

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'

Shire Amateur Photographers' Society (SAPS)



Society)

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

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

NEWSLETTER No 281 (04/02/2026)

Hi everybody,

Better late than never with this newsletter, sorry about that ...

What a hectic couple of weeks we have had recently, looking after our 19 month old grandson in Brisbane, while our daughter and son-in-law, went on a holiday to Singapore.

Everybody has a routine, and many of us need that routine to function, but changing your routine to a 19 month's old, can certainly have some drawbacks, but in saying that, we would not have missed the bonding time for quids.

Was nice though, to keep him back at the end of 10 days ...

Plenty on the agenda for 2026, including, an additional segment to our monthly meetings to further understand our phones, and what they are capable of doing with our photography.

Well, let's kick off the year with our first outing to the rocks on Sunday the 14th of February with a theme, of Chasing the light. Catching the 7.49 train from Sutherland.

There will be plenty of trips away planned, both short and longer, starting with a camping trip away to the mid-South Coast.

We will head off on Monday 16th Feb, returning on Friday 20th. We will start off at Burrill Lake, then fossick along the coastline including Tabourie and Crampton Island, Termeil Point, Merino and Bawley Head, and Kiola, Merry, Pretty and Pebbly beaches, and more, finishing just before Batemans Bay. We will be camping, but other opportunities for accommodation will be available. We will stay at 2 locations during the trip, and radiate out from there ... Discussion at Society Meeting Thursday night ...

Send me a message (or ring) to show your interest (Greg – 0415 412 244)

TASK for February *'Comparing the difference'*

To combine with our new segment on Mobile Phones at our monthly meetings at Tradies, the Task for February is one that we set out to compare the differences in taking the subject with your dedicated camera, and then with your phone, and sending me both images to compare. Contrast comparisons are particularly of interest (to see the difference between bright & dark in a scene).

Use the X1 lens on your phone, and for equivalent focal length composition, 18mm on a crop sensor, and 28mm on a full-frame.

Send me up to 5 sets of 2 images – 1 from camera, and 1 from phone. The exif info will tell me which one is which.

Send to gphoto@optusnet.com.au by Tues 3rd March, to be shown at the 5th March meeting, thank you ...

Photography has changed for many ...

Photography is changing not only for newcomers to the hobby, but also for the purists like most of us that have grown up moving from black and white to colour film and digital DSLRs to mirrorless.

Two things stand out, that is changing the way we capture and manipulate our photographic records of events, holidays, celebrations and the interests.

1. Firstly, is the phone technology producing more and more unbelievable results from such a small package. How do those little lenses capture what we see, so well, and how can the exposure in so many cases have a better outcome than our dedicated cameras. Hey if you want to pixel peep phone images, they still have a long way to go, but they are catching up so fast, that it's only a matter of time, before they will be our preferred option.
2. Secondly, the Ai revolution is advancing so quickly that there is barely time to learn features of programs before they are superseded.

It is for this reason that in the new year with the support of members of the Society, we will have a dedicated section at meetings devoted to learning the opportunities that phones now give us on a day-to-day basis.

It's an approach that I'm sure, will be appreciated by all, and with it comes a renewed motivation for our hobby ...

2026 Membership

Our Membership has been gradually declining since the COVID period, due to a number of issues, mainly due to demographic of the membership, the advent of phone technology, our interests changing as we get older, ill health, having those holidays that we have promised ourselves for so long, just getting out at night, and the younger generations having other life interests, where their phones are adequate for their photographic interests (re social media).

For the Photographic Society to continue, we have needed to change its direction, introducing more socially minded activities like our Coffee Chat groups, our Walking group on Sunday afternoons at Wonorora, Tag along trips away (in 2025 – Man from Snowy River Festival, Corryong, Vic and our Trip to the Snowy Mountains - Thredbo recently).

It is therefore important to keep up Social activities and interesting topics incl. phone technology.

I hope you will continue with our Photographic Society membership for 2026 by filling out the Membership Form below, and emailing it to me at gphoto@optusnet.com.au, or by bringing it to the next meeting.

Many members have mentioned is there another way of paying for meeting attendance ...

With the cashless society now really taking hold, I am therefore introducing a membership option that might suit some of you.

It incorporates the yearly membership (\$35), and the \$5 meeting attendance for the 10 meeting for the year. This will have a discounted cost of \$70 (~~\$85~~)

Please select the appropriate membership you require on the Membership Form, thank you.

Community Announcements:

RESET & RISE RETREAT, 24-31 July 2026

Find out more:

<https://sophieb.com.au/italy-retreat-2026/>

DEMENTIA AUSTRALIA - ADVOCATE

Feel free to reach out anytime.

Resources:

Dementia Australia:

1800 100 500

<https://www.dementia.org.au/>

Sutherland Shire Council - Dementia resources

<https://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/living-here/community-support/seniors/dementia>

Come to our 1st meeting for 2026 on Thursday night, to start learning more about our phones and our photography ...

2026 Membership Form (over page) ...

Fill out before you come to meeting to make it easier ...

2026 Membership

Name					
SELECT OPTION	\$35 (Membership)	\$70 (Membership & all 2026 Meeting attendances)		cash	EFT
Suburb					
Email					
Mobile					
Office use ...	Joined	Mailchimp			Name tag

NOTE: NEW Bank deposit details ... Don't use old details

Bank: Westpac
 Account Name: Gregory Ford
 Account Num: 611205
 BSB: 732 -112
 Reference: your surname or last 3 digits of mobile number
 Amount: **\$35 p.p. (Membership)** **\$70 p.p. (Membership & Meeting Attendances)**

Please fill out this form and email back to gfphoto@optusnet.com.au then message me to let me know you have made payment. I will message you confirming receipt of payment, thank you

SAPS Membership & Meeting Attendance

Membership (2026) \$35 (calendar year)
Club Meeting attendance \$5 (per meeting) 10 x meetings year

Outings and Trips Away

The Photographic Society does NOT run its own activities like trips away or outings.
 Instead, when I (Greg Ford) decide to go on my own photographic trip away or outing, I offer an open invitation to any 'Shire Amateur Photographers' Society' member to join me if you're interested.
 You join me accepting that you are doing so at your own responsibility, and risk.