The newsletter of the Buller Camera Club

buller camera club

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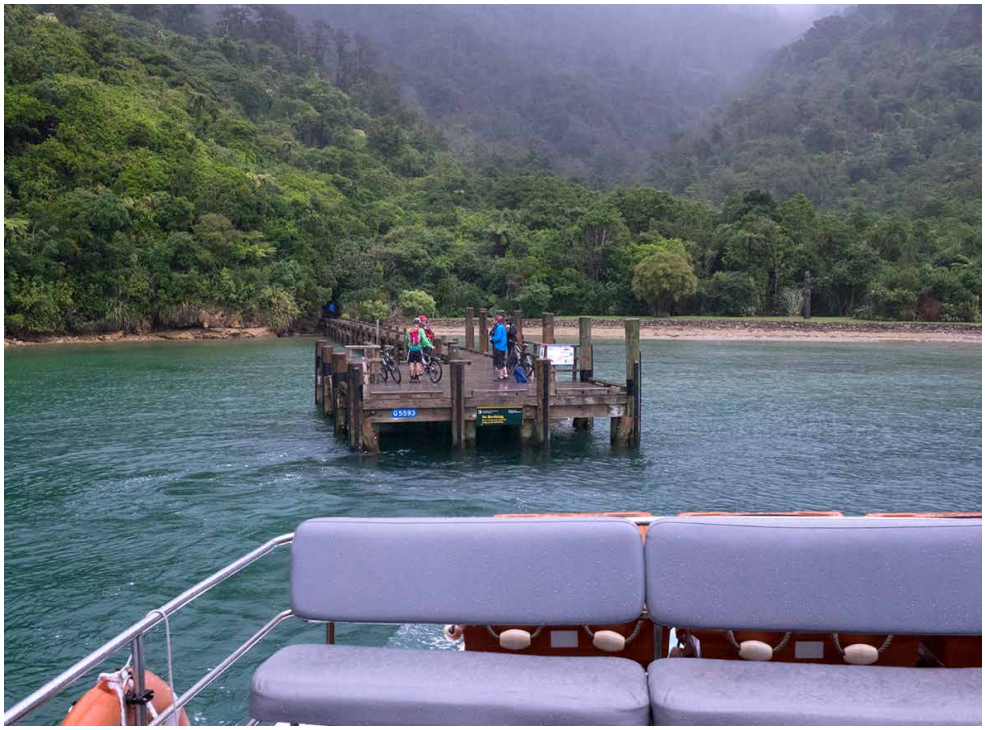
March 2017

A visit to Motuara Island bird sanctuary

Words and photos by Ritchie White. Additional photos by Roswitha Scheer-Hughes.

Les and I got away Friday morning, the day stayed as it started, clear, dry and very warm. Unfortunately, Saturday wasn't going to be the same.



The weather bomb which had covered the North Island was now on us. 7.30am saw us all meet at the wharf. The sea was relatively benign when we left Picton on the Cougar Line boat as we travelled out into the Sounds. The drizzle increased and so with it, the wind.

As Motuara Island appeared we prepped to get off. By now was the realisation that the 10 knot wind and rain was going to make our photography a challenge. The track was up the east side of the island and was exposed to this weather.

Bird life was relatively scarce, though I did get to see my first South Island saddleback about halfway up the track. With the bush saturated and swirly wind, poor lighting conditions and birds that weren't interested in hanging around we all struggled to get any photography done.

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Front page: Keen bikers getting off at Ship Cove.
This page, top left: Kathy enjoying the 'brisk' sea air. Top right: Les and Annikka.
Above: Roswitha and Les.

At the top we found ourselves on the lee of wind. There was a little more bird activity including at least one saddleback which was often hounded by a jealous bellbird. While I can't speak for the others, I decided my 230mm tele was the best option to reduce the distance between birds and myself. The downside was the darkness, so with ISO racked up to the ridiculous and aperture maxed out, the shutter speed running from 80-160 sec, I started hunting what few birds there were. In summary, and I say with some confidence, Les's photo of his saddleback on his last trip to the island will remain the best photo ever taken by a club member.

We all started back down to wharf with at least half an hour to go. To put us out of our misery the boat turned up 15 minutes early. It was then off to Ship Cove. Once there we all headed to the shelter to strip off wet jackets and check our camera gear. It was still raining so we with a few other extras decided that food was the best way to comfort our disappointment.

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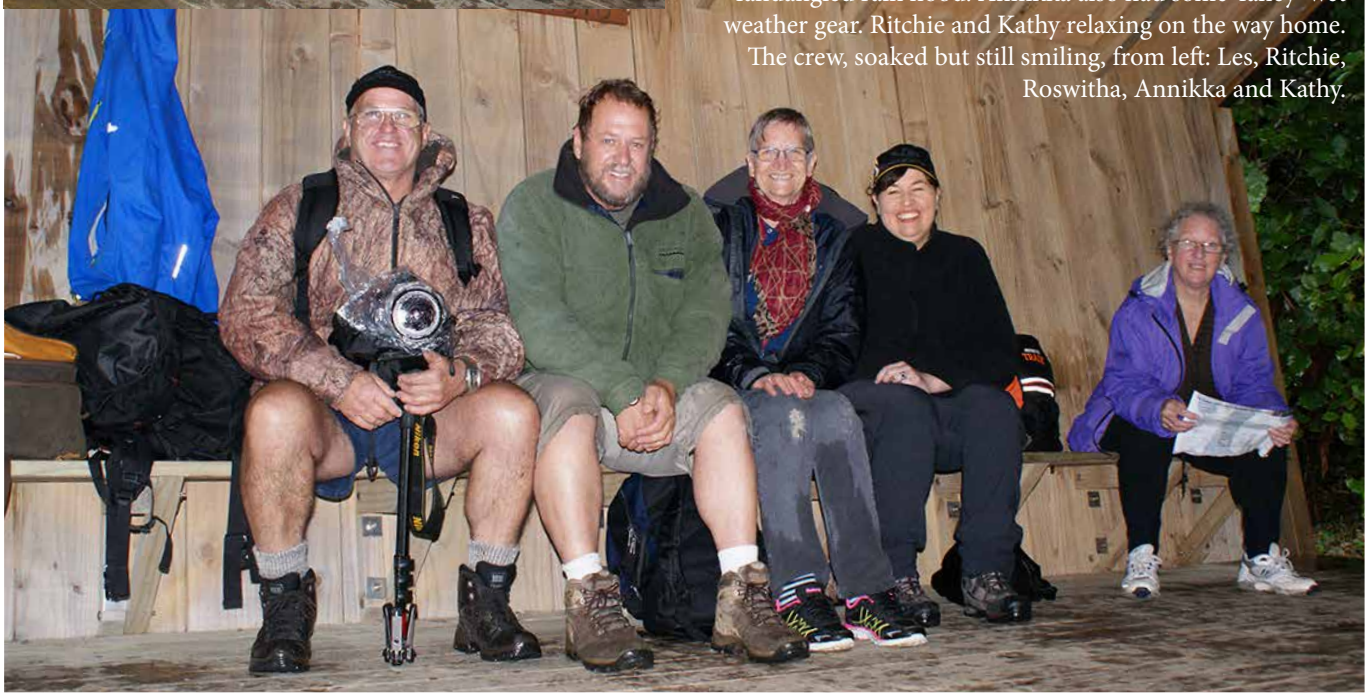
The rain did ease towards the end of our sojourn at the Cove and we manage a walk or two including the twin waterfall on one of the tracks. We were relieved once the boat turned up and with hot coffee available on board we settled into the comfort of a dry cabin back to Picton.

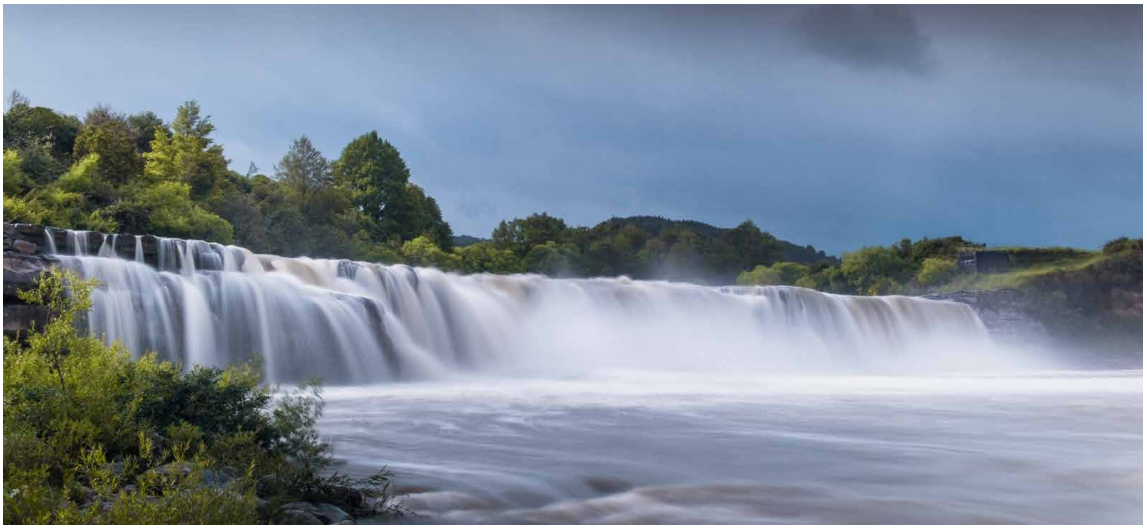
Saturday evening we all met at the Irish pub in Picton and enjoyed a good hot meal and to cap off the night early because we were all very tired, headed back to the motels and shared a piece of Kathy's "orgasmic cake"... so she says!



Clockwise from top left: Ritchie fitting Kathy with her new fandangled rain hood. Annikka also had some 'fancy' wet weather gear. Ritchie and Kathy relaxing on the way home. The crew, soaked but still smiling, from left: Les, Ritchie, Roswitha, Annikka and Kathy.

Awards for January

The theme for January's competition was Open and was judged by Scott Fowler EFIAP, PPSA, APSNZ from Christchurch.



Maruia Falls, Buller Ritchie White

Critique: I love the overall feeling of depth with this image. The power of the falls is excellently captured with good composition, exposure and depth of field. The whole feeling in this image has been helped with your choice of crop in a panoramic style. Excellent work. Honours.

January awards...

First light, McLean Falls Ritchie White

Critique: These falls would be one of my favourite waterfalls. I like the overall composition, choice of depth of field and exposure have all been well handled. For me this is a very strong black and white image of a powerful waterfall with a lovely sunburst through the trees and a strike of morning light. An excellent print, a well-deserved Honours.

January awards...

Cape Gooseberries Andy Rae EFIAP ANPSNZ APSNZ

Critique: Excellent image of the gooseberries, with excellent detail, exposure and composition. Not much I can say about this image. Honours

Mud grubs Andy Rae EFIAP ANPSNZ APSNZ

Critique: Excellent title for this image, it works really well. Light, colour, gesture and colour are all elements to make a successful image and I feel, in my humble opinion, that you have all three here. Yes, black and white is a colour. The wonderful smiles you have captured real joy in this well handled black and white image. So many interesting story-telling elements to look at – the marks in the mud, the gumboot in the hand, the shoe taped on so it does not come off in the mud, excellent work. Well deserved Honours.

January awards...

Welcome home Gary Stowell LPSNZ

Critique: This image reminded me of a painting we had at home when I was a kid. I feel the photographer has captured the boat at a decisive moment that gives a perspective of its size in the ocean, well done. Tones are pleasing and make for an enjoyable image. I especially like the collection of shags in the foreground. A very successful image in my humble opinion. Honours.

A blast from the past...

First meeting of the Buller Camera Club

by Harold Mason, Patron, Buller Camera Club

I have been judging the annual competition between the Nelson and Marlborough Camera Clubs. Yesterday after delivering the critiques and results, Nelson won, getting the trophy back after two years. Irene Callaghan of Nelson talked to me about some of her historical gems.

Today over a coffee, Irene produced this half page photo-story in the Christchurch Star-Sun dated February 1957, of the Buller Camera Club's first outing. Robert Russell, founder member Eric Russell's son is bottom left, Irene Callaghan centre and Phil Wood on the penny farthing.

I think that I have mentioned in the past that I made my first black and white enlargement using Eric's Durst enlarger. I also feel sure that Phil will be able to name everyone in the group photo.

Hard to imagine that this was 60 years ago! By the way, President Gary became an apprentice photolithographer at the Star-Sun a couple of years later.

The Christchurch Star-Sun, Saturday, Feb. 2, 1957

NEWLY-FORMED BULLER CAMERA CLUB HOLDS FIRST OUTING AT CHARLESTON, NEAR WESTPORT

THE NEWLY-FORMED Buller Camera Club had its first outing recently at Charleston, fifteen miles south-west of Westport. Club members and their families attended in force and a group of them is pictured above at their destination. Although this outing was in the nature of an experiment, it proved such a success that the popularity of future similar excursions seems assured. Charleston was once a gold rush "boom town," boasting a population of several thousand. To-day the principal remaining landmark—the European Hotel—has been condemned and will shortly be replaced by a new building.

LOWER: "Camera Club outings are good fun," says Irene Callaghan, daughter of a woman member of the club, as she goes for a paddle.

THE BULLER CAMERA CLUB'S outings should rank high in popularity with the children of members as well as members themselves. Young Robert Russell, in addition to providing his father with this striking study, found that position for the camera at the water's edge can be quite entertaining.

"ANYTHING FOR A PICTURE" could well be the motto of Mr Phil Wood, shown setting out for a high-level ride on a ninety-year-old "penny-farthing" bicycle outside the historic European Hotel at Charleston.

A Corner For Starlets

ANDREW'S ADVENTURES WITH RONNIE THE

Welcome to Starland

Farewell Letter

Competition Secretary

After four years as Buller Camera Club's Competition Secretary, Tony Roberts has decided to step down from this role. Buller Camera Club would like to acknowledge and thank Tony for all of his hard work, time and patience in organising judges and competitions over this period, as well as his assistance with members needing a bit of advice on their photography.

We are now on the lookout for a new competition secretary and it's now time for members, especially those not already on the committee, to think about stepping up. There will be assistance available to whoever decides to accept this role. Please remember that although everyone is busy with life outside of the club, clubs such as ours can only be successful if everyone pulls their weight at some stage.

Images for this month's competition are to be emailed or dropped off to Annikka Pugh, phone 789 6650, email annikka.pugh@gmail.com.

Art Hotel exhibition

It's just over a week to go until the Buller Camera Club exhibition held at the Art Hotel kicks off. Members are invited to submit up to three matted and mounted prints, of 'open' category to be displayed at the exhibition. Prints can be brought along to club night or can be dropped off at the Art Hotel on Monday 27th March which is also the deadline for images. Entry is $10 per member. For any queries and to pay your entry fee, contact Ritchie White, phone 027 246 0145.

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

Thursday 23 March 2017, 7.30pm

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

Supper: Julie Knudsen, Margaret Wood

Viewing: Still life **Hand in**: Monochrome

Remember your 50c towards coffee and tea.

Lightroom workshop weekend

Saturday 25 March – Sunday 26 March 2017
POSTPONED until later in the year.

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 members from 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.

If you have some suggestions for locations that might make for a good field trip for the club, please get in touch with Les Cooper on 789 9767, email him at cooperles@xtra.co.nz or catch up with him on club nights.

We are hoping to get out on a frequent basis to take photos.

Subs now due

Subs for 2017 can be paid to BCC 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.