



FOTONEWS

February 2009

www.manawatucamera.net.nz

From the editor.....

Apologies for this newsletter being late, but February kinda snuck up on us. Far from being a sleepy start to the year, myself, Steve and the rest of the APG have been busily organising, selecting and printing the images for the exhibition that opens in just over a month. Make plans to celebrate this event with the APG. See the notices section for more details.

How has your photography gone over the holidays. I discovered an excellent post on a blog which discussed twenty one ways to improve your photography. Rather than listing them here, go to <http://carminegrove.blogspot.com/2009/01/twenty-one-ways-to-improve-your.html> it's well worth the effort.

In response to this article and a few others I have read on the same subject I have set myself a goal to take at least one photo each and every day for a year. As a way of keeping myself accountable I have decided to post the best photo each day on my photoblog (<http://www.zigannyphotography.com/photoblog/>). The basic aim of this kind of challenge is that through regular practice you will improve. You will be more familiar with your gear and more creative with your compositions. If anyone else would like to join me in this challenge, let me know.



All the best for the coming year.

Great light everyone...

Mike

Club Meetings:

Beside the main entrance of the Lido aquatic Centre (right side)

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Manawatu Camera Club Notice Board

Meetings In February

9th of February - 7.30pm

23rd of February - 7.30pm

Meetings are held at the Lido Aquatic Centre,
Palmerston North

Website of the month

<http://carminegrove.blogspot.com/2009/01/twenty-one-ways-to-improve-your.html>

Competition Subjects for 2009

February - Local Geography.

March - Glass, Concrete Steel.

April - Street.

May - Night People.

June - Special Moments

July - Tabletop.

August - Held Together.

September - Too Close.

October - A Bugs Eye View.

Want to join our mailing list

Get a newsletter in your email box every month.
Send an email to:

mike@zigannydesign.co.nz

with the subject line "Subscribe to MCC Fotonews".

So Many Ways to Say Hello

The APG's year long project is just about ready to be shown to the public.

The exhibition will be open to the public at Te Manawa from March 21.

There will be more details in the March Newsletter.

Applied Photography Group of the Manawatu Camera Club

APG is now looking to extend its size to 15 members. If you are interested in joining contact the group by emailing photos@mcc-apg.org

WANT TO BE PART OF US????

Come along and tell us about yourself. If you are a beginner, an amateur or a pro, in photography, it doesn't matter.

If you are interested in photography...MCC is the place for you....Meet people with the same interest, learn and help each other to improve....We always welcome new members!!!!!!!!!!!!

Steve's Snapshots

Backyard Bird Photography

It's the beginning of the year and summer's here, so I thought a good way to start might be to put into use some of the techniques we have discussed over the last year to capture a different kind of image. At this time of year birds are quite active, with fledglings having been reared over the spring and early summer and now getting out learning to fend for themselves. Plants and trees are in flower and nectar and seeds are plentiful for feeding. Why not take advantage of this and capture some images with a difference ... our feathered friends, BIRDS. Planning is the key to success.

Study your backyard and take note of any vegetation close to windows that tends to attract birds. If there is no such

possibility then an attractive feeding station can be created and be even more successful for photography than trying to make do with a natural feature. Take note of what types of birds frequent your environment and what they feed on. If they are sparrows, finches, etc. the likelihood is that they prefer seeds; if they are waxeyes, tuis they will probably prefer nectar; thrushes, starlings and blackbirds tend to like worms although they may be enticed with bread.

Set up a feeding station with a likely food type, bread on the ground, honey water on a platform (for the nectar lovers, or birdseed pressed into fat suspended in a mesh bag (for the seed lovers). This will attract the birds. Now set up a natural looking perch close to the food source using a branch of a tree or suchlike (existing or erected). Make sure that this perch is in a place where the birds are likely to land before approaching the food source and that it is nearby a window where you can set up your camera and get a reasonably frame filling shot. Ensure that the sightline from the camera to the perch has an uncluttered background with no bright colourful objects in the frame (this is very important). Set the perch so the camera will get a side

on to a 45 degree head-on view of the bird on the perch. Also anticipate the light so that the bird will be well lit and with even more thought, thinking of the camera in relation to the bird's eye and sun will ensure a catchlight in the eye.

Now set your camera on a tripod and select a long focal length to ensure the subject fills the frame sufficiently. This long focal length means that if you select an open to medium aperture (approx. f8 or less), the background will be thrown out of focus, concentrating attention on the bird. Now

focus on the perch and wait for the subjects to arrive. Depending on the birds demeanour you may capture static images of them on the perch or if you can anticipate and

have a continuous shooting mode you may get action shots of them arriving or leaving the set. If the light is in the right position on a sunny day then tuis, starlings and kingfishers will exhibit a lovely iridescence in their plumage. With fantails, try to anticipate the spreading of the tail feathers.

Don't be frustrated if you can't attract the more colourful species. A sharp image of a thrush with its spotted chest in the evening light or a male sparrow with its brown "skullcap" on its head, can look stunning when the plumage is pin sharp and there is a catchlight in the eye.

Give it a go and don't be frustrated if you aren't happy with your first efforts, use them to improve your craft. With careful preparation and forward planning you will likely be amazed at what you can achieve without leaving the comfort of your home.



Steve Johnson, LPSNZ

Steve is one of the best photographers we have in our club. He has proved himself with those frequent honours at MCC monthly competitions and the honour he received from PSNZ. Steve has kindly agreed to write a column for our FotoNews, in which he would like to share his expertise with all of us.

If you have any comments or suggestions on this column, please feel free to let the editor know.

Competition Results for 2008

A Grade	Photos Entered	Points Per Entry	Points Total
Mike Gannaway	32	4.5	145
Raewyn Hilliard	33	3.2	107
Jim McIntyre	28	3.3	95
Colin Rush	20	3	60
Robert Wilson	24	2.4	58
Steve Johnson	12	4.5	54
TJ Alderson	12	3.1	38
Mary Speller	9	3.5	32
Richard Brook	11	2.7	30
Nita McIntyre	10	2.2	22
Udo von Mulert	2	5	10
Rae Nicholls	2	3	6

B Grade	Photos Entered	Points Per Entry	Points Total
Edith Rose	35	3.4	119
Frans Visser	21	2.8	60
Fraser Hill	20	3	60
Pauline McChesney	17	3.5	60
Ray Clifton	18	2.8	52
Ajay Awati	12	3.3	40
Pauline Brungar	11	3.4	38
Dominic Scott	12	3	36
Caroline Chambers	9	3.3	30
Michael Giesig	8	3.2	26
Owen Mills	7	2.2	16
Julie Collins	3	4	12
Ian Boag	4	3	12
Lesley Martin	3	3.3	10
Nicola Mohekey	3	3	9
Alan White	3	2.6	8
Maria Brown	3	2.3	7
Steven Parata	4	1.7	7
Sasha Hatten Brown	2	3	6
Martyn Peck	2	2.5	5
Margaret Buck	1	4	4
Kingsley Print	1	4	4
Iain Galloway	2	1.5	3
Robert Alltree	2	1.5	3