

Shire Amateur Photographers' Society

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

Greg Ford 0415 412 244 (9528 3475)

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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/>

Society Task & Outing flickr page Link: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/187501073@N07/albums>

NEW Link to latest Webinar: <https://sutherlandshirephotography.com.au/zoom/meetingq.mp4>

Greg's 'Photographers Thoughts' flickr Link: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/13286489@N07/>

NEWSLETTER No. 241 (05/02/2021)

Hi everybody,



HAPPY NEW YEAR

A bit belated, but let's hope and pray that 2021 brings all the people of this World we live in, happier and safer times, and returns to the normal we know ...

Firstly, sorry for cancelling the last Webinar and Outing for 2020, but things just caught up with me a bit. But hey, a New Year now, with New momentum and ideas, and always so much to share and experience, with our chosen hobby – Photography ...

In saying this, the 'static charge' I seem to have affecting my electronics, has not gone away with the start of 2021, where major hick-ups became a daily event.

1st – My main image H/drive let go, collapsing the partitions (4 years work – 121,000 images)

2nd – No worries, that's why we have backups ... but I was not so lucky. Within 2 days of the first drive going, the second drive collapsed, before I was able to back IT up to a new drive

This left me with a delicate situation, that without the right help, I had the chance of losing ALL my images since 2017

3rd – My Outlook Contacts were removed from my computer, and pushed to the Cloud, losing the designated Contact Groups

4th – With this issue with Outlook, my distribution program for Newsletters (Mailchimp) got a glitch ...

Now for the GOOD - **GREAT** news ...

A friend in the Society has been able to, through a retrieval program, get back 100,000 images (so far) ...

Another good friend in Society had put me onto a tech previously, that is worth his weight in gold, and within an hour, regained my contacts, back onto the computer (my preferred option) and in their original designated groups, and then checking I found that Mailchimp was now behaving its-self, and so was my iPhone contacts.

See, there IS a BIG light at the end of the tunnel ... and in my case, it was NOT a train

Thanks for all those that crossed their fingers, and a BIG THANK you to those in the Society who had the technical ability and eagerness to lend a hand ... appreciated

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP for 2021 is now due ... Membership Form – end of this Newsletter

As we all do over the Holiday season, time to reflect, and new directions to take ...

OUTINGS

- With the continued uncertainty related to COVID-19, there will no pre-scheduling of Outings, although **outings will still be conducted regularly**
- Instead, if I decide to arrange an outing for the upcoming weekend, a message will be sent to all members, usually on a Thursday preceding the outing weekend, to let you know the details
- If you decide that you would like to attend, you MUST message me, then wait for my return message, confirming that you are able to attend
- In the confirmation message, you will also receive maps and further information
- We will continue with the Society COVID-19 Safety Plan as before, and abide with any Health Dept. or Government rules and regulations as they evolve
- We now also have a QR Code, and it is advised that you scan it when we meet for the outing
- If you would like to receive a copy of the Shire Amateur Photographers' Society COVID-19 Safety Plan, please ask Greg (0415 412 244 or gfphoto@optusnet.com.au), and I will arrange a copy
- If prior to the Outing, you find you have been in an area of concern, or are feeling unwell, please stay at home, and get tested
- Our priority is to keep Society Members safe & well, while enjoying our hobby, so remember your Social Distancing, sanitiser, and safe practices as outlined by Health Dept. or Government rules and regulations, as they evolve

SOCIETY Monthly MEETINGS at Club-on-East

- The opportunity to have our monthly Society Meetings at Club-on-East, Sutherland (1st Thursday of the month) are still suspended due to COVID-19 regulations until further notice
- I have contacted the club, and gave them monthly dates for 2021, that we would like to have meetings when they can resume
- The Club will contact me when it is safe for us to come back, then in turn, I will contact you

In the meantime ...

SOCIETY ZOOM Meetings continue ...

Zoom Photography Meetings have resumed, with a lead-in presentation of images (previously seen at Club meetings) starting at 6.45pm, before the Webinar proper kicks off at 7pm (*usually running about 1 hour*).

- Generally these Society Webinar Meetings will run on the 1st & 3rd Friday night of the month, with a reminder message sent to you earlier in the day of the Webinar
- Here are the upcoming dates that you might want to put in your calendar:
 - 5th Feb, 19th Feb, 5th Mar, 19th Mar, 2nd Apr
 - Note: When meetings resume at Club, Zoom Webinar meetings will only run on 3rd Friday of each month
- **NEW – Webinars are now available for viewing (or download) following the meeting (for about 2 weeks). When the next Webinar Meeting is held, that meeting will replace the previous one, when clicking on the same link.**

Eddy's handy-work has given us this opportunity – Thanks again Eddy ...

- The link below, can be used week-to-week, to view or download to latest Webinar

LINK <https://sutherlandshirephotography.com.au/zoom/meeting.mp4>

(Click on the link, then when it is playing, R/click on screen, then select 'Save Video')



- Zoom Meetings will slightly change in format in a couple of weeks, and will be broken into segments prioritising: Member images of Tasks & Outings, Member Portfolios, presentations on Compositional Elements, Camera Settings, Greg's 'Photographers Thoughts', and topics of interest related to photography
- All future Zoom Meetings will adopt this format
- Have not joined us yet, give me a call (0415 412 244) and I will explain how to use the easy-to-use Zoom program, so you can join us, or use the link to view at your leisure ...
- We don't use cameras or mic's, so no setting up of these required to participate
- Just join in, and look and listen to the presentation, showing your fellow Members images

NOTES from Steering Committee Meeting (Thu 28th Jan)

It was great to catch up with the Steering Committee at the Club-on-East a week or so ago. A happy, friendly, enthusiastic, like-minded group of friends, what could make you happier, perusing your hobby

A really productive meeting with plenty discussed including:

Webinar Video Available

One of the key discussions and decisions was to post a link so that Members can look or download the last Webinar for up to 2 weeks after the Webinar is held (details earlier in Newsletter).

My 'Image of the Month'

Another Photo monthly activity was endorsed. That of everybody submitting THEIR favourite Image of the Month. With this image, it can be of any subject, any location, manipulated in any way, just YOUR favourite ... But there's more ... You can accompany the image, with up to 30 words describing your thoughts of the image – What you like about it (the light, the mood, the story it tells) anything you like ... Send image (with editorial if you like) to gphoto@optusnet.com.au by 25th of each month (WeTransfer) Make sure that you let me know that it is for 'Image of the Month' segment.

Photography is Changing ...

We discussed how photography is changing. There are so many people these days, that did not grow up with film or DSLR's as the only options – Make you feel old? Their world is mostly phones, recording their lives & interests. So, what is still the key to good images if they're not looking at settings?

Any photography is the art of photographing light. The composition of the subject AND the light, will always be a critical element to be aware of, no matter what medium we use. This is why presentations and discussions at meetings, will emphasise these elements, that everybody can make use of ...

Survey of Members

It was decided to create a simple survey to allow members an opportunity to let us know what other ideas are out there, or other activities they would like to see included in the Society moving forwards. Look to the next Newsletter for this survey, and your thoughts will be appreciated.

Mid-Week Outings

It was decided to arrange a monthly mid-week outing again, using Covid-19 safeguards – more soon ...

Thanks to those keen Steering Committee Members, for their devotion and input to help moving the Photographic Society forward.



NEXT TASK – 'Looking UP'

'WeTransfer' up to 5 images of each of the following Task to gphoto@optusnet.com.au by **Wednesday night, 17th February** and they will be included when Tasks are reviewed.

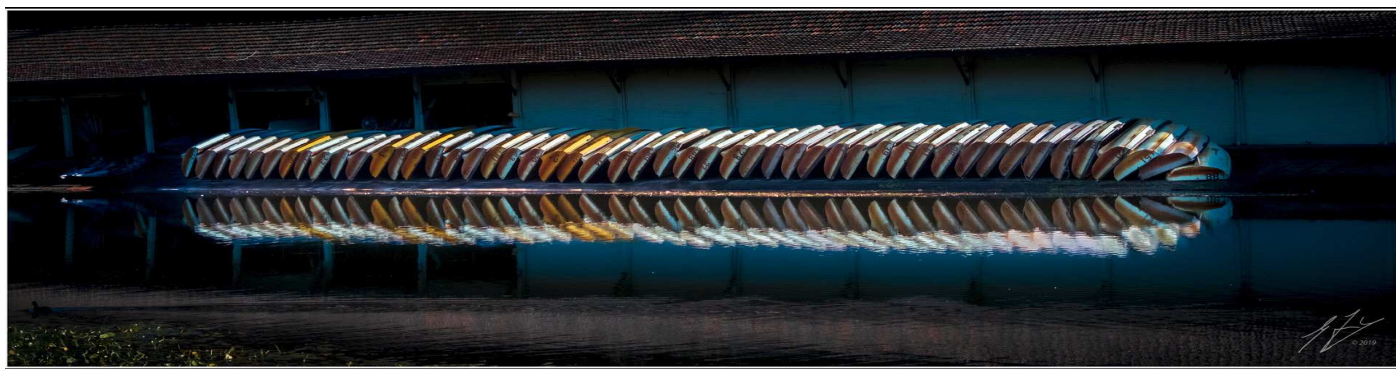




ALSO – Still collecting images of Boatshed at Audley

Check your archives and send me up to 10 images so we can look back in time ...

Send to gphoto@optusnet.com.au by **Wednesday night, 17th February**



Other Upcoming TASKS for 2021

Here is a few more Tasks to look forward to in 2021 ...

1. Clashing Colours
2. Guess What!
3. Double Exposure

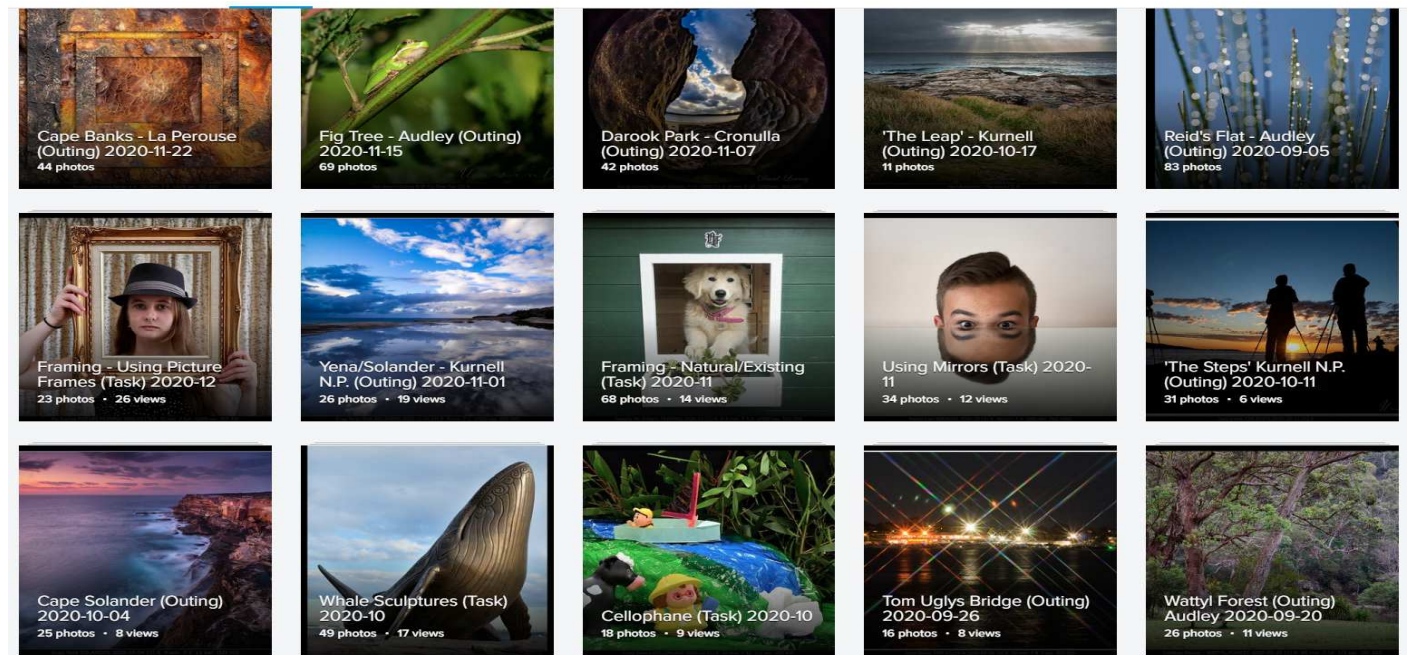


SOCIETY Task & Outing Images Albums updated ...

I have updated your submitted images in Tasks & Outings Society Flickr Albums page, so that they can be viewed by anybody wanting to see what we have been up to, and be motivated by your images.

The site shows Albums for each Task or Outing we conduct. By clicking on an Album, you can view all the images that were submitted. If you want to view an image more closely, click on it to view full screen, including the exif camera settings data on the bottom (*when available*).

The link to view these Society Albums is: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/187501073@N07/albums>



Why We Shouldn't View Our Hobby of Photography as a Competition

EXERT FROM ARTICLE IN PETAPIXEL JAN 25, 2021 AUTHOR: JOEY J.

It's undeniable that life is often seen as a kind of race or competition, but I absolutely despise this idea.

Hobbies Let You Live a Different Life

That's where hobbies come to the rescue. Hobbies are supposed to be an escape from the reality of everyday life. No matter how hard or even miserable your real life is, hobbies let you live a different life. A hobby is supposed to be a sacred pastime with no winners or losers. It should be just you and a hobby for the sheer joy of it.

Hobby of Photography Isn't a Competition

That said, I won't let the disappointment get to me, because I know my hobby of photography isn't a competition. Photography is all about what makes me happy.

To me, one of the most blissful things in life is shooting waterfront cityscapes in solitude at blue hour on a clear day. I love nothing more than seeing the warm sunset sky turning into beautiful blue hour and capturing cityscapes with a few minutes of long exposure.

Marina Bay (Singapore) at dusk with 194 seconds exposure. Whenever I slow down and take waterfront cityscapes with long exposure, I'm really happy and "in the moment".

At the end of the day, if there is any element of competition in photography, it's the one against ourselves. We should be competing with the yesteryear version of ourselves to improve and take better photos. And we will know when we have improved. We don't need to count the number of "likes" in order to validate our own growth as photographers.

Social Media Has Drastically Changed the Way We Share Our Photos

Before the Internet and social media came along, photography was more of a private hobby than it is today. I saw my father taking photos with a Pentax film camera, getting the film developed and printed, putting photos in a photo album, showing it to family and close friends, and it didn't go anywhere beyond that.

Today, photos can easily go beyond our close circle thanks to the power of social media. In fact, social media has drastically changed the way we share our photos and also connected people that would have never met or even known about each other.

“Likes” Creating an Unnecessary Hierarchy

All these sound good, but on the flip side, the gratification element of social media (e.g. who gets more “Likes”) has inevitably created an unnecessary hierarchy among participants. Some of them become very popular, Insta-famous, influencers, etc. while others are left unnoticed, just like in real life.

Looking back at history, it's said that “Likes” were first introduced in 2005 by Vimeo, but Facebook's adoption of it in 2009 made the feature become one of the most powerful online tools. Since then, it's been implemented seemingly everywhere on the Web.

Whether like it or not, “Like” button is one of the most powerful online tools ever created.

About the author: *Joey J. is a photography enthusiast, avid traveller, and casual web designer/developer based in Singapore. The opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author. You can find more of Joey's work on his [website](#) and [Tumblr](#).*

ON-LINE PHOTOGRAPHY COURSES & CLASSES (Starting mid February)

I had plenty of disruptions during the latter half of 2020, besides COVID-19, but in 2021, I will be picking up where I left off, and more ...

I will be starting NEW courses and classes in mid - February, and am looking forward to keen people interested in photography, to join me to continue their photographic journey.

Courses & Classes on offer:

ADVANCED Photography Course

If you already have a good understanding of photography, and just want to fine-tune you're skills in a personalised Advanced Course, this course might be for you (small classes).

PHOTOGRAPHY 101 Course

You might be a keen amateur frustrated by the number of menu options that cameras give you these days, and want to learn the basics, well, to be able to create images, not just take happy snaps.

This course will help you to understand the importance of the basics, and how to use them (small classes).

LIGHTROOM Course (Develop Module)

We start from scratch, downloading images, enhancing, through to how to export & store your images. I explain all the functions that are available including using sliders, brushes, menus, and other tools. This course will fast-track your ability to process your images correctly, and in doing so, allow you to understand what changes may be necessary when capturing the image in camera, to improve the end results (settings & techniques).

Maybe your family or friends might be interested in these courses? Over the page is a little bit more about each course, or you can click the links to get all the details.

Interested ... why not give me a call to discuss your interest (0415 412 244) Greg



My upcoming Photography Courses for 2021

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Course #1 | Online Photography Course 101 |
| Course #2 | Online Advanced Photography Course |
| Course #3 | Online LIGHTROOM (Develop Module) |

Course #1

Online Photography Course 101

- 1st lesson is FREE, so that you can decide if the course is for you
- Ring me (0415 412 244) to book in for FREE lesson
- After this FREE lesson, if you decide to continue, you pay then
- Maximum of 8 students in a Course
- Classes are 'Real-Time', where you are interacting with me, asking questions, and getting feed-back

What you will learn ...

- To understand photography has only 3 key settings to get right - Shutter speed, Aperture and ISO
- To understand how important Light and Composition are to good photography
- To control the camera, by keeping it simple
- To get off Auto, allowing you to start creating great images, not just take happy snaps ...
- To become a better photographer, by learning to think as a photographer
- To appreciate how 'Lightroom' enhancement program can further improve your images
- To understand the 11 basics of photography, and with that knowledge, you WILL take better photos
- Between classes you can ring me if you have any questions

Using Online Zoom Program

- Online Course uses the Zoom program and is a free download, and is simple to use
- The way it works is that you view MY screen on your computer
- I will send you easy-to-follow Zoom instructions to download the program, and sign up
- I can run a test webinar for you, so you can practice joining-in a few day before course starts
- Lessons are recorded (audio/video) so if you miss a lesson, I can send it to you to catch-up

For full details click on this link to find out when courses run, expanded course content, costs etc

<http://sutherlandshirephotography.com.au/online-photography-course-101-2020/>

Course #2

Online Advanced Photography Course

- Up to 6 students in a Course

What you will learn ...

- The course is structured around what YOU want to learn, to go to the next level
- You fill out a Questionnaire that shows me the Theory and Practical elements of photography you already know, and what you would like to see included in your course
- The course is then structured around those elements

Using Online Zoom Program

- Online Course uses the Zoom program and is a free download, and is simple to use
- The way it works is that you view my screen on your computer
- Classes are 'Real-Time', where you are interacting with me, asking questions, and getting feed-back
- Online Course offers comfort of your own home (no travelling)
- Between classes you can ring me if you have any questions
- Lessons are recorded (audio/video) so if you miss a lesson, I can send it to you to catch-up

For full details of THIS course click on link to find out when courses run, expanded course content, costs etc

<http://sutherlandshirephotography.com.au/online-photography-course-advanced-2020/>

Course #3

Online LIGHTROOM (Develop Module)

- Only 5 people in Course
- Course split into two classes of 2½ hours
- 1st lesson we go through the functionality of the Develop Module interface
- We start from scratch, downloading images, enhancing, right through to how to export
- I explain all the functions that are available including using sliders, brushes, menus, and other tools
- The workflow of using the functions is a key to the results you will achieve
- There is a week between the two lessons, allowing you time to practice, and compile questions
- 2nd lesson - Answer questions, finish theory, process some of YOUR images to see the difference
- Additional lessons can be arranged depending on students interest

For full details of THIS course click on link to find out when courses run, expanded course content, costs etc

<http://sutherlandshirephotography.com.au/online-adobe-lightroom-course/>

Photography is my job, my hobby and my passion, and sharing my photographic knowledge gives me tremendous satisfaction. I do this through my Courses, my Photographic Society, Flickr and Facebook.

Why should you do MY course?

- SMALL class size (2 – 8 students – depending on which course)
- Experienced Professional Photographer with 25 years' experience
- Experienced Photography Teacher, running Photography Courses for 15 years, and teaching over 2,800 students in the Shire and beyond
- My Philosophy – 'I teach for Outcomes - not just participation' so you WILL learn ...
- My courses WILL make you a better Photographer ...

For further information check out my website links, or give me a ring to discuss what YOU want to achieve ...

If you would like to view some of my photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/13286489@N07/>

Greg Ford

(0415 412 244)

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

Shire Amateur Photographers' Society

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|---|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <i>Joined</i> | 2021 Membership Form | | | | \$30 |
| <i>Office use ...</i> | <i>Mailchimp</i> | <i>pages</i> | <i>email</i> | <i>name tag</i> | |
| Name | | | | | |
| Address | | | | | |
| Email | | | | | |
| Contact No's | <i>Mobile</i> | | | | |
| | <i>Home</i> | | | | |
| Camera/s | <i>Make/s</i> | | | | |
| | <i>Model/s</i> | | | | |
| | <i>Lenses</i> | | | | |
| Enter NO if you would prefer NOT to get SMS messages about Society Activities | | | | | |
| Social Media I USE | <i>Facebook</i> | <i>Flickr</i> | <i>Other ...</i> | | |
| How did you find out about Society | | | | | |
| What computer do you use? (Mac or PC) | | | | | |
| What program do you use to enhance your photos? | | | | | |

Please fill out this form and email back to: gfphoto@optusnet.com.au

Bank details for \$30 membership (2021 calendar year)

- Bank: St. George Bank
- Account Name: G.R. & J.L. Pty Ltd
- Account Number: 043579198
- BSB: 112-879
- Amount: \$30
- Reference: your surname or last 3 digits of mobile number
- Message me to let me know you have made membership payment, thank you

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Office Use</i> | <i>Earlier</i> | <i>2019</i> | <i>2020</i> | <i>2021</i> | <i>2022</i> | <i>2023</i> | <i>2024</i> | <i>2025</i> | <i>2026</i> | <i>2027</i> | <i>2028</i> |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|



Payment details are on the bottom of the form. Please send me message or email confirming your payment, thank you ...

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