

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/>

NEWSLETTER No. 203 (1/11/2018)

STOP PRESS

2 x Society Outings this weekend ...

1st

Saturday morning 3rd November

'Sculpture by the Sea'

(weather forecast is GOOD ...)

Meeting at Jannali High School at **4.15am** (car-pooling) Leave at **4.30am**

or

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

The Day: Arrive at Marks Park just before dawn. Assess 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)*.

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 ...*

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 ...



There is only a 20 minute window for the best light. Check the 'How to Shoot' details below ...

'How to Shoot' Sunrises with Backlit Subjects *(summarized at the end)*

- **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 shore 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

2nd

Sunday morning 4th November

'Barangaroo Fossick'

(weather forecast is uncertain ...)

Going into fossick around the Barangaroo precinct for the morning. Probably head home around mid-day . Meeting at Sutherland Station at 7.45am for 8.05am train *(if you catch this train at another station, we will be in the 2nd carriage).*

Weather looks uncertain at this stage, so give me a ring (0415 412 244) from 6.15am in case I cancel, or look on the Society Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/shireAmateur/>

NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

Wednesday 7th 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. Well-lit car park behind the club. Drive up to the boom gate, tell them you're coming to the Photographic meeting - they will let you in. At reception, tell them you're going to the Photographic meeting upstairs ... *arrive at 7pm for 7.15pm start*

PRESENTATIONS

- . **Ken Griffiths** - Presentation on Royal National Park & photographing wildlife
- . **Ralph Dutneall** (Tech Report) Keeping us up-to-date on the mirrorless marketplace

IMAGES to submit for NOVEMBER Meeting

For 'FALLING' Task please submit 3 images renamed as below, thank you ...

You can send your renamed images by the 'WeTransfer program', till **Monday 5th November** to gfphoto@optusnet.com.au

Images will be shown at a future Society Meeting Presentation.

Rename your TASK files to: **Your name FALLING 2018-10**

UPCOMING TASKS

Tasks ahead of time, to allow them more time to prepare some images.

TASK for: November – 'Fluid'
 December – 'Celebration'

UPCOMING Activities (SAPS)

NOVEMBER

3 rd Sat	OUTING – Sculpture by the Sea (meet Jannali High School – car pooling at 4.15am)
4 th Sun	OUTING – Rescheduled Barangaroo Fossick (meet Sutherland Station at 7.45am)
7 th Wed	7.15pm Rescheduled Society Meeting (Club not available on Thursday 8th)
13 th Tue	<i>Midweek Escape to Kiama to photograph Bombo Quarry and surrounding area</i>
14 th Wed	<i>(Staying at Easts Beach and photographing sunrises & sunsets at Quarry etc)</i>
15 th Thu	“ “ “
18 th Sun	OUTING – Lime Kiln Wetlands and Dairy Creek, Oatley (details next newsletter)

DECEMBER

1 st Sat	Society Xmas BBQ at Bundeena House
6 th Thu	7.15pm SOCIETY MEETING – 1 st Floor ‘Club on East’
9 th Sun	OUTING - t.b.a.



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)

Participating in the ‘Shire Amateur Photographers’ Society’ (SAPS) Activities

- *Membership (2018) \$30 (calendar year)*
- *Meeting attendance \$ 5 (you can attend 2 meetings before joining)*
- *Society Outings/Outside Activities – Society must have a Risk Warning, Release and Waiver Form signed*
- *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*
- *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

- *Night & Day Mystery Tours and Trips Away require you to sign a Risk Warning, Release and Waiver Form*
 - *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.*