

NEWSLETTER

BELLARINE CAMERA CLUB • ISSUE 023 • MARCH 2015



INSIDE ...

Open Competition Winners

Improve your skills with some top tips

Chasing the Northern Lights with Wendy Thiedeman



FRONT PAGE
Point Lonsdale
By John Gallichan

Bellarine Camera Club Inc.
Member of VAPS

MEETING VENUE
SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre
17-21 High Street, Drysdale

CONTACT
Email info@bellarinecameraclub.org.au
Website www.bellarinecameraclub.org.au

COMMITTEE

President	Shane Coles
Vice President	Daniel Walker
Treasurer	John Gallichan
Secretary	Lynne Bryant
Committee Members	Jon Bagge Darren Henry Vikki Gage Gordon Trail

Competition Secretary Val Moss

MEETINGS
Twice a month (excluding January):
1st Monday - Club Night
3rd Monday - Judging Night

NEWSLETTER
Editor - Jon Bagge
Distributed monthly to members via email;
also available on website.
Newsletter items to the editor (preferably in Word
format)
Images welcome - please submit via email in jpg
format as per competition sizing
Articles to be received by the 20th of the month
Submissions to: editor@bellarinecameraclub.org.au

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All contents in this issue are for
information purposes only.

Are you getting the message?

We are trialing a new reminder system (keeping up with the modern ways) where members are sent SMS message reminders of "Whats coming up". To receive these messages please make sure Vikki has your up to date mobile phone number. Should you not wish to receive the text messages just let Vikki know at a meeting and she will take you off the list.



Calling all members.....

Members are invited to submit their best images for publication consideration in next month's newsletter.

For front cover & back cover consideration, portrait orientation images of any subject would be appreciated - images do not need to have been entered into a competition (size to be at least 1.5mb for cover portrait images).

This newsletter will only ever be as good as the contributions. We encourage all members to submit images, stories behind the images, great locations and tips for the newsletter.

See side panel on this page for submission details and 'date by'.

Bring A Friend!
**Half price memberships available for
new members from 1st January 2015**

President's Report

Shane Coles



Welcome to my March 2015 edition in the Bellarine Camera Club Newsletter.

I have included an image showing what I have been doing all week. Yes The 2015 Australian International Air show. I know bombs and planes is not everyone's cup of tea, but you must agree that a little bit of petrol and a few multi million dollars of air force hardware does come together well. Even though I can't put my hand up for this effort I call this photo sunset at the airport. I like to promote photography, but this week I have made enemies of so many of our camera enthusiasts by not allowing them to take photos of planes from roads around the airport. Sorry to them all....



I recently sent an email to all members reminding them that this club will only succeed if we have a commitment from all. The committee strives to ensure we have a good syllabus and continued new ideas. It is hard to put this effort in if members don't support meetings and make the club enjoyable for all. If you have not submitted entries or turned up to a meeting then I urge you make the effort and keep us afloat.

Our new competition categories have started and I urge you to look at the information that has been sent out by our secretary. You can nominate yourself into the lower grade. This must be done to the Club secretary for approval by the committee. The two grades have been put together to give new members a chance of achieving an award and hopefully encourage more entries.

We have a very busy 12 months ahead of us.

Our Annual photographic show is also coming up in June. Most of the work is done, but club members are asked to assist with the event. Please start planning your entries. Photo sales are allowed.

Each month I will leave you with a meaningful quote that sums up photography:-

Love this one.....

"I am not a photographer. I am a Canon owner."

— Walaa WalkademAgmal

Go SONY

Speak to you next newsletter

Shane Coles

Club President.

February Competition - Open

Full Results Next Month!

EDI's

1st & Image of the Competition

Janet Young

2nd

Bill McCall

3rd

Lynne Bryant

Prints

1st

Martin Young

2nd

Martin Young

3rd

Janet Young



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CHASING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

BY WENDY THIEDEMAN

I remember the first time I was captivated by the Northern Lights. It was 2009 and I was on a Qantas flight back to Melbourne where the on board entertainment was Joanna Lumley's "Land of the Northern Lights". It told the story of how as a child the actress had seen an illustration of the Southern Lights in a story book and how that memory fuelled her desire to see them throughout her adult life. The video blogged her trek through Norway and into Finnish Lapland to observe them. The story fascinated me and although I didn't get to see the end of that video (we landed in Melbourne) it planted a seed in my mind that this was something I too really wanted to learn about and experience firsthand.



Fast forward 3 years and I embarked on my first aurora chasing trip – destination Tromso, Norway – coordinates 69°40'58"N 18°56'34"E which is 350Km North of the Arctic Circle.

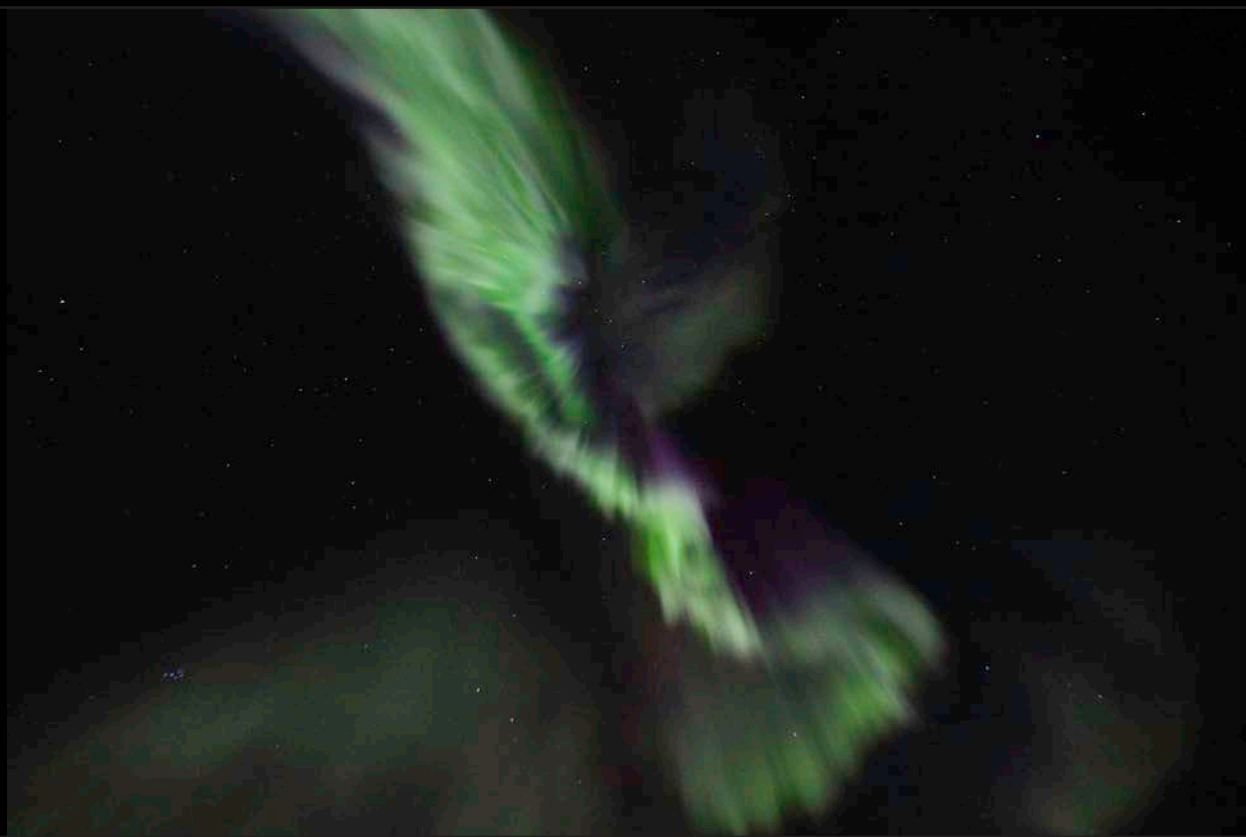


The Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) receive more attention than its South Pole counterpart (Southern Lights/Aurora Australis) not because it is any more spectacular but simply because the Northern polar regions of the Globe are more inhabited and much more easily accessed than Southern polar regions. Areas of Scandinavia, Greenland, Iceland, Alaska and Canada are prime spots for viewing. In the Southern Hemisphere – Antarctica obviously offers excellent viewing (if you can get there), but Southern Argentina, The Falklands, New Zealand's Stewart Island and even Hobart can get a showing if the conditions are favourable.

In simple terms the Northern Lights arise when ionised particles ejected from violent storms on the Sun are projected towards & interact with the Earth's atmosphere. Thankfully Earth is protected from this onslaught by it's magnetic field which deflects these incoming particle streams towards the Earth's magnetic poles. The beautiful coloured lights we see – greens, pinks, red, purples & blues are a result of the energy released when these streams of ionised solar particles collide with oxygen and nitrogen atoms in our atmosphere at varying altitudes. Green is the most common colour and occurs as a result of interaction with oxygen atoms below 241Kms. Red light is rarer and occurs when electrons interact with Oxygen atoms at altitudes > 240Kms. The violets and blues occur as a result of interaction with Nitrogen at >90km up. You might think that these are incredible heights considering jet planes fly at ~12km but I can tell you when you are in the midst of an auroral sub storm you feel like these light beams are really encircling you at ground level – an uncanny but truly wondrous feeling!



Auroras can also take on many interesting shapes and forms depending on how active the storm is and your position relative to the actual geographic location of the aurora. Under non active conditions – the aurora appears as a steady beam of light but as it becomes more active that single shaft of light starts to striate (rippling like a curtain), or can twist and bend like a genie escaping it's bottle. If you are lucky enough to be standing directly under an aurora – the appearance is phenomenal with light rays emanating from a fixed point directly overhead. This is referred to as the “corona” – in actuality it looks like a spaceship or a bat hovering overhead - an image that left us speechless.





Tips for viewing auroras;

- 1) Sunspot Cycle – every 11 years or so, the Sun experiences an increase in the number of sunspots and intensity of solar wind. This “Solar Maximum” correlates with increased auroral activity. The last peak was in 2012/2013 with good showings reported from 2011 and still being observed now even as activity declines. In fact Hobart has had some good showings this month. The next predicted peak is in 2024.
- 2) Location – ideally pick a location in the auroral zone, away from city lights. Early spring, autumn or winter are the best seasons and the period between new moon and 1st quarter will provide the best chance of seeing even faint auroras. If you're lucky though and the aurora is strong enough, it can light up a night sky even under full moon conditions. Auroral activity can take place at any time during the day but you will only see it at night which is why visiting these far North places in summer is unsuitable if your sole aim is northern Lights viewing as many of these locations experience midnight sun in summer. Start looking as soon as it gets dark and stay awake as long as you can! A word of warning though – these locations can be extremely cold and coupled with the fact that you are often just standing/sitting around waiting – you will require snow gear – pants, jacket, (even snow shoes essential), toe warmers, beanie, ear muffs and gloves. If you go on an organised tour they often take you to a location where they have a hut with a fire, hot drinks and snacks for in between times – if not be prepared!
- 3) Equipment – a wide angle, fast lens eg 14mm f/1.4 –F/2.8 is great for capturing expansive views of the aurora. Unfortunately I only had a Canon 10-22mm f/3.5-4.5 on this first trip (rectified since) and although it did a reasonable job - I'd recommend the fastest, wide angle lens you can afford for this mission. My companion on this trip had similar gear but her lens inventory also included a Sigma 30mm f/1.4> This yielded much more detail and intensity of colour. A sturdy tripod, cable release and torch are also essentials.
- 4) Camera Settings – will depend on the intensity of the aurora so you will need to adjust on the fly. With my Canon 10-22mm f/3.5-f/4.5 – I was typically using ISO 1600 with exposure times ranging from 4-10secs at f/4. With the Sigma f/1.4 lens at ISO 1600 exposure times were down to 1-2s.
- 5) Pre focus your lenses – focusing at night in the dark is a real challenge and you soon find out that infinity isn't necessarily at the infinity mark on your lens!. Being lazy, we tended to just focus our lenses at an infinity point (distant mountain) in the late afternoon – then use a bit of duct tape to hold in position. It worked well! The correct way to do it is to take a series of photos around the infinity mark on your lens, noting each position – then reviewing each corresponding photo (using zoom in) to determine which “infinity” point gives the sharpest image.



Although I was extremely lucky to get such a great showing on my first Northern Lights expedition – once I got the taste – once was not enough!. Hence last year I made a trip into the Yukon, Canada where I was fortunate again to have another showing (albeit not as good as Norway) and this year the Northern Lights seemingly followed me into Alberta, Canada – a very unexpected showing at much lower latitudes but hey I was definitely up for it. Of course the next trip is already being researched with Greenland, Abisko Sweden, and Ivalo Finland all contenders. It's a passion that I intend to nurture and the penultimate goal will be to view the Aurora Australis from Antarctica.

Happy to chat with anyone who has also been lucky enough to see this amazing phenomena or who wants to see or know more. There are a plethora of websites, Facebook pages and skycams on line for those interested.
Reference: Secrets of the Aurora Borealis by Dr Syn-Ichi Akasofu, Alaska Geogrpahic Vol 29 No 1/2002



**BELLARINE CAMERA CLUB
FEBRUARY-JUNE 2015 SYLLABUS**

DATE	SUBJECT	IMAGES DUE for MONTHLY COMPETITION
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IMPORTANT

For the latest syllabus information, competition rules, set subject definitions and image naming conventions please refer to our website: bellarinecameraclub.org.au

FEBRUARY 2015	OPEN (<i>Subject of your choice</i>) EDI's to be submitted by February 2 nd as normal, and Prints to be handed in on the night February 16th	Images Due 2 FEB for Feb Comp & FEB 16 for March Comp
FEB 2	• NIGHT WALK – <i>Barwon Heads</i> – meet at bridge car park, 6pm onwards for a BBQ and photo shoot	
FEB 16	• MONTHLY COMPETITION – Open Judge - BCC Members	
FEB 23	• COMMITTEE MEETING	
MARCH 2015	SET SUBJECT: NIGHT WALK From Feb shoot Barwon Heads	Images Due 16 MAR for April Comp
MAR 2	• Portrait workshop – bring your camera • PRINTS & EDIs DUE	
MAR 16	• MONTHLY COMPETITION - Set Subject – Barwon Heads. Judge - TBC	
MAR 23	• COMMITTEE MEETING	
APRIL 2015	SET SUBJECT: OPEN - Image of your choice	Images Due APR 20 for May Comp
APR 7	• Easter Monday – no meeting	
APR 20	• MONTHLY COMPETITION – Open Judge – TBC	
APR 28	• COMMITTEE MEETING	
MAY 2015	SET SUBJECT: Portrait.	Images Due 18 MAY for June Comp
MAY 4	• Guest Speaker – Paul Copland (To be confirmed) Vet who served in Cambodia	
MAY 18	• MONTHLY COMPETITION – Portrait Judge – confirmed	
MAY 25	• COMMITTEE MEETING	
JUNE 2015	SET SUBJECT: ANZAC Centenary	Images Due 15 JUN for July Comp
JUN 1	• WORKSHOP – Still Life, Star Trails, Light painting, Bring you camera night	
JUN 15	• MONTHLY COMPETITION – Set Subject (ANZAC Centenary) Judge – TBC	
JUN 29	• COMMITTEE MEETING	

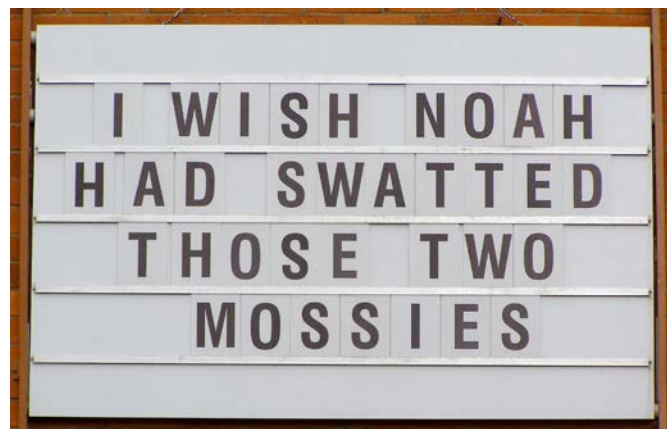
and finally...



Left: In conjunction with the COGG Community Calendar, Bellarine Camera Club member Jon Bagge was invited to afternoon tea with Geelong Mayor and was presented a framed print of his winning image that appears in the calendar. It was mentioned that all of the winning images maybe projected on City Hall later in the year, with the competition due to run again this year for 2016 calendar.

Odd Spot

The following was seen on an Ocean Grove church notice board, which normally carries somewhat more pious exhortations. It is good to see that the minister has a sense of humour, given that areas of Ocean Grove have a notorious reputation for mosquito infestation. from Tony Cavanagh



HELP 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 back into the Club.

Colours are black, charcoal and off-white to suit the following print sizes:

5" x 7"	\$2.00 each
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8" X 12"	\$7.00 EA
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DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT OR ACCESSORIES FOR SALE?

If you would like to advertise your pre-loved photography equipment or accessories here, please submit a detailed article, preferably with a picture, via email to:

editor@bellarinecameraclub.org.au

