

Technology Park, Redfern - Night Mystery Tour - August 2016 – Greg Ford (S.A.P.S.)

Shire Amateur Photographers' Society

'Our aim is not to compete against each other – rather, to learn from each other'

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Shire Amateur Photographers' Society (SAPS)

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CAMPING WEEKEND AWAY ...

Fri 16, Sat 17, Sun 18th September

This is the first camping weekend the Society has had, and hopefully we will have more in the future. You can come down (via Nowra) for the three days (2 nights), or leave Sydney early Saturday morning, and join us for morning tea, before we head out to enjoy the bushland and rivers, staying just Saturday night. If you go Friday, arriving mid-morning Friday and stay Fri & Sat night will cost you \$44 per adult for the weekend.

Where are we going ... a 52 hectare property on the upper Shoalhaven River called Coolendel. Don't worry, it has hot showers, and flushing toilets, but not a lot else. Hey, it's a back-to-nature camping weekend.

Set in a tranquil bush setting, it is bounded on three sides by the upper Shoalhaven River, about 20km below the Tallowa Dam. This part of the river is above the tidal influence, and spills over a rocky riverbed as it heads down towards the ocean.

You can pick your camping spot between the trees, on grassy pasture, and use one of the many fire places to cook then keep warm. The property has a kiosk for basics including milk, bread & ice.

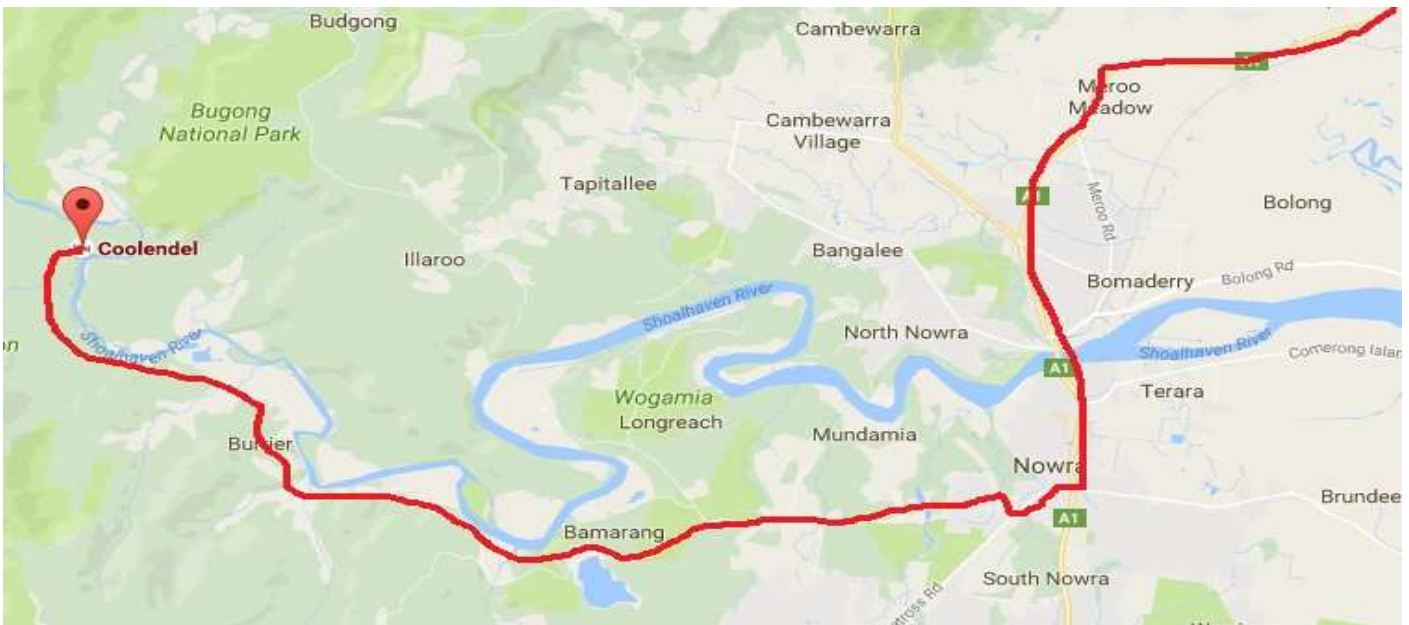
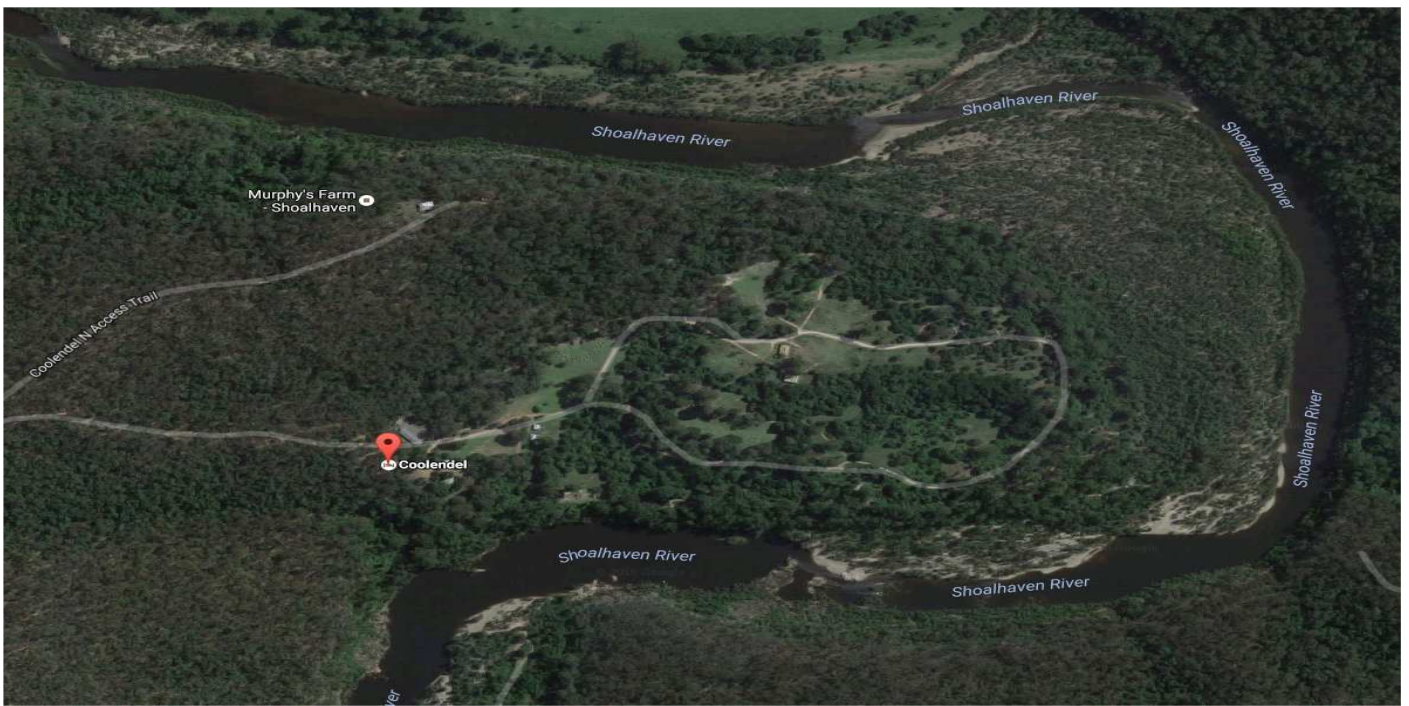
The road in has some minor potholes towards the end, but still suitable for caravans if you wish. There are many bush walks nearby, wandering along some of the river valleys in the area. Some old gold mining relics can be found scattered along ancient creek beds as well.

Sorry, no phone, powered sites or internet coverage but contact can be made through the office on (02) 4421 4586 if required. There are plenty of kangaroos and wombats in the area.

[Coolendel - camping on the Shoalhaven River NSW surround...](http://www.coolendel.com.au/)

www.coolendel.com.au/

Coolendel has bush camping sites, cabins, bunkhouse and canoeing and is located on the Shoalhaven River near Nowra in NSW Australia.



Getting to Coolendel

Coolendel is located in the Shoalhaven on the NSW South Coast. Our bush paradise is about 3 hours' drive from Sydney and 30kms west of Nowra.

Travelling south on the Princess Highway:

- pass Bomaderry and cross the bridge over the Shoalhaven River
- at the fifth set of traffic lights, turn right into Kalander Street, Nowra
- take the second exit from the roundabout into Albatross Road
- travel 500 metres then turn right into Yalwal Road
- continue along the road following signs for Coolendel.

Travelling north on the Princess Highway:

- when you arrive at Nowra's first set of traffic lights, turn left into Kalander Street
- take the second exit from the roundabout into Albatross Road
- travel 500 metres then turn right into Yalwal Road
- continue along the road following signs for Coolendel.

There is about 11kms of unsurfaced road on the way to Coolendel. It is well maintained so any type of vehicle will get you there. As for the dust - it's all part of your camping adventure!

I NEED people who are interested in going, or have questions, to give me a call 0415 412 244 as soon as you can, so I can see how many are interested in going. Will be car-pooling, so let me know if you are driving, or needing a lift ...

Cooking stew over an open fire under the starry southern skies, then melt marshmallows and dark chocolate, over a beer or hot chocolate ... WOW cannot wait. Oh, we need to bring our own firewood ... No big deal ...

C'mon ... A chance to get smoke in your eyes and get away from the city for a reality check ... Give me a call to express your interest ... 0415 412 244,

Greg

Check out the website: www.coolendel.com.au

STOP PRESS ...

NEXT OUTING – Sunday (25th September) ‘NEW DATE’

My flu is still holding on so I've decided to postpone this outing to 25th September, sorry ...

5 years ago, the Society went on one of the most beautiful walks that you can do around our harbour foreshore. The walk ... 'Manly to the Spit'. A 10 km walk that takes in Fairlight, Balgowlah Heights, Sydney Harbour National Park, Grotto Point Lighthouse, before heading along Middle Harbour to the Spit via Clontarf.

It is a walk that you must enjoy when the weather allows you to appreciate what a beautiful harbour we have in Sydney, so if the weather does not look special, it will be postponed to Sunday 2nd October.

DATE: Sunday 25th September

OUTING: Manly to The Spit Harbour Walk

TIME: 7.40am at Jannali Station for the 7.54am train into the city (2nd carriage from front if getting on at another station). Then ferry to Manly, walk the foreshore to The Spit, then bus into Wynyard, before catching the train home.

BRING: Lunch, snacks & water – No shops en route.

Please check for CANCELLATION email or on Facebook, from 6.15am in case outing is affected by bad weather etc. You can always check by giving me a call (0415 412 244).

A Photographers Thoughts ...

Settling into my new cameras now, after moving from full frame Canon DSLR's to Fuji mirrorless. Actually, after the initial freaking out, it has inspired me, resulting in new motivation and kick-starting my photographic passion.

One important decision I made recently, was to ask Sandy Degrassi if she would like to help me finish creating a new course that has been on the drawing boards for a year or more now. The course ... 'Understanding Light & Composition'.

Together with a lot of people in the Society, I have always admired the creative, artistic flare that Sandy brings to her photography, creating interesting, exciting compositions.

I was so happy when he agreed to help me finish setting the new course, and in doing so, enlightening me to look at the surroundings differently ... 'Thinking outside MY square'. Our City offers so much, when you are motivated to go and look for it, so this is where we have been, setting the six Workshop Course around the subjects, lighting and compositional elements that await at every turn.

Thank you Sandy for your input and insight, in helping me put this Light & Composition Course together, Greg

CAMERA Setting Workshop Mornings

Some of you might already know that I have been running 2h Camera Workshops for a while now.

These Workshops are for 4 people, for 2h on Saturday or Sunday morning, and are held at my home/office in Bonnet Bay. The cost is \$30ea (when 4 in the class).

The idea is for you to bring along a list of questions you have about anything to do with your photography, especially what settings you use and when, or how do I take certain subjects, or problems you have with getting the settings right for certain types of subjects. Basically a Q & A for 2h to answer your questions and frustrations ...

I run these when I have 3 or 4 people that want to do the Workshop, so if interested, send me an email, or give me a call to be added to the list.

I have a space in one of these Workshops this coming Sunday (11th September) if you interested ...



NEW Composition Course starts 4th Term, 2016

Over twelve months in the making, my next photographic course is due to start in the second week in October, 2016.

'Understanding Light & Composition'

'You have a subject that motivates you to want to take its photo'

'You have good photographic gear and generally know how to use it'

'But when you take the image – something often seems to be missing ... ?

Well, it's probably, an understanding of how to capture GOOD Light & Composition ... !

I have always thought that good photographic images are made up of three important components ...

25% - Having the right gear, and knowing how to use it

25% - Enhancement

50% - COMPOSITION

But these three very important components don't express the key element ... The one thing that without it, you cannot even create an image ... **LIGHT!**

I have found, the more images I take, and the more experienced I've become, the more I have realised that understanding light & composition is more important than any other factor, technical or otherwise ...

It's been a journey ...

We have got through the learning curve of understanding the camera, the settings, what to use when.

We have upgraded our gear, become an enthusiast, and have a passion for photography, but sometimes we find that we lose our motivation same ... same ... Why?

We can take nice photos, then enhance them to be impressive images, but at the end of the day, is this enough ... or are we wishing we could be perhaps be more artistic, or more creative, or tell more of a story, with the images.

Let's face it ... the technical part of photography is just the tool, to be used in conjunction with an understanding of light & composition. Using D of F, you can become lazy sometimes, by allowing yourself to avoid the need to look at some parts of the image, because you have made them unsharp. When everything in the frame is in focus, you cannot be lazy ... Early photographers did not have lenses that blurred parts of the frame, so they needed to have everything in its place – Good Composition ... and ... being B&W as well, did not have colour to distract or draw your attention, so they needed to appreciate light and how to use it. Both of these elements we tend to overlook ...

The frustration for a lot of us, is that, well, some people just seem to have a knack of being creative, and artistically minded ... It seems to come easy for them, but this does not mean that we can't learn to recognise opportunities when they appear, then use those opportunities combined with a better knowledge of light & composition, to BECOME more creative, and better photographers ...

Over the past 12 months or so, I have changed the way I think about my photography – I feel I had the 'Bull by the Horns' ... I was looking for interesting subjects to photograph, more than the light that was falling on them. I now tend to look for good light, and find subject within that lighting opportunity ...

The more you understand light & composition and the elements associated with them, the more you appreciate how much impact it can make to refining your images from nice photos to creative, story-telling images ...

So my aim with this course is to teach you to seek out the light, then compose the subjects that you find in that light.

The duration of this course is 30 hours, focusing on its SIX, three hour City Workshops (4 daylight, 2 twilight to dark).

Note: This course is unlike my other two courses. It does not follow on one Workshop after another. If you miss a Workshop then you won't miss an important element that affects the next Workshop. You will still be able to make up, up to 2 missed workshops, in another Term.

The course starts off with the **Introduction Night Class (#1)** discussing the important elements associated with Light & Composition. Introducing you to the diverse number of factors associated with Composition, and the realisation of how many things that can influence your images. We then look at an overview of images taken at the first three Workshop locations, discussing the possibilities associated with simplicity, cropping, light and composition.

At each Workshop, you will work in a different group of four. When we meet at Jannali Station, the groups for the Workshop will be allocated. A brief for the Workshop, a map, and compositional notes for that Workshop will be handed out, so that each group can discuss the Workshop on the way in on the train.

It is intended that during the Workshop, your group will discuss opportunities, subjects, camera settings, and ideas, and develop a broader appreciation of the surrounding environment - To collectively think outside the square ...

With the morning Workshops, we will be meeting at Jannali Station at 7.20am, on a Saturday or Sunday morning (*weather permitting*). Twilight/Night Workshops times will be allocated subject to time of year.

We start our City Workshops by first visiting the **'Botanic Gardens' (#2)**, followed a week or so later - **'The Rocks Perimeter' (#3)**.

Our third of the first group of Workshops will be a Twilight/Night Workshop at **'China Town and Darling Harbour' (#4)**, starting at Central, and finishing at Town Hall.

The next time we meet is a **Class Review Night (#5)** looking at images taken at the first three Workshops. You will be asked to hand in your images using 'WeTransfer', a week before the lesson, so that they can be added to the presentation.

The review night will look at and discuss the images taken (anonymously) looking at the way the light has been used and captured, and how compositional elements have been used in the images submitted.

At this stage of our photographic journey, we need constructive feedback to make us aware of what we get right, and what we need to work on. Feedback from others in the course is encouraged. We will also look at other images that have been taken at the same Workshops previously, to get a better overview of opportunities that existed.

From here we do our next three City workshops, again meeting at Jannali Station at 7.20am, on a Saturday or Sunday morning (*weather permitting*), for a further two morning Workshops. Groups will be allocated as before.

Our fourth Workshop will again visit **'The Rocks – Centre' (#6)**, but this time the Central area of the Rocks looking at different locations, lighting and therefore compositions. At this Workshop, there will be a limitation though. You will need to shoot wide angle, and an aperture of f11, with the intention of capturing EVERYTHING in focus. This is a Workshop to make you aware of composition and to eliminate distractions when shooting wide ...

The 5th Workshop will be **'Hyde Park & Surrounds' (#7)**, and then finally **'The Rocks Night Workshop' (#8)** where we will visit the Rocks at Twilight/Night, capturing the historic mystical light on the century past buildings and features. Images will be handed in again by 'WeTransfer', and we will have the second **'Class Review Night' (#9)** reviewing the images from the final 3 workshops as before.

The last night of the course is **'Enhancement & Cropping' (#10)**. What opportunities did we miss with our submissions from all six Workshops? We will also discuss camera settings, lenses used and the outcomes they produced.

We will also look at one other Task required to shoot during the three Rocks Workshops. That Task is to ONLY capture OLD in your images - No modern elements in the images. The images must be handed in as B&W or sepia, representing images of years past.

Well, that's it ... A way of motivating your photography into the future.

Our City is a magical place to create images - the parklands, the modern, and the historical Rocks prescient.

The cost of the 6 City Workshops, 4 Lesson **'Understanding Light & Composition Course'** is \$350 Course will kick off in Forth term, 2016, starting 2nd Week in October. 4 courses will run each year.

Interested – Give Greg a ring (0415 412 244) or email to: gphoto@optusnet.com.au to get an enrolment number, and I look forward to continuing our photographic journey together,

Greg.



TASK to Photograph in September

Daylight Zoom Blur (submit up to 5 images)

- Task is to create images where part of the subject is blurred by zooming the lens while taking a slow exposure
- Pick a brightly coloured subject with central focal point, simple, uniform background. Contrast (light & dark helps)
- Tripod also helps to illuminate jittery images
- Slow shutter speed allows you to start zooming **THEN** depress the shutter **WHILE** zooming
- Shutter speeds of around 4 (¼ sec) seem to give the best results, but experiment
- How to get shutter speeds slow enough – Easiest is to set values on manual exposure mode (select 4 (1/4 sec), ISO at 100, then adjust aperture (larger number e.g. f22) to reduce light to give a correct exposure. If still overexposing, use polariser or ND filter to reduce light if required.
- Alternative, use 'Shutter Priority' and dial up 4 (1/4 sec) shutter speed. Use 100 ISO (camera will adjust aperture for correct exposure. Use polariser or ND filter if still overexposing
- Ensure that when you zoom the lens, the subject remains in the centre of the lens for the best effect
- Zoom in on your subject before starting. You can focus on subject then, and then turn off AF (to M). Remember when you change you subject, turn your focus back to AF
- You don't try to zoom the lens from one extreme to the other. A partial zoom works best ...
- You can also use Radial blur in Photoshop to create the effect if you wish. Search 'Using Radial Blur in Photoshop'

Send your images through to me be WeTransfer, before 4th October, so we can look at them at the October meeting. Not sure about sending by WeTransfer – Give me a ring – it's easy ...

NEXT MEETING – Society Meeting 6th October



Upcoming Society Activities

SEPTEMBER 2016

16, 17, 18 Coolendel Camping Weekend (Fri, Sat, Sun)
Sun 25th Manly to the Spit Walk

OCTOBER 2016

Sun 2nd Wet Alt. (Manly to the Spit Walk)
Thur 6th Society Meeting - Club on East (SUS Club) 1st floor, 7pm



Bedlam Park, Gladesville – Day Mystery Tour - August 2016 – Greg Ford (S.A.P.S.)

Participating in our Society

- *Membership (2016)* \$20 (*Calendar year*)
- *Meeting attendance* \$ 5 (*Visitors may attend 2 meetings before membership is required*)
- *Night Mystery Tours* \$25 (*Members only – Insurance Requirement*)
- *Day Mystery Tours* \$35 (*Members only – Insurance Requirement*)
- *Trips Away: (Members only – Insurance Requirement). Active members take precedence, but family and friends can go on waiting list, so that if additional numbers are required (closer to departure), they are welcome to fill the gaps. Note: All people going on Trips Away must be full members of the Society.*
- *Unofficial Outings/Activities: These events are not formally run by the Society. They are activities that some of the Society members, friends, and families may join in together as private activities. These events may be promoted though on the SAPS Facebook site for anybody interested.*
- *Anybody going on a Mystery Tour or Trip Away from 1/4/2016, will need to sign a Risk Warning, Release and Waiver form that will remain ongoing as long as you participate in Society activities. I had a Lawyer draw up this legal document to safeguard myself from possible legal action, thank you.*

www.sutherlandshirephotography.com.au

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supported by ...



See Tony or Patrick for all your photographic requirements – Bottom level, Shop 1098, Westfield Miranda (9589 5700)