

Pittwater Camera Club - Facebook page

We decided to start the clubs Facebook page for a few reasons;

- The page will provide a platform for us to try and encourage new members from a very popular and broad source.
- Allow current members to interact, share images, stories of trips etc.
- Give members immediate updates on field outing changes due to bad weather etc.
- Provide links for updates to the clubs website and its ever increasing database of images and information. As well as contact and joining details.

This page is not a social media version of the website. It is more a point of contact for the club, allowing the club to expand on it's great foundations in this ever changing virtual environment. The beauty of using Facebook as a medium, is that not only can it be accessed at home through your computer, but it can be accessed out in the field on your smart phone or tablet. All you need is the Facebook app on your mobile device, or open Facebook on your computer. In addition to its flexibility, it will reach a broad range of possible members that may not even know we exist.

Now for those that aren't members of Facebook, it's very easy to join up, I haven't added instructions on how to join, but it is very simple and just requires a few details and a valid email address. For a computer, google facebook and follow the prompts. With a Smart phone or tablet, download the Facebook app, and again, follow the prompts.

If you are already on Facebook, then it's very easy to join the Pittwater Camera club facebook page. Here is a few simple steps to get started.

1 - Search for the club. This can be done two ways, either through Google, or facebook.

- On Facebook, type "Pittwater Camera Club" into the search bar at the top of the news feed. It will be the first item in your search results.

- In Google, type "Facebook Pittwater Camera Club" into the Google search bar. The result should show up second in the results, directly under the Clubs website page. Click on the link and it will take you to directly to the Facebook page.

2 - "Like" the page. If you don't like the page, you won't have the option of receiving notifications (messages of new posts on the page). To like the page, simply click on the "Like"

button beneath the main image at the top of the page. It has a thumbs up icon next to Like. Once you have clicked on the "Like button", it will change to "Liked" and light up blue.

3 - Now you have to turn on "Notifications". If you hold the mouse cursor over the "Like/Liked" button, or click on the arrow immediately next to the word "Liked" it will show a dialog box with a few options.

- One is "Get notifications", Click on that and a tick will appear next to it showing it is turned on. This will allow Facebook to notify you that someone has posted on the clubs page, or commented on a post. These notifications appear in the small world icon at the top of your page on your computer. I would strongly suggest turning this on.

- The other is "Follow". This allows you to see new posts come up on your newsfeed. So as you scroll through your newsfeed anything new will come up here. There is also two sub options for this as well. "See First" or "Default". "See first", puts any club post at the very top regardless of when it was posted, allowing you to keep up to date no matter what. "Default", puts the post in the newsfeed and can be lost in the news feed if you follow a lot of groups and people.

Now the joining is taken care of, all that is left is posting on the page.

Anyone can post onto the page and we encourage it. Have you got a technical question about a camera, post it up. Not sure what your next lens should be, post it up. This will allow other members to not only be able to provide advice, but it will also allow other members to learn things that they didn't even know they needed to know.

1 - To post text, you simply click inside the box where it says, "Write something..." and start typing. This is located at the very top of the pages newsfeed and below the main image at the top of the page.

2 - To post an image, first make sure it is web friendly in size. Facebook also reduces the image quality considerably on top of what you have already done to shrink it down. You can do it a couple of different ways, both as easy as each other. You can either click on the small camera icon, immediately beneath where you type text. Or you can click where it says "Photo/Video", immediately above where you type text. They do exactly the same thing, just one adds one more click.

- "Photo/Video" Button, if you click this button, it will alter the text box by adding a square with a '+' symbol. Click the square and it will open your file system, for you to then go through your folders and select the image you want to post.

- Camera icon. By clicking the camera icon, this takes you immediately to your file system, for you to select your image. You can select multiple images to upload.

3 - Once you have selected an image or images, click "open" and they will start uploading with progress bars under each, the image icon will appear when upload is complete. You will notice

that after the image is uploaded, the square with the "+" appears next to it, click this if you want to select different images, or if you forgot to add one.

4 - When you have uploaded your image and written your text , simply click on "publish", inside the text box to post it on the page.

Now you've posted onto the page, but it doesn't appear on the main feed. This is because it's a Facebook "Page", as opposed to a "Group". Your post is located down the left hand side of the page in a box labelled "Visitors Posts". You can click on the small arrow at the top right hand corner of this box to see all of these posts in newsfeed format. So when you visit the page, make sure you click on the "Visitors Posts" box to see what other members have posted.

All of that aside, there will be plenty of fun things to take part in on the page throughout the year. There will be numerous comps on different quirky subjects, the winner of each (calculated by number of likes) will become the main page image, until the next comp is run and won. There is nothing more to these comps other than internet glory and bragging rights :).

Apart from that, don't hesitate to share the club page on your own personal pages to spread the word and help do your part in promoting the club.