



Wynnum Whispers

The official newsletter of Wynnum Bayside Camera Club

February 2010

www.wbcc.net.au

Welcome

Welcome to the March edition of Wynnum Whispers.

The last month has been a busy one for me and as such, I haven't made the last couple of club nights. I trust that everyone has keeping themselves busy and finding a way to enjoy the wet weather we have been experiencing!

On a club note, it was a case of so near, but so far as WBCC just failed to win the River city prints competition for the third successive year. Congratulations to all those that entered prints and had success, not only from Wynnum Bayside, but from all participating clubs.

A reminder to all club members, that a club outing has been organised for the night of 27th March to try your hand at light painting in an abandoned rail yard. There will be some fantastic photo opportunities available, and those planning on attending are asked to let either Joyce or Steve know, or to send an email to Tim (Email in the information section opposite) before the night to ensure no one is left behind!

Until next month, Happy shooting!

In this issue

In the March issue Ben Brouard and Jim Buck are under the member's spotlight and we take an in depth look at keeping it simple in order to create better images.

Committee

President:	Tim Winnington
Vice President:	Bruce Dahlenburg
Secretary:	Richard Eggesfield
Treasurer:	Doug Miller
Comps Director:	Greg Langridge / Geoff & Marie Baisden
Pracs Director:	Ben Brouard
Equipment officer:	Narelle Robinson
Outings:	Joyce Metassa / Steve Shadbolt
Displays:	Monique Castree
Editor:	Anthony Tancredi
Website:	Trinh Huynh

Meetings

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at
QPC House
18 Coolcrest St (Cnr West Ave)
Wynnum

Postal address

PO Box 137
Wynnum, QLD, 4178

Information

Tim Winnington:	tim_amy@tpg.com.au
Bruce Dahlenburg:	brucedah@gmail.com
Doug Miller:	doug@therivercity.com

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Set subjects for 2010

At the time of writing firm definitions for each of this year's set subjects were still being finalised. Club members will be made aware of these definitions as soon as possible.

<u>April</u>	Abandoned
<u>May</u>	Around the house
<u>June</u>	Machinery
<u>July</u>	Painted with light
<u>August</u>	Red
<u>September</u>	Underneath
<u>October</u>	Flowers
<u>November</u>	Best of

Around the town

Redcliffe festival of sails

2nd April, 9am - 4pm. Marine parade, Redcliffe.

This colourful, seaside carnival runs in conjunction with the annual Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race and has over a hundred specialty market and gourmet food stalls dotted along Suttons Beach. Entertainment includes live music, roving entertainers, an Easter pantomime, a parachuting Easter Bunny, Easter egg hunt on the beach, large sand sculpture and sand-sculpting workshops with world famous Sandman, Dennis Massoud plus the building of a huge sand labyrinth. More information at

<http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/discover.aspx?id=30899&terms=festival+sails>

The annual Rathdowney heritage festival

4th April, Rathdowney.

The day will feature wood-chopping, tent-pegging, working sheep dogs and demonstrations of whip cracking, blacksmithing, wheelwrighting, steam engines, leather work (whip making and plaiting), washing and ironing the old way, working horse gear (cutting hay into chaff), shelling and cracking corn, butter churning,

paper making, spinning, weaving and tatting. More information at

<http://www.rathdowney.org.au/content/view/7/28/>

2010 Heritage Toowoomba royal show **15th – 17th April. Toowoomba showgrounds**

For all the information about the upcoming Toowoomba royal show, visit

<http://www.rasq.com.au/show.htm>

Rock and Roll: an exhibition of Music Photography by Stephen Booth. Brisbane Powerhouse 2nd March – 5th April

Since the mid 1990s, Stephen has been a fixture at literally hundreds of live shows, capturing the excitement and energy through his lens. All up, he's taken more than 30,000 images and, throughout March 2010, his favourite 50 will be on display at Brisbane Powerhouse as part of a unique exhibition simply called "Rock and Roll".

Then and Now - Eight South African Photographers presented by Paul Weinberg. Brisbane powerhouse. 8th April – 3rd May

This exhibition presents works by eight important South African photographers who were active in the struggle against Apartheid and contrasts their work during the Apartheid era with their work in the new democracy.

A collection spanning fifty years to the present that offers powerful insights into the complex fabric of South African society today.

WBCC Member spotlight

Name: Ben Brouard

WBCC member since: September 09

Current club grade: B

Occupation: IT project manager – Exciting Huh!

Hobbies (outside photography): Travel, literature, cycling

When did you take up photography and what was your first serious camera: 2001 – Nikon F401 SLR and a dodgy 35-70 lens

How did you become interested in photography: My parents bought an SLR but then didn't know how to use it. I nicked it and the instructions and they didn't get it back!

What are your favourite photographic subjects to shoot: Travel shots of unfamiliar locations and cultures

Brief description of your current gear: 2 x Nikon D-SLRs (D90 + D50), about 6 lenses, Manfrotto tripod, 3pc's and a mac 😊

Favourite lense(s): Nikon 50 F1.8, Nikon 80-200 F2.8 and Tamron 17-50

Dream location or subject: Croatia – Endless possibilities.

Your favourite photographers: Bill Brandt and Steve Parish

What photographic ambitions do you have: To create pictures that please me and are technically acceptable. Perhaps sell some someday.

Do you have a website (club gallery or other):



In-depth look

This month we learn how to keep it simple in order to improve our photography. By Andy long

Simplicity: A Distinctive Photographic Form of Art

In this hectic world, it's nice to be able to escape into our inner sanctum known as photography. It's a place we can enjoy, forget the worries left behind, and find solace behind the camera--no matter what's waiting for the shutter to be snapped. Yet there are times when we complicate photography too much, rather than keep it the simple art form it truly is. There is a technical side to photography that must be mastered (i.e. knowing what settings are best for a given subject), but we have to remember to keep it simple.

An uncomplicated photograph speaks so much more than a busy one. To me, photography is more of a process of elimination than anything else--getting rid of everything that doesn't help make the picture stronger and more pleasing for the viewer. A single leaf with raindrops covering it, a sapling and its shadow on textured snow--these are simple compositions that actually have a lot going on in them when they are viewed closely.



Some places can create a feeling of simplicity more readily than others. Last year at this time, I was leading

my Trio of Northern Lights workshops in Alaska, and the article "Winter Solitude" evolved from the experience because of the beauty of the season in that locale. This year, as I walked around the remote village used for the trip, the idea of simplicity came over me. From the way of life of the handful of residents, to the simplicity of the trees springing up through the snow, to the stark barrenness of the white of winter--everything speaks of simplicity.



There are numerous ways to create a simple photograph. One of the easiest is to shoot in winter, concentrating on a study of trees and their shadows. There is a very strong graphic feel to these shots, even though the only elements in the photo are snow, trees, and shadows. After a day or two of capturing simple settings in the Northern Lights workshop, participants are surprised to discover they've spent as long as several hours in one location when we pack up to move to another spot.

Single main subjects in a composition are also a way to create simplicity. With one main subject, there is no other place for the viewer's eye to go. A very soft background to isolate the subject also helps. Good ways to do create this effect are to choose a foggy scene, a foreground and background that are very different in color, or to use a shallow depth-of-field. To assist with the shallow depth of field even more, have the subject farther away from the background to create a softer background.

Inserting subtlety in a composition is a way to bring out simplicity. For example, the subtle curve of the tops of a group of trees in the snow that repeats the same curve in the ridge line above it can give a photo more impact, even though the viewers might not realize why they prefer that image over a similar one. For some, getting the right composition for a shot such as this is

not as simple as it is for others. Interacting with a wide array of photographers, I see some who have a good eye for what makes a nice photo while others struggle to get that “just right” setup. However, everyone who does photography has an eye for composition to a certain extent.



If you’re struggling to make a great composition, try to isolate different areas. Look more closely at what drew your interest to your subject in the first place and find a way to bring that out. Sometimes, you’ll find there’s too much going on with competing elements for you to make a simple shot. Sometimes, the perfect shot just calls out and is very obvious. Sometimes, you just need to do a little bit of searching for that angle, or group, or light, or whatever will create the best shot.



One morning after a rain, a group of participants experienced exactly that challenge during a wildflower workshop when there were raindrops covering lots of bushes of chiming bells. They set out to find a perfect shot for each individual. They shared their compositional ideas, learned a new technique of

combining a 1.4 teleconverter with 25mm extension tubes connected to a macro lens, and a good while later, they all walked away, pleased with their separate results.

Although some of the techniques used in the challenge might have seemed complicated, the photos themselves were quite simple. Different photographers have different definitions of what’s simple and what’s complex. One time when I tried to explain flash compensation, numerous people grasped the idea right off, but one person didn’t want to go through the multiple steps necessary to take a photo through a window, maintaining good exposure of the inside of the window as well as proper exposure for the scene outside. This person wanted to keep photography at a point-and-shoot level. But if a photographer wants to learn and grow as an artist, she has to achieve certain technical skills.

For good or ill, there’s always more you can learn with photography. Happily, each photographer can choose how much or little she wants to know about taking good shots. The mechanically inclined enjoy the very technical side of photography and are always looking to move to the next level. To others, these people are extreme and make the work overly complex.



Enjoyment is the main ingredient in photography, whether the shot is of a simple nature scene, wildlife behavior, people, or any other subject. The day the pure enjoyment of going out and taking pictures disappears is the day that person should put down his camera for good. Even when things don’t go right and you don’t come home from an outing or trip with great shots, be sure to take delight in the beauty of the area you visit.

Everyone has at least one favorite location where shooting images is just plain fun. After living in Colorado

for nearly eighteen years, I moved to another locale that for me, can't match the number of photo opportunities. When I plan those visits to Colorado for a few days, I can feel my heart pumping again. Seek out the spots that you love visiting time and again and make it a point to go to them--even if it's just for a walk. Take in the beauty of each place. Take in the moment. Take in the simplicity of all that is there.

Competitions

Photo Continental monthly comp: Photo Continental runs a competition with a different theme each month and offers some great prizes. Entry is online at their website and is free. The theme for this month is "People at work"

<http://www.photocontinental.com.au/comp>

Focal press monthly comp: Focal press, the publisher of many great photography books also runs a competition with a different theme each month.

Monthly prizes are usually titles from their catalogue, but yearly prizes also include items such as high quality printers etc. The theme for this month is "Faces"

<http://focalpressphotographycontest.com/>

2010 North Georgia print circuit: A print only international, the North Georgia international is open to photographers from all over the world. Over 85 medals on offer across several categories. Entries close May 15th 2010.

<http://www.georgiacircuits.com:80/>

WBCC Noticeboard

If you have anything laying around the house that you just have to get rid of, simply forward the details to any committee member and they will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

WBCC Member spotlight

Name: James Buck



When did you take up photography: Late 1990's

Become interested in photography: I need something to take the place of golf, which I couldn't play anymore because of back trouble

Favourite photographic subject(s): Scapes and candid people shots

Your dream location or subject: South America and Antarctica

Favourite photographers: Ansel Adams...

www.anseladams.com

What are your photographic ambitions: To gain my letters from the Australian Photographic Society & win a medal at an international salon

More of your images can be seen at: WBCC gallery

