

January 2026

# The Optic Nerve



## Diary Dates:

### Next General Meeting

Monday 19th January  
6:45pm for 7:00pm start

### WACC Committee Meeting

TBA

### February General Meeting:

Monday 9th February  
6:45pm for 7:00pm start

### WACC Committee Meeting

Monday 23rd February  
7:30pm

Editor: [secretarywacc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarywacc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.waccfoto.com](http://www.waccfoto.com)

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/WACCPhotography](https://www.facebook.com/WACCPhotography)

## Best Wishes for 2026

We look forward to providing a variety of events and competitions throughout the year ahead. Hopefully these outings and workshops will inspire us to learn more about different genres of photography through sharing our knowledge and supporting each other. One competition our Club did particularly well in last year was The Australia Cup. Keep in mind we will be looking to have a selection of Australian Landscapes and Seascapes for this year's entry.

## Photographic Challenge

Our current challenge involving five items in a box was chosen as an opportunity for members to get creative photographing some small and interesting objects. The fun will not just be in the making but also seeing the variety of ideas we each come up with. Please put your entries in MyPhotoClub by this coming January meeting for viewing at the February meeting. Up to five entries can be submitted, however only one image of each item to be used.

## Christmas Party Celebrations

Members enjoyed a relaxing afternoon celebrating our Christmas get together and sharing gifts with a Kris Kringle. The event was held at Browns Lagoon in South Albury on Sunday 14th December with twenty attendees. Thank you to Judy, Sharon and Mark and Wendy for organising a great day for members to catch up with each other.





# The Joy of Pets

Often we see WACC members volunteering and becoming involved in community and charity events. The following is about when members stepped up for a very worthwhile cause late last year.

Article by Kay Bennetts

I do the Instrgram for AWAR (Albury Wodonga Animal Rescue) and got voted to do the Christmas Pet Portraits when I foolishly attended a commmitte meeting. Gulp!

We set a low price point (\$10 per session) for some solid reasons. It's an opportunity to raise a little funds but, more importantly, to raise awareness of AWAR and to give something back to those who support us. It's amazing how far a great photo of a pet travels and just how much free advertising we get when poeple pop the photos on social media and tag AWAR! So, although the price point is really low, AWAR gets a lot out to it.

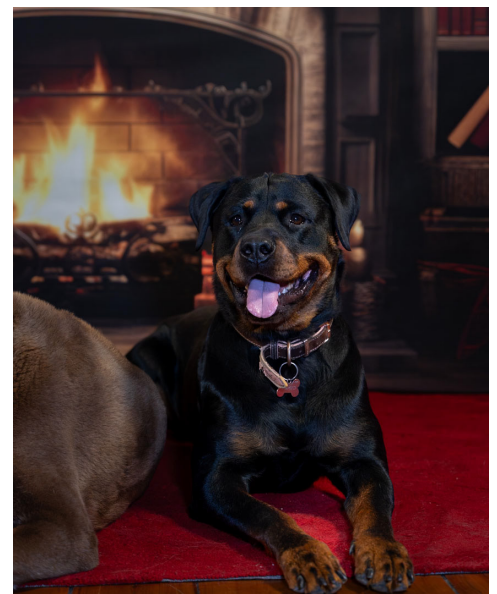
I tagged my photoshoot buddy, Amanda Crisp and also David Woolcock, as he had previoulsy offered the loan of his expertise and lights, both of which were desperately needed.

It became a WACC 'event' when David included Bill Thompson as an additonal mentor and Jess Anneliese as an additional photographer. The day of the shoot was amazing. Firstly, people actually turned up!!! There was no booking system. Secondly, they were having the best time and so were we! We met some interesting people and great pets. The memory of wrangling two cats and their owner in one session will go down in the annals of history of those present!!

A huge thank you to Wooly and Bill for the mentorship and to Amanda and Jess for the support and back up. To anyone considering getting involved in something like this, go for your life!! We gained so much experience in setting up for portaits, lighting, posing clients and their pet and managing expectations! It was bloody awesome!



Thank you to Kay for the report and images and to Jessica Wells and Amanda Crisp for the photos and of course the stars of the show and their humans.





# Member's Page

It has been great to welcome new members to the club, which seems to be happening on a regular basis. As a way of getting to know each other I requested a fairly recent new member Glenda Black to provide us with some background about both her and Michael's photography. Thank you Glenda for your contribution below and their beautiful images.

Michael's photography journey started in the days of film, where he was a member of Sunbury Camera Club then Woodend, he liked to do portraits and a bit of landscape. Then he took a long break.

It wasn't until Covid 19 locked us down at my Mum's place that I took up photography and discovered it was calming and relaxing. With a beautiful garden, it was logical to concentrate on flowers, birds and bugs. Michael provided advice and encouragement but didn't get involved at that stage. I was hooked, so I joined Shepparton Camera Club and later Benalla Camera Club, getting involved in the committee and eventually encouraging Michael along too. I was the Events Co-ordinator for a couple of years and Michael was the President at one stage.

With Michael now competing as well, two cameras were required so we now shoot with a Canon R7 and R6M2. Michael liked wildlife photography and my preferred subjects were Macro and Astro.



## Images

Left: Astrophotography  
Glenda Black

Top right:  
Blue Banded Bee  
Glenda Black

Middle right:  
Eastern Spinebill  
Michael Black

Right:  
Rainbow bee-eater  
Michael Black



It wasn't really until we moved to Peechelba in 2023 that birds became a popular subject for us both, as you could spend hours relaxing in the garden. Here we learnt to sit calmly and allow the birds to get to know us. Our philosophy with bird photography is to try to take the best photo possible.

Mindful of being locked in to one genre we are trying to expand in different areas, Michael is dabbling in miniature photography and I am trying some creative options.



# Competition Page

Enter via WACC My Photo Club Webpage <https://waccfoto.myphotoclub.com.au>

## Upcoming Competitions

Due January 19th - March Meeting - Insects

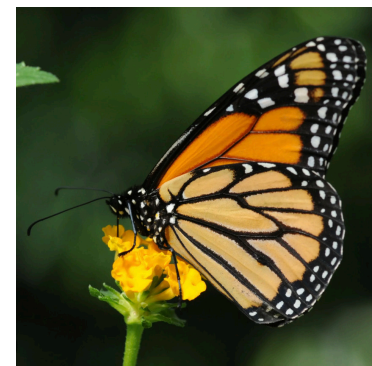
Due February 9th - April Meeting - Open

Due March 9th - May Meeting - Nature

## Theme Definition

### Insects

Your image is to feature an insect or insects from the Class "Insecta" This class includes - praying mantids; cockroaches; termites; fleas; dragonflies and damselflies; earwigs; flies; butterflies and moths; grasshoppers, katydids, crickets; beetles; wasps, bees, ants, sawflies. No crustaceans, spiders, mites, scorpions, millipedes or centipedes. How you compose or feature the subject is up to you, provided it is alive and free in a natural environment.



Wanderer Butterfly. Source: [www.nacc.com.au](http://www.nacc.com.au)

Further definitions for club competitions including Nature and Long Exposure which is due in May can also be found on our website.

<https://www.waccfoto.com/docs/programmes/setSubjects.pdf>

### WACC 2026 Calendars

We still have some  
available. If interested,  
please contact  
[neville@nrbartlett.com.au](mailto:neville@nrbartlett.com.au)



Image above by David Willis from Flower Photography Workshop at Malcolm Godde's garden.

### Pre-meeting Meal

All welcome to join in for an opportunity to meet and have a meal before each monthly meeting.

5:30pm @ Edwards Tavern  
<https://edwardstavern.com.au/>

## Our Sponsors





**SAVE THE DATE!**

14 March 2026 Wodonga Show  
21 March 2026 (Equestrian Competition)

At next year's Wodonga Show WACC will have a presence with a mini exhibition and helping run the **Photography Competition**. Wodonga Show is a family based event with a large variety of attractions many of which are free including:

- Circus McCabe
- Woodchopping demonstrations
  - Burhurt Medieval group
  - Bricks on the Border
    - Albury Bonsai
  - Colonial Clydesdales
    - Camel rides
    - Pony rides
  - Animal nursery
- Husky demonstrations
- Lego Competition

There are 2 categories in the **photo competition** and these are both split into Adult and Under 18.

#### **Category 1: Outside on the Border**

A person or people enjoying the great outdoors within 80kms of Albury/Wodonga

Possible examples:

Someone walking a dog

People playing sport

A picnic by the river

A coffee at the markets

An outdoor concert

#### **Category 2: Architecture**

This competition is run at a local and state level by VAS (Victorian Agricultural Shows)

Click here for details on this category.

[static1squarespace.com](https://static1squarespace.com)

**Entry dates, printing requirements and prizes in upcoming issues.**

**Volunteers needed, please speak to Bill Thompson 0407 401 746**