsteps of Sir Edward Shackleton. This was the last leg of Shackleton's intrepid rescue mission of the ill-fated "Endurance" expedition to the South Pole which sailed from London on the day World War 1 began in 1914. Incredibly, following the breaking up of their sailing ship by pack ice, all crew as well as the sole stowaway made it back to Elephant Island from which they were rescued on 31 August 1916, nearly 2 years later – 100 years ago.

So while the trekkers trekked for 2 days, those of us remaining on board were treated to a total of 6 days of sailing, hiking, kayaking and exploring coves in zodiacs around South Georgia taking in the breathtaking scenery and its abundant wildlife. We witnessed no fewer than 5 species of penguin: Magellenic, Rock Hopper, Chinstrap, Gentoo – and the ones we all craved, the King penguin and 3 species of whales.

In years gone by, South Georgia was a thriving sealing and whaling area which had all but driven the wildlife, both birds and sea-life away. But since its cessation, all kinds of wildlife have returned to a thriving oasis within the Antarctic convergence.

Landing at St Andrews Bay at the break of day amidst a rookery of at least 100,000 pairs of King penguins and their 'oakumboys' (fluffy fledgling chicks) is quite an experience. It touched 3 senses: sight, smell and hearing. We strolled amongst the masses and shared the 7km beach with them and thousands of Elephant seals – the bull seals protective of their harem and their young. However it was the much smaller fur seals, blessed with such photogenic and expressive eyes that we needed to tread carefully around. And the Skua circled, just waiting for the opportunity to find their next meal.

All this with a perfect backdrop of an early morning vivid blue sky; a rising sun shining on the high snow-capped peaks; the glistening of the melting ice atop the glaciers; meandering streams and rivulets making their way to the sea; and the gentle breakers as the waves rolled onto the beach. Simply stunning!

... more from South Georgia...

The bonus for us was the spotting of a lone Leopard seal just off the point as we returned to the ship. A quick detour proved well worth the effort as it frolicked in the frigid waters around our zodiac. We bobbed up and down in sync with the waves as it played 'hide and seek'. And then it suddenly reared up and out of the water within an arm's length of where I was sitting! "Did anyone get it?" was the cry, to which I replied, "maybe".

We visited Gritkivyn, one of 7 deserted whaling stations on the Island that now houses around 20 UK researchers and staff of a small museum and gift shop who relish the opportunity to mix with those visiting on their trips of a lifetime. We drank a toast to Shackleton at his graveside as we were rejoined by the trekkers. And then we were treated to spectacular images of what they saw and stories of their experiences compared with what they knew of Shackleton's experiences on our homeward voyage.

Of course there were many more ports of call. It was at Prion Island that we hiked up high through the fresh snow to view the nesting Wandering Albatross with their fledgling chicks that were nearing the time to find their own wings. Birds were a-plenty with so many species of albatross, petrels, gulls and skua especially as we rocked and rolled on the high seas. They followed the wake of the ship, expending very little energy as they glided with the high winds beneath their wings, often bringing them to within a touch of us.

The Falkland Islands were green, and ever so windy, and it's capital, Stanley, is ever so English. We also visited blustery Bleaker Island on our return voyage. The Falklands were home to more common land birds like ducks and geese, and their rolling hills are grazed by sheep and cattle. But they were not without their seals, penguins and prolific birdlife too.

When around land, we had at least two and often three landings each day, requiring us to 'gear up' resplendent in our waterproof pants, heavy gumboots, parkas, hats, scarves, gloves and camera equipment, together with our life vests. It took 20 minutes to get ready to encounter the chilling winds and temperatures that hovered just above zero. But the many on-shore and off-ship activities made it all well worth the effort.

One cannot sail these waters and the infamous Drake Passage and expect smooth seas and this trip was no exception. After a relatively sedate outward journey, we endured 3 days of Force 9 gales and seas of 4-5 metres on our return. Yet this is all part of the excitement of an expedition.

Our days were filled with being educated by no fewer than 9 naturalists, all specialists in differing fields of interest above and below the sea. A National Geographic photographer and a video chronicler provided us with hints and tuition, together with free access to professional camera equipment (lenses and bodies), meaning that everyone returned with some exceptional images of such a special and memorable trip to 'fina del mundo' (the end of the world) - a part of the world that is visited by so few.



... more from South Georgia...



Heading South...

Clem de Silva

Images from my recent trip to Central America. I entered a photo competition around images taken in the Galapagos and won a first placing with the image of a "Smooth billed Ani". I would recommend a trip to the Galapagos to any one who can make it.



... more from Clem's trip



Life Membership Presentation for Services to the Essendon Camera Club



Alan Wilson receiving his Life Membership and Certificate from Kevin Phelan



Essendon Camera Club 2017 Set Subjects

MONTH	TOPIC	DEFINITION
February	B&W Portrait	The image must be a portrait of a person/s and presented as black and white (not monochrome). Ideally a portrait should show some aspect of the character or personality of the subject.
March	Seascapes	An image where the sea/shoreline is part of the main subject of the image.
April	Melbourne Architecture	An image of a building or structure, or of a significant architectural feature, taken within the greater Melbourne area.
May	Living Macro	The image must be a macro/close up, with the main subject being alive. This includes both flora and fauna having life, not dead or lifeless.
June	Sports	The image must be of an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment. From team sports to individual sporting pursuits.
July	Self Portrait	The image must be a portrait taken by the photographer of themselves.
August	Of Times Gone By	An image of something built, made, worn or travelled on in the olden days. The image must have been taken in recent times, not in the olden days.
September	Profession or Trade	The image must depict a job requiring manual skills and special training. The image can include a person/s and or the tools of their trade or profession.
October	Shadows	An image where shadows form the main subject.

Submissions that do not meet the definition criteria above may not be accepted by the Competition Secretary

ECC Awards - 2016

GOLD PLATES

 <p>Print Novice First Place</p> <p>Paul Brown</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>Print Intermediate First Place</p> <p>Kate Fletcher</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>Print Intermediate Second Place</p> <p>Graham Tunnicliffe</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>Print Advanced Third Place</p> <p>Jane Clancy</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>Print Set Subject First Place</p> <p>Steve Sheddick</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>Print Set Subject Second Place</p> <p>Hugh McCarry</p> <p>2016</p>
 <p>Print Intermediate Third Place</p> <p>Paul Scicluna</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>Print Advanced First Place</p> <p>Neil Anderson</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>Print Advanced Second Place</p> <p>Steve Sheddick</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>Print Set Subject Third Place</p> <p>Jan Hannasky</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>DPI Novice Winner</p> <p>Glenda Smith</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>DPI Intermediate Equal First Place</p> <p>Mark Busuttil</p> <p>2016</p>
 <p>DPI Intermediate Equal First Place</p> <p>Ineke Struk</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>DPI Intermediate Second Place</p> <p>Rose Meddings</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>DPI Intermediate Equal Third Place</p> <p>Drazen Basar</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>DPI Advanced Third Place</p> <p>Martin Clancy</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>DPI Set Subject First Place</p> <p>Adrian Whear</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>DPI Set Subject Second Place</p> <p>Ineke Struk</p> <p>2016</p>
 <p>DPI Intermediate Equal Third Place</p> <p>Bruce Hynes</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>DPI Advanced First Place</p> <p>Carmen Caruana</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>DPI Advanced Second Place</p> <p>Julie Powell</p> <p>2016</p>	 <p>DPI Set Subject Third Place</p> <p>Mark Busuttil</p> <p>2016</p>		

ECC Awards - 2016

<p>Print of the Year Advanced <i>Jane Clancy</i> 2016</p>	<p>Print of the Year Intermediate <i>Ineke Struk</i> 2016</p>	<p>DPI of the Year Advanced <i>Martin Clancy</i> 2016</p>
<p>DPI of the Year Intermediate <i>Levin Barrett</i> 2016</p>	<p>Nature Print of the Year <i>Neil Anderton</i> 2016</p>	<p>Nature DPI of the Year <i>Glenda Smith</i> 2016</p>

Essendon Camera Club Annual Awards Sponsor awards 2016

<p>ALEX MURRAY MEMORIAL TROPHY Highest combined aggregate in Print & DPI of the Year Competitions 2016 <i>Jane Clancy</i></p>	<p>HAROLD McCORKILL MEMORIAL TROPHY Best set of 3 prints, DPI to tell a story 2016 <i>Jane Clancy</i></p>
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Black Glass Trophies

<p>STRATHMORE COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH BENDIGO BANK AWARD Highest aggregate in Print of the Year 2016 <i>Jane Clancy</i></p>	<p>STRATHMORE COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH BENDIGO BANK AWARD Highest aggregate in DPI of the Year 2016 <i>Martin Clancy</i></p>
<p>STRATHMORE COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH BENDIGO BANK AWARD Best Black & White print 2016 <i>Rose Meddings</i></p>	



ECC Awards - 2016



ECC Awards - 2016



“Thank You”

The Essendon Camera Club appreciates and extends a big “thank you” to the following sponsors for their support of our Club



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The Editor's Christmas Message



May the Spirit of Christmas fill you with joy and happiness and may the arrival of the New Year also herald the realisation of your Hopes, Dreams and Aspirations.

Boris M Struk



Bits 'n Pieces

Social Media

There are a number of ways to “connect” with the Essendon Camera Club and these include:

Website - www.EssendonCameraClub.org.au

Flickr - www.flickr.com/groups/2847869@N21

Facebook - www.facebook.com/groups/EssendonCameraClub

Do use these social media channels to stay in touch, contribute to discussion or post your images.

Ask the experts or how...?

In the previous issue of *In Focus* I introduced a new section called FAQ. Four questions were put forward seeking ECC members' contribution and to date only one was “ticked off” as answered.

Due to the overwhelming response to this section, intended to be of assistance particularly to the newer members entering the wonderful world of photography, this section is now defunct.

However, if the masses (or even one ECC Member) beat a path to my email inbox with submissions or answers, I'll consider reopening!

In that event send your contribution to: Boris@Struk.com.au

Contributions are sought for
your newsletter - *In Focus*.

More members' input is most
welcome!

Please send your contribution:

Boris@Struk.com.au

KING ISLAND, Tasmania 2017

ESSENDON Camera Club has been given first offer of this 4 day workshop, before it gets advertised. Maximum 11 people



Photographic Tour With IAN ROLFE (Southern Lightscares)

Dates: 30th November 2017 to 3rd December 2017

COST: \$ 1940.00

Deposit of \$ 200 required by 1st December 2016 to secure your place. Balance due by 1st November 2017

Contact: Ian Rolfe

Email: ianrolfephotography@icloud.com

Inclusions

4 day intensive workshop.

Return Flights - Light Plane (most likely Moorabbin airport - to be advised by Ian)

3 Nights Accommodation

4 Lunch's, 4 morning Teas, 3 Breakfasts and 3 Two course Dinners

Tuition by Grand Master Ian Rolfe and 4 WD Oka transport to remote locations around the Island, normally not accessible by the public.

NOT Included: Any Alcohol or personal snacks, King Island Cheese from Cheese factory on return.

For further information, please feel free to contact Ian directly via email (please mention you are an Essendon Camera club member) for this trip.

Or contact Mary Logar

Email: mary_moorest@yahoo.com

Mobile: 0407 682 069

ECC Committee 2016-17

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WEB	-	Matt Wings	
<i>In Focus</i> Editor	-	Boris M Struk	

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