Camera Club News

Letter From The Vice President

The winter evenings are getting colder and darker which is just in time for the long exposure competition! The next workshop will be designed to help those that haven't dabbled in the long exposure area before. We will meet up as usual and have a short lesson on long exposure and then we will all go out into the night and get some shots. You will need a tripod and some warm clothes and maybe a torch so you can see your camera settings.

My monthly photos below show the same shot but at different shutter speeds. Top: 1/100sec. Lower: 13sec.

Regards Nik

Editors Monthly Photo

Club Information

To learn more about photography, to share your skills and experience or simply to enjoy photographic time with like-minded people, come to a meeting or contact us at

info@wairarapacameraclub.org

Meetings start at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of every month from February to November, at the Education Centre next to Parkview Motors in Dixon Street, Masterton.

WCC, PO BOX 502, Masterton

www.wairarapacameraclub.org

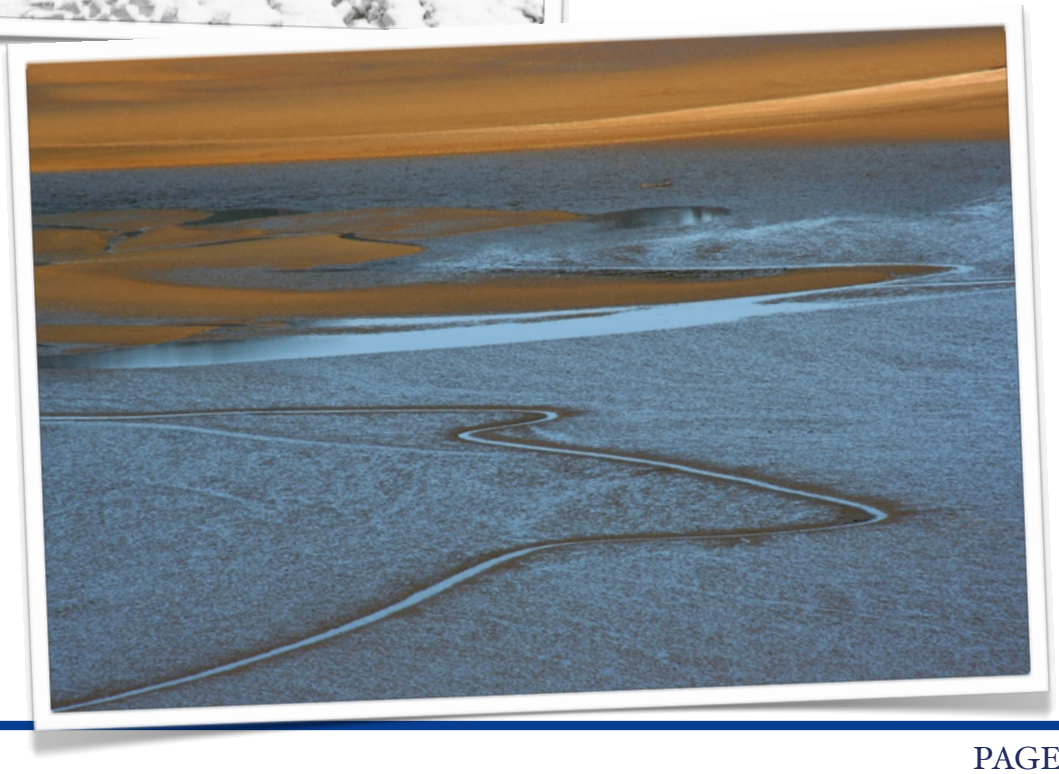
All questions, submissions and general information regarding this newsletter should be made to the Editor, Nik Player.

nikplayer@me.com

Competition: Landscape

WINNING PRINT
"Crown Range Tracks" By Tim McMahon

WINNING PROJECTED IMAGE
"Blue & Gold" By Glenys Robertson



Competition Results

Prints

Ken Melvill-Thomson	Palliser Bay #1	M	
Ken Melvill-Thomson	Palliser Bay#2	HC	
Barry Baxter	Mt Aspiring	HC	
Barry Baxter	Kitchener Valley	M	
Martin Connelly	Evening	M	
Martin Connelly	Morning	HC	
Rita Middleton	After The Storm	HC	
Rita Middleton	Morning Mist	M	
Sid Hayes	Rolling In From The East	HC	
Sid Hayes	Golden Glow	HC	
Richard Lambert	Arthur's Pass	HC	
Richard Lambert	Evening Tide	M	
Les Wong	Beyond The Cloud	M	
Les Wong	Reflection	HC	
Tim McMahon	Crown Range Tracks	H	Winner
Tim McMahon	Omakau Evening	H	
Kay Halligan	Mount Maunganui	M	
Kay Halligan	Lake Ferry	HC	
Lorraine Garrity	Winter Paradise	M	
Lorraine Garrity	Coastal Rocks	M	

A Accepted 1 Point | C Commended 2 Points | M Merit 3 Points | HC Highly Commended 4 Points | H Honours 5 Points

Competition Results

Projected Images

Kevin Morgan	Buller Gorge	C	
Kevin Morgan	Lower Hutt	HC	
Glenys Robertson	Mangahuka Morning	M	
Glenys Robertson	Blue and Gold	H	Winner
Kay Halligan	Reflections, Lake Rotokare	M	
Kay Halligan	Taranaki Falls	M	
Jim Graydon	Caves For Tourists	M	
Jim Graydon	Yunnan Provence, China	M	
Bruce Levy	A Frosted Morning	M	
Bruce Levy	Misted Lake	M	
Sid Hayes	East From Taueru	M	
Nik Player	Rays	HC	
Nik Player	White Line	M	
Lorraine Garrity	Firey Clouds	C	
Lorraine Garrity	Golden Glow at Lake Ferry	HC	
Charmaine Reay	Does My Bum Look Big in This?	A	
Charmaine Reay	End Of The Line	HC	
Alan Portman	Morning Mist	M	
Alan Portman	Stormy Light	HC	
Tim McMahon	Galloping Dog, Deserted Beach	HC	
Tim McMahon	Road To Somewhere Cold	HC	
Barry Baxter	Kapiti Island	M	
Barry Baxter	Lake Castalia	HC	
Miles Reay	South Coast	C	
Miles Reay	While The Sun Shines	M	
Carolyn Smith	Moored On Waiheke	M	
Carolyn Smith	Windfarm	HC	
Sarah Hardie	Grand Canyon Sunrise	M	
Sarah Hardie	Run Forrest Run	HC	
Franz Marwitz	Kapiti Coast	HC	
Franz Marwitz	Lake Wairarapa	M	

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Have you ever wondered whether...
....To JPEG or not

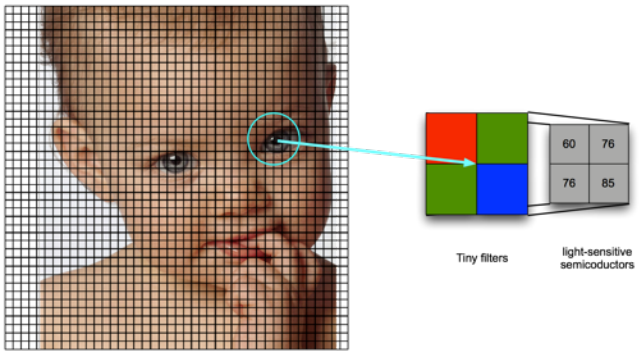
The way digital cameras capture and store images is digitally! That is, using numbers.

Any colour of light is made up of a certain proportion of red, green, and blue components. A digital sensor uses tiny filters and semiconductors to analyse the light at each point in the image and work out how much red, green, and/or blue is present, and converts each amount to a number. The digital camera represents each point in the picture by a number triple representing the amount of red, green, and blue

A tiny pixel on the image of the baby's eye might be represented by the triple of numbers (60, 76, 83).

The whole picture consists of millions of such triples.

The complete collection of triples is called a RAW image file. The numbers represent exactly how the particular sensor analyses light.



The camera's sensor consists of a huge array of tiny light-sensitive semiconductors each covered by a tiny red, green, or blue filter that allows only light of one colour to pass through.

Some cameras save the RAW files and and allow you to reconstruct the picture in your computer using RAW conversion software. Other cameras convert the RAW file internally and store images in JPEG format. JPEG is a compressed format. The process of converting RAW data into JPEG format tries to to save space by eliminating 'redundant' data in the image file. When an image is saved in JPEG, information is thrown away. Irretrievably.

JPEG does a pretty good job at the very first conversion in the camera, but every time you subsequently save a JPEG file it automatically looks for data to throw away to make the file smaller. More information is lost.

If you only ever want to look at a small version of the image the lost information probably won't matter. But if you later want to use a previously compressed JPEG image to print – say an 8" x 10"photograph – there may be insufficient be enough information left to tell the printer what to put at each ink dot on the page.

The photo on the right demonstrates the pixelation and colour issues introduced by successive JPEG saves

If you try to make such an image bigger, using computer software to 'scale up' the size of the picture, your computer will be guessing what to put in the gaps where there is no original data. If the compression has been only slight, the software can make a pretty intelligent guess about how to fill in gaps, based on the content of surrounding pixels. However, if the amount of up-sizing required is significant the results can be unpredictable at best, horrible at worst!

If your camera saves only JPEG files, you are best to convert them to TIFF files *immediately* after uploading from your camera. TIFF files can be edited and printed but they do not automatically compress further each time you save. Uploading, and storing your RAW files is even better if you have that option. (There was an article about shooting in RAW in newsletter #3, Dec '09)

For some applications, such as the club's Projected Image competition, or posting to a web site, you need to use a small JPEG. Don't convert your original photo to JPEG for that purpose. Make a copy and convert that.

"Have you ever Wondered?" is a little series of articles by Tim McMahon that go a little behind some of the ideas and rules we learn as photographers, to explain why or how those rules came to be.

If there is anything about making digital photographs that you've wondered about, email me at tim.mcmahon@me.com and if I can find the explanation I'll try to include it in a future newsletter.