

Another month has gone by already. I can't believe how quickly the year is going. I wish time would slow down a little so I can fit everything in.

This month I had the honour of organising the entries for the Seddon Shield Photographic Weekend. I've spent many an hour putting together the presentations that will be shown at our Seddon Shield Weekend and I have to say I'm in awe of the talent that we have over the clubs at the Top of the South. Very inspiring.

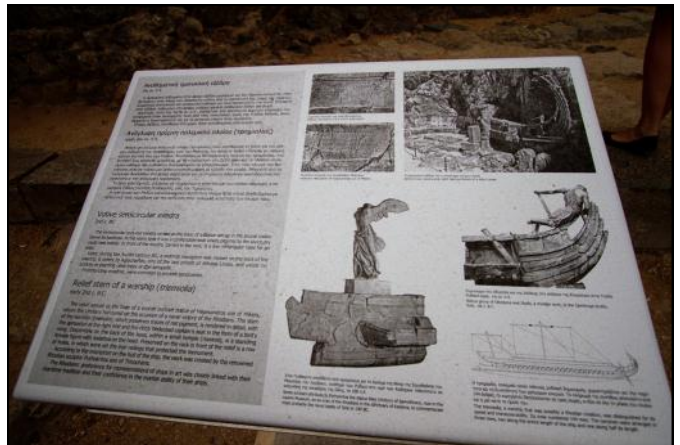
I have also finally started working on my photos I took last October while I was overseas. It's amazing how quickly you forget what photos you did take, and I have been pleasantly surprised and enjoying re-living the trip once more through my images.



Sunset at Oia, Santorini and an image I had completely forgotten I had taken!

I am of the opinion it's far better to get travel images into an album you can leaf through, as otherwise they just sit on your hard drive and no one ever sees them, not even yourself! So I'm busy putting together an online photobook.

I'm very glad I wrote a daily blog of the trip to help me with the locations, and that I have Wikipedia to jog my memory on the history and any information I missed while I was too busy photographing. It's so easy to get caught up in photographing new places and things you've never seen before, that you actually fail to take in what you're actually photographing until much later. To get round that, I try to diligently photograph information boards, signs, and notices. I often read them for the first time much later, and usually once I'm back home.



This particular information image I couldn't read very well but it at least gave me the name for me to look it up on Wiki later.

I just hope I have these all done and dusted before I head off on another trip, because the photos I took on my trip to the USA in 2008 are still sitting on my hard drive, untouched, still in RAW. I keep promising myself when I get time I'll start them.

I still haven't found the time!!

Robyn



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Liz Davidson

Greetings to all our club members. I was honoured to become your new president, voted in at the recent AGM. Trevor will be a hard act to follow as he is so skilled at producing useful and informative information on photographic techniques for our edification. My thanks to him for doing an outstanding job as our immediate Past President. I have enjoyed working with him.

My reports will take a more chatty and informal approach, giving information more on the social aspects of the club and photography in general. I have some very funny stories about photographic escapades lined up for you all in the future. I will also encourage committee members to contribute their experience, expertise and personal anecdotes. There are myriads of funny experiences in capturing the world around us. Photography should be fun in my book. It is not all serious and mind-blowing. We don't have to drown ourselves in the technicalities and we can all learn from each other.

For the newer members of the club, one very effective way of improving your photography is to come along on the field trips and buddy up with our more experienced members. We are always happy to share our knowledge, after all each of us can learn something new on every outing regardless of how long we have been taking images, or how long we've been a member of the club.

I look forward to sharing my ups and downs in this addictive world of photography. The biggest joy for me when I joined the camera club seven years ago was the Honours I received when I entered my first ever competition. I have never forgotten how I felt that night and have never forgotten the image I entered into that competition. I share it with you now.

So new members go for it and get in touch with Gavin Newell by sending an email to:

newellphotography@yahoo.co.nz or phone him on 573-8913





The Secretary's Blog

Ruth Gill

I thought my new job as secretary would just involve taking the minutes, sending a few letters and filing some papers. But no, President Liz decides that we need to go to Wairau Bar to test the venue ready for Seddon Shields dawn field trip next weekend. "An early start" she said, she'll pick me up at 6:30am. She arrives 6:25am and oddly for me, I am all ready to go before time.

Oh, what a beautiful red sky out to the East. However we should have got up earlier, the sky fades and sun is partly up by the time we get there. But its all still good, white-baiters are out in the water and on the banks with floating sweeping nets and bright wet suits.

Liz greets them all and makes sure they know who we are and that we will be coming back next week. One poses for a photo with Liz with a cheeky grin. And tells us he will be there next weekend because the tides will be right. We take more sample shots and then into the 4 wheel drive for a wee jaunt to see what we can find along a bumpy track-interesting shaped lagoon, oddly placed little

group of gum trees (planted by my husband's father, I find out when I get home) and a water channel.

Next stop is a historic little house belonging to Historical Society-big sign says "Private Property". Don't worry about that says Liz, so in we go. A big black dog barks quite a bit but Liz said it is a lovely dog, so I don't worry...much (being a property manager makes me very dog-cautious). Lots of pictures and no dog bites or angry men chasing us away, so all good. Time to go home.

"Lets go to Raupo for a coffee" says Liz (that means Hot Chocolate to me, yum).

Oh no!, baggy old track pants, hiking boots and scruffy old jacket. No excuses are good enough for President Liz. Just how many people does she know, I ask myself as she introduces me to some of them. Putting on my brave face in my scruffiest clothes, I too greeted them like long lost friends. This secretary job is going to be interesting.

Ruth



The Tiny World of Nature

By *Roger Thwaites*, APSNZ

If you own a Macro, or Close-up lens, there will always be something you can photograph, whether it be Still Life, Nature, or Abstract, etc.

I was down in the Queen Charlotte Sound a few weekends ago, and as I was wandering through the bush, I was thinking about what sort of interesting article I could write for the Club newsletter. I came to a halt, and just stood there looking around me, and as I gazed at all the native flora, it dawned on me, that there was a whole community of very small lichen species growing in colonies together. Then I looked more carefully at the minute clusters of mosses and lichens, and realised that this is a tiny world of nature, that never sleeps. It has probably always been there all of the time, except that I just had not noticed it until now. On a bank nearby, was an amazing miniature world of nature, just waiting to be photographed.

This year, Winter in the Sounds has been extremely wet with lots of 'West Coast' rain, and this has encouraged all sorts of tiny plant-life species, into a growth spurt. Once my eyes started adjusting to this tiny world, I began to see a large variety of lichens, and with a 105mm Macro lens attached to the camera, the challenge of shooting these very small subjects, was before me. After taking a few shots and looking at the results, I realised that the '105' wasn't going to be nearly enough of a focal length for the 'smaller stuff', so I added a x2 Converter, and doubled the focal length to 210mm. This proved to be a much better option, as I could capture some of the

smallest detail of the lichens, while filling the frame. The intricate detail of the lichens, was amazing, even though the depth-of-field was severely reduced. It was like a miniature fairyland. The same "rule-of-thumb" used for 'normal' macro shots, was applied: Focus on the nearest part of the subject, and set the depth-of-field with an aperture setting of 'f22' or 'f32' (the smallest aperture – largest f-stop number). There is an element of 'manual control' that comes into play here, as my x2 converter doesn't extend the camera controls through to the lens,



Fig # 1



Fig # 3



Fig # 2

and the main control lost is the 'Auto Focus', but that's no 'biggie'. For photographing such small subjects like this I recommend that you use 'manual focus', anyway. (On 'auto focus' the camera does not do well at focussing, and tends to "range or hunt" an awful lot, i.e. it can't focus on the subject accurately with such small items). Putting the camera on the 'A' setting (Nikon), or the 'AV' setting (Canon), allows you to take control of the Aperture adjustment manually, while the camera takes care of the shutter speed, automatically. It is recommended that the camera be mounted on a tripod, for the best results, as the shutter speed may be quite long. You may also find that the depth-of-field, is too narrow for some subjects, which may result in part of your picture being un-sharp. A good little trick to overcome this is, to firstly make sure that your subject is as parallel to the face of the lens as you can get it, and secondly (if you need to), step the camera back from the subject a few centimetres, check the lens is parallel, and refocus sharply. You may have to repeat this process once or twice, to get it right, (and it does take some patience!....however, the results, can be very rewarding).

As an aside, it is interesting to note, that when the Winter season is exceptionally wet, fungi tend to be abundant for most of the Winter, and not just during the Autumn months, so keep an eye out for these, during this time. The other thing to note is that, when there has been a particularly wet Winter season, the native orchids that normally appear in October-November, will start to appear a few weeks earlier than normal, and with the predicted changes in climate, this could happen earlier still, in the years to come.

Back to the Lichens. I have included a few of the images of the various lichen species that I photographed in the Sounds, to show you what to look for. These include "fairy cups" (Cladonia Species), Pink polyps, and lichen that grows on tree bark. (Figs. 1,2, & 3) These are some of the more common ones to look for, but there are many more species, and some need a "pair of good keen eyes" to find them.

I have also included an image of an unusual lichen species with red polyps (Fig. 4), which was taken at Pine Valley, during May of this year. These are so tiny, that you would need a "super" macro lens, just to take one of the polyps, on their own. Quite often, the lichen polyps of the pink and red species, are confused with fungus species, and I have included an image of a very small yellow button fungi (Fig 5), as a comparison of the forms.

The last image, (Fig.6, taken at Lake Rotoiti, in July), shows the scruffy form of the "old man's beard" Lichen. (known also as "Beard Moss", or Usnea Species). This is a larger species, which attaches itself to Beech trees, and can be commonly found on 'wind-fall' decaying branches, of the Beech, but the challenge for this one is, to find a really good specimen, to photograph, and preferably with the spider-like spore body attached.

Roger





Photography Courses

Have you ever looked at advertisements for photography classes, seminars, courses or tours and wondered about them? Here are some of my personal experiences.

Are photography courses worth their cost in time and money?

Some of my best experiences have also been the least expensive. They include those offered by fellow Club members and I have had very rewarding experiences with local Club courses both in Marlborough and in Tauranga. Both Clubs have great expertise and members willing and able to help the rest of us to improve.

What about commercial offerings? I have enjoyed and learnt from the numerous programs I've attended around the world, from Alaska to New Zealand. The one exception was a no-charge afternoon class at Golden Canyon in Death Valley, California. I suppose I got what I paid for. On the other hand, a half-day no-charge class offered in Yosemite Valley, California, was excellent. Classes in exotic places like this are often a combination of general photography

skills and information about when, where and how to get the best from the local photographic opportunities. For example, Tony Boccaccio taught me a lot about isolating a subject in busy Rome (figure 1). I found his half-day class, "Rome through the Lens", at www.expedia.com.

Classes vary greatly in the level at which they are aimed. My experience of classes advertised as for all levels of photographer is that the program is usually focused on beginners but that more experienced attendees can get some individual advice from time to time during the program. I spent a week in France on a photography course and didn't learn much about photography from the formal sessions but did value the nightly critique sessions and being introduced to photographic opportunities in this beautiful but little known region of France (Figure 2). On a photography tour from a cruise ship in Alaska, a couple of weeks ago, the instructor took us whale watching. The instructor spent a lot of group time talking about the relationship between exposure time, lens aperture and sensor sensitivity (ISO) and how best to set them on



Fig 1



Fig 2a

small compact cameras but she took time while we were waiting to board the whale-watching boat to work with me and my large dSLR to get settings more suitable for the higher quality sensor. I was surprised that she recommended a shutter speed of $1/640$ sec for photographing moving whales but she knew that would “freeze” the whales’ motion while softening water spray that would give a sense of motion (figure 3). This is typical of the insight that I, as an intermediate photographer, can get from courses even if they are mainly aimed at beginners.



Fig 2b



Fig 2c

I have attended a few courses that were more for intermediate photographers. One was memorable because a Caribbean typhoon ripped through the location not long before the week-long class was due to start. Some of the area was quite different from what we expected when we booked the class but I learnt a lot in that week, mostly about photography.

I haven’t been to any more advanced course but I have heard excellent reports from others who have.



Fig e

Harry



Low Light Workshop

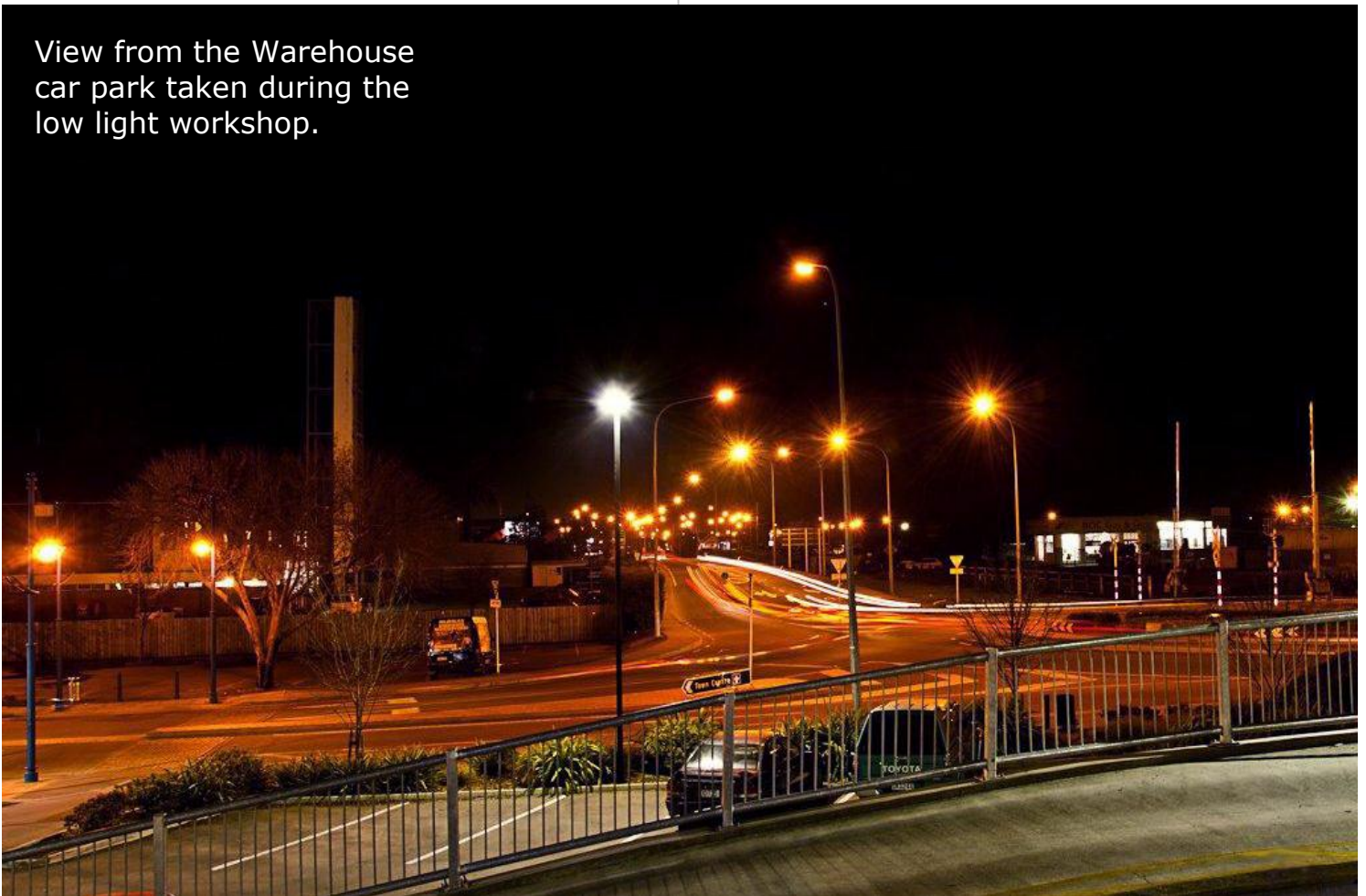
Field Trip
Report

23 August 2012

By *Liz Davidson*, LPSNZ

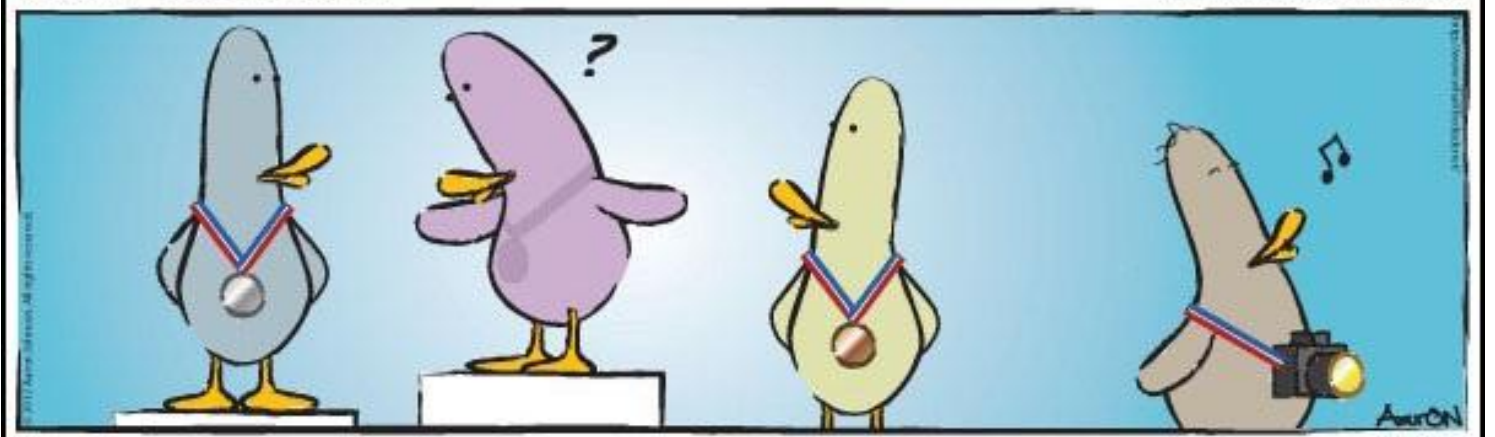
The small group of enthusiasts that turned up for the low light workshop on Thursday the 23rd August, had an interesting time standing on the upper floor of the Warehouse car park and capturing light trails and zoom shots. Gavin, our leader, had us bravely shooting in manual mode and we all learned something new, even if it was to realise just how much we don't know. It was cold on the car park but fun and we hope to continue experimenting with photography in low light conditions. It was good to welcome and include two prospective camera club members—Andrew and Laura. Our thanks to Gavin for his guidance and advice.

View from the Warehouse car park taken during the low light workshop.



What The Duck

<http://www.whattheduck.net/>





Seddon Shield Photographic Weekend – 2012

Report by Trevor Dennis

Having been away throughout August, I escaped most of the workload that went into organising our hosting the Seddon Shield this past weekend, but those people involved did our club proud, with a highly successful event, despite a wee bit of rain on Saturday.

I love the Nelson Marlborough Interclub, so the Seddon Shield — involving all of the Top-of-the-South Camera Clubs — was a real pleasure, and a chance to catch up with friends from the other clubs.

Unfortunately, Nelson was judging its new Triptych competition, but several Nelson Club members made it to the weekend.

The weekend started with us meeting at the Vintage Car club rooms at Brayshaw Park, where we enjoyed a glass of wine, and heard some of the comments — but

not the results — from judge Frank Green. Saturday was scheduled to start with a dawn shoot at the Waurau Bar, but the trip was initially cancelled due to bad weather. However, someone noticed a wee band of brightness in the general direction of the Bar, and several people decided to take a chance. White-baters are a hardy bunch, and there was no shortage of them to photograph, casting their nets in water muddy from all the rain.

The next item was a 9.00am meet at the Car Club for morning tea before setting off to either the Taylor Dam, or the Omaka Heritage Center. I chose the dam, and was surprised to find the Taylor Pass road full of cyclists who had a sprint event. The road was still open however, so we drove carefully past the cyclists to a wet morning at the dam.

The conditions were appalling, and I shall be interested to see if anyone got any worthwhile pictures. I gave up on the scenery, and took to photographing the other photographers, and it came as no surprise to see Roger still in shorts despite the conditions. The best photo opportunity came when both Roger and another photographer had their umbrellas turned inside out by the wind, but I was too busy laughing to get the shot.

We soon gave up and headed back to town, but I stopped to take advantage of the cycle sprint, and got a few worthwhile pictures.

Finding no one at the Car Club, I headed over to the Heritage Center, and found lots of our people enjoying a hot drink in the café. Nelson/Marlborough member Barry Doig later emerged from the museum looking very pleased with himself, saying he had taken an HDR approach to the difficult lighting conditions inside. Barry is a wizard with HDR, and I look forward to seeing his pictures.

After lunch we had another session at the Car Club, and got to see the remaining

Roger braves the inclement conditions at the Taylor Dam. We still haven't found what it would take for Roger to dig out his long trousers!



Rob Suisted, in the foreground, ready to board the River Queen.



enjoying his talk about the sort of work he does, and the sometimes huge effort that goes into getting his images. He finished his talk by showing us a video he made while accompanying four lads from the Molesworth Station, as they drove 400 cattle over the 4700 foot Robinson Saddle to Lake McRae for winter.

projected images, and heard judge Frank Green's comments — although still without results. I have to say how impressed I was with the judging, with Frank taking a realistic approach to his job. That age old situation of judges saying you should have taken two steps to the left before taking the shot, while you cringe knowing that would have dropped you off the edge of the cliff you were standing next to. Frank dealt with that with the phrase "possibly with risk to life and limb". Nice one Frank.

The evening was a combined Seddon Shield, and Marlborough Camera Club annual dinner, so our numbers were swelled. The Car Club ladies provided a truly splendid meal for us, but would not give up their secret recipe for producing the delicious pork belly that fell apart and melted in your mouth. Yum!

We finally got to find out who had won what, and were pleased to find that Marlborough had taken back the Matthewson Trophy. That's three out of the last four years, (Motuaka won it last year) so give yourselves a pat on the back. Why on earth can't we win the Nelson Marlborough Interclub?

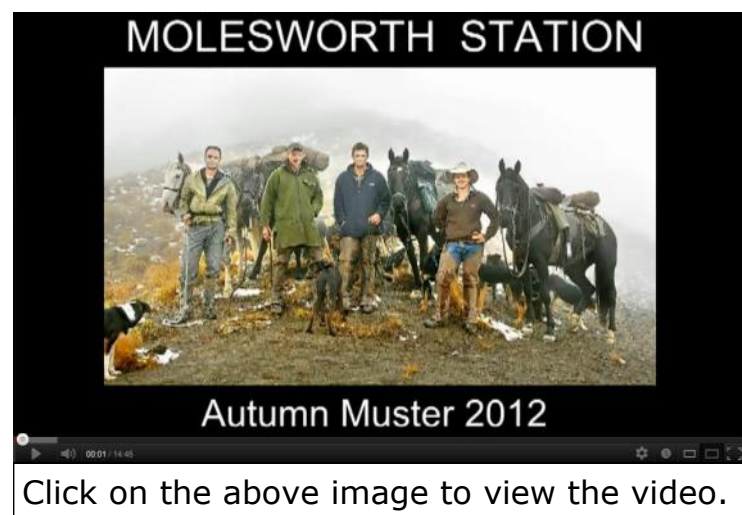
The highlight of the evening was speaker Rob Suisted, who is one of New Zealand's most successful nature photographers, and runs the [Natures Pic Images](#) website. Rob managed to take us right through to midnight with everyone staying alert, and

It was a hard ride, and with just a month before starting out, Rob had no idea how to ride a horse, but his business manager is an accomplished horsewoman, and gave him a crash course. Rob came back in one piece, so she must have done a decent job of it.

On Sunday morning the sun came out especially for those gathered at Carolyn and Gillian's house for breakfast, before boarding the River Queen for a cruise up to the Lagoons. The boarding was achieved by nudging the boat into the bank, and I had envisioned a possible accident, but luckily everyone managed to get on and off without incident.

The weekend made me proud to be a member of the Marlborough Camera Club, and all those involved should be equally proud. It will be a hard act to follow, and great practice for our hosting the National Convention in 2014.

Trevor





'Dilapidated/Decrepit'
Judged by Warren Lorimer

Prints — A Grade

Honours

- Carolyn Hope* Left Behind
- David Brinn* A Shadow of her former self
- Owen Dunne* Abandoned

Prints — B Grade

Honours

- Rod Wegener* De-pressing

Merit

- Mark Dix* Daisy said No

Projected Images — A Grade

Honours

- Robyn Carter* My Old Car
- Trevor Dennis* All Mod Cons

Merit

- David Brinn* Des Res Plus Wheels
- Owen Dunne* Beyond Repair

Projected Images — B Grade

Merit

- Joy Brehaut* The Cookhouse
- Ross Beech* Abandoned



The Cookhouse by Joy Brehaut



Abandoned Flower by Ross Beech

All Mod Cons by Trevor Dennis



My Old Car by Robyn Carter



Competition Results

And Club Member's Achievements in
National Competitions & Photographic Salons



Des Res Plus Wheels by David Brinn



Beyond Repair by Owen Dunne



'Open'

Judged by Warren Lorimer

Prints — A Grade

Merit

Gillian Clover Prepare for Take Off

Projected Images — A Grade

Honours

Carolyn Hope Game Over

Robyn Carter NZ Falcon

Merit

Liz Davidson Kaiteriteri

Carolyn Hope Tamavua Hospital, Suva

Lyndie Henry Gnetle

Projected Images — B Grade

Honours

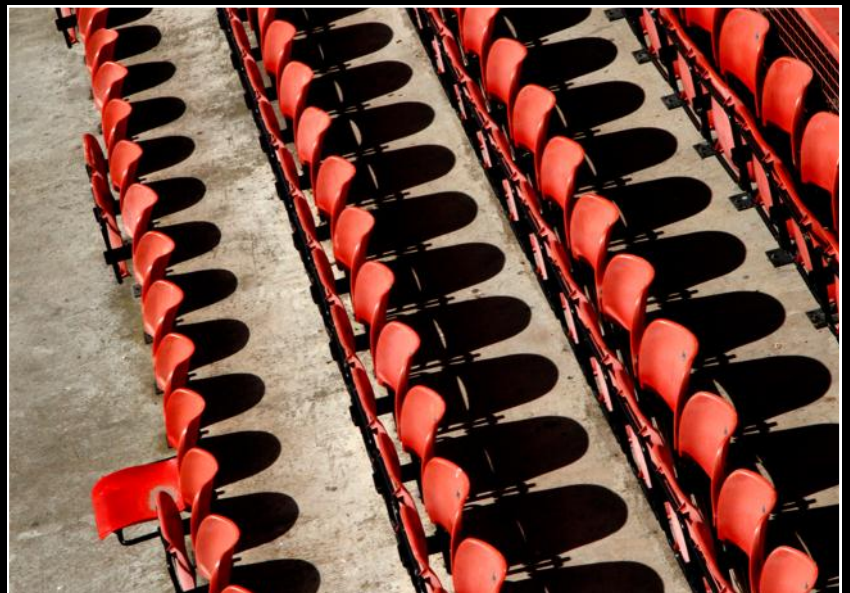
Emily Burgess Out of the Blue

Merit

Rod Wegener Centre Piece



Centre Piece by Rod Wegener



Game Over by Carolyn Hope



Out of the Blue by Emily Burgess



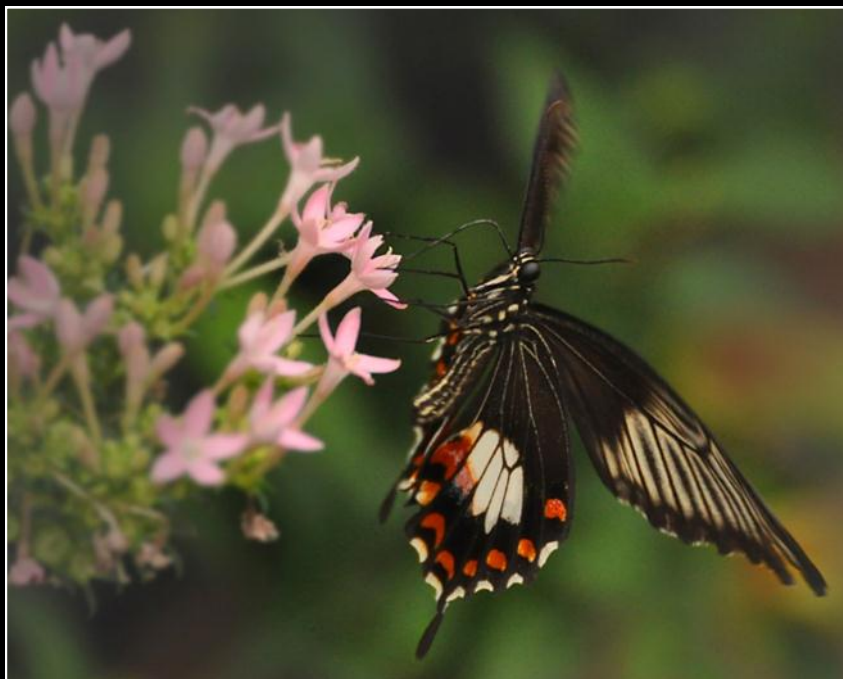
Kaiteriteri by Liz Davidson



NZ Falcon by Robyn Carter



Tamavua Hospital, Suva by Carolyn Hope



Gentle by Lyndie Henry

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 13th September 2012 at St Mary's Parish Hall, Blenheim, starting at 7.30pm. Doors open by 7pm

What's on:

Results of — Shadows/Silhouettes/Open Hand In — Natural History

7:30 Club announcements

7:40 Dr Richard Smithers

8:30 Supper

8:50 Competition results and Judge's comments

Please Stack Your Chairs before leaving

4th
THURSDAY

Know Your Camera

27th September 7.30pm at St Mary's Hall.

Do you know the secrets of the special functions hidden away in the deepest depths of your camera's menu system? Do you know how to offset exposure when using Aperture or Shutter Priority to measure exposure? (A fundamentally essential skill for getting fast and accurate exposure. Do you know the difference between one-shot and follow focus? If you want to photograph moving objects you will need to understand this.

Gavin will lead this workshop, but other people, like myself, will be available to talk about other makes of camera, (Gavin uses Sony kit).

A huge thanks to Robyn, who finished off last month's newsletter, and did most of this month's while I was away on my travels. I think you'll all agree that she has done a splendid job, and she was also snowed under sorting out the Seddon Shield competition entries, so it was a big ask of her.

They say that if you want something done, ask a busy person, and there is a lot of truth in that.

“If I saw something in my viewfinder that looked familiar to me, I would do something to shake it up.”
Garry Winogrand

Competitions — A Reminder

If you are entering our monthly competitions, then please make sure you understand the basic [rules](#). You are allowed to enter:

**A maximum of ONE print
& TWO Projected Images**

If you enter three images, then **only TWO** of them may be either the **Set Subject** or **Open**.

For **projected images**, the colour profile should be **sRGB**. (sRGB is the default setting unless you have changed it)

The pixel size of Projected images should be:

1024 pixels (maximum width)

768 pixels (maximum height)

Projected Image entries should be emailed: photos@marlboroughcameraclub.org.nz before midnight on Club night.

Liz sent out an email last month, detailing the changes to projected image competitions.

[Click here for Projected Image Competition Information](#)

Field Trips

Sunday 23rd September — **Pollard Park for Macro Photography or Flower Photography** in Blenheim. Meet at 8.30am at the railway station. [Contact Liz](#) if going on either trip.

Buddies — If you are fairly new to photography, and would like to accompany a more experienced photographer on one of our Field Trips, then we will be trying to team people up when we meet. It's a great way to learn, so please don't be shy.

Future Club Speakers

October 13th — Ian Wilshin, who made his way to New Zealand overland from the United Kingdom on a round the world trip, but liked New Zealand so much he decided to stay here.

Owen Dunne has retired from the role of "Competitions Secretary". We are very grateful to him for the sterling work he has done for the Club in this important role over the years. Thank you Owen!!

Several members of the Committee will be taking over components of the Competitions Secretary's duties.

1. As from this month, September, all digital entries are to be emailed to photos@marlboroughcameraclub.org.nz (address should not be underlined!)
2. Prints will be handed in on Club night as usual. Please ensure that they are labelled on the back of the print with Title, Grade and Set Subject or Open. Your name should only be on the outside of the package, not on the photo.
3. We are introducing a new naming system for digital files:
A Grade: AS-title.jpg (S = Set Subject. O = Open)
AO-title.jpg
B Grade: BS-title.jpg
BO-title.jpg
C Grade: CS-title.jpg
CO-title.jpg
Examples: AS-Gateway to Heaven.jpg
AO-Lake View.jpg

For **Prints** use a similar system i.e. BS-Title, or CO-title. e.g: BS - "Turning Tide"

4. You will be sent an email at the beginning of each month reminding you of the Set Subjects and any information relevant to them.
5. The Committee plans to advise you in advance the names of the judges for each competition.
6. 1 print and 2 digital images may be entered: 2 can be Set Subject and the third Open, or 1 Set Subject and 2 Open. You decide whether your one print is Set Subject or Open.
7. **NB: The Natural History competition (hand-in this September) is different: 2 prints and 2 digital images are allowed and there are no grades, i.e. Grade A, B or C should not be stated on either your print or projected image entries.** This competition is being judged this year by Rebecca Bowater, FPSNZ, of Nelson. C Graders can take part in the Natural History competition, and in all future monthly competitions. The Rules for all competitions including Natural History are on the Club Website.
8. The sizing of digital images for national salons and PSNZ has changed. However, our Club will continue to have the 1024x768px sizing for the present. Remember for portrait orientation 768px is the maximum height (not 1024).
9. sRGB is the colour space to be used for all digital images.
10. There is no change in the Points awarded for Set Subject or Open categories, i.e.
 - a. Set Subject: Honours 8, Merit 5, Acceptance 2
 - b. Open: Honours 5, Merit 3, Acceptance 1

If you have any queries re the above or C Grade (see below) email the query to info@marlboroughcameraclub.org.nz

This month marks the Introduction of C Grade

This is a new Grade and there have already been some group discussions for those interested. C Grade is open to any club member who wants to start entering competitions, or even if they have been a Club member for some time. It is entirely up to the individual to participate as C Grader, or even to drop back from B Grade.

Those wanting to start off as new members in C Grade, please contact Gavin Newell whose email address is: newellphotography@yahoo.co.nz His phone number is:

573-8913. If you are new to entering images, Gavin will be able to advise you on the presentation of digital images and prints.

Liz Davidson

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Upcoming Events



Southern Regional
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[More
Information](#)



**MARLBOROUGH
CAMERA CLUB**

Know your camera
With Gavin Newell
27th September — St Mary's @ 7.30pm

**4th
THURSDAY**



**MARLBOROUGH
CAMERA CLUB**

**Field Trip — Pollard Park
Macro/Flower Photography**
23rd September



For more news and information visit the PSNZ site
www.photography.org.nz/welcome.htm

[Events](#)
[Competitions](#)

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