The newsletter of the Buller Camera Club

VIEWFINDER

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November 2017

We have a club weekend away to Erewhon planned for April 2018. Below is an article previously published in Viewfinder by Les Cooper who visited this area last year. Details on next year's trip are on page 4.

Mid Canterbury magic

words and photos by Les Cooper

After several photographic trips around the West Coast together, Sally promised to show me her favourite places near her home town of Ashburton and boy, was I in for a big surprise.

On a clear cloudless Saturday morning we loaded up her RAV with camera gear, lunches and not forgetting Zoe, my dog, and off into the hills we went. Our first stop was Mt Somers for milk as we forgot it for the coffee, then further west we proceeded towards Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater, passing the historic buildings of Hakatere Station.

We headed along the gravel road and as we gained altitude we went around a corner and to the right was a small mountain tarn with the reflections of snow covered mountains in view. Brakes on and out with all the gear. As I set up, Sally let Zoe out to chase rabbits – her dream time occupation. After several minutes I asked Sally why she wasn't taking pics and her answer was, "I've done this many times before so I'll help you." It was good to have her personal input as to what to do with landscape photography composition and settings.

Onwards and upwards as they say, Lake Camp was in the shadows still, so across to Lake Clearwater with its small settlement of 150 baches, and the vista of the sun rising and the reflection of the mountains on the lake was just spectacular. Lake Clearwater is a breeding ground for

From Potts Cutting looking towards Mt D'Archiac (left) and Cloudy Peak (right).

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the Southern Crested Grebe so Zoe was kept safely in the car. More photo opportunities and as we were about to leave, the good old nor'wester showed a little hint of movement on the lake. So further west we proceeded through wide open vistas of tussock country with the Southern Alps ever growing in size as we got closer to them.

Our next stop was Potts Cutting with more rabbit-fossicking for Zoe and more one-on-one tutorials for me with questions like, "What's your F-stop Les?" "What's your white balance setting?" and "What is your ISO?" and so on. Or "Let's try this, it will give your photos more punch."

The scenery looking out to the Rangitata River and Mt Sunday and further up towards Mt D'Archiac was all inspiring. The good old nor'wester, although challenging at times, had become our friend with giving good reflective light.

Next stop was Mount Potts Lodge for a pit stop and a walk around more photo opportunities like 'Ken' the Highland Bull and the views out over the plain towards Mesopotamia in the southwest. A 45-minute scramble through the red tussock and up Mt Sunday rewarded us with amazing 360° views even though we could hardly stand up in the nor'wester. Mt Sunday was the Edoras fort of the Rohan people in the making of the *Lord of The Rings* trilogy.

We headed further up the road to Erewhon, the 'Home of the Working Horse' and a fabulous Clydesdale stud. With new rugged landscapes in the form of the unique 'Jumped-Up Downs' and the shingle fans on the mountain sides, Sally was encouraging me to think outside the square, and instructed me to take a piece of the landscape rather than the bigger view. This resulted in nice shingle screes being photographed, giving textures and shapes to the compositions.

On the journey home we stopped off at Lake Clearwater to visit Sally's brother and family who were staying in their bach for the weekend. We patiently waited and were rewarded by an amazing sunset created by the famous norwest arch. I found this a very rewarding experience as I have never photographed such wide open spaces before and would dearly love to have a club field trip to this area sometime in the future. Special thanks to Sally for her time and patience.

Top: Evening norwest arch at Lake Clearwater. Above right: Sally and her RAV, with Mt D'Archiac in the background.

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Top: Looking towards Mesopotamia (top right) from Mt Sunday.

Left: Erewhon woolshed.

Below: The tarn on the road in from Mt Somers to Lake Clearwater.

Want to be more involved in the club?

We are looking for people who want to join the Buller Camera Club committee and help with the running of our club. Next year will be a busier year for the club – we are hosting both the Seddon Shield in August and the Burford Salver in November.

For more information please have a chat with Gary Stowell or anyone else on the committee. We need more club members to be involved!

Matting workshops

The club has purchased a pack each of black and white matt board, along with foam backed board that members are able to purchase. We are hoping this will encourage members to print their images and submit them in our monthly competiitons. We will be running regular matting and mounting workshops for you to learn how to mount your prints. The first one will be held at Gary Stowell's house, 51B Romilly Street from 10.00am on Saturday 20th January 2018. Bring along your printed images and something for the barbecue lunch!

Field trip ideas

If you have any ideas or suggestions for a good place for the club to visit on a field trip, please get in touch with Les Cooper, phone 789 9767 or email cooperles@xtra.co.nz

Club events

Last club night for 2017

Thursday 23 November 2017, 7.30pm

Buller REAP Hall, 13 Henley Street, opposite Salvation Army Hall, Westport

Shared Supper: Pot luck

Don't forget your grocery item for the Christmas hamper raffle!

Next field trip

This Sunday 26 November 2017

Cape Foulwind

Meet at the clocktower at 10.00am. Low tide is at 10.40am. Don't forget your lunch, drink bottle, sunscreen and camera gear!
Finish the afternoon off with a cuppa and a bite to eat at the Star Tavern.
Please keep an eye on the Facebook page, your email or your phone for meeting time or change of plans.

First club night for 2018

Saturday 27 January 2018, from 6pm

Westport Motor Hotel

Viewing the Best of the Year awards as judged by Ann Bastion. All most welcome, including new and potential members.

AGM

Thursday 22 February 2018, 7.30pm

Buller REAP Hall, 13 Henley Street, opposite Salvation Army Hall, Westport

Buller Camera Club trip to Erewhon

FRIDAY 13 APRIL TO SUNDAY 15 APRIL 2017

Two nights accommodation at Mt Potts Lodge, rough costs $100 per person for two nights
Deposit of $50 required per person, payable to Gary Stowell asap.
Don't miss out on this weekend of wonderful photography with a great bunch of people.
Any queries to Les Cooper, phone 789 9767 or email cooperles@xtra.co.nz

www.mtpotts.co.nz