

## Photo tips: close up (macro) images

### Working distance

In macro photography you are able to get close but the closer you get the more likely the following may happen:-

- 1) The subject gets spooked
- 2) The shadow of the lens falling on the subject interferes with your shot
- 3) There is difficulty focusing. Because of the closeness to the subject the auto focus may hunt for focus and focus on other than the subject. A tripod may help but focusing is more difficult if the subject moves.



### Depth of field and focusing

“The closer you get the more the subject is magnified and the smaller the depth of field in the subject.” ([Macro lenses Phot tips Australian Photography website](#)) The size of the sensor influences the DOF. Cameras with smaller sensors give greater DOF. There’s not much we can do the change the DOF of compact cameras (those we are using) so it’s important to focus on the desired part of the subject (usually the eye of insects and other small animals and stamens and pistil of flowers).



## Stabilisation

Make sure the stabilisation function is turned on.

Using a tripod to keep the camera steady is an option but if the subject is moving tripod is not a practical solution. Hand holding makes elimination of camera shake very difficult so the built-in camera stabilisation function become applicable. The stabilisation should be enough for a stable image to be seen in the camera view finder.

## Lighting

The closer the camera is to the subject the more difficult it becomes to light the subject evenly and adequately. An on camera flash usually casts a shadow of the lens barrel on to the subject. I try to use the sun with it over one or other shoulder. With the cameras we are using diffusers or reflectors may provide enough light.

## Know the subject

It may be better to start with flower and flower parts as they don't move about (pick a calm day). With insects and other small animals spend time watching them to understand how they behave. Jumping spiders are large enough to photograph without special equipment.





### Keep calm – brace yourself

It's difficult to get sharp images with a hand held camera. Keeping calm as you follow a moving subject helps. Squeeze your arms to your sides and hold the end of the lens barrel firmly. Brace against some solid surface if possible.

### Equipment

We don't need much equipment – our cameras are probably enough. Besides compact cameras may not have the means to add on other devices.