Flare

2026

ballaratcameraclub.org.au

Welcome to Flare part 2 - Ballarat Camera Club July 2026.

This is the OCTOBER 2026 FLARE PART 2. This edition contains the outcome of the October competition - Selective Focusing photography. “An image in which the principal subject is in focus and which is emphasised by the unsharpness of nearer or further subject matter.”

Happy shooting,

Jerry
Editor

IN THIS EDITION

IN THIS EDITION.....1

Ballarat Interfaith Network Exhibition. 2

Selective Focusing.....3

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2026/2027.....22

LATE NOTICE

Ballarat Interfaith Network Exhibition.



Congratulations to Ralph Domino on being invited to participate in the Ballarat Interfaith Network Exhibition, 'Inspiring Visions'. Ralph's images will cover the Christian faith

'Inspiring Visions' is a free art exhibition celebrating Diverse Spiritual Traditions organised by the Ballarat Interfaith Network and held at Ballarat Performing Arts Community (BPAC) between Oct 29 and Nov 1 2026.

The 'Flowers of Faith Collection ' represents 13 different spiritual traditions by renowned Melbourne artist Rev. Bhakta Dasa from the Hare Krishna Movement and is the centrepiece of the exhibition.

Over 30 works by local artists inspired by diverse traditions complement the 'Flowers' to create a wonderful showcase for how profound beliefs inspire art. The event includes a public forum where local indigenous artist Trudy Fatnowa Edgeley, join Bhakta Dasa and others to discuss how spirituality has informed their work.

The free exhibition, sponsored by City of Ballarat and UFS Pharmacies includes resident artists demonstrating Islamic calligraphy and contemporary visual art.

'Inspiring Visions' is an initiative of the Ballarat Interfaith Network to enhance understanding and respect amongst people of diverse traditions.

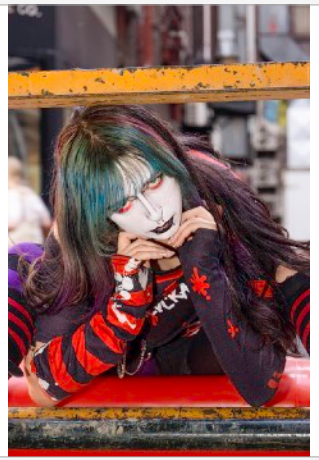
More information can be found at https://www.ballaratinterfaith.org/event-list.

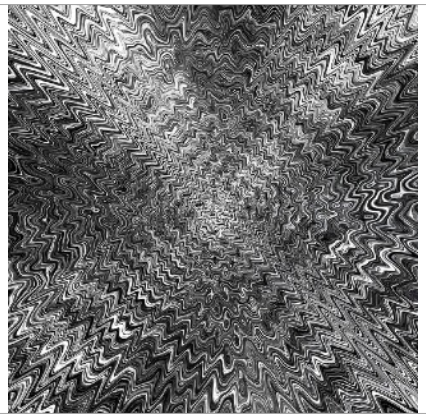
Your visit to BPAC.

- Venue entrance is on Neill Street, Soldiers Hill/
- There is plenty of free street parking around the venue
- The nearest bus stop is around the corner on Lydiard Street, routes 10 or 13.

Selective Focusing

Section Slide - Creative (EDPI)

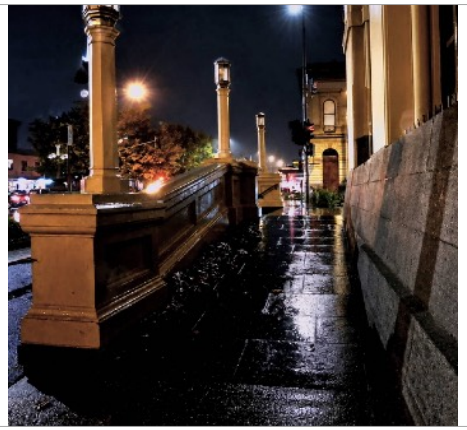
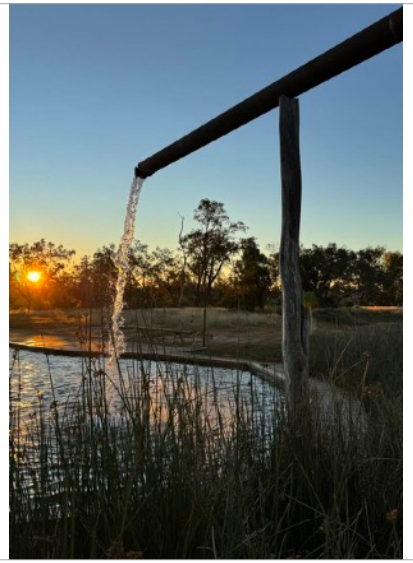
	Caught under the bar	Richard Smith	11	Merit	This image has a lot of great features and is a striking subject. I wonder if you left the legs in, so we could get a sense of context.
	Ormiston Gorge	Ralph Domino	12	Merit	This image fits the creative mould. I like the process you have used, and you can still see the shapes and structure of rocks and the gorge.

	The Big Bang	Ralph Domino	9	Acceptance	This image needs something to provide context. At present, it just looks like sound waves.

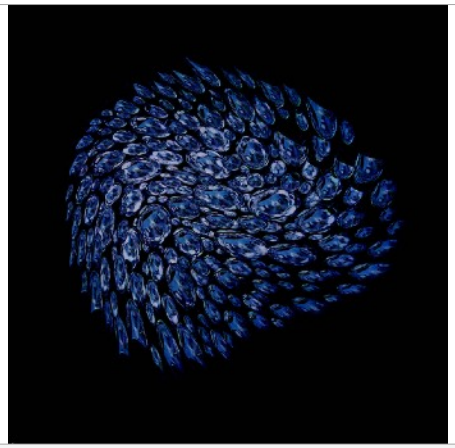
Section Slide - Open (EDPI)

	"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness"	Ken Marsh	12	Merit	There are some strong elements in this image; however, I feel that the people in the foreground should have their lower bodies shown to etter convey a sense of scale.
	3 sleepy Hooters in the tree	Richard Smith	13	Honour	There is a lot going on in the image that can distract the eye from the birds. I think cropping off the right side would let the birds stand out and become the hero of the picture.

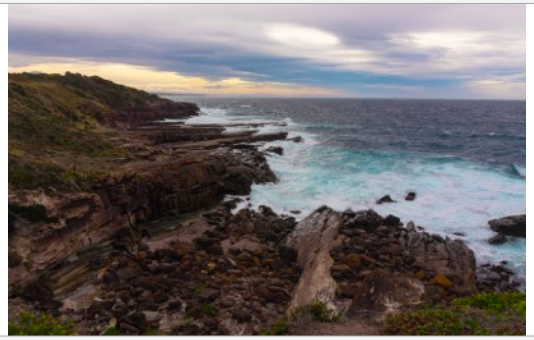
	A good head for heights	Carol Hall	13	Honour	A strong image that demonstrates size and scale. Capturing the person moving down the rock would make for a more interesting image.
	A little damp today	Trevor Parry	13	Honour	Great image of the birds. The raindrops you captured add to the image. It feels a little flat to me.
	A walk on the south side..	Ken Marsh	11	Merit	This image needs more contrast to separate the various tones across the foreground and jetty.

	After the rain	Trevor Parry	13	Honour	The image has good leading lines through the walkway, and the wet ground builds a sense of drama.
	Artesian Bore	Sonia Bickley	12	Merit	This image needs to have the sun reflected in the water (if possible). This would provide a more artistic approach.

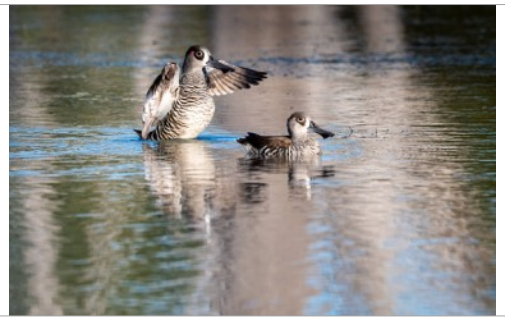
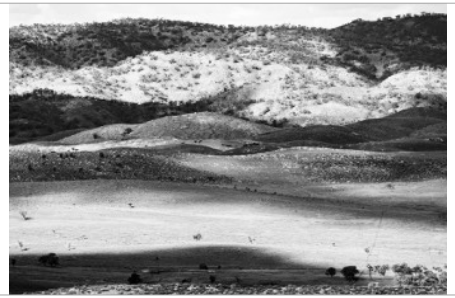
	As above so below	Vera Paulin	12	Merit	The image provides a good use of the reflective properties of the water. I feel that a panoramic crop, removing the trees, would make the composition stronger.
	Australian Stockman Hall of Fame	Betty Bibby	14	Honour	This image uses the roof structure to provide strong leading lines. The small piece in the middle of the bottom of the image is distracting and does not add to the image. You could consider cropping a little off the bottom.
	Best mates	Trevor Parry	12	Merit	The composition is good; however, the flat tones across the image prevent the subjects from popping. Consider adding a vignette or using a Photoshop tool to select and brighten the subjects.

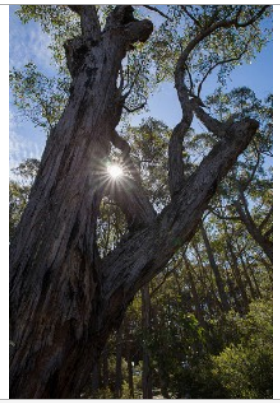
	Blue Drift	Ralph Domino	12	Merit	Very artistic, however, it is a bit dark around the edges. You could bounce light in or use post-production to ensure the edges are clearer.
	Camp Street	Ken Marsh	13	Honour	Excellent image of the streetscape. The details are very good; however, the foreground near the trees is dark, and this hides details.
	Crashing Waves	Murray Mc Eachern	11	Merit	The use of the shutter speed adds nice detail to the water. However, I feel it's missing something. Possibly a person walking through to add a sense of movement on the sand.

	Dragonflys mating	Trevor Parry	11	Merit	This has the makings of a great image. The tonal range is flat, and adding contrast and a high-pass filter could reveal more detail in the insects.
	Echuca Wharf at dusk	Carol Hall	13	Honour	This is a strong image. I would suggest a panoramic crop to remove some of the top and bottom. This removes distractions and lets the wharf be the hero of the image. You could also use post-production to highlight the boats.
	Extra support required	Ken Marsh	12	Merit	I think the subject is well placed in the image. Adding a little contrast would improve your image, and the crop at the bottom cuts off part of the foot.

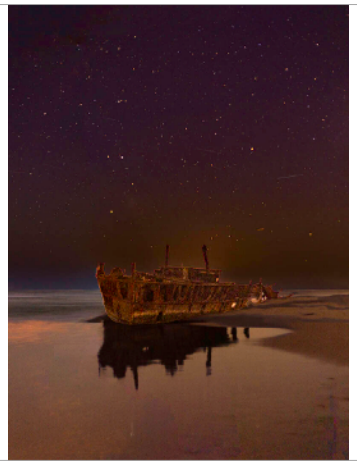
	good morning Sydney Opera house	Richard Smith	15	Honour	If I were to do anything to this image, I would crop in slightly from the right and remove the building and the reflection of the light in the water.
	Green Cape	Judy McEachern	11	Merit	Some post-production in this image would help it stand out. I would even consider monochrome and then play with levels, contrast and a high-pass filter to bring out aspects of the rocks.
	Longreach Train Station	Sonia Bickley	12	Merit	Some contrast and adjustments can help here. Also, I feel that a lower angle, perhaps the platform height, would provide an interesting viewpoint.

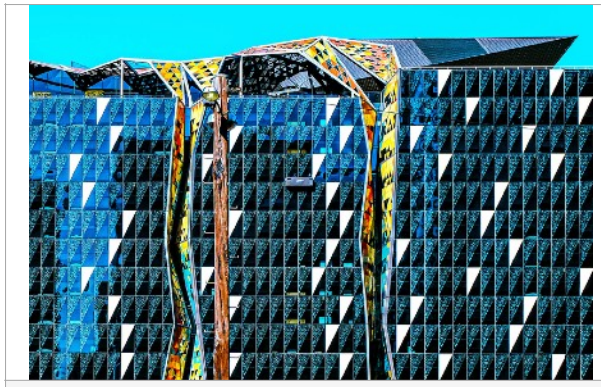
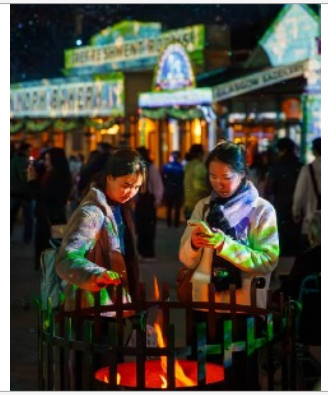
	Lookout	Murray Mc Eachern	12	Merit	This is a good nature image. I would consider cropping the bottom branch, as it adds nothing to the image and creates a distraction.
	Lunch with Greens	Betty Bibby	14	Honour	Strong image, and well seen. The reeds/grass in the bottom right are distracting and could be removed in post-production. I understand that in true nature images, this isn't done; however, for this competition, it would have been stronger.
	Miners Memorial Broken Hill	Trevor Bibby	12	Merit	I am curious about how the flowers and steel are connected. So, a different angle might have made it stronger. With this image, I would use an oval crop or vignette to remove the partial rose at the top and bottom, which are distracting to the eye.

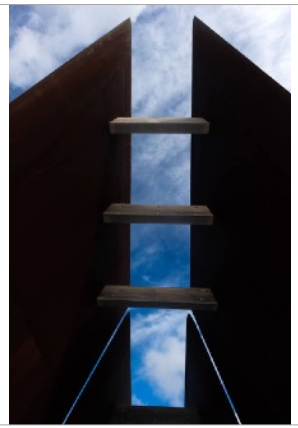
	Pink Eared Ducks	Betty Bibby	14	Honour	Very nice image. I think there is too much water at the bottom of the image.
	Rolling Hills	Trevor Bibby	13	Honour	I think the image is well handled. I think a little more contrast would help delineate some of the features of the image.
	Stairs	Frank Carroll	14	Honour	This is a very strong image. My only suggestion would be a high- pass filter or slightly more contrast to bring out the details of the brickwork, etc.

	Starburst	Vera Paulin	13	Honour	Nice image. I feel that there needs to be a hero in the image more than the sun.
	Stretching my Wings	Trevor Bibby	14	Honour	This image could do with a few adjustments in brightness and whites to reduce the glare on the birds and have stronger details in the feathers.
	Striated Pardalote	Carol Hall	14	Honour	Wonderful image, I am not sure I have any suggestions.

	Take Off	Trevor Bibby	13	Honour	Your image has been handled well. I feel that if you square-cropped a little tighter, the bird would be central to the image and, in my view, make a stronger image.
	The best year for fungi	Carol Hall	12	Merit	Well seen and good capture. Aspects of the fungi are not sharp throughout the image.
	The canola line	Trevor Parry	13	Honour	Interesting image. I ponder if there is too much sky and ground.

	The S.S Maheno Shipwreck	Richard Smith	11	Merit	I think the treatment of the shipwreck has detracted from the object. There is also some haloing around the wreck, which is distracting.
	The Skllon at Terrgal New South Wales	Richard Smith	12	Merit	This is really nice image with clarity across the image. However, there is some fringing across the cliff area, which detracts from the image quality.
	The Tap	Betty Bibby	14	Honour	This is a strong image handled well. I have no suggestions for this image.

	The Window Cleaner	Ralph Domino	14	Honour	I think is an interesting image and you have handled the image well.
	Warming	Ken Marsh	11	Merit	The image concept is strong. However, the girls are out of focus and need to be sharper, especially in their faces.
	Western Flinders Ranges	Betty Bibby	13	Honour	Nice image, and well seen. I wonder if a panoramic crop that reduces some of the sky would make a stronger image by placing the building in a better position.

	Whats Above	Trevor Bibby	11	Merit	This is a nice architectural image. I feel that a little bit of light bounced into the cross struts would avoid the need for post- production work, which detracts from the image.
	Wolsley	Murray Mc Eachern	13	Honour	I like this image and the angle you took capturing the hood ornament. What detracts is the reflections of people in the chrome.

Section Slide - Set - “Selective Focusing” (EDPI)

	Bad Hair Day	Judy McEachern	12	Merit	I think if more of the 'hair' were sharper, it would be more interesting, and the big white space on the right-hand side is distracting.

	Blue Wren	Judy McEachern	15	Honour	This is a wonderful image. Capturing one of these fast little birds is good, but capturing it and handling it this well is wonderful. If I were to make a suggestion, I would say there is too much foreground, but that is just being picky.
	Bottlebrush	Vera Paulin	13	Honour	This image has many distracting white spots that pull the eye away from the plant, which you captured wonderfully. Perhaps a vignette to help reduce them?
	By the Very Good Cafe	Frank Carroll	13	Honour	The handling gives it a 'dollhouse' look, which I find appealing. I think cropping a little off the bottom would let the eye focus on the streetscape. At the moment, the black 'blob' in the bottom left is distracting.

	Grevillia	Judy McEachern	14	Honour	This is a great image. If I were to make a comment, it would be that the white spot on the bottom right needs to be cropped out or dimmed in post-production.
	Iris	Judy McEachern	14	Honour	Wonderful image. If you included more of the flower's sharp part, I think it would create a nice leading line to the centre of the flower.
	Looks yummy	Vera Paulin	11	Merit	The fruit is sharp, but I feel you need more work on capturing it or in post-production to reduce distracting elements.

	Mother and Chick	Murray Mc Eachern	13	Honour	I feel that there is too much foreground and background. If you used a panoramic crop, the birds would become a more prominent feature, and you'd reduce some of the distracting foreground and background.
	Pre Flu Tern	Murray Mc Eachern	12	Merit	There is a lot going on in this image, and capturing them can make for a messy image. I think selecting a segment of the birds would be better.
	The Silent Witness	Ralph Domino	12	Merit	I feel that if the rocks were removed, the bug on the fish's mouth would be clearer and make for a stronger image.

	Twins	Vera Paulin	12	Merit	There are many distracting areas in this image. You could add a light vignette to guide the viewer's eye toward the plant.
	When the frost has melted	Carol Hall	12	Merit	I like that you have seen and captured this image. I think that if you spot focused on one of the webs then we would have something to focus the eye on. That said, well done for doing something different.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2026/2027

To contact committee email: *ballaratcameraclub@googlegroups.com*

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