**Taking Better Photographs Tips**

A good photograph will hold our attention for longer and stop us getting bored too quickly.

**Composition**

* Golden Rule of Thirds – mentally or using the grid display in your viewfinder draw Horizontal & Vertical lines across the subject. The theory is that if you place points of interest in the intersections or along the lines that your photo becomes more balanced creating natural interaction for the viewer.
* Golden Triangle Rule - splitting the photo into three triangles that contain the same angles - try and place the diagonal elements in the frame so that they follow this pattern for a pleasing composition.
* Place subject off centre
* Naturally, we “read” pictures left to right so transpose subject to read right to left.
* Lines Lead
* Look for patterns in nature & man-made structures.
* Have groups of 3 not even numbers - try in a diagonal
* With a group of 2 our eye is drawn to the space in between the two so avoid.
* Create Negative space i.e. room for subject to “move into”.
* Provide Size comparison for a sense of scale
* Fill the Frame – Go In Close - BUT look carefully at everything in the frame.
* Change angles – lie on your back.
* Focus on Reflections – think of the wonderful pictures of the French tricolor in Boule and puddles.

**Lighting**

* Best light is at 18.50 on a summer’s evening.
* Sunset is the best time for illuminations.
* Know your Flash range
* Push shutter half way at dark foreground then lift to complete shutter action & fool the metering.
* Use Shadows for artistic shots.
* Sun behind subject can create shadow reaching towards you.

**Colours**

* Red stands out
* Blue draws in – tranquility
* Blue sky for crisp snow
* Use Complimentary colours for impact e.g. Yellow & Green flowers on Black.

**Portraits**

* Use Zoom for natural people photos – avoids self- conscious grins.
* Eyes should always be sharp so make sure you focus on them.
* Dull day good for portraits.
* Use humour to illustrate/enhance character.
* Avoid words in background – a distraction as viewer can’t help but read them.

**Landscapes**

* Landscapes – 2/3 for the interesting part.
* Focus set at 1/3 in.
* Journey to follow through
* When photographing Water or the Sea make sure they are level. Break Horizon on the sea.

**Sunsets**

* Leave out the sun and focus on a subject caught in its light.
* Check metering not blacking out foreground.
* Better to have silhouette in sunset.