

Camera Club News

Letter From The President

Hello All

Spring is on us. The weather is changing; the garden is full of tuis and weeds; and the cold rains have (mostly) gone. This is a great time of the year for photography. Given help from the transition to daylight saving, you don't yet have to get up too early up to catch the beautiful photography light of the morning 'golden hour'.

Thanks to those who responded to the questionnaire about next year's syllabus. The Committee has looked at the feedback, and discussed a proposal for the syllabus. See *Committee News* later in the newsletter and watch this space!

I am unsure whether all members are getting all of our *emails*. To minimise costs, we have decided that email and the web are to be our main means of communication. If you haven't been getting emails, can you please check your spam traps and make sure that our emails are not blocked.

We would like to grow the membership. There are good photographers, and people who want to become better photographers, out there in the Wairarapa community. It would be good to get more of those people involved with the club. A larger club may provide more diversity of knowledge, skills and interests; greater opportunity for a wider range of activities; and more challenge and inspiration for our photography. In the committee news you'll see some of our thinking about new members.

Please set aside the evening of Wednesday 21 November (from 7pm) for our annual end-of-year 'do'. This function is both a good social event and our annual awards ceremony. The club's 'Oscars'!

It appears that some members have been unaware that, at the end of each year, presentations are made to competition winners in a number of categories. The supreme award, for 'Club Champion', is decided on best average points-per-entry over a minimum number of entries for the year. Cups and certificates are presented at the end-of-year 'do'. I feel sure there'll be a new champion this year. Be there!

Tim

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



Competition: Open

Once again there was a very high standard of entries for our open competition. Our judge, Vicky Pilling, commented on the difficulty of decision making given the overall standard, and given that, in an 'open' competition, entries may be as different as chalk and cheese and quite difficult to compare.

So grateful thanks to Vicky for her adjudication and for her perceptive comments on the strengths of the good images and her indications about what might have improved others.

Congratulations to Kay and to Franz on their winning shots. Franz's feat of gaining *two* Honours in the prints, is worthy of special mention. It doesn't happen often!

Prints



WINNING PRINT

Late Afternoon on the Beach, by Franz Marwitz

Glenys Robertson	Let The Journey Begin	M	
Glenys Robertson	The Forest Floor	M	
Kay Halligan	Robin (Sth Island)	HC	
Kay Halligan	Texture	M	
Sid Hayes	The Rabbiters Hut 1926	HC	
Sid Hayes	And Then The Snow Came	HC	
Tim McMahon	The Visitor	HC	
Tim McMahon	Yeah, Well...	HC	
Barry Baxter	A Land Uplifted High	M	
Barry Baxter	The Nuggets	C	
Carolyn Smith	Making a Splash	M	
Carolyn Smith	The Coach	M	
Franz Marwitz	Late Afternoon On the Beach	H	Winner
Franz Marwitz	Small Stream Around Mt Holdsworth	H	

Projected

Image

WINNING PROJECTED IMAGE:

Feed Me
by Kay Halligan



Glenys Robertson	Fluffy Duck Ripples	C	
Glenys Robertson	Standing in the Picture	C	
Kay Halligan	Caterpillar	C	
Kay Halligan	Feed Me	H	Winner
John Rhodes	Tararua 1	HC	
John Rhodes	Tararua 2	M	
Bruce Levy	A Slight Adjustment	M	
Bruce Levy	Through a Glass Darkly	A	
Nik Player	A Real Fairy	HC	
Nik Player	Opera Noir	HC	
Barry Baxter	Caitlins Coast	C	
Barry Baxter	Into The Blue	C	
Carolyn Smith	Pigeons Hole	C	
Carolyn Smith	T-6 Havard	C	
Franz Marwitz	Full Steam Ahead	HC	
Franz Marwitz	Maddie Just Loves The River	HC	
Mike Longworth	Graeme	A	
Mike Longworth	Ruamahanga	HC	
Jazell Wilkie	ARRRGH....	C	
Jazell Wilkie	Concentration	C	

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

Committee News

The new committee met for the first time last week.

We decided to allocate some special responsibilities. Sid Hayes has agreed to take responsibility for external communications and publicity. Tim McMahon will continue with the newsletter. Martin Connelly is taking responsibility for liaison with judges. Nik Player is going to revamp and maintain the website, and Bruce Levy has agreed to take responsibility for new members.

New member liaison is very important if the club is to grow. Visitors to club meetings should experience the friendliness and helpfulness that our club is supposed to be about. We trust that all the 'old hands' will go out of their way to make new members, and prospective new members, welcome. Don't be surprised if Bruce asks you to buddy up with someone new!

As part of our syllabus for 2013 we propose to hold both member-only and public workshops on aspects of digital photography and camera craft. We are also investigating the possibility of sponsoring/organising a public photographic competition as a way of linking up with more talented photographers in the local community. The main objective for the public workshops and competition is to provide opportunities for more Wairarapa-based photography enthusiasts to know about the club and what we do. Watch this space!

We made some progress on the syllabus for 2013. On the basis of the feedback to Tim's questionnaire about the syllabus, we have decided to reduce the externally judged competitions by one and introduce at least one spot for a guest speaker. Some day trips are back on the agenda, as well as at least one weekend trip. Opinion was divided on inter-club activities, so that will go 'on the back burner' in the meantime. Feedback on meeting frequency was confusing, to say the least. Most people wanted as many competitions as now, and plenty of opportunities for workshops, and external speakers, but wanted no more than one meeting per month. We are working with the relevant authorities to double the number of months in a year! Seriously, details of the syllabus are being finalised and we should be able to announce next year's activities by the end-of-year function.

There was some discussion and agreements about the club's website. It was agreed that the front page needs to be regularly refreshed with news and/or articles, and that the website should be used to maintain a gallery of the best images that come up each month. Currently only those able to attend the monthly meetings see the images. While the Honours and Highly Commended prints are hung for a month in the Masterton Medical Centre, the others, and the projected images, disappear as if into a black hole. As a photography club we should be making our photographs accessible. The idea will be that our website could serve as an archive of the best of club members' work growing month by month. Nik has the work on the website underway.

Competition Judging

The last committee meeting looked briefly at Judging Criteria. Martin and Tim noted that many new members are unaware of the directions that judges have been given on what to look for. Nik noted that judges are often quite inconsistent. Additionally, everyone agreed that the current H,HC,M,C,A grades are confusing, at the least. As Martin noted, every image is accepted in our club, so do we need to say it? Others said they could never remember whether M was better than C or the other way around. And so on!

For these reasons we have begun to think about a new judging rubric to be given to judges. We would also make sure that each member also has it, so that everyone will know what judges are (or should be) looking for and, by implication, what makes a good photograph.

The rubric we are looking at is based on our current judging criteria, the ideas presented to us last year by Bruce Girdwood, and the framework developed by PSNZ (see *A Judging Philosophy* on www.photography.org.nz/resources). Behind the proposed change is the idea that, while judges will

still look primarily for the overall impact of the idea or emotion the image is conveying, they will have a framework that will help photographers see why their images have, or have not, been adjudged as worthy of 'Honours'.

The current proposal looks a bit like this:

CRITERIA		to be scored out of				Descriptions that may be appropriate for <u>The best examples</u>
Overall Impact The degree to which the idea, emotion or remarkable features in the image grab the viewer's attention.		0	1	2	3	<i>"Would like to hang on wall"</i> <i>"Really makes you think"</i> <i>"Dramatic"</i> <i>"I keep going back for another look"</i> <i>"Deeply emotive"</i>
Composition Use of line, shape, colour, contrast, texture, main image placement, point of view, and/or other compositional devices to enhance the impact of the image		0	1	2	3	<i>"Clever emphasis of subject"</i> <i>"Use of line and shape enhances subject/idea"</i> <i>"Use of colour and contrast enhances subject/idea"</i> <i>"Placement of subject enhances idea"</i>
Subject The degree to which the choice of subject is appropriate for the theme of the competition and/or the idea/emotion that the image tries to express		0	1	2	3	<i>"Appropriate for theme"</i> <i>"Idea is clear"</i> <i>"Idea/Choice of subject clever/creative/original"</i>
Technical Exposure is good; elements that should be sharp and in focus, are sharp and in focus; any post-processing has been appropriate and enhances the image, rather than distracts.		0	1	2		<i>"Appropriate for idea"</i> <i>"Enhances subject/idea"</i> <i>"Great choice of shutter speed"</i> <i>"Excellent use of depth of field"</i>
Presentation The degree to which matting and/or mounting is acceptable or not.		0	1			<i>"Acceptable"</i>

If judges are able to use a rubric like this, members will be able to see immediately why judges have reached the decisions they have. Hopefully, more specific feedback such as this will help members further develop the knowledge and skills to make superior photographs.

In a competition, the scores would be totalled and the winning image would be the one that gets the most total points 'out of 12'. We are unsure whether there is any need to turn the aggregated points into an 'Honours', Highly Commended' etc grade system. Our annual champion could still be found on the highest-average-score-per-entry basis as now, but the calculation for the Competition Secretary would be easier: no need to convert grades into numbers!

Notice that, as the proposal stands, the criteria are heavily weighted to the aesthetic, rather than technical, aspects of photography.

If you have any reactions to this suggestion, or other ideas about judging criteria, my email box (tim.mcmahon@me.com) awaits your thoughts!

Camera Talk

Part of your annual subscription is paid as an affiliation fee to the Photographic Society of New Zealand (PSNZ). PSNZ publishes a bi-monthly newsletter called *Camera Talk*, and sends enough copies to the club for each member. *Camera Talk* often contains interesting snippets about what's going on in other clubs, and always features inspiring images from other clubs and competitions. Kevin (and now Martin) brings these to the club meetings for distribution. We do not want to increase costs by posting this newsletter out. If you've missed a meeting and missed a copy see Kevin or Martin. There might be spare floating about!

Matiu/Soames Island Trip

You may remember that Sid was trying to arrange a weekend trip to Soames Island. It turns out that Soames is a very popular weekend destination. The earliest weekend we could get, and have booked space for, is March 30th 2013!

WCC Oscars!

End of year Awards and dinner
7pm, Wednesday 21 November
Royal Hotel Featherston
Cost: \$37.50 per head.

To help us get the catering well organised, can you please email Sid Hayes, sid41south@xtra.co.nz if you are definitely coming, or if you are definitely not coming.

Next Month's competition

Don't forget next month's meeting judges the **Print and Projected Image of the Year**.

The only entries that can be accepted for this competition are prints or projected images that have previously been entered in competitions this year.

For this competition we have judge from out of the district. Photographs will need to be delivered to the judge earlier. Entries close a week earlier than usual

Prints to Festival Hire by 5pm *Wednesday 24th October* - Two weeks before the camera club meeting.

Projected images to Kevin (hawkeyeXXX@xtra.co.nz) by Thursday 25 October.

Have You Ever Wondered About ?

... why many prospective new members don't return after one meeting. Is our club welcoming enough?