

In May 2020 we were introduced to the photography of Chapter member, Brian Menzies . . .

Members' Gallery / Preview

Brian Menzies

In next month's Newsletter we will publish a 'Getting to Know You' introduction written by our member Brian Menzies, who lives in Sydney. Brian has included a number of stunning images with his article; this one of Mt Fuji immediately grabbed my attention.

To give Brian's images the space they deserve, here is a preview, including details about the image, as described by Brian. Ed.



This image of pre-dawn Mt Fuji is representative of my traditional work that still gives me joy. Alphonso Calero conducts regular workshops in Japan and although I hadn't been involved in his training, he generously shared various locations for me to explore. Thanks again Alphonso. It was an early 3am rise and this was my reward. As the cloud floated across the base and mimicked Fuji's shape I let out a spontaneous whoop of joy. It is on the cusp of sunrise and the bustling city is yet to awaken. The thousands of city lights create a welcome mat to the totally dominant Fuji. The pagoda is also dominant, but diminishes as the snow crowned peak draws your eye. Pentax 645Z, 28-45mm f/4.5 lens, ISO100, 30 sec, f/5.

Image by Brian Menzies

Getting to Know You

Brian Menzies

Readers will recall Brian's magnificent 'preview' image of Mt Fuji in last month's Newsletter. Here is Brian's introduction to himself with more of his images. Thanks, Brian. Ed.



Images by Brian Menzies



I have enjoyed photography on and off throughout my life, and always had a camera of some sort about the house. In my years before retirement, having stepped back from the everyday running of our family business, I saw an opportunity to explore a new Startup venture. In the process I was blessed when Life gave me a wonderful 'gift': that Startup never got to fly as a viable business and the capital invested was lost. So how come it was a gift? The concept and practical development of the Startup included product, portrait and other photography. Fully engaging in this, I realised I had limited skill in this area, so I immersed myself in an intense technical and creative photographic learning curve. That was it – the gift. It was the opening of my eyes to an exciting, dynamic and

creative world and I was hooked. The timing was perfect. I retired happily and the energy and passion I had enjoyed in business was absorbed by the creative delight of photography.

I joined the Ryde Eastwood Camera Club (in Sydney), enthusiastically entering all the print competitions. As my skill level developed from many study courses and helpful mentoring from other members and trainers, my proficiency level matured and I enjoyed ongoing success with regular Merit and Credit awards and also won end of year awards. The Heron image (previous page) was a year-end winner.

My intent with the Heron was to show its elegance, textured range of feathers and predatory presence. The motion blur centred on the eye highlights the bird's focus, determination and swiftness in catching prey. Canon 1DXMkii, 400mm 2.8, ISO200, 1/250sec, f/5

In 2017 I joined the Lane Cove Creative Camera Club and a new world opened up for me – again. No competitions: instead there were evaluations, portfolios and exposure to a kaleidoscope of diverse fascinating and intriguing images. The cherry on the cake was socialising and learning with a wonderful welcoming group of generous creative people.

With my growing enjoyment in creativity, the constricts posed by traditional club competition judging rules were cut free. That said, the initial discipline and formulaic rules I had learnt from competitions played an essential part in my photographic education. I remain aware of them in much of my ongoing work. It was a good place to start and I still get great pleasure capturing, processing and printing traditional photos. My image of Mt Fuji is representative of my traditional work that still gives me joy.

My style and interests are broad and I happily shoot whatever takes my eye but with an increasing focus in the creative realm. I enjoy learning with professional photographers and groups on organized tours. Ben Broadwith taught me both Night and Astro photography in the Kimberley, and northern winter landscapes and northern lights in the Lofoten Islands, Norway. Both areas were amazing: 1,000 year old Boabs crowned by the Milky Way in the Kimberley; Northern Lights going crazy on beach near Leknes. Lifetime memories.



Image by Brian Menzies

I shoot Raw and with images like Fuji I may spend hours in processing to ensure my memory of the scene and emotional connection to it are revealed. My chosen media is to print using an Epson P800 and I've never lost my excitement of waiting for the image to emerge. Printing is where the rubber meets the road. The hours spent processing on a calibrated screen finally come to life with the final print. An advanced Michael Smyth printing course really helped with achieving the results I can now realize. My paper preference for soft images and Black and White is Matt fine art with Premium Lusters and Semigloss for the bold and powerful. Holding that final large print image in my hands gives me great joy.

Aerials are challenging and heaps of fun. Local knowledge and help are generally necessary to get the right pilot who knows how to work with photographers, and others who know the best locations and essentials like timing of tides and moon phases. The image at the top of the next page is a helicopter shot (I love helicopters) taken just after sunrise on the salt plain estuary of the King River near Wyndham. Unfortunately this pilot did not fully understand aerials. For helicopters you want it circling hard on its side so you can shoot straight down. I got a lot of landscape type shots but very few straight down abstracts. Canon 1DX Mkii, 16-35mm F2.8mm L, ISO250, 1/1600sec, f/2.8.



Images by Brian Menzies

Macros are a distinct field and I capture them from time to time.

Walking out from a sunrise



shoot at Cathedral Cove in Coromandel, New Zealand I noticed this beautiful creature (above) alongside the track. It's not long after dawn and it was very compliant, being unable to fly with the dew on its wings. Pentax 645Z. FA645 120mm Macro f/4. ISO500, 1/80sec, f/16.

On the right here is a helpful, excited young lady assisting me to set up for a portrait shoot. Canon 1DX Mkii, EF 24-70mm F2.8mm L ii USM, ISO100, 1/100sec, f/3.5, with lighting.

I enjoy editing using a number of programs and plug-ins. My goal this year is to present a Panel for Licentiate LRPS. I have had the good fortune of communicating with Janet Haines, ARPS. She created an initial panel from photos I had shared with her and then tutored and encouraged me on the finalization of the panel process. She is a wonderfully creative photographer and if you missed her Zoom meeting on "Inside my Mind" this is the link:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyOPSpslGUc&feature=youtu.be>.