

Flare

2026



ballaratcameraclub.org.au

Welcome to Flare - Ballarat Camera Club July 2026.

This will be a short Flare. As we didn't have a meeting last month, we have to wait until the July meeting to hear the results of the competition. I will therefore have 2 Flares this month, part 1 and part 2.

We had an interesting night out in June to take pics of Ballarat at night. It included rain and it was a cool night. I think that we all learned new techniques in the laneways, the centre strip in Sturt Street and in the few businesses that were open at that time of night. There were some great results which are included in this edition.

I also took time out in June to attend the SHAC Solstice exhibition at the Ballarat North Bowling Club. The exhibition was a collaboration between the Soldiers Hill Artists Collective and Words Out Loud poetry and prose group. There were some very interesting artistic pieces including photos. The SHAC limits its membership to residents of Soldiers Hill. Thanks Ralph for the invitation to the launch of the exhibition.

The July meeting will be a packed meeting with both the results of the May comp and an activity. Please bring your camera and tripod. See the Set Subject article in this Flare.

Again thanks to the members who have sent me pics to include in Flare. In this edition I have included a couple of photo's taken by Carol.

Happy shooting,

Jerry

Editor

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C Hall 2026
Wombat Forest

CLUB INFORMATION

Dates to Remember

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SYLLABUS
8/07/26	Meeting Night	Djila-tjarriu Community Hub	Open / Creative / Set - "Intentional Camera Movement (ICM)" Activity Focus "Selective Focus"
12/08/26	Meeting Night	Djila-tjarriu Community Hub	Open / Creative / Set - "Minimalist"
9/09/26	Meeting Night	Djila-tjarriu Community Hub	Activity Focus "Light Trails / Long Exposure"

Meeting Information:

Club Meeting Venue Security Requirements

The Djila-tjarriu Community Centre requires us to lock the entrance to the building at 7:45pm during our meeting, to meet their security requirements.

- Members arriving after this time should phone Tom on 0407 535 420 or another member, to gain access.
- Members wishing to temporarily leave the building during the meeting, will need another attending member to open the door for reentry.

Cheers Tom

C Hall 2026

Wombat Forest



JUNE - ACTIVITY - “Ballarat by Night”.

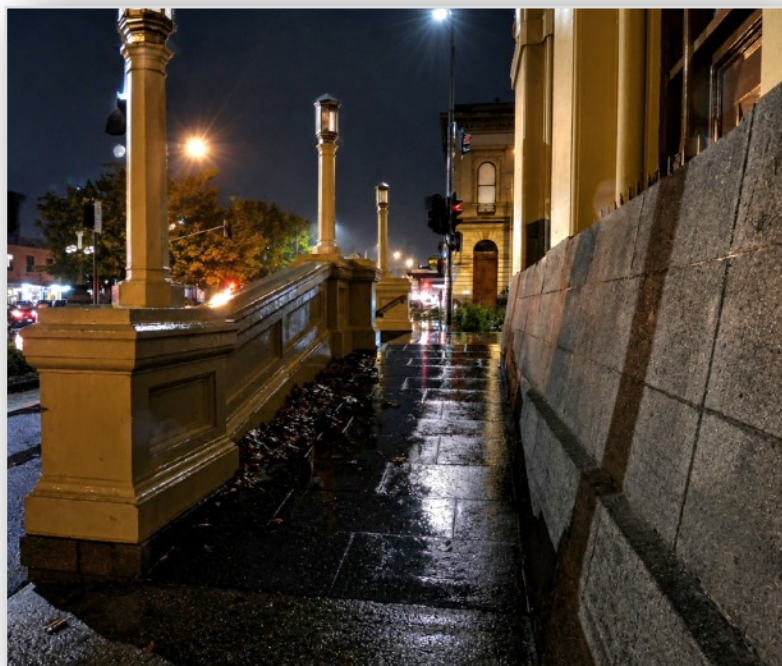
J. van Delft 2026





T Bates 2026





UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS



Museum of Australian Photography (MAPh)

860 Ferntree Gully Road, Wheelers Hill

- *Cruising for a Bruising* (8 July – 5 October)

A contemporary exhibition exploring identity and portraiture through documentary-style photography.

- *Bowness Photography Prize 2026* (12 September – 8 November)

One of Australia's premier photography prizes showcasing the best contemporary Australian photography. An excellent exhibition for photographers looking for inspiration and current trends.



Justin Art House Museum

3 Lumley Court, Prahran

- Photography: Seeing is Believing (July–September)
- Max Dupain: A Snapshot of Australia's Renowned Photographer – Talk (21 July)

An outstanding exhibition examining how photographers manipulate images—from traditional darkroom techniques through to digital editing and AI. Features more than 50 works by Australian artists.



National Gallery of Victoria (NGV International)

180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne

- Winter exhibitions and **NGV Friday Nights** throughout July–September.

Although not a dedicated photography exhibition, several major exhibitions include significant photographic works and offer excellent inspiration for composition, colour and storytelling.

- **Cartier** (12 June – 4 October)
- **Ragnar Kjartansson: Mercy** (26 June – 4 October)
- **Friday Nights at NGV** continue throughout winter, combining exhibitions with live music and after-hours photography opportunities around the gallery precinct.

ACMI

Fed Square, Flinders Street, Melbourne

- *The Vinyl Factory: Reverb* (until 31 August)

While centred on music culture, the exhibition includes strong visual storytelling and design. A visit also provides excellent opportunities to photograph the striking architecture of Fed Square and the Melbourne CBD.

World Press Photo

Ballarat Mining Exchange

- *World Press Photo* (8 August – 20 September 2026)

For the first time the Art Gallery of Ballarat will host the World Press Photo, at the Mining Exchange.

Each year, the contest highlights the outstanding work of photojournalists and documentary photographers from across the globe.

The exhibition offers broad perspectives and intimate insider views on issues such as the far-reaching impact of the climate crisis from Los Angeles to the Philippines, Mexico, and Norway, while also highlighting civic action and the fight for rights through images of protests in the United States and the women's movements in Guatemala and youth protests in Madagascar.



Engage with some of the most important photographs of the year at Art Gallery of Ballarat's offsite venue, the Mining Exchange.

<https://www.artgalleryofballarat.com.au/explore/exhibitions/world-press-photo>

SET SUBJECT: SELECTIVE FOCUS

Description: An image in which the principal subject is in focus and which is emphasised by the unsharpness of nearer or further subject matter”.

How to use depth of field to enhance the principle subject of your image. As there is a practical component to this set subject, members should bring their cameras and tripods.

Set Subject: Selective Focus – Making Your Subject Stand Out

One of the most effective ways to direct a viewer's attention is through **selective focus**. Rather than having everything in the photograph sharp, selective focus deliberately keeps the principal subject in focus while allowing objects in front of or behind it to become softly blurred. This separation helps the subject stand out and removes distractions from the image.

Our set subject is:

"An image in which the principal subject is in focus and is emphasised by the unsharpness of nearer or further subject matter."

The key to achieving this effect is understanding depth of field and how it is controlled through the photography triangle.

The Photography Triangle

The three elements of the exposure triangle—aperture, shutter speed and ISO—work together to create a correct exposure. However, one of these settings also has a major influence on depth of field.



Aperture – The Creative Control

The aperture is the opening inside your lens that controls how much light enters the camera.

For selective focus:

- Wide apertures (small f-numbers such as f/1.8, f/2.8 or f/4) create a shallow depth of field, producing a blurred background and foreground while keeping your subject sharp.
- Small apertures (larger f-numbers such as f/11 or f/16) produce a much greater depth of field where more of the scene is in focus.

For this exercise, try using the widest aperture your lens allows.

Shutter Speed – Maintaining Sharpness

Opening the aperture lets in more light, allowing you to use a faster shutter speed.

A faster shutter speed helps:

- eliminate camera shake,
- freeze movement, and
- ensure the subject remains critically sharp.

If light levels are low, a tripod can help maintain image quality while allowing slower shutter speeds.

ISO – Keep It Low

ISO controls the sensitivity of the camera sensor.

Where possible:

- use ISO 100 or 200 for the cleanest image,

- increase ISO only if necessary to maintain a suitable shutter speed.

Remember that higher ISO introduces digital noise, which can reduce image quality.

Other Factors That Affect Selective Focus

Aperture is only part of the story. You can increase background blur by:

- Using a longer focal length (telephoto lenses produce stronger background blur than wide-angle lenses).
- Moving closer to your subject.
- Increasing the distance between your subject and the background.

A portrait photographed with an 85 mm or 200 mm lens at f/2.8 will usually have a much softer background than the same image taken with a 24 mm lens.

Choosing the Focus Point

Selective focus only works if the correct part of the subject is perfectly sharp.

For example:

- Portraits – focus on the nearest eye.
- Flowers – focus on the most prominent petal or the centre.
- Wildlife – focus on the animal's eye.
- Macro photography – choose the most important detail.

Using Single Point Autofocus or Eye AF (where available) will help achieve precise focus.

Subjects to Try

Selective focus works beautifully with:

- flowers and gardens,
- insects and macro subjects,
- portraits,
- birds and wildlife,
- street photography,
- café scenes,
- market stalls,
- details of old buildings,
- leaves, berries and fungi.

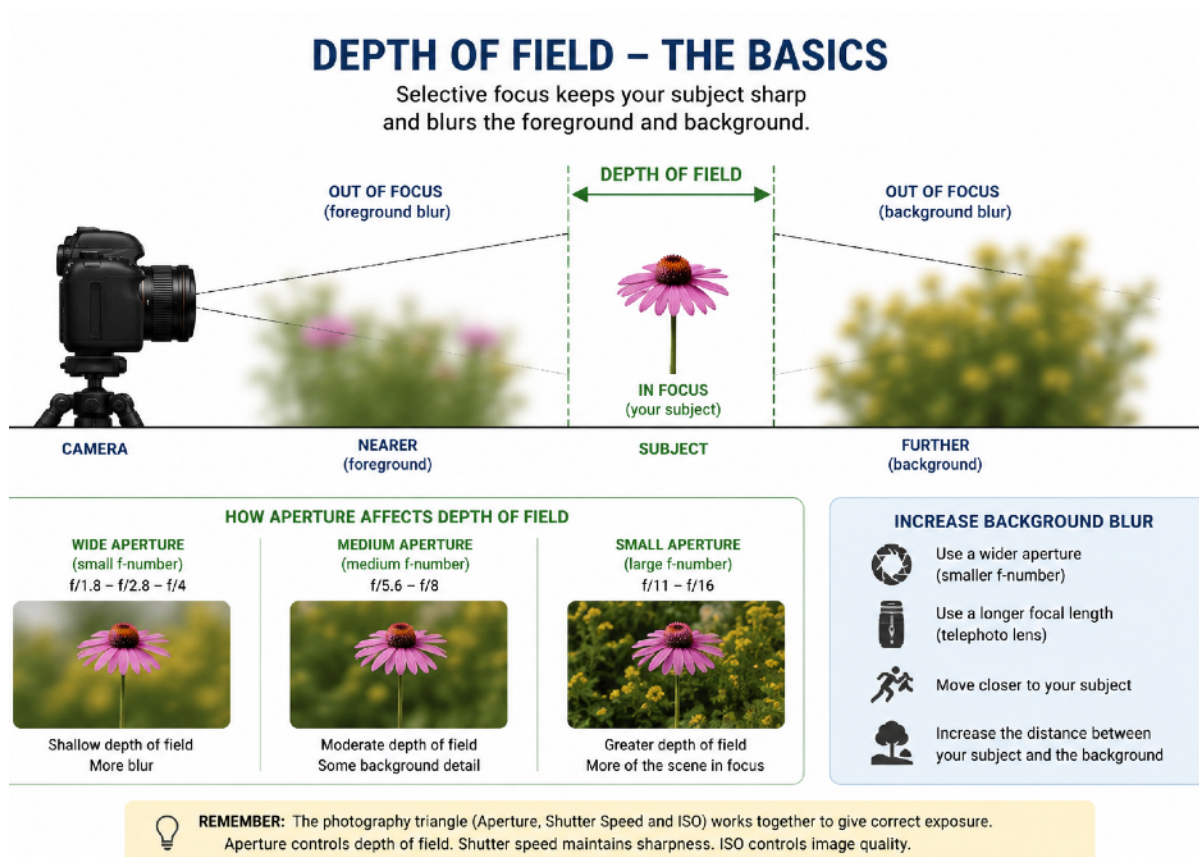
Look for opportunities where your subject can be isolated from a busy background.

Practical Session

This month's meeting includes a practical component, so please bring:

- your camera,
- a tripod,
- a lens with a wide maximum aperture if you have one (for example f/1.8, f/2.8 or f/4),
- and your curiosity!

We'll experiment with different apertures and distances to see how depth of field changes an image. By comparing photographs taken at different f-stops, you'll quickly see how selective focus can transform an ordinary photograph into one with strong visual impact.



Challenge Yourself

During the practical session, photograph the same subject at:

- f/2.8
- f/5.6
- f/11

Compare the three images and notice how the background changes while the subject remains the same. Which aperture best draws your eye to the principal subject?

Mastering selective focus is less about owning expensive equipment and more about making deliberate creative choices. Once you understand how aperture, focal length and subject distance work together, you'll be able to use selective focus to guide the viewer exactly where you want them to look.

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
TREASURER	Betty Bibby
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Trevor Parry Sonia Bickley Tom Bates
PRINT STEWARD	Sonia Bickley
WEB MASTER	Betty Bibby
FLARE EDITOR	Jerry van Delft