

November 2020

Meetings held at Age Concern Rooms in Forth Street, Invercargill at 7.30pm on the first & third Thursday of each month.

Supper Duty

5 November

Guy Fawkes Night. See page 5.

26 November

Annual Awards Night. See back page.

Patron: Graham Dainty

Office Bearers:

President: Cheryl McMath

Vice President: Stephanie Forrester

Immediate Past President: Barbara Lee

Secretary: Liz Collett

Treasurer: Gillian Maclean

Committee Members: Iles Ladbrook, David Watson, Val Wardell, Anna Stewart, Graham Dobbs

Digital Image Secretary: Stephanie Forrester

Print Secretaries: Ian Smith, Cheryl McMath

Newsletter Editor: Rosemary McGeachie

Facebook/Website: Les Ladbrook

October 29

Street Photography

We will meet at the Club rooms at Age Concern at the usual time, 7:30pm, (no charge).

There will be a brief introduction before people set off in small groups to begin image making.

We are looking for good participation so that a set of images can be made available for a Street Photography Theme night early next year.

5 November

Social Night Bonfire

- to be held at David Watson's property at:

370 McQuarry Street

Bring your own chair.

BYO Food - Picnic Tea (see P5 for more info)

26 November

Annual Awards Night

Please note start time of 6pm

*I am a Seenager (Senior Teenager)
I have everything I wanted as a teenager,
only sixty years later. I don't have to go to
school or work. I get an allowance every
month. I have my own pad. I don't have a
curfew. I have a driver's licence and car.
The people I hang around are not scared of
getting pregnant and they do not use
drugs. And I don't have acne. Life is great!*

*I was at an ATM yesterday when a little old
lady asked if I could check her balance, so I
pushed her over.*

*Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not
Happy.*

1 October

We started the evening with the NHx(4) Results, and then on to the Set Subject - Take My Hand - as Cheryl said 'It is interesting what different people come up with'. And it was that again tonight. Thanks to those who contributed.

Cheryl led a discussion about how Members feel about the current presentation of results and are any changes needed.

Les then spoke about the questionnaire that will be sent out very shortly. Please complete this - it helps both the Committee and Planning Committee to plan for next year.

And finally Barbara showed as part of 'Hints & Tips' and quick presentation of Pep Ventosa, a Catalan photographer, who does a different style of photography. Look him up on the Net - some innovative stuff there.

15 October

The evening began with a belated Tyree Bros Portrait Competition. Some great pics - and well done for the prize winners.

This was followed by an excellent presentation by Dave & Debbie - 'Photographing What's There' about their trip to Europe. This was obviously appreciated by our group - as there were lots of questions afterwards.

I guess it will be a wee while before we start getting around the world again - if ever, as easily as we have had recently.

'Men are like linoleum floors. Lay 'em right and you can walk all over them for fifty years.' - Betsy Selkind

'I've been married to a communist and a fascist, and neither would take out the garbage.' - Zsa Zsa Gabor

'Home cooking: Where many a man thinks his wife is.' - Jimmy Durante

Results

Natural History (4)

Digital

A Grade

Peter Aalders

'Shaggy sea hare, Bursatella leachii' - Accepted

'Rounded Earthstar (Geastrum Saccatum)' - Merit

Barbara Lee

'Piwakawaka in Macrocarpa' - Accepted

'Riroriro' - Accepted

Rosemary McGeachie

'Black-backed Gull in flight' - Accepted

Dawn Patterson

'Trichomanes reniforme' - Accepted

'Marabou Stork Leptopitilos crumerifer' - Accepted

Chris Watson

'Starfish' - Merit

B Grade

Sally Dobbs

'Gallirallus australis' - Accepted

'Torea pango' - Accepted

Sonia Kennard

'South Island robin' - Accepted

'Red-billed gulls' - Honours

Gillian Mclean

'Juvenile Southern Black-Backed Gull' - Accepted

'New Zealand Sea Lion Bull (Head Study)' - Merit

Sandra Stevens

'New Zealand Falcon' - Accepted

'Australian White Ibis' - Accepted

Anna Stewart

'Red-billed Gull Larus novaehollandiae' - Merit

'Black Swan Kakianau' - Merit

C Grade

Neal Cole

'New Zealand Sea Lion' - Accepted

'Mollmawk (thalassarche cauta)' - Accepted

Graham Dobbs

'Chroicocephalus scopulinus' - Honours

Keri Kahotea

'Web encased droplet Pinaceae' - Accepted

'Mute Swan' - Accepted

Rosalie Lindsay

'Tremella fuciformis - Snow fungus' - Merit

Tania Mackie

'Torea-pango (1)' - Accepted

'Torea-pango (2)' - Merit

Attorney: Are you sexually active?

Witness: No, I just lie there.

Attorney: ALL your response MUST be oral?

What school did you go to?

Witness: Oral.

Prints

A Grade

Peter Aalders

'Red-billed-gull' - Accepted

'Red-billed-gull-New-Zealand' - Honours

Barbara Lee

'White-fronted Tern' - Accepted

'Silvereye in gorse bush' - Merit

Rosemary McGeachie

'Juvenile Black-backed Gull (Dominican) (Larus dominicanus)' - Merit

'Pied Shag (Phalacrocorax varius)' - Merit

B Grade

Gillian Maclean

'Blue Damselfly (Austrolestis colenonis)' - Honours

'New Zealand Pidgeon (Kererū)' - Merit

Anna Stewart

'Tui head detail' - Honours

C Grade

No entries

Tyree Brothers' Portrait Competition

Digital

Tania Mackie

'Dustbowl angel' Third

Stephanie Forrester

'The Three of Us' - Second

Chris Duggan

'Cory' - First

Prints

Chris Duggan

'Teen age boy' - Third

Dave Tose

'Sad Song' - Second

Tania Mackie

'Gold on gold' - First

A man and his wife were in court getting a divorce. The problem was, who should get custody of the child.

The wife jumped up and said: 'Your Honour, I brought the child into the world with pain and labour. She should be in my custody.'

The judge turns to the husband and says 'What do you have to say in your defence?' The man sat for a while contemplating... then slowly rose. 'Your Honour, if I put a dollar in a vending machine and a Pepsi comes out... whose Pepsi is it... the machine's or mine?'

Notice in a farmer's field:

THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

Miners Refuse to Work after Death.

No-good-for-nothing' lazy so-and-so's!

I'm going to retire and live off my savings. What I do on the second day, I'm not sure.

Just got back from my mate's funeral. He died after being hit on the head with a tennis ball. It was a lovely service.

'It takes a lot of imagination to be a good photographer. You need less imagination to be a painter because you can invent things. But in photography everything is so ordinary; it takes a lot of looking to see the extraordinary.' - David Bailey

As the train rolled out of the station, the guy sitting next to her pulled out his cell phone and started talking in a loud voice:

'Hi sweetheart. It's Eric. I'm on the train.

Yes, I know it's the six-thirty and not the four-thirty, but I had a long meeting. No, honey, not with that blonde from the accounts office. With the boss. No sweetheart, you're the only one in my life.

Yes, I'm sure, cross my heart'

Ten minutes later, he was still talking loudly, when the young woman sitting next to him had had enough and leaned over and said into the phone:

'Eric, turn that phone off and come back to bed.'

Eric doesn't use his cell phone in public any longer.

Having to read a footnote resembles having to go downstairs and answer the door while in the middle of making love.

Attorney: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a desposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

Witness: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

Attorney: Were you present when your picture was taken?

Witness: Would you repeat that question?

Attorney: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know anything about it until next morning?

Witness: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

Attorney: How was your first marriage terminated?

Witness: By death.

Attorney: And by whose death was it terminated?

When I was in the pub I heard a couple of plonkers saying that they wouldn't feel safe on an aircraft if they knew the pilot was a woman. What a pair of sexists. I mean, it's not as if she'd have to reverse the bloody thing!

As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder. - John Glenn

When the white missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land. Desmond Tutu.

'Photography is finding out what can happen in a frame. When you put four edges around some facts, you change these facts.' - Garry Winogrand.

12 Tips to Help You Capture Stunning Landscape Photos

Whether you are an experienced photographer or just getting started, the amazing landscape photographs you see have all got a few things in common. The reality of landscape photography is that not only are you reliant on your own ability and skill of seeing and composing an image, but also on Mother Nature. But regardless of whatever weather you encounter, there are countless opportunities to be able to capture spectacular landscape photographs.

Location, location, location

Landscape photography is as much about planning as it is about the actual process of photography. You should always have a clear idea of where you are planning to go, and at what time of the day you will be able to capture the best photograph. Learn how to read maps and understand how you can utilize them to find the perfect location. By planning your exact location, you will be able to maximize your time there, and ensure not only that you get to your location safely and in plenty of time, but also that you find your way back (usually after sunset).

Be patient

It's amazing the number of times that the elements conspire to ruin a perfectly composed photograph. Landscape photography requires patience, just in case that white cloudy sky disperses just long enough to allow the sun to break through for you to take your shot. The key is to always allow yourself enough time at a location so that you are able to wait if you need to. Forward planning can also help you hugely, so make sure to check weather forecasts before leaving, maximizing your opportunity for the weather you require.



Don't be lazy

One of the reasons we are often stunned by impressive landscape photos is because it is a view taken in a way that we have never seen

before. A photo taken from the top of a mountain which requires a huge amount of time and effort to get to is a view that most people won't get to see for themselves. So don't rely on easily accessible viewpoints that everyone else can just pull up to and see. Instead, look for those unique spots (provided they are safe to get to) that offer amazing scenes, even if they require determination to get there.

Use the best light

Light is one of the most important factors in any photograph, but even more so in landscape photography. It really doesn't matter how great the location, is or how you compose your photo - if the light doesn't do the scene justice, then the image will fail. The best light for landscape photography is early in the morning or late afternoon, with the midday sun offering the harshest light.

But part of the challenge of landscape photography is about being able to adapt and cope with different lighting conditions; for example, great landscape photos can be captured even on stormy or cloudy days. The key is to use the best light as much as possible, and be able to influence the look and feel of your photos with it.



Carry a tripod

Simply put, if you want to capture the best photographs, at the best time of the day, at the highest quality possible, then a tripod is an essential piece of equipment. Photography in low light conditions (e.g. early morning or early evening) without a tripod would require an increase in ISO to be able to avoid camera shake, which in turn means more noise in your images. If you want to capture a scene using a slow shutter speed or long exposure (for example, to capture the movement of clouds or water) then without a tripod you simply won't be able to hold the camera steady enough to avoid blurred images from camera shake.

Maximize the depth of field

Choosing your depth of field is an important part of capturing stunning landscapes. Landscape photos usually require the vast majority of the photo to be sharp (the foreground and background) so you need a deeper depth of field than if you are taking a portrait of someone. But a shallower depth of field can also be a powerful creative tool if used correctly, as it can isolate the subject by keeping it sharp, while the rest of the image is blurred. As a starting point, if you are looking to keep the majority of the photo sharp, set your camera to Aperture Priority (A or AV) mode so you can take control of the aperture. Start at around f/8 and work up (f/11 or higher) until you get the desired effect.



Think about the composition

As much as possible you should always aim to get your composition right when taking the photo, rather than relying on post-production. If the scene doesn't look right when you look at it through your viewfinder, then it won't look good in the final output. There are several techniques that you can use to help your composition (such as the rule of thirds), but ultimately you need to train yourself to be able to see a scene, and analyse it in your mind. With practice this will become second nature, but the important thing is to take your time.

Use neutral density and polarizing filters

Neutral Density filters and polarizers are an essential piece of kit for any landscape photographer. Often you will need to manipulate the available light, or even try to enhance the natural elements. For example, if you are taking photos which include water, you may find you get unwanted reflections from the sun, which is where a polarizing filter can help by minimizing the reflections and also enhancing the colours (greens and blues). But remember, polarizing filters often have little or no effect on a scene if you're directly facing the sun, or it's behind you. For best results

position yourself between 45° and 90° to the sun.

One of the other big challenges of landscape photography is getting a balanced exposure between the foreground, which is usually darker, and a bright sky. Graduated ND filters help to compensate for this by darkening the sky, while keeping the foreground brighter. This can be replicated in post-production, but it is always best to try and capture the photo as perfectly as possible in-camera.



Use the histogram

Histograms are an essential tool in photography, which you should aim to learn how to read and utilize the findings to improve your photos. A histogram is a simple graph that shows the different tonal distribution in your image. The left side of the graph is for dark tones and the right side of the graph represents bright tones.

For instance, if you find that the majority of the graph is shifted to one side, this is an indication that your photo is too light or dark (overexposed or underexposed). This isn't always a bad thing, and some images work perfectly well either way. However, if you find that your graph extends beyond the left or right edge, this shows that you have parts of the photo with lost detail (pure black areas if the histogram extends beyond the left edge and pure white if it extends beyond the right edge). This is something you should avoid, so by seeing the evidence in the histogram, you are able to correct it by either recomposing the image or compensating for the exposure.

Never settle for a good photo

This is true of any photograph that you are taking. It doesn't matter if it is a landscape or a portrait; if you can do it better, then you should. But often because of the time and effort that landscape photography requires, people settle for a good photo, rather than waiting or coming back to take a better one. You should

always aim to photograph anything at the best possible time, in the best possible way, even if that means waiting or coming back later.



Shoot in RAW format

Simply put, if your camera is capable of capturing photos in RAW format, then I recommend that you always capture RAW files. They contain much more detail and information and give far greater flexibility in post-production without losing quality. Remember, you can always save RAW files in whatever other formats you require, but you will not be able to save JPEGs as RAW files, so ultimately you are limited to the quality at which the JPEG was shot.

Experiment

For all the techniques and rules that exist to help aid composition and the process of taking the photo, there is always room to experiment. Digital photography means that taking a photo isn't wasting a negative (and costing money), so there is ample opportunity to break the rules and your own style sometimes. Even if the majority of the time it doesn't work and the image doesn't look great, every now and again you might uncover a gem.

Landscape photography is one of the most common genres that amateur and professional photographers get into. With practice, hard work, and patience you can capture stunning landscape photos that will look great in your portfolio.

Adapted from Kav Dadfar - DigitalPhotography School

When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife. Prince Philip.

'Don't pack up your camera until you have left the location.' Joe McNally

*A judge was interviewing a South Carolina woman regarding her pending divorce and asks, 'What are the grounds for your divorce?'
'About four acres and a nice little home in the middle of the property with a stream running by.'
'No,' he said, 'I mean what is the foundation of this case?'
'It is made of concrete, brick, and mortar,' she responded.
'I mean,' he continued, 'what are your relations like?'
'I have an aunt and uncle and 12 cousins living here in town, as well as my husband's parents.'
The judge took a deep breath and asked, 'Do you have a real grudge?'
'No, we have a two-car carport and have never really needed one cuz we don't have a car.'
'Please,' he tried again, 'is there any infidelity in your marriage?'
'Yes, both my son and daughter have stereo sets. We don't necessarily like the music - all that hip hop and rap tap - but we can't seem to do anything about it.'
'Ma'am, does your husband ever beat you up?'
'Yes, he gets up every morning before I do and makes the coffee.'
The judge asked, 'Is your husband a nagger?'
'Oh, hell no, he's as white as you and me!'
Finally, in frustration, the judge asked, 'Lady, why in hell do you want a divorce?'
'Oh, I don't want a divorce,' she replied.
'I've never wanted a divorce, my husband does. The damn fool says he can't communicate with me.'*

How to write good.

1. Avoid Alliteration. Always.
 2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
 3. Avoid cliches like the plague. They are old hat.
 4. Comparisons are as bad as cliches.
 5. More or less specific.
 6. Writers should never generalise.
- Be consistent.*
8. Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
 9. Who needs rhetorical questions?
 10. Exaggeration is a million times worse than understatement.

When I die...

I want to die peacefully like my Grandfather did, in his sleep Not screaming like the passengers in his car!!!!

Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.

Intoxicaton: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Caterpallor (n.): The colour you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit

'The best thing about a picture is that it doesn't change, even when the people in it do.' - Andy Warhol

A Tip for Panning Sports Photography

If you want to show motion in a sports photo is to use a very slow shutter speed (1/60 of a second or lower), while shooting (burst) mode, and then pan right along with the athlete so most if not of all, of the athlete will be in focus, but the background will be totally blurred - giving a sense of speed. There is another tip to add to that. The tip: when you are panning, swivel you hips as you pan (don't just twist at the waist) and you'll get much smoother results. So, while you are swivelling, shoot a burst of shots, in continuous shooting (burst) mode, so you get a string of shots as you pan. You might only get one sharp out of twenty shots - but that's all you need! You have done well. 😊

Adapted from: Scott Kelby

Bill and Sam, two elderly friends, met in the park every day to feed the pigeons, watch the squirrels and discuss world problems. One day Bill didn't show up. Sam didn't think much about it and figured maybe he had a cold or something. But after Bill hadn't shown up for a week or so, Sam really got worried. However, since the only time they ever got together was at the park, Sam didn't know where Bill lived, so he was unable to find out what had happened to him. A month had passed, and Sam figured he had seen the last of Bill, but one day, Sam approached the park and - lo and behold! - there sat Bill! Sam was very excited and happy to see him and told him so. Then he said, 'For crying out loud Bill, what in the world happened to you?' Bill replied, 'I've been in jail.' 'Jail?' cried Sam. 'What in the world for?' 'Well,' Bill said, 'you know Sue, that cute little blonde waitress at the coffee shop where I sometime go?' 'Yeah,' said Sam, 'I remember her. What about her?' 'Well, one day she filed rape charges against me; and at 89 years old, I was so proud that when I got into court, I pleaded 'guilty'... So, the bloody judge gave me 30 days for perjury!!!!'

BEING THANKFUL

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, 'So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?' The little boy replied, 'Thank God he's in bed!'

A man invites his mate back home for dinner. His wife screams at him, 'I've not done my hair, not done my make up, not done any housework, not done the dishes & can't be bothered with cooking! What the hell did you invite him round for?' 'Cos he's thinking of getting married.'

You don't take a photograph, you make it. - Ansel Adams

From David Watson:

Being Guy Fawkes night, the club will be having a family friendly meeting at David Watson's place 370 McQuarrie Street (between Chesney Street and McMillan Street).

Kick off at 7:00pm.

There will be a bonfire and some fireworks provided by the Club, though members may wish to bring some pyrotechnics of their own. It will be a good chance to give the camera a workout.

Members will be required to supply their own luxuries, such as seating, food and other appropriate supplies.

Looking forward to seeing you there...

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. George Burns.

ALL MEN / ALL GIRLS

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past).

For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, 'And all girls.'

This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, 'Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?'

Her response, 'Because everybody always finish their prayers by saying 'All Men!'

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, 'They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead.'

Paddy is doing some roofing work for Murphy. He nears the top of the ladder and starts shaking and going dizzy. He calls down to Murphy and says 'I tink oill ave to go home, I've come all over giddy and feel sick.'

Murphy asks 'Ave yer got vertigo?' Paddy replies 'No, I only live round the corner.'

Catering for EOY Night

Would Club Members please bring savoury cold finger-food items.

Committee Members will bring cold sweet finger-food.

Please remember there are NO facilities at Age Concern to heat anything.

2020 Creative Focus Competition

Creative Focus Category Winner:

Barbara Lee

'Soaring Wide'

Congratulations, Barbara - well done!

The Psychiatrist and the Proctologist. Two doctors opened an office in a small town and put up a sign, 'Dr Smith and Dr Jones, Psychiatry and Proctology.' The town council was not happy with the sign, so the doctors changed it to, 'Dr's Smith & Jones, Hysterias and Posteriors. This was not acceptable, so in an effort to satisfy the council they changed the sign to 'Schizoids and Haemorrhoids.' No go. They tried, 'Catatonics and High Colonics.' Thumbs down again. Then, 'Manic Depressives and Anal Retentives.' Not good. Another attempt resulted in 'Minds and Behinds.' Unacceptable again. So they tried 'Lost Souls and Ass Holes.' No way. 'Analysis and Anal Cysts?' Nope. 'Nuts and Butts?' Uh uh. 'Freaks and Cheeks?' Still no go. 'Loons and Moons?' Forget it. At their wit's end, the doctors finally came up with: 'Dr Smith and Dr Jones, Odds and Ends.', - acceptable.

A mother passing by her son's bedroom was astonished to see the bed was nicely made, and everything was picked up. Then, she saw an envelope, propped up prominently on the pillow. It was addressed, 'Mum' Fearing the worst, with trembling hands and pounding heart, she opened the envelope, then as tears formed, she read the letter. Dear Mum. It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing you. I have had to elope with my new girlfriend, because I wanted to avoid a scene with Dad and you. I've found real passion with Stacy, and she is so nice, but I knew you would not approve of her, because of all her piercings, tattoos, her tight Motorcycle clothes, and because she is so much older than I am. But it's not only the passion, Mum. She's pregnant. Stacy said that we will be very happy. She has a trailer in the woods, and has a stack of firewood for the whole winter, and we share a dream of having many more children.

Stacy has opened my eyes to the fact that marijuana doesn't really hurt anyone. We'll be growing it for ourselves, and trading it with the other people in the commune to get the cocaine and ecstasy we want. In the meantime, we'll pray that science will find a cure for AIDS, so Stacy can get better. She sure deserves it!! Don't worry Mum, I'm 15, and I know how to take care of myself. I'm sure we'll be back to visit someday, and then you can get to know your many grandchildren. Love, your son, Nicholas.

'P.S. Mum, none of the above is true. I'm over at Jason's house. I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than the school report that's on my desk'