NATURE NOTES

NATURE GROUP NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

FOLIO RESULTS

See inside for images from recent rounds of the various Nature Group Folios. If you are not a member of a folio consider joining and share your passion with other like minded nature photographers.

Also in this edition:

- *FIAP Nature Biennial call for entries.*
- *The FIAP / PSA Nature Definition.*
- *How to join a Nature Group Group folio.*

Image by Brian Russell

CHAIRMANS MESSAGE

Welcome to another extraordinarily late edition of Nature Notes.

Spring continued the dry conditions in Qld so a slow start to insect emergence. However that will come in time for many of you that enjoy macro photography, especially to capture images of fungi and of dragonflies.

A call for images for this FIAP Nature Biennial can be found in this edition. The FIAP Nature definition (commenced Jan 2022) will be the definition determined by FIAP for the 2024 FIAP Nature Biennial and images must comply with that definition.

That definition appears further in this edition.

Entry into this FIAP Nature Biennial is free to all APS members, but you must be an APS member to enter. Additionally, those fortunate to have their images selected do not have to pay for the prints prints made for the APS entry. In addition for those images that are selected and score 8 or more points are eligible for APS and FIAP honours submissions. While we have received some great support for this prestigious competition to date, there is still room for a few more images.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Nature Notes and I look forward to seeing your images for possible selection in the APS submission in the 22nd FIAP Nature Biennial.

Yours in nature

Brian Russell EFIAP FAPS

22nd FIAP Nature Biennial - Last call for entries

Once again the APS Nature Group will be coordinating an entry in the 22nd FIAP Nature Biennial. Our entry in this Biennial will consist of a digital entry and a print entry.

The quick summary of what is required is as follows. The full regulations and entry form follows this summary. You must read that document and comply with the contents before forwarding any images.

There are two themes for the APS entry in this FIAP Nature Biennial.

1. ***Dragonflies*** (not damselflies) Dragonflies (Anisoptera) are a suborder of the insect order Odonata. Please do **not** send images of the other suborder Zygoptera (damselfies).
Given many dragonflies tend to perch on sticks or grass stalks in and around ponds, obtaining images with diffuse backgrounds is quite achievable and preferred. Examples below:

2. ***Fungi***

If sending parasol shaped fungi, small groups from two to five tend to make for stronger compositions. **Colours (red,** yellow, orange, blue) is also a key consideration**.**

Examples below.

So, before submitting your images for possible selection, ask yourself these questions:

1. Have I read the full requirements in the three page document starting on the next page?
2. Do my images comply with the FIAP Nature Definition
3. Are my images colour and in landscape format?
4. Do my images meet the required dimensions (3500pixels x 2625 pixels)?

When you can answer ***YES*** to all of these questions, we will be excited to see your images.

Entry forms and full requirements can be found at https://www.a-p-s.org.au/index.php/fiap-biennials

FIAP Definition of Nature Photography

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans.

Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life or welfare of a living organism are not allowed.

The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells.

High technical standards are expected, and the image must look natural. Adding a vignette or blurring the background during processing is not allowed.

Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.

Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.

Images taken with subjects under controlled conditions, such as zoos, are allowed.

Controlling live subjects by chilling, anaesthetic or any other method of restricting natural movement for the purpose of a photograph is not allowed.

No modification that changes the truth of a Nature image is allowed. Images may be cropped but no other technique that removes, adds or moves any part of the image is allowed.

Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise and lens flare are allowed.

Complete conversion of colour images to greyscale monochrome is allowed. Partial conversion, toning and infrared captures or conversions are not allowed.

Images of the same subject that are combined in camera or with software by focus stacking or exposure blending are allowed. Multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively and combined in camera or with software (image stitching) are allowed.

9th APS National Exhibition - Nature

This exhibition attracted 603 entries. Congratulations to those who received awards and acceptances. Thanks also to our judges for their time and effort. See the full catalogue on the MyPhotoClub website.
https://apsnature.myphotoclub.com.au/

A Good Hunt by Ivan Glaser APS Gold Medal - Wildlife

Green Head Dragonfly by David Henderson – APS Gold Medal Open Nature

Dragonfly on grass by Michael Lewy – APS Gold Medal Dragonflies

Ghostie 6420 by Albert HAKVOORT – APS Gold Medal Fungi

Nature Group Folio News

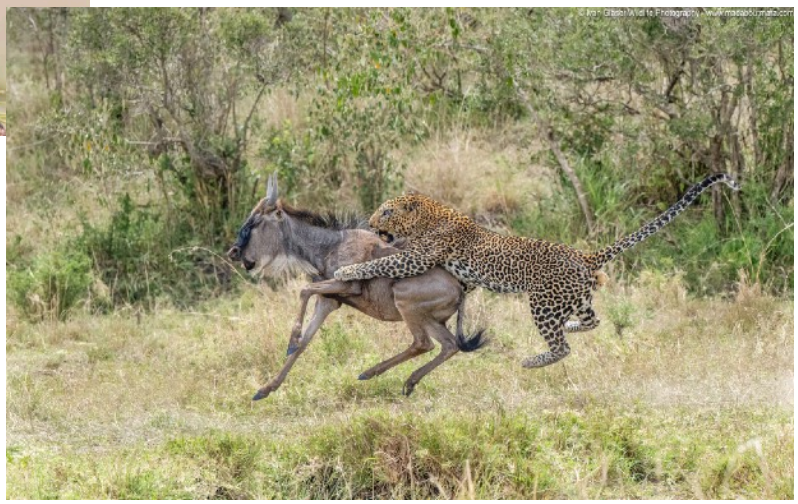
Folios don't function without the dedication and hard work of the respective folio secretaries. To that end I am pleased to announce that Philip Christensen will take on the role of secretary for Nature Folio N09. I would like to thank Bob Britcher for all his hard work as the previous secretary of N09. Bob did a tremendous job in keeping the folio interest up.

Folio N09 (non-scored folio)

Egret
by Yvonne Hill
Folio N09 Rd 325

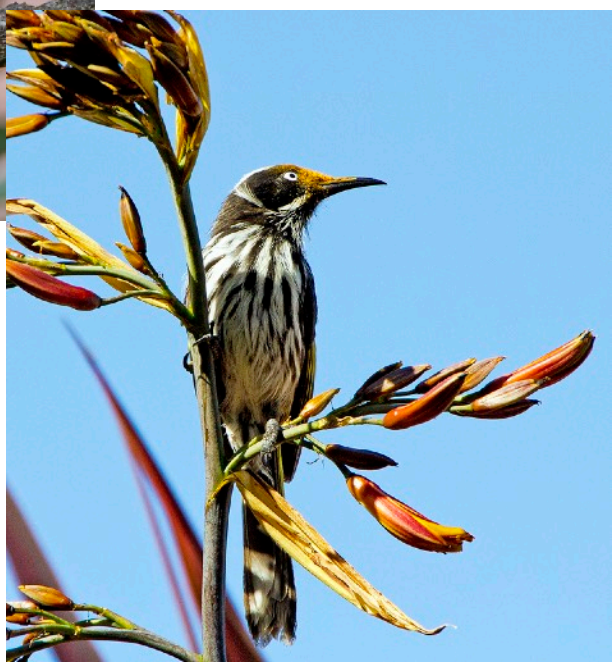
Love at First Light
by Ivan Glaser
Folio N09 Rd 325

Eastern Rosella
by Ian Robertson
Folio N09 Rd 326



Shujaa
by Ivan Glaser
Folio N09 Rd 326

Stepping into the Shower
by Bob Britcher
Folio N09 Rd 327

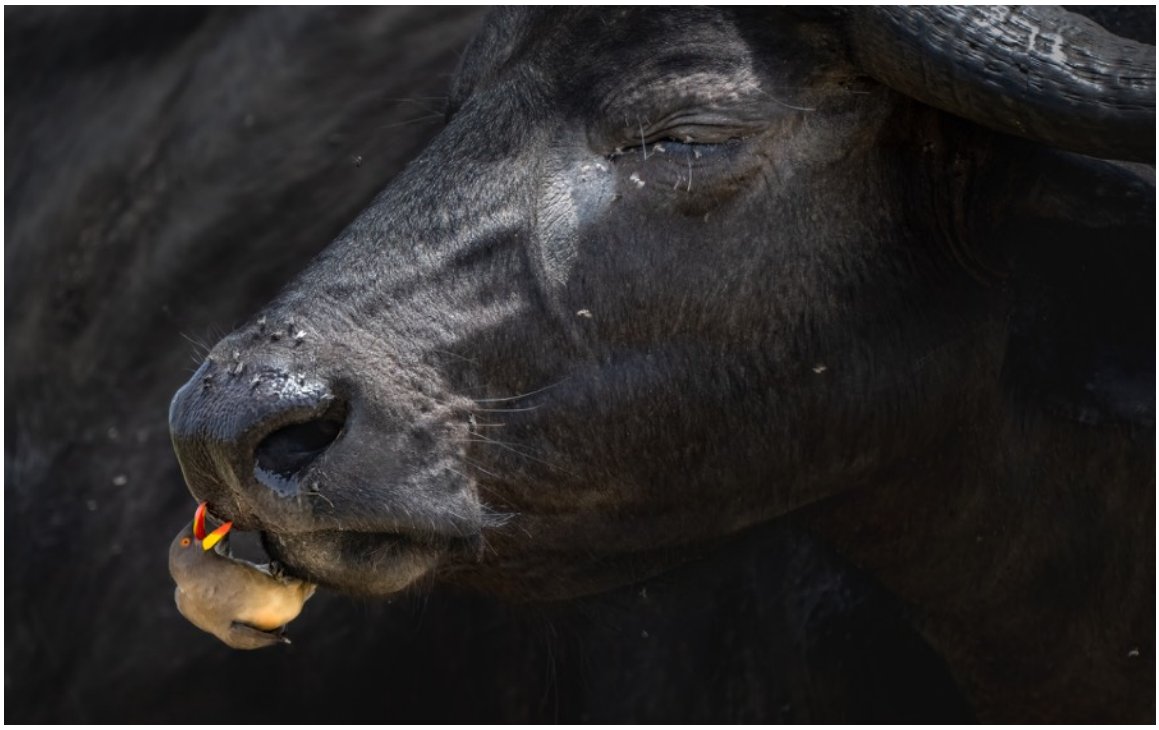


New Holland Honeyeater
by Philip Christensen
Folio N09 Rd 327

Folio N08 (scored Folio)

Skimmers Early Breakfast
by Kerry Boytell
1st Place Folio N08 Rd 205

Pale Cotton-stainer Bugs
By Brian Russell
2nd Place Folio N08 Rd 205



Yellow Billed Oxpecker
by Ivan Glaser
1st place Folio N08 Rd 206

Male Carpet Pythons
By Brian Russell
2nd Place Folio N08 Rd 206

One of the main aims of this newsletter is to promote the Nature Group folio system and to bring you images from completed folio rounds. This allows you to see the variety of images that are entered into these folios each round and hopefully inspire you to join a folio. To that end we try and publish two images from each completed round since the last *Nature Notes*.

Turnaround times for print folio rounds tend to be longer than web folios due to the time required for the postage of prints between members. Therefore less print folio rounds are usually completed between each issue of *Nature Notes*. Currently there are two web based digital nature folio groups and one nature print folio.

There is always the opportunity to initiate additional nature folios and so if you have an idea for a specific nature based folio please contact the secretary of APS by accessing "Contact Us" on the APS website.

How a Nature Group Folio works

Most folios operate on a monthly basis. That is, each month folio members upload an image to the website and fill in details about your subject, which camera settings were used and a precis of what post processing was used. Folio members then comment on all of the images except their own. The intent is for folio members to gain experience in commenting on images in a constructive way. It allows members to see how others relate to your images. The rules are simple, be polite and helpful. This assists inexperienced workers in assessing images within a small group, while the more advanced workers within the folio provide guidance to the less experienced.

If the folio has a scoring component attached then each member will assign scores to all the other the images based on the criteria listed below. This is friendly competition and further assists members in assessing images within a nature setting.

Natural history: complies with the nature definition and tells a story of the subject (up to 6 points)
Composition: arrangement, form, colour and presentation (up to 3 points)
Technique: lighting, exposure, focus, (up to 3 points)
Impact: the power to catch and hold attention (up to 3 points)

Therefore images may receive a score up to a maximum of 15 points.

How to join a Nature Group Folio

- Contact the APS Secretary from the APS website - via "Contact Us"
- Advise which nature topics you are interested in
- Decide if you like to be assigned to a web based folio (digital) or a print based folio
- You will then be assigned to a folio
- The actual Folio Secretary responsible for the folio you have been assigned will then contact you with all the additional information you will require to get started.