

PHILLIP ISLAND CAMERA CLUB INC: April 2026



Meetings: 1st Monday of the month 1.30 - 4pm (Easter & Melbourne Cup Eve are exceptions)

Website: <http://www.phillipislandcameraclub.com.au>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/382689165127848>

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCCPK8oUGGI0C2xRY2OhFOyg>

Enquiries: Graeme – phillipislandcameraclub@gmail.com

[President's Report](#)

Graeme is still enjoying his holiday break at the moment so there'll be no President's report for April. However, he'll be back in May with, I'm sure, lots of exciting things to share with us for the months ahead.

[Upcoming Dates to Note](#)

Monday April 6 to Sunday April 19, 2026 – Facebook Page Fortnightly Challenge – 'Cars & Motorcycles'. Post images to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/382689165127848>

Monday April 20 to Sunday May 3, 2026 - Facebook Page Fortnightly Challenge – 'On The Beach'. Post images to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/382689165127848>

Wednesday April 22, 2026 – Deadline for ordering camera club uniforms (more details further down)

Thursday April 23, 2026 – Lunch at the RSL

Thursday April 30, 2026 – Excursion to the Koala Conservation Reserve. Meet at 10.:00am. More details to be posted on the FB page closer to the event date. [Koala Conservation Reserve » Phillip Island Nature Parks](#)

Sunday May 3, 2026 – 'Looking Upwards' images from our April challenge due to Gary Parnell parnellg@yahoo.com by 5pm. Please get them in earlier if possible.

Monday May 4 to Sunday May 17, 2026 - Facebook Page Fortnightly Challenge – 'Historical'. Post images to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/382689165127848>.

Monday May 4, 2026 – Monthly general meeting (1.30pm to 4.00pm)

[April 2026 Meeting Highlights](#)

[March PICC Challenge – 'Unusual Shapes'](#)

Thanks to all who participated in our March, 2026 PICC Challenge 'Unusual Shapes'. As usual there were some wonderful photos from our members. Well done to all who submitted content.

Gary Parnell's Slideshow of the images can be found at the link below. Enjoy (runtime approx. 8 minutes)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78_1Mlq2ZS4

'Show & Tell'

Thanks to James who encouraged members to bring along some of their own favourite images and how they have decided to show them off. The idea was to then discuss each contribution, exchange ideas and encourage one another to also get their images off the computer hard drive and display them to the wider world. Examples and suggestions included: -

- Prints – paper, canvas, metal, acrylic & fine art substrates
- Photobooks
- Photo Calendars & cards
- Novelty & gift items– coffee mugs, stubby holders, stickers, keyrings, magnets, caps, t-shirts, mouse pads etc
- Travel blogs
- Local community pages & magazines (e.g. Vibe)
- Social media – Facebook, Instagram & Flickr
- Local exhibitions, agricultural & art shows
- Slideshows on YouTube
- Print sales on sites such as Redbubble
- Stock agencies such as Shutterstock, Alamy & Dreamstime
- Camera club & APS challenges, evaluations at local, National & International levels
- Photo competitions
- We even had one member who had their photo printed as a splashback!

Camera Club Uniform

Are you in need of PICC polo tops, vests or jackets (soft shell or fleece)?

The cost of the items embroidered with the club logo, is as follows (based on the quote from local Cowes business, Logos Unlimited).

Item	Price
J3880 Mens BIZTECH Soft Shell Navy Jacket (zip front)	\$127
J3825 Womans BIZTECH Soft Shell Navy Jacket (zip front)	\$127
J3881 Mens BIZTECH Soft Shell Vest (zip front)	\$107.50
J29123 Womans Soft Shell Vest	\$107.52
2CP Mens Contrast Polo navy blue with white contrast	\$48.50
2LCP Womans Contrast Polo navy blue with white contrast	\$48.50
3FJ1N Womans Jeni B 2 in 1 Microfleece Full Zip Jacket	\$66.50
3FJ Mens Full Zip Polar Fleece	\$64.00

If you wish to order an item or items of club uniform, please contact Lorraine by email tranlorraine@gmail.com or phone 041 933 1630 **by Wednesday, 22 April**, so that the club order can be placed with Logos Unlimited.

Once you have placed your order, James (our treasurer) will send you an email requesting payment into the club account.

The club needs to have received all payments prior to placing the order. Unfortunately, Logos Unlimited is unable to take orders for the uniform from individual members.

2026 SYLLABUS

Date	Activity Main activity for the meeting. Evaluation, Workshop or Presenter	Judge (if applicable)	Challenge (image slideshow)	Brief for next month's challenge Explanation and discussion of next challenge
Feb 2, 2026	Evaluation - Open	Johanna Botman	Lucky Dip	Travel
Mar 2, 2026	Know your camera & Editing Rick Sherwin slide show talk		Travel	Unusual Shapes
Apr 13, 2026	Show & Tell - Prints and display		Unusual Shapes	Looking Upward
May 4, 2026	Evaluation - 'Story in Three shots'	Gary Smith	Looking Upward	Looking Downward
Jun 1, 2026	Talk/ Presentation/Workshop Mystery Topic		Looking Downward	ICM
Jul 6, 2026	Evaluation - In Club Evaluation Local scenes/activities	In Club Evaluation	ICM	Machinery
Aug 3, 2026	Talk/ Presentation/Workshop		Machinery	Sports
Sep 7, 2026	Evaluation - Open	Lin Richards	Sports	What Is It?
Oct 5, 2026	Talk/Presentation/Workshop		What Is It?	Wheels
Nov 9, 2026	Evaluation - Portraits (Mammals Only)	Sally Rule	Wheels	PICC
Dec 7, 2026	Evaluation (4-image Portfolio) Maker's personal theme	Trish McKeown	PICC 2026 - Images of PICC members	Lucky Dip

If you have a particular topic you would like covered in a workshop or talk, please contact Graeme on graeme.lawry@gmail.com

[Upcoming PICC Challenge](#)

[April 2026 Challenge - 'Looking Upward'](#)

Change the perspective in your photography by looking upwards.

Any time we aim our camera upward would be considered looking up photography. Whenever you choose to photograph objects that are above your head e.g. things in trees, people up on a hill or mountain, anything up in the sky such as a sunset, the stars or clouds or in a city looking up at the architecture can all create some very interesting and unique images.

When we are out taking photos we get caught up in what we see right in front of us. We may look ahead, to the left and right, down and even behind us, but many times we forget to look up.

Take some time to start looking up. What do you notice? What do you see? Normally we are used to holding our camera horizontal or even pointing downward. Point that lens straight up. See how doing this can give you unique perspectives and images. You can even get on the ground and point up at the underside of smaller objects like flowers or mushrooms

Take the time to look around the area where you plan to photograph. Think about how you'll create the image you have in mind. What lens will you use? What perspective will you shoot from? How will the lighting affect your subject while you are there? Can you come back at a different time of day to create a better image? What is the point of interest in your shot?

If you think about and answer these questions before pressing the shutter you are more likely to create a unique and compelling image.

Images are due to Gary Parnell at parnellg@yahoo.com by 5pm Sunday May 3rd, 2026. Please get them in earlier if possible

For some inspiration check out these examples

[Looking Upwards - general photo contest](#) | [Photocrowd photo competitions & community site](#)

[Quote of the Month](#)

Each
photograph
is a
story
captured in a
single moment.

The Secret to Sharper Photos Isn't Just Your Lens

Most photographers assume soft photos come from a “bad lens.”

But in reality, **sharpness problems are almost always caused by movement—not glass.**

There are two main culprits: **camera shake** and **motion blur**. Once you understand the difference, your photos improve fast.



Photo captured by Rohan Solankurkar

Camera Shake vs Motion Blur

Camera shake happens when *you* move the camera during exposure. Even tiny movements—like pressing the shutter—can soften the entire image.

Motion blur happens when *your subject* moves during exposure. This can be intentional (like silky waterfalls)... or accidental (like blurry people, wildlife, or street scenes).

The key difference:

- Camera shake = **everything looks soft**
- Motion blur = **subject is blurred, background may be sharp**

If your images aren't sharp, one of the above is almost always the reason.

The Simple Shutter Speed Rule

Before upgrading gear, fix this first.

A reliable guideline:

Use a shutter speed at least as fast as your focal length

- 50mm lens → **1/50 sec or faster**
- 100mm lens → **1/100 sec or faster**
- 200mm lens → **1/200 sec or faster**

This reduces camera shake when shooting handheld.

But here's where many photographers get tripped up:

- High-resolution cameras demand **even faster** speeds
- Cropped sensors amplify shake
- Poor handholding technique makes things worse

In practice, you'll often want to go **faster than the rule suggests**—especially in low light or when zoomed in. Image stabilisers can also help here.

Why Your Lens Isn't the Problem

Modern lenses are already very sharp.

If your photos look soft, it's usually because:

- Shutter speed is too slow
- Focus is slightly off
- The camera moved during exposure
- The subject moved unexpectedly

Not because your lens "can't resolve detail."

That's why upgrading gear rarely fixes softness, **controlling movement does**.

The Hidden Truth About Sharpness

Sharp photos come from a system—not a single setting.

Professional photographers think in terms of:

- Stability
- Timing
- Focus precision
- Exposure balance

They don't just "set and shoot." They **manage movement at every level**.

Bottom Line

Sharpness isn't only about your lens—it's about controlling motion.

Master that, and your photos will instantly improve... with the gear you already have

Thanks to Lynne Cook for sharing this article from [PictureCorrect - Photography Tips & Techniques](#)

Please check out their website as it's full of fantastic tips & techniques



Always worth reading, the VAPS Newsbrief keeps us up to date with VAPS information.

The Victorian Association of Photographic Societies (VAPS) April Newsbrief is available at

[VAPS Newsbrief April 2026](#)

PICC 2026 Committee

Graeme Lawry – President/Secretary

James Millward – Treasurer

Gary Parnell – Image Stewart

Jenny Skewes – Committee member

Kim Poole - Committee member

Joanne Linton - Committee member

Jon Hogan - Committee member

Wendy Cook - Committee member

[Newsletter Submissions](#)

If you'd like to contribute to the monthly newsletter – articles, tips, stories, images etc, please use this link

newsletterpicc@gmail.com

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SUBMITTING IMAGES FOR EVALUATION

DIGITAL IMAGES (EDI):

- 📄 Images may either be created with a digital camera (including a mobile phone camera) or created with a conventional camera and scanned into electronic format.
- 📄 Images may be enhanced or manipulated using image editing software, but the original image must have been made by the entrant.
- 📄 As per VAPS specifications (www.vaps.org.au), maximum horizontal dimension is 1920 pixels and the maximum vertical dimension is 1080 pixels.
- 📄 Each image file must be in sRGB JPEG format and a maximum of up to 5 Mb in size (5000kb).
- 📄 Images should be recent (generally taken within the last 2 years).
- 📄 Name your data image with Title of photo and your Club member number, separated by an underscore, followed by the topic and month when the judge will present the images to the members at the monthly meeting eg: **Sunset on Woolamai Beach_126_Open_Feb2022**.

Maximum of **three** entries in total either in PRINTS, EDPI or a combination of the two. (Note that the December Portfolio comprises 4 images.)

NOVICE CATEGORY REINSTATED:

To encourage new members to participate in the monthly evaluation, it has been decided to reinstate a NOVICE section. This will be in the EDPI (Electronic Digital Projected Image format. We would like to emphasise that this is not a competition but a learning opportunity. If you need assistance to get started please speak to one of the Committee Members, who are only too happy to help. Maximum of three entries.

Label your entries NOV_(Title of image)_(PICC membership number)_Topic_Month2020

ARE WE HAVING PRINTS?

Prints may be submitted for the evaluation topics in 2025. A total of **three** images only can be entered into the evaluation. **Three** prints or **three** EDPIs or a combination prints/EDPIs totalling **three** can be submitted. The exception to this is the Portfolio topic, where a combination of four prints or four EDPIs or a combination of prints/EDPIs can be submitted.

When entering prints, we ask that an EDPI of the print be entered also as our plan is to have the prints displayed but to show them in the slide-show so that everyone can see the detail on screen. It is important that print EDPIs be labelled with PRINT e.g. **PRINT_Title of image_Membership No_Open_Feb2022**

Please bring the actual print of the image along to the Newhaven Yacht Club Clubroom on the day of the meeting for it to be displayed for the judge's final perusal and for members to view.

PRINTS

- 📄 Prints may be ANY size, up to a maximum of 40cm x 50cm (16in x 20in) when mounted.
- 📄 ALL prints MUST be mounted.
- 📄 Panoramic print formats are acceptable, but must fit on a 40cm x 50cm (16in x 20in) board.
- 📄 Prints mounted to a total thickness greater than 5mm will not be accepted.
- 📄 Please also include a digital image of the photo you send in labelled as for the EDPI, but starting with **PRINT: e.g. PRINT_Sunset on Woolamai Beach_126_Open_July2018**
- 📄 Images should be recent (generally taken within the last 2 years).

Please note: If an image does not receive Highly Commended, it can be submitted into only one more club evaluation. This allows the maker to adjust the image following the judge's recommendations.