

FOCAL PLANE

June/July 2004



Auckland Photographic Society Inc.
Established 1883

News & Muse

Hello and welcome to the June/July edition of Focal Plane. Hope this issue finds you well and warm, and actively exploring the boundaries of your photography. Our cat has been asking for the heater to be turned on earlier than usual, and I guess that means it should be nice to spend more time inside. But actually the outdoors have been pretty fantastic for photographing lately, even if you need to run between showers. It has been a busy time for APS over the last few months. The rapidly growing membership has caused quite an amount of activity on club nights. It's also given the President and committee just a few challenges. But they are good challenges to have.

New Members

A big welcome to all the recent new members to Auckland Photographic Society!

Alan Morton
David Kandziora
Estelle Swan
Linglan Wang
Luis Lachica
Melissa Hendry
Michael Storey
Minsheng Yang
Paul Jansen
Trevor Lowe
Trudi Johnstone

(Phew!) Once again, a very big welcome to each of you. We're looking forward to getting to know you a little and trust you will enjoy your time with us.



"Old Church" © Blerim Racaj

Thanks

Thanks very much to Carol Bates for judging our June club-night competition. With a huge volume of images to judge (more than 100), Carol still managed to contribute in an empathetic way to each author. Truly a test of any good judge. Many will be pleased to know Carol has agreed to come back again in September.

Thanks to Brian Cudby for filling in at such short notice for July for the ever popular Landscape Trophy night. Brian's yrs of experience were evident as always.

APS also owes an exceptional thanks this month. Aika (our Pres) and Dharmendra Krisson (also committee member) have made a very generous personal donation, in the form of the new Digital Landscape Trophy. Hope you got the chance to see it last month, it really is beautiful. And I'm sure the recipients will appreciate the requirement for window cleaner rather than the traditional Brasso very much.



"Guggenheim III" © Marta Pereyra

Upcoming Subjects / Competitions

Aug 19th Structures and Open

Sept 16th Weather and Open

Oct 21st Nature Trophy and Open

The North Shore National Salon of Photography 2004
Entries close: 30th July, 5:00pm

What's On ...

PSNZ Permanent Collection

Pictures from the PSNZ's permanent collection, presented in public for the first time.

*VERO CENTRE, - 48 Shortland St, Auckland City.
2pm 5th Aug—1:30pm 10th Aug*

40 works spanning 53 year from some of NZ's premier photographers. Includes some never before publicly exhibited. Also includes works from Brian Brake—George Chance and a selection of NZ's finest contemporary photographers. Tours will also cover the Vero Art Collection.

Portraits of Our Time

Many magnificent portraits of well known New Zealanders as depicted by Jane Ussher, chief photographer for the NZ Listener for many years.

Café Exhibitions

Andy Pryce, Alka Krisson, Dharmendra Krisson.
*Fraser's Café—434 Mt Eden Rd, Mt Eden
From 2nd August.*

PSNZ Promotional Exhibition—individual members

Five members of the PSNZ (three of whom are also members of Auckland Photographic Society) are exhibiting some of their recent work at the Remuera Mall, Remuera Rd until 4:30pm 31st July. Including photographers: Lynn Clayton APSNZ (IPP of PSNZ)

Beverly Holland
Alka Krisson
Dharmendra Krisson
John McCallum

Remember, viewing others work will enrich your own!

Contributed Article - by Robert Jacques

"Outdoor Photography in the Winter"

Robert kindly shares his thoughts on photographing outdoors in the cooler months.

When the cold weather of winter sets in it is very easy to sit in the warm cosy of our homes and experiment with Photoshop on our computers or print our negatives in the darkroom.

Winter is also a very good time for taking photos outdoors. If you are interested in landscape, winter is often the best time of the year to be out there with your camera.

Here's 10 good reasons for heading outside in Winter with your camera.

1. Dramatic light can be found in winter as the sun breaks through those rain clouds.
2. Early morning mists.

3. Colourful skies at dawn and dust due to cloud.
4. Glistening rocks and foliage from rain.
5. Low dark rain clouds.
6. Snow.
7. Frost.
8. Stormy seas to give drama.
9. Clear sunny skies.
10. Reduced heat haze.

Take a warm jacket or raincoat a tripod, umbrella and thermos of coffee.



© Robert Jacques

A few Sunday's ago was a miserable wet day. I was quite contented to stay at home and do some printing. The phone rang and it was our editor John who was going to Muriwai. I decided to go but I was slightly reluctant as the weather worsened. We arrived at Muriwai and headed down the beach in between showers. It started raining again. Up went the umbrella. I took my large format camera and 35mm belt bag kit. I was reluctant to take the large format camera out in the rain so it stayed in the bag near a dry spot beside the cliff. John was mad enough to use his Large Format camera (see picture above), I stuck with 35mm and a fixed focal length 100mm lens.



© Robert Jacques

Outdoor Photography in Winter—cont ...

I attached my camera to tripod and fully extended the legs. With umbrella in one hand and tripod in the other I was able walk around the beach and keep myself and camera relatively dry. A lens hood on my 100mm helped to keep the rain off the front element. I took around 15 photos on Velvia slide film. John a few sheets of B&W 4x5.



J.McC.

A few days later I examined my roll of Velvia and was quite surprised with the results. The photos I had taken in the rain had come out better than expected, colours were vibrant and the soft even lighting displayed the texture of the cliff face very nicely.

The lesson I learned from this little excursion was that it is possible to take decent photos in even the most appalling weather conditions. If you are hesitant about going out in the cold and rain, as they say in the Nike ad, just do it. I will be venturing out with my camera in the rain a lot more now. -

Ed's note—that cup of coffee was great !

Special Interest Groups

The club has a number of special interest groups related to photography. These informal groups (or Cells) 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:

1. Audio Visual - PeterM info@aps.net.nz
2. Competitions- PeterM info@aps.net.nz
3. Exhibitions - PeterM info@aps.net.nz
4. Judging - Alan Bilham profedge@clear.net.nz
5. Half Day Outings - Alan profedge@clear.net.nz

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



© Robert Jacques

Presidents Corner

Well as we make our way through the winter months it's great to see that photography is still alive and well at APS. Judging by the number of great images at our June Meeting and of course at this month's Landscape Trophy night - the cold weather is doing anything but keeping us indoors.

Looking forward at APS - we have a number of upcoming workshops. And for anyone who is interested in presenting their work for exhibitions and competitions - early next month (August 5th) we will have the opportunity to visit PCL (after hours) where we will be given a tour and a presentation of the different printing services on offer. There will also be some discussion about colour profile management and how to get the best out of professional labs. This one is limited to 12 members - so best to book in quick.

Remember to check out the website for more details about the workshops and others that have been planned for the remainder of the year.

I would encourage you to attend as many as you can, as it's a great way to extend your skills and of course challenge and improve your approach to photography.

Till next time.

-Alka

Parting Quote: *"The hardest thing in photography is to create a simple image"* -Anne Geddes



"Lake Michigan Sunset" © Steven Poitinger



Antelope Canyon © Bruce Barnbaum

Special note—if you have something of interest that you would like to contribute to the Focal Plane, please do so. Send an email to editor@aps.net.nz or post to 'Ed', 3B Webber St, Cocks Bay, Auckland.

'till next month - E d