

Flare



2026

ballaratcameraclub.org.au

Welcome to Flare - Ballarat Camera Club April 2026.

This month I have included a new feature - Congratulations section to recognise club members who have achieved accolades in competitions outside of the club. This month we recognise both Vera and Ralph who have achieved recognition for their artistic as well as photographic achievements.

This month I have included pics from our weekend at Dimboola, and the Intentional Camera Movement activity at the March meeting.

Importantly I would like to share with you a DRAFT club policy on the use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in our competitions. The aim of the policy is to ensure that photos that are entered in club competitions are the work of the owner of the picture. This does not restrict us from editing, enhancing or manipulating our pictures, but the baseline has to be our own work. The executive is happy to receive and feedback or comments before the Policy is implemented.

Call out to members: I am looking for monthly pics to include in the FLARE. If you have a picture that you particularly like, and would like to share to give Flare that extra flare, send it to me so that I can include it when I have white space in the newsletter.

I look forward to hearing any suggestions, comments or feedback regarding Flare or its content.

Jerry



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(Your photo could appear here for the rest of the club to admire and enjoy)

CLUB INFORMATION

Dates to Remember

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SYLLABUS
8/04/2026	Meeting Night	Djila-tjarriu Community Hub	Open / Creative / Set - "Artificial Lighting"
19/04/2016	Monthly Outing	Lake Wendouree	Lake Wendouree in Autumn
13/05/2026	Meeting Night	Djila-tjarriu Community Hub	Activity Focus "Minimalist Photography"
15/05/26	Open / Creative / Set Closing date	On-line	Minimalist Photography.
10/06/26 (TBA)	Meeting Night	TBA	Both the date and the location is subject to change as the Community Hub is not available to us on the 10th of June. Please watch this space for further details on what we may be doing for our June meeting. Open / Creative / Set - "Minimalist Photography"

Meeting Night - Agenda

1. Carol will lead a discussion and feedback of this months competition pics to understand what a judge may be looking for and what is being looked for.
2. Carol will then show some shots of Iceland, mostly landscapes and talk about composition etc, both good and bad!

APRIL - MONTHLY ACTIVITY - “Lake Wendouree”.

Theme - Lake Wendouree in Autumn

As we come into the Autumn months, a trip to Lake Wendouree is a great place to spend a morning photographing, walking, and socialising. We will be meeting at **10 am SUNDAY 19 APRIL at Pipers.**

Theme for the outing “Lake Wendouree in Autumn”. This will give members a range of interpretations including plenty of colour in the gardens, wildlife and reflections on the lake, and the alignment with the proposed Minimalist subject for the May workshop on the 13th May. AND COFFEE AT PIPERS before, during or after the photography.

See you all there.



MARCH ACTIVITY FOCUS - “Intentional Camera Movement”.

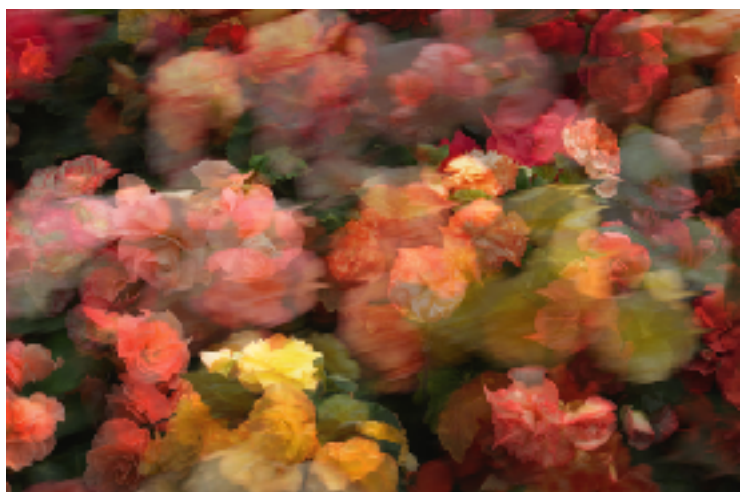
Theme - Fun making blurry pictures!



(Photos - J. van Delft 2026)



(Photos - B.Bibby 2026)



CAMERA CLUB WEEKEND - Dimboola



(Photos - J. van Delft2026)



(Photos - B & T.Bibby 2026)



(Photos - B & T.Bibby 2026)

CONGRATULATIONS - Vera Paulin (Australian Photography Magazine “Photographer of the Year” competition)

Every year the Australian Photography magazine holds a big competition, the “Photographer of the Year”. It consists of nine categories and is open to amateur photographers from Australia and New Zealand. All the judges are professionals and in 2025, more than 3,000 entries were received. The prize pool was valued at more than \$28,000. It’s a big, serious competition with major sponsor Ted’s Cameras.

Judging is carried out by shortlisting images. Reaching the first shortlist attracts “Commended”, the second shortlist “Highly Commended”. After that, it goes to Finalists: Top 5, 10, 20, 30, Runners-Up and Winner.

In 2025 I entered two categories, Travel and Single Shot, using some photos I had taken in Vietnam earlier in the year. For the Travel category I entered a portfolio of four images, “Lanterns of Hoi An” which received “Commended”. I didn’t expect to receive anything as this is a very common subject.

In the Single Shot category I entered “On the Mekong” and I was thrilled to receive “Highly Commended”!



CONGRATULATIONS - Ralph Domino (Asian Pacific Photography Awards).

Ralph recently took out a Silver Award (Portrait) and a Highly Commended Award (Landscape) in the Asian Pacific Photography Awards 2026 (NZIPP).

Fading Memories.



This image reflects the fragile nature of memory and the quiet erosion of identity over time. Through the portrayal of Ida, the work explores the space between presence and absence—where recognition softens and clarity gives way to ambiguity. The subdued tones and gentle diffusion evoke the way memories fade, not abruptly, but as a slow, almost imperceptible drift.

Rather than documenting a moment, the photograph becomes an emotional trace—suggesting loss, tenderness, and the lingering essence of a person as they slip beyond full recall. It invites the viewer to consider not only what is seen, but what is gradually disappearing.

Lucas Landscape.

This image reflects the quiet tension between enclosure and openness in the Australian rural landscape. A weathered gate and fence anchor the foreground, guiding the eye into open grassland and a distant line of trees beneath a textured sky.

Rendered in black and white, the scene is distilled to line, form and tone—highlighting the interplay between human boundaries and the enduring presence of the land. It is a meditation on stillness, space and the understated beauty of regional Australia.



FOR COMMENT - PROPOSED NEW POLICY - AI & Image Integrity Guidelines.

You are invited to comment on the proposed guidelines for the use of AI in our photography competitions.

The purpose is to restrict the use of AI to adjustments to ones own pictures, and restrict the use of AI to create pictures. The policy does not aim to restrict members in their editing and creative endeavours but to create a level playing field and retain photographic integrity.

Ballarat Camera Club AI & Image Integrity Guidelines

Why we have this

Our competitions are about celebrating *your photography*—your vision, your creativity, and your skill behind the camera and in editing.

These guidelines help keep things fair for everyone while still allowing you to use modern editing tools (including those with AI features).

What's allowed and what's not

AI-Generated Images

These are images created by AI (for example, from a text prompt) rather than captured with a camera.

These are not allowed in club competitions.

AI-Assisted Editing

This is when you take your own photo and edit it using tools that may include AI features.

For example:

- Lightroom or Photoshop adjustments
- Noise reduction, sharpening, masking
- Removing distractions or enhancing parts of the image
- Sky replacement (your own photo) or generative tools applied to your own photo

This is absolutely fine and encouraged.

What you need to do when entering

1. Start with your own photo

- Your image must come from a photo **you took yourself**
- You must own the original file (RAW/ jpg / tiff etc. file)

2. Editing is welcome

- You're free to edit your images however you like,
- This includes using AI-powered tools in editing software,

3. Composites are OK

- You can combine multiple photos,
- Just make sure **all images used are your own.**

4. What's not allowed

- AI-generated images,
- Using images (or parts of images) that you didn't take yourself,
- Adding AI-generated elements that weren't created from your own photos.

Keeping things fair

From time to time, the judge or competition team may ask to see:

- Your original file(s)
- A quick explanation of how you edited the image

This isn't about catching people out—it's just to keep things fair and transparent for everyone.

The key idea

At the end of the day, your competition image should still be: **Your photograph, created from your own camera-captured images**

THE GLOBAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMMUNITY - The Magazine for Photographers - Bite Size

FOR YOU INFORMATION AND INTEREST

THE GLOBAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMMUNITY

THE MAGAZINE FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS - BITE SIZE



DEAR READERS,

Welcome to the Bite Size version of The Magazine For Photographers, which comes out every Monday - Friday. The Bite Size version serves as a 2-5 minute catch-up of the latest news in the photography and creative industry during the week.

Every Sunday "The Magazine For Photographers" is published, it is the proper, big magazine issue that includes comprehensive articles, interviews with famous photographers, photography tips/techniques, equipment reviews and much more.

USE THE FOLLOWING LINK TO ACCESS THE SITE AND ACCESS TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE FREE BITE SIZE VERSION OF THE MAGAZINE.

<https://www.themagazineforphotographers.com/>

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025/2026

To contact committee email: ballaratcameraclub@googlegroups.com

PRESIDENT	Trevor Bibby
VICE PRESIDENT	Jerry van Delft
IMAGE CO-ORDINATOR	Steve Demeye
SECRETARY	Anne Wilson
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