



Townsville Photography Club Inc.

# Snap Shot

Volume 20 Number 8

August 2026

## From the President

### IN THIS ISSUE

It's that time again for me to practice my typing skills to write this report. Unfortunately, the last month has been very quiet with not a lot happening club wise. I know the weather has been good and some members have taken the opportunity to travel here and there. Our next adventure will be to Magnetic Island on the 29<sup>th</sup> August, which should be fun.

I was one of those members enjoying a short break. I really enjoyed my ten-day trip to Bali! With travel a bit daunting at times of late, a six-hour flight was just enough. I went with my sister-in-law Sue, and her husband on an Intrepid tour which has no more than 12 on the trip. Fortunately, we all got on very well and had a ball. We avoided the usual places to visit, like Kuta and Legian, seeing other areas, most of which I hadn't visited before starting in Ubud. Our tour was a mixture of cultural experiences, waterfalls, rice paddies and exercise which included a bike ride, great snorkeling and a walk up a mountain, which I didn't partake of. It was a great break with lots to see and experience.

It has been drawn to my attention, that the club is about to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> year of existence! According to my wee bit of research, the club started in 2006, as the Twin Cities Amateur

Photography Group meeting for 2 years before becoming formally incorporated as the Townsville Photography Club in 2008. According to Howard, an idea was put forward by Kevin Leslie with Ian Boyde, Howard and Neil Creese holding the initial meeting to discuss forming a Photography Club, held at McDonald's Aitkenvale.

Original members, according to Cecily, who have been in the Club for 20 years are Cecily and Lyn. Garry, Annette and Ray joining a little later as well as Elsbeth in 2007. Howard returned to the Club after an absence. It has certainly had its ups and downs, but at the moment, we have a great group who meet up at least once a month with a shared enjoyment of taking photos with the aim of improving!

Facebook postings has been a bit lacking of late but we will soldier on. The workshop and ACDSee weren't held last month due to lack of interest. If any have some ideas, and are willing to take them, please let us know as Cecily's hand needs medical attention.

Well, that's it from me,  
Karen Grice

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## Competition Results

The feedback and scores for 'Sunrise or Sunset' as well as the 'Open' competition are always welcomed by our Members.

Congratulations to all who received an Honour, Merit, Highly Commended or Acceptance.

### Theme - Sunrise or Sunset

#### Image of the Month -

#### Kaye Hinds

Honour 9 - Sharyl x2, Kaye, Elsbeth, Lyn, Marcia,

Honour 8.5 - Cecily, Karen.....8 - Cecily, Karen, Tracey, Marcia, Elsbeth, Howard

Merit - Bob x2, Patricia, Kaye

Highly Commended - Annette x2, Sue, Howard, Lyn, Patricia

Acceptance - Ray, Sue, Tracey



**THEMED IMAGE OF THE MONTH**  
Sunrise or Sunset .....Kaye Hinds

THEME — Open  
PRINT OF THE MONTH  
Fungi in the Rainforest.....Cecily Jones



## Competition Results (Continued)

### Theme - Open

#### Image of the Month –

#### Marcia Bacon

Honour 9 - Marcia x2, Cecily, Kaye

Honour 8.5 - Elsbeth, Karen...8 Ray x2,  
Cecily, Sharryl, Karen, Elsbeth, Lyn

Merit 7.5 - Bob, Howard....7 Annette,  
Tracey, Sue, Kaye

Highly Commended - Patricia x2, Lyn, Sue,  
Bob, Howard



**OPEN IMAGE OF THE MONTH**  
**Rainbow Bee-eater.....Marcia Bacon**

## From the Editor

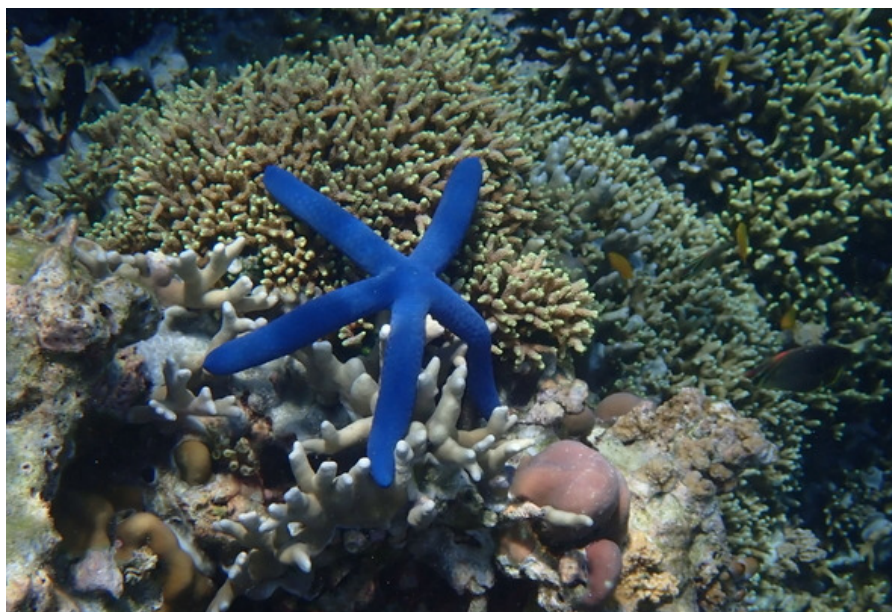
As the year is speeding away and we can again expect the hot weather to descend on us, an excursion to Magnetic Island is planned for the 29th August. A notice has already been sent out, and sorry to say no more acceptances can be taken as transport needed to be arranged.

Cecily is again calling for any volunteer to run a workshop on some aspect of photography. If you can assist please contact her.

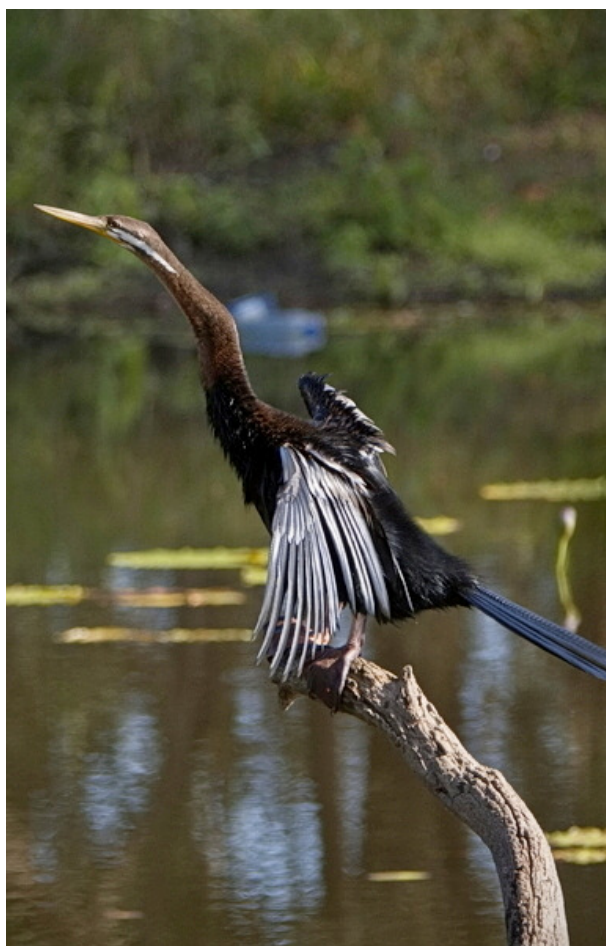
A couple of photos from our trip to Magnetic Island in September 2023.



Members Facebook Images from their Travels.



## Members Facebook Images



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## Schedule for 2026

| FOR MONTH | DIGITAL THEME             | DUE BY MIDNIGHT | PRINT THEME            | HAND PRINT IN |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| JAN       | Monochrome<br>Open        | 9<br>DEC        | Shapes                 | DEC           |
| FEB       | Rule of Odds<br>Open      | 12<br>JAN       | Open                   | 19<br>JAN     |
| MAR       | Metal<br>Open             | 9<br>FEB        | Bridges                | 16<br>FEB     |
| APR       | Patterns<br>Open          | 9<br>MAR        | Open                   | 16<br>MAR     |
| MAY       | Long Exposure **<br>Open  | 13<br>APR       | Scapes                 | 20<br>APR     |
| JUN       | Silhouette<br>Open        | 11<br>MAY       | Open                   | 18<br>MAY     |
| JUL       | Colour Blue<br>Open       | 8<br>JUN        | Taken from<br>Down Low | 15<br>JUN     |
| AUG       | Sunrise or Sunset<br>Open | 13<br>JUL       | Open                   | 20<br>JUL     |
| SEPT      | Food<br>Open              | 10<br>AUG       | BlacknWhite            | 17<br>AUG     |
| OCT       | Any Scape<br>Open         | 14<br>SEPT      | Open                   | 21<br>SEPT    |
| NOV       | Yesteryear<br>Open        | 12<br>OCT       | Abandoned              | 19<br>OCT     |
| DEC       | Shadows<br>Open           | 2<br>NOV        | Open                   | 16<br>NOV     |
| JAN 2027  | Monochrome<br>Open        | 14<br>DEC       |                        | 21<br>DEC     |

\*\* More than 2 seconds

| FOR MONTH | WORKSHOP    | CHALLENGE    | RESULTS AT MEETING | ACDSee     |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| JAN       | No Workshop | 19 Jan       | 19 JAN             | No Classes |
| FEB       | 2 Feb       | 16 Feb       | 16 FEB             | 23 Feb     |
| MAR       | 2 Mar       | 16 Mar       | 16 MAR             | 23 Mar     |
| APR       | No Workshop | 20 Apr       | 20 APR             | 27 Apr     |
| MAY       | No Workshop | 18 May       | 18 MAY             | 25 May     |
| JUN       | 1 Jun       | 15 Jun       | 15 JUN             | 22 Jun     |
| JUL       | 6 July      | 20 July      | 20 JUL             | 27 July    |
| AUG       | 3 Aug       | 17 Aug       | 17 AUG             | 24 Aug     |
| SEPT      | 7 Sept      | 21 Sept      | 21 SEPT            | 28 Sept    |
| OCT       | No Workshop | 19 Oct       | 19 OCT             | 26 Oct     |
| NOV       | 2 Nov       | 16 Nov       | 16 NOV             | 23 Nov     |
| DEC       | No Workshop | No Challenge | 21 DEC             |            |
|           |             |              |                    |            |

## Competition Closing Dates

|                          |                                  |                                        |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>October<br/>2026</b>  | Send 2 Any Scape<br>Send 2 Open  | <b>In by <u>14th</u><br/>September</b> | Bring Print<br>Open      | <b>On 21st<br/>September</b> |
| <b>November<br/>2026</b> | Send 2 Yesteryear<br>Send 2 Open | <b>In by <u>12th</u><br/>October</b>   | Bring Print<br>Abandoned | <b>On 19th<br/>October</b>   |
| <b>December<br/>2026</b> | Send 2 Shadows<br>Send 2 Open    | <b>In by <u>9th</u><br/>November</b>   | Bring Print<br>Open      | <b>On 16th<br/>November</b>  |
| <b>January<br/>2027</b>  | Send 2 Monochrome<br>Send 2 Open | <b>In by <u>14th</u><br/>December</b>  | Bring Print<br>Scapes    | <b>On 21st<br/>December</b>  |

***Remember – Some themes may have guidelines .... check on the website***

### Post Processing Sessions

We will be running these sessions on ACDSee at the Aitkenvale Library at 7.00 pm on the fourth Monday of each month. What to bring - laptop with latest ACDSee installed. Notebook and pen if you need to take notes. Require further information - contact Cecily.

**The next session for 2026 at the Aitkenvale Library will be 7.00pm on Monday 28th September**

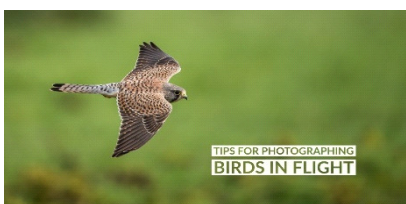
### Photography Workshops

These are usually held on the first Monday of the month at the Oonoomba Hall at 7.00 pm. There could be some changes to these dates but you will be notified by email of any such changes. Please mark your Calendar for the next workshop.

**Our next workshop at Oonoomba Hall has been cancelled**

## Tips for Shooting Birds in Flight

When you think about wildlife photography in Townsville, one species tends to come to most people's mind. Birds! With some great locations & a number of wetlands, bird photography is certainly a great hobby to get in to. As you start out with bird photography you quickly learn that one of the hardest aspects is capturing birds in flight. So today we are going to look at some handy tips on how you can get started.



## Selecting the Right Location

Before you can attempt shooting birds in flight, you first need to find the birds. The best bet for a lot of species is finding a body of water. This time of year, there are a lot of seasonal wetlands that support an abundance of life, but the area with the most birds isn't necessarily the best.

There are a few additional things that you should be on the lookout for when hunting for a good spot.

**1. What is your background going to look like?** You need to be mindful of what is going on behind where you think the birds will be flying. Having a clean, contrasted background ensures that the birds are the main focus of the image; as well as makes it easier for your camera to lock on it's focus.

**2. What is the lighting going to look like?** The ideal time to shoot wildlife are during the golden hours (near sunrise and sunset) each day. When scoping out a desired location it is important to factor in where the sun is going to be at different times of the day. Are there big trees that are going to cut out the afternoon sun? Are you going to be shooting into, or away from the sun? etc.

**3. Study your subject – No** matter how much planning you do in regard to your background & lighting, if you haven't picked a location that birds come to, then you aren't going to get any shots! Take the time to go out to the location you are thinking of. Watch what the birds do, where they take off from, where they land. It doesn't

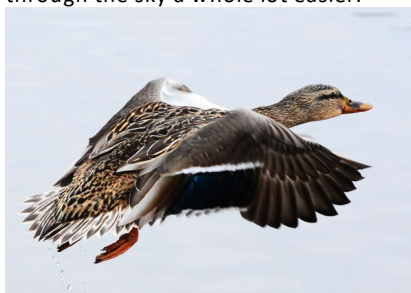
guarantee that they are going to do the same thing tomorrow, but over time you get a much better understanding of where they will be.

## Getting the Right Equipment for the Job

Once you know the location that you want to shoot, now you have to make sure you are packing the right gear for the job.

The most important part is going to be the lens that you select. At a **minimum** you want a 300mm lens, but ideally you will want something more in the 500-600mm+ range. (full frame equivalent mm). Essentially the more zoom you can get, the easier your life becomes.

The second most important thing is your tripod or monopod. This one comes a bit more down to personal preference, but if you struggle to hold your big zoom lens then these are a must! There are a big range of options but for larger lenses you will want to pick yourself up a 'gimbal' head. These making tracking the birds as they move through the sky a whole lot easier.



## Basic Settings

Depending on the time of day, how fast the bird travels, and a range of other variables, there is never a perfect exposure setting you can plug into your camera. Whenever I'm doing bird photography, I like to think of my settings in term of most important to least.

Firstly, you **must** have a fast shutter speed to get a sharp photo, therefore no matter what I never let the shutter speed go below 1/1000 for birds in flight. I will do whatever I need to with my aperture and ISO to ensure that can be achieved.

Second, when possible I want to have a wider depth of field to make it easier for my camera to focus. I tend to start with my aperture around f/8 and adjust from there depending on the lighting. Although a wider depth of field is nice, I don't want the image to become too grainy by pushing up the ISO.

Lastly, we consider the ISO. Generally I run my ISO in auto with a upper limit

that I am comfortable with the grain. This allows the camera some flexibility in helping you get your desired shutter speed & aperture, but prevents the ISO going too high and making it grainy. The actual value that you chose is going to come down to your specific camera & your level of tolerance, but on a full frame unit I tend to cap it between 6400-12800. There are a lot of great programs out there now days that can remove the majority of the ISO grain.

## Ready to Photograph Birds in Flight

This article barely scratches the surface of everything there is to know, but it should arm you with enough to get out there and give it a crack. You can read all the photography articles in the world, but the best way to learn is to get out there and do it!

As always, if you have any questions about anything in the article, or need a hand picking out the right gear for your photography endeavours, feel free to pop into the store and have a chat.

Happy shooting!

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