

PSA Newsletter

AUSTRALIA

MAY 2023



Welcome

Our new PSA members in April were:

Glyn Atkinson, Toronto, NSW

Ian Ruddiman, Corrimal, NSW

This brings our individual membership in Australia to 172.

Congratulations

Jenni Horsnell recently gained Diamond 7 in PIDC. Check out the achievements of other Australians in the Star Ratings section of the latest PSA Journal.

Sally Hinton was awarded a Silver Medal in the 2022 PID A/V contest.

If you gain a new ROPA or Portfolio distinction, or achieved anything else that you would like to share with other PSA members, please let me know.

Thank you!

This month we have a wonderful contribution from Helen Walker.

Please do not be shy about sending me your contribution for next month's newsletter.

PSA Journal

The May issue of the PSA Journal is available now and can be downloaded from the PSA website <https://psa-photo.org/page/journal> after you log in.

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Street Photography by Helen Walker MPSA

Street Photography is exciting, it is like opening presents you never know what you will find.

Street photography tells of an interesting moment in time.

Street photography is unplanned and un-staged. It is an opportunistic response to a public scene. It combines artistic vision and great timing. It is exhilarating to do when you are travelling even if you are only traveling in your own town. It is about relationships between things. It can be emotional, funny, ironic and everything else. Good street photos challenge people to stop and think.

As the photographer you are a neutral bystander who is just trying to find a story. You must be ready because you don't know what is around the corner. You need to know your camera well, have it all set up and ready to go so that you can get that important moment that makes an image stand out from the crowd. Street scenes do not wait for you to get ready.

I usually use a general zoom 24 to 105 mm lens, but I know many people use a 50 mm prime lens for this genre of images. Their reasoning is that they know exactly what image they will get but I like the flexibility of a zoom. I find a DOF f/6.3 to f/8 produces images where the main subject is sharp and there is a recognisable background. I shoot in raw and generally have a vision of what I would like to capture but the best street images usually just come out of the blue. Try to always visualise the image and compose in the camera.... but get the photo!!

I take a few clicks in different places to get a feel for the light and how things will look in camera. I am not afraid to wait for the image to come to me. Enjoy a coffee at a well-chosen spot and you will be amazed at what images you can capture.



In the Groove. 1/100 s, F7.1, ISO 100, 24 mm. New Orleans

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Street Photography by Helen Walker MPSA

I am always surprised how much shadows add to street images. They seem to bring more emotion to the image, and you can pre-plan this to a certain extent. Notice how the light falls when you are walking around. Do your walk in the direction that will allow you to get great shadows. Reflections from street windows can also add depth to your images and hence another layer of interest.

Finally, get out and try it. Street photography is fun and rewarding but I did take a while to get comfortable doing it. Practice makes you comfortable. No matter where I am, I just pretend I am a tourist. Dark unremarkable clothing, open body language and a smile always works well.



Raw Fun 1/200 s, F6.3, ISO 100, 82 mm London

I never take photos of children or people in compromising situations. I am respectful of the people and places I take photos of. I try to just get the quick grab image and move on. I have never had a bad experience while taking street photos and I have met some really nice people. If people do ask me about an image, I show them and if they give me their email, I send them a copy of the image after it has been processed.



Sunday Gymnastics 1/250 s, F10, ISO 100, 47 mm. Muscle Beach

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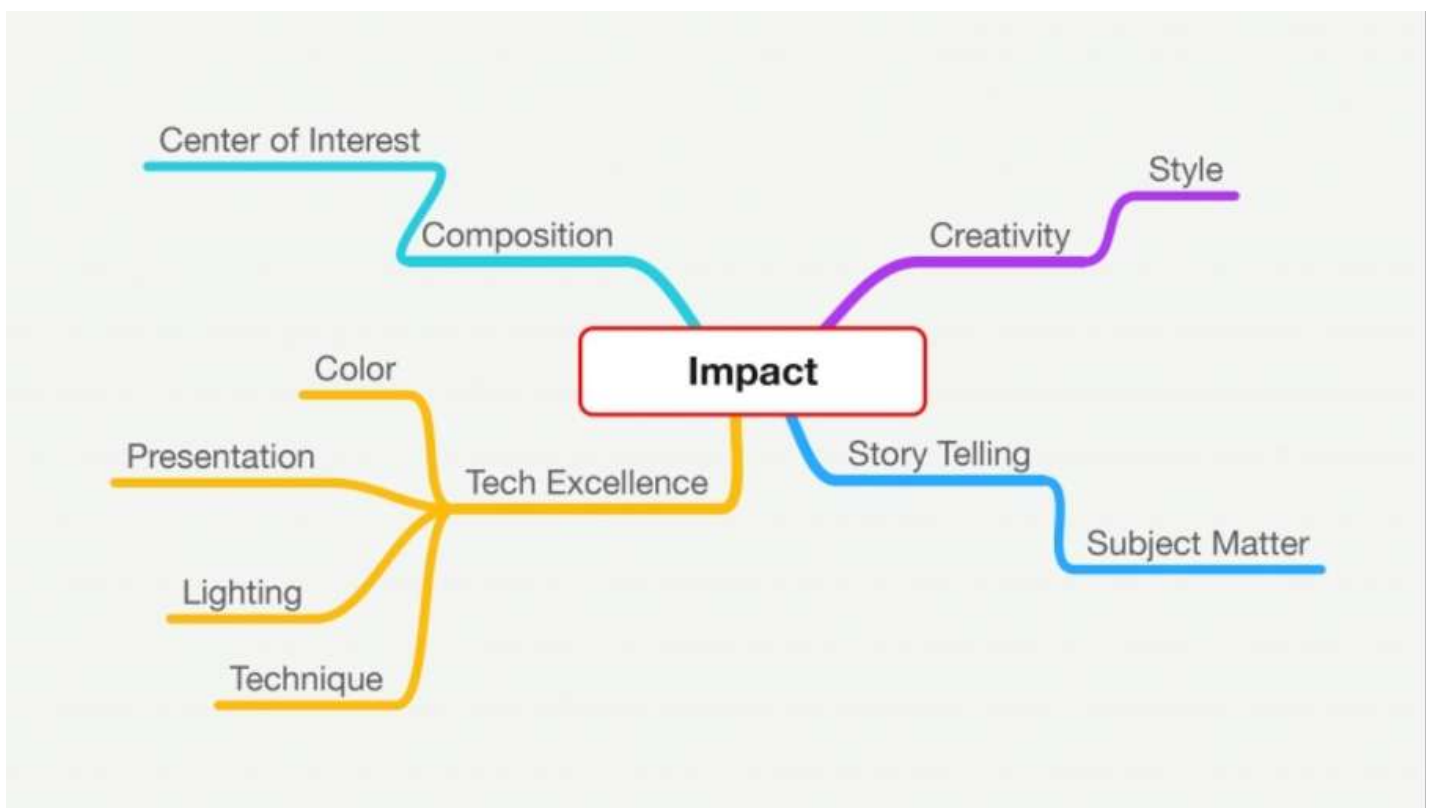
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12 Elements of a Merit Image

Those of you who followed up on my suggestion last month to check out the NECC mini-series on judging would have seen Chane Cullen's presentation on "Impact". If you missed it, you can find it here: [here https://group.neccc.org/judge/](https://group.neccc.org/judge/).

In that presentation, Chane mentioned he had based some of his advice on the "12 Elements of a Merit Image" that are used to guide judges in competitions conducted by the Professional Photographers of America (PPA). You can find that list of elements here <https://www.ppa.com/articles/photo-competition-prep-understand-the-12-elements-of-a-merit-image>

For a detailed explanation of how you can use those 12 elements to guide your photography, check here <https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/a-fresh-look-at-the-twelve-elements> That article presents the connections between the elements in this mind map:



The four main elements - composition, technical excellence, creativity and story telling are the four 'legs' of the stool that supports *impact* in Chane Cullen's presentation. This can be a helpful guide to decision making when you are capturing and editing your images.

Lake Macquarie Camera Club

Many of you would have heard about the Belmont 16s Photography Club - it's been around for a very long time and has been a PSA members for 5 years. The club has done quite well in the PSA Interclub competitions. Since its inception, the club has met at the Belmont 16s Sailing Club - unfortunately that option is not longer available and the photography club has ceased to be a subsidiary of the parent club.

A new club has been formed - the Lake Macquarie Camera Club Incorporated. We will complete the PSA Interclub season as "Belmont 16s" and use our new name for the 2023-24 season.

New PSA rule about AI generated images

The PSA Executive Committee has approved a change to the Conditions of Entry for PSA-recognised exhibitions - to take effect from 1st January 2024.

Image creation and ownership

In all sections of the exhibition, images must originate as photographs made by the entrant. They may not incorporate identifiable images produced by anyone else (for example: clip art, replacement skies, or stock images). *Images created in whole or in part by image creation software (frequently called 'AI' images) are not allowed.*

Editing or alteration of images is permitted within the limits specified in the relevant section definitions that are available here <https://psa-photo.org/page/division-definitions>

This new statement will replace the present Conditions of Entry statements relating to **Image Creation, Certification and Alteration** and **Computer Generation**.

The use of so-called "AI" software such as Topaz Photo AI to enhance images is still permitted because it is not adding image elements.

It is still OK to create composite images for PIDC or PIDM (but not Nature, Photo Travel or Photojournalism) so long as all the images used in the composite are images that you captured.

In PIDC and PIDM, sky replacement is allowed BUT the sky must be an image you captured, not an image built into Photoshop (or other software) or an image you downloaded for the internet.

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A NEW FEATURE IN PHOTOSHOP (beta)

The 'old' way of removing an object from an image in Photoshop was to use the clone tool or the stamp tool. Some time ago, PS made the process simpler by introducing the *Content Aware Fill* tool. More recently PS introduced the *Delete and Fill Selection* tool. The latest development, which at this stage is only in the beta version of PS, is the *Remove* tool. Here is a simple comparison of the three tools.



Original image



Content Aware Fill



Delete and Fill Selection



"Remove" tool



CAF



D&FS



Remove

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“Remove” tool (cont.)

The images on the previous page show just the basic application of the three tools - no additional ‘clean up’ (with the clone tool for example). From the tests I have done, the new *Remove* tool is far superior to the *Content Aware Fill* or *Delete and Fill Selection* tools as a *starting point* for removal of unwanted objects in images. I guess it will not be long before the *Remove* tool is included in the normal version of Photoshop.

WARNING: Do NOT use any of these object removal tools on images you intend to enter in Nature, Photojournalism or Photo Travel competitions - if you do you will be breaking the rules on allowed editing.

Southern Cross International Exhibition of Stereo Photography



The Sydney Stereo Camera Club invites those interested to a presentation of the accepted and award winning images from the PSA approved 43rd Southern Cross International Exhibition of Stereo Photography.

Date: 16th May 2023

Time: 8:00 PM

Place: Drummoyne Five Dock Citizens Hall, 422 Lyons Road, Five Dock

For more information about the SSCC (which has been a PSA member since 1971) visit <http://www.oz3d.info/>

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Some Upcoming Exhibitions

Queensland International Digital Circuit (PSA 2023-206). Two PIDC sections (Open, and a themed section of Weather and Seasons) and two PIDM sections (Open, and a timed section of Smoke, Fire, Fog or Steam). Approval from PSA, FIAP, GPU and APS. **Entries close 19th June**. Full details here <http://www.queensland-photo.com/>

VIGEX Digital (PSA 2023-247). Three PIDC sections (Open, Creative, Scapes), PIDM, Nature and Photojournalism. **Entries close 2nd July**. PSA, FIAP and APS approval. Full details here <https://vigex.org.au/>

Newcastle International Digital Circuit (PSA 2023-333). Sections for PIDC, PIDM Open, PIDM Portrait, Nature. **Entries close 2nd July**. Full details <https://newcastleint.myphotoclub.com.au/> APS approval for three exhibitions in the circuit.

A full list of all PSA-recognized exhibitions for 2023 is available here <https://listings.psaems.org/>

Thank you to all those who contributed to this month's newsletter. Everyone, please consider sending me some news or articles for my next newsletter!

If you need help with any PSA matters please contact me.

Regards,

Roy

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