

June Exhibition Landscape

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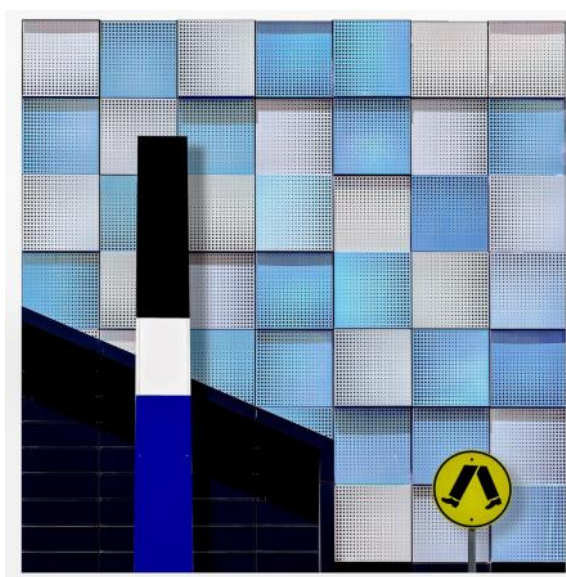
UPCOMING EVENTS

21 June	Photojournalism talk by John Cosgrove, replay from NZ.
28 June	Photoshoot at Noble Falls
5 July	Landscape exhibition
12 July	Zoom presentation by Polina Plotnikova called "Starting from a blank canvas"

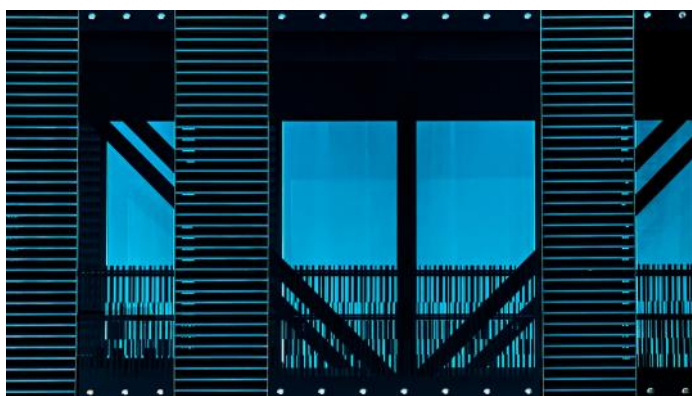


Landscape photography is capturing an image that embodies the spirit of the outdoors. It carries a sense of being there to see something incredible. When viewers look at your work their hearts should jump. You want them to feel the same emotions that you felt when taking the image.

Gold Distinction Awards



Start Here by Glenda Gore



Sky through walkway by Sherie Sampson



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jane Speijers

On the 14th June, Susan Vearncombe showed us some beautiful landscape photos from the Maniatoto region near Christchurch in New Zealand. They demonstrated the value of revisiting landscape sites to get the best conditions and spending a lot of time researching the places she wished to photograph. I think my favourite images were of old buildings, which ranged from large to small, set in magnificent scenery. Susan plans to put together a book of the region.

That was the last meeting that Diederik and I will be attending until the middle of August as we will shortly be setting off on a road trip across Australia. After meeting up with friends in Esperance, we will be heading across the Nullabor via the Eyre Bird Observatory and then up the Birdsville Track into Southwestern Queensland. From there, we will be exploring the area where Waltzing Matilda was written and Qantas was born before heading across to coastal NSW and Sydney. So, expect the occasional photo on Facebook from these places.

WCC has purchased a new Windows PC to replace the aging Mac. It was no longer possible to upgrade the Mac operating system and upload the latest versions of Lightroom and Photoshop. The new PC will be used in conjunction with the Eizo screen which WCC won at PrintWest in 2022. In testing, it appears that exhibition images will no longer be cropped on the new PC as they have been on the Mac at recent exhibitions. Let's hope there are no glitches when the new PC is used at the July exhibition.

Congratulations to all those members whose images were selected as part of the WCC entry to PrintWest and thanks to the members who helped with selecting the images – Tony and Jill Luha, Nola Sumner, Susan Vearncombe and Diederik.

More Gold Awards



Blue Façade by Alan Wallace

June Blue		
Projected Subject	20 entries	
Glenda Gore	Start Here	Gold Distinction
Sherie Sampson	Sky through walkway	Gold Distinction
Alan Wallace	Blue Facade	Gold
Greg Hilton	Blue bottles	Gold
Richard Sak	Blue corner	Gold
Helen Rowbottam	Heart of the Blue	Silver
Chris Orrell	set the shot	Silver
Jane Speijers	Intense	Silver
Cynthia Ball	My Ukelele	Silver
Nola Sumner	Fly High	Silver
Gary Louth	At the Blues	Silver
Robert Ball	Blue Moon	Bronze
Jim Lewis	Drops from the Blue	Bronze
Isobel Pearson	Braided helix	Bronze
Viki Russell	Bluebell	Bronze
Tony Luha	Study In Blue	Bronze

A \$25 voucher from one of our sponsors, Camera Electronic or Team Digital, is awarded each month to :

- 1) Best subject image, judge's choice
- 2) Best print, members' choice



EXHIBITION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Greg Hilton

The June exhibition, entitled "Blue", was quite well attended and our judge, Ann Lance, provided good constructive criticism on how she thought images could be improved. She said how impressed she was with the standard of the prints.

There were 20 images in Projected Subject, 21 in Projected Open, 6 in Print Subject and 7 in Print Open.

The Best Subject image was awarded to Glenda Gore, for "Start Here". The Members' Choice- Print, was awarded to Ian Sampson, for *trees*. The Members' Choice-Digital, from last month's exhibition, was awarded to Ian Stubber, for "Best Friends".

There was a bit of discussion on whether or not some images were true to the definition of the subject. In other words, blue might have taken up most of the image area, but it was not necessarily the colour that the eye was drawn to. Maybe we should reassess having a colour as the title of the subject in future. Comments on this would be welcome.

Diederik informs me that he has the new club computer, so hopefully we will be able to fix the image cropping problem when projected. It had not been worth spending the time on trying to fix it on the old computer.

More Gold Awards



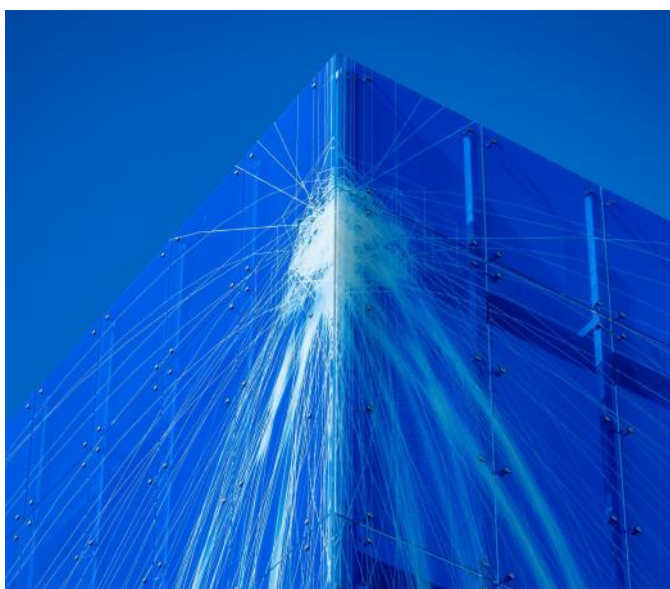
Blue Bottles by Greg Hilton

Projected Open	21 entries	
Ian Sampson	Sydney building	Gold
Jane Speijers	Shapes	Gold
Rod Simmons	Black Kite in a Dive	Silver
Georgina Wilson	Gentoo penguin	Silver
Richard Sak	Eiger Trail	Silver
Keith Lightbody	Pink Cockatoo	Silver
Helen Rowbottam	Golden Flight	Silver
Sherie Sampson	Devil woman	Silver
Gary Louth	Plantation on the Peninsula	Silver
Susan Vearncombe	Home Hills	Silver
Tony Luha	Bowing Down	Bronze
Chris Orrell	caught	Bronze
Jill Luha	Breaking Out	Bronze
Alan Wallace	Red Leaves	Bronze
Glenda Gore	Jurien Jetty	Bronze
Nola Sumner	Misty Gully	Merit
Harshwardhan Singh	Near Hoogly River	Merit
Lesley Halligan	Home garage	Merit
Viki Russell	Resting fly	Merit

Print Subject	6 entries	
Sherie Sampson	Blue tower reflections	Gold
Susan Vearncombe	The Blue Hour	Gold
Glenda Gore	Later For Dinner	Gold
Helen Rowbottam	In the Blue	Silver
Jane Speijers	Eye-catching	Bronze
Isobel Pearson	Nature meets man-made	Bronze

More Gold Awards

Print Open	7 entries	
Helen Rowbottam	Colours of the Earth	Gold Distinction
Sherie Sampson	This is my best	Gold
Glenda Gore	Diversity	Gold
Isobel Pearson	Streetscape	Gold
Jane Speijers	Camel Train	Gold
Susan Vearncombe	First Light	Silver
Ian Sampson	trees	Bronze



Blue corner by Richard Sak



The Blue Hour by Susan Vearncombe



Blue tower reflections by Sherie Sampson

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Program Director required

Instead of a meeting at the clubroom on 28th June, a photoshoot has been organized for sunset at Noble Falls. A midweek time has been chosen to avoid the crowds that often gather at the Falls on weekends making photography very difficult. With all the rain we have recently had, you can expect to see plenty of water coming over the falls. Bring your ND filters and a tripod to capture the movement. Details will be available on our online calendar.

On 12 July, British photographer, Polina Plotnikova, will be speaking to us again via Zoom. You may remember that Polina gave us an excellent talk on flower photography a couple of years ago which stimulated enthusiasm for this genre at the time. In her July presentation, she will be talking about still life photography to coordinate with our August exhibition subject.

Polina says "I am firmly in the picture makers' club. While fully appreciating the 'what you see is what you get' approach, I am much more interested in chasing an ever-elusive image that appears in my mind's eye, an image that conveys my feelings and emotions".

The week following Polina's talk, we are planning a still life workshop where you can shoot some still life images. We will be asking you to bring along some interesting objects to use in our images.



trees by Ian Sampson

Congratulations to Ian Sampson who won the members' choice print award for his image *trees*.

And congratulations, in addition, to Ian Stubber who won the members' choice best digital image award for his image, *Best Friends*, from the previous month.

Best digital image, members' choice, receives a bottle of wine.



Image by upcoming presenter, Polina Plotnikova



Representative image by Seng Mah as inspiration for our upcoming photoshoot

Workshop Camera Club has an active Facebook page which is available only to members. If you are a member, please have a look to see what other members are up to.



More Gold Awards



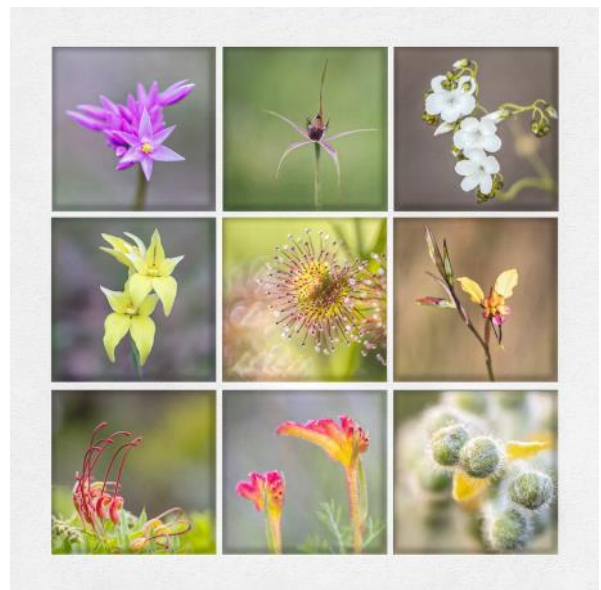
Later for Dinner by Glenda Gore



Streetscape by Isobel Pearson



This is my best side by Sherie Sampson



Diversity by Glenda Gore



Shapes by Jane Speijers



Camel Train by Jane Speijers

More Gold Distinction Awards



Sydney building by Ian Sampson



Colours of the Earth by Helen Rowbottam

Advertisement

Free TV

The Club has a TV which is now surplus to requirements. It is a Soniq 55 inch non-smart TV, about 15 years old. It is available free to anyone who will take it away. Thus making more space in the library where it has been stored up against the wall.



The next Photo Market will be held on Sunday, 23rd July. There will be more details in the next newsletter.



The Scottish Islands by Viki Russell

We have been fortunate over a couple of trips to visit some of the Scottish Islands which are so beautiful with their pristine natural state and with so much history to discover as well. On a beautiful day, there is nowhere finer to be.

Shetland Islands

In 2017, we took the overnight ferry from Aberdeen to Lerwick, the capital of Shetland. The North Sea was like a millpond but it was clear from the sick bags available every few metres and the shattered window to the upstairs lounge that this is not always the case. We hired a car to get around.

We really enjoyed finding Jimmy's House from Shetland, the TV series, which has been a favourite.



L. Jimmy's house in Lerwick

R. Jarlshof, a mixture of 4000 years of settlements

A very interesting site historically was Jarlshof which includes settlements from more than 4000 years of human habitation. The site contains a Neolithic house, a Bronze Age village, an Iron Age settlement and broch, a Viking village, a medieval farm and a 16th century laird's hall.



Puffins on the Sumburgh cliffs

Close by, near the Sumburgh airport, we finally fulfilled an ambition to see puffins. What endearing birds they are with their large orange feet dangling below them as they come ashore to land amongst beautiful pink flowers (*Armeria maritima*) clinging to the cliff faces. I longed to see the iconic image of a puffin with a mouthful of sand eels but the time was not right. Another wild attraction is the pods of Orcas which I now follow on Facebook (Shetland Orca Sightings).

We walked across a natural sand causeway called a tombola to St Ninians' Isle. There we pondered the ruins of a 12th century chapel. There was a hoard of 8th century silver found in the grounds which is on display in the museum. It was thought to have been hidden from Viking raiders.

We took a couple of the local ferries to get our car between the islands. On Fetlar, we joined in the search for the Red-necked Phalarope of which there appear perilously few. We never saw the one which other people had reported. Imagine my surprise when I found it is an occasional migrant to Rottneest.

On the headland of Unst overlooking Muckle Flugga, the most Northerly point of Britain, is the Hermaness National Nature Reserve. From the carpark, there is a quite a long walk along a boardwalk protecting the ground nesting pairs of Great Skuas. Once we reached the steep cliffs, we saw tens of thousands of sea birds, mainly Gannets.

As Unst is the first land the Vikings would reach on their Westward expansion, there are many Viking archeological sites. We visited the reconstructed longhouse and boat at Haroldswick.



L. Nesting Great Skua at Hermaness National Park

R. Viking site on Unst

Orkney Islands

Having loved our time on Shetland, we now caught the ferry to the Orkney Islands, docking in the capital Kirkwall. The Orkneys are in a very strategic position between the North Sea and the Atlantic. The naturally sheltered body of water known as Scapa Flow played a significant role in the recent World Wars. The naval fleet which was based there was vulnerable to attack so fortifications were put in.



L. Scapa Flow, showing fortifications from WWI (scuttled old ships at one of the vulnerable openings to the sea) and the Churchill Barriers from WWII.

R. The bell from the Royal Oak, the only ship sunk by a submarine within Scapa Flow in WWII, displayed in St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall.

There are very significant Neolithic sites in Orkney and modern archeological discoveries have suggested that Orkney may indeed be the cultural capital of the ancient world. A very interesting documentary series featuring Neil Oliver and colleagues investigates this evidence.



In 1850, a massive storm exposed a Neolithic village at Skara Brae. It was occupied between 3180 – 2500 BC. There is a suggestion that it was abandoned during another major storm and that the people left in a hurry, leaving their possessions behind. It was surprising to me how beautiful the little houses were, revealing sentiments not unlike our own. I could easily imagine a display of treasured items like we would have today on our own mantelpiece. The space in each house contains neat sections for sleeping, cooking, storage. It is a great shame that the site was plundered in 1913 as it would be really good to see what kinds of things were removed. However, the site is now meticulously cared for, as the rare historical find deserves.



The Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae

Another very significant Neolithic site centres around the Ring of Brodgar, which is part of a major archeological investigation. It stands on an isthmus of land known as the Ness of Brodgar between two lochs and is described as the only major henge and stone circle (104 m in diameter) in Britain which is almost a perfect circle. Close by are the Standing Stones of Stenness, which is a much smaller circle, and Maeshowe, a chambered tomb. The circles could be astronomical markers in the same way that Stonehenge is.

Both of these stone circles are older than others in Britain. Situated between them, a complex of Neolithic buildings is being excavated in the summer seasons. I read that 2024 will be the final year of excavation after 20 years of work. Following this time, the site will be backfilled leaving the scientists to fully evaluate and catalogue the discoveries they have made which suggest that this was an exceptionally important place. Many beautiful objects such as pottery and bone tools were found which suggest that the area was a centre for ceremony.

The Standing Stones of Stenness could be the oldest henge in Britain. There are only four upright stones in a circle that once held twelve. The stones are larger than the ones in the Ring of Brodgar. At the centre is a stone hearth.



Standing Stones of Stenness.

One vertical stone from the circle is seen with the hearth stones in the middle.



The Ring of Brodgar

Above. Entrance to the isthmus guarded by a monolith called the Watchstone. The excavations mentioned are behind the buildings seen along the road.

L. Close up of some of the stones in the circle.

Below. A panoramic view of the whole Ring surrounded by the ditch.





The Callanish standing stones on the Isle of Lewis. Unlike the other stone henges, which are circles, this one is arranged in a cruciform pattern with a central stone circle.

The Hebrides

I have just recently returned from another trip to Scotland. The islands visited on this occasion were Skye (Inner Hebrides) and the Islands of Harris and Lewis (Outer Hebrides).

The most fascinating historical place I saw in Skye was the grave of Flora MacDonald who is famous for helping Bonnie Prince Charlie, dressed in a bonnet, escape to Skye after the defeat at the Battle of Culloden. Giving rise to the well known song "over the sea to Skye". There was so many places in Scotland notable by the conflict known as the Jacobite Rebellion which was fought over religious grounds. Whether to accept a Protestant or Catholic monarchy.

From Skye, we took a ferry in our hire car to Tarbert in Harris. Although Harris and Lewis are part of the same landmass, in fact they are very different scenically. We found Harris the more beautiful of the two, with something delightful to look at everywhere you looked. In the summer, there are meadows of wildflowers. The roads are one lane mostly, with regularly spaced passing nooks. What a very beautiful place Harris is, famous for the tweed made there. And needless to say, many of the sheep used to make the wool. There was an interesting museum on the history of Harris Tweed.



The road along one of the West coast inlets

We drove up to the Isle of Lewis where we stayed just outside of Stornoway, the capital. One of the great highlights was to drive to the Callanish standing stones which are on the west coast, accessed by a road across a lonely moor. Unfortunately, when we got there, it was raining and the ground was very boggy. We had a quick look around.

The next day, we went back after the ground had dried out a bit and were able to enjoy it more. We were our way back from another treat on the west coast, a hike up to the North Harris Eagle Observatory where it is possible to look for the resident pair of Golden Eagles. They kindly appeared for us, though at great height.

And lastly, I was very thrilled to find that there were six of the Lewes chess pieces on display in the museum in Stornoway. I had seen a documentary of their discovery on a beach at Uig in 1831. They date from the 12th-century and are believed to have come from Trondheim.

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