

Photography Tips for RRR Network News Rural, Remote and Regional (RRR) Women's Magazine

Articles are really enhanced by an eye catching, relevant photo which promotes the readers interest in the story and increases the chance of them reading on. Here are a few simple things to consider when taking photos for your story that can make you look like a professional!

1. THE SUBJECT

Most of the photos that are required for Network News will include people.

Consider:

- **Faces as the key feature**

Legs and bodies are not always necessary for the shot. Hone in on the face, and get faces nice and close together if photographing more than one person.

Ensure subjects are not squinting, have red eyes, reflection off glasses, shaded by hats or other objects. It is always best to ask the subject to remove hats and sunglasses where possible.



- **Holding the camera at the subject's eye level**

This will create a more engaging shot regardless of what direction the person is looking.

- **Avoiding excess distractions that are irrelevant to the shot**

These include background that is too cluttered or in conflict with the story and huge or inappropriate logos on clothing. Learn to “look around” in your shot and identify what is unnecessary. Don't be afraid to take the time to rearrange the shot to suit the photo you need.

- **Being aware of the background**

For example, a sign or post in the background could appear to be sticking out of a subject's head once the photo is taken. A simple repositioning can help avoid this.

- **Appearing confident (even if you're not!)**

The subjects are relying on you to make them feel comfortable. Let them know what you are doing and guide them through the process to help make them comfortable. Perhaps ask them to say something silly so they have an excuse to laugh and smile naturally.



- **Emotion in photographs**

Don't underestimate the power of candid shots that show personality and feelings.

- **Getting people to “touch” their environment**

Make sure your subject is involved and settled comfortably into the shot.

For example, if you are photographing a woman near a tractor, get her to rest one hand on the machine. That way the background becomes part of the story.

- **Directing your shot**

This may mean moving the subjects and props. For example, if you have to take a group shot with people standing at back and sitting at front, seat the tall people. This way there will be less distance between heads in the photos. Avoid shots that look too posed - instead reposition people into a more relaxed setting. Add relevant items to the shot that may enhance the photo and story.



- **The best time of day to capture children**

Early in morning or after a nap works better for small children.

- **The more shots the better**

Keep clicking as it doesn't matter about the poor shots—it is one good one you are after!

2.

LIGHTING

Lighting affects the quality of all photography. Great light creates the best shots.

Consider:

- **Using natural lighting to your advantage**

In landscape shots make the most of the colour and long shadows of early morning and late afternoon. Soft lighting from dull days and cloud cover are the best for portrait shots.



- **Moving your subject to make light work the best**

Remember there is 360 degrees of possibilities to the direction of the light.

- **Eliminating shadows**

Bright sun creates facial shadows which can be negated by the use of a fill in flash (most cameras have fill-flash or full-flash mode). This mode should also be used when faces are in shadow from a hat or when you are shooting under shade and looking into a brighter area. Remember to think outside the square—it seems strange but a flash is often necessary in bright sunlight. Experiment by using flash and no flash.

- **The range of your flash**

When using a flash it is important to pre determine the coverage that you can obtain.

3. PLAY WITH THE SHOT

Consider how your image is going to reflect the story and get creative.

- **Play with camera angle**

Shooting from down low can create a feeling of scale while looking downwards on the subject can make it appear smaller.



- **Move in close**

Fill the view finder with the image which will reveal details.

- **Move the subject from the middle**

Play around with locating the main subject, it doesn't always look the best in the middle of the shot.



- **Remember the background can tell a big part of the story**

For example, if you are photographing someone out the front of their business, get them to stand a fair distance away from

the building so you capture their face with the entire building featured in the background.

- **Try to avoid large group shots**

Perhaps take a large group shot to keep the group happy, then pull aside two or three key players and photograph them separately. This can make the shot so much better and the group shot could always be published as a smaller picture.

4. FOCUS

Auto-focus cameras tend to focus on the centre of the picture. However, not every photo requires the subject in the middle. To avoid a blurred shot in these cases you will need to centre your subject in the view finder, lock the focus and recompose your picture so the subject is off centre in the position that you desire.

Most cameras involve the following steps to lock the focus:

- Firstly centre the subject the press and hold the shutter button halfway down.
- Whilst still holding the shutter button, reposition the camera so the subject is away from centre.
- Finally, complete the shot by depressing the shutter button all the way down to take the shot.

5. RECORDING

- Photos to be published in Network News will need to be of good quality. Generally a file size larger than 750Kb is necessary.
- When sending a selection of photos for selection these can be sent in a reduced size. The full sized image can then be resent once the best image for the article is determined.
- Take details of your shots. These include the names (correct spelling) and positions of those you are photographing. This will make writing the caption for the photo much easier.

REMEMBER TO SAVE YOUR PHOTOS SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN YOUR CAMERA!