

Blue Marlin in Geelong waters ...

ARTICLE & IMAGES BY VAL MOSS

On 17 October, the 'Blue Marlin', a semi-submersible heavy lift vessel, sailed slowly through the Heads carrying the hull of our newest helicopter landing deck and troop carrying ship the 'Canberra'. Hundreds of the curious, many of them photographers, including yours truly, crowded the lookouts at Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff to welcome her following the long journey from Spain where the hull was built.



The Blue Marlin in the bay – a tight fit in the channel



After overnighting in the bay she sailed into Geelong next morning, on a glassy sea, attended by two tugs to ensure she didn't stray from the narrow channel. I watched her come out of the mist soon after daybreak at Point Henry, then raced into Geelong to follow the rest of her progress from North Shore into Lascelles Wharf where she was set to stay for a couple of days while all the lashings securing the 'Canberra' were removed before the last stage of the journey to Williamstown.

Above: Passing Pt Henry
Below: Keeping her straight

Owing to heavy seas and winds above 10 knots she was unable to depart Lascelles until Saturday 20th, anchoring in deep water off Indented Head overnight, then early Sunday morning began submerging until the Canberra was able to float free to be towed to Williamstown.



Backing into the dock

The Canberra's sister ship, The Adelaide, is scheduled to arrive in the same manner around March next year.

Club Competition Results

See Page 8 for all results of October's competition.



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What's On ...

Monday 5th November

- Guest Speaker: Brendan Waites
Manager, Camera House
- Prints and EDIs due for November
competitions –
Open & Set Subject: 3 of Something

Monday 19th November

- Print and EDI judging night –
Open & Set Subject: 3 of Something

Monday 26th November

- Committee Meeting

Monday 3rd December

- Guest Speaker: Kerriane Hobbs
'Photo A Day'
- Prints and EDIs due for December
competition –
Set Subject: Food

Monday 17th December

- Print and EDI judging night -
Set Subject: Food
- End of Year Break-Up

President – Darren Humphrey
Secretary – Val Moss

Email Newsletter articles to:
webmaster@bellarinecameraclub.org.au

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purposes only.*

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Monday of the month
at:

SpringDale Community Centre
17-21 High Street, Drysdale

Judging Night - 3rd Monday of the month

Website: www.bellarinecameraclub.org.au

Email: info@bellarinecameraclub.org.au

President's Report ...

Welcome to the November edition of the Bellarine Camera Club newsletter. This month, we welcome back Brendan Waites, visiting from Camera House Geelong. Last year Brendan brought in the new range of Compact System Cameras including Olympus EP range and the Nikon 1 series. The night turned out very successful for Brendan selling about 8-9 new cameras to our members. What does he have in store for us this time?

Over the next few issues of the newsletter we are hoping to bring to you more helpful tips on camera care, selecting the right type of memory cards and general camera hints.

On Sunday, I attended the 1st annual St Leonards Yacht Club Photography Show. It was held at the Yacht Club in St Leonards over the Melbourne Cup long weekend, Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th November. There was a \$150 first prize on offer in two sections of Landscape/ Seascape and Open. Congratulations to John Gallichan who won 1st prize in the Seascape section and to Jon Bagge who won an Encouragement award. The Club had five

members exhibiting with most also making some sales. It was also good to see some ex-members also exhibiting, with Lyn Blackall taking out the Open section. On a slightly disappointing note, I was a little disappointed we only had five members from our club submitting entries.

Thank you to everyone who has put forward some fabulous suggestions of subjects for the syllabus for the next year. The syllabus will be out in the next week or two with some interesting subjects.

At the moment we have around 40 members. Remember, if you are not a paid up member, you will not be eligible to enter the monthly comps.

If you have any information, tips, or may want to contribute any items to the newsletter please feel free to email these to:

info@bellarinecameraclub.org.au

Happy snapping,

Darren Humphrey

For Sale ...

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB BY PURCHASING READY-MADE PHOTO MATS

Mats are available for sale at each meeting for a very reasonable price.
All profits go toward funds for the Club.

Colours are Black, Charcoal and Off White to suit the following print sizes:

5" x 7"	\$2.00 each
6" x 8"	\$2.50 each
8" x 10"	\$3.00 each
8" x 12"	\$4.00 each

Special sizes can be made to order (up to the maximum mat size of 40 x 50cm) – See John Gallichan, our 'Master Mat Maker'



PRE-LOVED PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT

To advertise the sale of your pre-loved photographic equipment send an email, listing all details, to webmaster@bellarinecameraclub.org.au

Member Contributions ...

Attending a recent class led by David Potter, he explained how to set our cameras to back-button auto focus, and then sent us out and about to experiment. I was amazed at the very high percentage of 'in focus' images I took in one session. It was a very windy day and the range of subjects included wind-swept waves, long grass furiously bending in the wind, moving vehicles, dogs, and even a floppy, flapping blow-up man outside the hardware store! I would recommend you read David's article, and give it a go. - Ed

BACK BUTTON AUTO FOCUS (AF)

ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY DAVID POTTER

Often referred to by pros as "back-button AF", this feature lets the user customize their camera so that focusing is performed by pressing a rear button with the photographer's right thumb. Every function described within is available on most modern cameras. Google "Back button Autofocus Nikon" or enter the phrase in YouTube for visual examples for a Nikon, etc.

What is back button focusing?

The camera usually focuses when the shutter button is pressed half way down, and then the photographer takes the picture when the button is pressed in fully. Back button auto-focus means that the shutter button doesn't control the focus activation at all. Another button on the back of the camera (hence the name) is used to activate focusing on the camera

Should all photographers use back button focusing?

Definitely not! If you're not yet 100% comfortable with operating your camera or if you don't quite understand how focus works, then don't read any further. Back button focusing will only make using your camera more complicated – which is why camera manufacturers for decades have used the half-press shutter method of focusing.

If, however, you're a confident photographer and you're ready to try an advanced technique that can definitely improve your focus in many situations, then meet back button focus.

Why would anyone want to remove AF from the shutter button?

This is a question many users ask when Back-button AF is first explained to them. There are certainly many times where the standard method of operation — press the shutter button half-way down to focus, and then press fully to shoot — works perfectly well. Everything is controlled by one finger, and if you like, you can lock the focus with a stationary subject by holding the shutter button half-way down. Even dedicated supporters of back-button AF will change back to standard camera operation from time to time.

But back-button AF offers some **significant** advantages, especially for the experienced photographer. Here are some frequently-mentioned ones:

- **No More Switching Your Lens To Manual Focus**

When your focus is set to your shutter button, you occasionally have to switch your lens to manual focus so your camera doesn't refocus when you go to take the picture. Refocusing doesn't happen when using Back button Focus.

- **No More Refocusing Every Time You Let Go of the Shutter**

This can be one of the most frustrating things to happen when using the "shutter half way down" method of focusing. You can lock in focus by holding the shutter half way down and the focus will stay locked as long as you hold your shutter in limbo. But you have to hold your finger there! If you let go or accidentally lift your finger just a little bit, the camera will refocus as soon as you press it down again. Or press the shutter a little too hard and you will take a picture before you're ready.

With Back Button Focus, the focus will stay set until you decide to change it.

Member Contributions *(cont'd)* ...

- **Easier to lock focus**

If you are shooting something like a series of portraits of a person, and you want them composed off-center, back-button AF makes it super-easy to take as many pictures as you want. Focus on your subject by pressing the rear button. Once in-focus, take your thumb off the rear button. Re-compose the shot to move your subject off-center. Shoot as many pictures as you like. With focus activation removed from the shutter button, you now can fire any time you like, and remove your index finger from the shutter button after a shot is taken.

- **Easier timing of shots**

Another benefit of removing focus control away from the shutter button is that critical timing becomes simpler to manage. For example, if you were shooting a speaker at a podium, he or she might periodically look up or make a gesture that would be an ideal instant to capture. If you've focused with back-button AF, your index finger is free to shoot at the decisive moment. There are no worries about holding your finger half-way down and waiting, waiting, waiting in that position for your subject to do something interesting.

- **Less risk of focus errors with moving subjects**

With a very animated subject that may be moving around, you can have your camera's focus set to AI Servo AF (to track any movement), and just keep your right thumb on the back button to keep focus active, while your index finger can be ready to shoot with no worries about also preserving focus.

For sports photographers and others taking action pictures, back-button AF lets you stop focus whenever something might interfere with the moving subject you're tracking — without requiring you to stop shooting. In sports, for instance, it's common for a referee or another player to come between the camera and an athlete being photographed. With back-button AF, it's easy to momentarily pull your thumb off the rear button, and you can still keep shooting by pressing the shutter button fully. The camera instantly stops focusing when your thumb comes off the back button. Once the obstruction is out of your way, you can immediately pick-up your primary subject by pressing your thumb on the back button again.

- **Easier over-riding of AF with full-time manual focus**

More than half of Canon's lenses have a neat feature called full-time manual focus. Even if the lens's AF/MF switch is in the AF position, these lenses allow the shooter to instantly adjust focus manually by simply turning the focus ring on the lens. There's no need to first move the switch to MF.

With back-button AF, this becomes a nearly foolproof feature. Use the autofocus whenever you like by pressing the rear button with your right thumb. Shoot whenever you like by pressing the shutter button. And if you want to touch-up focus, or totally over-ride what the AF is doing, just pull your thumb off the rear button and turn the ring. No matter how many pictures you shoot, pressing the shutter button will not cause the AF to try to kick-in and re-set the focus you just adjusted manually.

- **Easier macro and close-up focusing**

Many times, you'll find that it's actually easier to get consistently sharp close-up pictures of small objects by pre-focusing, and then moving yourself forward or backward until you see the critical sharp focus appear in your viewfinder. Once again, with back-button AF active, you can use the AF to get within general range (press the rear button with your thumb, then take your thumb off the button), and move a little bit to get things critically sharp. Most important, you can then shoot freely, without AF trying to re-focus each time you touch the shutter button. Finally, touching-up focus with the full-time manual focus feature on certain Canon lenses is simple and quick, and the auto-focus never fights you by trying to un-do what you just adjusted.

Member Contributions (cont'd) ...

Which button is used for back-button AF?

Once you've activated this feature, you press one of two buttons: either the rear AE Lock button (marked with an asterisk or star icon), or if your camera is equipped with it, the rear AF-ON button. Either is relatively easy to reach with your right thumb on the back of the camera as you shoot.

- **Activating back-button AF**

Back-button AF is engaged by setting the appropriate Custom Function in your digital camera. Remember, to use any Custom Function, your camera must first be in one of the "creative zone" exposure modes – P (Program auto exposure), Av (aperture-priority mode), Tv (shutter-priority mode), or M (manual exposure mode). Custom Functions are totally locked-out if you're in the full-auto "green zone", or a picture-icon setting like the Portrait mode or Landscape mode.

The particular Custom Function number varies, depending on the camera model in question. Most digital SLRs have a Custom Function for moving AF from the shutter button to a back-button. Your camera manual will explain the Custom Function number for Back-Button AF in your particular model.

Understanding the on-screen wording:

The terminology often used on the menu for this particular custom function may seem a little confusing, so an explanation is in order. The function is headed "Shutter/AE lock button", or similar wording.

What this means is that anything **before** the slash mark refers to how the shutter button will behave. Anything **after** the slash tells you how the rear button will work if that option is selected. Using the popular Canon EOS 50D as an example, here's what you see on-screen, and here's what it means:

- **0: Metering + AF start** (note: there's no slash here)
Factory-default setting. You activate camera's meter and AF by pressing shutter button half-way down. Rear AF-ON button also does same if it's pressed, so you don't get the benefits of removing AF activation from the shutter button when this option is set.
- **1: Metering + AF start / AF stop**
AF is still at shutter button. Pressing the rear button will actually LOCK the focus; potentially useful if you shoot a lot of moving subjects in AI Servo AF and prefer to activate AF with a conventional half-press of shutter button. Focus is unlocked by removing thumb from back-button.
- **2: Metering start / Meter + AF start**
Back-button AF activation. Shutter button no longer activates AF, but of course fires the shutter. Metering is continuously updated — if you shoot a sequence of pictures, the camera takes a fresh meter reading for each one. There's no locking of exposure.
- **3: AE Lock / Metering + AF start**
Back-button AF activation. Difference between this setting and option 2 directly above is that when you press the shutter button half-way, your exposure is locked and won't change until you pull your finger off the button entirely. Thus, if you shoot a sequence of pictures in any auto exposure mode, the exposure setting used for the first shot is used for each subsequent shot.
- **4: Metering + AF start / Disable**
Similar to setting "0" above, but now, the camera's rear AF-ON button is disabled. AF activation is at the shutter button. Convenient if you're worried about accidentally pressing the back-button and don't want to use back-button AF.

Member Contributions *(cont'd)* ...

Summary

It can take a little practice to get the hang of back-button AF, but give it a try if you haven't done so already. Even if at first its operation seems unorthodox, in fact it can simplify certain types of shooting and allow you to work more quickly with fewer missed shots. Back-button AF was first suggested to Canon back in the late 1980s by sports photographers who saw the need for some way to be able to start and stop AF without interfering with shooting continuous pictures. The feature is now available on all current and many previous EOS models. It's no longer just for pros — any photographer can experiment with it and benefit from it in certain conditions.

Finally, remember that like any Custom Function, you can always return the camera back to factory-default operation by returning that Custom Function to option "zero".

Use Servo for Almost All of Your Focusing Needs

The two main types of auto focus on your camera are (on a Canon) One-Shot and AI-Servo. On a Nikon they are called AF-Single (AF-S) and AF-Continuous (AF-C). One-Shot means that when you press your AF-ON button (or the shutter half way down) your camera will set focus one time based on where the subject is at the given time. If your subject moves or if you move, you have to reset your focus. This method wouldn't work very well if you were photographing your kids running around the sprinkler in the summer, or photographing a football game with fast moving subjects.

That's why there's another method of focusing called AI-Servo (AF-C on Nikon). Servo focusing actually tracks focusing on moving subjects. So if you're at the park with your dog playing fetch and your dog is running full sprint to bring the ball back to you, you can place a single focus point of him in Servo mode and fire off as many shots as your camera can take before the buffer runs out.

Assuming that you have a fast enough shutter speed, you should have a very high percentage of sharp, in focus images.

So the thing I started to notice about having the camera in Servo mode is that I could use Servo just like One-Shot. You see, to use Servo focusing with Back Button Focus you have to continuously hold down the AF-ON button to track focus. So if you have a still subject you can simply tap the AF-ON button and focus will stop adjusting when you let go of the button. I've found that if you have a still subject and hold down the AF-ON button in Servo mode, the camera will keep trying to work to find focus. So the subject will start going slightly in and out of focus because the camera thinks it should be looking for a moving subject. But again, if you simply tap the AF-ON button and let go when you see that your subject is in focus, you are good to go. When you practice this and it becomes second nature, it's a very fast process that really takes no brain power or time at all.



Club Competition SS: Monochrome

IMAGE OF THE COMPETITION

I'LL FIND A WAY – Tracy Lucas



LARGE PRINTS

Highly

Commended

I'LL FIND A WAY

– Tracy Lucas

Commended

THE OLD CONVENT

– Darren Henry

WINDSWEPT

– Tracy Lucas

EDIs

Highly Commended

THE EYES HAVE IT – Helen McGuire

Commended

TINY TOES – Kristy Wiffen

RELIC - Val Moss

DEEP IN THOUGHT – Kristy Wiffen

SMALL PRINTS

Highly Commended

CORMORANT LOOKING AROUND - Martin Young

Commended

WHEEL OF BRISBANE – Sue Kayler-Thompson