



# EXPOSURE

## Take a camera to Mauritius *by Bhaskar Desha*



I was born on the island of Mauritius which is a tropical island 2,000 square kilometres (population 1.3 million) situated 8 hrs flight time west of Perth and 4.5 hrs from Nairobi. In June 2023 after a safari tour of Kenya and Tanzania I opted to return to Brisbane via Mauritius giving me an opportunity to catch up with my brothers and my sister together with their families living on the island.

Mauritius is surrounded on most parts by coral reef which results in beautiful blue lagoons teeming with colourful marine life. The white sandy beaches and turquoise waters provide excellent opportunities for stunning landscape photos. In the evening the beaches on the western coast everyone stops to admire and photograph the most amazing sunsets.



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Mauritius has a diversified economy centred around agriculture, export mainly of sugar, financial services and tourism. Most tourists spend their stay sun-baking on the beach and snorkeling. Although showing signs of declining reef health, the island's shore waters allow snorkelers to observe colourful tropical fish, sea turtles and rays.

Visitors interested in deep sea diving can scuba and photograph shipwrecks dating back to the early eighteen hundreds when Britain attacked the French colonisers and ships were sunk in waters on the south-east of the island. Scuba is also available in other parts such as the north-west.

Mauritius boasts a large number of colourful tropical birds including the kestrel, the cape canary, the village weaver,

the red-whiskered bulbul, the red fody and the pink pigeon just to name a few and illustrate some examples in the photos below.



Cape canary



Red-whiskered bulbul



Red fody



Mountain ranges of volcanic origin present spectacular backdrops to photos of towns and countryside sceneries. Many ancient churches and temples still exist and would be of interest to anyone looking to photograph such buildings.

There is not much in the form of wildlife except for stags, lizards and chameleons.





Next monthly photoshoot in Mauritius? If only.



# Member Successes

## Competition Year Awards (July 22- June 23)

### PRINTS

Grade	First	Second	Third
<b>A</b>	Paul Mackay	Lekha Suraweera	Hector Beveridge
<b>AB</b>	Brendan Barker	Margareta Dewilde	Trudi Aykens
<b>B</b>	Joni Keenan		

### DIGITAL

Grade	First	Second	Third
<b>A</b>	Geoffrey Hui	Jefferey Mott	Kerri-Anne Cook
<b>AB</b>	Robert Macfarlane	Brendan Barker	Christine Jull
<b>B</b>	John Langer	Joni Keenan	Lee Dixon

### PROMOTION TO A GRADE GOLD

A Gold Grade level badge was awarded to **Suzanne Edgeworth** and **Cheryl Zwart** for achieving a high standard of photography and their constant commitment to supporting and running the club over a long period of time.

### APS Graham Burstow Prize for Monochrome Photography

**Paul Mackay** received the APS Ribbon for *Playing the Winning Card*.



Members receiving their awards.

### The Mono Awards 2023 (Australian Photography/Capture magazines presented by SanDisc Professional

**Bruce McDonald** received three Highly Commended for *Captivating Eyes, Masked and Black Waters*. Bruce also received a Commended Award for *Mystique*

**Robert Vallance** received three Commended Awards for *A Pipe after Dinner, Suzie PI, and Water Feature Roma Street Gardens*.

**Paul Mackay** received a Top 60 Award for *Living Behind the Security Door*. He also received a Highly Commended Award for *Playing the Winning Card* and a Commended Awards for *Mates Marching*.

### The Heritage Bank Photographic Competition 2023 |

**Bruce McDonald's** image *A Touch of Fog* was selected as a finalist in the competition.

### Sony Alpha Awards (Aust / NZ) 2023 Sports Category

**Chris Seen's** image *Claudia Focussed* was selected as a finalist in the competition.

## Singapore Circuit of the Asia Super 12 Circuits

**Chris Seen** received Gold Medals for *High Flying Tanner* and *Friesian Lady*. *High Flying Tanner* also received an Honourable Mention.

## Southeast Asian Circuit of the Asia Super 12 Circuits

**Chris Seen** received an Honourable Mention for *High Flying Tanner*

## Bugis Photo Cup

**Chris Seen** received a Gold Medal for *Claudia M* and a Merit Award for *Friesian Lady* and an Honourable Mention for *State of Flux*

## Garden City Library Exhibition

**Suzanne Edgeworth** organised this exhibition and acknowledge the assistance of Bruce McDonald, Rose Parr, Lorraine Burdeu, and Margareta Dewilde to frame and hang the exhibition.



## FROM THE EDITOR



A highlight for me in this month's newsletter is an article on his honour image by Gordon Dixon. It is Gordon's first contribution to the newsletter in my three years of editing and it's special as Gordon is one of our founding MGPS members who joined the club 56 years ago. Gordon is an outstanding photographer and proved this again last month coming back from illness to be awarded Image of the Night. Gordon's creative abilities have been passed down through his family particularly to his son, Gwyn who is a very talented director at a post-production company.

Results of many competitions have arrived this month and I congratulate the award recipients. I am always concerned I have omitted a member's achievement so please send me a email if you have received an award. I don't have access to all of these competition results so I really appreciate you alerting me.

This month, we have a very Interesting feature article by Bhaskar Desha on photography in Mauritius. Bhaskar grew up there and when I heard he was returning home from his East African Safari via the country of his birth, we discussed a feature article on the photographic opportunities offered by Mauritius.

I'm always looking for ideas for the newsletter so if you have been on an interesting journey either near or far, have a chat with me so we can work out an easy way of including tales and images from your experiences in the newsletter. Recently, Susan Chisholm offered a suggestion of short section entitled "Whats in my camera bag". As Susan specialises in macro photography, her camera bag contains items many of us would not consider. Her short article will appear in a couple of months but in the meantime, some other members might like to offer an insight into the contents and purpose of the items in their camera bags.

Please send ideas, feedback or contributions to **my new email.**

[newsletter@mgpsinc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:newsletter@mgpsinc.onmicrosoft.com)

*Paul Mackay*

## October Photo Shoot – Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens

<b>Date, Location and Time:</b>	Macro and Wildlife at Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens Sunday 22 October at 8.30 am
<b>Details</b>	We have had a variety of things over the months but, as I do like to cater for everybody, and also a few of you will most likely be going to the Hunt and Shoot, so I am making our October Shoot another Macro one at Mt Coot-tha. This way I also get to arrange the shoot on a Sunday for those that cannot usually make it on a Friday which I tend to do due to avoiding crowds. So dust off your Macro Lens and see how many bugs you can find or get up close with some pretty flowers. But of course, it doesn't just have to be Macro. With the El Nino going on, the odds are it will be hot so the bugs should be around. There are also ducks, lizards and maybe get a shot of that rare bird ..... the IBIS!! (We should have a prize for whoever finds one!! LOL) So grab your hat and your sunscreen and of course, don't forget the camera! Coffee will be at the cafe around 10.30 am

## Have you paid your Membership Fees?

It is easy to forget that your MGPS Membership fees were due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023. You need to be a financial member to enter competitions as well as to vote in the Annual General Meeting.

**Membership fees can be paid on meeting nights in cash or preferably using our EFTPOS facilities.**

Alternately membership fees can be paid by direct deposit into the club's bank account.

Remember to use your COMPETITION NUMBER and/or SURNAME as a reference so we know who has paid!

For those who wish to use direct deposit the bank details are as follows:

Mt Gravatt Photographic Society Inc  
BSB 064-118  
Account 10054613

Membership fees are : Full \$50 / Concessional (Blue Card) \$25 / Spouse of FULL Member \$30 / Associate \$35 (U18)

## 2023 HUNT & SHOOT



Mt Gravatt  
Photographic  
Society

This year's Hunt & Shoot event location has been confirmed by the venue

Eat Street Northshore  
(Date to be confirmed)



## Tamborine Photo Shoot

Another excellent attendance at our Monthly Club Shoot at the Tamborine Skywalk, with everyone having an enjoyable time. After meeting in the car park, we had a quick coffee and chat, before heading off on our walk. It was a surprisingly very cool and very windy day. However, that did not hinder us as walking through the rainforest was very sheltered. There were lots of beautiful tall trees to see and we could hear many birds, even the big mechanical type at one stage. A couple of us got a bit of a fright at one stage, when suddenly, a gust of wind blew over a tree, but luckily not directly near us. Following our walk, we headed to the Lookout to watch the paragliders, but unfortunately, heavy winds meant there were none. However, we still enjoyed a lovely picnic, great company, and a very pleasant view.



Peter McKenry



Margareta Dewilde



Gwenda Kruger



Hazel Hewit Smith



Gavin Carter



## Honours from August Lines

### **Car crash by Gordon Dixon**

For many I've been a member of the MGPS camera club but due to ill health I was not able to compete in the club competitions. But things changed for me, and I've started competing in comps again where I was in the top grade. I was very thrilled to be awarded the best photo of the night, competing against over 100 other pictures. Everyone saw how emotional I was, so I am very thankful to write this for the newsletter. I hope many readers will be inspired to join the camera club enjoyment. I had many ideas for the lines subject but when I finished the car crash, I was blown away by how impactful it was.

Panasonic Lumix G85 Camera with 12-60mm Zoom Lens ISO 100.



### **Woodwork by Janet Richardson**

We had arranged to meet the Brisbane Greeters for a tour of the Walter Taylor bridge in Indooroopilly. As we were a large group of eager photographers, we were split into 3 groups. Each going in a different direction around the area before entering the once inhabited toll-keeper's residence.

My photo was taken at approximately 11.00 am on a walk around the surrounding business area of Indooroopilly before we wandered down to the bridge. As soon as I saw this structure, I had the Lines theme in mind.

Thankfully, I put it into the Digital Improvement group and following the advice I received, set about recreating the image. It was severely cropped in Photoshop and turned into Monochrome and lightened.

Sony a7iv F6.3 1/500 ISO 100

### **Steel and Shadows by Rose Parr**

In 2022, as part of a tour of the Flinders Ranges in South Australia, I visited the Nilpena Ediacara National Park. My photo captures the artwork - which is the extended roof of the Visitor Centre - and the subsequent shadows. It seems the roof design was inspired by fossilised seabeds. If you're travelling to outback SA, investigate the Nilpena website for more information. Photographically, there's also an old woolshed and wide-open spaces. This place was a highlight of my trip - and for once the weather was fine.

Processed in Lightroom.

Sony A7R iii camera with Sony FE 2.8/24-70 lens at 24mm, 1/320 sec, f16, ISO 320.



### **Red Dragon Fly by Lekha Suraweera**

During all my years in Australia, I had never seen a Red Dragonfly till I visited Darwin in June this year. There it was, sitting on a stick, well away from the rest of the undergrowth, at the Wangi Falls recreation area, Litchfield National Park.

It was midday, but the tree canopy above shielded the subject from excess sunlight. Camera was Canon EOS R7 with RF 100-400mm F5.6- 8 IS USM lens attached, TV mode, Aperture F9.0, ISO 8000, Shutter speed 1/1000, Focal length used was 400mm. Flash was not used, White balance was Auto.

The image was edited in Light room and cropped slightly. Noise was reduced with the Topaz De Noise program.

### **Star trails over fields by Jeff Mott**

The foreground is the beautiful Bridestowe Lavender Estate near Launceston where neat lines of lavender cover their fields. Unfortunately, the visiting hours are not conducive to astrophotography so the star trails were shot over farm fields about an hour away and then blended together in Photoshop.

Foreground Nikon Z9 + Nikon 20mm 1.8 at f8 ISO 64 1/50 second

Startrails Nikon Z9 + Nikon 20mm 1.8 at f1.8 ISO 400 30 seconds for 3 hours stacked with StarStaX



### **Stay behind the line by Gwenda Kruger**

This was a photo I had in my archives. We went on a Heritage Train Trip around NSW and Vic back in July 2019. It was a T357 operated by the Seymour Rail Heritage Centre. At that stage I was interested in photography but not in any group or Club. At the time the only proper camera I had was a Nikon D3000, but shock horror, I found via the Meta Data info, and not knowing this when I entered our monthly comp, I had taken this one by iPhone. We were at Albury, waiting to board and leave when the photo was taken. It was 7.30 am and very, very cold. The only editing I did was remove a person's arm sticking out beside one of the poles. According to the Metadata the settings via the phone were F1.8, 1/50, ISO 100. Knowing me, not knowing anything about settings at that stage, I would have been using Auto. I probably tried to use the D3000 and had no idea why it wouldn't take the photo in the dim morning, and probably then grabbed my phone

in anger.

### **Dancing Oxpecker by Bhaskar Desha**

The image is that of an Oxpecker taken in the OI Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya in June 2023. I was on a fifteen-day safari tour of Kenya and Tanzania organised by Julie Geldard.

I was taking several shots of an African Buffalo with several oxpeckers feeding on its back or sitting on its head. For one of the shots I luckily picked up a bird in full flight facing the buffalo with wings wide open and with the grassland providing a uniform light green out of focus background.



Camera and lens settings were: Nikon Z6ii Camera, 100-400mm Nikon Z lens, Aperture Priority, ISO 800, focal length 400 mm, f8 and 1/1600 sec.

The single shot 12 Mb image was cropped substantially for composition and had minimal processing in Adobe Lightroom.



### **Red feature by Bruce McDonald**

This image was captured at mid to late afternoon when the 'feature' was shaded by other buildings. This necessitated a high ISO to achieve a usable exposure and as a hand-held shot, a fast enough shutter speed to eliminate blur. White balance was set to auto and aperture priority mode was applied.

**Lightroom Classic** was used for processing. Particular attention was paid to using the Transform and Cropping tools to achieve vertical perspective given the photo was taken looking upwards and at an oblique angle to the building. The Basic panel sliders were used to adjust whites, blacks, highlights and shadows as well as clarity and vibrance before applying a red saturation shift (HSL panel). Sharpening and

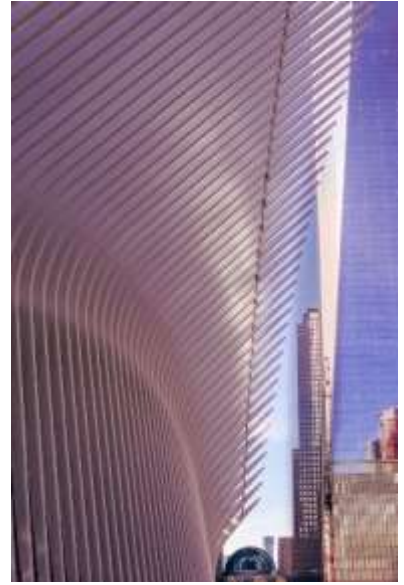
Noise reduction were applied before adding a subtle vignette.

Canon EOS R5, EF 70-200 f2.8 IS II USM lens at 102 mm. Aperture priority, 1/125s, f8, ISO 1000. Handheld.

### ***New York by Margareta Dewilde***

I took this photo on my last trip to New York in February 2019. It was freezing cold, and the sky was clear. The Trade Centre has always impressed me as a building. I love the expanse of the inside and the lines both inside and outside. This photo was processed in lightroom, and I gave it a pink tinge to contrast with the blue skyline. As I was travelling the camera used was a Panasonic TZ80.

1/640sec, F3.3, ISO 80, 24mm



### ***Texas Panorama by Rodney Topor***

These old tobacco drying barns are just outside the small rural town of Texas on the NSW border. The sky is very dark there. I took this image (these images) at about 2am in the middle of July, when the Milky Way was in the right position. (It will be in the right position at a more civilised time in September!) I had to walk about 100m in the dark through long grass to reach the barns. It wasn't that cold. I was more worried about tripping on the uneven ground.

I used an LED panel (right) and a torch (front) to light the barns. I took two rows with 6 vertical frames in each to capture the sky, barns, horizon & foreground. I used a Fujifilm X-T5 camera with Viltrox 13mm f/1.4 AF lens at f/2, 15 sec, ISO 5000 for each frame, on a tripod of course, with levelling base, indexed rotator and ball head.



At home, I stitched the 12 frames together in PTGui Pro. The resulting foreground was dark and dull, so I selected a grassy section of a normal daylight photo from the same location, darkened it, and then blended it as best I could with the stitched panorama in Photoshop. I edited the result to enhance the Milky Way in

Lightroom and Photoshop. Then I repeated the whole assembly process a couple of times until I was more or less satisfied!

## Results from September Competition

### Subject: Abstract

AB Grade Print	PRINT COMPETITION judged by Lee Schatkowski			
Member name	Open Image	Set Image	Points	Points YTD
Margareta Dewilde	Credit	Honour	18	57
Carol Rustichelli	Acceptance	Merit	12	39
Bill Van Diest	Honour	Honour	24	48
Robert Vallance	Acceptance	Merit	12	36
Rose Parr	Honour	Honour	24	72
A Grade Print				
Bob Garnett	Honour	Honour ***	24	51
Hector Beveridge	Acceptance	Credit	9	45
Chris Seen	Acceptance		3	9
Dorothy Harkins	Honour	Merit	21	57
Lekha Suraweera	Credit	Merit	15	45
Suzanne Edgeworth	Merit	Credit	15	15
Paul MacKay	Acceptance	Merit	12	45
Susan Chisholm	Acceptance	Merit	12	36
Bruce McDonald	Credit	Credit	12	33
Joyce Metassa	Honour	Credit	18	39
Kerri-Anne Cook	Honour	Credit	18	45
Rosslyn Garnett	Acceptance	Credit	9	39
Swarna Wijesekera	Credit	Merit	15	42

\*\*\* Print Image of the night

AB Grade Digital	DIGITAL COMPETITION judged by John Blessas			
Member name	Open Image	Set Image	Points	Points YTD
Trudi Aykens	Honour	Honour	24	33
Margareta Dewilde	Honour	Honour	24	51
Carol Rustichelli	Honour	Honour	24	51
Christine Jull	Honour	Honour	24	48
John Langer	Honour	Honour	24	57
Janet Richardson	Honour	Honour	24	45
Bill Van Diest	Honour	Honour	24	60
Gwenda Kruger	Honour	Honour	24	57
Bhaskar Desha	Honour	Honour	24	60
Lorraine Burdeu	Merit	Honour	21	54
Robert Vallance	Merit	Honour	21	42
Rose Parr	Honour	Honour	24	48
A Grade Digital				
Member name	Open Image	Set Image	Points	Points YTD
Gordon Dixon	Merit	Credit	15	45
Sharon Puata	Honour	Merit	21	45

Hazel Sempf	Credit	Honour	18	39
Rodney Topor	Merit	Credit	15	42
Bob Garnett	Credit	Honour	18	48
Hector Beveridge	Credit	Credit	12	39
Chris Seen	Merit	Merit	18	21
Dorothy Harkins	Honour	Credit	18	42
Lekha Suraweera	Credit	Honour ***	18	42
Suzanne Edgeworth	Merit	Merit	18	45
Paul MacKay	Credit	Honour	18	39
Heidi Wallis	Credit	Credit	12	45
Robert Macfarlane	Credit	Honour	18	45
Susan Chisholm	Merit	Credit	15	57
Bruce McDonald	Honour	Merit	21	57
Joyce Metassa	Merit	Honour	21	42
Kerri-Anne Cook	Honour	Honour	24	57
Rosslyn Garnett	Merit	Credit	15	33
Jefferey Mott	Honour	Honour	24	69
Swarna Wijesekera	Credit	Merit	15	39
Shuying Jiang	Credit	Honour	18	39

\*\*\* Digital Image of the night

Images awarded Merits or Honours will be displayed on the MGPS website -[www.mgps.org.au/club/monthly-comps/winning-images](http://www.mgps.org.au/club/monthly-comps/winning-images) Contact the Records Officer records@mgps.org.au for any problems.

### **MGPS OBJECTIVES**

The Mount Gravatt Photographic Society is a community-based non-profit camera club that is affiliated with the Photographic Society of Queensland (PSQ). The club was formed in February 1967 by a small group of enthusiastic amateur photographers.

See <http://www.mgps.org.au/club/about-mgps/club-history> for more details.

#### **The Aims of Mount Gravatt Photographic Society:**

- To foster a love of the art of photography amongst its members and in the community.
- To assist members with problems pertaining to photography.
- To achieve a more fruitful alliance between the beginner and the experienced photographer.
- To present lectures on photography for beginners.
- To arrange competitions both within the Society and with other bodies from time to time.

## MGPS Executive



Ian Sweetman  
President

Vice President  
(currently vacant)



Gavin Carter  
Secretary



Gwenda Kruger  
Treasurer



Janet Richardson  
Activities Officer



Margareta Dewilde  
Competitions Officer



Paul Mackay  
Newsletter Editor



Michael Mitchell  
Records Officer



Margaret Kemmery  
Member #9

## MGPS Officer Bearers

Technical Support Officer	Susan McGrory	Welcome Desk 1	Hazel Sempf
Club Activities Officer	Gwenda Kruger	Welcome Desk 2	Joni Keenan
Data Projectionist	Rodney Topor	Welcome Door 1	Christine Jull
Assistant Projectionist	Rick O'Shea	Welcome Door 2	Lekha Suraweera
Digital Competitions	Tony White	Welcome Door 3	Bruce McDonald
Interclub Competition Officer	Suzanne Edgeworth	PSQ Liaison	Sue Gordon
Assistant Treasurer			
Competition Assistant	Janet Rowe	Supper Convenor	Margaret Kemmery
Equipment Officers	Rick O'Shea	Hunt and Shoot Coordinator	Ellis Cole
Public Officer	Suzanne Edgeworth		
<b>SUBGROUP COORDINATORS</b>			
Digital Group	Jeffrey Mott Reserve: Geoffrey Hui	Monochrome Group	Warren Veivers, Cheryl Zwart

# CLUB COMPETITION SCHEDULE 2022-Jan 2024

Set subject	Entries due	Judging date	Description
<b>Book Title</b>	25-Oct	22-Nov	The image must bring to mind the title of a book which is in the public domain, either recent or historical. This can be achieved either by word association or scene association with elements of the image providing clear clues as to the title of a valid book. Name image with Book title
<b>Annual</b>	8-Nov	13-Dec	Refer to MGPS website competition page or <i>Member handbook</i> number 6.1-page 11
<b>Open</b>	13-Dec	24-Jan 2024	"An image of any subject or genre. 2 open images can be entered for both the digital and the print competitions."

## EXTERNAL COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES

Competition	Closes	Website
NSW International Circuit	1-10-23	<a href="http://myphotoclub.com.au">NSW International Circuit (myphotoclub.com.au)</a>
13th Australian Digital Photography Awards (ADPA)	15-10-23	<a href="http://myphotoclub.com.au">APS Australian Digital Photography Awards (ADPA) (myphotoclub.com.au)</a>
Zephyr Photographic Awards	22-10-23	<a href="http://myphotoclub.com.au">Zephyr Photographic Awards (myphotoclub.com.au)</a>
9th APS National Exhibition Nature	22-10-23	<a href="http://myphotoclub.com.au">APS National Exhibition Nature (myphotoclub.com.au)</a>

## Newsletter of the Mount Gravatt Photographic Society Inc. (MGPS)

PO Box 234 Mount Gravatt QLD 4122

**President: Ian Sweetman**

**Newsletter Editor: Paul Mackay**

**Email: [newsletter@mgpsinc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:newsletter@mgpsinc.onmicrosoft.com)**

Club meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at St Bartholomew's Church Hall, corner of Logan Rd and Mountain St, Mount Gravatt.

### Staying up to date:

For all the latest news on what's happening at the club and for news on other events and activities, you can;

- Join the Club's Facebook page – MGPS Members Group. Please ensure that your Facebook page is in the same name as your club membership to be eligible.
- Watch your inbox for regular club emails as well. If you are not receiving emails please let us know.