



F/STOP

SEPT 2023

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FEDERATION OF CAMERA CLUBS (NSW)

Interclub 2023

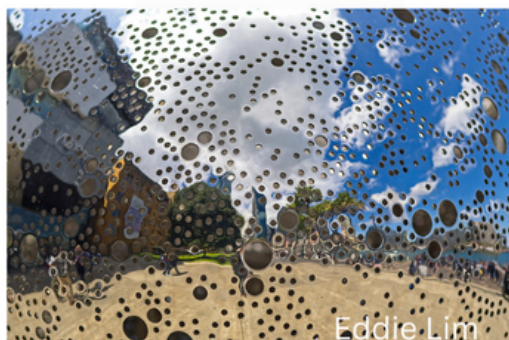
Entries now open!



Federation of Camera Clubs (NSW)

INTERCLUB 2023

9 Categories
to enter!



Eddie Lim



Martin Zhu



Hemant-Kokegar

Entries Open - 6 August

Entries Close - 8 October

**Presentation: Sunday 29 October 2023; 10am – 4pm in the
Sovereign Room - Castle Hill RSL 77 Castle St, Castle Hill.**

[SCENE FESTIVAL]

JOIN US AT SCENE FESTIVAL FOR A CHANCE TO

WIN 1 OF 5 TICKETS
TO THE **ULTIMATE** SCENE
EXPERIENCE IN
PARIS*

8 SEPT-
31 OCT
2023

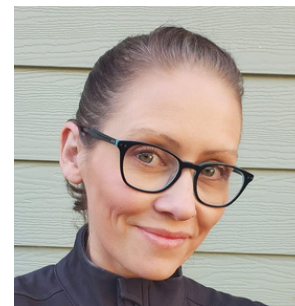


REGISTER FOR A SCENE
FESTIVAL EVENT TODAY!

*TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY



A note from our President



Hello Members!!! So much happening at the moment for our Clubs.....

All the FCC-affiliated clubs are invited to enter the NSW Interclub Competition. Entries close in a month on Sunday 8 October, 2023. For all information about the conditions of entry, check out the Interclub link on the FCC website.

Please note a recent change made by the FCC Committee. All Clubs may enter up to 10 images per section, but (i) large clubs may enter a maximum of 2 entries per section from any one member of the club; while (ii) small clubs may enter a maximum of 4 entries per section from any one member of the club.

The Interclub Exhibition and Awards Presentation will take place from 10:00am – 4:00pm on Sunday 29 October, 2023 at the Sovereign Room, Castle Hill RSL, 77 Castle St, Castle Hill. All Club Members and their guests are invited to attend and view the digital and print display. This is a great opportunity to meet other Club Members and see what else is happening in the Camera Club scene!

This F-Stop also reports on four important events carried out by our member clubs: a 60th anniversary, and three photo exhibitions which are open to the public in Sydney, Wollongong and Coffs Harbour. It is very exciting to see so many Clubs showing the wonderful work our photographers to the public.

Our two-day judging course at Newcastle on the Labor Day weekend is now full. The next judges' course is planned for Coffs Harbour early in 2024. The FCC has also begun a professional development program for our Judges. Roy Killen spoke to our judges in August on “How to Judge Nature Photographs” and next month Timothy Moon will give a presentation on “How to Judge Architectural Photographs”.

Finally, this F-Stop includes an article about the history of the FCC. The article discusses why 14 camera clubs met to form the FCC in 1953, how clubs have changed since then, and some options for how the FCC can support clubs in the future. As always, your thoughts on how to strengthen clubs and amateur photography more generally are very welcome.

Be sure to check out the Sony Competition on page 2 with a chance to win a trip to Paris!!!!

Stay safe and happy snapping!

Michelle Kennedy

President

Capture your line of sight.



Image by Edin Whitehead.

NIKKOR Z 800mm f/6.3 VR S

Look beyond the ordinary with the NIKKOR Z 800mm f/6.3 VR S, a super-telephoto prime lens that offers the longest focal length in the current NIKKOR Z line-up.

The superb reach of the NIKKOR Z 800mm f/6.3 VR S allows you to photograph wildlife, airplanes, race cars, or other subjects from a safe distance with outstanding image resolution. In-lens Vibration Reduction effectively compensates for camera shakes of up to 5.0-stops and a design incorporating a Phase Fresnel lens element results in a 48% lighter lens than the F-mount equivalent.

Fall in love with not just what's in the frame, but what's in your hand, too.





NEW FCC PHOTOGRAPHIC JUDGES COURSE

NEWCASTLE

The FCC is holding its next course on how to become a photographic judge in Adamstown on Sat 30 September and Sunday 1 October.

The course covers how to analyse, give positive feedback on, and score photographs. After successfully completing the course, judges may join the FCC Judges' List which is used by photography clubs around NSW and regional and international competitions.

The Hunter course has been developed by the FCC in conjunction with Bill Chambers and Roy Killen who have run a similar course in the past.

The course is now full, but if you are interested in doing the FCC Judges' course in the future please send an expression of interest to Don Munro, nswfccsecretary@gmail.com stating in a sentence or two (i) how long you have been photographing and (ii) why you would like to do the judges' course.

The next FCC photographic judges' course is planned in Coffs Harbour in early 2024. More details will be provided in the near future

Don Munro
Secretary
NSW FCC



Happy 60th Birthday St George Leagues Club Photographic Society





Happy 60th Birthday St George Leagues Club Photographic Society

Around 90 people celebrated the 60th birthday of the St George Leagues Club Photographic Society with speeches, displays and a large cake. Some 100 historical prints were on display, all of which looked distinctly different depending on whether they originated as film, slides or digital media.

Des Crawley, patron of the St George Leagues Photographic Society, photographic judge and Emeritus Professor from the University of Western Sydney, spoke about the changes the club had gone through since 1963. One of the major shifts was the change from taking photographs that were a well-lit, sharply-focussed visual record of some subject or another to making photos that told stories or gave insights into how the people of the St George community live.

Another past Club member (known affectionately as “Mr Nikon” because he was the Australasia head of Nikon before he retired) told the meeting that, to make good photos, it didn’t matter whether you had a camera or a mobile phone – what mattered was “that you have an idea”.

Don Munro congratulated the Society for its support for the broader photographic movement over the decades which included having members on the FCC Committee, being active in NSW Top Shot and Inter-Club competitions and having members as judges who supported other clubs.

Happy Birthday to the St George Leagues Club Photographic Society.

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C.ex Coffs Camera Club Nature Competition

Since 2002, the C.ex Coffs Camera Club has hosted a nature photographic competition for non-professional photographers in Coffs Harbour and the surrounding local area. It began as a tribute to a previous member and nature lover, Marnie Yeates, and a trophy is presented each year in her honour.

Members of the Camera Club volunteer to organise the competition with help from some local sponsors – The C.ex Coffs Camera Club, National Cartoon Gallery, C.ex Club and Camerahouse.

The images are judged by three experienced judges and exhibited in the Bunker at the National Cartoon Gallery in Coffs Harbour. This year, the opening will be October 20th and the exhibition runs till November 26th.

The judges have commented on the high standard of photography presented by the local community. The exhibition looks amazing when all the photographs are framed and hung in the Bunker. Each year locals are keen to enter and see their images in the gallery.

First Place - Lacewing Laying Egg by Margherita Standing

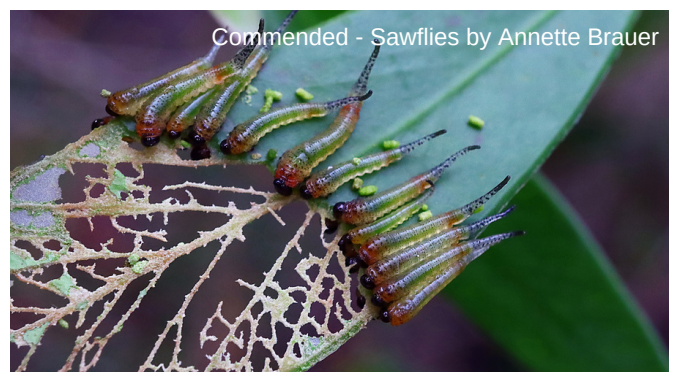


Highly Commended - Fire Front by Barry McCulloch

Commended - Danxia Mountains by Sharron Sykes



Commended - Sawflies by Annette Brauer





Wollongong Camera Club's Biennial Photo Exhibition

More than 40 people enjoyed food, drinks and photographs at the opening night of the Wollongong Camera Club's biennial Members' Exhibition held on 1 September. The exhibition was opened by Wollongong's Lord Mayor, Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM who congratulated the Club on the high quality of its images and the levels of creativity of its members.

The public exhibition, which ran for three days, included 64 framed and mounted prints produced by members of the Wollongong Camera Club and 41 videos produced by members of the Wollongong Movie Makers group. Most of the prints were on sale to the public with 10% of the sale going to the Wollongong Camera Club (to help defray the costs of the exhibition) and the remaining 90% going to the photographer. The local Lions Club held a BBQ on Saturday as part of the exhibition, and there was a People's Choice Award for the most popular photograph as voted by members of the public.

Exhibition coordinator, Kaz Childs, said that the exhibition was important for the club as a way to show its work to the wider community, and thanked the large team of volunteers who had helped organise the event and set up the exhibition in The Old Court House building. The Wollongong Camera Club holds its Members' Exhibition every second year at Wollongong, and every other year at the thriving arts precinct at near-by Port Kembla.



Australian Digital Photographic Association's Photography Exhibition

The Australian Digital Photographic Association (ADPA) is holding a one-month exhibition of 50 of its award-winning images at the Burwood Council Library. The exhibition was launched on 2 September by Ms Sally Sitou MP, Member for Reid along with around 100 club members, supporters and members of the public. The FCC was represented by Committee members, Don Munro and Chris Kenyon.

The ADPA was formed in 2007. It's President, Henry Zeng, was one of the earliest advertising photographers in China. He has taught photography at the New York City College of Technology, worked as a professional photographer based in Sydney, has held solo exhibitions of his work and was a judge for the 20th Photographic Society of America (PSA) PSACHina International Competition in 2021.

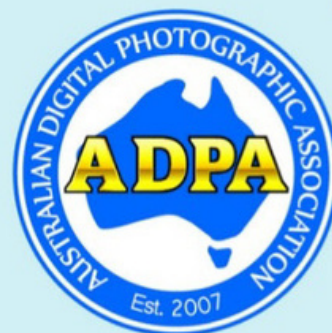
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This is the third public exhibition of photos by members of the ADPA. Previous exhibitions have taken place in Hurstville Library and Chatswood. The prints on display at the Burwood Library include winning photographs from recent FCC, APS and international competitions. The Club has also published a photobook of the prints in the exhibition.



F/STOP

SEPT 2023



PHOTO

EXHIBITION

OPENING DAY

2PM

2 SEPTEMBER

2023

Immerse yourself in the beauty of nature and adventure from many different cultures around the world captured through the Australian Digital Photographic Association's lens



Exhibiting over 50 photos in print

Free Entry | Burwood Library
2 Conder St, Burwood NSW 2134



Burwood



70 years of the FCC - Some personal reflections

The NSW Federation of Camera Clubs (FCC) is one of the longest-running institutions in Australia supporting photographers and photography. Knowing a little about the history of FCC is important for understanding our present practices and priorities, and for doing better in the future.

On 5 March, 1953 representatives of 14 camera clubs in NSW met and decided to establish a state body that would support individual Clubs and promote State-wide photographic activities such as traveling portfolios and salons and a NSW-wide inter-club competition. They formed the NSW Photographic Council and the inaugural AGM of this new peak photography organisation was held on 13 April 1954.

The first three activities of the NSW Photographic Council were to organise an annual Inter-Club competition, establish a panel of judges and lecturers to “fill a much-needed want among camera clubs” and produce a regular circular to communicate with all member organisations. The Council also organised a successful lecture and slide show (transparencies) which was given by Rosalind Maingot, the distinguished English colour photographer who specialised in costume and nude figure studies, still lifes and flowers. Her presentation was attended by a large audience of members from metropolitan and country clubs, professional photographers and people associated with the photographic trade.

Four years later the Photographic Council decided to change its name to the Federation of Camera Clubs (NSW). The newly-named FCC began operations on 1st January 1959. One of its first activities, jointly with similar groups in the other states, was to establish the Australian Photographic Society.

The FCC was formed by 14 clubs. By 2023, the FCC was made up of 85 member clubs and more than 2,600 amateur, enthusiast and professional photographers across NSW.



70 years of the FCC - Some personal reflections

There have been many changes in photography and clubs over the past nearly-70 years. Photographic equipment, for example, has changed dramatically. Images once made by film-based rangefinder cameras and SLRs changed to instant cameras with self-developing film; to digital SLRs; to camera phones; and more recently, to drone photography. Image processing has also changed from developing negatives in the darkroom into prints; to producing slides for projectors which came into widespread use during the 1950s; to post-processing digital images with Photoshop and numerous other software programs; to printing digital images on home-based inkjet printers; and today, commonly, publishing images on Facebook, Flickr and other websites on the internet.

There have also been major changes in photography styles in the past 70 years. The FCC was established in part because of a major disagreement between some clubs and leading photographers in Australia and overseas. The influential Sydney Camera Circle, which had been established in 1916 supported soft focused photographs of Pictorialist-style photography. However it was strongly criticised by the internationally-celebrated fashion photographer, Laurence Le Guay. Le Guay, who was based in Sydney, started as a supporter of Pictorialism, but by the 1950s was promoting the modernist style of “straight” photography which he summarised as unposed, naturalistic and technically perfect. He also argued that photographs should be like literature, to be read and enjoyed like a good novel. Even today, seventy years later, some FCC members still call photographers “authors” (not “photographers”) and have the view that the only good photos are those that are naturalistic-looking and in sharp focus.



70 years of the FCC - Some personal reflections

Today, however, photographic clubs, members and judges are much more accepting of many different styles of photography. There is still a widespread interest in naturalistic-looking photographs as promoted by Le Guay in the 1950s. However, as recent NSW TopShot and Interclub competitions show, Clubs also support abstract photography (including minimalism and drone photography), surrealist photography (including creative photography and photo art made possible by Photoshop and other software) and even Pictorialist-related photography (such as intentional camera movement).

How has the FCC responded to these changes in camera technology and photographic styles over the past 70 years?

In 2023, in many ways, the FCC continues to operate as it was first established. It continues to be a democratic organisation controlled by, and run on behalf of, its member clubs. It continues to attract the active involvement of amateurs, enthusiasts and professional photographers as well as the photographic industry. It continues to deliver on its three founding functions of holding state-wide competitions (such as TopShot and the Interclub competitions), training judges, and providing communications between Clubs (through F-Stop). The FCC continues to support its members in other ways too, such as organising public liability insurance for all members. The FCC also liaises with the Australian Photography Association which it helped establish 66 years ago.

The FCC has also developed in ways that perhaps were not conceived of in 1953. In 2022, for example, the FCC produced its first Code of Conduct to – amongst other issues – help manage the potential conflicts of interests between amateur photographers, professional photographers and members of the photographic trade.



70 years of the FCC - Some personal reflections

After a hiatus of three years caused by the COVID pandemic, the FCC also recommenced aiding regional interclub competitions and conventions such as the Northern NSW Zone of Photographic Societies (based around the Coffs Harbour region) and the Northern Photographic Federation (based in the Hunter). This regional focus is particularly important given that, in 2023, there were more Clubs based in regional NSW than in Sydney.

Although the FCC has a strong track record of supporting member clubs and promoting photography, there are several structural weaknesses inherited from the way it was founded seven decades ago. The FCC still relies on voluntary committees to manage and run its operations, rather than being able to employ part-time staff (as the Australian Photographic Society does). It does not have permanent premises which it could use as a base for photography meetings, courses and exhibitions. Its media presence has often focussed on existing member clubs rather than also communicating to the broader public. Financially, the FCC relies on membership fees and sponsorship from the photographic industry, and has no contributions from bequests, philanthropic donations, government funding and other sources of financial support which could put the FCC on a stronger financial footing.

Despite these resource limitations, the future of the FCC looks bright. First, the FCC can benefit from the world-wide recognition of the importance of photography by the billions of people who take and post images to the internet every day. Second, with the unfortunate collapse of important groups that once supported photographers – such as the Australian Institute of Professional Photography formed in 1944, or the Australian Centre for Photography established in 1973 – the FCC is now one of the few organisations in NSW that can support photographers from all backgrounds. Third, the expanding interest in clubs in a wide range of photographic styles, and the increasing diversity of club members, makes the FCC attractive to amateur and professional photographers alike.



70 years of the FCC - Some personal reflections

In summary, in my personal view, the FCC has a proud history of being a grass roots and democratic organisation, supporting people from all walks of life who interested in photography, and promoting photography at local, state, national and international levels. It has resource constraints faced by many not-for-profit voluntary groups, but is delivering valuable services within these limiting constraints. By building on this proud history, the FCC, its member clubs and the broader photographic movement have an exciting future ahead.

For members interested in the history of photography in NSW and Australia, more can be found in The Australasian Photo-Review which was published from 1894-1956. A summary of the history of many photography clubs can be found at the Sydney International Exhibition of Photography website https://www.siep.org.au/General/Photography_Groups.html

Don Munro
Secretary
NSW FCC.

4 September 2023

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