



The *Optic Nerve*

Monthly Newsletter of the Wodonga Albury Camera Club

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October 2017

Aussie Backyard Bird Count – 23rd to 29th October 2017

All bird lovers and bird photographers are urged to take part in this year's Aussie Backyard Bird Count during National Bird Week from October 23 to 29. Simply download the app (aussiebirdcount.org.au), grab your binoculars and camera, and head outdoors.

National Bird Week – a tradition dating back nearly 100 years – celebrates the incredible variety of beautiful birds found in Australia, with the results providing a picture of how our birds are faring, both locally and across Australia.

Last year's Aussie Backyard Bird Count saw a record of 61 000 nature loving Australians take time out from their busy schedules to count more than 1.4 million birds.

In the fourth Aussie Backyard Bird Count, the updated app allows you to take part anywhere, not just backyards, but in local parks, botanical gardens, beaches, or wherever you might see some birds.

Every bird counted will help BirdLife Australia reach its target of 1.5 million birds counted in seven days to smash last year's record.

You can also join a local bird expert on Sunday, October 29 at 10am or 11am for a 40 minute long walk around a reserve on Boyes Road off Baranduda Boulevard. This walk is suitable for novices through to experts. Just bring sturdy shoes, hat, a water bottle and your camera.

We look forward to seeing some great birdy photos entered into our next open competition.

Diary Dates

Monday 9th October 2017 @
Boomerang Hotel
7:30pm Judging – Open
Entries Due – Open

Sunday 22nd October 2017 WACC
Photographic Road Trip. Meet at
Bunnings carpark Wodonga
9:00am.

Thursday 26th October 2017
Committee Meeting

Monday 13th November 2017 @
Boomerang Hotel
7:30pm Judging – Humorous
Entries Due – Flora



Tips for Creative Flower Photography

There is just something about the inherent beauty of a flower; the wide variety of colors, shapes, and patterns that provides drama and interest to the landscape. Whether growing wild in a field, deep in the forest, or in the back yard, flowers are all around to showcase the beauty of the natural world.

Flowers are willing subjects and lend themselves quite well to being photographed. As with any type of photography, there are general rules and guidelines, and tips and tricks to make the best images possible. The basic idea is to make your photo stand out from the rest; to create something unique and inspiring; something with that "wow" factor. Hopefully these tips will provide at least a starting point to getting more creative images of flowers and inspire you to try techniques and ideas that you may not have tried before. Hopefully you will have a shot or two to enter into next month's set subject competition "flora".

Tip 1: Change your perspective - In order to make images that are a little more creative and dynamic, you will need to change your perspective a little. This means that you will need to get up high or down low and shoot at different angles. You may decide to shoot straight down at the flower, or perhaps shoot from your knees so that you are shooting from the same height as the flowers, or maybe even lying down and shooting up at the flowers. The subject, the background, and the light will dictate what angles will work best in a particular situation. Either way, wear clothing that you won't mind getting dirty and don't be afraid to get down as low as you can go.

Tip 2: Isolate the subject - This one is pretty basic, but should not be overlooked. We've all seen images of flowers, birds, people, etc. that have a cluttered or ugly background. The main subject gets lost in the mess and the photo just doesn't work. Flowers are beautiful and our images of them should accentuate that beauty as much as possible. Compose the image in a way that keeps the flower the predominant focus by avoiding things that will be distracting. Keep in mind that distractions come in many forms, such as having too much of the image in focus, uncomplimentary patterns or colors, or areas of the image that are too bright ('hot spots'). All of these things will cause the viewer's eyes to wander and possibly lose interest in the star of the photo.

Tip 3: Block the wind - It may seem like a calm day, but you will be surprised how much a flower will move, especially right when you want to take the shot. For this reason, it's a good idea to have something with you that can be used to block the wind to keep the flower from moving around while you are trying to focus and get the shot. Any number of things could be used for this, such as a reflector, diffuser, a small board, or even an umbrella.

For more tips on photographing flowers visit <https://improvephotography.com/30196/21-tips-creative-flower-photography/>



Crafty Bells

"At the heart of your images
are the right accessories"

Photography Accessories by Crafty Bells

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We have a wide range of photography accessories to aid your photography sessions. Most products are custom made to your requirements

Lens Warmers, Lens Bags, Reflectors, Reference Cards, Balance Cards, Diffusers, Light Boxes, Camera Straps, Rain & Dust Covers, Stabiliser Pillows, Filter Pouches, Point & Shoot Camera Cases. We are always researching for more products so visit our website to see what is new.

Please Note: 10% of all sales from WACC Members goes back to the Club.

ALBURY SHOW SOCIETY INC.
**ALBURY ANNUAL SHOW
2017**
Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th November
**PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION**



WACC Contact: Phil Bell Phone: 0400846539 email: linker1947@bigpond.com

The Show Office will be open to receive photos from **Monday 9th October** 1:00 to 3:00pm

Entries close on Thursday 12th Oct at 3.00 pm.

Future Club Competitions:

November:

Judging – Humorous
Entries Due – Flora

December:

Judging – Open
Entries Due – Open

Our Sponsors:

Kerry & Leighton Weymouth

