

Flare

2026



ballaratcameraclub.org.au

Welcome to Flare - Ballarat Camera Club August 2026.

As winter gradually gives way to spring, we also welcome the start of a new Camera Club year. Our 2026/27 syllabus is now underway, bringing with it a fresh range of activities, learning opportunities and photographic challenges. Our next set subject competition, "Selective Focusing", promises to be an excellent opportunity to explore how depth of field can be used creatively to draw the viewer's eye to the principal subject.

Although a new year is beginning, we are also approaching the conclusion of our current club year, with the Annual General Meeting and our Annual Competition just around the corner. If you've been entering competitions throughout the 2025/26 season, now is the time to start thinking about which images best represent your work. The Annual Competition is always a wonderful showcase of the talent within our club and a chance to reflect on how much we've all grown as photographers over the past twelve months.

Our education program also continues to expand. In the November meeting, we are delighted to welcome acclaimed photographer Meike Boynton, who will join us via Zoom to present a special session on "A Game of Tones". Whether you're new to monochrome or looking to refine your technique, this promises to be an inspiring evening.

As always, the strength of our club comes from the willingness of members to contribute. With our AGM approaching, I encourage anyone who has considered becoming more involved to think about joining the Executive Committee. Every role, large or small, helps ensure that our club continues to be active, welcoming and vibrant for all members.



This month also marks the beginning of a new series of club activities featuring visits to photographic exhibitions and events throughout our region and beyond. Our first outing took us by train and tram to the Melbourne Camera Club's Open House and Exhibition. We were warmly welcomed by their members, who generously showed us around their historic clubrooms, including the darkroom, and shared insights into the many activities they offer. Afterwards, being



only a short stroll from the South Melbourne Market, we enjoyed coffee and explored the bustling market. Naturally, cameras were at the ready, and I couldn't resist photographing a pair of rather indignant old chooks that appeared to have escaped from the poultry shop!

Looking ahead, our August photographic outing will be to La Gerche Gully in the Creswick Regional Park on Saturday 22 August. The theme is "Fantastic Fungi", taking advantage of the wonderful display of mushrooms and fungi that emerge at this time of year. We'll meet at the Creswick Rotunda at 10.00 am before driving together to the nearby car park. Whether you're interested in macro photography, woodland landscapes or simply enjoying a morning in nature, it promises to be a rewarding outing.



I look forward to seeing many of you at our meetings and activities over the coming month. Until then, keep exploring, keep experimenting, and above all, enjoy making photographs.

Happy shooting!

Jerry
Editor

IN THIS EDITION

IN THIS EDITION	3
CLUB INFORMATION	4
Dates to Remember	4
Meeting Information:	5
2025/26 ANNUAL COMPETITION.....	5
2026 AGM	6
NEW CLUB ACTIVITIES	7
CLUB OUTING - FANTASTIC FUNGI	8
UPCOMING ACTIVITY - NEW PHOTO ZINES	11
UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS.....	12
COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025/2026.....	14



J. van Delft 2026

Paris

CLUB INFORMATION

Dates to Remember

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SYLLABUS
12/08/26	Meeting Night	Djila-tjarri Community Hub	Open / Creative / Set - "Minimalist"
22/08/26	Club Outing	La Gerche Gully in the Creswick Regional Park	"Fantastic Fungi"
2/09/2026	Exhibition Visit	ArtsSpace at Realm, Ringwood - See Upcoming Activity	New Photo Zines https://pgav.org.au/UNBOUND-New-Photo-Zines~16177
9/09/26	Meeting Night	Djila-tjarri Community Hub	Activity Focus "Light Trails / Long Exposure". How to set your camera to take long exposure images in low light conditions, including the principles of light painting. As this activity involves a practical component, members are encouraged to bring their camera and tripod.
13/9/26	Entries for Annuals Close	Further information coming.	
14/10/26	Meeting Night	Djila-tjarri Community Hub	AGM Open / Creative / Set - "Selective Focusing"
11/11/26	Meeting Night	Djila-tjarri Community Hub	Activity Focus Meike Boynton - A Game of Tones. A 90 minute presentation on how to improve your Black and White photography.
29/11/26	Annual Competition	Djila-tjarri Community Hub	

Meeting Information:

Club Meeting Venue Security Requirements

The Djila-tjarri 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.

2025/26 ANNUAL COMPETITION

The Annual Competition website access will soon be open.

Members may enter up to 9 entries which have been entered into monthly competitions during the year.

Categories are:

LARGE PRINT

- Open - Colour
- Open - Monochrome
- Landscape / Seascape
- Nature
- People / Portrait
- Creative

EDPI

- Open - Colour
- Open - Monochrome
- Landscape / Seascape
- Nature
- People / Portrait
- Creative

PORTFOLIO

- Large Print Only

NOVICE

- Print

NOVICE

- EDPI

Entries close on the **13 September 2026** and prints must be given to Sonia Bickley *Print Steward* by this date.

Please phone Sonia on 0428 395 157 or ask one of our committee for further information.

2026 AGM

Help Shape the Future of Our Club

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 October 2026, immediately before our monthly meeting.

The AGM is an opportunity for you to help celebrate another successful year and to look ahead to the exciting activities, workshops, outings and competitions that make our club such an enjoyable place to learn and share our passion for photography.

Our club thrives because members are willing to contribute their time and ideas. Whether you've been with us for many years or have only recently joined, we'd love you to consider becoming part of the Executive Committee. You don't need to be an expert photographer or have served on a committee before—just bring your enthusiasm and a willingness to help.

Joining the committee is a great way to meet fellow members, have a say in the direction of the club, and help ensure that Ballarat Camera Club continues to grow, evolve and remain a vibrant community for photographers of all interests and skill levels.

If you've ever thought, "I'd like to give something back to the club," this could be the perfect opportunity. We'd love to welcome some new faces and fresh ideas.



M. McEachern 2026 (May meeting)

Here is a photo of our blower out of the camera bag. I took it at the meeting using a shelf and lighting in the building. No special techniques, just a quick shot on the theme.

NEW CLUB ACTIVITIES



This month the executive decided to introduce new activities for club members. As you will be aware we have been advertising upcoming events and exhibitions and now we want to help organise a day out to visit some of these exhibitions.

We are offering a Lead who will plan the outing and attend or lead the activity, using public transport and if possible organising someone to speak with us or lead a tour of the relevant exhibition.

For example, last weekend we went to the Melbourne Camera Club for their Our Generous City Exhibition and Open House. We were met by Club members and had a great tour of the premises as well as a discussion on club activities. It was great to see the range (and number) of prints in their monthly competition.



After the visit we retired to the South Melbourne Markets for great coffee and a photo opportunity. After the event we went our own way spending time in Melbourne before returning on V-Line.



Remember that it is half price on public transport which is a maximum of \$2.85 for the day for us Seniors and \$5.70 for the younger members of our community.

Pictures are of the studio and entry to the dark room, from the visit to the Melbourne Camera Club.

CLUB OUTING - FANTASTIC FUNGI

Fantastic Fungi – La Gerche Gully, Creswick Regional Park

SATURDAY 22 AUGUST 2026

DURATION: 10.00 AM – 12.00 PM

Activity Theme

The damp forests of La Gerche Gully provide one of the best local displays of fungi during winter. This outing is an opportunity to slow down, observe the small details of the forest floor, and explore close-up photography.

A dedicated macro lens is **not essential**. Many excellent images can be made using standard zoom lenses, telephoto lenses with close-focusing capability, or simply by photographing fungi within their surrounding environment.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session members should be able to:

- Observe and identify interesting fungi subjects.
- Improve close-up focusing techniques.
- Understand how depth of field affects close-up images.
- Experiment with composition and backgrounds.
- Create at least 5–10 photographs suitable for review at a future club meeting.

Suggested Equipment

Bring if you have them:

- Camera
- Any lens (macro, standard zoom or telephoto)
- Tripod or monopod
- Knee pad or small gardening mat
- Lens cloth
- Small torch or LED light
- Circular reflector (optional)



C Hall 2026

Wombat Forest

Two-Hour Program

10.00–10.15 AM – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Meet at the La Gerche Gully car park.

Brief discussion covering:

- respecting the environment
- avoiding damage to fungi
- working safely on slippery ground
- camera settings for close-up photography

Suggested starting settings:

- Aperture Priority
- f/8–f/16
- ISO Auto (maximum around 1600)
- Single-point autofocus
- Exposure compensation as required

10.15–10.35 AM – ACTIVITY 1 "FIND FIVE"

Spend twenty minutes simply looking.

Photograph five different fungi.

The goal is **variety**, not perfection.

Look for:

- tiny mushrooms
- large bracket fungi
- colourful fungi
- groups
- unusual shapes

OUTCOME:

Members begin noticing subjects they would normally walk past.

10.35–11.00 AM – ACTIVITY 2 ONE SUBJECT – FIVE WAYS

Choose your favourite fungus.

Photograph it in at least five different ways.

Ideas include:

- landscape showing its habitat
- close-up
- portrait orientation
- from ground level
- backlit
- overhead

- using shallow depth of field
- including moss or leaves

OUTCOME:

Learn that changing viewpoint is often more important than changing equipment.

11.00–11.25 AM – ACTIVITY 3 THE BACKGROUND CHALLENGE

Choose a fungus with a distracting background.

Now improve it by changing:

- camera height
- shooting angle
- focal length
- aperture
- distance from subject

Compare before and after.

OUTCOME:

Understand how backgrounds influence the impact of an image.

11.25–11.50 AM – ACTIVITY 4 THE DETAIL HUNT

Find something most people would overlook.

Examples include:

- spores
- gills
- textures
- water droplets
- moss
- bark
- insects visiting fungi
- decaying timber

Members without macro lenses can use:

- the longest focal length on their zoom
- crop later in Lightroom
- environmental close-ups

OUTCOME:

Develop observational skills and appreciation of small details.

11.50–12.00 PM – WRAP-UP

Gather together and discuss:

- favourite discoveries
- challenges encountered

- useful camera settings
- ideas for future outings

Invite members to submit one or two images for an informal slideshow at the next club meeting.

Optional Challenges

Members can choose one or more of these during the morning.

COLOUR

Find the brightest fungus.

TEXTURE

Photograph texture without showing the whole fungus.

PATTERN

Capture repeating fungi.

STORY

Show the relationship between fungi and the forest.

MINIMALISM

Create an image with plenty of negative space.

BLACK & WHITE

Look for images that rely on texture rather than colour.

Tips for Members Without a Macro Lens

You don't need specialist equipment to create compelling close-up photographs.

Try these techniques:

- Use the longest focal length on your zoom lens.
- Move as close as your lens allows while maintaining focus.
- Photograph groups of fungi rather than individual specimens.
- Include surrounding moss, bark and leaves to tell a story.
- Shoot from ground level for a more intimate perspective.
- Crop the image later during editing.

Remember, some of the strongest images from the day may not be macro photographs at all—they may be environmental images that place fungi within the beautiful forest landscape.

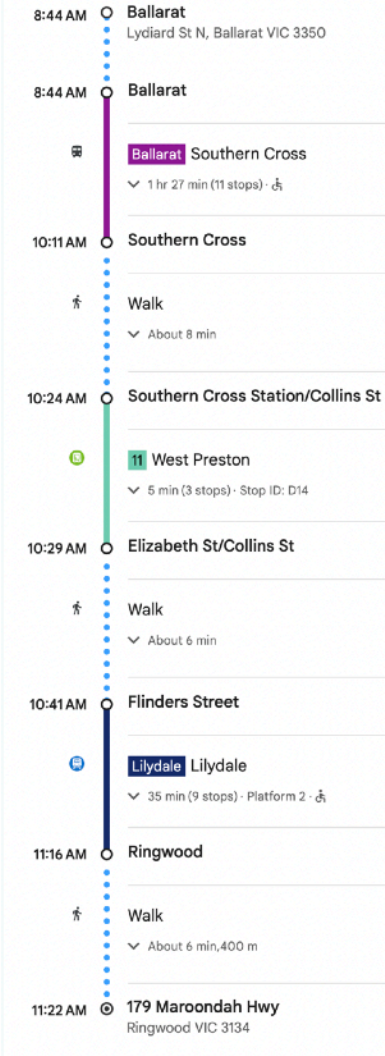
PROPOSED OUTCOMES

By the end of the morning members should have:

- A collection of 30–50 images to review.
- A better understanding of close-up composition.
- Increased confidence photographing small subjects.
- Practical experience managing depth of field.
- Greater awareness that excellent close-up photographs depend more on observation and composition than on owning a macro lens.

You will then be asked to send **your best three images**—one close-up, one environmental, and one "creative interpretation" for publication in next months FLARE.

UPCOMING ACTIVITY - NEW PHOTO ZINES

Activity Plan	
Activity	New Photo Zines
Date	Wednesday 2 September 2026
Time	Leaving approx 8:30
Activity Name	ArtsSpace at Realm, Ringwood
Activity Description	A showcase of six emerging Australian photographers. Focuses on contemporary photographic storytelling through artist-produced photo zines and gallery installations. Excellent inspiration for sequencing images and visual narratives
Activity location	ArtsSpace at Realm, Ringwood
Activity Address	179 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood VIC 3134
Propose Travel Option	 8:44 AM ○ Ballarat Lydiard St N, Ballarat VIC 3350 8:44 AM ○ Ballarat Ballarat Southern Cross ✓ 1 hr 27 min (11 stops) - 𐀀 10:11 AM ○ Southern Cross Walk ✓ About 8 min 10:24 AM ○ Southern Cross Station/Collins St 11 West Preston ✓ 5 min (3 stops) - Stop ID: D14 10:29 AM ○ Elizabeth St/Collins St Walk ✓ About 6 min 10:41 AM ○ Flinders Street Lilydale Lilydale ✓ 35 min (9 stops) - Platform 2 - 𐀀 11:16 AM ○ Ringwood Walk ✓ About 6 min, 400 m 11:22 AM ○ 179 Maroondah Hwy Ringwood VIC 3134
Activity Lead	Jerry
Lead Contact Details	0434389277, jvandelft1961@gmail.com
RSVP	Jerry by Saturday midday 31/08/2026 either by email or text

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>

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
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