



A Note From Our President

Here's the latest news on state, national, international and – yes – outer-space photography. TopShot '26, the prestigious competition for individual photographers in NSW and the ACT closes on 15 May. There will be some fabulous prizes for winners and runners up. Go to [Topshot '26](#) to enter.

The FCC has finalised the judging of the Northern NSW Zone of Photographic Societies interclub competition. The Northern NSW Zone organisers will announce the winning clubs and individuals on 24 May 2026. I'd like to thank the judges: Bruce Baker, Judy Young, Marianthi Karadoukas, and Tim Moon.

The FCC has almost finalised the judging of our first stand-alone Nature Photography competition. Results will be announced at the TopShot '26 Awards in June. I'd Cont.....

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Awards & Competitions
Australian wins World Photo Award
Raghu Rai, "Father of Indian Photography"
Amateurs shoot "dark" side of the moon

like to thank the judges: Annette Brauer, Dan Crowley, David Henderson, Julie Jones, Paul Chad, Peter Ryan, Phil Whiteman, Roy Killen, and Sue Curtis.

In another first, the FCC – with our sister organisations in the other states (VAPS, PSQ, SAPF and WAPF) – is calling on the Australian Government to include photography and videography in its next Culture Policy. See the article below for details.

Please note the FCC's 2026 AGM takes place in June. We have a terrific, active Committee at the moment, but we also have three vacancies. It would be great to have some country NSW and ACT representatives on the Committee. If you would like to nominate, fill out the Form (below) and send it to nswfccsecretary@gmail.com.

All FCC meetings are via Zoom. Welcome back to Lake Macquarie Camera Club which voted in April to rejoin the FCC. The FCC now represents 73 photography and videography clubs across NSW and the ACT which have over 2,500 members.

The photography and videography clubs on the South Coast are looking at having a regional Forum. I spoke at their meeting in April and said the FCC welcomed their action. For more information contact Sue Curtis, Vice President, Wollongong Camera Club and FCC Committee member at curtisimages@outlook.com. Finally, in the Bigger Picture section of F-Stop, check out a new resource for photographers – a list of local, national and international competitions which are open to amateurs and professionals where you can win cash, prizes and often international media coverage. Also, you may be inspired by the images of “The father of Indian photography”, Raghu Rai who passed away in April; Elle Leontiev, an amateur photographer who won the Open Competition in the 2026 Sony World Photography Awards; and the world's first amateur photographers who successfully captured the “dark” side of the moon. Keep on creating.

Michelle Kennedy
FCC President

2026 FCC TOPSHOT

SCAPES



DIGITAL
ART



ACTION



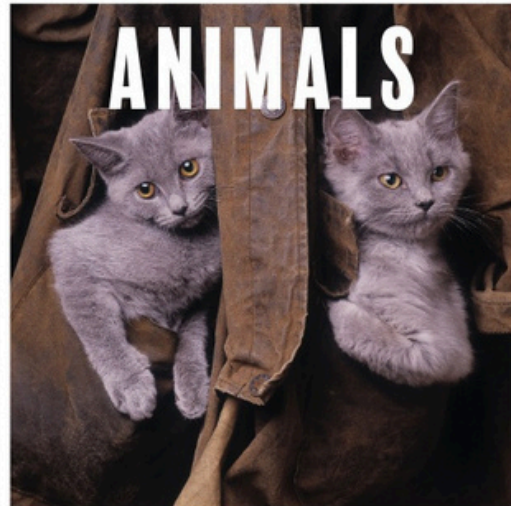
URBAN



STAGED



ANIMALS



FLORA



FINE ART
PRINT



PORTRAIT



See website for full conditions and section definitions

Entries **OPEN NOW**

Entries **CLOSE ~~MAY 10TH~~**

EXTENDED TO MAY 15TH



FEDERATION OF CAMERA CLUBS - NSW

2026 AGM INFORMATION

The Annual General Meeting of the FCC is planned for 14 June 2026. The venue, time and Zoom details for the AGM will be provided to Clubs in the coming weeks.

The AGM is open for all to attend, but only officially-nominated Club Delegates can vote. Delegates can attend and vote in person, or via Zoom.

Could all Clubs please advise the FCC

nswfccsecretary@gmail.com of the name of your FCC Delegate.

Every two years, Member Clubs elect a new FCC committee for a two-year term. The Committee is made up of 4 office bearers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) and up to 6 ordinary members. The FCC Committee meets monthly on Zoom.

If you are a member of an FCC-affiliate Club, and you are interested in nominating to join the FCC Committee, please complete the following form and email it to the FCC

nswfccsecretary@gmail.com

BEFORE Sunday 7 June 2026.

NOMINATION FOR FCC COMMITTEE MEMBERS, 2026-28

We, being financial members of an FCC-affiliated Club, hereby nominate

.....[print name of candidate]

for President/Vice-President/Treasurer/Secretary/ Ordinary Member [circle one].

Nominated by:
[signed]

..... [Club]

Seconded by:
[signed]

..... [Club]

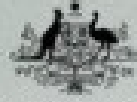
I accept this nomination

..... [signed]

..... [Club]

As required by section 15.1 (c) of the FCC’s Constitution, please send this completed nomination form to nswfccsecretary@gmail.com by Sunday 7 June 2026.

CULTURE POLICY SUBMISSION TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT



Australian Government

Australia's Cultural Policy for the next five years.

REVIVE

A PLACE FOR EVERY STORY, A STORY FOR EVERY PLACE.

The FCC is calling on the Australian Government to include photography and videography in its next Culture Policy, and to recognise the role of community-based clubs in creating Australia's culture. The peak photography organisations in the other states have endorsed the FCC's proposal (Victorian Association of Photographic Societies, the Photographic Society of Queensland, the South Australian Photographic Federation, and the West

Australian Photographic Federation).

Every day, millions of Australians use photography and videography to tell their stories, evoke the beauty of Australian landscapes, document the daily lives of everyday Australians, and highlight social and environmental issues affecting this nation. Australians are also bombarded every day with social media, advertising, television and cinema images – often made overseas or using AI-generated images which do

CULTURE POLICY SUBMISSION TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

not reflect Australia's values or lived experience.

Unbelievably, despite the significance of photography to Australia's culture, the Government's first Culture Policy released in 2023 had three, brief mentions of photography.

The Culture Policy also says the Australian Government should support the infrastructure which sustains our arts, culture and heritage.

This is important, but unfortunately the Policy takes a "top down" approach to infrastructure. The two new nation-wide organisations (Music Australia and Writers Australia) and art galleries, libraries, archives and museums typically provide their collections for people to consume (watch, read, look at etc).

At a time when most Australians think culture is a luxury item for rich, urban elites, the government should be funding local, grass roots approaches where ordinary Australians are involved in making culture.

Scotland's Creative Communities, for example, supports local individuals, clubs and communities to carry out their own cultural activities and create images, music and performances which reflect their local identity and sense of place.

One way to do this is to support the peak not-for-profit photography organisations in each state which have been part of the nation's cultural infrastructure for some 70 years or more. They have a proud tradition of developing skills, advocacy, exhibitions etc to support photographers and photography at local, regional and state levels.

Better collaboration between the Australian Government, Local Government and Australia's existing, longstanding not-for-profit organisations can create an authentic Australian culture which "enriches our lives, improves our community and defines us as a people and a nation." (A New Approach).

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Z8	\$500
Z6III	\$400
Zf	\$200
Z5II	\$150

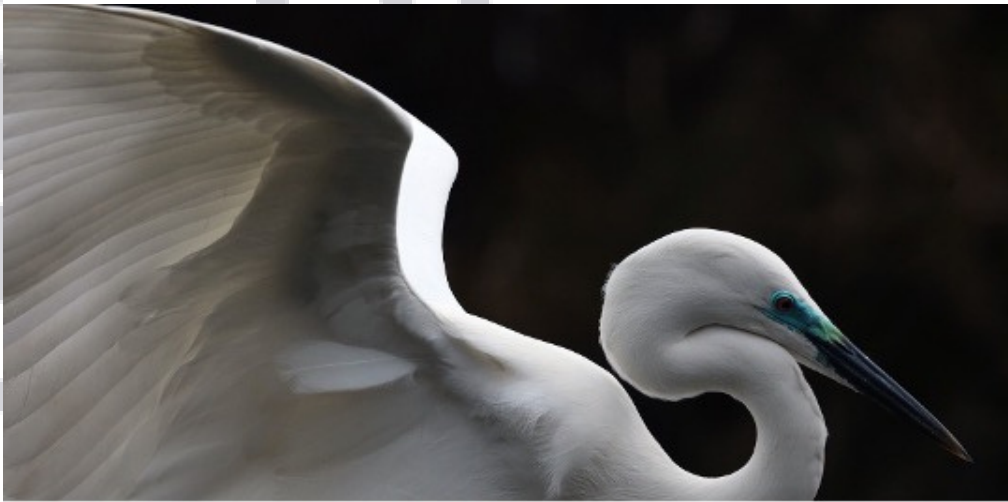
Participating Camera	EFTPOS Card Value
Zfc	\$100
Z50II	\$100
Z30	\$50

Terms and conditions apply.
Redemptions close on 28th June 2026.
Visit www.nikon.com.au/current-promotions for more information.

Promotion dates are from the 1/5/26 to 31/5/26



NORTHERN NSW ZONE COMP



Curves,
by Sharron Sykes,
C.ex Coffs
Camera Club:
An entry into the
Northern NSW
Zone comp

Hundreds of digital images were entered into the 2026 Northern NSW Zone of Photographic Societies interclub competition. The entries were from members of camera clubs in northern NSW: this includes C.ex Coffs Camera Club, Club Taree Photographic, Forster Digital Photography Club, Grafton Camera Club, Kempsey Macleay RSL Photographic Club, Lismore Camera Club, Nambucca Valley Camera Club, Port Macquarie Panthers Photographic Club and Tamworth Camera Club. Photos were entered into five categories (Open Colour, Open Mono, Australian Landscape, Nature and Digital Art/Creative) as well as the Set Subject of Shadows. The entries were scored by FCC judges.

The FCC thanks the judges (Bruce Baker, Judy Young, Marianthi Karadoukas, and Tim Moon), the Review Panel (Michelle Kennedy and Don Munro) and FCC Committee Members Cathie Stubbs and Justin Wood who organised the venue, lunch and IT. The committee of the 2026 Northern NSW Zone of Photographic Societies will announce the winning clubs and individual winners on Sunday 24th May 2026.

The NZ AGM will be held online after the results are announced. Any motions for consideration at the AGM can be submitted leading up to the AGM once announced.

For more details see the [Northern NSW Zone website](#).

SOUTH COAST FORUM

Photography and videography clubs along the south coast of NSW met in April to organise their first South Coast Forum. The planned forum will assist club members to meet each other, share their skills and experiences, and identify ways working together could help improve members' photography. Michelle Kennedy, President of FCC, joined the meeting and confirmed FCC supports regional initiatives by clubs. This support includes up to \$300 as a contribution towards costs. The meeting included representatives from Wollongong Camera Club, Wollongong Media Makers, Kiama-Shellharbour Camera Club, Bay and Basin Camera Club, Milton Ulladulla Districts Camera Club, Milton Ulladulla Videography Club, Eurobodalla Photographic Club, Narooma Camera Club, and Sapphire Snappers Camera Club.

These clubs represent more than 250 photographers and videographers. The group noted that video clubs would be more likely to promote the event to their members if there were genuinely relevant video content included, not simply a photography event with video added on the side.

Details for the forum are still being worked out. Current plans are that it will be held over two days later this year, and include guest speakers on stills photography and video-making, outdoor workshops and a dinner.

For more information, contact Sue Curtis, Vice President Wollongong Camera Club and FCC Committee Member at vp.wollongongcameraclub@gmail.com.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION
MEMBERS OF THE HENRY LAWSON CAMERA CLUB**



**EXHIBITION IN THE LOWER LOUNGE AREA AT:
PENRITH CENTRAL LIBRARY
601 HIGH STREET, PENRITH**

Exhibition dates
Monday 4th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026

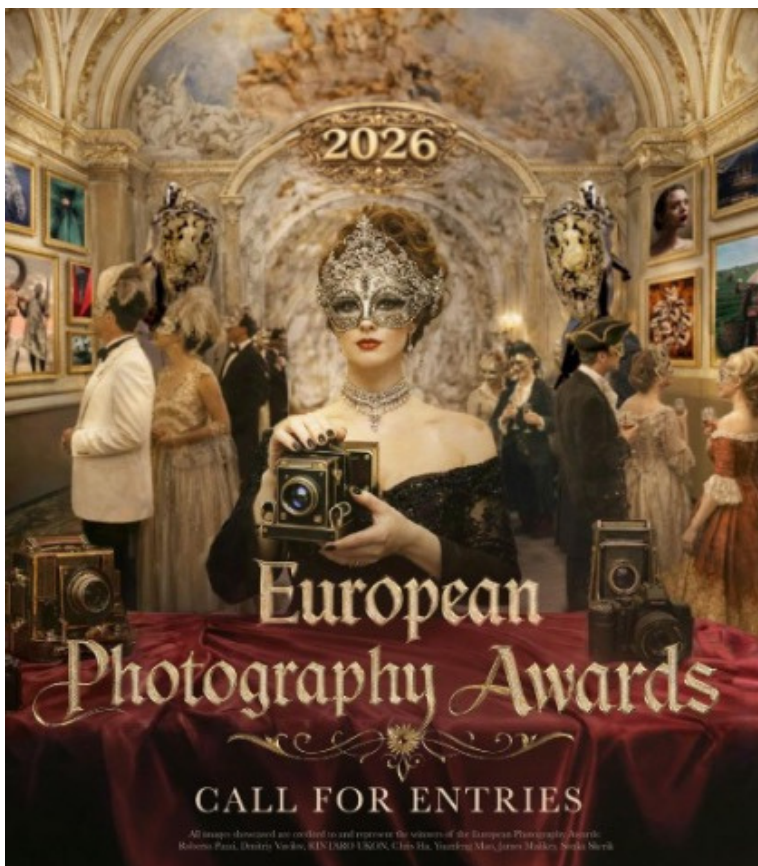
PENRITH
CITY COUNCIL

AWARDS & COMPETITIONS

One of the benefits of Photography Clubs is that you get lots of practice in preparing photos for competitions or exhibitions.

But why stop there?

Here are twelve Awards and Competitions you can enter. They are open to amateur and professional photographers and you could win cash, fame and other prizes. They close in May, June or July.



EUROPEAN PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS 2026

Deadline: 1 July 2026

Entry: Open to all photographers around the world – not just Europe. \$30/image for professionals and \$25/image for amateurs/students.

Theme: Dozens of categories to choose from. All images submitted must have been created within the last 5 years
Why Enter: Prizes of US\$3,000 (Pro) and US\$2,000 (Amateur/Student) plus media coverage, exhibitions etc

[Link](#)

THE PHOTO REVIEW INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Deadline: 20 May 2026
Entry: US\$40 for up to three images, plus US\$8 for each additional image.

Theme: Any Fine Art photographs, including black and white, colour, alternative photography, computer-manipulated images, etc
Why Enter: Over US\$4,000 in prizes plus media coverage, exhibitions etc

[Link](#)

LISBON STREET PHOTO FEST 2026

Deadline: 31 May 2026
Entry: €10 per individual entry; €40 per series

Theme: Street photography
Why Enter: Cash and Exhibition at the Lisbon Street photography festival. See [prizes](#)

[Link](#)

WOLLUNDRY PHOTO COMPETITION

Deadline: Friday 29 May 2026
Entry: \$15 per print (up to 20 photos) for Amateurs and Semi-Professionals

Theme: Landscape, Portrait, Celebrating Older People and Open
Why Enter: Cash and Exhibition (where you can sell your prints) at Wagga Wagga Town Hall.

[Link](#)

HARIBAN AWARD (INTERNATIONAL COLLOTYPE COMPETITION) 2026

Deadline: 16 June 2026
Entry: US\$50

Theme: Work that will look great printed using collotype techniques.
Why Enter: Residency in Japan, work published as collotypes and book.

[Link](#)

DELOITTE'S PHOTO GRANT 2026

Deadline: 14 June 2026
 Entry: Free. Open to photographers under 35. Entrants submit a project idea (maximum of 1,500 characters) and a project budget estimate (maximum of 1,500 characters) plus 10 photos that relate to the project idea. The selected project will be funded €25,000 towards the execution of the project idea.

Theme: Proximities – images showing the new forms of distance that characterize our era (physical distance as well as distance arising from economic polarization, technological mediation, and social fragmentation)
 Why Enter: The selected work will become an exhibition when the next edition of the Award is held. Trip to Milan.

[Link](#)

COMEDY WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC (AND VIDEO) AWARDS

Deadline: 30 June 2026
 Entry: Free

Theme: A funny photo or video of wildlife. Categories include birds, reptiles, fish and the Young Photographer category (Under 25). Video entries must be less than 15 seconds
 Why Enter: World-wide media coverage plus Nikon camera kits. The overall winner wins a one-week safari in Kenya for two.

[Link](#)

[P] PANO AWARDS

Deadline: 13 July 2026
 Entry: US\$20 per entry for the Amateur Awards (non-professional/amateur and student photographers) and US\$22 per entry for the Open Awards

Theme: Panoramas (a minimum 2:1 aspect ratio)
 Why Enter: Cash and Epson Printers. See [prizes](#)
[Link](#)

MONOCHROME AWARDS

Deadline: 5 July 2026 (early deadline)

Entry: US\$17 per entry for Amateurs and US\$22 per entry for Professionals

Theme: Digital monochrome images in 13 categories (including Architecture, Landscape, Nude, Portrait and Street)

Why Enter: US\$1,000 (Amateurs) and US\$2,000 (Professionals), publication in the Monochrome Awards book and world-wide media coverage

[Link](#)

BOWNESS PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE

Deadline: 14 July 2026

Entry: Australian citizens or alternatively have been a resident of Australia for at least 12 months. \$55 for up to 3 different images plus a 120 word artist statement

Theme: Fine Art Photography.

For examples from past winners [see](#)

Why Enter: Australia's richest cash prize for photography. Prizes include \$50,000 for the winner, plus exhibitions

[Link](#)

AUSTRALIAN LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2026

Deadline: 17 May 2026

Entry: Free to enter, but only one entry (of one or two images) can be entered

Theme: Any aspect of Australia – everyday occurrences, fleeting moments, unusual places, intriguing characters, subcultures, celebrations or rituals, natural or artificial environments

Why Enter: Cash (\$500 each for 20 finalists and \$10,000 for the winner) plus an exhibition organised by the City of Sydney Council

[Link](#)



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AUSTRALIAN WINS WORLD AWARD



Elle Leontiev's portrait
of volcanologist
Phillip Yamah:
Winner, 2026 Sony
World Photography
Awards

After winning several major awards for amateurs, Elle Leontiev won the Open Competition of this year's Sony World Photography Awards with her picture of an amateur volcanologist in his lava suit. "You don't often get the chance to distil somebody's life story in a single click," Leontiev told the ABC.

Yamah is an amateur volcanologist whose expertise is sought by professionals who study Vanuatu's volcanoes. The portrait captured Yamah's passion, his home and the environment he works in. "For me, the image is less about the spectacle of the volcano and more about the quiet authority

AUSTRALIAN WINS WORLD AWARD

and presence of Phillip's relationship with it. It is about knowledge, the pursuit of dreams, coexistence, cultural knowledge, and respect for nature."

"At the heart of my work is the desire to illustrate dreamlike states and highlight social issues."

The Open Competition of the Sony World Photography Awards 2026 recognises single images taken during the past year.

Entrants submitted photographs made in 2025 in a broad range of subjects including landscapes, portraits and scenes from the natural world.

Leontiev won US \$5,000, Sony camera equipment, a two-week exhibition of her work at Somerset House, London and international media coverage.

Leontiev had previously won the Amateur section of the 2024 [Monochrome Awards](#) and the 2025 [Monochrome Awards](#), as well as being a winner of the 2025 [Capture Awards](#).

In an interview with the Guardian newspaper, Elle talked about why photography is so important in an era increasingly dominated by artificial intelligence.

"As AI blurs the line between what is real and what is constructed, there is a growing value in imagery that is human, real, and rooted in lived experience, presence, and truth."

"AI can reduce cost and fill certain gaps in the marketplace, but it cannot replace authenticity or our human desire to connect with others."

Today making photos of human experiences grounded in reality is more crucial than ever.

For the winners and finalists in the Open, Professional, Student, Youth, Alpha Female and other categories, see [Sony-world-photography_galleries](#).

CLUB PHOTOGRAPHERS IN NEW EXHIBITION

Two Club photographers, Margery Mundy and Nil de Silva, are exhibiting their work in a new photo exhibition which opens on 12 June in Surry Hills.

They are part of a collaboration with 30 photographers from across NSW as well as Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand. 'Into the Wild' is a 5-day exhibition and explores the idea of wildness in all its forms, from the raw power of nature to the quiet intensity of human emotion.

The exhibition includes landscapes, seascapes, urban environments and abstract works. Some pieces reflect the chaos and force of the natural world, while others focus on stillness, solitude and



connection. Together, they create an experience that moves between energy and calm, control and unpredictability, inviting you to slow down and see things differently.

There is an Industry Preview on 11 June to be opened by Peter Eastway (click here for a [link](#) to reserve a free spot) and a "Meet the Photographer" event on Sunday 14 June 2pm-4pm (click here for a [link](#) to reserve a free spot).

For more information about the exhibition, click [here](#).

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RAGHU RAI, “FATHER OF INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY”



Photo: Raghu Rai's Rush at Local Train Church Gate, Mumbai, 1996

Raghu Rai, a largely self-taught photographer and the first Indian photographer to join Magnum, died in April 2026 at the age of 83.

His first photo was that of a donkey. He was best known for his portraits – including Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama and Indira Gandhi – and his photographs of the daily lives of everyday people. In 1992 he was also awarded “Photographer of the Year” in the United States for the story “Human Management of Wildlife

in India” published in National Geographic.

For 60 years, Rai chronicled Indian culture, spirituality, political conflicts, and some of the world’s most significant figures, leaving behind a prolific body of work that made him one of India’s most recognised photographers. His visual storytelling in India has influenced photographers worldwide.

Cont...

RAGHU RAI, “FATHER OF INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY”

Rai started shooting in film, but in 2003 he switched to digital cameras. He photographed in both black and white and colour.

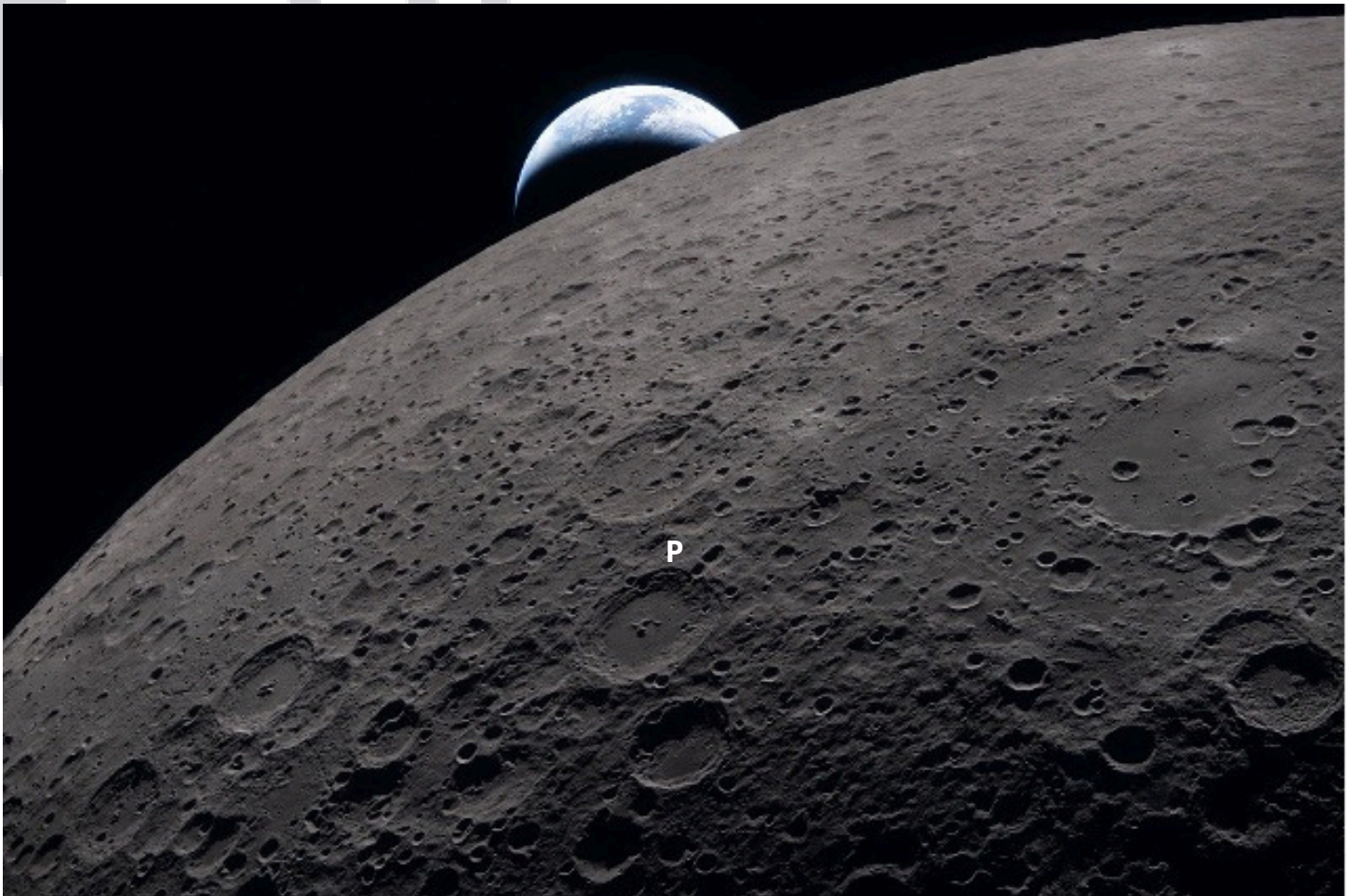
He typically created complex, multi-layered photos. He once said he did not photograph the “decisive moment”- instead his photographs were full of several decisive moments. He often used scale to add meaning and create impact, such as the photo above of the two small men reading newspapers in a busy, crowded and vast train station. In his portraits, Rai often focused on the human face, using expressive close-ups to convey emotion and character. He also captured people in their environments, providing context to their lives and livelihoods. For more about his photographic approach and techniques see [Raghu Rai](#) and [Capturing the spirit of India through the lens](#).

In a video for National Geographic India, Rai shared his advice to photographers. He stressed the importance of taking photos of people, places and events that affect you personally: “Your response should come from your heart, because your heart is you. That is being original.”

For examples from Magnum of his black and white and colour images see [Remembering Raghu Rai](#).

Rai is survived by his wife, Gurmeet Sangha Rai; three daughters, Purvai, Avani and Lagan; and a son, Nitin.

AMATEURS SHOOT “DARK” SIDE OF THE MOON



The Artemis II crew captured this view as the Earth sets behind the Moon,
Monday, 6 April 2026

While the media focussed on the failure of the toilet, many photographers were wondering how the astronauts on the Artemis II spacecraft could photograph the “dark side of the moon”.

Pink Floyd has a lot to answer for.

The fact is the “dark side” of the moon is not dark. It experiences two weeks of sunlight each month followed by two weeks of

night. It is just we cannot see the “far side” of the moon from earth.

The Soviet Union’s unmanned Luna 3 rocket was the first to photograph the far side of the moon in 1959. The USA’s Apollo 8 astronauts were the first humans to see the far side in person in 1968. In 2019, the Chinese Chang’e 4 spacecraft

Cont...

AMATEURS SHOOT “DARK” SIDE OF THE MOON

was the first to land on the far side and return with lunar samples from the far side of the moon.

The Artemis II astronauts flew around the moon – it did not land on it. If this Artemis II mission is declared successful, and the next Artemis III mission is successful, then it is possible the Artemis IV mission will land people on the moon.

The Artemis II spacecraft carried 32 photo and video cameras. Fifteen were mounted directly to the spacecraft, and 17 were handheld cameras operated by the crew. Most of the cameras were used for engineering, navigation and crew monitoring purposes.

The cameras included GoPros, cameras streaming 4K video, and handheld Nikon Z9 cameras. Each astronaut also had an iPhone.

So what did the astronauts photograph? As well as selfies, all the astronauts had undertaken lessons in geology. The result: Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen were the first amateur landscape photographers to shoot the far side of the moon.

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