



# Camera Clips

January 2011

## From the Editor

James Allan

Welcome to 2011. I trust that you have had a good Christmas and New Year. If you haven't already been involved in the 31 day challenge, you should go onto the Flickr group and catch some of the action. A range of photographers took pictures during December and posted them onto the club Flickr group. <http://www.flickr.com/groups/blackwoodphoto/> Apart from myself there were 3 other photographers, Chris Schultz, Jim Trice and David Tulloch who posted a new photo for every day of the month. The challenge also drew contributions from Erika, Ashley, Matt, Ray and David Douglas Martin. I must say that I enjoyed viewing the entries, and watching themes develop, for instance there are 31 days of windows. It is of note that a number of the images were picked up and invited onto other Flickr groups including Daily Qi's image of the day for "Wandering Jew" by Jim Trice.

The bulk of this edition is a tribute to the winning images from the annual end of year competition 2010. I have been able to get my hands on all but one of the award winning and merited images. I have displayed these over the next 4 pages. I am sure that all of the winners would agree that in fact it was hard to stand out from the field this year. There were many high quality and distinguished prints and projected images. It is a credit to all who entered.

The club calendar is still available. Thanks to all members who have sold copies on behalf of the club. If you can remit Julie Goulter for all of the calendars that you have sold I would be most appreciative. Unfortunately we still have quite a few to sell.

I look forward to seeing you at our inaugural activity in January where we will have a slide evening. Don't bother about bringing anything else. We are just interested in the slides.

One of our members, John Duckmanton has notified me that "the Moran Arts Foundation invites photographers to submit photographic works in competition for the 2011 Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize - Australia's richest photographic prize." "I thought that club members might be interested in the prize although the \$25 entry fee is a little high. Still, there are hundreds of images to view for inspiration!" <http://www.moranprizes.com.au>

Lastly I will remind you that in 2011 there have been a few changes to the club competition rules. Basically you can enter only 3 and not 4 entries into each category. Secondly the digital images and slides categories will be fused into one category—"projected images". You can check out the full details on the club website. <http://blackwoodphotoclub.org/>

## Landscape Photography is hard! -

James Allan

Landscape photography is hard. How many times have I stood at a fantastic scene thinking that I was Stavros Pipos or Ken Duncan snapping away, to find that my camera had different ideas and the results were mediocre at best. Ho Hum. How do they get such rich detail, such glorious colours, arrest your attention so wholly. This was the topic of one of the discussions on the club Flickr group over the summer months. I decided to do some research. I googled landscape photography tips and came up with 12 sites that promised to turn your mundane images into breathtaking masterpieces. So what are the best pieces of advice? Here is my summary.

1. Time of day. Nine of the articles suggested shooting during the golden hours, an hour either side of dawn and dusk when the light is soft, low and colourful.
2. Work on the foreground. Find something of interest, a pattern, a texture, some wildflowers, whatever. Eight authors pointed out that the foreground leads you into the rest of the photograph and is vital to creating that sense of depth. Note—this should not dominate the picture The foreground leads into the picture and should not distract.
3. Use a tripod. Eight authors insisted on a tripod, presuma-

*Continued page 6*

Contacting a member from the club; This month Mark & Jenny Pedlar :[mnpjpedlar@biqpond.com](mailto:mnpjpedlar@biqpond.com)

## Upcoming Events

**December 2010**—31 day challenge. Check out the Flickr group to see club member attempt to produce a photo journal of December 2010. Make comments / join in.

**January 20**—Purely slides—bring along your slides for general viewing

**February 3**—Competition—Postcards—an image that would make a good postcard

**February 17**—Dinner and sunset at Henley Beach

**March 3**—Competition—Food Glorious Food

**March 17**—Workshop—Gimp—the open access image manipulation software (Hands on)

**March 31**—Competition—Corrugations

**April 14**—Workshop—explore your camera—bring your camera along

**April 28**—Competition—Nature—the usual rules apply

**May 12**—Workshop—Tabletop / still life and lighting—bring your camera

**May 26**—Competition—Yellow





1st - Gary Secombe - Been Swimming

Projected Images—Awards			
1	Gary Secombe	12	Been Swimming
2	Matt Carr	12	Hopetoun Falls
3	Gary Secombe	11	Fishing Before Storm
M	Eric Budworth	11	Christie's Creek at Dawn
M	Matt Carr	11	Crab Spider & Meal



2nd



3rd



Merit



Merit

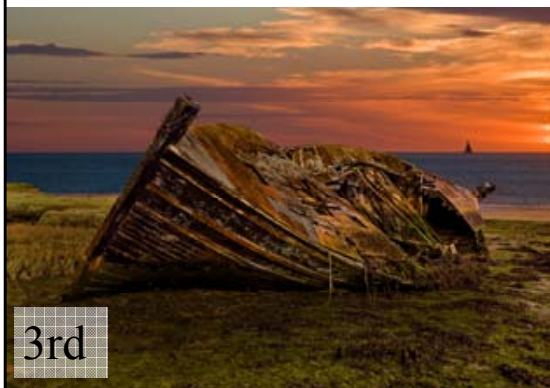
1st - John Vidgeon - Meercats



2nd



3rd



Merit



Colour Prints—Awards

1	John Vidgeon	14	Two Meercats
2	James Allan	13	Brown Falcon Glare
3	John Vidgeon	12	In Need of repair
M	Gary Secombe	12	Coffin Bay Sunset

1st - James Allan - Green Moth



2nd



3rd



Colour Prints—Awards

1	James Allan	14	Green Moth
2	James Allan	10	Bearded Dragon
3	Heather Connolly	10	Dancing on Clay



1st - Matt Carr - Cabbage Leaf

2nd Not available at time of publication



3rd



Merit

Monochrome Prints—Awards			
1	Matt Car	12	Cabbage Leaf
2	Gary Secombe	12	Out Back (of Yank)
3	James Allan	11	Haunted House
M	Matt Car	11	Leaf

bly to allow long exposures and small apertures to be used. This will enable you to maximise the depth of field and if present, water will be blurred into a pleasing form suggesting movement. You may need to use a cable release, or the timer delay to avoid camera shake. It is important to ensure the tripod is stable and well erected. One author insisted that it would help you to concentrate on taking one good photo rather than many ordinary ones. (others disagree and saying “this is the digital age – try doing many different things - you aren’t going to waste any precious film over it”)

4. Depth of field. (7 authors) This can be maximised with a small aperture, a wide angled lens and using a technique of focussing called the hyperfocal point. You focus on a point that allows your closest and your most distant objects to both be in acceptable focus simultaneously. This is usually about 1/3 of the way between these two points. The older lenses had the DoF marked out on the barrel for easy calculation of the hyperfocal point. One author mentioned that sometimes a narrow depth of field is effective and different, emphasizing the point of interest.

5. Try a different approach. (6 authors) The obvious shot is not always the best one. Walk around, investigate the scene. (4 authors) Wade out into the middle of a stream, try getting up high, crouching down, or even lying on your belly to take the shot. Try doing a panorama, or a vertical (portrait) composition. Look for patterns and lines (5 authors) that lead the eye into (not out of) the picture. Use different lenses, wide angle / telephoto for different points of view.

6. Compose the picture. (6) Create or chose a point of interest. Place this off centre. Use the rule of thirds (2 authors). Try to simplify / intensify your picture and exclude distracting elements, people, cars, power lines rubbish etc (2). Others suggest including a person or familiar object to give a sense of scale. (3)

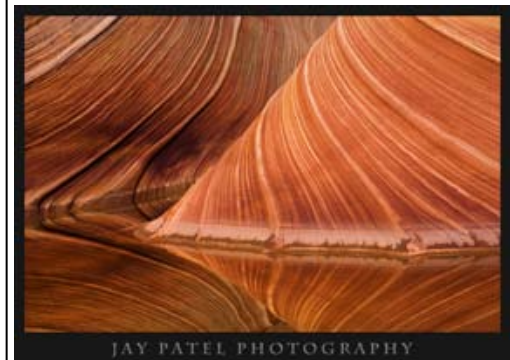
7. Shoot in bad weather. Storms can create dramatic lighting effects that really lift your image. (5)

8. Exposure - Deal with the sky. There is a problem with skies. They are often too bright, especially if you are shooting toward the sun. If the sky is properly exposed the foreground is often too dark. Techniques to consider. Polarizing filter (4) but this does not help on overcast or cloudy days. On these days you can use a graduated neutral density filter (4). Bracket your exposure and choose the best of several images, or consider HDR blending in the computer. (1) One author suggested erring slightly on the underexposed side rather than the overexposed.

9. Reduce Noise, and preserve image quality. Use good quality lenses. (1) Choose as low an ASA or ISO as possible. (3) Use a tripod and long exposure especially in low light. (3) Shoot in RAW (3). Think about white balance and colour management. You may want to expose on a neutral density grey card. (1)

I think my favourite list of tips was produced by Robert Caputo in the “Photography field guide” and available on the National Geographic Website: You should check it out.

<http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/photo-tips/landscape-photography-tips/>



Examples of commercial Landscape photographers and their pictures.

Including: Jay Patel, Ken Duncan,

What went into making these photographs? Do they conform with the standard advice, or do they break the rules?