

FOCAL PLANE

Jan 2007



Auckland Photographic Society Inc Est 1883

Hello and welcome to the January edition of Focal Plane. It's shaping up to be a great year with a lineup of informative and relevant workshops, and club competition subjects that are sure to be challenging as well as fun.

Thanks to our patron Brian Cudby for judging the first club night competition of the year with the subject Patterns. Some really superb and imaginative images were presented!

This month make a note of the Calendar of events, especially the PSNZ 2007 Convention and National Exhibition. Worth special consideration. It is a rare opportunity to hear this quality of speakers.

Contributed Article

Affecting Creativity and a Theory - J McCallum

We receive many comments from experienced judges about the high quality of images found in the Novice grade of Auckland Photographic Soc. The judges have been around a while, they have studied a lot of exhibited images and they don't make such comments lightly.

But perhaps it is also safe to say, without detracting from comments to APS members, that this is actually not altogether surprising.

When we first find ourselves amongst like-minded enthusiasts, the motivation felt is considerable and infectious. The possibilities are endless for our photography and seem only limited by the time we can afford to give to acquiring new skills that will benefit the direction in which to take our photography.

Of course motivation is essential to producing a great image. But actually a good result won't necessarily follow the *inclination* to produce a good result, even if the requisite skills are in abundance. So it seemed to me there must be more at work here. How is it that when we are new to the whole process, there is often so much strength in our images? The clarity of intent by the author shines through, not withstanding perhaps technical tweaking or conforming a little to the odd 'rule' to make it really great.

Some time ago I enjoyed a discussion with a tertiary teacher of photography. She had experienced a phenomenon in her classes. Consistently, images produced in the beginners classes compared with the advanced classes were excellent, and usually with greater artistic and emotional content.

Well, possibly of relevance to this is a mathematical theory applied in many disciplines from science to economics called the *Game Theory*. ...cont

Welcome To

We have had a large number of new members recently. A very warm welcome to:

Rachel Beard

Keith Britten

Lynn Clayton

Megan Cumberpatch

Johan Erasmus

Charles Lynch

Max Hamilton

Jeanne Henriques

Sandrina Huish

Alisha Huish

Conway Liu

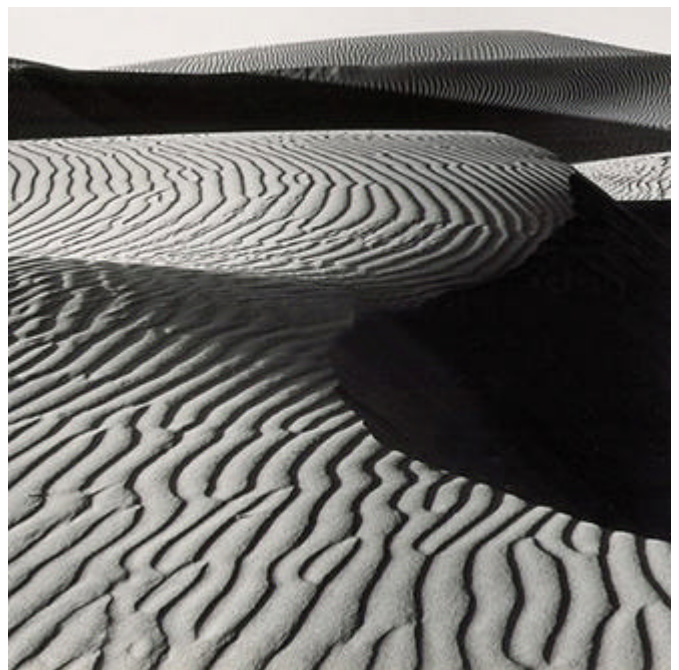
Andre Meurer

Selene Salmen

Sumeet Satishwar

Ronald Winstone

Sincerely hope no one has been missed!



Ed Weston

A Theory Article

... cont

Game Theory was developed to determine the best course of action from a selection of options, and is currently used in many disciplines including biology and economics to logically predict outcomes and understand events.

So how does this all relate to ones' photographic development? Well the theory is based on the idea that the fewer options that are available, the more likely the best option will be chosen.

These days cameras are generally sold with a quick reference table to get you started. If you're a bloke of course this is usually skipped entirely and you get down to the tin tacks by putting the batteries in and starting to take photos. If you're of the more sensible persuasion, you might pick a chapter of the encyclopaedic volume that accompanied the camera and begin learning the extensive list of features. Either way, most photographers who are keen to advance their skills have it in their minds that they *"really should know more about their camera"* so they can take better photos.

Ann makes the observation that when her beginners classes are limited in their choices of functions, features and equipment something wonderful happens. There is a much greater connection between photographer and the subject resulting in a more emotionally evocative image.

I experienced this with the Freeman Paterson workshop last year. One of the exercises of the week was to stand in one spot in town for an hour and finish a roll of film or 50 digital images. Free from the plethora of choices we are normally faced with (where is the optimum camera position, lighting, better angle for composition etc), I noticed a particularly intense sense of observation and imagination developed for the

It seems that we can spend so much thought on decisions such as the best camera location, the best time to make an image (will it be better later on? / was it better earlier?), the equipment we are using (or could be using) and the vast array of functions it often has that we leave little time for thinking about observing the actual subject. The amount of time that remains to really see the subject in front of us becomes quite a small part of the process.



M Busselle

But in fact this is where the magic often is found in truly great photographs - when the photographer truly connects with the subject. → J McC



J McC

APS Calendar

18th Jan Competition Night: Patterns and Open

1st Feb Workshop: Freeman Patterson. The workshop will be a discussion by four Club members who attended a one week workshop with Freeman Patterson at Martinborough last Feb / March. Freeman is one of the worlds leading teachers in photography as well as being a brilliant photographer himself. The evening will include photos taken by the group on the course and will cover the themes of the course which were particularly composition and creativity.

15th Feb Competition Night: AV *Trophy* and Open.

1st Mar Workshop: TBI.

What's On

Sculptures On Waiheke

26th Jan - 11th Feb.

This event will give you some great photo opportunities so think about gathering up some club members or friends and heading to Waiheke. There will be 27 large scale sculptures on the hillsides of Waiheke. Just a short ferry ride from Downtown Auckland or Half Moon Bay in Auckland. For a hot deal, take your car and up to three friends travel free, visit www.sealink.co.nz for details and to book - special deal on car loads with Sealink. Ph 3005900.

Further details www.sculptureonthegulf.co.nz

PSNZ Auckland ZOO - Evening Trip

Sat 3rd Mar from 4:30pm until dusk (9-30ish)

Members of PSNZ, Camera Clubs and friends are invited.

The zoo will be closed to the public from 5pm, so this is your opportunity to experience the animals at a different time of day, where many animals are more active and photogenic. Bring your own picnic food and drinks, sun-hats, sunscreen, tripods, cameras etc.



Costs \$45.00 incl. GST a head. No children under 12 please. Bookings essential - unless we get at least 20 bookings the

trip will not go ahead.

To confirm your attendance, please pay the \$45 before Tuesday 20th February 2007 in one of the following ways:

Cheque made out to T.I.M.E. Unlimited for \$45, sent to T.I.M.E. Unlimited, Suite 200, 2A Byron Ave., Takapuna, North Shore City 0622, or Bank Transfer into T.I.M.E. Unlimited Account at BNZ, A/c no. 020-100-0756112-00 Barbecue at the Lion's Plaza

Please email Neill Sperath neill@timeunlimited.co.nz if you have any questions and he will be happy to help.



In addition, anyone that attended last time is welcome to return at a reduced rate of just \$35 incl. GST.

Lynn Clayton and Phil Hickling from PSNZ will be your hosts that evening.

PSNZ 2007 Convention and National Exhibition

Wed 11th Apr - Sun 15th Apr

Venue is the Plymouth International Hotel and Conference Centre (a Quality hotel) in New Plymouth.

Kenote speakers:

Charlie Waite - United Kingdom

Very widely respected internationally as the doyen of English landscape photographers. Lecturer, exhibitor in UK, Japan, USA & Australia, published 27 books(!), and organiser and leader of photographic tours. His style is described as distinctive, combining graphic finesse with an almost spiritual quality of calm and serenity.

Examples of his work can be found at www.lightandland.co.nz and more about him at www.charliewaite.com.

Tania Niwa - Australia

Specialising in portrait and people photography, world class judges agree Tania has worked her way to the top of her professional field from her studio in Sydney.

A "unique and timeless" style with a particular interest in the cultural aspects of photography.

More information available at www.tanianiwa.com.au

Cliff Threadgold - New Zealand

Cliff has built up a reputation as a particularly skilled black and white author within New Zealand. Starting as a passion in the early 90's and now a profession Cliff has a love of photographing the environment, specialising in landscape, travel and illustrative photography. He also teaches at the tertiary level, and teaches forensic police photographers. He also organises photographic holidays both within New Zealand and overseas. Cliff is a member of the PSNZ Judges List and is highly regarded within the Photographic Societies. More about Cliff at www.cliffthreadgold.com

The 2007 Convention looks to be a great success with many workshops and outings planned and a great lineup of speakers.

Check the APS club night for a flyer or contact the Conference Registrar Ady Nightingale at nightingales@clear.net.nz

Or by post:

PSNZ 2007 Convention Registrar
New Plymouth Photography Club,
P O Box 8074,
New Plymouth 4342.

Classifieds

Photoshop in a structured ten week course 12th Apr + 10 weeks

Bret Lucas from the Howick Camera Club is offering a structured course in Photoshop. All members welcome to enrol.

More details at www.lucaschaos.net/

The course will be for 10 weeks started 12th April. It will include the following topics:

- *Removing the mystery from colour management.
- *Printer and Monitor profiling. Photoshop print settings.
- *Understanding the RAW image workflow. And how to capture more information on your camera sensor when shooting in RAW.

*Colour to Black and White

*Colour Correction

*Portrait Photography and Photoshop.

*Image Sharpening and selective sharpening, a must know for those shooting in both RAW and JPEG.

*Automation in Photoshop, how to really quicken your workflow.

*The Complete Image Editing Workflow.

*Understanding Layer Mask.



Win Travel 2007 intrepid photography competition

Check out this new Auckland venture to win with your photos !

"Intrepid is pleased to be giving our travellers the opportunity to get even more out of their travel pics with our annual photography competition."

"The overall winner wins a spot on an Intrepid trip worth up to AU\$1,500 plus we've now created five categories, with separate prizes for each - meaning your chances of winning great prizes from Intrepid and our friends at Kathmandu and Lonely Planet have increased!"

"PLUS there's now a Lonely Planet Images choice award, judged by renowned travel photographer Richard I'Anson."

Check website www.intrepidtravel.com/auckland for details.



J McC

Interesting Websites

www.alinari.com

The online presence of reputedly the oldest photographic establishment in the world - Fratelli Alinari [est. 1852], now a Photo Archive and Photography History Museum. The website includes a fascinating photographic archive and an extensive bookshop with many books unavailable elsewhere. Generally, particularly affined to Italy.

www.betterphoto.com

A website with an educative flavour; it has a comprehensive selection of resources including online training courses, image critique gallery, discussion forums, competitions with prizes. They even offer a personal website production service.

They say - *"BetterPhoto.com is the worldwide leader in online photography education, offering a friendly resource for photographers who want to improve their skills, share their photos, and learn more about the art and technique of photography."*

www.photoworkshop.com Similar to BetterPhoto. A clean easy to navigate layout with an impressive bag of resources. Take a look at the Canon Digital Learning Centre with Pro Corner, Tips and Techniques and Camera demos.

They say - *"An interactive community, open free to the public. We bring together various Learning Centers made possible by the greatest names in photography and digital imaging. We are committed to providing an education in photography, where the quest for knowledge is fueled by inspiration."*

www.pohanginapete.blogspot.com

Online diary or blogspot of Pete McGregor. A mountaineer, nature and travel photographer based in the Pohangina Valley of the North Island, NZ.

Worth a quick browse if you're an armchair travel nut. I got part way through his latest entry [posted early Dec] about a bus trip from Naini Tal to Kaladhungi, Himalayas. Plan to return when I have more time.

www.wordpress.org

Thinking about joining the world of online blogging? They say - *"WordPress is a state-of-the-art semantic personal publishing platform with a focus on aesthetics, web standards, and usability. What a mouthful. WordPress is both free and priceless at the same time."* Worth a look if you are seriously considering publishing your thoughts online.

If you have a comment or a contribution please feel free to send a msg to editor@aps.net.nz .

'till next month - Ed.

*Great photography is about depth of feeling, not depth of field.
-Peter Adams*