

SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP  
September 2022  
*Club Meeting held*  
*Friday, September at 16 7.30pm*  
*Special Interest Group Sunday 18 at 1.00 pm*

This was our president aka the PC doctor as he successfully resolved a chain of technical problems that prevented modem, laptop and other devices in the system to function.



You might notice he had David Wastie's broadband dongle in his hand so it could be used at the meeting tonight. These characters, with Jack, Faye, Russell and others who help to put the letter together each month are a great team.

There is a tendency to take our access to this kind of friendship and support for granted. In conversation with friends and family, they remind me how privileged we are as a group to 'not be alone' when things go wrong!

Page one of this letter is undergoing a complete revision and another pause for a few hours as one of my granddaughters visits with her parents. She is soon to continue her studies in London for an extended period. I value the time family members choose to share with us old-timers as they develop their own careers in a world we struggle to understand.

There was a similar pause last night as a grandson rang from Adelaide for a brief conversation before boarding a plane for the UK and a couple of years' study in Oxford.

When I left school in 1944 at the age of 15 years, I thought that was the end of formal education for me.

This letter has been a challenge.

This should be column 1

Our regular contributors provided their material and we were on track for the typical last minute editing and other stuff that gets it into the mail.



Richard and David might have mentioned some of the drama during the meeting last evening. Both of them were a great help in resolving the multiple issues that put my system out of action.

Just when the letter was near completion today (Saturday) I unintentionally deleted page one.

I must be getting old! Rather than reproduce the *masterpiece??*, I'll give it a rest and do something else until the mood is right. Do you have days like this?

Sunday...

Column one is where the re-work started.

Faye contributes a regular flow of interesting stuff for the last page. This month there was a slight shift to the subject of philosophy.

The need on my part for a definition of philosophy allowed me to fill the last blank space with what you see below.

This group of online tutors offer these thoughts:

## philosophy

1. the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline.
2. "don't expect anything and you won't be disappointed, that's my philosophy"



I won't be disappointed when I read  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy>

Frank

**Notes from July General Meeting**  
**for the benefit of readers unable to attend**



**Questions and Answers:**

Mick Rigg asked why on his *'Android'* phone a dialogue box kept opening saying he couldn't have more than 50 apps open at any one time when he considered he had none open. Richard asked Mick if he had tried turning the phone off completely and restarting it. A discussion ensued as to whether the closing of *'tabs'* would solve the problem. Our visitor, Natalie, said she has had a similar problem although in her case the message read 99 tabs, not 50, and that she was able to close all the tabs at once by using the bottom bar. David Page said to go into *'Settings/ Device Maintenance/ Performance mode/ optimisation'* which would automatically optimise the phone.

Following a comment from Jack Korten there was a brief discussion about the scam currently being used where a scammer sends a text to a parent pretending to be their offspring saying they have lost their phone and giving a new number. They then send another text message asking for money as they need it for reasons such as to pay the new provider or to pay for a new phone. Obviously all members are advised to be on a constant lookout for potential scams as scammers are becoming more and more sophisticated.

Graeme Evans asked about turning his phone off. Richard explained the difference between turning a phone off completely and leaving it in *'sleep'* mode. He noted that when a phone is picked up from a position when it is face up it automatically *'wakes up'* from sleep mode. This is the reason he always puts it in his pocket upside down. Obviously if a phone is turned off completely it remains off.

Nicoline asked if there was somewhere one can take old computers for recycling/disposal. Richard advised destroying the hard-drive before taking it for recycling/disposal either by drilling a hole through the drive or smashing the hard-drive. This will ensure one's data cannot be recovered. David Page suggested it is a good idea to note the keys for the operating system or Microsoft Office before destroying or disposal. Richard noted that he sometimes takes the RAM from a computer before disposal for reuse elsewhere. He also pointed out that electronic devices can be disposed off at the rubbish tip for no charge.

**Other:**

David Wastie demonstrated the various settings available with the camera on a modern smart phone and how they affected the photos one takes. It was very detailed and showed just how far digital photography has come in the last decade.

Jack Korten gave a slide presentation on the history of photography from the very first picture taken in 1816, even before the term photography was in use. He noted it had been discovered that it was light that darkened silver chloride in 1727 but that it was not used to take a picture until 1816. Jack discussed the various people responsible for the developments and included very early *'photos/pictures'* including one of a lady born in 1746 who was photographed in 1840 when she was 94 years old.

We thank both David and Jack for their very informative and interesting presentations.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:20pm

*Thanks Russell, our meeting focus reflects the digital impact on all aspects of the life we experience as each day brings another 'application'.*



# Three Eras of Photography: Plate, Film, and Digital

JIM MATHIS



After being invented in the early 1800s, photography and cameras have gone through three major eras: the plate era, the film era, and the current digital era. This article is a brief history of photography through the lens of these eras.

## The Plate Era

On January 7, 1839, Louis Daguerre made a presentation to the French Academy of Science, basically a news conference, where he demonstrated the first photograph, a silver image on polished metal. A few days later an Englishman named [William Henry Fox Talbot](#) called a conference to announce that he had been making photographs on paper for several years. Thus, the controversies and the Plate Era of photography were launched.

By 1851 glass was being used for making the negatives that could be contact printed onto paper. The glass was coated with a light-sensitive emulsion in a darkroom, loaded into plate holders, and exposed in the camera. The glass plates then needed to be developed before the emulsion dried; this was a matter of minutes. This system worked well in a studio or controlled environment, especially where two or more people could work together. One coated the plates, another operated the camera, and perhaps a third developed the plates.





In 1867 a new process was invented in England that allowed the plates to be coated in a factory and sold to photographers ready to expose. This also meant that they didn't need to be developed immediately but could be taken back to a fixed darkroom location to be developed and printed. This made location and travel photography much easier.

Wet plate cameras and plate holders can usually be identified by the chemical stains in the holders and inside the camera. Cameras from the dry plate era are usually clean inside because they were never exposed to chemicals. Between wet plates, dry plates and various other processes such as tintypes and ambrotypes, the 19th century was clearly the "Plate Era" of photography.



A LANCASTER PLATE CAMERA

*Jack has prepared a similar short history on the film and digital camera.*

*If all goes according to plan, these should appear in October and November letters.*

A slight shift in Faye's quotes...

"We cannot control the wind, but we can decide how to set the sail .... The wind may blow you all over the world and take you to places you do or do not choose, but it is our attitudes during the journey that will determine every aspect of the adventure."

(Jean Costa, author)



*Happy Birthday Norm*



*Figured it was O.K to share the picture since you both shared a birthday last month.*

*Happy Birthday to Geoff*

*You were a much younger lad when you managed to get it out of the bog.*



The only reason they say 'Women and children first' is to test the strength of the lifeboats.

Jean Kerr



When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.

Prince Philip



Wood burns faster when you have to cut and chop it yourself.

Harrison Ford



The best cure for Seasickness is to sit under a tree.

Spike Milligan

*Is your reaction to these quotations influenced by who apparently spoke the words? I tried to find Jean Costa...could this be the one:*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean\\_D%27Costa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_D%27Costa)

Saddened to hear Lyall is unwell and really doing it tough.

Our thoughts are with you and Robyn

Frank



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