



**DONCASTER
Camera Club**

NEWSLETTER

CLUB INFORMATION

President: Michael Walker 0412 252 387
Secretary: Pam Rixon 0421 813 531
Treasurer: Robbie Carter 0415 047 988
Competition Steward:
Peter Salter 0419 484 839

Committee Members:
Ean Caldwell, Graham Kay, Mark Knudsen,
Martin Lewis, Marilyn Newnham, Margaret
Walton.

Meetings

The Club meets at 7;30pm,
3rd Friday of each month,
East Doncaster Baptist Church,
47-53 Tunstall Road, Doncaster East

Visitors welcome



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MAY 2026

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to this month's Newsletter.

There was a good turnout of members at our Annual General Meeting, where the evening commenced with the usual announcements, followed by the April competition. Our internal panel of judges, Ean, Bev and Robbie, did a fantastic job, offering valuable critiques to the large number of submissions from our members. The Annual Aggregate Awards were announced and presentations made to the winners and placegetters in the 3 competition categories. After a short break, the 71st AGM commenced. The Treasurer's, Secretary's, and President's reports were presented, other significant awards were revealed, and the current committee was dissolved. Liz Reen stepped in to convene the election of the new committee.

Thank you to the previous committee members for their great work, and welcome to the new committee, which I have no doubt will work tirelessly in the year ahead. Welcome to our new committee members, Mark Knudsen and Merilyn Newnham.

The new committee has already worked through a large agenda, including consensus to enter the 36th Eastern Interclub Competition. This requires the selection of 6 DPI and 6 Monochrome images from the past 12 months. We are looking for interested club members to join the selection panel. Please let Pam or me know if you would like to come on board.

All members have been emailed the definition guidelines for the June Competition – 'Patterns in Nature'. This is not a definitive or restrictive definition, but it should offer solid guidance for submitting images to the various categories (see further on in the newsletter). Also, for the newly created competition category 'Creative', the set theme does not apply. This will continue to be an open category at this time.

An extensive discussion regarding the need for an increased pool of internal judges for the ten DCC competitions each year took place. We do need larger membership participation on the judging panels to ensure competition viability. To that end, we are looking for additional members to raise their hands and volunteer for inclusion on future internal judging panels. It is fascinating, and you learn on the job.

In my role as President, one of the key components of the club I have been championing is a strong learning environment for our members. I have been encouraging members to enter our competitions and get valuable feedback on how they can improve as photographers. Thank you to the many members who took heed. Our March competition attracted a total 92 entries. That is fantastic. It also needs to be tempered with the reality of what can be handled in a club night critique session. We want to ensure we don't go until midnight!! To ensure a manageable number of entries, particularly considering the new 'Creative' competition, the decision was made to trial 2 entries per category for our July and August competitions. Following this trial, a more definitive determination will be made as to how we move forward.

A quick reminder, the mid-year luncheon will be taking place on Sunday, 26th July. **Although the venue is yet to be decided, please keep the date locked in - your company is wanted.** Oh, and another reminder. Please send your Scavenger Hunt images to Peter Stone on a progressive basis.

All the best and hope to see you on Friday.

Michael.

AWARD RESULTS



Graham Kay receives Life Membership



Peter Stone receives the President's Trophy



Michael Walker – 1st Small Print Ag



Michael Walker – 2nd Open Print Ag



Arthur Lilley – 3rd Open Print Ag



Don Stott – 2nd DPI Ag



Margaret Walton – 3rd DPI Ag

COMPETITION RESULTS

SMALL PRINTS



GALAPAGOS GROUND FINCH – Michael Walker

	Title	Score-Award
Michael Walker	One Large Swallow!	11
Koren Mitchell	Barn Owl	12 M
Michael Walker	Galapagos Ground Finch	12 M
Koren Mitchell	Buddha tunnel	11
Michael Walker	Galapagos Grasshopper	11
Koren Mitchell	Pond Heron	11



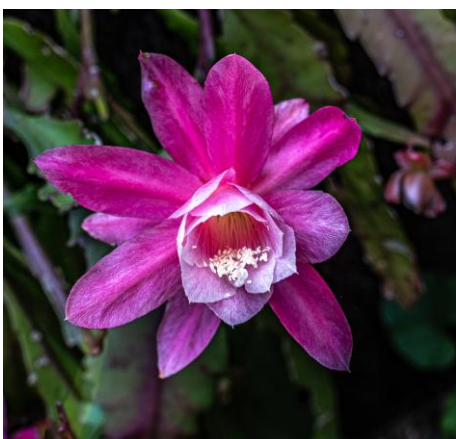
BARN OWL – Koren Mitchell

OPEN PRINTS

	Title	Score-Award
Michael Walker	Galapagos Land Iguana	12M
Arthur Lilley	Three Peaks and a Slope	10
Koren Mitchell	Deep Thoughts	14 H
Pam Rixon	Portsoy Harbour	15 H
Michael Walker	Beautiful Mud Bath!	14 H
Felix Menke	Glass Ceiling or Glass Floor?	11
Pam Rixon	Left to Rot	13 M
Michael Walker	Little Bit Prickly!	15 H
Arthur Lilley	Cactus Flower	13 M
Koren Mitchell	Off to work	14 H
Koren Mitchell	King Fisher	14 H
Pam Rixon	At The Station	14 H
Arthur Lilley	Sheltering	13 M



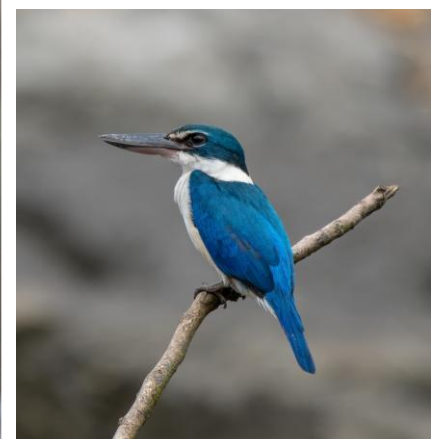
PORTSOY HARBOUR – Pam Rixon



CACTUS FLOWER
Arthur Lilley



LITTLE BIT PRICKLY!
Michael Walker



KINGFISHER
Koren Mitchell

DIGITAL PROJECTED IMAGES

	Title	Score-Award
Jeff Nocker	High Country Hut	13 M
Jeff Nocker	Spreading My Wings	12 M
Don Stott	Autumn Street	11
Felix Menke	Cable Beach Camel Ride - Broome	10
Bill Chan	Rings Man	13 M
Michael Walker	Sally Lightfoot Crab	13 M
Margaret Walton	Strzelecki Shadows	12 M
Koren Mitchell	Found Nemo	12 M
Mark Knudsen	Bluey	11
Jeff Nocker	Big Boys Toys	10
Adrian Lee	Amen!	12 M
Koren Mitchell	Langkawi sunrise	10
Peter Stone	Resilience	12 M
Michael Walker	Galapagos Pelican	11
Richard Gay	DCC Melbourne Walk 2	11
Felix Menke	Glass Wall - NGV	11
Felix Menke	Keeping things together	11
Margaret Walton	Antique Machinery	14 H
Mark Knudsen	In a spin	11
Darryn McCracken	Ogre-faced Spider Stand-off	12 M
Don Stott	Pincushion Protea	11
Bill Chan	Crossing the lane	11
Ros Osborne	Won't Go Hungry	14 H
Mark Knudsen	Walk this way	10
Don Stott	Blaze	14 H
Peter Stone	Eruption	10
Ros Osborne	Lost to Nylon Thread	12 M
Margaret Walton	Mono Lake	11
Richard Gay	Christmas Lantern	10
Koren Mitchell	Can't see me	10
Bill Chan	Poo time	10
Michael Walker	Malachite Kingfisher_01	11
Adrian Lee	Happy ever after	10
Darryn McCracken	Guarding the Nest	13 M
Peter Stone	C'mon Then, Tough Guy!	14 H
Richard Gay	DCC Portrait 1	11
Ros Osborne	Summer by the Sea	10
Darryn McCracken	A Crane Fly for Breakfast	12 M
Adrian Lee	I love the sun	11



C'MON THEN, TOUGH GUY! - Peter Stone



BLAZE – Don Stott



ANTIQUÉ MACHINERY – Marg Walton

WON'T GO HUNGRY
- Ros Osborne



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS – DUE NOW

Membership fees are now due. If you joined recently, have already paid or are a life member, please ignore this reminder.

Membership is as follows:

1. Single Adult Membership **\$65.00**
2. Family membership, including children from 12 to the age of 18 years with a limit of two (2) votes per family with the exception that family members under the age of 15 years are ineligible to vote. **\$95.00**
3. Full time students or persons between 15 and 18 years. **\$40.00**
4. Associate members: - Any member under the age of 15 years - Any other, if any, that we wish to determine. **\$40.00**
5. Life Members **No Fee**

An additional \$10 per class of membership will apply for those members wishing to receive the monthly newsletter by mail.

Please make payment to our Westpac account and include your name in the description.

Acc Name : Westpac Community Solutions One

BSB : 033-389

Account number : 125370

If you would prefer to pay by cash, please speak with the President or Treasurer to organise payment.

UNIDENTIFIED subscription?

24/04/2026 DEPOSIT RINGWOOD VIC

If this is from you, please notify Robbie Carter Robbie.i.carter@gmail.com

MEET OUR MEMBER – RICHARD GAY

From the Committee:

Welcome to Richard Gay, our May 'Meet the Member'.

It is terrific to get to know you a little better, thank you Richard. We look forward to viewing your increasing volume of competition entries, working with you more closely, and enjoying your company this year.

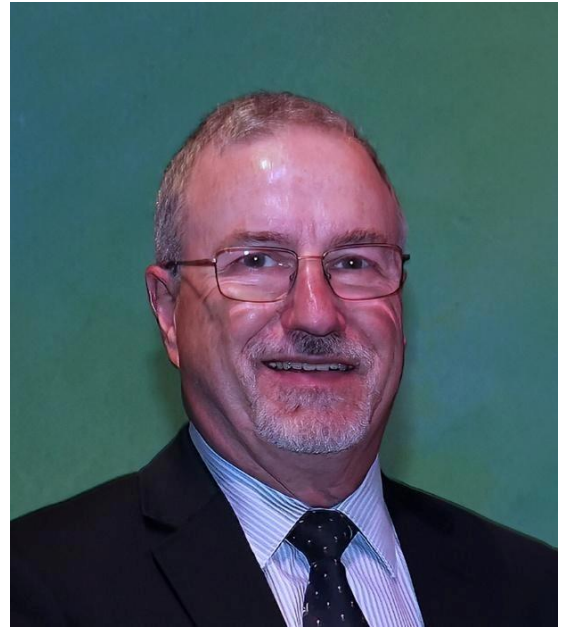
Meet Richard Gay

What was your occupation before retirement?

I was a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries of Australia. I worked for several insurers, AMP, National Mutual/AXA, Medibank, Australian Super. Mostly doing valuation and pricing work, which involves modelling or pricing financial risk or outcomes etc.

What sparked your earliest interest in photography?

I had an interest at an early age when coming out on a ship. My father bought a 35mm film camera. I loved the images of the places that the ship stopped at along the voyage. I still have his camera.



When did you join DCC, and why did you choose our club?

I joined in 2024 after ESPS closed. I was a guest for a couple of meetings. I also visited Camberwell and Waverley, I felt these clubs were not a good fit for me. The members at Doncaster seemed a friendly group with interesting competitions and SIG's.

When it comes to photography, what do you consider your strengths?

I think it would be easier to list my weaknesses! I think my strength is always trying to improve my shots. I think every time you pick up a camera and start taking images, you learn something.

What area would you like to improve?

I'd like to improve my creativity and some aspects of post processing, particularly layers, which is a bit of a mystery to me.

What Camera do you use and why?

In 2012 I purchased a OMD EM5. The reason being, I was going overseas and wanted something light, weather sealed and easy to use. I used the EM5 on several overseas trips and it was a great little camera. I remember once getting sea spray over it and buying a bottle of water to wash it down, I got some very strange looks.

In 2018 I decided to upgrade to a OMD EM1 Mk2. I'm still using the OMD EM1 Mk2.

I like it as the camera and lenses are quite light. It also has some clever features like pro capture, In-camera focus stacking, high-res mode and live composite. It's not the latest but it does everything I need.

What is one thing you have gained, and one contribution to the club, which has been most satisfying this year?

I like the SIG Mono group, although I've been a bit slack in submitting images. I also like to see what people submit in comps and try to learn from them.

There are some very creative photographers in the club who produce outstanding images.

I feel I have not contributed a lot to the club, apart from attending meetings and trying to submit at least one image to each comp.

What is something that DCC members do not know about you?

I only recently became an Australian citizen. I only waited 65 years!!

What is your favourite part of being a member of the club?

I like the friendly nature of the club the special interest groups and the constructive critiques of images.

You can always learn something from other people's images.

Is there anything you would like from the DCC that is not currently available?

Not really, the club has a range of SIGs and caters to members very well. It has a very welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING – APRIL 17TH – AGM

The DCC AGM was held at the EDBC on April 17th, where the Open competition was judged by Ean Caldwell, Robbie Carter and Bev Dillon. There were 11 Honours and 18 Merits awarded.

The judges commented that there are two areas where images are consistently let down. They are cropping and contrast.

The judging was followed by the presentation of the Aggregate Awards, the President's Trophy to Peter Stone and Life Memberships to Graham Kay, Peggy Petty and Pam Rixon.

The evening concluded with a straightforward and smoothly run Annual General Meeting..

The Committee for 2026/27 were elected as follows;

President; Michael Walker

Secretary; Pam Rixon

Treasurer; Robbie Carter

Committee members;

Ean Caldwell, Graham Kay, Mark Knudsen, Martin Lewis, Peter Salter, Peter Stone, Margaret Walton.

Merilyn Newnham has also since joined the committee.

Thanks to Liz Reen for stepping in as the temporary Chairperson and announcing the new Committee.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING – MAY 15TH

The DCC May meeting will be held at the EDBC on Friday May 15th commencing at 7.30 pm.

The Open topic for May will be judged by John Russo, from Berwick Viewfinders Camera Club.

2026 VAPS CONVENTION

Tatalia Function Centre, Rich River Golf Club, Moama. 29-31 May.

A GREAT AUTUMN EXPERIENCE!

We encourage all our members to consider supporting and attending the VAPS Conference this year. The Presentations and Workshops are always interesting and varied. The Print display is always a highlight and well worth viewing.

DCC will be entering 15 prints and 15 Digital images in the Competition. Plus, there will be Year Bars and Meritorious Awards presented to our members.

The VAPS Convention is a very social experience to enjoy with your DCC friends and offers many opportunities to meet with members of Camera Clubs from all over Victoria.

Our own member Joseph Maher is the Convention convener, who does an amazing job. Do talk to Joseph or other members who have previously attended the convention. Tatalia is an enticing venue for a splendid weekend escape, nestled in the gorgeous, culturally vibrant Echuca – Moama regions.

For more information go to the VAPS Website <https://www.vaps.org.au> Please **remember** you need to register **and** book your accommodation. Join us for a great weekend!

Pam Rixon pamrixon@gmail.com and Margaret Walton margw@australianscenics.com

UPCOMING EVENTS PROGRAM

May 15	Friday	Club Meeting – OPEN Topic – John Russo
May 29 – 31	Fri-Mon	VAPS Conference – Moama
June 03	Wednesday	Committee Meeting

June 19	Friday	Club Meeting – SET Topic - Patterns in Nature – Ean Caldwell, Robbie Carter, Robyn Solum
July 01	Wednesday	Committee Meeting
July 17	Friday	Club Meeting – OPEN Topic - Theo Van Der Meulen NB. **Max 2 entries per category
July 26	Sunday	Mid-Year Luncheon – venue TBC.
August 5	Wednesday	Committee Meeting
August 21	Friday	Club Meeting – OPEN Topic – Lindsay Muirhead NB. **Max 2 entries per category
September 02	Wednesday	Committee Meeting
September 18	Friday	Club Meeting – SET Topic – High Key/Low Key – Peter Layton, Pam Rixon, Peter Salter

PATTERNS IN NATURE

In photography, patterns in nature refer to the repetition of similar shapes, colors, or textures that create visual interest and structure within an image. These patterns can be found in various natural elements, such as ice, snow, rocks, sand, leaves, and tree trunks, and often evoke feelings of order and harmony. Patterns in nature can be swirls, flowing lines, repetitive shapes, rounded or cornered off objects, colours, etc. Capturing them in a pleasing composition with good light is necessary to create a powerful photograph. Regarding composition, the key is to reduce what's in front of you to its primary components.

Types of patterns may include:

- Regular patterns: Symmetrical shapes that create a sense of calm and order.
- Irregular patterns: Chaotic arrangements that can evoke feelings of disorder or surprise.
- Geometric Patterns: These are regular shapes and forms, such as the hexagonal shapes of honeycombs or the spiral patterns of shells.
- Organic Patterns: These are irregular and often more complex, like the veins of leaves or the textures of tree bark.

Of course, there are many more examples and opportunities to see and capture the wonderful world of "Patterns in Nature" however I hope this definition stimulates your creative juices.

Cheers, Michael Walker.

PRINTING SERVICES

For those members who would like to enter prints into the competitions Pam Rixon and John Smith have kindly offered their services. Only the cost of paper and ink would need to be covered. Please contact Pam Rixon if wanting information about printing, matts etc.

CREATIVE SIG

DTBA: Now is the time for our creative artists – that’s you, our members – to produce some more innovative offerings. Our first two SIG were very popular, and there are already 28 entries for our inaugural participation as a Competition category in June. Please send yours to crookedpaw@gmail.com or via WeTransfer, if your files are too large for email.

A Zoom link will be sent to all DCC members on the Tuesday prior to our next meeting, and we will give you plenty of prior notice. Please check the Rules for the Creative SIG entries, at the end of the newsletter.
Cheers, Peter Stone.

IMAGE DEVELOPMENT SIG

DTBA: We look forward to Peter Layton’s return, when he resumes hosting the Image Development SIG. We have great plans for some very informative sessions, learning so much about developing images, both before shooting and postproduction.

MONO SIG

DTBA: The date of our next Mono SIG will be announced shortly. We are aiming for early June for our zoom meeting, so please send the images that you would like to see processed by your fellow members, to Graham at grahambkay@gmail.com. We will be in contact with a date very soon and look forward to getting back to a more regular routine.

Any queries, please contact Graham at grahambkay@gmail.com

SCENIC SIG

After the focus on Street Photography in January and early February, the next Scenic SIGs are in planning mode. The first will be incorporated into the VAPS weekend away, at the end of the month. If you have any queries or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact Marg Walton at margw@australianscenics.com or Pam Rixon pamrixon@gmail.com

THEMES AND SERIES SIG

All are welcome to join us for our next get-together at 1.30PM, on Tuesday, May 19th at Ean’s home, or on Zoom.

The subject is **Signs** - to be interpreted however you choose. We are expecting another very entertaining and probably quirky session.

Any queries Peggy peacefulpeggy@outlook.com or Bev carldillon@optusnet.com.au

MENTOR WORKSHOP

The committee is still very interested to hear from any member who would like to run a single or multiple mentoring sessions for fellow club members. Don’t be shy, we can all learn from each other, and it is all about continuous improvement for all our members.

JUDGING SCHEDULE

Judges for the following months are;

May	OPEN	– External – John Russo, Berwick Viewfinders Camera Club.
June	SET	– Patterns in Nature – Ean Caldwell, Robbie Carter, Robyn Solum
July	OPEN	– Theo Van Der Meulen – NB. **Max 2 entries per category
August	OPEN	– Lindsay Muirhead – NB. **Max 2 entries per category
September	SET	– High Key/Low Key – Peter Layton, Pam Rixon, Peter Salter

SUPPER ROSTER 2026

May	Robyn Solum and Leonie Cann
June	Mark Knudsen and Margaret Salter
July	Koren Mitchell and John Wu
August	Don Stott and Liz Reen
September	Geoff Lowry and Bev Dillon
October	Adrian Lee and Ros Osborne
November	Liz Clarkson and Fabio Panarese
December	Keith Tull and Richard Gay

If you are on the roster and cannot attend, please notify Pam Rixon: pamrixon@gmail.com or 0421813531

SCAVENGER HUNT 2026

Camera or Phone, whatever is convenient – thanks to those who are already sending through some great captures, including two marbled gecko entries. No, not the same one!

Please don't forget to send your images to Peter Stone as you take them crookedpaw@gmail.com

EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

EXHIBITIONS OF INTEREST

Eastern Suburbs Interclub Comp

This Competition is to be held September 16th, 2026, at Maroondah. Entries close Sunday **July 19th**.

Selections will be made from Merit and Honour images from last 12 months. May to May. Pam and Marg will coordinate the selection and would welcome the participation of another member who would like to contribute to the experience.

GENERAL INTEREST

SAVE THE DATE

The DCC Mid-Year Luncheon is planned for Sunday 26th July.

The Venue is still to be confirmed, and we will notify you soon.

Hall of Frame, has sponsored DCC for many years. To show our appreciation we encourage members to go there for matting and framing needs. They do an excellent job.

Suggestions for future outings; the Blue Lotus Gardens, Steam Fest and Mont de Lancy.

Please let us know if you have any favourite locations to recommend.

RULES FOR THE NEW CREATIVE COMPETITION CATEGORY.

- Encompasses all methods of computer augmentation, experimental photography and artistic treatment.
- Enter up to three DPI images.
- Every entry must contain some natural photographic component that has been captured by a camera.
- Composite images composed entirely of elements captured by a camera can still be accepted in current categories, as well as in Creative (one or the other).
- Composite images with any form of AI augmentation to be entered in Creative only.
- When there is a set topic, creative entries will not be confined to the set topic.
- Creative results will not impact current aggregate scores.

Peter Stone (Chair), Ean Caldwell, Michael Walker