



FOCAL PLANE

November 2003



Auckland Photographic Society Inc.
Established 1883

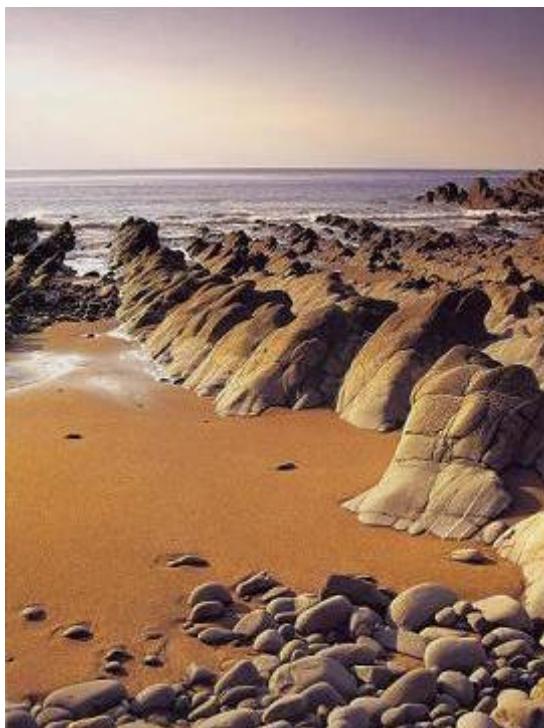
News & Muse

Hello and welcome to the November edition of Focal Plane. As I put the last edition for 2003 together, I wanted to let you know I've enjoyed your company. And I've also felt rather privileged to be able contribute something to such a great club as the Auckland Photographic Society. Hopefully I'll be welcome back next year!

As Christmas comes closer, and we get busier with the things we need to do and enjoy doing, photographing might be pushed a bit down the list. But maybe there'll be time after the seasons celebrations (and during) to pick up the camera and indulge in your hobby.

So what's your style? I was looking through some old books on photography again recently and picked up a favourite by Michael Busselle. If you've ever viewed any landscapes by Mr. Busselle you'll know they are immaculately composed with perfect exposures. His deceptively simple images have wonderful colours and depth of clarity giving them an almost three dimensional quality. His book can be read over and over. The text accompanying each image is in three parts 'Seeing' - how the image was first seen and imagined, 'Thinking' - how to capture the image to best represent what he envisaged and lastly, 'Acting' - what he did, technical details. After reading the book countless times; a while ago I decided to see if he had written any others. He had. More than one. Dozens it seemed: portraits, travel, nudes, black and white—you name it! Mr. Busselle's particular interest in photography wasn't Landscapes, it was writing books! And he is very good at it.

So what's your style?



Michael Busselle ©

APS Awards Evening

The most anticipated evening for club night competitions is just days away. The images have been judged and grades awarded. Overall print of the year, slide of the year, novice, advanced and salon. The trophies are polished and engraved and tensions rising. Please bring an plate. See you there.



Christmas BBQ

All are invited to our Christmas BBQ for APS members and family.

This year we will be very kindly hosted by Jack Sprosen at his home 9 Kowhai St, Takapuna on Sunday afternoon, 7th December.

Please BYO food and drinks.



Thanks

Thanks to Judge Carol Bates for critiquing the October club night competition. To start Carol gave us some insight into her own special interest of Black and White photography. Although she clearly has a great passion for this medium, it didn't sway her considered and balanced judging. Carol's positive critiques were very thoughtful and sensitive to the photographers intentions. Many of us were left wondering when she might come back again!

Special thanks to Jack for carrying the evening in Peter absence.

Upcoming Subjects / Competitions

Nov 20th Awards Evening & End of Year Comp

Our judge of the End of Year competition will be present to comment on the judging of the awarded images. And of course the trophies will be awarded.

Nov 28th (closing) Waikato National Art Award

Nov 30th (closes) International Digital Art Awards 2004

Dec 31st (closes) WHO Competition "Images of Health and Disability".

Feb (closes) **Royal Easter Show.**
Exact closing date to be advised.

Jan 15th **Reflections and Open**

Feb 19th **Annual General Meeting**
With wine and cheese.

Mar 18th **Rooftops and Waterways and open.**

May 1st **ANZANG Nature and Landscape**
Photographer of the Year 2004.



Go Slides! contributed by Robert Jacques

It has been disappointing to see a drop in the number of slides submitted to competitions this year. I would like to try to generate some renewed interest among members by showing some of the advantages of shooting slides. Those of you who are new to photography may not have tried slide film so I would like to highlight the advantages of using this wonderful medium.

Some benefits of using slide film are ...

Unrivaled image resolution and sharpness. If image sharpness and detail are important, you just can't beat slide film. If you intend on making huge exhibition quality colour prints, slide film should be your first choice.

Brilliant colour saturation. Slide film gives an almost 3 dimensional look. Films such as Fuji Velvia 50 and Kodak Elitechrome Extra Colour have the most highly saturated colours you are ever likely to experience in a colour image. It is for this reason that these films are the preferred choice of most professional landscape and nature photographers, especially National Geographic contributors. If you don't like the highly saturated colours and prefer more muted tones, films such as Fuji Provia F and Sensia or Kodak Extra-chrome 100G or Elitechrome all give excellent results.

Dynamic range. No other medium can capture the details in the highlights or display the range of tonal values as well as slide film.

A reference for comparison. A slide gives you a reference to compare against when you have prints made. The colours and exposure in the slide should match the print. It is much more difficult to judge how the colours and exposure will reproduce from a negative!

Ease of viewing. You can hold a slide up to a light box and view it with a loupe. If you bracket your exposures it's easy to compare exposure variations on a strip of slide film.

Slides make brilliant prints. The latest digital printing technologies produce superb results from slide film. If you want to make your own prints Cibachrome is a relatively simple process for producing high quality archival prints.

Scanning. Slides can be scanned using a dedicated film scanner to produce a digital image file. The digital image can then be retouched or manipulated in Adobe Photoshop or similar software and printed out on a photo quality inkjet printer. This is an alternative path to obtaining a digital image without investing in an expensive digital SLR camera (and possibly new lenses). Dedicated film scanners are now affordable for the average serious amateur. My Canon FS4000 scanner produces a 4000dpi 14 bit scan.

As an interesting comparison with digital camera images; the image file size is approximately 120 Megabytes. To get the same resolution in dots per inch from a digital camera the digital camera would have to have a 22 Mega pixel sensor!

Grain in the latest slide films is very fine and only becomes visible if you make very large prints.

Selling your images. If you intend selling your images, slides are the preferred choice by many magazines and photo libraries .

Cost. Some argue that it is more expensive to shoot slide film. I disagree and I will give you an example. I recently purchased a pack of ten rolls of Kodak Elitechrome 36 exp for \$100.00. It costs me \$10.00 to have my film processed without mounts. After examining the processed film with a light box and loupe I only mount the good ones. So it costs me \$20.00 plus around 15c per slide mount.

By comparison, a 36 exposure print film with 6x4 prints made at a quality minilab will cost \$20-25 plus the cost of film \$5-\$10.

It costs nothing to project a slide at the club. To display a print, at least \$20 to make an enlargement and \$10 to have it matted. So if I get 3 slides from one roll of slide film that are good enough to enter into a club competition my costs are \$20.45. To enter three prints approximately \$90.00 less if you do your own inkjet printing.

So slide aren't as expensive as many think!

Lastly Projection. For me nothing beats the visual impact of a projected slide.



Shot with 35mm SLR on Fuji Velvia. Michael Busselle ©

What's On ...

Auckland Art Gallery

New Gallery Nine Lives—*The Chartwell Exhibition 2003*
until 23rd November.

Main Gallery Chic Colonials : Ataahua
until 2nd May 2004.

Auckland War Memorial Museum

Pompelliarate Hokianga Mai—The Journey Home
images by Karel Lorier until 18th January 2004.

John Leech Gallery

Ans Westra, Peter Peryer and Laurence Aberhart
9th Mar—3rd Apr 2004.

Café Exhibitions by APS Members until 1st Dec 2003

Frolic Café—Peter Merrick
653 Manukau Rd, Epsom, Mon/Tues 7:30-4pm,
Wed-Fri 7:30-5pm, Sat/Sun 8-5pm

Café Delia Piazza—Jason Hailes
9 Wyndham St, Auckland City, 7-4pm 5 days.

Zarbo Deli & Café—Alka Dharmendra Krisson
24 Morrow St, New Market, 9-5pm, 7 days



Michael Busselle ©

Join the PSNZ

Did you miss out joining the Photographic Society of NZ in October? If you ask Lynn nicely I'm sure she will still offer their great joining deal. You will receive two rolls of Fuji film (worth \$15) and a free copy of the Camera Annual (RRP \$50). Also you will receive \$40 discount for the National Convention.

Annual fee only \$61-00
Joining form available from the website www.photography.org.nz or contact Lynn Clayton (President) at ph 09 418 4380.

Do you have a favourite Competition Subject or Workshop that you would like to see held at APS?

- Here's your chance! There's still time, we are seeking suggestions for **Competition Subjects** and for **Practical Workshops** for next years syllabus. Email info@aps.net.nz or speak to a committee member with your suggestion.



Classifieds

For Sale—Epson Photo Stylus 830U printer, Latest model, boxed, never used. Unwanted prize in photo competition. This printer has six inks and produces superb quality prints. I can vouch for this as I already own the same model. \$275.00 Phone Robert on 4431907

Special Notice

We currently require the services of **Secretary** for 2004. If this interests you speak to a committee member to find out more or email info@aps.net.nz.

“ Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still “

- Dorothea Lange