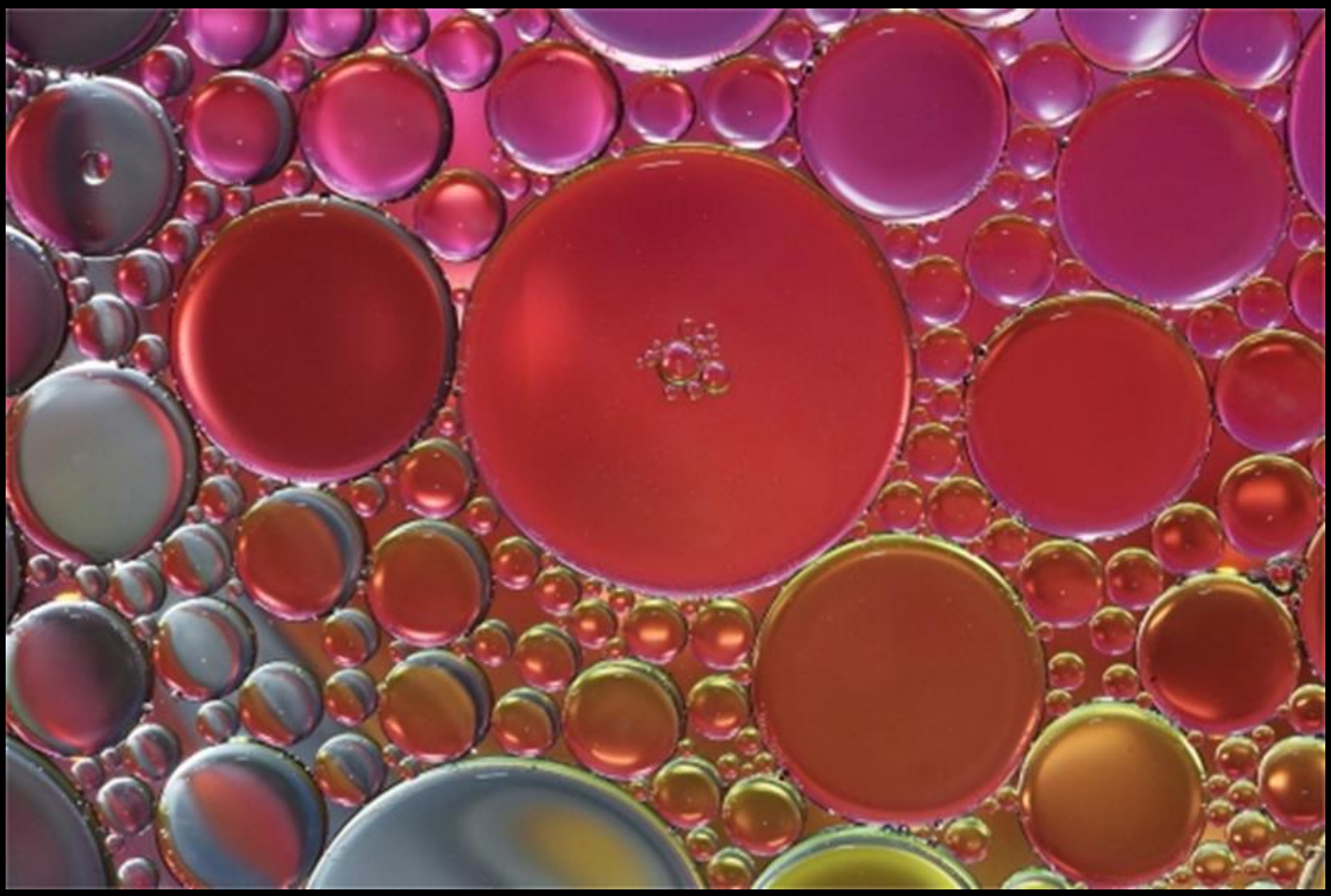
Maroondah MPS Photographic Society

CAPTURE

your passion with
Maroondah Photographic Society



One of many **by Sheryle Griffiths**

June 2021 Issue No 204

WELCOME TO THE LATEST *CAPTURE*

This month's edition features:

- ✓ **Upcoming club events.**
- ✓ **Monthly comp winners.**
- ✓ **Interclub report - VAPS Interclub.**
- ✓ **Committee update.**
- ✓ **Member attendance survey results & proposed actions.**
- ✓ **Outings report - foray to photograph fungi.**
- ✓ **Discussion Groups.**

Many thanks to all contributors and helpers: Ross Taylor, Neil Roberts, Gerry Silk, Joy Rollason, Judy Mullan, and Sheryle Griffiths. If you have any comments or suggestions about this newsletter, please email Mark Smith at editor@mpsociety.org.au. All feedback is welcome! For past editions please click here.

Upcoming club events

25 June	**B & W Discussion Group meeting.**
7 July	**Judging set task Montage and open subject B & W.** Submission of open task and open subject B & W.
9 July	**B & W Discussion Group meeting.**
12 July	**MPS Committee meeting**
21 July	**Annual General Meeting. Workshop - Action.**
23 July	**B & W Discussion Group meeting.**
28 July	**Knox monochrome inter-club competition.**
4 August	**Judging open task and open subject B&W.** Submission of set task *Animals/All creatures great and small* and open subject B & W. (Note prints submissions close 5 August).

See Events Calendar for more.

APS Meet Up

Linda McCartney UK/USA

BALLARAT INTERNATIONAL FOTO BIENNALE

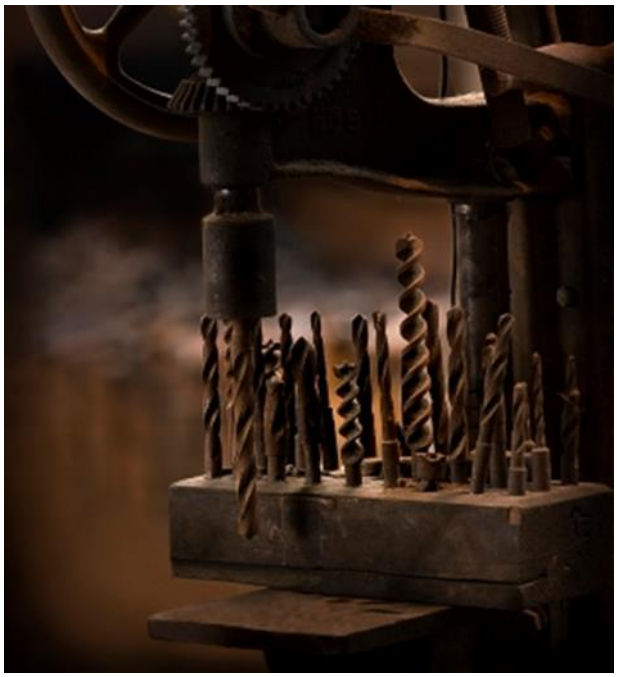
28 Aug – 24 Oct 2021

Monthly comp winners!

The June competition was an open task for EDI and B & W sections. It attracted a wide range of images covering many and varied subjects. A total of 71 images were submitted. **Congratulations to all the winners!**

June B & W EDI B-grade
Kinderdijk windmills by Mon Gan

June B & W EDI A-grade
Stormy weather by Elaine van Dyk



June open task EDI B-grade
Blacksmith 5 by Ian Semmens

Monthly comp winners!...

June open task EDI A-grade
Drone maggie by Ron Berger

June open task print A-grade
When sparks fly by Vanessa Bluett

June B & W print A-grade
Huffing and puffing by Geoff Lewis

Interclub comp report

2021 VAPS Interclub Competition

The aim of the VAPS Interclub Competition is to encourage and improve photography throughout Victoria and to facilitate the comparison of standards between clubs and members. In the spirit of competition, each club is encouraged to select entries from across their range of members. The Virtual VAPS convention was held Sunday 6 June showcasing the interclub results and provided four interesting speakers.

Forty-eight clubs competed this year. While the MPS EDI entries did not make it onto the awards list, the Club came equal 8th in the Top Ten Aggregate Scores. Congratulations to all members who entered images into the competition.

MPS faired better in the audio visual sections thanks to Barend van den Hoek's entries. Well done Barend for winning 1st place in the Open Audio Visual for *Giving and taking photos,* and a merit for Open Audio Visual for *Moving pictures*.

Committee update — Meeting held 7 June

- ⇒ The membership currently stands at 62
- ⇒ The results of the member survey have been collated and actions proposed (see following pages).
- ⇒ The structure of the Committee will change slightly at the next AGM on 21 July with the addition of an Interclub Competition Steward. However the total number will remain at nine, comprising four executive positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) and five general committee members. Role descriptions have been written for the four executive roles, Competition Steward and Interclub Competition Steward. These will be made available to any member interested in any of these roles.
- ⇒ A great flyer to advertise the club has been developed by Ron Berger and Joy Rollason. It will be printed and circulated at community events, such as community markets, in community houses and on shop notice boards.

Goodbye and good luck to Barend and Yvonne

The ever-popular Barend van den Hoek, having re-located to the Yarra Valley recently, has decided to explore other avenues after 12 years of continuous, devoted service to MPS. Barend served on Committee for three terms and took on the role of Vice-President in 2018, our 60th anniversary year.

His great work with the audio-visual nights and his willingness to mentor less experienced members will always endear Barend to those of us who have had the good fortune to have known him. Barend has kindly offered to continue to assist with the audio visual nights whenever required.

Yvonne Menegol has indicated that she will be taking a break from MPS, having been an active member for over 15 years. Yvonne also served on Committee for five terms including two as competition steward. Whilst she might not be around to enter the competitions, we are hopeful that we might have Yvonne join us for the occasional outing.

Good luck and best wishes to Barend and Yvonne from all your friends at MPS.

Member attendance survey results & proposed actions

The results of the member attendance survey from June 2021 have been tallied and analyzed by the Committee. We had a good response from members with some constructive feedback, comments, and suggestions. This is a detailed report of those responses and proposed actions by the Committee to address those concerns and suggestions. Please see the end of this article for the actions proposed to be taken by the Committee.

In short, the Committee will:

1. Start meetings earlier and continue to improve the experience for Zoom participants.
2. Encourage social interaction before and after meetings.
3. Implement procedures to make new members and visitors more welcome.
4. Increase our efforts to secure the best available judges and speakers.
5. Improve the promotion of the Club through traditional and social media to attract new members
6. Continue to provide outings and photo walk opportunities.

We would like to thank everybody who took the time to contribute to the survey. It is your feedback that will help continue the success of the Maroondah Photographic Society.

Response numbers

Number surveys sent out.	57
Number of responses.	44
Regular attendees.	22
Agreeable to attending meetings via Zoom.	30
NOT agreeable to attending via Zoom.	10
Unsure.	4

Main reasons for not attending physical meetings

Still uneasy about attending due to COVID -19.	(5)
Low motivation post-COVID - 19	(4)
Other meetings clash with main club nights	(1)
Doesn't like going out at night.	(3)
Far more comfortable tuning in from home.	(2)

Too far away from home.	(5)
Meetings start too late and go too long.	(5)
Clashes with other commitments.	(9)
Topics not relevant.	(4)
Don't get much out of judging nights.	(2)
Lost interest in club generally	(1)

Summary of comments and suggestions

- Requests for improvement to the social experience including better food and social activities (e.g. door prizes, raffles) at meetings, and bi-monthly photo walks.
- Calls for changes to content and delivery of meetings such as more relevant and informative topics with knowledgeable speakers, and more hands-on, tutorial workshops. Meetings could start earlier and be shorter.
- The value of interest groups (e.g. discussion groups) was debated. Some people support them and others believe they compete for members' interest and reduce attendance at the main club nights.
- Requests to improve the standard of judging (e.g. choice of judge) and the format of the judging nights.
- General acknowledgement of the role of a Zoom facility at meetings, however many preferred the interaction and overall experience of physical meetings. Some people suggested ways to improve the delivery of Zoom.
- Better ways to promote the club and attract new members including advertising and use of social media. Proposals to retain members included welcoming newcomers and checking that they have an ongoing positive experience. Absent members should be contacted to enquire about their non-attendance.

Committee response and proposed actions

1. **Meetings to start at 7:45pm** with upcoming events & announcements to be displayed. Judge/ presenter to be ready to commence no later than 8:00 pm. **Effective from meeting on Wednesday 16 June.**
2. Occasionally, the club will provide **pizza and nibbles** from 6:30pm to encourage social interaction. Nights to be advised. Suppers will be improved.
3. MPS understands the need to provide members with the best available judges and presenters and, whilst being financially responsible, recognizes that we may have to consider paying fees in excess of the VAPS recommendations. Our next two presenters, **Dean Cooper and Craig Dingle, both well regarded professional photographers,** will be speaking at the 16 June and 21 July workshops respectively. Later in the year, when we host the 31st Eastern Interclub, we have managed to secure the services of **a top judge**, whose name, as required by the competition, will be announced later.
4. We had scheduled a Treasure Hunt culminating with a scrumptious lunch recently, which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the current lock-down. This will be rescheduled as soon as restrictions are lifted. This addresses the suggestion of having **photo walks** which will be considered from time to time. Additionally, MPS has a very active outings working group and, despite the pandemic, has still managed to schedule in some great outings (check out our website).
5. Members may not be aware but **we frequently contact members** whom we haven't seen for a while to check on the reasons, to see if we can assist in any way, or generally enquire after them.
6. **All committee** members have been asked to **make new members and visitors welcome,** to engage them in conversation and not leave them unattended. MPS has a reputation amongst its peers of being a friendly club and we want to continue that way.

7. We are almost ready to produce a **new promotional flyer** for distribution throughout the local area to community groups, schools, camera stores, libraries, supermarkets, and other public places. We also propose having **Community Service Announcements (CSAs) read out over the local radio station**, as we used to several years ago. This could be supplemented with on-air interviews promoting the club and upcoming events.
8. The Committee, in conjunction with the Newsletter Editorial working group, are addressing a more equitable way of providing members with up-to-date information and news. It is expected that **social media** will play a major role in all of that.
9. Our technical people are constantly working on improvements to our hybrid meetings and in particular, some audio challenges which have arisen. Committee understands that over-talking can cause inconvenience to Zoom participants and **will recommend that all, except the host and the speaker, are muted.**

Outings Report - Foray to photograph fungi

Members had a productive outing photographing fungi at Badger Weir on 23 May. We met at the Badger Weir picnic area which is in the Yarra Ranges National Park near Healesville. It is an ideal site to find and photograph fungi in winter as it is surrounded by a wet rainforest that is easily accessible by graded walking tracks.

People brought all sorts of gear, including macro lenses, tripods and extra lighting, to get down low and dirty with the myriad of subjects on offer. We ended with a picnic lunch to enjoy the bush, share our experiences of the morning and generally catch up with good friends.

Please enjoy some of the images from the day. And for more go to the website page.

Gerry Silk

Mark Smith

Roger Frost

Peter Oppenheim

Vivien Osborne

Helen Loucas

Discussion Groups

Black and White Discussion Group (Ross Taylor)

The Group continues to meet every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.

Our next meeting is at Heathmont Uniting Church for a **'hands on' session** taking images using a single light source. Contact Ross if you want to join the group. All members are welcome.

Next meeting:

Date: Friday 25 June, Heathmont Uniting Church

Time: 7.30 pm

Contact: Ross on roscoe55@optusnet.com.au

Street Photography Discussion Group (Mark Smith)

On 25 May five of us had an enjoyable outing to shoot around Brunswick street, Fitzroy (see our images here) followed by lunch in the sun. Thanks to Ann Stephens for organising.

The group also met via Zoom on 6 June. We watched and discussed videos about tips and tricks, and mistakes in street photography. We shared our recent images, before and after post-processing.

Next meeting:

Date: Sunday 4 July

Time: 7.00 pm

Contact: Mark on smithmarkmem@gmail.com

Please join the group and obtain the link to the Zoom meeting. All members welcome.

Discussions with Griff is back

Do you remember that when we were all locked down over COVID-19 last year there was a discussion group held via Zoom every Saturday? It was run by Sheryle Griffiths and called *Discussions with Griff*.

It was only supposed to run for a couple of weeks but due to popular demand continued on for 15 weeks. While it was very informal, we focused on the elements of composition to stimulate our creative juices. There are approximately 15 elements, including line, shape, rule of odds, balance and psychology of colour. We explored an element each week and people brought along images to match the topic.

Well, *Discussions with Griff* is back! While we will start with elements of composition again, there will be a chance to cover other topics, like evoking emotion. There is no pressure to provide a 'winning image' at these sessions. The aim is to stimulate discussion and gain insight into these topics. All questions will be welcomed, no matter how small.

When: Saturday 7 August at 2.00-3.00 pm and run each Saturday for about five weeks.

Contact: Sherlye Griffiths on sheryleg@gmail.com for Zoom link.

Other Newsletters

Australian Photographic Society (APS)

APS releases a monthly newsletter to keep members up to date with the latest APS news, exhibitions, competitions, magazines, etc. The latest edition can be downloaded through https://www.a-p-s.org.au/index.php/downloads/e-news/.

Victorian Association of Photographic Societies (VAPS)

VAPS releases a monthly newsletter called *Newsbrief*, which keeps camera clubs up to date on all matters concerning affiliated photographic clubs. Click here to read the latest editions.

Our mission is to contribute to the health and vibrancy of the Maroondah community by providing an outlet for the people of Maroondah to enhance and develop their photographic skills, and to participate in the advancement of photography as both an art and a science. MPS fosters a culture of inclusivity and embraces individual uniqueness in all its forms.

Our aims are to

- ✓ encourage meeting of members and to facilitate the exchange of ideas for the mutual improvement of our photography and allied processes
- ✓ encourage the advancement of photography as an art and a science
- ✓ hold exhibitions, conduct competitions and award trophies
- ✓ arrange photographic and social functions