

FOCAL PLANE

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2003



Auckland Photographic Society Inc.
Established 1883

News & Muse

Hello and welcome to the Focal Plane. Firstly a small apology. No you didn't imagine it, there was no September edition. Sept & Oct editions have been combined. In this edition we bring you news of the Tiritiri Matangi overnight outing and for those who are serious about their composition, little insight into the Fibonacci Series.

The November meeting brings our traditional annual *Awards Evening*. As usual, supper will be included. Members are encouraged to bring a plate. Those members still with club trophies, please return them at the October meeting. They will



The Intrepid Photographer (Robert J.)

Northern Reg Competition Awarded 5 APS

The annual Northern Regional Competition attracted over one thousand entries this year, a new high. By all accounts the quality of entries was once again extremely high. Congratulations must be given to the Five APS members who were not only accepted, but placed amongst the highest awarded entries. Special congratulations to Dharmendra for his award Overall 'Champion Print'.

Champion Print

Dharmendra Krisson "Seascape Reflections"

Category A – NZ Land/Seascape

- 1st Place – Robert Jaques "Seascape"
- 2nd Place – Brian Cudby "Hamilton Gap, Awhitu"
- R / U – Aika Krisson "Monochrome Morning – Lake Rotorua"

Category C – Open Black and White Print

- 3rd Place – Dharmendra Krisson "Another Look at Rangitoto"

Category D – Open Freestyle Print

- R / U – Janet McLeod "My Girl"

New Members

The Auckland Photographic Society had a new member in August. A very warm welcome to

Kelly Sinoski

We're looking forward to getting to know you a little and trust you will enjoy your time with us.

Thanks

A special thank you to Alka from the President and all who attended for running the September meeting. At short notice Alka rose to the occasion, and in her usual relaxed manner carried the proceedings.

Thanks to Noel Dawson for judging the August club night competition.

Also thanks to Bruce Shanks for judging the September club night competition. With the set subject of Three of a Kind there was an enormous volume of entries to judge.

Upcoming Subjects / Competitions

Oct 16th *Portrait (Trophy) and Open*

May be of a human or an animal.

Hint: Judges are always keen to see that the photograph communicates with the viewer, and is not merely a historical record.

Nov 20th *Awards Evening* Just a note that the November meeting is the annual awards evening and will include supper. Members encouraged to bring a plate.



Dharmendra receives his award for Champion Print.

Tiritiri Matangi Island Trip

We met under the old harbour-side building with bulging packs and camera bags, some saying they had enough gear for a week. The boat trip was clear and sunny with a crisp southerly pushing hot drinks into our hands.



Andy, Chantal and Alka

Late morning we were greeted on the island by experienced volunteers with friendly smiles and firm rules. Take photos and leave footprints, cellphones and cigarettes better left in the city.



We quickly transferred to daypacks and set off in groups to destinations selected according to fitness and ambition. Over the past couple of decades Tiritiri has been planted with some 3,000 plants. This gave the feeling of walking through a gigantic garden. Most noticeable firstly were the sounds. Birds were *everywhere*. Some, the less knowledgeable nature lovers could identify, many we couldn't.



There were particular prizes that were sort after. A Tui in a Kowhai tree with the blue sky behind. A clearly identifiable Saddleback—difficult because they spend much time under trees (squawking loudly at us) where the light can not reach easily. The Takahe and Pukeko who regularly posed in sunlight, side on with one foot in the air, as if caught in mid stride. And of course the prized and elusive Kakariki or New Zealand Parakeet.

We walked and snapped, soaking up the fresh air and wonderful scenery as we went. Skills grew as the day progressed; along with a sense that the next great shot was just around the corner. On one occasion, our Pres. and his trusty assistant at the time (yours truly), gently persuaded a grand Takahe into the perfect sunlit position only to find the silly camera had entirely filled a 1 GigByte flash card in just two hours! Mr. Takahe didn't wait for our excuses. We went on, constantly looking for our prized Kakariki until dinner time.



The evening was filled with lots of good conversation and even more food. Then it was off to spot the Kiwi. But despite great preparation and concerted effort, our national symbol proved camera shy.

The next day dawned with more excellent weather and after making plans, we set out with new found energy. Today was the day for the National Geographic worthy shot of a Saddleback and the much prized Kakariki.

After another loop of the island and lunch at a great spot overlooking the clear blue/green sea we spotted him. A large red-hooded, green Kakariki feeding on the flax across a valley. We very carefully crept close. After getting within three or four meters, he filled the frame; that was it! The click of the shutter sent him off to a new perch, and it was time to breath again. Elation!

It was a magnificent weekend. Great people, loads of good conversation, simple food, *loud* snoring and lots of walking. We came way knowing the difference between a Pukeko and a Takahe, and vowing to go back some time.

Footnote: Slides came back—Kakariki blinked.

The Fibonacci Series and Phi



Leonardo Fibonacci discovered the series which converges to Phi

In the 12th century, Leonardo Fibonacci discovered a simple numerical series that is the foundation for an extraordinary mathematical relationship referred to as Phi. Starting with 0 and 1, each new number in the series is simply the sum of the two before it.

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, . . .



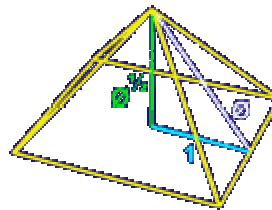
Leonardo Fibonacci

The ratio of each successive pair of numbers in the series gets closer to the constant number Phi, as 5 divided by 3 is 1.666..., and 8 divided by 5 is 1.600..., and 34 divided by 21 is 1.619... and so on.

$$\text{Phi (or } \Phi) = 1.6180 \dots$$

This number (Phi or Φ), the Golden Section, has been used for centuries in architecture.

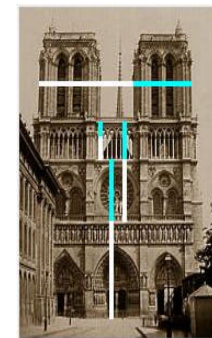
Its use started as early as **with the Egyptians** in the design of the pyramids:



The Greeks knew it as the **Golden Section** and used it extensively for beauty and balance in the design of the Parthenon and other architecture:

Renaissance artists at the time of **Leonardo Da Vinci** knew it as the **Divine Proportion**, and used it in the design of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris:

Da Vinci also used this proportion extensively in his famous painting 'The Last Supper'.



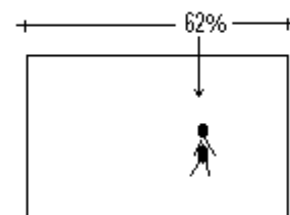
So how does all this relate to photography?

When the composition of an image is based upon the Fibonacci Ratio the image looks balanced and more pleasing to the eye. Photographers have understood this for a long time, and generally referred to it as the *Rule of Thirds*.

So why does it work? The reason might be that the ratio is so often visible in nature. The spirals found in the seeds of sunflowers and the shells of periwinkles expand at the rate of **Phi**. The number of seeds on each row in pinecones and pineapples increase in quantity coinciding with the Fibonacci Series. When water runs down an even bank of sand, it will split into rivulets of 2 then 3 then 5 but never 4. Curious isn't it?

So maybe next time you are ready to press the shutter button, (if you haven't already) try placing the subject about 62% from one edge of the frame and just see how it looks.

And of course spare a thought for that clever Italian—Leonardo Fibonacci!



End of Year Competition

The year-end competition draws near. Judging categories are:

Overall Print of the Year	Overall Slide of the Year
Beginners Print of the year	Beginners Slide of the Year
Advanced Print of the Year	Advanced Slide of the Year
Salon Print of the Year	Salon Slide of the Year

All images must have been entered and judged at one of our club nights during the year. Please supply your mounted prints and/or slides to either Alan Bilham (Print Convener) or Dharmendra Krisson (Slide Convener) at our next club night (Oct 16th). Ensure entries are correctly labeled and safely packaged.

Join the PSNZ

The Photographic Society of NZ currently have a great special running. If you join this month (October), 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, form available the website www.photography.org.nz or from Lynn Clayton (President) who may be contacted at ph 09 418 4380.

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.

Website Update

Members Gallery on the Website

An invitation remains open to members who are interested in having their own gallery page on the APS website. We understand that not everyone has the resource to create their own webpage...so here's your chance! This is a great opportunity to display some of your best work and a wider range of images that you would like to share with other members, friends/relatives and the wider community. You can include five of your best images and will also have the opportunity to talk more about your images and techniques, should you so wish but this is not compulsory. To give you an idea of how your page can look, check the Gallery link on our website and take a look at Alan and Dharmendra's pages.

http://www.aps.net.nz/site_pages/galleries/gallery.html

Your page will be maintained by the APS Webmaster, but it will be your responsibility to provide images in the correct format. As a guide, the standard of the images should be equivalent to those images entered into club competitions.

To register your interest please contact Alka Krisson at (webmaster@aps.net.nz) or phone on (09) 817-9899.

Special Interest Groups

The club has a number of special interest groups related to photography. These informal groups are a great way to interact with members and to foster specialised interest and knowledge. The following Cells are currently operating or in the process of getting underway.

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|------------------|-------------|--|
| 1. Audio Visual | Peter M | info@aps.net.nz |
| 2. Black & White | Noel Dawson | nj.dawson@auckland.ac.nz |
| 3. Competitions | Peter M | info@aps.net.nz |
| 4. Exhibitions | Peter M | info@aps.net.nz |
| 5. Judging | Alan Bilham | profedge@clear.net.nz |
| 6. Outings | Alan Bilham | profedge@clear.net.nz |

If you wish to be involved in one or more of these groups, please make contact with one of the individuals listed above.

World Health Organisation Contest

After the successful launch of the WHO Photo Contest in 2002 in conjunction with the release of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), the World Health Organization (WHO) invites photographers around the world to participate in an international photo contest -- "Images of Health and Disability 2003". Photos can be submitted until 31 December 2003 in three categories: **1** Colour photographs, **2** Black and white photographs, **3** Digital photographs.

The prizes in each category reach from 100 to 1.500 US-Dollars. This year "mental health" has been designated as a special theme. The best photo that depicts mental functioning disability and health will be given a special award.

For more information please visit the ICF website: www.who.int/classification/icf

Photograph a Wedding

Recently received the following message:

To: editor@aps.net.nz
Subject: Student photography

Hi there

Just a quick query ... wondering if you might be able to help. I am currently living in London, so any 'long distance' advice will be greatly appreciated.

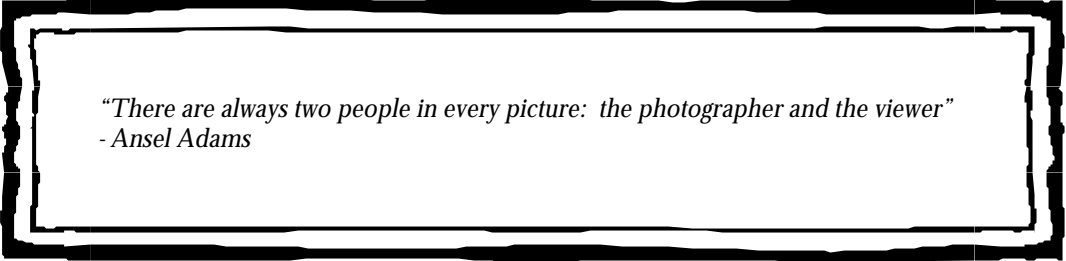
I am getting married in Auckland in April and we are very keen to commission the services of an amateur or student photographer.

Do you have any idea about how I might get in touch with, in particular, student photographers in the Auckland region? Thanks - hope you can help.

Cheers
Blair Hastings

Are you ready to take the plunge and shoot a wedding? There is no better way to have a go than for someone who is inviting the services of a student/amateur! If anyone is interested in photographing for Blair's wedding, contact me in person or email editor@aps.net.nz and I shall forward his contact details.

If you ever have the urge to submit something of interest for the Focal Plane Newsletter, do something about it! Email to editor@aps.net.nz



"There are always two people in every picture: the photographer and the viewer"
- Ansel Adams

'till next month - E d

"Promoting the art and science of photography since 1883"