

# FOCAL PLANE

May 2007



Auckland Photographic Society Inc Est 1883

**H**ello and welcome to the February edition of Focal Plane. Well now's the time. The days are getting shorter and the leaves are falling fast, and with them the colours are appearing brightly and will soon disappear. *Now* is the time to capture those colours before they are gone until next season. So get out there and photograph a tree, carpe diem!

The closing date for entries to the international annual FIAP Competition - described as the *Photographic Clubs' World Cup Competition* - has been extended until next year. The entries contributed for the The Auckland Photographic Soc entry to the competition have been going well. We need more images. Don't forget as an incentive there are extra aggregate points awarded and of course the possibility of having your image appear in the very highly regarded competition.

## Contributed Article - Robert Jaques

### Outdoor Photography in the Winter

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 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.

- Dramatic light can be found in winter as the sun breaks through those rain clouds.
- Early morning mists create a completely different and often mysterious image.
- Colourful skies at dawn and dusk due to cloud cover.
- Glistening rocks and foliage from rain can bring an image to life.
- Low dark rain clouds for the dark expressive image.
- Snow !
- or Frosts in North.
- Stormy seas.
- Clear sunny skies are *really* clear.
- Reduced heat haze also helps the clarity.

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



R Jaques

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Chris Morton who has had three prints accepted into the Photographic Society of NZ Annual National Exhibition.

Congratulations to Liz Hardley who has had her image accepted into the Photographic Society of NZ Annual National Exhibition and an image accepted into the 150th International Print Exhibition (2007). A highly commendable achievement!

*Please advise of any notable achievements by a member for mention here at editor@aps.net.nz*

... cont

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), I stuck with 35mm and a fixed focal length 100mm lens. 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



R Jaques



R Jaques

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 →

*That coffee was good! ed.*

## Welcome To

A very warm welcome this month to **Lisa Crandall** and **Bob Freeman** our newest members.

## APS Calendar

- 3rd May** Workshop/Presentation Night: Visit to Labtec Photographic Processing Ltd.
- 17th May** Competition Night: Nature Trophy and Open Competition.
- 7th June** Workshop/Presentation Night: Flash Lighting Techniques.
- 21st June** Competition Night: Night shots and Open Competition.

## What's On

### Auckland museum - Lee Miller Photo Exhibition

**26 March - 17 June**

"Lee Miller's War" is a moving selection of images from her time as the war correspondent for, among others, Vogue and Life Magazines.

### An invitation from Kodak

**Thurs 24th May 5:30-8:30p**

Unitec NZ, entry 3 or 4 off Carrington Rd, Bldg 180, Red Lecture Theatre.

Building on the wonderful response to the Steve McCurry and Richard l'Anson Presentation Tours we invite you to join us for young contemporary artist Matthew Sleeth's presentation and book signing. Matthew has recently signed with Aperture and is placed in the top 50 collectable artists in Australia by Art Collector Magazine. Matthew is Melbourne based and is widely collected and exhibited internationally.

We look forward to you joining us for this free presentation by emailing to [specialoffer@kodak.com](mailto:specialoffer@kodak.com) and advising

*The purpose of art is to raise people to a higher level of awareness than they would otherwise attain on their own. - Brassai*

**Auckland museum - Serasin Collection Exhibition**  
**1st June - 1st July**

Collection of photographs made by Henry Cartier-Bresson, Andre Kertesz, Bill Brandt, ManRay and more.

Floor talk Monday 4th June 11am. Harvey Bengé - prominent contemporary photographer - will talk about his response to the Serasin Collection.

**Creative Exposure - Auckland Festival of Photography**  
**1st - 24th June**

This years Auckland festival of photography is upon us again. Program available from [www.photographyfestival.org.nz](http://www.photographyfestival.org.nz).

This year the festival includes a very worthwhile competition.

**Festival competition - Billboard exposure: the ultimate photo opportunity**

A new competition unveiled today offers photographers the chance to have their winning image displayed on a giant city billboard.

The month-long contest is the first major event announced by organisers of this year's Auckland Festival of Photography.

Photographers of all ages and abilities are invited to capture the spirit of Auckland through the lens of a camera.

The winning entry will be turned into a CBD billboard, which will be displayed on Auckland's Fanshawe Street for the duration of the June Festival.

The competition, which runs from 1 April to 30 April, is a combined promotion involving the Festival and SKYCITY Auckland.

Entries can be submitted through the new Auckland Photo Blog ([www.photographyfestival.org.nz/photo-blog](http://www.photographyfestival.org.nz/photo-blog)), which was made possible by funding from the SKYCITY Auckland Community Trust.

**11th Laurie Thomas NZ Landscape Competition**  
**Closing for Entries 6th June**  
**Notification 18th July**  
**Exhibition 25th July**

Organised by the Christchurch Photographic Society in memory of the late Laurie Thomas Hon FPSNZ, former member of CPS, founding member of the PSNZ and keen landscape photographer of considerable ability.

More information available at the CPS website [www.cpsnz.com](http://www.cpsnz.com).

**Classifieds**

**SHORT COURSE IN DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**10<sup>th</sup> May - 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**IMAGE CAPTURE**

**\$60.00 for Eight 2 hour sessions**

**10<sup>th</sup> May ----- 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**Tutor: Alan Bilham. APSNZ**

This course will be especially suited to those Digital Camera Workers who are reasonably familiar with their cameras and who want to improve their Image Capture skills.

It will run as two hour sessions over eight consecutive weeks, with an additional Sunday morning field trip added into the programme in the 7th week.

1 Introductions, camera set-up tips, aperture effects etc.

2 Table top and Macro work.

3 Into the light photography.

4 Portrait and Body scapes.

5 Land, sea and water scapes.

6 Structures.

7 Animal and bird photography, plus a Sunday morning class field trip.

8 Final image feedback from field trip, discussions and closure.

The teaching methods will include Tutorials/discussion, demonstrations, class room camera work, feedback on your own weekly image capture, collective wisdom class discussions, a personal class presentation and a field trip.

The tutor is a qualified teacher and experienced in Digital photography. He has won many Regional and National awards in photography, has been awarded his PSNZ Associateship and is a member of the PSNZ panel of Senior Judges.

**FOR REGISTRATION... CONTACT TRINA AT THE WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER.. 740 SANDRINGHAM RD**

**Ph 620 5125 Fax 620 5935**

**Email [info@wesleycentre.org.nz](mailto:info@wesleycentre.org.nz)**

Everyone who enjoys photography will love this book

## NEW ZEALAND CAMERA 2007



A Selection of Award Winning Images

*"Photography is the art of seeing "*

*New Zealand Camera 2007* is a beautiful coffee-table book that contains over 160 superb photographs by members of The Photographic Society of New Zealand (PSNZ). Many of the pictures have won national and international awards. They were selected from over 600 submissions. *New Zealand Camera 2007* presents a unique version of the world through the eyes of PSNZ members. See gallery at [www.nzcamera.org.nz](http://www.nzcamera.org.nz). Subjects include landscapes and animals, plants and people, flora and fauna. The book includes reflective quotations from artists and philosophers, and an essay on creativity by the renowned Canadian photographer, Freeman Patterson.

**Normally \$69.90**

**Pay only \$39.90 +P&P (\$5.00)**

Phone your order to: (03) 379 3275 or

### Interesting Websites

[www.photography.org.nz](http://www.photography.org.nz)

It's worth visiting the PSNZ website regularly. As APS is an affiliate of the Photographic Society of NZ the membership has access to many useful resources available there.

[www.smugmug.com](http://www.smugmug.com)

Another online photography forum. Very slick looking with great features.

[www.taschen.com](http://www.taschen.com)

**Novel Bookshop** 202 Jervois Rd, Ponsonby are now selling books by the high-end German publisher Taschen. "For anyone with a passion for books on photography, art, architecture, design ... then Taschen will be a household name. The publishers only produce a limited print run and when stocks run out they don't reprint, and they become collectable."

Ever wondered how to photograph those ethereal, abstract smoke images? Wonder no more - go to the link below to read an interview with photographer Graham Jeffery from [www.sensitivelight.com](http://www.sensitivelight.com) which describes the techniques he uses to capture beautiful images of smoke.

[www.photocritic.org/2007/artsmoke-photographing-smoke](http://www.photocritic.org/2007/artsmoke-photographing-smoke)



(c) Graham Jeffery

**A reminder to those awarded honours** for their image(s) during a club night competition. Send a scan of your image to Tim Rix-Trott for it to be displayed on the APS website ([www.aps.net.nz](http://www.aps.net.nz)).

Tim's email address is [webmaster@aps.net.nz](mailto:webmaster@aps.net.nz).

Before sending, size your images to 300 pixels on the longest side with res. of 72 dpi.

In Adobe Photoshop to size images select **Image Size** in the **Image** menu. Set resolution to 72 pixels/inch then the height or width to 300 pixels (whichever currently has the larger value).

*'till next month - Ed.*

*Luck is the attentive photographer's best teacher.*  
*- John Szarkowski*