

Shire Amateur Photographers' Society

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

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S.A.P.S. (Shire Amateur Photographers' Society)

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/saps/pool/>



Shire Amateur Photographers' Society (SAPS)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/shireAmateur/>

BLACKBOARD of Outings & Events

<https://www.sutherlandshirephotography.com.au/blackboard/>

Newsletter No. 182 (14/10/17)

Hi everybody,

Is it really October ... feels like April ... how time flies ...

. Society Year Book Launch will be at the 2nd November meeting, where you can pick up your ordered copy, and may I thank Sophie, Ally, Barbara & Graham, for their timeless effort in producing this magnificent publication, the fourth in the Series. I would also like to congratulate those that submitted images – You have produced some amazing imagery, and thank you for supporting the project.

. It's all go at the moment ... New 'Understanding Digital Photography' and 'Light & Composition' Courses started this week, and next week, Lightroom 3 ½ h (1 off) lessons start back up again ...

. 'Sculpture by the Sea' kicks off with sculpture on display from 19th October, running through to 5th November. The Society is going as an outing on Saturday morning 28th October – Details later in the Newsletter (car pooling available from Jannali High School).

. I cannot believe how many people in the Society have been globe-trotting lately (or at the moment) – 18 to my knowledge ...

. I have been on a bench-marking exercise recently, taking more than 2000 images, and making close comparisons, and I tell you, it has been a very worthwhile exercise, but so time consuming and laborious.

NEW Society BLACKBOARD's



&



As discussed in the last Newsletter, the Society 'Blackboard' & 'Blackboard SMS ALERTS' is the new way to promote either Society activities (outing, trips away etc), as well as 'Spur-of-the-Moment' member invites to other members, to join them for a photo opportunity. Third party events coming up are also listed, that might be of photographic interest to you.

Note that Society planned Outings & Trips Away will still be promoted at meetings, and in this Newsletter.

Here is the link anytime you want to check what's coming up:

<https://www.sutherlandshirephotography.com.au/blackboard/>

Remember, short notice (member photo opportunities) will only be advertised via the Society 'Blackboard SMS Alerts'.

I have already added a lot of names to the SMS distribution list, from those that have shown interest, thank you ...

Now it's up-to-you ...

If you decide that you're going out to do some photography in the next day or two, and you want some company,

1. Send me an SMS to 0415 412 244 with details: *When - Where - Meeting place and Time*
2. I will forward that information to the people on 'Blackboard SMS Alerts' distribution list
3. Your SMS mobile number, will be used as the contact number for people interested in going
4. They can then ring or message you to find out more details, and arrange to go.

If you would like to be added to the 'Blackboard SMS Alerts' distribution list, message or email me, and I will add your name to the list ...

It's about motivation, and a chance to share your photography with others ...

NEW Steering Committee for the Society is established ...

The planning group of Sophie, Ralph, Ally & myself have met again, fine tuning the new operational framework of our Photographic Society, to move forward. We approached 14 people to be on the Steering Committee, and were happy that they all wanted to participate. This was not an easy job, with so many dedicated Society Members that could have easily filled these positions. Actually the short list swelled to 36, but we had to be realistic.

Here is a list of the people who will be steering your Photographic Society into the future, and may I say a big thank you to them for their support and eagerness to participate.

- . Ally Bennett
- . Barbara Danielli
- . Barbara Grocott
- . David Reeks
- . Eddy Baker
- . George Mavros
- . Graham Grocott
- . Greg Ford
- . Ken Griffiths
- . Nicole Low
- . Phil Grainger
- . Ralph Dutneall
- . Sandy Degrassi
- . Sophie Brown
- . Warrick Ford

There are a lot of you that know these people, so if you have ideas or suggestions, please let them know your thoughts, so they can bring it up at a Steering Committee Meeting, or simply add your ideas to the suggestion box at Society Meetings – Anonymously is fine ...

I will be organising and chairing these meetings, but there are no office bearers as such. It's meant to be a representative group of the Society that can discuss ideas, and steer the direction the Society into the future. The idea was to have enough people that, if say four were away, there will still enough present to discuss and decide on appropriate outcomes.

Any other Society Members are more than welcome to attend these meetings, and there will be notice given when steering committee meetings are on.

This steering Committee will meet every 3 months to discuss the past 3 month's activities, as well as plan the next 3 months.

The core philosophy of the Society should never change, and this will be discussed, and set at the first Steering Committee Meeting at the 'Club on East' on Thursday the 16th November, at 7pm.

TASK for SEPTEMBER

'Bokeh Circles'

Take (up to 5 images) of blurred (bokeh) highlights.

As you can see in the examples, when you take 'out-of-focus', bright contrasty highlights or lights, the result is circles of diffused light (called Bokeh).

Bokeh is defined in Wikipedia as the aesthetic quality of the blur produced in the out-of-focus parts of an image. Also pronounced 'boʊkə/ BOH-kə' Japanese: [boke]



Send them to me at gphoto@optusnet.com.au via 'WeTransfer' before Monday night (30th October) so that they can be included in the meeting.

NEXT Society Outing **'Sculpture by the Sea'**

SATURDAY 28th October

Meeting at Jannali High School at **4.15am** (car-pooling)

or

Meeting at Marks Park, Bondi at **5.15am**

If you message me a day or two before, to tell me you are interested in going, I will message you, if I decide to cancel due to the weather (there is no other cancellation notification option available)

If it needs to be cancelled then it will be rescheduled to Tuesday 31st October (same times – same place)

The Day: Arrive at Marks Park just before dawn. Access sculptures at Marks Park then start taking silhouette images as the morning sunrise back-lights the sculptures. After sunrise, walk along coastal walk to Bondi Icebergs capturing the sculptures dotted along this walk, then return past Marks Park continuing along the coastal walk to Tamarama Beach, before grabbing a coffee, then heading home around 9am (*before the crowds descend on the area*).

or

Car-pooling from Jannali High School is worthwhile as there is limited parking at Bondi. Arrive at Jannali at 4.15am because we must leave **at 4.30am sharp!** Suggestion is if you get a lift, pay the driver \$5 towards their fuel ...

PLEASE NOTE: Group Photo will be taken at main Sculpture at the point at Marks Park at 6.15am - Please join in the photo, thank you ...



Even practice on a sunset (just before the last light in the sky disappears). If you are having problems or questions, please give me a call (0415 412 244) to discuss. It is better to do this BEFORE going to Sculpture by the Sea as there is only a 20 minute window for the best light. Check the 'How to Shoot' details below ...

Sculpture gives us a unique opportunity to photograph something different – a once a year opportunity to shoot subjects that are removed for good, only weeks after being erected.

Back dropped by the sea, these Sculptures (*with a bit of luck*), will be back lit with a pallet of striking vibrant colour, as sunrise approaches.

Each year this display attracts thousands of people, to see these sculptures, set in a beautiful, natural environment, between Bondi (Icebergs) and Tamara Beach.

For most of the people that venture to the coast to view this experience, will be spoilt by the parking problems, crowds, and the difficulty of getting a clear view of the sculptures (through the masses), not including the difficulty in trying to get uncluttered photos.

This is why, for this outing, (*our earliest start of the year*), we get there EARLY. Not to just avoid the crowds, but to get a close park & capture the coloured pre-dawn sky.

Note: The light starts to fill the sky from 5.20am, so don't miss your best photo opportunities, for 10 min extra sleep.

The idea is to photograph the Sculptures back lit by the pre-sunrise light. Once the sun breaks the horizon, it's time to recompose the shots of the Sculptures, so you're shooting **away** from the brightness of the sun.

PLEASE NOTE AGAIN: Group Photo will be taken at main Sculpture at the point at Marks Park at 6.15am - Please join in the photo, thank you ...

'How to Shoot' Sunrises with Backlit Subjects

- **IMAGE QUALITY** – As with all your photography these days, don't compromise quality by using a lower quality (resolution) file size, or high compression, just to get extra images on a memory card. Those with post processing experience will benefit greatly by shooting RAW.
- **TRIPOD** – A necessity with the low light conditions like we will experience early in this shoot. As the light fills the sky, be aware of the shutter speed increasing. It will very quickly reach a hand-held shutter speed, where the tripod will not be required.
Note – Figure 8 your camera strap while holding it above your camera (that is FIRMLY attached to your tripod). Drop the strap over the camera, then let it drop further onto the legs of the tripod. This prevents the camera from falling onto the ground if the quick release fails.
NEVER assume that your tripod will support your camera in all weather conditions (wind), or different surfaces (uneven), especially if you are using a light weight tripod. In windy conditions, hold the strap lightly, when the camera is on tripod, to avoid wind blowing over your tripod. Another alternative is to set up your tripod with the legs only half extended (lower centre of gravity) or if your tripod legs can be set wider, this will stabilize the tripod. If there is wind, and the strap is blowing in the wind, it will slap against the tripod and camera, creating movement in the shot. Some tripods have a hook on the centre stem that allow you to attach your camera bag or other weight to stabilize it.
- **IMAGE STABILISER** - Always remember that, if you have a stabilized lens, turn OFF the stabilizer, when using a tripod. If you don't, it will CREATE blur ... !
(not a good look, especially if you got up at 3am to get it)
- **ISO** - When using a tripod, use the lowest ISO setting on your camera. This will result in better saturation of colour, and less noisy images.
Note (exposure): *If your camera requires longer than 30" (30 seconds) of exposure, it will show you by the 30" blinking on your screen.*
Note (blinking): *If something is blinking (aperture setting or shutter speed) the camera is telling you that it cannot take what it thinks is the correct exposure, and it is going to overexpose or underexpose the shot.*
Note (noise): *Noise is the small dots of various colours (RGB) that degrade the quality of the image, mainly due to high ISO settings or underexposure.*
Noisy pixels are produced when the pixel cannot accurately determine the light available, therefore the exposure – basically, it gets it wrong.

- **METERING** - With landscape shots, use the default metering setting – Evaluative/Matrix metering. You want whole image to be metered evenly, so this is the best option.
- **MODE** – Generally, aperture priority (Av) A is the best option. Saying this, some of the Nikon users, will prefer Shutter priority (Tv) S
 - . For now, let's look at Av as a majority of people will select this option because of its success rate.
 - . Because you are trying not only to get the sculpture, but also the coloured sky background, an aperture setting of f5.6 should be adequate, when your about 8m (30') from the sculpture, and using a focal length (*on your zoom*) of around 35mm. This obviously depends on the size of the sculpture.
 - Note:** *Remember, the more you zoom in, the less 'Depth of Field' (focus) of the background, when shooting from close distance.*
 - . For those with more experienced, M (manual) mode has the most flexibility and opportunity to create.
- **LENS CHOICE** – It's all up to you. Think about the subjects we are going to be shooting, and the effect you will be trying to capture.
 - Note** – *You're on the coast! A little bit of on-shore wind – a little bit of sea spray – some airborne dust and sand – recipe for getting dust or spray on the sensor if you decide to change lenses. So perhaps choose well in the first place, and use a versatile lens with a good zoom range.*
 - Note** – *Airborne sea spray can easily get on you filter or front element of the lens, blurring your images, and making the lens hard to focus. Check this periodically, and take reading glasses cleaner and a cloth, if it needs to be cleaned. Just wiping it with a hanky or tissue will only create a nice blur and smudge – it won't clean it!*
 - Note** – *Something interesting to keep in mind! Super zooms (eg. 18 -270 Tamron) not only draw air in through the barrels as they expand (while zooming in), but also they draw air into the lens (so it can expand) past the back element of the lens (the part of the lens that fixes it to the camera. What this then does is actually draws air in from the door of both the battery compartment & the memory card compartment, past the sensor, and into the lens. If you don't keep these areas clean from dust, then the dust in these areas will find its way onto the sensor or inside the lens (permanently)!*
 - Conclusion:** *Zoom in on subjects, when using super-zooms slowly, to avoid drawing extra dust into the camera or the lens, from these areas!*
- **FOCUS** - Make sure you get focus on the sculpture or you will end up with a blurred sculpture (foreground), and a sharp sky.
 - . To get that focus, get your centre focus point on an edge of the sculpture (*where the sky meets the sculpture*). When focus is attained, switch the AF/M switch on the lens, to M (manual), then recompose the shot, and take it. An alternative in low light conditions, is to light the subject with a torch. Again, when focus is attained, switch the AF/M switch on the lens, to M (manual), then recompose the shot, and take it.
 - Note** - *Sometimes, it is still hard to attain focus (obvious when the camera does not seem to want to take a photo when you depress the shutter). If this happens, pick another better lit subject that is a similar distance away, as the subject you want to take. Gain focus on that, then change AF switch on the lens to (M) manual. Recompose back to your actual subject, and take the image.*
 - Note:** *Remember to reset the manual switch of the lens back to auto, to get the focus of the next sculpture.*
- **DRIVE MODE** – Use your timer to avoid camera shake. If you have a 2 second timer option, choose that. Even better, is a electronic shutter release, or corded remote.
- **FLASH** – When not trying to silhouette the sculpture, but light it, and get the colour behind as well, then flash is required. On Av, just push the button on the left of the in-built flash, to pop it up. Make sure that you remove your hood, for flash, or it will cast a shadow on the lower section of your image. Depending on the distance between the camera & the sculpture, it might be necessary to increase the ISO to 400 to increase the sensitivity of the light reaching the sensor. Try this after shooting at 100 ISO first. Also try shooting from a lower perspective, as the flash will light the foreground, creating a distraction, and shooting low will also let you include more sky in the image, especially if there is good colour in it.
- **SILHOUETTE** – After taking a photo, you find that the light recorded on your subject is too bright (not creating a good silhouette), take light away by using exposure compensation and moving the exposure meter towards – (minus)

Alternative - If you have used exposure lock before, it is an invaluable tool when trying to increase the silhouette effect. Just aim the camera to a bright part of the sky (*not the sun*), press the exposure lock button on the camera, then while holding it down, recompose the shot, to include the subject you want to silhouette. Press the shutter ½ way down (*to get correct focus*), then take the shot. The exposure will be set to the bright part of the sky that you metered on previously.

- **EXPOSURE COMPENSATION** – Used to override correct the exposure that the camera suggested, and took. This exposure override function is invaluable, to get a better exposed image out of the camera, rather than in post-production. Take the shot – look at the result either as a Preview on the screen, or on the Histogram, then either add light (+) move slider to the right, or take light away (-) move slider to the left. As a rule of thumb, move the slider 2 clicks in the direction you want. Two clicks equates to 2/3rd's of a stop. Reshoot the shot, composing the image the same way as the first – compare the results.
- **TORCH** – Don't forget to bring a torch to save camera battery, as well as for the low light shots, lighting the sculpture for focus.
- **CLEANING YOUR EQUIPMENT** – After being near the ocean and salt air, there will be some salt residue on your gear. It will feel gritty. When you get home, use a lint free cloth, wet it, then ring it out, and dry it a little more, by placing between 2 towels, and padding it together. Then gently wipe over your camera and lens ensuring NOT to squeeze it into seals or between the barrels. Rinse it and repeat the process.
. Then, slowly move the zoom in and out, transferring the air within the lens, with new air from your home. Additionally, both in these conditions (*after a seascape shoot*), or a shoot where your camera has got a little wet, or has been used in damp conditions, open the inbuilt flash, the memory card door, as well as the battery compartment door, and leave the camera out to breath and dry out.
. Hey, don't decide to avoid a seascape shoot because you want to protect your gear from the salt air. Just be sensible and make sure you clean your gear afterwards.
- **SETTINGS (summarized)**
 - . Image Quality Large / Fine or RAW (always better)
 - . Tripod (figure 8 strap) Necessity (for 1st ½ hour)
 - . Image Stabilizer Off
 - . ISO Low (eg. 100)
 - . Metering Evaluative / Matrix
 - . Mode Av or Manual
 - . Lens Good zoom range (wider gives better D of F)
 - . Drive Mode Timer / Wireless / Corded
 - . Flash No hood (pre sunrise) also increase ISO to 400 to boost
Sensitivity to light (increasing effect of flash on the subject)
 - . Exposure Compensation To override camera settings (correct for next photo)

Hope it helps, and comes in handy for any sunrise or sunset, with a foreground subject, Greg

OVERVIEW of September Society Meeting (5th October)

An interesting 'It's all in the Image' started us off with a lot of member images viewed, showing their photographic journey, using a variety of subjects.

I approached one of our long standing members, Ken Griffiths, who is a master wildlife photographer, and asked him if he would like to help the members with techniques, and technical insight into this type of photography. Ken was more than happy to help, which was great. So, he started his Q&A segment at the 5th September meeting, and it was well received. At future meetings Ken will discuss his images, and help others with theirs. So if you want insight into taking your wildlife photos, and you have some images you would like him to comment on, send them through to me, so I can include them in the presentation. Also think about questions to ask him, at our net meeting. I'm sure this will develop into an interesting segment of our meetings.



Ken Griffiths (SAPS Photographer)

We also looked at images taken at the Society Outing to Karloo Pools (National Park) on the 17th September, with a lot of well composed images that were taken with the use of composition to control the background light, in combination with selecting appropriate apertures, to create pleasing bokeh backgrounds. Congrats to those that submitted images.



Peter Burns (SAPS Photographer)

Our meeting topics can produce debate as well as insight into a variety of Photographic subjects, and in October the Presentation was on 'The Viewing Quality of images', and it was no exception.

. I felt it was necessary to make this information known to Society members, although it was harder to explain than I thought. I hope I do better here.

. The intention was simple, and that was to explain that the magnification percentage when viewing images can make the difference between your images look sharp, or unsharp on the computer screen.

. Some people can feel that their image/s are not sharp, when at a different magnification %, it can actually make your images look much sharper. The puzzling thing is that percentage might actually be more. For example, if your image is filling the screen, and it is 32% (looking unsharp), then you zoom in even more, to 50% or even 100%, and find that it now looks sharper.

. Basically, if you have a viewing program that allows you to select a viewing percentage in the menus, then always ensure that it is set to 25%, 50% or 100% (1:1). These will render your image at it's sharpest, based on the resolution of the screen you're looking at it on.

. In summary, 100% is basically making the image a size that the pixels in the file are matched to the pixels of your screen.

. Cheaper or lower resolution screens show the image bigger (more zoomed in – therefore more pixilated), because there is less pixels in the resolution width of the screen. Let's look at a screen resolution that is only 1366 pixels wide, and at 1:1 (100%) there is only 1366 pixels of the image shown on the full width of that screen. But if you have a 1920 resolution screen width, then at 1:1 (100%) you are seeing 1920 pixels of the image shown on the full width of that screen, so the image presents as more of the image on the screen, therefore sharper.

. This question will keep raising its head, but hopefully this will make it easier. Please feel free to discuss it further with me later.

. At the next meeting, we will be discussing Part #2 – 'Sharpness related to Sweet Spots vs Focus', something necessary to understand, if you would like to produce sharp images. I promise not to drag it out this time,

Greg

Society 'Walks for Life'

Next walks **Sunday, 15th, 21st, 29th October**, 4.30pm at Taren Point.

The walk goes from Taren Point – Over the bridge to Sandringham and return (5km).

Great Society social activity without our cameras ... Why don't you join us ...

Give me a ring for details (0415 412 244)

NEXT Society Meeting - THURSDAY NIGHT (2nd November) 7.15pm

1st floor 'Club on East' (previously Sutherland United Services Club - SUS Club) opp. the car park - western side of Sutherland Station. 7.15pm start on 1st floor. There is also a well-lit car park at the rear of the club. Just drive up to the boom gate, tell them you're there for Photographic meeting, and they will let you in. At reception, tell them you're going to the Photographic meeting & they will sign you in ...

Please arrive around 7pm so that we can start at 7.15pm thank you ...

Bundeena House Society Xmas BBQ

Saturday 2nd December, 2017 (10am - 4pm)

This is a great way to socialise with fellow Society members. Bundeena House is a large, veranda surrounded historic building right on the beach at Bundeena (5 min walk from the Bundeena Ferry). In the last few years we have enjoyed this location for our Xmas BBQ, enjoying the opportunity to sit back and socialise with our friends in the Society. Quite a few people catch the ferry over from Cronulla.

It is a great chance for visitors and new members to come along and get to know other Society people.

Bring your meat, beer or wine if you wish. Plates, cutlery, salad, bread rolls, soft drinks provided. If some want to bring a sweets plate, it would be appreciated.

Barbara and Graham won't be able to run the day this year, as they have a local wedding to photograph, so we are going to be asking for help at the next Society meeting in November. Just a hand buying bread rolls, or cutting up the salads will be really appreciated. A couple of fellas to help with the BBQ would also be appreciated, thank you.



UPCOMING Activities (SAPS)

BLACKBOARD of Outings & Events

<http://sutherlandshirephotography.com.au/blackboard/>

OCTOBER

15 th Sun	4.30pm	Taren Point Social Walk (5km)
21 st Sun	4.30pm	Taren Point Social Walk (5km)
28 th Sat	5.15am	SOCIETY OUTING 'Sculpture by the Sea'
29 th Sun	4.30pm	Taren Point Social Walk (5km)
31 st Tue	5.15am	Wet alternative for 'Sculpture by the Sea'

NOVEMBER

2 nd Thu	7.15pm	SOCIETY MEETING - Club on East (SUS Club) 1st floor
5 th Sun	4.30pm	Taren Point Social Walk (5km)
12 th Sun	8am	SOCIETY OUTING (t.b.a.)
12 th Sun	4.30pm	Taren Point Social Walk (5km)
19 th Sun	4.30pm	Taren Point Social Walk (5km)
26 th Sun	4.30pm	Taren Point Social Walk (5km)
30 th Thu	7.15pm	SOCIETY MEETING (option #1) - Club on East (SUS Club) 1st floor

* Final Meeting date will be confirmed with Club 1 week before, due to hire commitments re Xmas

DECEMBER

2 nd Sat	10-4	SOCIETY XMAS BBQ (Bundeena)
3 rd Sun	4.30pm	Taren Point Social Walk (5km)
7 th Thu	7.15pm	SOCIETY MEETING (option #2) - Club on East (SUS Club) 1st floor

10th Sun 4.30pm Taren Point Social Walk (5km)
17th Sun 8am SOCIETY OUTING (t.b.a.)
17th Sun 4.30pm Taren Point Social Walk (5km)

Xmas break till

JANUARY

21st Sun 8am SOCIETY OUTING (t.b.a.)
21st Sun 4.30pm Taren Point Social Walk (5km)

FEBRUARY

1st Thu 7.15pm SOCIETY MEETING - Club on East (SUS Club) 1st floor

* Walks & Rides start at Woodlands Road, Taren Point (opp. Smith Street).

- Rides go to Wanda along mostly bike track (15km), and the Walks go to Sans Souci (over bridge) 5km

- Message me if you're wanting to come, as early as possible (0415 412 244)

- If I cancel (re weather), I will message you and let you know ...

NEXT MEETING 2nd November, 2017 (7.15pm)

Participating in the 'Shire Amateur Photographers' Society' (SAPS) Activities

- o Membership (remainder of 2017) \$10 (calendar year)
- o Membership (2018) \$30 (calendar year) increasing due to running costs, sorry
- o Meeting attendance \$ 5 (you can attend 2 meetings before joining)
- o Society Outings/Outside Activities – Society must have a Risk Warning, Release and Waiver Form signed
- o 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
- o A Risk Warning, Release and Waiver form must be filled in if participating in a Society activity and will remain ongoing as long as you participate in Society activities.

Participating in 'Sutherland Shire Photography' (SSP) Activities

- o Night & Day Mystery Tours and Trips Away require you to sign a Risk Warning, Release and Waiver Form
- o Trips Away (Society Members only) 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 members of the Society.

www.sutherlandshirephotography.com.au

0415 412 244

gphoto@optusnet.com.au



Thanks to Tony and the staff of Digi Direct (Miranda) for their support of our Photographic Society. For all your photographic requirements, see them – Bottom level, Shop 1098, Westfield Miranda (9589 5700)