

## From Club President.....

“Less is more” is commonly considered to be wise advice in photography. But sometimes we could add that “sometimes more is better”. I am pondering the last meeting on May 28. Leigh Dome showed some of her stunning wedding photos. It seems strange to me that while we have access to bright, highly coloured images, it is hard to beat the dramatic effect of black and white – a perfect example of less is more. Leigh takes this a step further by mainly using film rather than digital and develops and enlarges her images; techniques which Leigh deliberately uses to maintain the old skills that some of us may remember and others may not have even tried. It is a slow but sensuous approach. Does this loving care show in the final print? It would be nice to think so and there is room to argue that it is indeed the case. With my limited skills with Photoshop, I know that I cannot achieve the delicate shades in skin tones and other details which Leigh manages with film. Thu Trinh then showed the ten prints she had submitted for the award of Licentiate of the Photographic Society of New Zealand. She explained how she used the theme of life from beginnings through to endings. With the data-show, she went back over each image showing the original image and explaining how she tinkered with it to get the final result. For the most part, it was a matter of less is more as she cropped the image, sometimes quite severely and sometimes removed the colour to give a more dramatic black and white picture. On at least one of the images, however, she added, or re-added some colour to liven an image that to her looked a little flat – “more is sometimes better”. It was a very enjoyable and instructive talk. In the near future, we look forward to Udo and Binh showing and explaining their images for PSNZ honours. I wish you all the best with your monotone/black and white entries to the June competition. Warm regards, Richard Brook, President, MCC.

## What's Happening??: June 2007

Monday 11/06/2007	19:30	Share your small prints on the Small Prints Board. Enter your prints or slides in the May competition “Monochrome and B/W” and “Open”.
	19:45	Judging of images by Gary Rodgers “Sea and Landscape” and “Open”;
	20:45	DVD of Fiordland introduced by Sonia.
	21:00	Chitchat time with a warm cup of coffee or tea
Monday 25/06/2007	19:30	Udo will give a talk on free software (Picasa2) followed by a discussion on histograms presented by Colin
	20:00	BinhTrinh will present his images which were part of his submission to PSNZ licentiate
	21:00	Chitchat time with a warm cup of coffee or tea

### June 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:

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#### Newsletter Editor,

Ajay Awati

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**Monthly competition**

**June 2007**

**Subject: Monochrome and B/W**

This month's subject for images is monochrome and B/W. I know every camera enthusiast must have tried at least once to make a B/W picture...so no excuses!!!!

**Menu of the Month.....**

*Note: The results of the monthly competitions will be sent as a separate attachment. Instead there will be a informative column in the Newsletter.*

**By the way...Quote of the month**

**"If you look like your passport photo, you are too sick to travel...."**

**So piece of advice...smile!!!!**



**Website of the month:**

Kevin suggested a very nice website.  
[www.betterphoto.com](http://www.betterphoto.com)  
It has a collection of work from several photographers. Have a look.

**WANT TO BE PART OF US????**

***Come, know us and tell us about yourself***

**I**f 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 each other to improve....We always welcome a new member!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## Steve's Snapshots

### Night Photography

Although our nighttime photography competition is past I thought it might be a good subject to talk about, given that winter is now upon us and there are probably more opportunities for night-time and low light photography than usual.

Bearing in mind that it is winter and you want to take your time and create a good image, then you will need to dress warmly. If you are going to be in a situation where there is not a lot of light make sure that you can be well seen (wear reflective strips) so that your safety is not compromised. The gear you will need will include:

- a sturdy tripod,
- a camera that allows long shutter speeds (preferably 0.5 to 30 seconds) and that these are available in the modes that you will use. If you are new to night photography a digital camera is best so you can instantly review your images.
- a cable release / remote controller or a self-timer button

As with normal (daylight) photography, light is still the most important element so the first thing to do is to find yourself a suitable subject and explore the options available to make the most of the composition. Urban scenes with colourful lighting, are easy to find in Palmerston North, so find somewhere that appeals and walk around to find the best viewpoint. You may want to use lines of streetlights to lead the eye into the image or you may like more subtle lighting such as a floodlit façade of a church that stands on its own.

Having found the optimum viewpoint, set up your tripod and camera and begin to compose the image in the viewfinder. Try to balance the lighting so that there are no large areas of black but also so that the light is not all concentrated in one area. Wet nights can be a bit of a bonus in that a wet foreground will show reflections of light from the mid-/background and thus balance the image somewhat. Finally before clicking the shutter, check around the image for any distracting elements, especially bright lights facing toward the camera at the edges of the image. If there are distracting elements, they may be eliminated by moving the camera slightly so they are not included, or shifting position so they are covered by a foreground element.

Using the cable release or self-timer option to eliminate camera shake, click the shutter and take the image at the shutter and aperture settings suggested by the camera. Check the image in the LCD display and if too bright then change to manual mode and use a faster shutter speed at the same aperture. If too dark use a longer shutter speed, remembering to keep the aperture the same again so that the exposure is varied.

A good tip when taking images of urban landscapes at night is to arrive at your chosen location at close to sunset. There is still enough light in the sky to walk around and find the best viewpoint. Street and building lights will turn just after sunset. The optimum time to shoot is when the colour left in the sky is just balanced by the artificial lighting. Your final image will have some detail in the sky instead of being totally black resulting in a more balanced composition.

So what are you waiting for: dress warm, and venture into a whole new world of photography .... you'll be surprised at what you find and proud of what you can achieve.

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.

## ***MCC finds a place in Cyber World!!***

**T**hanks to the efforts of Udo Von Mulert, the MCC website has now been launched. Members and interested others are encouraged to visit the website [www.manawatucamera.net.nz](http://www.manawatucamera.net.nz)

The website has concise information regarding MCC membership, activities and monthly competition rules. You can also download past and recent issues of the Newsletter. The website also offers the possibility for MCC members to upload and showcase their images, leading to greater exposure for their work. How to do that??? Visit the website and go to the section "Our Work", or contact Udo Von Mulert.

Please, find some time and present your work on website. This is an opportunity for the right exposure to your own work.

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If you wish to join our mailing list for the newsletter, please send an email to [ajayawati@yahoo.com](mailto:ajayawati@yahoo.com). Please make sure that the subject line states "Subscribe to MCC Fotonews".

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