



## From the Editor

James Allan

Welcome to the second edition of Camera clips this year. We have had a busy start to the year. There have been two competitions; "Mitham city council area" (see photo essay on page 2) and "Man versus Nature". There were many excellent entries. You can see a range of the high scoring images on the club web page. In The photo-essay I have placed some images on a map of the council area illustrating where the respective photos were taken. My thanks to Heather Connolly, Eric Budworth, Helen Whitford, Adrian Hill and Chris Schultz for their images. Feel free to go out and have another go photographing these respective landmarks.

The Banner this week is from an image by Chris Schultz of a leaf beetle. Actually it is a series of macro images that were merged in a program called combineZM. This program merges the sharp parts of images in order to achieve a wide depth of field. It takes a bit of skill to take a series of images that are suitable for merging. I will have to ask Chris to write an article on this process in a future edition of Camera Clips.

We have also had two workshops, "natural light portraiture" with Jeremy Watson and "Low life photography". Jeremy magically appeared on the night of the Natural light portrait workshop with a model, Anna. We were all pleasantly surprised as he led an interactive and informative session. Ashley commented that the portraiture was so easy when you had such a pretty model, who always posed whenever you raised your eye to the viewfinder. Jeremy had been invited to attend by Yvonne who had attended one of his city walks. Jeremy has kindly written an open letter to the club (below) in which he summarizes the main points covered in the workshop. He also gives details of his workshops and Flinders Ranges Safari. We may see more of Jeremy later in the year as he has volunteered to judge for us. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Jeremy for his generous sacrifice of his time.

During the evening Ashley Hoff mentioned the black and white animal portraiture of Nick Brandt. That evening I spent an enjoyable hour on Google exploring his exquisite animal studies. Check them out in the photo gallery on page 4.

Lastly we have an excellent article submitted by John Duckmanton on photographing horses. He writes with a passion for his subject. I guess that is easy for him as he has a wife involved in dressage and has horses living on his property (for the delight of his grandchildren).

## Natural Light Portraiture

By Jeremy Watson

Thanks for inviting us to your workshop, it was lovely to meet you all recently. I hope you found some inspiration and useful tips and tricks while photographing Anneliese and during our chat afterwards.

Portraiture in natural light is a wonderful part of the photography world, I've been shooting portraits for approx 20 years and it still feels rewarding.

Here's a brief tips summary for you;

### Natural Light Portraits

- Experiment with side and back-lighting
- Set your metering mode to centre weighted or spot
- Shoot with a wide aperture
- Crop closer
- Avoid standing your model against a wall or tree etc
- Play with eye contact and looking down etc
- Experiment with simple props such as hands, necklace, glasses

*Continued page 6*

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

## Upcoming Events

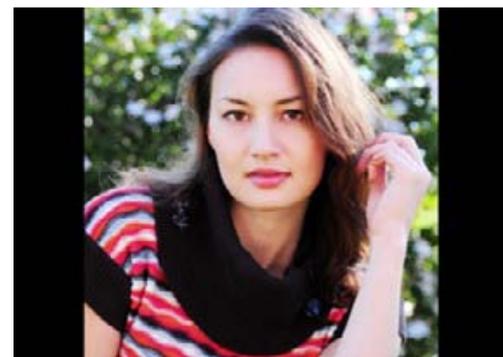
**March 29**—Competition—Book Title—The image must portray the book title chosen. Images will be judged on photographic and artistic quality as well as relevance to the title.

**April 12**—Speaker—(TBA) - ? Lindsay Poland—Getting the most when printing images

**April 26**—Competition—Transport—Show us interesting images of transport – trains, planes and automobiles as a minimum, but any other method of moving people around qualifies.

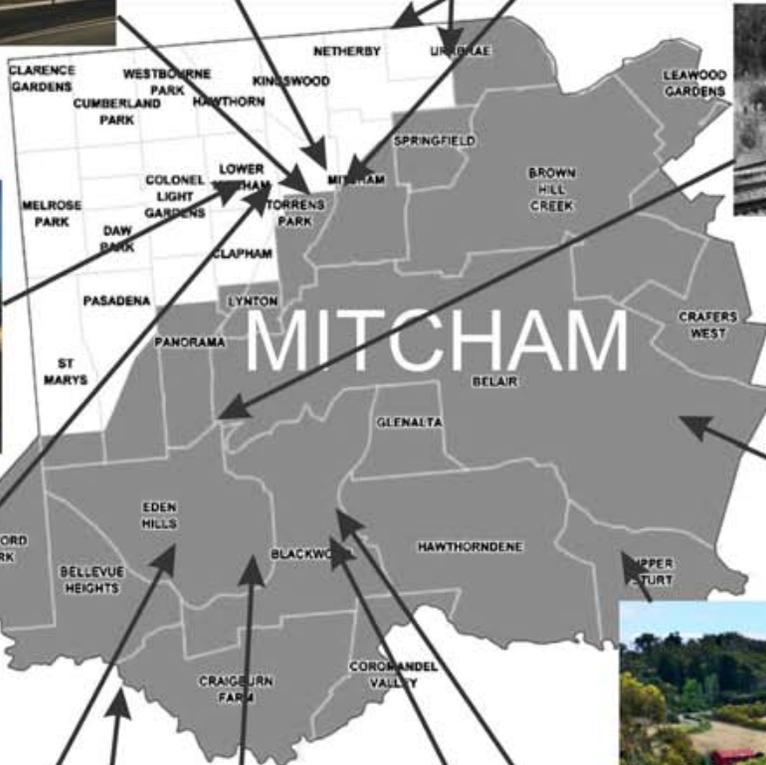
**May 10**—Speakers—My Passion, Three club members will show their images and describe why they are passionate about that genre of photography. Three styles – slides, stitching photos, underwater photography.

**May 24**—Competition—Seen Better Days—The image will be dominated by someone or something which is old, dilapidated or decrepit.



Portrait of Anneliese from Jeremy's website

# Photo-essay: Mitcham City Council Area—February Competition



The light was magnificent. In November in England the skies are usually grey for weeks on end. This day was different with the sun low in the sky creating long shadows and back lighting the horses to perfection. Also the few leaves left on the trees were picking up the light to enhance the background. What more could a photographer want?

This was my last day of my trip and I had gone the full three weeks without horse contact. It was 10 am and I was due to catch the train to Heathrow when I got a phone call to say there was a ploughing competition in Sherwood Forest with three horse teams. I ended up with about an hour at the event and couldn't have wishes for anything better.

I have been taking pictures of horses for years, especially since we started our agistment business, but have only recently learned the art of choosing the correct moment to release the shutter at dressage competitions.

I lived in Brisbane for 5 years and was mad keen on insect photography at the time but still managed to get to the working horse competitions at the Laidley Show in May. The picture is of Bob Bones's outfit.

The same Bob Bones harnessed 42 horses to one cart at the Brookfield Show and managed to steer them around the show arena several times. A hard thing to photograph, getting all of the animals in one frame!

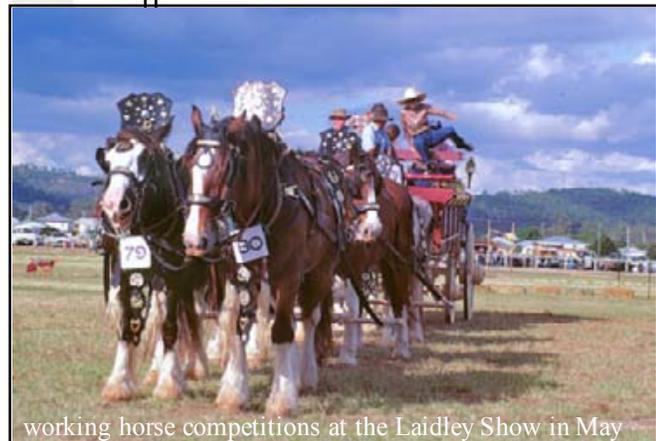
Coming back to SA and I had to start looking for local events again. I guess there is always the Granite Island tram which always seems to be pictured but there are lots of other opportunities around. Madelyn, my wife, is into dressage and competitions are regularly held at Strathalbyn and Lobethal.

Local rodeos are also good for horse pictures and Clare has an evening rodeo in March. Marrabel also has several events throughout the year. Try and get there early and chose your spot carefully. I often sneak into the press area.

Macclesfield Horse Show in January is another great place for horse pictures with jumping, carriage riding and pony events. Very country and usually not too many people around so you can wander about and take pictures wherever you choose.



ploughing competition in Sherwood Forest



working horse competitions at the Laidley Show in May



Sue Paix competing at Strathalbyn.



Clare has an evening rodeo in March



It was while directing “Earth Song”, a music video for Jackson in Tanzania, in 1995 that Brandt fell in love with the animals and land of East Africa. Over the next few years, frustrated that he could not capture on film his feelings about and love for animals, he realized there was a way to achieve this through photography, in a way that he felt no-one had really done before.

In 2000, Brandt embarked upon his ambitious photographic project: a trilogy of books to memorialize the vanishing natural grandeur of East Africa.

His photography bears little relation to the colour documentary-style wildlife photography that is the norm. He photographs on medium-format black and white film without telephoto or zoom lenses. (He uses a [Pentax 67II](#) with only two fixed lenses.) His work is a combination of epic panoramas of animals within dramatic landscapes and graphic portraits more akin to studio portraiture of human subjects from the early 20th Century, as if these animals were already long dead, from a bygone era

*“I’m not interested in creating work that is simply documentary or filled with action and drama, which has been the norm in the photography of animals in the wild. What I am interested in is showing the animals simply in the state of Being. In the state of Being before they are no longer are. Before, in the wild at least, they cease to exist. This world is under terrible threat, all of it caused by us. To me, every creature, human or nonhuman, has an equal right to live, and this feeling, this belief that every animal and I are equal, affects me every time I frame an animal in my camera. The photos are my elegy to these beautiful creatures, to this wrenchingly beautiful world that is steadily, tragically vanishing before our eyes.”*

Polo in the City is usually in November in the northern parklands. It is quite expensive to go in the marquee area but you are free to wander through the saddling area and anywhere on three sides of the ground. Mind you, the food and wine are delicious!

Occasionally you may be able to witness special events like the one in an indoor arena where the following picture was taken:

I have work to do in photoshop to replace the background with a nice European country scene.

Don't forget the Royal Show is always good for horse pictures also but it is hard to get a clutter free background.

You always have to sneak in a picture of the grandchildren so here is one of Harriet giving a carrot to Gully, the 18.2 hands (184 cm at the shoulder) Clydesdale who lives on our property.

Just a few tips:

Do not walk close behind a horse unless you are prepared to be kicked.

A horse with its ears laid back is a horse about to bite you or worse.

Hooves on toes is a rather painful experience.

Horses like to be tickled under the chin but watch your fingers and camera and never put your fingers under any halter straps.

John Duckmanton.



Macclesfield Horse Show in January



Polo in the City



in an indoor arena



Harriet giving a carrot to Gully

- Remember to take the shot between shots, its often when your model relaxes
- Get closer - Robert Capa once said 'If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough'

Most importantly, above all the technical stuff, portraiture is about people, if you're comfortable and confident and interested, your 'model' and photography will reflect this.

### Workshops

Don't hesitate to get in touch if some of your members would like to get together as a group to book a workshop. We offer great rates for group bookings and can offer our standard package workshops as well as customized workshops based on the groups needs and interests.

[http://www.jeremywatson.com.au/jeremy\\_watson\\_photography\\_workshops.php](http://www.jeremywatson.com.au/jeremy_watson_photography_workshops.php)

### Photo Safari

We're looking at doing a 3 day (weekday) Flinders Ranges Photo Safari in the second half of April, I anticipate we'll have approx 3-4 spaces and will be offering a discounted trip if we get sufficient numbers. If anyone is interested and wants more info regarding the schedule etc please feel to get in touch in the next week or so.

[http://www.jeremywatson.com.au/jeremy\\_watson\\_photography\\_safari.php](http://www.jeremywatson.com.au/jeremy_watson_photography_safari.php)

Kind Regards

Jeremy



4WD Flinders Ranges Photo Safari with Jeremy

### What is White Balance

by Gary Hendricks - summarised—Adrian Hill

White balance (WB) is really important for accurate re-production of colours in a photo. If you've taken photos on your camera, you'll notice that sometimes the pictures come out with a hue of colours – usually blue, or yellow. This is particularly the case when photographing things indoors. For human beings, our eyes are able to adjust to this effect. However, cameras don't have that eye and can't recognize and adjust accordingly.

Hence, many digital cameras come with WB settings – tungsten, fluorescent and so forth – to offset the color hues and make the photo colors look correct. These usually come in preset modes. You can also manually adjust WB settings if you wish.

Let's look at some of the standard WB settings used in digital cameras. The default WB setting used is the Auto mode. In this mode, the camera will auto adjust for any color hue that is introduced into the photo. It may not always work but it's a good "fire-and-forget" mode which does everything for you.

Another common setting is that of a "Sunset mode". If you're bathed in the light of dusk, when taking a photo, the colours may look too yellowish. The "Sunset mode" WB setting offsets this so that the color is re-produced accurately in the final shot.

The "Tungsten mode" is also used when you're under tungsten light bulbs. If your subject looks like he or she is too illuminated by light bulbs, switch on the "Tungsten mode" in your WB settings to calibrate the camera.

Other modes include the "Flash mode" which corrects for the harshness of flash indoors, as well as "Cloudy mode" – which compensate for dark, cloudy sky colors which are cast over your subject(s).

If you're a more advanced user, you should consider doing the WB calibration manually. These kind of settings are usually available on higher end cameras like digital SLRs. Here's what I typically do. I hold up a piece of thick white paper and point the camera at it. This allows the camera to know what "white" really is, then I base the WB settings against that. Whenever I do this, I find I hardly run into any coloration issues in my final pictures. Try it and see how it works for you.



Compare the colour balance of the Christmas tree taken with the flash (top) and under tungsten lighting (bottom).