

SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP
 February 2021
*Club Meeting scheduled for
 Friday, February 19 at 7.30pm
 Special Interest Group Sunday 21 begins at 1.00 pm*
Note arrangements for both meetings to comply with current Covid19 protocol.

President's Piece.



I would like to thank the committee members for their assistance over the last twelve months.

Family and community responsibilities imposed a heavy workload during the year and could not be ignored.. I would like to have taken a more active role in club affairs but at times, there was no choice.

It was reassuring to know my fellow committee and other members have all played a part in making the last twelve months flow nicely.

Subject for the coming meeting :
 'Analog V Digital Cameras and Accessories'
 Presented by Jack Korten and Richard.

We have moved from passive attendance at meetings to the point where we must remind members to be silent when another has the floor. It's a courtesy to those who use hearing aids that pick up **every sound** and prevent the speaker being heard.

In contrast to this we have an overwhelming silence at election time in the AGM.

Don't be afraid to put your hand up when we call for nominations.

Hope to see you Friday *Richard*

Please remember fees are due and should be paid before the AGM.

Only paid up members are eligible to vote.

AGM will be held on Friday, 19-Feb-21 in the Blue Gum Room. Meet from 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start.

General Meeting will follow the AGM.

SunSIG meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb-21
 Meet in the Blue Gum Room at 1:00pm

Regards,

Russell

Editorial Comment

The focus and substance of this letter has been shifting since I began putting it together a couple of weeks back.



It happened again this morning!

Facebook has become a habit for many (most?) of us and we now have to adjust to yet another restriction on top of Covid19 consequences that have changed the way we live.

I had planned to look at one misleading story from Facebook but will now consider it in a slightly different manner after reading this morning:

Fact or fiction...'823 years until February days and dates match this month'. Who verifies this stuff?

'Australians are being blocked from accessing news in their Facebook feeds, in a dramatic escalation of the social media giant's stand-off with the federal government.'

Facebook say the law fundamentally misunderstood the relationship between their platform and publishers who use it to share news content.

It seems we are in for a dose of 'spin' from all of the experts.

I'm not likely to complete this letter on time and have decided to mail an unfinished letter...

We will remember February 2021 for many reasons..

Frank

Do you know what this is?

ambigram

Richard took these pictures as our January meeting closed.

At our Sunday afternoon meeting I asked Jack if he could explain in layman's terms how it is done. This is his response with further explanation and demonstration planned for our Friday meeting

Portrait Mode and Stage Light.

These pictures have been taken in Portrait Mode, combined with the Stage Light setting.

What Is Portrait Mode?

Portrait mode is a shooting mode in the iPhone's built-in Camera app. It uses clever software to blur the background in your photos.

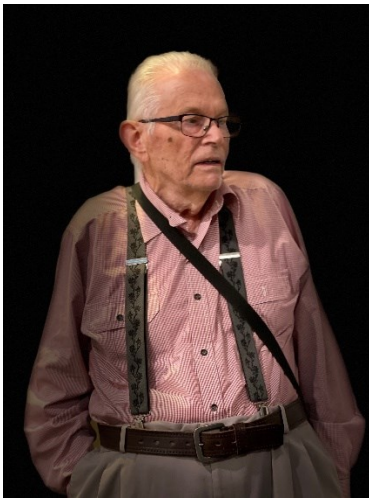
With Portrait mode, the camera creates a depth-of-field effect, which lets you capture photos with a sharp focus on the subject and a blurred background.

You can add portrait mode to any photo with this new Google Photos update. ... Most recent iPhones and Androids have portrait mode, which focuses on the subject and blurs the background, making a photo look like it was taken with a high-end DSLR camera.

How does Stage Light work?

With these pictures, the Stage Light setting was used.

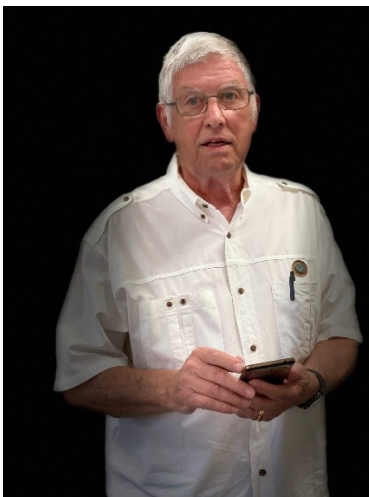
Stage Light is a Portrait Mode effect that makes the background completely black (as if the subject was standing under a spotlight on a stage).



When the AGM is done and dusted for another year on Friday, we can explore some of the remarkable technology built in to the camera and accessories now in use.

Jack has much to share.

I'm impressed!



And now to a social media advice that some of you might have seen

This February cannot come in your life-time again.

Because this year's February has
4 Sundays,
4 Mondays,
4 Tuesdays,
4 Wednesdays
4 Thursdays,
4 Fridays &
4 Saturdays.

This Happens once every 823years. ???

I casually began to try and verify this with pen and paper. Leap years and the reason they exist began to intrude on my calculations, so I checked other sources..

Google has much to offer. Our resident researcher, Jack Korten covered this subject in detail in an earlier edition of the Newsletter.

It reminds me that our team members (you) possess a remarkable range of skills and knowledge.



Geoff's recent post on Facebook 'reptiles'...

'PC Doc. Richard posted a little dragon lizard. The Species (*Amphibolurus muricatus*) was one of the first reptiles recorded in NSW 1800's. Note the colour variations in my pic below.



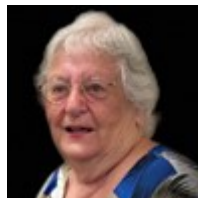
It belongs to a family called Agamid and there are quite a few related species including the much larger bearded dragon. This lizard is pretty common in dry heath, woodland and open forest in South Eastern NSW. We also have Water dragons and Forest dragons but these belong to different genera and are much larger, growing to 3 feet long..'

And Gail Croft adds to the story 'My daughter's dragons are amazing. If you put them on your clothes they will change to the colour of the fabric.'



Ask Frank any question related to mathematics and you be prepared for an accurate response...often with complex calculations mentally resolved.

and typically a humorous comment



Remember the top honours award to Faye for Glazed Tile Art at the 2018 Royal Easter Show and design work on Annual Southern District Agriculture Exhibits for many years. Currently paused by Covid19

Jack reminded me last week...

Today's date is both a palindrome and an ambigram!
 Which means you can read the date from left to right, from right to left and also upside down!

12022021

February 12, 2021. A fairly ordinary date when the month is written out, but turn it all into numbers and it becomes something much more special.

Okay, 'much more special' might be pushing it a little, but noteworthy dates only come along once in a while, so we may as well make the most of it while it's here.

You might notice that today's date is made up of only three numbers; zero, one and two. These numbers also just so happen to fall into a pattern which reads the same backwards as it does forwards, otherwise known as a palindrome.

Unfortunately, the palindrome aspect of today's date only works if it's written day/month/year, as is the norm in the UK.

BUT,

If you're American, or from another country where usual style is month/day/year, I'm afraid you don't have the pleasure of relishing in the palindrome-related fun.

A young Scottish lad and lassie were sitting on a low stone wall, holding hands and just gazing out over the loch.



For several minutes they sat silently, then finally the girl looked at the boy and said, "A penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh, I was thinkin' perhaps it's about time for a wee kiss."

The girl blushed, then leaned over and kissed him. Then he blushed. Then the two turned once again to gaze out over the loch. After a while the girl spoke again.

"Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh, I was thinkin' perhaps it's about time for a wee cuddle."

The girl blushed, then leaned over and cuddled him. Then he blushed. Then the two turned once again to gaze out over the loch.

After a while the girl spoke again. "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh, I was thinkin' perhaps it's about time you let me poot ma hand on your leg."

The girl blushed, then took his hand and put it on her leg. Then he blushed.

The two turned once again to gaze out over the loch. After a while the girl spoke again. "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

The young man knit his brow. "Well, now," he said, "my thoughts are a bit more serious this time."

"Really?" said the girl in a whisper, filled with anticipation.

"Aye," said the lad.

The girl looked away in shyness, began to blush and bit her lip in anticipation of the ultimate request.

"Din'na ye think it's about time ye paid me the first three pennies?"

I can't remember number 1



2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
4. It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
8. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
12. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
13. I run like the winded.
14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
16. When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminium can stuffed with celery?
17. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
18. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
19. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.

That's about it for this month.

Stay safe

Frank



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Of Your Way For

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