



## Shoalhaven Photographic Club Inc.

### Blah Blah Newsletter

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## This newsletter will be very short!!

### Corona Virus:

So much for welcoming in the new year. As if the fires and floods weren't enough of a challenge! The corona virus pandemic is on another scale and every person worldwide will be affected somehow. Naturally, SPC has to abide by directives from authorities the same as everyone else, and to this end all club activities are cancelled until a review at the beginning of May, bringing us in line with other photo clubs and clubs in general. Of course this could be wildly optimistic as we still have no idea how the pandemic is going to play out - we may have to postpone activities for an even longer period.

## Assessment Night: Close Up (Not Macro)

I was not present at the last assessment night and cannot comment of the judging process, but what I can say is that I like Matt Kaarma's Photo of the month and People's choice winner: a close-up collection of a jar of paintbrushes. The image ticks all the boxes of the set subject criteria, showing us a part rather than the whole and leaving no doubt as to what the subject is: paintbrushes. Depth of field is well handled. The brushes themselves are shown in nice sharp detail while the desktop and wall behind are pleasantly out of focus. It helps that those surfaces are relatively





**Photograph of the Month and People's Choice Winner**

**Untitled (perhaps "Brushwork") by Matt Kaarma**

featureless and free of distracting highlights, shadows or bold contrasting colours. Matt's point of view, angling slightly downwards, highlight the bristles' various shapes, sizes and colours. It is as if the painter

him/herself were thinking carefully about which brush to select next. Matt's choice of cropping strengthens that point of view and keeps our eyes on the bristles themselves. I like that the very front brush, immediately right-of-centreline, is reflected in the larger brush behind it by the natural light coming in from a window on the right. Congratulations Matt.

## **When was the last time you backed up?:**

Here's a cautionary tale and an admission from me that I stuffed up. On this holiday I broke my golden rule on backing up. That is to always back up, every night, no excuse, before deleting the originals from my SD cards in the camera.

You know what I'm going to say next already. I didn't and when my backpack and laptop were stolen from the foyer of our hotel in Mexico City I not only lost the hardware but every image I had taken up to that point. One week of travelling around the back blocks of Louisiana with its amazing swamp cypress forests, a family wedding and a visit to Frida Kahlo's house "Casa Azul" in Mexico City.

Ironically, I had a very special image of Frida Kahlo's painting brushes which I was planning on submitting at an assessment night sometime in the future. All gone. The one saving grace was that I had my camera and passport over my shoulder so it you'd have been worse. Moral of the story (apart from not taking your eyes off your luggage):

**Backup! Backup! Backup!**

## **Free Photography Tutorials**

Thanks to Philomena, I am including a link to over 1100 free photography tutorials, courtesy of the professional Photographers Association of America. Something to keep you occupied in the weeks and months to come. It takes you to a page where you can sign up for a free account and go from there. Quite safe and legitimate.

<https://www.dpreview.com/news/9935972902/ppa-offering-free-access-1100-classes-amidst-covid-19-quarantines>