

# Southern Exposure

Southland Photographic Society

<http://www.southlandphotographicsociety.com>

July 2021

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

## Supper Duty

1 July

Mark Phillips, John Grant

15 July

Dave Tose, Debbie Main-Tose

**8 July ( [Note change of date](#) )**

**Open Open C Grade(3) Results**

**Speaker: Simon Woolfe**

[Simon's Website](#)

**And if there is time.:**

**Post-Processing - Les Ladbrook**

**Composition Pointers - Annie Carmichael**

**15 July**

**Close-off: Open A,B & C Grades (4)**

**Open A&B Grade (3) Results**

**Guest Speaker: John Cosgrove (2021 - PJ Judge)**

**17 July**

**Zoom Meeting: Glyn Dewis.**

**You will connect from home for this, at 7pm Saturday.**

*I was reading an article on the presentation of a newly bred rose to Queen Elizabeth by the Royal Horticultural Society called the Duke of Edinburgh Rose. I thought it a bit of a laugh that the president of the society has the name of Keith Weed.*

**9-11th July - Mid Winter Trip to Otago Peninsula**

**3 June**

Well - what a great night we had - in spite of a lot of non-acceptances! Some useful advice though, and some encouraging noises from the Judges.

We saw both NHx(2) and PJ(2) results. Congratulations for those that achieved Acceptance or better for their efforts. Well done!

Then we moved on to Barbara's presentation on the recent 'Wild Child Workshop' in Queenstown. It sounded a most productive weekend, with some very innovative photography.

And finally we finished the evening with Stephanie speaking about her photographic journey - and very nostalgic for me, and a lot of the places were very familiar!

**17 June**

What a great night! We started the evening with Zoom presentation by Helen Westerbeke - a photographer from Wellington. She talked about her earlier photography and then moved on to her journey through the PSNZ Honours to FPSNZ. She talked with good knowledge and with a more that a few touches of humour.

Then we finished the evening with an AV shown by Les, about Tim Flach, a photographer from the UK. He mostly spoke about the making of his current book on bird photography, titled 'Bird'.

*'I had a boss called 'Drill Bit' because he was a small boring tool.'*

**Mid Winter Dinner - 28th August**

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:

Les 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

## **Congratulations!**

**Shirley Kerr - LPSNZ**

**Valerie Wardell - PSNZ  
Service Medal**

These awards were made at the recent PSNZ National Convention in Christchurch.

Well, done to the two of you. We are very proud of you both.

*She was outside pulling weeds on a hot summer day when her husband walked up and asked her what they were having for dinner.*

*Irritated by the thought of him sitting in the air-conditioned house while she laboured away on the weeds, she snapped, 'I can't believe you're asking me about supper right now! Pretend I'm out of town, go inside and make dinner yourself!'*

*So, he went back in the house and fixed himself a big steak, potatoes, garlic bread, and a tall beer.*

*His wife walked in just about the time he was finishing up and asked, 'Where's my dinner?'*

*He replied, 'I thought you were out of town.'*

*And then the fight started....*

*A young lad from Glasgow took his new girlfriend home for the first time.*

*He went into the living room where his father sat and said hello this is Amanda. His father, choking on his whisky said it's a what. (Editor comment: I understand what they say in Glasgow...)*

*Housework was a woman's job, but one evening Jenny arrived home from work to find the children bathed, one load of laundry in the washer and another in the dryer. Dinner was on the stove, and the table set... She was astonished!*

*It turns out that Ralph had read an article that said, 'Wives who work full-time and had to do their own housework were too tired to have sex.'*

*The night went very well. The next day, she told her office friends all about it. 'We had a great dinner. Ralph even cleaned up the kitchen. He helped the kids do their homework, folded all the laundry and put it away. I really enjoyed the evening.'*

*'But what about....you know....afterwards?' asked her friends.*

*'Oh, that! ..... No, Ralph was too tired.'*

*A man was sitting reading his papers when his wife hit him round the head with a frying pan.*

*'What was that for?' the man asked.*

*The wife replied 'That was for the piece of paper with the name Jenny on it that I found in your trousers pocket.'*

*The man then said 'When I was at the races last week Jenny was the name of the horse I bet on.'*

*The wife apologised and went on with the housework.*

*Three days later the man is watching TV when his wife bashes him on the head with an even bigger frying pan, knocking him unconscious.*

*Upon re-gaining consciousness the man asked why she had hit him again.*

*Wife replied. 'Your horse phoned.'*

*One day a student was taking a very difficult essay exam. At the end of the test, the prof asked all the students to put their pencils down and immediately hand in their tests. The young man kept writing furiously, although he was warned that if he did not stop immediately, he would be disqualified. He ignored the warning, finished the test 10*

*minutes later, and went to hand the test to his instructor. The instructor told him he would not take the test. The student asked, 'Do you know who I am?' The prof said, 'No and I don't care.' The student asked again, 'Are you sure you don't know who I am?'*

*The prof again said no. So, the student walked over to the pile of tests, placed his in*

*the middle, then threw the papers in the air. 'Good' the student said and walked out. He passed.*

*A preacher was told by his doctor that he had only a few weeks left to live.*

*He went home feeling very sad, and when his wife heard the sad news she said to him, 'Honey, if there's anything I can do to make you happy, tell me.'*

*The preacher answered, 'You know, dear, there's that box in the kitchen cabinet with what you always called 'your little secret' in it and you said you never would want me to open it as long as you lived. Now that I'm about to go home to be with the Lord, why don't you show me what's in that secret box of yours?'*

*The preacher's wife got out the box and opened the lid. It contained \$100,000 and three eggs. 'What are those eggs doing in the box?' the preacher asked. 'Well, Honey,' she replied, 'every time your sermon was really bad I put an egg in the box.' Now the preacher had been preaching for over forty years and seeing only three eggs in that old shoe box, he started to feel very proud about himself and it warmed his soul. 'And what about that \$100,000?' he asked. 'Oh, you see,' she whispered softly, 'every time there were a dozen eggs in the box, I ..sold them.'*

*What's the difference between Covid-19 and Romeo and Juliet? One's the coronavirus and the other is a Verona crisis!*

*Who's idea was it to sing 'Happy Birthday' while washing your hands? Now every time I go to the bathroom, my kids expect me to walk out with a cake!*

*If I keep stress-eating at this level, the buttons on my shirt will start socially distancing from each other!*

*If there's a baby boom nine months from now, what will happen in 2033? There will be a whole bunch of quaranteens!*

## **Glyn Dewis**

Glyn tells us that he is a photographer from the UK. He lives in Devon and says he is a Photographer, Educator and Best Selling Author.

He also says he is a Husband, an Animal Lover and the Founder and Photographer of the 39-45 Portraits Project.

## **One Day Workshop - Graham Dainty - 28 August**

Graham tells me that his Landscape Design Workshop is about teaching you to see what is in front of you, and how to deal with it. He will tell you how to deal with differing lighting conditions, understanding design principles, and how to deconstruct what you see, and then assemble it to look its best in the frame.

He tells me that section will be about 4 hours, followed by lunch and then we will all go outside to put what we have learnt into practice.

He finally tells me that the principals discussed apply to all photography, not just landscape photography.

Coming: costs for this day, and then we go on to our Midwinter in the evening.

*When NASA started sending up astronauts, they quickly discovered that ballpoint pens would not work at zero gravity. To combat the problem, NASA scientists spent a decade and \$12 billion developing a pen that wrote at zero gravity, upside down, underwater, on almost any surface including glass and at temperatures ranging from below freezing to 300C. The Russians used a pencil.*

*I stopped at a friend's house the other day and found him stalking around with a fly-swatter. When I asked if he was getting any flies, he answered: 'Yeah, three males and two females.' Curious, I asked how he could tell the difference. He said: 'Three were on a beer can and two were on the phone.'*

*One day, Einstein has to speak at an important science conference. On the way there, he tells his driver that looks a bit like him: 'I'm sick of all these conferences. I always say the same things over and over!'*

*The driver agrees: 'You're right. As your driver, I attended all of them, and even though I don't know anything about science, I could give the conference in your place.'*

*'That's a great idea!' says Einstein. 'Let's switch places then!'*

*So they switch clothes and as soon as they arrive, the driver dressed as Einstein goes on stage and starts giving the usual speech, while the real Einstein, dressed as the car driver, attends it.*

*But in the crowd, there is one scientist who wants to impress everyone and thinks of a very difficult question to ask Einstein, hoping he won't be able to respond. So this guy stands up and interrupts the conference by posing his very difficult question. The whole room goes silent, holding their breath, waiting for the response.*

*The driver looks at him, dead in the eye, and says:*

*'Sir, your question is so easy to answer that I'm going to let my driver reply to it for me.'*

## Rule of Thirds in Photography: The Essential Guide

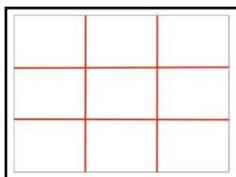
The *rule of thirds* is perhaps the most well-known “rule” of photographic composition. Use it carefully, and you’ll take some truly stunning images.

But what actually *is* the rule of thirds? Is it really that helpful? And when can you break the rule for a great result?

### What is the rule of thirds?

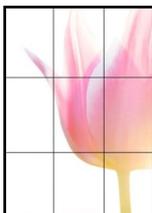
The rule of thirds is a compositional guideline that breaks an image down into thirds (both horizontally and vertically) so you have nine pieces and four gridlines. According to the rule, by positioning key elements along the gridlines, you’ll end up with better compositions.

Here is a visualization of the rule of thirds:



And to follow the rule, simply use the gridlines to position essential compositional elements.

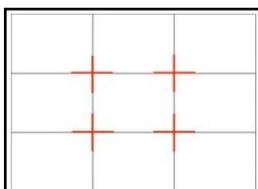
So, when shooting a flower, you would place its stem along the right or left vertical gridline:



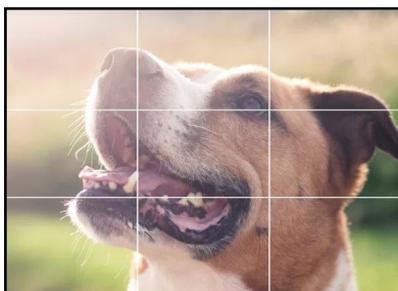
And when shooting a sunset, you would place the horizon line along the top or bottom horizontal gridline.

(Note that your camera may actually offer a grid overlay, which you can activate in the menu; that way, you don’t have to imagine the rule of thirds. Instead, you can see it as you look through the viewfinder!)

The rule of thirds also identifies four *power points* at the centre of each gridline intersection:



Here, you can position points of interest, such as a head (when shooting a portrait), a flower (when shooting a still life), or the eye of a pet, as shown in the image below:



As you can see, using the rule of thirds isn’t actually complicated. That’s what makes it so powerful - it’s a simple way to improve your compositions, and it requires literally zero art training or photographic experience.

I will say right up front, though:

Rules are meant to be broken, and just because you ignore the rule of thirds *doesn’t* mean that your composition is uninteresting or bland or otherwise bad. Despite its name, the rule of thirds is a *guideline*, not a hard-and-fast *rule*. You can absolutely create beautiful compositions without using the rule of thirds.

Also keep in mind that it’s just one composition technique among many. There are plenty other ‘rules’ and guidelines worth considering, such as symmetry, the rule of odds, triangular compositions, and more.

At the same time, the rule of thirds is an excellent way to get started with composition. It consistently produces great results, and even professional photographers use it all the time in their work. Plus, as a wise person once told me: if you intend to break a rule, you should always learn it first. That way, you can make sure you break it as effectively as possible.

### Why is the rule of thirds useful?

Now that you know how to follow the rule of thirds, it’s important to understand why it matters and what exactly it can do for your photos.

Really, the rule of thirds is about two things:

1. Balance
2. Dynamism (movement)

First, by positioning key elements at rule of thirds intersections or gridlines, your photo becomes more balanced. Your key elements create visual interest in a third of the composition, while also

balancing out the empty space in the remaining two-thirds. This looks great and feels right to the viewer.



Second, compositions that include key elements smack-dab in the centre of the frame often feel very static and boring. There’s nowhere for the viewer’s eye to wander; instead, the viewer looks at the shot, sees the subject at its centre, then leaves.

But the rule of thirds encourages dynamism, where the viewer sees a key element off to the side, then takes a visual journey throughout the rest of the image.

In other words:

A rule of thirds composition provides a more engaging photographic experience.

Also, the rule of thirds draws on the way humans naturally view images. Studies show that people’s eyes usually go to one of the intersection points rather than the centre of the shot - so the rule of thirds works with this natural way of viewing an image.

### When to use the rule (with examples)

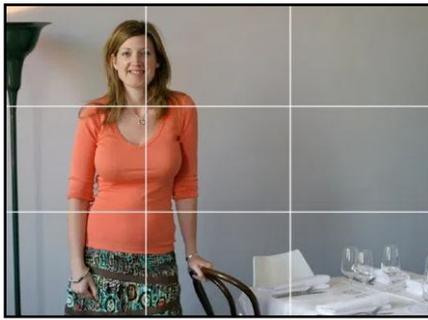
By now, you should know that the rule of thirds is useful pretty much all of the time. As long as you have distinct compositional elements to work with, you should consider applying the rule.

For instance, in landscape photography, you can position the horizon along the top horizontal gridline:

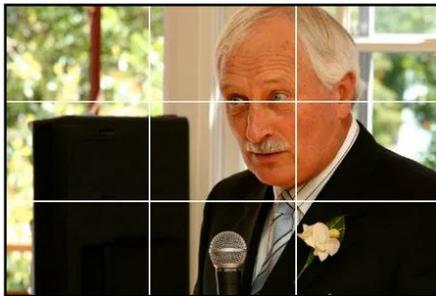


Also note how another key compositional element - the structure on stilts - is positioned at the upper-right power point of the frame. Thanks to this, the whole shot feels balanced and dynamic.

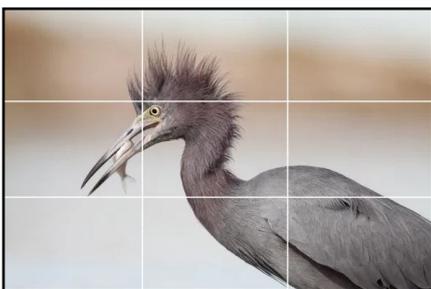
In portrait photography, you generally want to position the subject's body along a rule of thirds gridline:



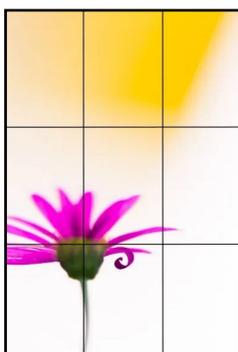
And it's also a good idea to place the head of your subject at one of the intersection points (and the eyes, which are a natural point of focus for a portrait). In the photo below, the tie and flower also offer a secondary area of interest, and they're aligned with a second intersection point:



In wildlife photography, you can align the subject's head (and eye) with a power point:



And in flower photography, subjects look great when the stem follows a rule of thirds gridline and the petals sit atop a power point:



### Quick tips for working with the rule of thirds

While it's easy to use the rule of thirds in your compositions, it may take a little time and practice for the rule to become second nature.

Try to get in the habit of asking two questions for every photo you take:

What are your points of interest (i.e., the areas of the photo that stand out and that you want to emphasize)?

Where are you intentionally placing those points?

That way, you can determine your points of interest, then you can immediately place them along a rule of thirds gridline or power point.

And your composition ends up beautifully balanced.

Also, if you fail to use the rule of thirds in a shot, it's not the end of the world. After all, you can always crop your photos later on! (Just make sure to keep the gridlines in mind when editing.)

By the way, if you want to start practicing the rule of thirds immediately, you can always pull up old photos and do some test cropping. See what impact it has on your photos; you might be impressed by the results.

### Breaking the rules: should you do it?

As I explained above, it is possible to break the rule of thirds and end up with beautiful photos.

In fact, sometimes you can end up with an even stronger composition by ignoring the rule. So while I encourage you to learn the rule of thirds, once it's ingrained, experiment with breaking it.

One of my favourite times to break the rule of thirds is when photographing symmetrical subjects. If you're photographing a succulent or flower from above, the symmetry looks even more striking when perfectly centred in the frame:



This shot of a corridor is also roughly symmetrical, which increases the composition's intensity:



And note that an image can both break and follow the rule of thirds at the same time. For instance, while the image above is mostly symmetrical, a key element (the man playing his cello) is positioned at an intersection point.

Bottom line:

Learn the rule of thirds. Then break it. And above all, have fun!

*Adapted from: Darren Rowse - digital-photography-school.com*

### Description of cricket as played in England.

Two old men in white coats walk slowly on to a large field, each carrying three long sticks and two short ones.

The old man each set their three sticks upright, 22 yards apart, and balance the two short sticks horizontally on the top of them.

When they are satisfied with the alignment of these creations, they turn and look at twenty-two younger men who are milling about on the edge of the field.

Then it rains.

A tour bus driver was driving a bus load of seniors down a highway when he was tapped on the shoulder by a little old lady..

She offered him a handful of almonds, which he gratefully munched up..

After about 15 minutes, she tapped him on the shoulder again and handed him another handful of almonds...

She repeated the gesture about five times.

When she was about to hand him another batch again, he asked the little old lady, 'Why don't you eat the almonds yourself?' 'We can't chew them because we've no teeth!' she replied.

'Why do you buy them then?' the puzzled driver asked

The old lady replied, 'We just love the chocolate around them...'

Answering machine message: - 'I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes.'

Patient: Doctor, doctor. I've come out in spots like cherries on a cake. Doctor: Ah, you must have analogy.

My girlfriend accused me of cheating. I told her she was starting to sound like my wife.