



Shoalhaven Photographic Club Inc.

Blah Blah Newsletter

Your 2020-2021 Committee

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Digital Assessment Night: “In the shadows”

Welcome to the first Blah Blah newsletter for 2021. At last we were able, as a club, to gather together in person for a meeting. It was a fitting reward for a hard year of social distancing. Thanks to Denis we were at least able to squint at each other through our computer screens. It will be another reward when we can meet in person next month and actually see and appreciate those tangible things called prints!

Denis, once again, set up a zoom meeting so that our judge for the evening, John Swainston, could assess and comment on the digital images in real time. I thought the outcome was a great success and definitely better than having comments relayed to the audience. No judge is going to provide the same level of written comment as he or she would be able to deliver verbally.

Moreover, I felt John gave every image the courtesy of a well considered and constructive comment just as if he were live in the room.

The subject “In the shadows” was, in retrospect, a bit more difficult than it sounds, so there was a bit of a disconnect between the actual brief and some members’ interpretations. Judge John was not so favourably disposed to images in which subjects did not cast some sort of shadow although that was not my interpretation. Additionally, there were some stunning images which may not have met the brief, as John understood it



and therefore did not receive an award but he still gave those images a fair assessment and did so in an engaging and entertaining manner. Thank you John.

There were a large number of open category entries, one of which was awarded photo of the month. That went to Ian Brown for his long clawed otter portrait. It was a pity Ian wasn't able to attend because John was fulsome in his praise of the image.



Photo of the Month
Long clawed otter by Ian Brown

Ian described the image as “The image was taken during a visit...to Mogo Zoo. We needed to be very patient as they move very quickly and do not pose easily. The low light and fast action required a high ISO of 5600 to get a shutter speed of 1/1000 @5.6. It was shot on my Nikon D500 with an 80-400mm lens at 160mm.”

Ian has gained a well deserved reputation for fine animal and bird photography and this is yet another example.

February Workshop: Lighting and using reflectors (at UoW Campus)

You may recall that we had hoped to have a Cambewarra winery visit in February but for practical reasons (specifically, the vines are under netting) that was not possible at this time of year. With a bit of luck we hope this can be rectified later in the year following bud burst when there will be berries on the vine and before the nets go on. Stay tuned.

March Assessment: Something involving a mobile phone

A mobile phone must be in the equation somehow. It may be used to capture the image, it could be the subject of the image or it may be used provide illumination of a subject with the glow from its screen, its flash or its torchlight capabilities.

A point to remember is that mobile phone sensors are very small and the pixel density is usually only 72 ppi which is great for viewing digitally but, despite all the hype from phone manufacturers you may not get an image suitable for enlarging to print, especially if you have to crop, because cropping will throw away some of your pixels.

Example: If you want to print an agreeably sharp A4 sized image (about 12x8 inches in the old money) to be viewed from say arm's length or closer (as the judge and audience will view it) you will need a minimum of 240 and preferably 300 dots per inch from your printer. This means the 12 inch dimension of the print will need a minimum of 2880 and preferably 3600 pixels translated into ink dots and the shorter 8 inch dimension will need a minimum of 1920 and preferably 2400 pixels. Any less will make your image look soft.

Check-out the pixel size of your image before printing and divide by 300. That will give you a ball-park figure for how large you can print it

and finally...

The World Needs Witnesses:

<https://vimeo.com/501695705>

until next time