

From Club President.....

It may seem strange that now, in the middle of winter, we should begin to look ahead and start planning for new and interesting developments in 2008. But plan we must and the first item is to decide on the officers and committee of the club for the next twelve months. Yes, you guessed correctly – the AGM of the club will be held during the meeting of August 28th. In the last twelve months, there has been an influx of new members. Why not put yourselves forward for the committee as this is a great way to make an impact and help the club to grow? Other strange things are happening! One mystery is the disappearance of A graders! Despite the growth in membership in the last year and the overt enthusiasm of many members, including those involved in the new Applied Photographic Group, the number of entries in the monthly competition by A graders has diminished to unprecedented levels. Are the A graders getting tired and jaded, or are they embarrassed by the high standard of the new B graders who have only recently joined the club? Maybe, it is the long hours that Kiwis spend at work? Whatever has been the problem, we urge everyone in the club to raise their game and keep those images coming in. Oops – who is pointing their fingers at me? Right, I have mounted three prints for the August competition. A graders unite and we will give those B graders a run for their money

Warm regards, Richard Brook, President, MCC.

What's Happening??: August 2007

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|----------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday
13/08/2007 | 19:30 | Share your small prints on the Small Prints Board.
Enter your prints or slides in the August competition "Portrait" and "Open". |
| | 19:45 | Judging of images "Farm Animals" and "Open"; |
| | 20:45 | Colin will talk about histograms |
| | 21:00 | Chitchat time with a warm cup of coffee or tea |
| Monday
27/08/2007 | | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Agenda inside) |

August 2007

Club Meetings:

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

Contact Address:

Manawatu Camera Club
P.O. Box 373,
50 Park Road,
Palmerston North

Enquiries:

Sonia 356 1073
Colin 354 3492
Richard 357 7152

Newsletter Editor,

Ajay Awati

Monthly competition

August 2007

Subject: Portraits

This month's subject for images is Portraits.

Menu of the Month.....

Club Project

Please check your Manawatu images! Do you have any sample images related to the following topics? Soil, environment, wind turbines, forestry, pastoral, water supply, rivers/streams, waste water, irrigation, contaminated sites, or new subdivisions. Please write your name lightly on the back and bring along to club nights on 13 or 27 August for Sonia to collect. The images will be offered to our Club Sponsor for office display and result in a donation to our funds



Website of the month:

Colin suggested a very nice website.
<http://jzportraits.home.att.net/>
It tells you the secrets of portrait photography.
Have a look.

WANT TO BE PART OF US????

Come, know us and tell us about yourself

If you are a beginner, an amateur or a pro in photography, doesn't matter. If you are interested in photography...MCC is place for you....Meet people with the same interest, learn and help eachother to improve....We always welcome a new member!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Steve's Snapshots

Landscape Photography

I'm here with my camera ... now what?

Last month we discussed investigating locations for landscape photography and determining the direction of light at the best times of the day. We also considered the emotion that may be present. So now you have arrived and something has attracted you to this spot. Before getting your camera out, walk around and consider the options you have.

Is there a distracting element that could be excluded from a different position? Is there a part of the scene that would work better in isolation and thus require a telephoto lens? Does the foreground contain a desirable element so that you can obtain a classic foreground, midground, background composition? Does the position give you sidelighting or backlighting and how does this affect the scene compared to the image you visualize? Are there elements that can lead the eye in the final image, such as streams, fences, etc? (these tend to work better entering from the lower left of the image. Remember, you know why you are drawn to the scene but you must lead your viewer through the image.

Having selected your desired viewpoint, determine how you can maximize it. Do you need to stand on top of your car or a tree stump to look down on a field of wheat? Do you want to emphasize the foreground in an image that stretches to the horizon in which case a viewpoint closer to the ground will be more effective? Where possible, use a tripod to minimize camera shake but also to slow yourself down so that you have time to consider your options. Select an aperture where depth of field will be appropriate to give sharpness to the required elements of the image and consider how focal length will influence this. If you are using a telephoto to capture a distant scene then depth of field will be acceptable at reasonably wide apertures whereas trying to achieve foreground to horizon sharpness will require a wide-angle lens at a small aperture ... use the depth of field preview feature on your camera if you have it.

Now consider the lighting on the scene and whether you require the whole scene to contain detail. If so, you need to meter off a mid-tone in the scene such as grass, a grey stone, a road or suchlike, preferably not in bright light. You may need a neutral density filter to tone down a bright sky. Do you wish the foreground to be a silhouette in which case you should meter off a part of the sky? If in doubt bracket your exposures (take one about 1 1/2 stops each side of the metered exposure). If you wish to capture colour in the sky you are better to underexpose and if using a digital camera then set the colour balance to cloudy setting.

Focus on the subject if there is one, otherwise if trying to get a large depth of field then focus about 1/3 of the distance into the scene to maximize the area of sharpness.

Now WAIT until the light is right, by all means take exposures while you wait (an early grab shot is good insurance). Will the sun stream through the clouds and highlight your subject? Will the sky colours intensify (they often do after the sun has set)? Depress the shutter carefully to minimize vibration. If you have digital, take many exposures to learn from; if you don't, the same applies – just be more careful.

Enjoy your images and share the good ones proudly with others. Learn from the unsuccessful attempts but show them to no-one.

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 editor know.

Good photographers have bad images too; they just don't let anybody see them.

AGM Agenda

1. Election of officers and committee for 2007/8.
 2. Set fees for 2008.
 3. Appoint and auditor for 2007/8 year.
 4. Notices of motions:-
 - a. That the incoming Committee be given the right to alter the number of entries per person per monthly competition for 2008. (to be moved by me).
 - b. Regulations for these entries. (to be moved by Kevin).*
- *As Competitions Secretary I'd like to submit some proposed rule changes to be considered at the AGM. They are as follows: -
- 1) Slides are no longer acceptable.
 - 2) Minimum print size to be 6" x 4" (152mm x 102mm). Minimum entry size to be A4 (including matt card /foam board etc) i.e. 210mm x 297mm. Easier for people to remember!!
 - 3) 'A' Grade members must submit at least 12 prints per year to competitions and must maintain a point average for those prints of >2.50. Failure to do so will mean dropping back to 'B' grade. I believe this should help to maintain the standards and hopefully improve them. It will also address the imbalance of 'A' and 'B' Graders; 'B' Graders no doubt see that many 'A' Graders no longer feel the need to 'prove themselves' and I must admit from what I have seen – currently the 'B' Graders are easily outshining the 'A' Graders in quality and quantity.
 - 4) We abolish the rule about entry thickness to be not greater than 6mm.
 - 5) Any other business.
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