

December 2022

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

Next Meeting - Thursday, 26 January - same place, same time!



Greetings to all SPS Members

Our SPS year has come to an end for 2022. What a rollercoaster ride it's been! Hopefully we will all get the chance to take a much-needed break over the holidays and make photos of our holiday adventures.

'Holiday Happenings' will be our first Set Subject for 2023 and we are hoping to screen these at our first meeting on 26 January.

Planning is now well under-way for 2023. Further details and information will be sent out once some of the specific details have been confirmed. We had a great brainstorming session with a small group of members to come up with ideas for the programme and some interesting and fun ideas were forthcoming. The committee will do its best to ensure some, if not all, of these suggestions and ideas are included and implemented. Please let one of the committee members know if you have any ideas or suggestions.

A Special General meeting is scheduled for 16 February to fill vacant positions on committee and to sort some rule changes. It's important to have these vacancies filled and we'd like to have some new people join us on committee.

Congratulations to all those who won trophies this year. It's always inspiring to view all the amazing images and acknowledge the people who made them.

We look forward to seeing some more amazing and inspirational images in 2023. The quality of work shown at club just keeps getting better and better.

So, it's now up to me, on behalf of the SPS Committee, to say...

Happy holidays and all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Happy Clicking

Val

Patron: Graham Dainty

Office Bearers:

Interim Acting President: Val Wardell

Secretary: Liz Collett

Treasurer: Gillian Maclean

Committee Members:

Stephanie Forrester

Graham Dobbs - Publicity

Cheryl McMath - NH & PJ Print

Competition Secretary

Dave Rodgers - NH & PJ Competition Secretary

Other Roles

Ian Smith - Open Print Secretary

Stephanie Forrester - Open Digital Competition Secretary

Newsletter:

Rosemary McGeachie

Webpage

Stephanie Forrester

End of Year Results

2022 Aggregate Placings & Trophies

Open Digital

First Equal - Sonia Kennard
First Equal - Barbara Lee
First Equal - Debbie Main-Tose

Open Digital Trophy

All three!

Natural History Digital

A Grade

First - Chris Watson
Second Equal - Anna Stewart
Second Equal—Gillian Maclean

B Grade

First - Dave Rogers
Second - Sonia Kennard
Third Equal - Annie Carmichael
Third Equal - Tania Mackie

C Grade

First - Vicki Finlay
Second - Liz Newell
Third - Robyn Kelly

Natural History Trophy

Chris Watson

Photojournalism Digital

First - Chris Duggan
Second Equal - Dot Mullay
Second Equal - Sandra Stevens

Photojournalism Digital Trophy

Chris Duggan

Open Print

A Grade

First - Barbara Lee
Second Equal - Anna Stewart
Second Equal - Rosalie Lindsay

B Grade

First - David Clearwater
Second - Gillian Maclean
Third - Cheryl McMath

Open Print Digital Trophy

Barbara Lee

Natural History Print

A Grade

First - Dot Mullay
Second—Sr Maria

B Grade

First - Sandra Stevens
Second - Anna Stewart
Third - Gillian Maclean

C Grade

No entries

Natural History Print Trophy

Sandra Stevens

Photojournalism Print

First - Dot Mullay
Second - Sandra Stevens

Photojournalism Print Trophy

Dot Mullay

2022 Digital Championship

Open

Debbie Main-Tose
‘All by Myself’ - First
Gillian Maclean
‘Ko te Pouri (The Darkness)’ -
Second
Stephanie Forrester
‘In the Eye of the Storm’ -
Third

Landscape

Debbie Main-Tose
‘Cleddau Valley’ - First
Chris Watson
‘Te Anau’ - Second
Peter Aalders
‘Dunes eroding’ - Third

Monochrome

Adam Vosloo
‘The Hands’ - First
Chris Watson
‘The Heron’ - Second
Ian Smith
‘A Dad Moment’ - Third

Creative

Debbie Main-Tose
‘Sunkissed’ - First
Stephanie Forrester
‘Jump Now!’ - Second
Barbara Lee
‘Cavern’ - Third

Natural History

Charles Barwell Memorial Trophy

Chris Watson
‘Arctocephalus fosteri’ - First
Vicki Finlay
‘Monorch Butterfly’ - Second
Sonia Kennard
‘Black-fronted tern’ - Third

Photojournalism

Chris Duggan
‘Ouch’ - First
Chris Watson
‘Charging through’ - Second
Mark Stevens
‘Drifting’ - Third

Set of Six

Stephanie Forrester
‘Essence of St Bathans’ - First
Anna Stewart
‘Elements of Nature’ - Second
Barbara Lee
‘Only Six Days’ - Third

2022 Print Championship

Open

Barbara Lee
‘Beside Moke Lake’ - First
Gillian Maclean
‘Banjo Jack’ - Second
Chris Watson
‘Fiordland’ - Third

Landscape

Barbara Lee
‘Evening light in the Sound’ -
First
Anna Stewart
‘Mt Cook Sunset’ - Second
Barbara Lee
‘Robertson’ - Third

Monochrome

Stephanie Forrester
‘Stairway Reflections’ - First
Barbara Lee
‘Pain’ - Second
Anna Stewart
‘Through the Fog’ - Third

Creative

Barbara Lee
‘Fading Dreams’ - First
Barbara Lee
‘A Peak above’ - Second
Stephanie Forrester
‘Four and a Half Trees’ -
Third

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Natural History

Barbara Lee

'Black variant NZ Fantail' - First

Chris Watson

'Galactic core' - Second

Sandra Stevens

'Banded Dotteral' - Third

Photojournalism

Sandra Stevens

'Father and Sons doing the Haka' - First

Chris Watson

'Concentration' - Second

Chris Watson

'Ridgeline running' - Third

Congratulations, and well done to all the prize winners.

Shoot stunning black and white images

Black and white photography—we could wax poetic about its stunning effects and minimalistic charm, and we could write just as much about how many tips exist to ensure that you're capturing the best black and white photos possible.

However, here we'll only be focusing on one aspect of black and white photography—**composition**.



Arguably, composition is the most important thing you can master as you practice black and white photography, so we've gathered a few tips to keep your composition at its best.

1. Shoot selectively

Some shots are better suited for black and white than others, so train your brain to seek out compositions that will flourish in monochrome.

For example, you may choose to shoot black and white when the focus of your composition is on

shape and form. The lack of colour will draw the viewer's eye to these qualities.

2. Find leading lines

In black and white, utilizing leading lines to draw the viewer toward the subject of interest is even more important.

Search for these lines along the edges of city structures, following the path of streams or rock formations, or along the horizon.

3. Look for contrast

When we remove the colour from a photograph, capturing a wide range of tones becomes even more important.

Without deep blacks and bright whites, black and white photographers risk shooting images that can appear dull or muddy.

4. Embrace texture

Focus on the way that the peaks and valleys of texture affect the lighting of your shot—often, the shadows created by textures can yield beautiful contrast.

Plus, compositions embracing textures and patterns are particularly well-suited for black and white photography because removing colour allows the eye to focus more on the quality and detail of the texture itself.

Adapted from: DailyPhotoTips

It's Murphy's fault!

Murphy's Lesser-Known Dictums:

- 1) Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- 2) He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
- 3) Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
- 4) Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
- 5) The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
- 6) The things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first.
- 7) Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.
- 8) The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
- 9) A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
- 10) When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury service.



A pic of our Treasurer Gillian Maclean from the Otago Daily Times - 16 November, celebrating her winning the Eric Young Memorial Trophy for Best Landscape Projected Image, and the Ron Willems Medallion for Digital Photographer of the Year, AND that she has also achieved Licentiate Honours through PSNZ as well.

Congratulations and very well done, Gillian!

My favourite ad lib unscripted riposte from years ago was on a radio quiz show. Selwyn Toogood making conversation with a Canadian girl, 'So tell me what is a bison?'

The Canadian without skipping a beat replied 'something New Zealanders wash their face in'.

A Scotsman, an Irishman, and an Englishman are each sentenced to a year in solitary confinement; before being locked away, each is to be granted a year's supply of whatever he wants to help him get through the long, long spell alone.

- The Scotsman asks for a year's supply of whisky; it's given to him and he's locked away.
- The Irishman asks for a year's supply of Guinness so he's locked up with several thousand bottles of it.
- The Englishman asks for a year's supply of cigarettes, and he's given a pile of cartons and the cell door is shut on him. One year later, their doors are all unlocked.
- The Scotsman staggers out and shouts, 'I'm free!' and then keels over dead from alcohol poisoning.
- The Irishman is dragged out into the light, whereupon he promptly dies of liver failure.
- When the door to the Englishman's cell is opened, everybody watches eagerly to see what sort of a wreck the man has made of himself. To their surprise, he walks right out the door, sidles up to the first person he sees, and asks, 'I say you wouldn't happen to have a match, would you?'

7 Fascinating Photography Facts You Probably Didn't Know

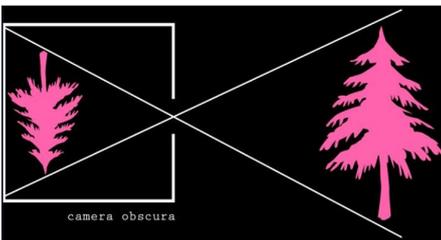
Photography has a long and fascinating history full of interesting events, items, and people. In this article, we share seven photo-related facts that are guaranteed to impress, including tidbits on cameras, photographic words, the most-viewed image ever created, and more.

1. It's all in the name

We use terms like 'photography' and 'camera' all the time, but where do these words actually come from? And when were they created? Our first photography fact harkens back to the origins of many of the words we photographers use today.

The term 'photography' actually originates from the Greek words 'photos' and 'graphé.' 'Photos' translates as 'light,' while 'graphé' means 'drawing' (or, more literally, 'a representation by means of lines'). When used in conjunction, the two words mean 'drawing with light.' The original coining of the word 'photography' is generally attributed to Sir John Herschel in 1839.

And the word 'camera'? It comes from the Latin term 'camera obscura,' which means 'dark chamber.' The term originally described a means of projecting an external scene onto a flat surface in a dark room or box, which was then used to aid painters with perspective and scale.



In fact, the camera as we know it today actually evolved from the camera obscura configuration. Early photographers simply placed light-sensitive materials at the back of a camera obscura, then waited as an image was produced. Over time, cameras became more sophisticated and portable, but elements of the original camera

obscura still remain! (And I have been to the one in Edinburgh! - Editor).

2. 'Kodak' is a nonsense word

Speaking of words, did you know the term 'Kodak' is simply made up? The company founder, George Eastman, favoured the letter 'K' because he believed it was a 'strong, incisive sort of letter.' Then, using an anagram set, Eastman and his mother came up with the name 'Kodak.' When devising the phrase, they used three principles:

The word needed to be short

The word needed to be easy to say

The word needed to be unlike any other name or association

As Kodak cameras became more popular, the word 'Kodak' - or rather the phrase 'Kodak moment' - was used to describe occurrences that seemed ideal for a photograph.

Unfortunately, despite its initial success, Kodak's popularity didn't last. In 2012, the company filed for bankruptcy; in the years that followed, Kodak sold its photography patents and shed its camera business. And while you can still find Kodak cameras on the shelves, they aren't made by Kodak; they're simply part of a licensing deal that takes advantage of the Kodak name.

3. The first selfie?

Self-portraits are commonplace today; we even have selfie sticks and front cameras for easy framing! But did you know that the photographic selfie dates way back to 1839 (the year in which photography was first unveiled to the world)?

Robert Cornelius, a lamp manufacturer with a keen knowledge of chemistry and metallurgy, took on the task of perfecting an early photographic process, the daguerreotype, alongside chemist Paul Beck Goddard.

In 1839, Cornelius decided to turn the camera on himself. While the daguerreotype created surprisingly sharp images, exposure times were very long, at least initially - so Cornelius was forced to sit

perfectly still for around 10 to 15 minutes. The resulting daguerreotype depicted an off-centre rendering of Cornelius, the oldest known, intentionally created photographic self-portrait.

4. The Blue Marble

While there are many Earth-focused photography facts, you can also have plenty of photo-knowledge fun with facts from extra-terrestrial adventures.

Taken in December 1972, *The Blue Marble* was captured by the crew of Apollo 17 on their way to the Moon. The picture was taken a whopping 18,000 miles (29,000 kilometres) from the surface of the Earth and is the first photograph to depict the entirety of our planet from space. The photograph subsequently became one of the most reproduced images in history; it also inspired and was used by countless activists in the environmental movement.



And just so you can have a bit of extra space-photography knowledge: Do you know what happens to cameras that are taken to the moon?

Hasselblad cameras have captured some of the most iconic images in history, including astronauts' first steps on the lunar surface. However, due to weight restrictions, not all the cameras that have embarked on moon missions have made it back to Earth. To this day, up to 12 Hasselblad cameras remain on the Earth's only natural satellite!

5. Photobooks are old

When was the first photobook released? 1950? 1900? 1880? Nope!

Photobooks have a rich history in photography, and Anna Atkins, a British botanist, seems to have started it all. Atkins learned early photographic processes from Henry Fox Talbot (who,

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incidentally, is the inventor of the calotype, one of the original photographic processes and rival of the daguerreotype). Atkins is also one of history's first female photographers.



Atkins documented botanical specimens using the blue-tinted cyanotype process. She then compiled her cyanotypes into the 1843 publication of *Photographs of British Algae: Cyanotype Impressions*. From 1843 to 1854, Atkins produced several volumes of her *Cyanotype Impressions* series. Only 17 copies of the work still exist.

6. The most-viewed photograph ever

I've seen it! You've seen it! We've *all* seen it! Captured by former National Geographic photographer Charles O'Rear in 1996, Bliss depicts rolling green hills and a semi-clouded blue sky in Sonoma County, California. In 2000, Microsoft bought the rights to the image; the company then used the image as the default computer wallpaper for the Windows XP operating system.

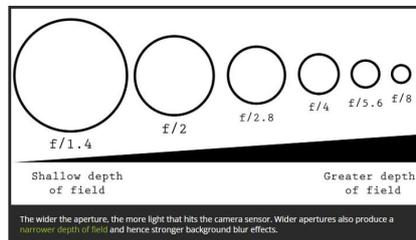
The success of Windows XP and its corresponding marketing materials has led most researchers to agree that *Bliss* is the most-viewed photograph of all time. Even O'Rear himself conceded that he would probably be best known for the shot, claiming that 'anybody now from age 15 on for the rest of their life will remember this photograph.'

Despite its surreal appearance, *Bliss* isn't manipulated. O'Rear captured the photo using a medium-format camera on film. He said: 'I think that if I had shot it with 35mm, it would not have nearly the same effect.'

7. Here's your final fascinating photography fact: Here's your final fascinating photography fact:

The camera lens and the eye have a lot in common - more than you might realize!

You see, all lenses have an aperture, the diaphragm through which light passes. Therefore, a camera lens can restrict the amount of light that reaches the camera sensor by adjusting the diameter of the aperture opening. Smaller apertures, such as f/8, let in very little light, while wider apertures, such as f/1.4, let in lots of light:



And our eyes are the same! In the eye, the iris does the same job, relaxing and constricting muscles to regulate the amount of light entering the eye. When you move between light and dark environments, the iris in your eye expands or shrinks to alter the size of the pupil.

Interestingly, the human pupil expands to around 7 mm in diameter. This equates to around f/2.1, though the pupil narrows down to around f/8.3 in very bright light.

Adapted from: Megan Kennedy - Digital Photography School

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were 'piss poor'. But worse than that were the really poor folk, who couldn't even afford to buy a pot; they 'Didn't have a pot to piss in' and were the lowest of the low.

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of 'Holding a Wake'.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, The family got the middle, and guests got the top, or 'The Upper Crust'.

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying 'It's raining cats and dogs.'

Tired of constantly being broke and stuck in an unhappy marriage, a young husband decided to solve both problems by taking out a large insurance policy on his wife with himself as the beneficiary, and then arranging to have her killed. A 'friend of a friend' put him in touch with a nefarious dark-side underworld figure who went by the name of 'Artie.'

Artie then explained to the husband that his going price for snuffing out a spouse was \$5,000. The husband said he was willing to pay that amount, but that he wouldn't have any cash on hand until he could collect his wife's insurance money. Artie insisted on being paid at least something up front, so the man opened his wallet, displaying the single dollar bill that rested inside. Artie sighed, rolled his eyes, and reluctantly agreed to accept the dollar as down payment for the dirty deed.

A few days later, Artie followed the man's wife to the local Countdown store where he surprised her in the Produce department and proceeded to strangle her with his gloved hands. As the poor unsuspecting woman drew her last breath and slumped to the floor.....the manager of the Produce department stumbled unexpectedly onto the murder scene.

Unwilling to leave any living witnesses behind, Artie had no choice but to strangle the Produce manager as well. However, unknown to him the entire proceedings were captured by hidden security cameras and observed by the store's security guard, who immediately called the police. Artie was caught and arrested before he could even leave the store.

Under intense questioning at the police station, Artie revealed the whole sordid plan, including his unusual financial arrangements with the hapless husband who was also quickly arrested. The next day in the newspaper, the headline declared (You're going to hate this ...) 'ARTIE CHOKES 2 for \$1.00 AT COUNTDOWN!'

Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. Police say that he topped himself.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly. They lit a fire in the craft to get warm. It sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it.

Are you making these low light photography mistakes?

Most photographers can appreciate the value of low light photography.

Buildings and other objects that normally seem trivial and mundane can look extraordinary in low light conditions.

However, even experienced photographers are sometimes challenged when it comes to getting the proper exposure and right focus in less-than-perfect light.

Here are some mistakes in low light photography you might not have known you were making.

1. Not Using a Remote Shutter Release



A remote shutter release is tremendously beneficial in low light conditions.

Corded ones are quite cheap. You can opt for an intervalometer if you want extra features.

Use the timer on your camera to take pictures if you don't have a remote for some reason. This helps prevent touching during the exposure which can introduce blur in your images.

2. Not Using a Tripod

Many enthusiasts and professional photographers sometimes feel the need to dispense with tripods because they're cumbersome and slow them down.

That's understandable. However, tripods are one of the best ways to get a sharp, crisp image regardless of the exposure length.

A tripod is mandatory if you are shooting a long exposure photo. Tripods are also crucial to night-time photography, where exposures of more than half a minute are frequent.

3. Switching the Vibration Reduction System On

These technologies (Vibration Re-

duction for Nikon, and Image Stabilization for Canon) can be very useful in handheld low light conditions that require slow shutter speeds.

They can be camera-based or lens-based depending on the brand, but they always serve the same purpose: to help reduce vibration, and thus reduce blur in your images.

This technology uses movement sensors to detect motion.

By moving an element group on the sensor or in the lens, it attempts to compensate movement.

However, this isn't necessary because there isn't going to be any vibration if your camera is on a robust tripod (see point #2).

In fact, turning the vibration reduction feature on might cause adverse effects as it can try to compensate for vibrations anyway, so it's best to just turn it off when your camera is on a sturdy tripod.

3. Low ISO Settings

Years ago, ISO settings up to 12,800 were unheard of.

Today, even low-end cameras work on these levels without any problems.

If you're shooting at slow shutter speeds, it's not rare to get blurry images (especially if your shutter speed is longer than the focal length you're shooting at.)

Thus, increased noise in the picture is something you might need to learn to live with.

Increasing the ISO makes it possible to increase the shutter speed correspondingly. However, do avoid excessive ISO because it can introduce too much noise.

Obviously if you're careful with your aperture, and you use a tripod, that should alleviate this issue somewhat.

Adapted from DailyPhotoTips

My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli. A strong currant pulled him in.

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day, but I couldn't see any.

Phone answering machine message - '...If you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key...'

The Story of Four Horses

A man asked an American Indian what his wife's name was.

He replied, 'She called Four Horse'.

The man said, 'That's an unusual name for your wife.

What does it mean?'

The Old Indian answered, 'It old Indian

Name. It mean,

NAG, NAG, NAG, NAG!'

A man owned a small farm in Southland. The Inspectors' Division of the Labour Department claimed he was not paying proper wages to his employees and sent an agent out to interview him.

'I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them,' demanded the Inspector.

'Well,' replied the Farmer, 'There's my farm hand who's been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$600 a week plus free room and board. The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$500 per week plus free room and board.

'Then there's the half-wit who works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, pays his own room and board and I buy him a bottle of whiskey every Saturday night.'

'That's the guy I want to talk to, the half-wit,' says the Inspector.

'That would be me,' replied the farmer.

One winter morning a couple was listening to the radio over breakfast. They hear the announcer say, 'We are going to have 8 to 10 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the even-numbered side of the street, so the snowploughs can get through.' Norman's wife goes out and moves her car.

A week later while they are eating breakfast again, the radio announcer says, 'We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the odd-numbered side of the street, so the snowploughs can get through.' Norman's wife goes out and moves her car again..

The next week they are again having breakfast, when the radio announcer says 'We are expecting 12 to 14 inches of snow today. You must park...' Then the power goes out.

Norman's wife is very upset, and with a worried look on her face she says, 'Honey, I don't know what to do. Which side of the street do I need to park on so the snowploughs can get through?'

With the love and understanding in his voice that all men who are married to blondes exhibit, Norman says...

'Why don't you just leave it in the garage this time darling?'

A husband and wife are shopping in their local Foodtown.

The husband picks up a 12 can pack of Steinlager and puts it in their cart.

'What do you think you're doing?' asks the wife.

'They're on sale, only \$10 for 24 cans he replies.

'Put them back, we can't afford them demands the wife, and so they carry on shopping.

A few aisles further on along the woman picks up a \$20 jar of face cream and puts it in the basket.

'What do you think you're doing?' asks the husband.

'It's my face cream... It makes me look beautiful,' replies the wife.

Her husband retorts: 'So does 12 cans of Steinlager and it's half the price.'

Crime in multi-storey car parks. That is wrong on so many different levels.