

APJA Australian Photographic Judges Association Inc.

APJA NEWS

Issue No.57 November 2021

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Established 2014

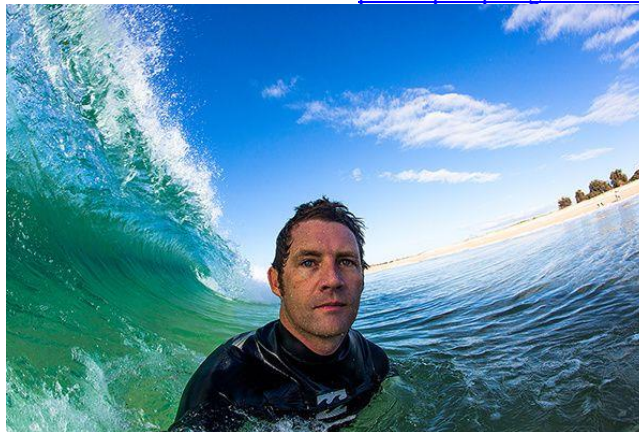
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Photographic Artist Feature
Warren Keelan (Australia)

President's Message



Floating Christmas Tree – Geelong

Even though we have had our end of year meeting, actually Christmas rings in the end of our activities. No doubt all the active judges have had a busy time dealing with club end of year, annual award night, meetings. This is the time when the results of our judging carry great responsibility, ensuring quality images based in aesthetics are recognized and potentially as submissions into national and international salons.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Trusting you keep in good health surrounded by friends and families celebrating this season.
God Bless,

Paul Robinson

2022 Syllabus

- Feb Sunday 13th Committee and General meeting
Friday 25th – Image Evaluation (Part 1)
- Mar Friday 4th – Image Evaluation (Part 2)
- May Friday 6th – Level 1 Course (Part 1)
Friday 13th – Level 1 Course (Part 2)
Sunday 15th – Committee & General Meeting
Friday 20th – Level 1 Course (Part 3)
- June Sunday 19th – Committee Meeting
- July Sunday 10th – Committee Meeting
- Aug Friday 5th - Level 3 Course (Part 1)
Friday 12th – Level 3 Course (Part 2)
Sunday 14th – APJA – AGM
Friday 19th – Level 3 Course (Part 3)
- Sept Friday 2nd – Image Evaluation (Part 1)
Friday 9th – Image Evaluation (Part 2)
Sunday 11th – Committee Meeting
- Nov Friday 4th – Level 5 Course (Part 1)
Friday 11th – Level 5 Course (Part 2)
Friday 18th – Level 5 Course (Part 3)
Sunday 20th – EoY Committee & General Meeting

Photographic Artist Review

Warren Keelan (b.) works out of Wollongong N.S.W. and is a keen seascape and ocean photographer interpreting what he sees through the medium of digital photography.

He has always had a fascination with nature, especially the ocean and its ever changing forms, and is compelled to capture and share what he feels are special and unique moments in the sea. Warren loves the raw, unpredictable nature of water in motion and the way sunlight brings it all to life, from both above and below the surface. His challenge is creating an image that hopefully tells a story or leaves an impression on the viewer.

In 2013 he opened his first photo gallery in Wollongong. Warren is a multi-international award winning photographer: International Landscape Photographer of the Year, International Photo Awards,

International Monochrome Awards, Epson International Pano, Siena International & International Loupe Awards and has received local and international recognition via TV, radio and newspapers.

Interview via Vagabond Photographic:

What is the worst piece of advice you have heard given to someone that wants to make a career out of photography?

After a short role as a fishing photojournalist I found myself being drawn to landscape and ocean photography. I began selling my printed artworks and saw an opportunity to change my role and pursue another avenue. Strangely during that time, I was told something by another photographer along the lines of 'you're not going to be able to make a living of selling prints of the ocean'. I think I still use that as motivation to do what I do today. Don't let anyone tell you what you want to achieve is out of reach.

What is the one aspect you find the most difficult about running a photographic business?

Time and lack thereof. I shoot almost daily and open/run my gallery 5-6 days a week. In between that I process images & orders, meet with clients and travel as much as I can. All of that on top of making sure to invest time into my relationship with my wife. If there's a way we could clone ourselves I'd be all over it.

If there was one destination you could travel to and photograph where would it be?

I've wanted to visit Tonga for many years now and I'm fortunate to be able to be heading that way in 2018 to photograph whales. However, I would also love to travel to Tahiti. To witness Teahupoo exploding across that reef would be mind blowing, but I'd also love to photograph the gin clear waters of Moorea and Bora Bora and its inhabitants. The Tahitian landscape would be incredible to witness from the water.

And from an edited article for Peta Pixel by Michael Zhang in 2019.

In Warren's words:

“Many of my images are conceived days, weeks or even months before they become pictures. They're a combination of thoughts and ideas that eventually translate into photographs but there's a percentage that just happen while in the moment. These are actually some of my favourite images, either becoming keepers or the basis for new ideas and future works.”

Although he uses a wide range of lenses for his work, one of his primary workhorses is his 70-200mm f/2.8 IS II. “Having a telephoto with you in the water really opens the door to creativity,” Keelan says. “It’s a heavier lens compared to most but it’s one I find hard to put down, especially with how versatile and sharp that thing is.”

“The most challenging and enjoyable aspect of making images of water is that it’s an element you have zero control over,” Keelan says. “The ever-changing, unpredictable nature of ocean water is also some of the many reasons I love making images of it and in it. When you swim into large and powerful waves with a camera, you are at the mercy of the ocean”. “Although you can anticipate what may happen whilst you’re out within it, it’s that surprise of capturing something completely random and unique which makes it all the more rewarding. I also enjoy the personal challenge of employing different lenses with alternate focal depths to find new angles and perspectives.”

“When I first began shooting water and waves, I was hitting the shutter a lot more than I needed,” the photographer says. “I ended up with way too many unusable images and made more mistakes than anything but it was a great way to find what really challenged me. Once I worked out what I was doing (actually I’m still working that out) I began shooting fewer frames and made fewer images, but the images I did snap were closer what I wanted to make and I was dumping less data.”

Keelan estimates that he shoots an average of 200 to 500 frames over the span of a couple of hours in the water.

“I shoot everything in RAW so I’m able to work on flat image files in order to recreate the tones, colours, moods, and emotions I saw and felt when I clicked the shutter,” Keelan says. “To be honest I still have a lot to learn when it comes to post-processing, especially with underwater seascapes and portraits of whales, sharks, turtles, etc. but so far I’m happy with how my images transpose into print.

“The great thing about it all is there’s always more to learn!”

Check out Warren’s website and the recorded video interview of him. Some of his images on the next page.

I was the photographing children with a vegan Santa Claus for Christmas photos last weekend. He kept getting mad when I told them to say cheese.



Current Exhibitions

Exhibitions are slowly coming back to life and it has been many months since this part of the newsletter has been noted. Over the next few weeks if you have some time or travelling check out these exhibitions.

New South Wales

Customs House Library, 31 Alfred Street, Sydney. *Developing Sydney: capturing change 1900-1920*. Current to 30 June 2022. Free entry.

Queensland

Brisbane South – State Library Queensland, Stanley Place, South Brisbane. *Viewpoints: Contemporary Aboriginal photography*. Current till 13 February 2022

South Australia

Adelaide – Art Gallery of SA. *Tarnanthi* Current till 30 Jan 2022

Tasmania

Cradle Mountain - Wilderness Gallery, 3718 Cradle Mountain Road, Cradle Mountain. Peter Dombrovskis Photography. Current and ongoing. Entry \$5

Launceston - Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk, 2 Invermay Road, Invermay. *Natural Visions: the camera and conservation in Tasmania* Current till 22 July 2022.

Victoria

Geelong Art Gallery: Archibald 100 – History of the Archibald portrait prize featuring selected artworks. Current till 22 Feb 2022. Entry fees: Adult \$16 Concession \$12

Melbourne – Convention and Exhibition Centre (Geoff's Shed) Permanently located here, THE LUME Melbourne welcomes visitors to their inaugural experience, Van Gogh, an epic adventure into art. Tickets commence at \$39 per adult. Current till 11 January 2022.

Melbourne – Old Flinders Street Ballroom (Upstairs Flinders Street Station) Entry is via door at 273 Flinders Street, near Boost Juice. Rising Festival: A miracle constantly repeated by Patricia Piccinini. Standard ticket \$36. Current till 12 June 2022.

St. Kilda – Laurent Gallery, I Vale St., St Kilda. 'Guru Shots' Opening Friday 11 March (7pm – 9pm) till 13 March 2022 (1pm – 6pm both days)

Wheelers Hill - Monash Gallery of Art, 860 Ferntree Gully Road Wheelers Hill Victoria 3150. Tel: 8544 0500
TUE–FRI 10–5 | SAT–SUN 10–4 Closed public holidays
Visions of India: photography from the colonial to the contemporary 17 December 2021 to 20 March 2022.

Western Australia

Perth – Perth Centre for Photography, 357–365 Murray St, Perth. Wednesday–Saturday, 10am–4pm. *Collective Exhibition*. Current till 22 January 2022.