The Optic Nerve

Monthly Newsletter of the Wodonga Albury Camera Club

Reg # A 0013634 PO Box 46 Wodonga Victoria
email:secretary@waccfoto.com Web: www.waccfoto.com

JUNE 2015

Starry, Starry Night ...

A group of a dozen hardy WACC photographers gathered at Bethanga Bridge on the night of Monday 18th May (a new moon night) for a Landscape Astrophotography workshop conducted by Mark Slater. Preparation is the key to success for such a shoot. First of all, warm clothes (fleece, jumper, beanie, gloves and for some, thermals) are essential. Secondly, it is important to be familiar with your camera and navigating your way through its menu and around its settings. It can be very frustrating making adjustments to your camera in the dark (even with a torch) if you're not confident about doing so in daylight.

Apart from your camera, which ideally should be a full-frame capable of shooting at a high ISO with minimal noise, you need a wide-angle lens (somewhere between 14mm and 24mm is ideal) with fast glass (a low f-stop such as f2.8, f 3.5 or f4), a remote shutter release and a sturdy tripod. A fully-charged battery and/or spare are essential.

It is important to know how to: set your camera to Manual mode; change the ISO (between 1600-3200); set the white balance to 3800K; change the shutter speed and aperture in Manual mode; set your focus on your lens to manual (this is best achieved during daylight hours by autofocussing on a distant object and noting where the camera sets the focal distance on the lens) and identify which shutter speed best suits your lens based on the 600 Rule (shutter speed = 600/focal length of lens).

The Bethanga Bridge provided an interesting foreground for our photographs of the stars. A silhouette of a tree, windmill or an old building would be an equally suitable foreground. Some of the resulting images are shown below. Many thanks to Mark Slater for organising the workshop and sharing his wealth of knowledge of Landscape Astrophotography.

Diary Dates

Monday 8th June 2015
@ Boomerang Hotel
7:30pm General Meeting
Judging – Image of the Year
Entries due – Open

Thursday 25th June 2015
7:00pm Committee Meeting @ King Residence

Monday 13th July 2015
@ Boomerang Hotel
7:30pm General Meeting
Judging – Food
Entries due – Rust

Images by Sharon Alston, Garry Pearce and David Willis

Letter to the Editor

Denise and I have had a wonderful three years as members of WACC and we did enjoy living in Albury and exploring the both sides of the Murray. From the moment Wooly took us under his wing on the July winter walk from Nouriel Park, to us both being on the committee it has been a lot of fun. We will continue to view the Club's website to see the success of future competitions with Benalla, VAPS and also you the members.
To all the members who extended their help and friendship to us we say thank you. As David has shown you, "Photography is easy, just point and push the button". The hard part is what you point the camera at and your timing in the pushing of the button. We will coincide any visit to Albury with a visit to a WACC Meeting.
Cheers and ooRoo, Denise and John Organ.

Roster

July
Monica & Sean King

(A warm welcome to the committee to our newest committee members – Monica and Sean!)

Suspended Banana

"Suspended Banana" by David Willis is very simple to do in Photoshop, Elements or similar software program. All you have to do is follow David's simple steps:

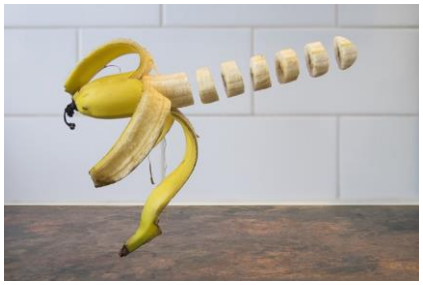
Step 1 Take a photo of the background image. Camera mounted on a tripod; natural lighting; Exposure: 4 sec, bias +2 step, f-stop: f16, ISO: 100 and spot metering.

Step 2 Peel a banana, cut into sections and thread onto a skewer; prop it up in the air, and photograph it: Exposure: 1.6 sec, bias +1.3 step, f-stop: f8, ISO 100 and spot metering.

Step 3 Make a selection of the banana, copy and paste it onto the background image. Tilt the banana as required and flatten the layers. Clone out any odd bits.

Step 1

Step 2


Step 3

Club Competitions

Tonight is the club's annual Awards night: 1st, 2nd & 3rd placed images for the sections Colour Prints Photographer, Colour Prints Advanced Photographer, Monochrome, EDI Photographer and EDI Advanced Photographer; 1st & 2nd place-getters on Aggregate Points for the sections Colour Prints Photographer, Colour Prints Advanced Photographer, Monochrome, EDI Photographer and EDI Advanced Photographer; and ultimately the ***J&J Dallinger Memorial Trophy*** for "Image of the Year". The ***David Tilley Memorial Trophy*** for the "Most Creative Photograph" and the ***Pelican Award*** for the "Best Nature Image" will also be presented.

Future Competitions:

July
Judging: Food
Entries Due: Rust

August
Judging: Open
Entries Due: Open

Happy Photography!

Garry

Our Sponsors:

FOTO SUPPLIES camerahouse
Kerry & Leighton Weymouth

BOOMERANG HOTEL

Image by Sharon Alston