



Upper Blue Mountains Camera Club Inc.

Newsletter

"Most things in life are moments of pleasure and a lifetime of embarrassment; photography is a moment of embarrassment and a lifetime of pleasure." Tony Benn

Caring for your Memory Card

Personally, I learned a lot from researching and writing this article ... and while I have been lucky in the sense that I haven't lost any images, yet, I know of plenty of people who have lost their entire shoots. So, save yourself some time and maybe embarrassment by caring for your images from step one, the beginning of a shoot. So, keep reading for more information about memory card care.

Protect your memory cards In the past, I have just put the memory cards back in the original plastic box. Yep, they are so tiny and easy to lose in a camera bag. Recently, I bought a case to keep my extra cards in. I have 3 cameras, which all require different memory cards, and this case can keep them all safe and in one place.

This little case can keep the cards safe from dust and debris, and is also waterproof. Keep in mind that when you replace your arsenal of memory cards, it is also a good idea to replace the case as well. And lucky for us, the cases are pretty inexpensive.

Use a clean card for each shoot This is a tough one ... as a hobbyist, and a practising family historian, I tend to shoot until a card is filled before transferring to my computer. That's okay, unless you end up completely filling a card. Try to upload your images before the card has reached capacity. After reaching capacity, the files can start rewriting over one another.

Reformat your cards after each upload After uploading to your computer, reformat your cards using your camera, not the computer.

Use a card reader If transferring images directly from your camera to the computer, you can risk the battery dying mid transfer, which can corrupt the card. Card readers are cheap and easy to use. I use one similar to this one. It has slots for all of the cards that I use, and makes transferring easy without draining my camera battery.

Keep your batteries charged If your camera shuts down mid-file writing, the card can be corrupted. Make sure your batteries are charged and that you shut your camera down properly after allowing time for your last image to write onto the card. And never take a memory card out of its slot while the camera is turned on, or while it is in use.

Label your cards If you are using multiple cameras and multiple cards, label your memory cards. Use different memory cards for assigned cameras. And don't switch the cards without reformatting. So that means you'll need to upload your images, erase the card, and reformat. It's easier just to designate particular cards to particular cameras.

Make sure your card reads fast enough Memory card care is more than just reformatting your card. If you are taking really



fast bursts, make sure the card you have is fast enough to write the information. If you find your card lagging, it may be time to reformat, get a faster card, or replace the card. For video, make sure you're using the fastest card for that purpose.

Memory cards wear out They don't last forever. Replace your memory cards every couple of years. If a particular card is "glitching" or acting strange, it may be time to retire it or use it only as a backup.

Only buy what you need Don't use one card for everything. When shooting a family vacation, it may be smarter to use two smaller cards, than one huge card. Or many cameras now have dual slots where you can back up your first card with the second. Either way, be smart and don't put all of your eggs in one basket, so to speak. Shoot safe and shoot smart!

Don't edit/delete in camera I know I'm terribly guilty of this one! ... deleting in camera causes holes in the memory card data. When deleting to make more room for photos, the new photos try to fill those holes, which can end up overlapping data. Not good! Just use a new card!

I hope you've learned a few tips about memory card care with this article. I know I learned a lot doing the research! One last thing, for best performance, buy a reliable brand. I've never had problems with SanDisk ... Happy Snapping!

Colour Print of the Month



Alan Daniel's — "Searching for Water"

Alan writes ... Seeing the landscape at Kings canyon was a revelation for me ... here was scenery so rich in the colours of Albert Namatjira's paintings. The rusty reds of the baked and broken ground, the bright yellowy greens of the spinifex, and the stark contrasting white trunks of the many ghost gums, all set off with a clear blue sky background, it couldn't help but make a lasting impression on anyone ... cameras are made for this!!

This particular little ghost gum was eking out its grim existence up on the rim walk above the canyon. You can see just how barren the ground is, no ponds, no pools, no flowing water anywhere close by. And yet this gum has managed to survive. How could anyone walk by it without acknowledging the struggle here?

You take what you're given when travelling, and this shot had to be done mid-afternoon with bright sunlight – not

generally a good start for any landscape shot. But in many ways, the intense light & heat is such a key element of life here, that it should be included and worked with, rather than avoided. Composition-wise, the long root made a nice leading line and seemed to me to be the obvious thing to emphasise. A polarising filter helped boost the colours in the sky and reduce some glare while a small aperture kept everything in focus. A wide-angle 20mm lens helped to get much of the scene in the frame and exaggerate the perspective slightly to add some interest.

We only spent a day at Kings Canyon but next time we'll skip the big rocks of Uluru and Kata Tjuta and base ourselves here. The landscape, and the opportunities it offers, demand, and should be given, much more time.

Pentax K1 with a 20-40mm Sigma lens and polarising filter f/14, ISO 100, 1/50th sec.

Monochrome

PRINTS OF THE MONTH

Harley Rustin — “Two Zebras”

Harley writes ... This image was taken in the Etosha National Park in north western Namibia which is a very diverse country with an array of habitats and vegetation. It is also one of the few countries where animals still roam freely mostly unrestricted by human influence. It's a hot, harsh and dusty environment. In the dry season, water is scarce. Animals congregate in large numbers around the water holes scattered throughout the park, providing great game viewing. Taking photos of these animals is fairly easy. Capturing animal behaviour, although more difficult, is more rewarding. Fortunately, for me, these two zebras decided to perform for the camera. Thanks Guys!



Rob Skinner — “Forever”



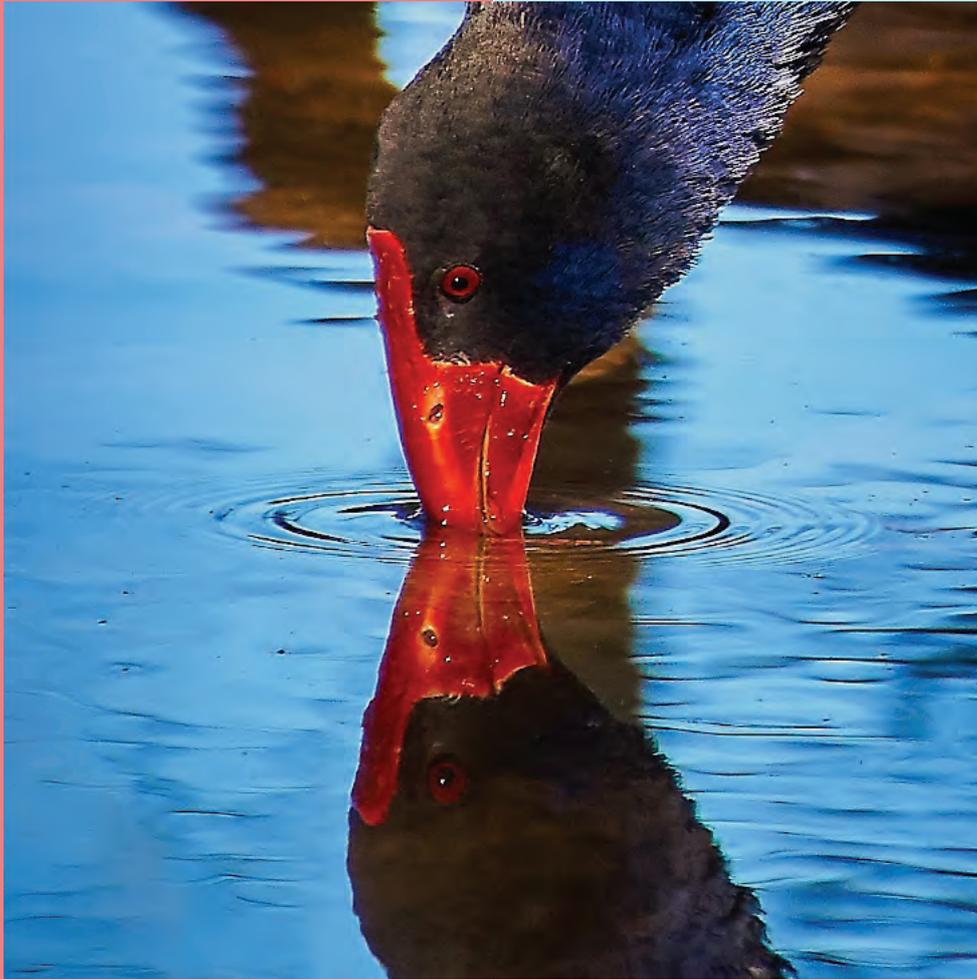
Rob writes ... Forever is defined in the dictionary as meaning - “for always, everlastingly, eternally, a very long time” - and through this photograph of my mother and father holding hands I was endeavouring to capture the emotion of love everlasting.

Married for 62 years and now aged 81 and 85 respectively I asked them to stroll through their garden holding hands while I took their photograph, of course they asked me “why would you want to do that”, my reply was simply “because”... “just humour me”!

I couldn't tell them my real motivation was to capture just their hands, hands that had held each other, myself, my siblings, their grandchildren and great grandchildren, hands that show the lines of life.

So into the garden we went, but after just a few shots and some artistic suggestions from my models, read grumbings, I quickly realized that the image I really wanted just wasn't happening, so I told them the “shoot” was over and as they relaxed and their hands started to part I snapped the image I was after - the hands of my parents, hands that will one day part. Shot using my Pentax K-1 with a HD Pentax-D FA28-105 zoom, at $f/4.5$ 1/1000, post-processing was done in Lightroom, cropped in close to focus on the hands, a little clarity and contrast, converted to B&W in Silver Efex Pro and that really was all I had to do.

Digital Print of the Month



McKinley Moen — “Seeing Double”

McKinley writes ...

My two main interests are photography and ornithology and this photograph combines my love of both.

We had gone to Glenbrook Lagoon to take some photographs of waterbirds. Waterbirds tend not to be as colourful as other birds, it assists them to camouflage themselves amongst the reeds, etc. Purple Swamphens don't appear to have read the uniform guidelines though! Their bright plumage and striking red beak make them fun to photograph.

They are also amusing to watch when they walk. They flick their tail up revealing snow white covert feathers underneath. They literally “shake a tail feather”!

The Purple Swamphen lives in small

groups. This particular group seemed to appear from nowhere when we approached the water. Most of the group had been amongst the reeds and we didn't notice them until we were almost surrounded. They weren't looking for food from us, they were just curious. After they had satisfied their curiosity, they went on about their feeding right in front of us, giving me the perfect opportunity for this photo.

Fun fact: The groups generally consist of more males than females.

I used a Sony A57 with a Sigma 18-250mm lens.

Photo taken @250mm

Aperture f6.3 ISO 800

Shutter speed: 1/400s

Handheld



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HOURS **7am – 7pm**

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- SureColor P800 17" 8 Colour Printer
- TM-C3500 Colour Label Printer
- TM-C7500 Colour Label Printer
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7AM - 7PM DAILY

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STONECUTTERS RIDGE GOLF CLUB

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The Grumpy Pharmacist

Arriving home, a husband was met at the door by his upset wife. tearfully she said, "The chemist insulted me this morning on the phone. I had to call time and time again before he would even answer."

Straight away, the husband drove to town to confront the pharmacist and demand an apology.

Before he could say more than a word or two, the chemist told him, "Just a minute, listen to my side of it . . .

This morning the alarm didn't go off, so I was late getting up. I went without breakfast and hurried out to the car, only to realise that I'd locked the house with both house and car keys inside and I had to break a window to get my keys."

"Then, driving to fast, I got a speeding ticket. Later, when I was about three streets from the store, I had a flat tyre."

"When I finally got to the store a crowd of people were waiting for me to open. I got the store opened and started serving these people, and all the time the darn phone was ringing."

"Then I had to break a roll of coins against the cash register drawer to get change, and they went all over the floor. I had to get on my hands and knees to pick up the coins and the phone was still ringing. When I got up I cracked my head on the open cash drawer, which made me stagger back against a showcase displaying perfume bottles. Half of them hit the floor and broke."

"Meanwhile, the phone is still ringing with no let up, and when I finally got back to answer it was your wife. She wanted to know how to use a rectal thermometer."

"Believe me mate, as God is my witness, all I did was tell her!"



If you've been following Chris and Louise's blog then you've already seen this. If not then Days 23 to 29 of their "bucket list" trip are here to read . . .

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Saturday 26 to Friday 1 September

We were up early, on Saturday morning, and took off for our next stop, which is Mt Elizabeth Station about 160 klms down the road. On the way we stopped into an aboriginal settlement to get some fuel at believe or not, Gibb River Station. We met the storekeeper who gave us a run down on the place... 1 million acres and about 8,000 head of cattle when fully stocked but they were only running about 6000 head at the moment. He told us that the roads up here are the worst he has seen in 25 years and that he had been told by someone "in the know" that it was due to state govt budget cuts due to the GST cuts.

What gets me about that is it's another example of a state govt blaming everyone but the real culprits . . . themselves! What happened to the 10 years of windfall gains from the mining boom? Seems to me that it's not good economics to starve the area of a profitable industry that brings in the most of the state's tourist income.

Anyway we filled up at \$2.05 a litre and headed off to Mt Elizabeth Station, another 1 million acre property with tourist facilities.

Of all the places we have stayed so far this was the most forgettable!

We went out to one of their Gorges for a swim. No one else was there so I decided to have a skinny dip. No sooner had I dived in than two car loads of people turned up, much to Louise's mirth. She chuckled my togs in to me and laughed as I struggled to get them on under water without sinking to the bottom.

We were up early next morning and moved on to Mount Barnett Roadhouse, which is the only store with a range of supplies on the Gibb River Road. We desperately needed to restock especially on fresh food. It is also gateway to Manning Gorge where we camped for 2 nights. At the camp-ground we set up and next morning made the 2.5 kilometre walk over rough rocky ground to the gorge. The walk was difficult but the reward at the end was a

magnificent gorge full of water. We swam and took in the scenery and watched a bunch of kids jump off the waterfall into the pool below. Great fun. There are also some aboriginal paintings in the gorge that were a delight to find as they are not mentioned in any of the brochures.

One of the travellers we met told us a man on an APT tour had died at Mitchell Falls the previous day when he fell while exploring. Evidently it is a reasonably common occurrence.

In the afternoon we decided to make some bread, as the bread in the Roadhouse was frozen Sunblest bread. Not the most delicious I have ever eaten and it turns stale as soon as it comes out of the packet. A photo of the finished loaf heads up this post and it was more delicious than it looks. We cooked it in a wood fire using our spun steel camp oven with hot coals on top. Beats the bought stuff! After two nights we pulled out to head to Mornington Wilderness Camp and Wilderness Sanctuary. First we stopped at the store and stocked up on fruit, vegetables and other necessary supplies like biscuits, bread and fuel as it will be about a week before we hit civilisation at Fitzroy Crossing and then Derby. We passed two gorges on the way. One, Galvins Gorge is right next to the GRR. The car park was chockers, so we gave it a miss. The second, Adcock Gorge we also gave a miss as the road in was very rough.

We arrived at the wilderness lodge turnoff and checked in by radio before the 90 klms trek in. They had room for three nights camping so after giving all our details over the two way headed in for the 2 hour drive up their front driveway. The country is quite different to what we had been driving through, flat open grassy plains giving way to long jump ups (mountains) in the distance.

The wilderness park is managed and run by the Australian Conservation Society. This one is about 300,000 hectares that was purchased in 2001. There are some endangered species here as well of remnants of habitat no longer found in the Kimberly's. On the way in, while going through a long stony Creek crossing I sensed someone behind me only to see an idiot trying to pass me. He must have a licence he found in a corn flakes packet. What really got my goat was that we were only about 10 klms from our destination. Anyway just as we came out of the crossing we came to a locked gate. Louise jumped out and opened it. As I looked in the rear vision mirror there were two vehicles that accelerated past me and left

Louise in a dust storm. I thought I was mad until Louise got in the car, she was more hyped up than I was! We got to the reception counter and the two inconsiderate bastards were also there at the counter checking in. Louise went straight up and asked who was in the last truck and didn't they know the etiquette of the last through shutting the gate. Oh well he replied "you were already out so why did we need to get out and get dusty." That was a bit much for me so I commented that manners mattered in the bush. He then made some comment of trying to pass me for 50 klms. I gave him the death stare and commented that I didn't know it was a race. Another inconsiderate European! His companion was Aussie and she suggested he quit and let us book in first. I think they may have got the message. This is not the first time someone has tried to pass me on a water crossing, which breaks all the rules in the book. You don't enter water until you have checked it out and until it is completely clear. Simple survival strategy but seemingly ignored by overseas visitors, who from my observation drive far to fast for the conditions. In the afternoon we drove out to Sir Johns Gorge for a look. The rehabilitation work they're doing here allows you to see what the Kimberley's looked like before the introduction of cattle.

Wednesday night we decided to shout ourselves out for dinner at the restaurant. Scotch fillet with an assortment of veggies and sweets for \$60 a head. It was very nice with a nice WA Cab Sav from the bar. We finished dinner at about 7.30 to find that our early to bed and early to rise regime was catching up with us, so we walked back to our camp to be ready for an early morning (5.30am) bird watching tour with a guide.

The alarm went off at 4.45am and we got up and walked to reception to head off on the bird watching tour. There were four of us plus the guide so we headed off to a secret spot to see how many different species we could spot with the guide naming them for us. It was a terrific morning and left an impression on both of us. I think Louise has become a twitcher, as no sooner we were back at camp, had breakfast, than we were off again looking for birds on one of the many walking trails around the park. One walking trail was through termite mounds that goes for about 500 metres and tells the story of the mounds, their formation and the life cycle of termites. Very interesting. Some of the mounds are about 100 years old, with the queen living up to 100. When the queen dies, so does the mound. Wow!

They are also a critical part of the ecology up here, aerating the soil and helping it to absorb moisture.

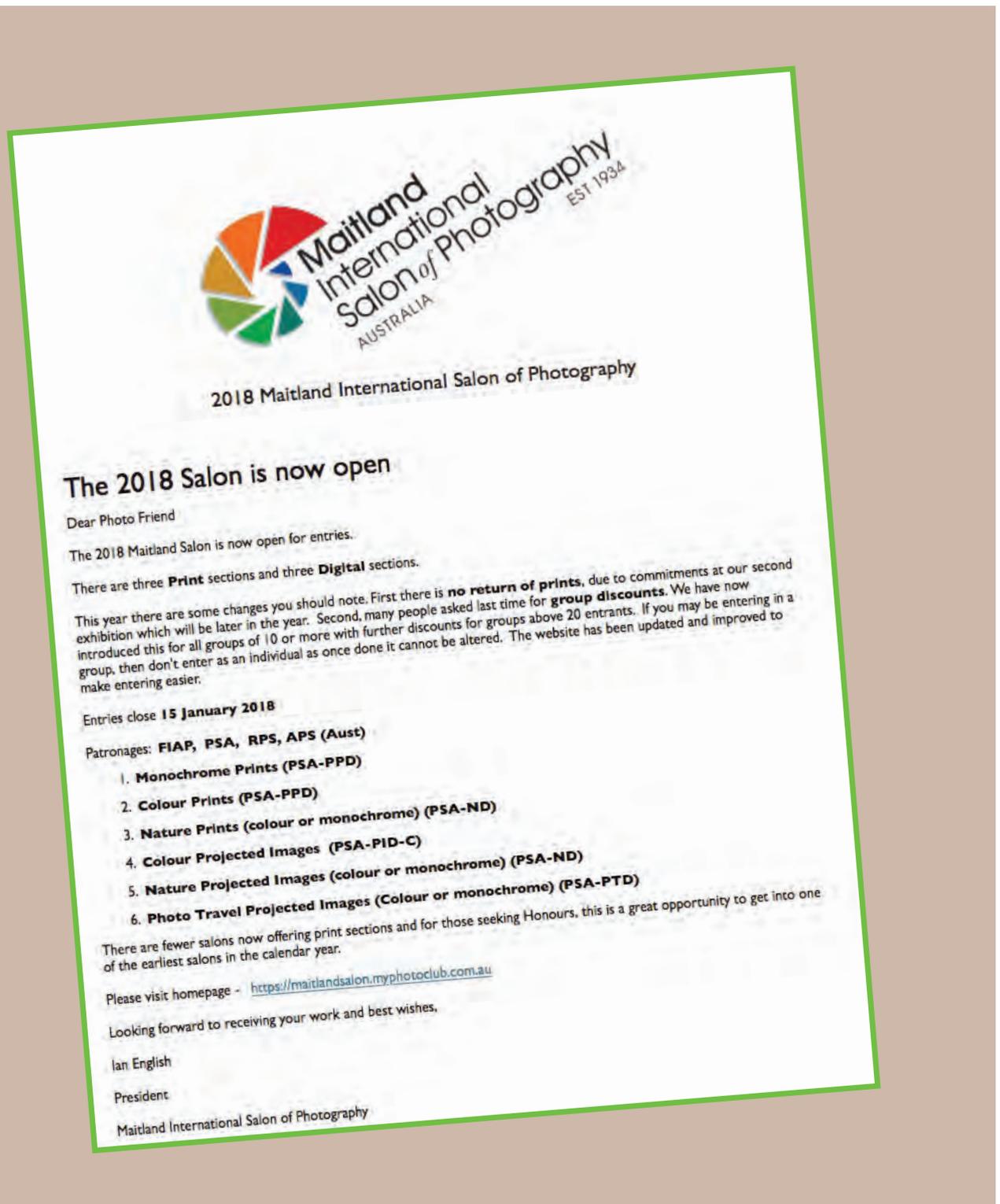
Back to camp for the afternoon, then a few pre dinner drinks at the bar. When we saw Thursday

night's menu we may have jumped the gun having dinner on Wednesday night. Salt water barramundi for mains and individual Pavlovas for sweets. Oh well! We were joined at dinner by a couple who had come on the morning bird watching tour. We traded stories of our adventures so far as the sun slowly set before heading back to camp for an early night. This morning (Friday) we took the track out to Diamond Gorge. It was a 28 km drive over rough terrain but well worth it. On the way out at one of the many Creek crossing Louise spotted a White necked heron standing in the water. We didn't have our cameras ready but the sighting was terrific. On the way back

we did a detour to another water hole on the Fitzroy River. It was beautiful and we spotted the birds as they darted amongst the trees. As well a male rainbow bee-eater settled in the tree above me and I was able to get a few photos of this lovely little bird. We then drove back to camp for a quiet afternoon with time to get this blog up to date. We've promised ourselves that if we ever come back to northern WA we will definitely come back to the wilderness camp and stay again. It's a wonderful facility and is doing a lot to restore natural habitat and protect threatened species. The bird life here is prolific and diverse. You could never get tired of this place. The staff are

all quite enthusiastic and seem to love their work. One of the services they provide here is usable wi-fi for a few hours a day so I can upload the blog. I will up load this tonight when we go to the bar for a coldie or two. Gee life is tough! Tomorrow we'll head off to Bell Gorge then onto Windjana Gorge, Tunnell Creek and then Fitzroy Crossing and finally Derby, arriving there next Thursday or Friday (7 or 8 September) when I should be able to upload some photos to the web site. So till then.

christopherwilsonphotos.com – under 'About Chris' you'll see the blog.





NIKON-WALKLEY PHOTOJOURNALISM

Friday 13 October 2017 to Sunday 26 November 2017
 Foyer, Macquarie Street building



EXHIBITION DATE

Friday 13th October, 2017 to Sunday 26th November 2017

Admission

Free

OPENING HOURS

Monday 8am - 8pm
 Tuesday 8am - 8pm
 Wednesday 8am - 8pm
 Thursday 8am - 8pm
 Friday 8am - 5pm
 Saturday 10am - 5pm
 Sunday 10am - 5pm

LOCATION

Foyer, Macquarie Street Building
 State Library of New South Wales
 Macquarie Street
 Sydney NSW 2000
 Australia



From Kevin Lawrenson ...

On behalf of the organising committee of the Anglican Church Fair, I would like to thank members of the Upper Blue Mountains Camera Club for their photography display at the Fair. The images presented created a lot of interest from the general public and the display helped make the Fair a successful occasion.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
 Armstrong & Falls Road, Wentworth Falls

See you at the Fair!

