

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR ARTISTS

NOWA NOWA WORKSHOP

The artists enclave of Nowa Nowa in the heart of Gippsland is our base for a 2-Day workshop that explores all things creative, artistic and expressive with the camera. The workshop is limited to just 10 people, is guided by Ewen Bell and Gary Yelen, and offers a chance to discover photography as art.



NOWA NOWA PHOTO PHOTO

WHAT WE DO

The course runs for 2 full days, but getting to and from Nowa Nowa on the eastern coastline of Victoria (Australia) also takes a little time. So we end up with a 4 day schedule that begins with your arrival in Nowa Nowa and a welcome dinner, then two full days of sessions, discussions, practice and questions. On the fourth and final day we have one more chance to welcome the sunrise with cameras in hand before driving home or catching the train to Melbourne.

WHAT TO BRING

You'll need to bring your camera, preferably a Digital SLR. To make the most of our workshop you'll want the equivalent of a 50mm 'standard lens' and a 24mm 'wide-angle lens'. If you have wider than that then all the better. Remember though, partial frame Digital SLRs have a cropping factor when attaching a lens. If in doubt please email and ask. Compact digital cameras are also acceptable but we do like the SLRs and bigger bodied cameras!

If you have a laptop running MacOS or Windows then do bring it along as well. We'll be exploring some aspects of processing and managing digital files so you can get a little hands on with your own computer. The life-span of an image begins with a shutter but continues far beyond that moment.

SYLLABUS

Creative Control

Why use advanced modes of the camera?
Is photography a technical skill or a creative art form?
Who is taking the photo, you or the camera?

Composition

Structure of good composition and the Primary Subject
Using technical settings as tools for composition
Get closer, go slow, shoot wide
Having something to say, the story inside the frame
Iconic, Canonic and Laconic images

Expression

The camera as a brush
Painting with light
Stories within the frame
The camera looks both ways
Understanding before expressing

Technical Skills for Creative Control

How much technical control do you need?
How to setup your camera for creative control
The absolute basics of SLR manual control

Look for the Light

Studio versus the real world
Letting available light guide you
What the camera sees
Learning to see the light yourself
Tripods and Landscape Photography

Life after the Shutter

Practical considerations of digital files
Digital asset management
Fine tuning your images
How much time to spend in Photoshop?

RAW versus JPG

Who should be using RAW files
How to get the most out of a RAW file
RAW processing workflow examples
Dynamic Range in detail
Digital Asset Management / Metadata



DAY BY DAY

Day 1

Arrival in Nowa Nowa

6pm: Dinner and welcome to our guests

Day 2

9am session: "Creative Control"

11am session: "Composition"

1pm: Lunch

2pm session: "Look for the Light"

4pm: session: "Stories from the Trailer Park"

7pm: Cocktails, Candles and Dinner

Day 3

6am: session: "Sunrise over Lake Tyres"

8am: Breakfast

10am session: "Still Life on film and Canvas"

12pm session: "Get Closer, Go Slower"

1pm: Lunch

2pm session: "Life after the Shutter"

4pm: session: "RAW versus JPEG"

7pm: Dinner and farewell drinks

Day 4

Checkout and wander home

EXPRESSION

The heart of this workshop is discovering how to give your photography a voice. A picture tells a thousand words so long as the photographer has something to say and the means with which to say it. The camera is like a paint brush, it can only reveal what the artist wishes it to reveal. Composition and creativity are difficult lessons for the technical photographer, so we have enlisted the help of resident artist Gary Yelen.





OLD AND NEW

This workshop aims to avoid the detailed technical and formulaic style of photography, and encourages participants to seek their own expression and harness the camera to that end. If you are an experienced photographer and can't break out of your patterns then you'll be in good company. If you're a novice with a camera and care more for composition than calculations then please come and join us.





THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Ewen Bell is a professional travel journalist with regular features published in Australia and internationally. He has been operating unique photographic tours in Asia and Australia for 5 years, and through his practice of teaching and discovery Ewen developed his inspirational book titled "Photography for Travellers". The website of the same name offers a constantly updated digest of location guides, practical philosophies and travel inspiration.

For the past few years Ewen has been working with tourism boards across Australia to bring a fresh perspective to their photographic libraries. There are over 5,000 images of his work in Australia distributed to travel media across the world, plus hundreds more in overseas libraries. You can see Ewen's photography in publications such as Australian Geographic Outdoors, Vacations & Travel, Skywards, The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald, OutThere, Holidays for Couples and Backpacker Essentials.

Ewen was also chosen by the ASTW as their 2007 Australian Travel Photographer of the Year, and in 2008 won the award for Best Australian Image. In 2009 Ewen won two awards in the M.I.L.K. Competition and his work can be seen in the book called "Friendship, Family, Love & Laughter."

THE ARTIST

Gary Yelen has been making art all his life. Leaving home as a teenager to travel the world, he studied sculpture in Israel under the tutelage of Robbie Shcarf and fell in love with the landscape - and the life.

Then, on to Ireland where he built his family a gallery on the Ring of Kerry. Gary continued to sculpt and paint, and the gallery became known for its vibrant works in watercolours, pastels, oils and sculpture.

Gary returned to Australia in '95 and chose Nowa Nowa to establish his new gallery studio. Here he continues to produce his unique work in all mediums.

A true artist who brings curves and colour to everything he touches Gary is chatty, fun and passionate. And he'll probably change the way you see everything.



WHY NOWA NOWA?

If you're asking this question then you've never been to Nowa Nowa. When I first discovered this town I didn't want to leave. It has a very small population that is out-numbered by visitors most weekends. Hidden on a distant arm of Lake Tyers the town is best known as a stopping point along the East Gippsland Rail Trail, and for its regular artistic events organised by locals. Nowa Nowa Nudes has been an ongoing feature of the arts calendar in Gippsland and vestiges of previous years nudes can still be seen around town.

Best of all Nowa Nowa is home to the Yelens Studio, a place of inspiration and expression operated by Gary and Andrea Yelen. Gary's paintings are on display at the studio, and there's accommodation tucked into the hillside overlooking the waters of Lake Tyers. The location is charming, the people are inviting and the wilderness of Gippsland is all around us.





About Ewen Bell
<http://ewenbell.com>

About Gary Yelen
<http://www.yelens.com.au>

About Nowa Nowa
<http://www.nowanowa.com>

About "Photography for Travellers"
<http://photographyfortravellers.com>