

# Camera Club News

## Letter From The President

By the time you see this, the images for our exhibition, *Run of the Ruamahanga*, will have been chosen. The job of preparing the images for printing and hanging, is well underway.

Thanks to everyone who made submissions. We had 543 photos from which to choose just 25 to represent our theme. Among them are some stunning images! Well done to all, and congratulations to all the members who will have images in the exhibition.

The exhibition runs for a month from Saturday August 4, in Aratoi in Masterton.

From the club's perspective, the point of the exhibition is to showcase members' work. We hope, of course, that the exhibition may stimulate other photographers in the region to become interested in the club, and want to join.

Encourage, cajole, and/or badger all of your friends and acquaintances, who have any interest in photography, to go and see the exhibition. The more who see it, the more may join us!

Remember to keep the evening of Friday 3 August free for the opening of the exhibition. We'll send more details closer to the event.

Remember too, that our next meeting, August 7, is our AGM. A camera club is only as good as the enthusiasm and talent of its members, and the quality of its organisation. Come along and have your say on the election of the next club committee.

Until then, happy shooting!

Regards *Nik*

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.wairarapacameraclub.org)

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

[nikplayer@me.com](mailto:nikplayer@me.com)



## Competition: Landscape, Seascape, Skyscape

### **WINNING PROJECTED IMAGE**

*"Mt Ngauruhoe Piercing the Sky" by Richard Lambert.*



### **WINNING PRINT**

*"Misty Morning Tree" by Tim McMabon.*

## Prints

Barry Baxter	Emerald Lake	A	
Barry Baxter	Mt Ruapehu	A	
Glenys Robertson	The Forest Floor	C	
Richard Lambert	A Violent Past	M	
Richard Lambert	Early Snow	M	
Carolyn Smith	Wanaka	M	
Carolyn Smith	Okains Bay, Banks Peninsula	M	
Tim McMahon	Misty Morning Tree	H	Winner
Tim McMahon	Reaching to the Fingers of Light	HC	
Kay Halligan	Rottneest Island, Western Australia	M	
Les Wong	Morning Sky	C	
Les Wong	Reflection, Henley Lake	C	
Sid Hayes	No Fishing Today	HC	
Sid Hayes	Looking Back	M	
Karen McCosh	Remarkables	C	
Karen McCosh	Haurangi Reflections	C	
Franz Marwitz	Mt Taranaki, taken from top of Bruce	M	
Franz Marwitz	Confluence of Ruamahunga & Waiohine	M	

## Projected Images

Kevin Morgan	Cape Reinga	C	
Glenys Robertson	Blue Veins Feed the Land	M	
Glenys Robertson	Silver Waves	M	
Kay Halligan	Ruamahunga River – Morrisons Bush	C	
Kay Halligan	Sun Rise	HC	
Bruce Levy	Gathering Storm	A	
Bruce Levy	Re-enactment	M	
Sid Hayes	Bird's Eye View	M	
Sid Hayes	Tongariro Crossing	A	
Nik Player	Cotton Sea	M	
Nik Player	Remarkable Remarkables	C	
<i>more projected images .....</i>			

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

**Projected Images, cont'd**

Richard Lambert	Ngauruhoe Piercing the Cloud	HC	Winner
Richard Lambert	Solitude	C	
Tim McMahon	Sunrise Shapes & Shadows	M	
Tim McMahon	Wet Wire Tree	M	
Barry Baxter	French Ridge	M	
Barry Baxter	Siberia Valley	C	
Martin Connelly	Clouds	A	
Martin Connelly	Dusk on Martinborough Hills	C	
Carolyn Smith	Ngawi	C	
Carolyn Smith	Winter Wonderland	M	
Franz Marwitz	Matai Beach Northland	HC	
Franz Marwitz	Sky Way	M	
Jazell Wilkie	Dawn's Rays	C	
Jazell Wilkie	Distances	A	

**Have You Ever Wondered About ?****Sources of Inspiration and Help**

At least part of the reason people join a photographic club is to learn how to become a better photographer. I know I did. Clubs help because they provide opportunities to share ideas, techniques. There's usually someone who has the answer to "How do you...?" "What should I do when ...?"

The famous French photographer, Henri Cartier-Bresson, apparently told someone "Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst." His implication was that one learns while making the 1st 10,000 and gets better as a result.

That's all very well, but without feedback and commentary, many of us would stare at the 10,000 photographs and simply wonder why they didn't work. That's why informed critique at our competitions, from judges who clearly set out what they're looking for and why they're looking for it, is helpful. Like what they have to say, or not, if the judge causes us to think harder about what makes a photograph work, and what distracts or confuses, then hearing what he or she has to say is valuable. While Cartier-Bresson became his own worst critic, he undoubtedly learned from others' critiques of his first 10,000.

It is worthwhile considering that, when Monsieur Cartier-Bresson was learning from his 10,000 shots, he did not have the advantage of a data file that could tell him what camera settings he used for each shot. I conclude that either he had a prodigious memory, or he spent a lot of time writing in a notebook in between setting his aperture, shutter speed and focus manually!

Nowadays, as well as from the automatic features of cameras and the EXIF files that record our settings for each photograph, we have other resources at hand, some of which weren't available to the venerable Henri. The advent of digital photography, and the consequent wider uptake of photography, has



promoted a flood of books, and internet resources, which provide inspiration, and helpful hints and examples to supplement or clarify your questions to fellow club members and your reflections on judges' criticisms.

Two resources I've found very useful for reinforcing fundamental ideas are:

*Creative Landscape Photography* by Mike Langford and Jackie Rankin, published by the Queenstown Centre for Creative Photography, 2011.

and

*PhotographyBB Online*, published in Canada by a chap called Dave Seeram.

*Creative Landscape Photography* is an A5-sized wire-bound book that would be easy enough to tuck into your camera bag. The book is not only about shooting landscapes: it deals with all aspects of camera craft.

The main part of the book, called *In the Field*, is based around 29 photographs taken by Jackie or Mike. Each photo is helpfully laid out on a 2 page opening spread with a description of what they were trying to achieve. The most helpful feature of these spreads, are pictures of the histogram and the exact camera settings for each photograph, together with the photographer's reason for choosing those settings for the photograph.

At the front and back of the book are some general helpful tips. For example, under the heading *The Creative Idea*, we find two pictures of the same piece of running water: one a warm silky image, the other a cold, spiky, detailed view. The writers explain how to make water look silky by using a slow shutter speed, and how it is necessary to shut down the aperture and/or use a filter so as not to over-expose while the shutter is open. They show how, on the other hand, using a very fast shutter speed, with the aperture correspondingly wide open, enables the photographer to freeze the motion of the water giving an impression of power and cold.

A lot of these concepts may not be new discoveries for many photographers but QCCPs descriptions of how to exploit them creatively are very good. Even experienced photographers would do well to memorise Mike's opening line "Turn on the brain before you turn on the camera."

*Creative Landscape Photography* can be bought online from Jackie at [www.qccp.co.nz](http://www.qccp.co.nz) or at many bookstores for \$40.

*PhotographyBB Online* is an 'ezine' managed by a chap called Dave Seeram, in Canada. An 'ezine' is a magazine that can be read online or saved as a PDF and read at your leisure. It consists of articles on aspects of photography by both regular, and guest, contributors. One of the regular contributors is Auckland, Eva Polak, who is one of the senior members of the PSNZ.

*PhotographyBB Online* caters for those who are in earlier stages of learning photography as well as people who think themselves more advanced. As well as good illustrative photographs it's full of practical advice, such as this from the latest edition (which could be helpful come November)

*When shooting fireworks, you'll achieve great results if you shoot with a fairly long exposure time. If you are using a point and shoot digital camera, most of them have a dedicated "fireworks" mode or setting. If you are shooting with a digital SLR, you'll want to use anywhere from a 1 to 5 second exposure, shooting at an aperture of f11 or even f16. You also want to eliminate any noise in your images, so I would recommend keeping your ISO setting down to 100 or 200 maximum. To achieve the best results, change your camera's mode to MANUAL so that you can set these exposures and shutter speeds manually. One of the best tools to have with you (in addition to your tripod) would be a shutter release cable. This way you can set up the initial framing of your scene, then control the shutter with the cable release, allowing you to keep your eyes on those beautiful fireworks. Also, a shutter release cable is especially useful if you would like to experiment with your camera's bulb mode to capture even longer exposures.*



*PhotographyBB Online* is free. You have to sign up, [www.photographybb.com/magazine](http://www.photographybb.com/magazine) but then you're notified, roughly monthly, that a new edition is available. You can download all earlier editions as soon as you sign up.

Two of my favourite *inspirational* resources at the moment are another book and yet another online resource.

Michael Frye is one of the regular contributors to *PhotographyBB Online*, but he has written a book called *Digital Landscape Photography: In the footsteps of Ansel Adams and the Great Masters*. This book was published by Focal Press in 2010.

Frye's book is divided into three main sections *Technical Foundations* (including factors influencing image quality, controlling sharpness, use of filters, white balance, and exposure); *Light Composition and the Art of Seeing*; and *The Digital Darkroom: Editing, Processing and Printing*.

Frye doesn't muck around. He is an unashamed apologist for Ansel Adams' zone system of exposure. Consequently much of the compositional section is about exposure, contrast, and depth of field, and how these are managed both in-camera, and in post processing. Some of the stuff gets heavy quite quickly. But the text is laced with helpful, mind-focussing quotes from early photographic masters such as Adams and Edward Weston. I particularly like this one:

*Technique, while important, is only a first step. Mastering exposure and depth of field will help convey your idea, but you have to have an idea to convey in the first place. As Ansel Adams said, "There's nothing worse than a sharp image of a fuzzy concept."*

Along with the hard ideas the book is full of stunning illustrative images with easy-to-digest commentary. This one accompanies a photograph of a beautiful orange/yellow flower head that's partly obscured and surrounded by indistinct out-of-focus purple shapes:

*I deliberately put out-of-focus blossoms between the camera and the main subject to create washes of colour. The focus point was vital — if only one thing is sharp, it has to be interesting enough to hold the viewer's attention.*

His digital processing chapters assume everyone uses Photoshop, but I can forgive him that! The ideas about what he's trying to do are the important part, and they can be realised in any software.

His commentary, in the very first chapter, on the advantages of shooting in RAW versus JPEG, is alone worth the price. This is a very good book. I got mine from Amazon but it may be available in bookstores locally.

*f11*, another online magazine, is truly a source of inspiration. When my email pings to say it has arrived, I always immediately stop what I'm doing to flick through it. Of course I get it for the articles, but really I salivate over the images first.

*f11* was started by New Zealander Tim Steele, formerly an editor of DPhoto. Like *PhotographyBB*, *f11* is built on articles by regular and guest contributors. The regulars are all well known NZ commercial and fine-art photographers (and one Australian).

Unlike *PhotographyBB* and many other online photography resources, this magazine is not about photographic technicalities. *f11* celebrates very good photography and very good photographers. Articles feature images from a featured photographer's portfolio along with interviews and/or commentary by the photographer.

The production values in this magazine are amazingly high and the selected images are simply eye-watering. It too, can be read online, or downloaded as a PDF.

Quoting from the blurb, the latest edition, Issue 12 :: July 2012 :

*Features two fine art black and white photographers: Doc Ross from Christchurch, New Zealand; and Hengki Koentjoro from Jakarta, Indonesia. We're delighted to display a selection of wonderful images from the 2012 Canon/AIPP Australian Professional Photography Awards. Our cover image, from those awards, is by Master Photographer Geoff Comfort. This is the first issue in our second year of publication.*

Once again, you need to sign up to get the magazine, and it is free. Sign up at [www.f11magazine.com](http://www.f11magazine.com)

Some people worry about signing up to 'free' things on the internet, and it's good to be cautious. However, neither of these two sites require credit card numbers or anything scary like that, just a name and an email address. And, no, I've never received spam or advertising material from either.

There are, of course, many more books and resources about photography out there. If you'd like to share your enthusiasm for your favourite, please button-hole me at a club meeting or email me at [tim.mcmahon@me.com](mailto:tim.mcmahon@me.com) . More sharing knowledge and ideas will help our club members become better photographers.

After all, that's what we're in it for!

Tim

### Next Month

Our August Meeting is traditionally important for two events:

1. The annual Wairarapa Theme competition. Images, either print or projected, can be of anything or anyone identifiably to do with the Wairarapa. Judging is done by showing of hands at the meeting, and the best images are presented to the Wairarapa Licensing Trust which selects an image to be hung in its premises. The Trust makes a significant annual donation to the club in return for its selected photography.
2. The second reason the August meeting is important, is that it is the club's AGM. At this meeting the club elects its committee and leadership for the coming year. Members consider the club's financial statement and gets to vote on the subscription for the next year, and so on. If you'd like to see something different next year, or endorse more of the same, make sure you're there to have your say.  
A good turn out at the AGM is important to ensure the good running of the club.