The newsletter of the Buller Camera Club

VIEWFINDER

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February 2017

A week in Kekerengu

Words and photos by Les Cooper

As we all know at midnight on November 13 Kaikoura and its surrounds was ripped to bits by a massive earthquake with wide-scale devastation to not only the towns, but the outlying rural areas as well, right up to Blenheim.

New Zealand's newest lake, Lake Rebecca.

Moving on to January 2017, I was on Facebook and saw an advertisement for volunteers to go to the north of Kaikoura to help the farmers to get their lives back on track. So after some discussion with affected parties, including Fiona, I found myself heading off to Kekerengu to stay at a farmer's shearers quarters.

Saturday 4 February

I met with Tyler Fifield from NZ Farming and headed out of Blenheim driving south, thinking "What earthquake?"

Nothing seemed to be out of place but as we ventured further south things began to change. I could see large white rocks poking out of the ocean (part of the ground uplift). We came across a church had been shifted off its foundations and large stones from its gates had fallen out of the facia and were lying on the ground. We came alongside the railway line, suspended in mid-air with large waves along the track, with the approaches to a railway bridge in total disarray, and the list went on.

As we arrived at our destination we called on a few farmers to organise the week's work but as it turned out

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The remains of the bridge across the Clarence River to Gavin Clark's farm.

my week was spent on the property of Tim and Carmen Moore, East Lane Farm, starting first thing Monday morning.

Sunday 5 February

I met Sandy, the owner of the shearer's quarters. After a bite of breakfast I wandered over to the woolshed where he was crutching a few lambs, so I became his rousey for a couple of hours and listened to his story of the quake. We then took the lambs back out to their paddock and checked on other stock which entailed a visit to the top of a ridgeline to see an amazing vista of mountains and sea in a 360 degree view and a hint of where I might get to shoot a deer for the freezer.

That afternoon I headed to the Clarence River, armed with camera, to find a road block (check point). This was as far south as the public was allowed to travel, and after some discussion with Debbie and Pip and a nice cup of coffee, I was pointed in the direction to where I might get some nice landscape photos.

So off up the north side of the Clarence River I went and boy, was I in for a surprise – a view of some huge slips massive jags in the hill faces and the stunning blue waters of New Zealand's newest lake, Lake Rebecca.

After several photo stops and walks to the tops of ridgelines I headed inland, enjoying the vistas of theses unfamiliar surrounds until I came to a bridge across the river. There lay a bit of a problem, the piles were there but there was no decking. It had been torn off and nothing could be be seen except the approach – everything was under water.

As I headed back out I stopped for another photo opportunity and a truck pulled up. It turned out to be the farmer from across the river – he'd just had over an hour's drive just so he could visit his neighbour. His words were, during the quake "we had the shit kicked out of us here " and you could see why when you looked across the paddock and saw a very long 10 metre uplift following the river.

Buller Camera Club Committee

President
Gary Stowell LPSNZ
Phone 782 1818

Vice president
Terry Bruning
Phone 789 8083

Treasurer
Julie Knudsen
Phone 789 6032

Secretary
Carolyn Roberts LPSNZ
Phone 789 8600

Newsletter editor
Annikka Pugh
Phone 789 6650

Competition secretary
Tony Roberts LPSNZ
Phone 789 8600
Email: tandc@vodafone.co.nz

Education/training
PSNZ liaison
Past president
Peter Robertson LPSNZ
Phone 789 8745

Club captain
Charles Bruning LPSNZ
Phone 789 7980

Outings Organiser
Les Cooper
Phone 789 9767

Overseas competition advisor
Andy Rae APSNZ ANPSNZ
Phone 789 8075

Facebook page administrator
Sheridan Avery
Email sheridanlark@hotmail.com

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I finished the day walking a gully looking for a fallow deer but came home with nothing but awesome memories of this amazing place and a very tired 'Z-dog' (Zoe).

Monday 6 February

I headed off to Tim and Carmen's for the start of a very busy week, with the first job being a clean up of the car port that had been destroyed. Then I fixed some furniture that had been destroyed during the quake, realigned a fence behind the house and made it stock-proof, and did a repair on a trailer.

Tuesday, Wednesday 7, 8 February

On these two days, the weather gods played havoc and didn't allow us to get out fencing, but the time was spent productively fixing things in the house and workshop as everything had been cast into total disarray. I felt it was very beneficial for Tim to have someone around to talk to and listen to his experiences of the quake. But the real highlight was being taken out night shooting and seeing where I would be heading the following morning fencing.

Thursday 9 February

We headed out to the slip area where large sections of fence had been left hanging. I met Hayden and Bazza, two local fencers, young and old but very experienced at working in the hills of the area. I was set to work pulling out the old fence as Tim cut a new fence line around the slip with his D4 bulldozer. The views, whether it be north, south, east or west from this area was all inspiring so I had to get the camera out several times during the day and take a pic or two.

Friday 10 February

Much the same as Thursday – I swung a gate, made a Taranaki gate and enjoyed the majestic views this area had to offer.

I found this week to be very rewarding and satisfying. To be able to give back help like the help that was given to me when a property that I was managing in the Maniototo was devastated by floods many years ago was great. Not only was I made very welcome, I also made some awesome friends in a special part of the world.

Alas it was back to work the following Monday!

Left and below right: slips on the East Lane Farm.

Below left: New fenceline and the dozer.

Best of the Year

The awards for 2016 were judged by Julia Home APSNZ, EFIAP of Christchurch.

Champion Monochrome Print

Westport Harness Racing

Duncan Millar Cup

Andy Rae APSNZ, ANPSNZ, EFIAP

Champion Monochrome Digital image **Morel Challenge Cup**

Samoan boy

Terry Bruning LPSNZ

Best of the Year awards...

Champion Colour Print

Sunrise over Waimarama

John Duncan Miniature Cup

Annikka Pugh

Champion Colour Digital image

Western Banjo Frog

Howard Trophy

Andy Rae APSNZ, ANPSNZ, EFIAP

Best of the Year awards...

The 2016 Annual Awards are as follows –

John Duncan Challenge Cup – Most points open prints.
1st Chris Rout, 15 points
2nd Peter Robertson LPSNZ, 12 points
3rd Gary Stowell LPSNZ, 5points

A.E.G. Knight Cup – Most points set subject prints.
1st Andy Rae APSNZ, ANPSNZ, EFIAP, 25 points
2nd = Peter Robertson LPSNZ, 18 points
2nd = Chris Rout, 18 points
2nd = Gary Stowell LPSNZ, 18 points

Jacon Cup – Most points open projected images
1st Chris Rout, 16 points
2nd = Tony Roberts LPSNZ, 15 points
2nd = Peter Robertson LPSNZ, 15 points

Ann Knight Cup – Most points set subject projected images.
1st Annikka Pugh, 27 points
2nd Tony Roberts LPSNZ, 24 points
3rd Carolyn Roberts LPSNZ, 23 points

Alan Cox Trophy – Most improved novice member
Chris Rout

Wood Family Trophy - Most points in regional / national / international competitions
Andy Rae APSNZ, ANPSNZ, EFIAP

John Duncan Miniature Cup – Champion Colour Print
Annikka Pugh

Duncan Millar Challenge Cup – Champion Monochrome Print
Andy Rae APSNZ, ANPSNZ, EFIAP

Howard Trophy – Champion Colour Digital image
Andy Rae APSNZ, ANPSNZ, EFIAP

The Morel Challenge Cup – Champion Monochrome Digital image
Terry Bruning LPSNZ

Patrons Trophy (Harold Mason) – Best Portfolio of six images
Ritchie White

From left, award winners Terry Bruning, Annikka Pugh, Andy Rae and Chris Rout, who were presented with their trophies at the annual Buller Camera Club awards for 2016.

Buller Camera Club

President's Report 2016-2017

Is it just because I am getting older, and time seems to be moving so quickly, or are the years really flying by?

Here it is, 2017, and the Buller Camera Club can look back on an eventful year highlighted by the very successful Southern Regional convention it hosted in October. With the great help of the New Brighton Photographic Club, we put on an event which I know many visitors to our region will remember as being an enjoyable weekend with other photographers and friends.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Southern Regional organising committee and the other Club members who worked so hard to produce a great convention. Well done to all of you!

I would also like to thank our very generous sponsors, whose contributions enabled us to proceed with this event. Thank you so much for all of your help.

Thank you to the PSNZ for the financial and organisational assistance given to us, and guiding us in the protocols of arranging a convention!

To the committee members of the Buller Camera Club – thank you once again for all of the hard work you did over the year to keep the Club running smoothly during 2016. It would be impossible without you.

In some ways, photography in 2016 took a back seat for the Buller club members who were busy in the many tasks necessary for getting the Southern Regional organised. So this will be a year of catch-up for members of the Buller Camera Club, and I hope that the forthcoming year will rekindle the image-taking spark! As ever, field trips are at the mercy of the weather, and a very poor summer has already curtailed some of the planned events. However, I am sure that the weather will soon revert to its West Coast excellence.

Like many other clubs and organisations, we are finding it difficult to maintain club membership numbers. This, I feel, has more to do with difficult economic times and social changes than through any fault of the Club. This is not to say that we cannot do better in finding out what members would like the club to provide, but I do think that much of this problem lies beyond our control for the moment. Buller, and the West Coast in general, has been on the receiving end of large unemployment and traumatic social events in the last few years. This must have an effect on sports clubs, societies, and clubs such as ours. But I know that the situation will improve, and I know that the Buller Camera Club, like the region we live in, is made up of resilient and adaptable people. The Southern Regional proved that.

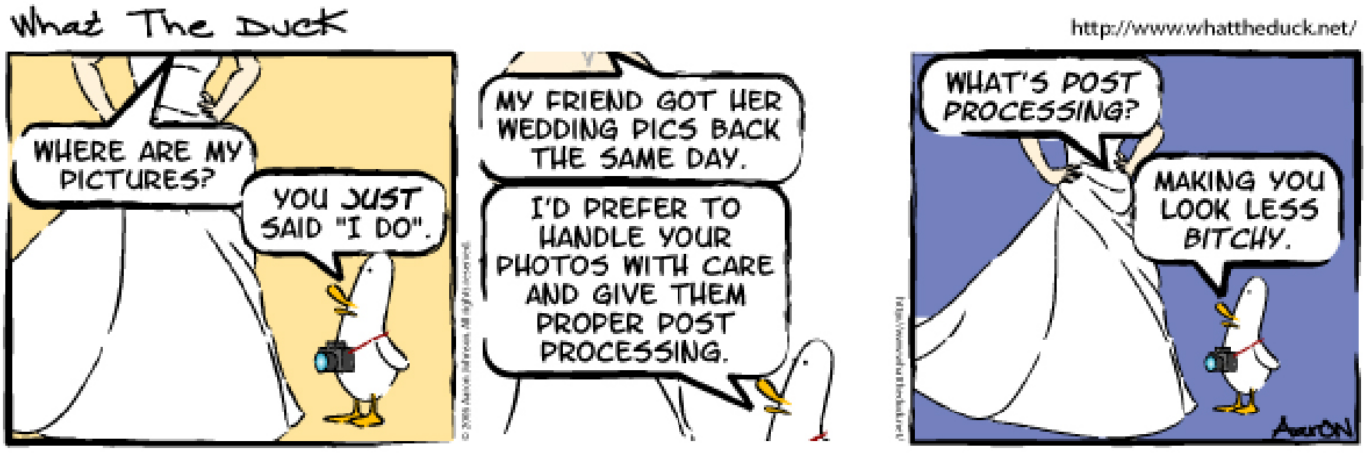
So I am confident that club members will still continue to produce images which will give the other clubs a run for their money, and I know that further photographic honours will be achieved in the near future.

Let us enjoy our photography, and enjoy the competitions that we enter. For those of you who are thinking about PSNZ honours or international awards, I wish you every success. For newer members, don't be afraid to ask for help. And tell us what you would like to get from the club!

I wish you all a happy and successful year for 2017, and get those cameras clicking!

Gary Stowell

President, Buller Camera Club



Field trip suggestions

One of the best ways Buller Camera Club can help you learn more about your camera and photography is by going on field trips with the club. Our more advanced photographers are only too happy to help our newer and novice members with their photography when we partake in field trips. Les Cooper wants to hear about the places you think would make for a good field trip. If you have some suggestions you can contact Les on 789 9767, email him at cooperles@xtra.co.nz or catch up with him on club nights.

Deadlines

Deadlines for the monthly critiques will be tightened this year to enable Tony to get everything organised by the Sunday instead of things dragging into the working week. Please ensure your images are in by 12 midnight the Saturday straight after club night or they won't be able to be included for critiquing.

Subs now due

Subs for 2017 can be paid to Treasurer, Julie Knudsen or online via internet banking.

Junior $20 **Single $40** **Family $60**

Acct No. 12-3178-0036485-02

Please remember to include your name as a reference and let Julie know if you are a member of PSNZ.

Judging format

This year our judges will be asked to critique all photos individually according to a set theme, rather than as a 'competition'. This should mean that everyone's images will be judged on their own merits and not compared to other members' images, hopefully resulting in more favourable comments for everyone!

Club events

Next club night and AGM

Thursday 23 February 2016, 7.30pm

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

AGM followed by monthly club night.

Supper: Gary Stowell and Annikka Pugh
Viewing: Open **Hand in**: Still Life
Remember your 50c towards coffee and tea.

Club photography weekend

Friday 10 March – Sunday 12 March 2017

Motuara Island, Queen Charlotte Sound

Motuara Island is a scenic reserve in the Outer Queen Charlotte Sound and is a bird lover's paradise. The island provides a wonderful opportunity to see several rare bird species such as saddleback and yellow-crowned parakeet and get up close and personal to some of our more common species like kererū, tūi, grey warbler and bellbird.

We need to finalise numbers for the trip by this Thursday.

To put your name down or for more information, contact Annikka, 789 6650.

Lightroom workshop weekend

Saturday 25 March – Sunday 26 March 2017
9am – 4pm, breaking for lunch for an hour

Buller REAP Hall, 13 Henley Street, Westport

Tutor: Peter Robertson

Day 1: Get to know Lightroom's powerful database and cataloguing capabilities.

Day 2: Learn all about processing in Lightroom.

Bring: Your own laptop with Lightroom installed (you can download a free 30 day trial from Adobe if you don't already have it – go to www.adobe.com/nz/downloads, 40-60 images to practice using the database with and for processing. any hard drives/USB sticks that you store your photos on. Morning and afternoon tea provided. Bring your own lunch.

Cost: Free to members. $10 for non-members