

Rural Life

By Grant Gillespie

It could be argued that the modern fascination with Rural Life springs from the nineteenth century Realist movement's post-French-revolution democratisation of art by depicting everyday working class subjects. This was seen as a rejection of the idealised classicism of academic art and the exotic themes of Romantic art, paralleling the naturalist literature of the age and socialist ideologies elevating the proletariat as a reaction to the industrial revolution.

Fortunately, modern photographers are not burdened by the lofty social goals of the Realists. **It's about getting your boots dirty and getting to know your subjects and their way of life.**

In terms of themes and stories, the historical context brings us to modern concerns about industrialisation and urbanisation, even globalism and the erosion of agricultural capacity in "advanced" societies, not to mention 'longing for a simpler way of life' and the 'awesome beauty of nature and our attempts to control it'. Rural Life photography is very much about "illustrating and preserving images of the past & present Country way of life". Australia's mythos draws heavily on our agricultural and working class history.

Tips

[Pauline Rook](#) who had an exhibition 'Top and Soil: Somerset People in the Landscape', wrote an [article for Farmers Weekly](#) – which is best summarised by the *bold sentence in paragraph 2 above*.

Other ideas include: Be extra mindful of distracting backgrounds. Plain backgrounds for animals, walk around your subject and get the simplest background. Look for eye contact with human and animal subjects.



Photography by Pauline Rook

Strong directional light, morning and afternoon brings out textures in landscapes. Remember to also go inside buildings, especially for portraits. Old farm buildings often make great backgrounds and textures. Move an animal in front of a textured building wall, rather than have farm clutter as your background.

Digital Photo Secrets suggests visiting roadside farm stalls as produce is often grouped by colour or symmetrically, to make great images. 'Pick-yourself' farms may yield great subjects - buildings, machinery, animals, even farmers!

Photographytuts focuses on developing the right attitude. Enjoy a break, from city life. Delight in the simple. Immerse yourself in country life. Try your hand at farming, then people will trust you when you ask to take their photos preparing meals, eating together, etc.

Here are some exceptional rural life photographers and examples to inspire 'outside the box' thinking.



Photography by Randy Johnson

For standard subjects with artistic flair, [Randy Johnson's](#) highly stylised images prove a creative approach can still produce authentic images.



Photography by Tri Joko

Indonesian photographer [Tri Joko](#) produces stunning portraits and artistic rural images.



Photography by Pallab Mandal

National Geographic member [Pallab Mandal](#).



Photography by Peter Henry Emerson

If your taste goes to vintage, you might gain inspiration from [Peter Henry Emerson](#) a British photographer in the late 1800s who expounded his theories and approach in the book 'Naturalistic Photography'. ■

Further Reading:

<http://www.fwi.co.uk/farm-life/top-10-tips-for-farm-photography.htm>
<http://www.digital-photo-secrets.com/tip/5405/photograph-farms-farm-life/>
<http://www.photographytuts.com/rural-photography-commune-capture-get-captivated/>

Pauline Rook is at <http://www.rookphoto.co.uk/>
Pauline Rook's exhibition at <http://www.swheritage.org.uk/#!/rural-life-museum/c1dwq>
<http://www.rurallifephotography.com>
<https://500px.com/3joko>
<http://yourshot.nationalgeographic.com/profile/669238/>
<http://monovisions.com/biography-pictorial-rural-life-photographer-peter-henry-emerson/>

Competition Guidelines

Summary only, check website for complete information www.pccqld.org.

Monthly competition sections:

- Colour Prints
- Mono Prints
- Altered Reality-Creative Prints
- Projected Digital Images (PDI)

All Sections are graded. Altered Reality-Creative Prints grading is a trial. Progression will be determined upon trial conclusion, end of 2015.

Members may submit up to 4 images per section, except Altered Reality-Creative Prints (up to 2).

1 or 2 images may be designated **Set Subjects**.

Printing: May be home or commercially printed. All work prior to printing must have been completed by the image author. Prints must not be altered by any 3rd party printer.

Size: Requirements to be accepted into competition **Min.** size, 8" x 10"; **Max.** including mount 16" x 20". **Panoramic** prints - minimum 10" longest side.

Entry Records Sticker: Sticker on back of prints must state Set Subject or Open, Grade, Title, Category and Member Number (no name). Title must not change if re-entered.

PDI Entries: Must be XGA Jpeg (*.jpg) minimum compression, maximum file size Q12 standard, sRGB tagged 1024 (maximum-H) 768 (maximum-V) pixels
Image files must be named as described in the Member's Handbook.
Entries to be submitted on a key-tagged USB.

End of Year Competitions:

Graded End-of-year entries should be labelled with their original filename, as submitted in monthly competition.

Ungraded

End-of-Year Nature entries prefix PCCNat...
End-of-Year Outings entries prefix PCCOut...

Re-entry: Images gaining a Merit or Honour are not eligible for entry into further monthly competitions in any section.

Images gaining two Acceptances in a calendar year are not eligible for further entry in that same year in any Section, but may be re-entered in a different Section in the subsequent calendar year.

Re-entered images may have minor Compositional and Technical alterations allowing for change of Section. Must have same Title as the original, suffixed with (REV) for revised Image.

Entry Records Stickers - Prints

Download [Print Co-ord - ERS PRINT Stickers SET](#) as an MSWord page -White Mailing Labels [No 182753 99.1 x 93.1 mm] .doc document on the website [Downloads](#) page.

TITLE enter simplified Entry Code - O for Open or S for Set, followed by Title and Member number code.

GRADE -

Indicate Grade and Section.

DATE is Judging date.

AWARD is completed after judging.

Additional **Title and Date** are for

re-submission, per By-Laws section 4.

PENINSULA CAMERA CLUB INC					
TITLE	O	GREENFROG777			
TITLE					
GRADE	B/M	B/C	A/M	A/C	AR/C
AWARD	A	M	H		
DATE	5-15				
DATE	7-15				