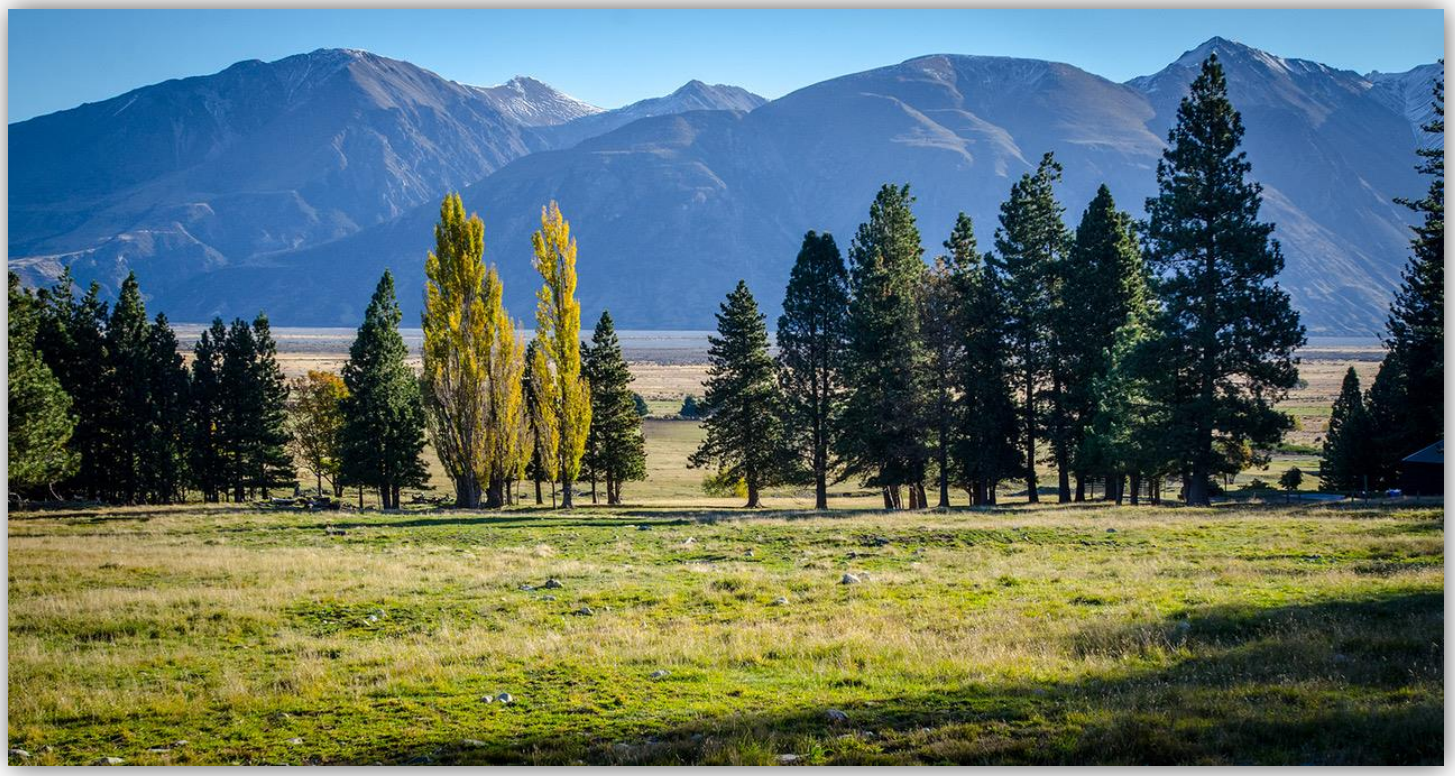
VIEWFINDER

APRIL 2018

Newsletter of the Buller Camera Club

Image Credit: Gary Stowell

Taken on a club trip to Erewhon. Read more on page 2.



Story & Images: Gary Stowell

EREWHON TRIP

The weather forecast was good as 5 Buller Camera Club members set out for a photographic weekend to the snowy tussock lands of inland Canterbury. We were on our way to the Mount Potts sheep station, inland from Mount Somers and on to the distant foothills of Erewhon, up the Rangitata River. This is a land as different from the green bush clad West Coast as it is possible to get. Sweeping tussock covered hills, braided rivers, and a backdrop of snowy mountain peaks produce a wild, almost desolate, but beautiful open landscape, just waiting to be caught by keen photographers.

The trip was to take us over Arthurs Pass, past Lake Lyndon to Rakaia Gorge, and on to Mount Somers and the headwaters of the Rangitata. A short stop at Otira to see the rustic hotel, a wonderful photographic interlude with 2 kea at Arthurs Pass lookout, and it was on to the Canterbury foothills.

2018 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT - Gary Stowell

VICE PRESIDENT / SECRETARY - Ritchie White

TREASURER - Julie Knudsen

COMPETITION SECRETARY - Terry Bruning

CLUB CAPTAIN - Les Cooper

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Sheridan Avery

Plus we welcome the addition of two new committee members Cathy Fenn and Bron McKenzie.

By this time we had become separated in our 2 vehicles, but we met up at Stavely, before proceeding to Lake Clearwater on the Mt. Potts road. It was late Friday afternoon by this time, and a golden glow was filtering through the clouds as we took images of the lake and the golden Lombardy poplars. And already the cloud formations promised many interesting possibilities for picture taking.

We arrived at our accommodation at Mt. Potts, and after sorting out a few logistical problems, settled down to a hearty meal and some refreshments. Andy once again proved that he was master of the kitchen! We planned an early start for Saturday morning, to capture the sunrise and experience the invigorating freshness of a Canterbury alpine frost. Our trip leader Les thought it would be good way to brush away the cobwebs!

There is no doubt that early morning and later in the evening are nearly always the best times for landscape photography, and so we were able to capture the delicate tints of the sun hitting the peaks, the mists rising from the chilly, water fowl covered tarns, and the steaming breath of Buller photographers.

On to Lake Heron, between the headwaters of the Rakaia and Rangitata rivers. Wonderful open country, popular with fishermen and alpine visitors. By this time it had warmed up, and we had a most pleasant bbq breakfast on the tussock slope overlooking Lake Heron, with the Arrowsmith Range towering in the background. Some other visiting photographers also made our acquaintance, and shared our alpine breakfast.
More photography of Lake Heron and surrounds, with guidance from Les, who at one stage tried to lead us into a swamp to experience the thrills of mud-plugging! Later in the afternoon we returned to Mt. Potts, where Sally met us and escorted further up the road to Erewhon. From the road we could see the hills of “Edoras” of Lord of the Rings fame, and the Rangitata River. Looming over all was the snow clad Cloudy Peak. An enjoyable interlude was spent photographing live-stock and a couple of the wonderful big Clydesdale horses of Erewhon station. Big, beautiful powerful animals, and we were told that most of the farm work on Erewhon is done by these horses.

Back at Mount Potts we whiled away the afternoon by taking images of the old buildings and wagons on the property, and attempts were made to photograph a ghostly figure wearing a white cape, running around through the trees. Look for haunting images in future Club competitions!

Another great evening meal, with much laughter about Kathy's problems with getting in and out of a high-sided bathtub in her motel unit. Sally had joined our group for the evening, and she was able to give us much information about the history of the area.

The contrasts between the Coast and where we had been still fresh in our minds. Many hours to be spent on the computer sorting out the images of a wonderful trip! My thanks to Andy, Terry, Kathy, Sally and Les for a memorable trip to a wild, open and beautiful place.

MATERNITY PORTRAITS

Story & Images: Sheridan Avery

A friend mine approached me to take some maternity portraits for her and her family as she is expecting her 3rd child. She wanted to use an outdoor location, so we decided on something close to home as she was nearly 38 weeks pregnant so thought it best not to stray too far. We ventured down to Deadman's creek at the end of Utopia Rd to take advantage of the low tide and soft light in the shelter of the surrounding bush. I chose to shoot wide open with large apertures to take advantage of the bokeh created by a 70-200mm f/2.8 lens that would help smooth and blur the busy bush backgrounds. We had a lot of fun and I really enjoyed creating some memories for a friend.

COMPETITION RESULTS

Due to a technical error we are unable to publish recent club results until they have been viewed at club night. Thanks for your understanding.

SEDDON SHIELD

This year's Seddon Shield photographic weekend is going to be held in Historic Reefton 24th, 25th, 26th August 2018.

It will be hosted by Buller Camera Club and the Community of Reefton. Our Venue is the Reefton Community Theatre Complex on the corner of Smith & Sheil Streets.

Accommodation is available through the Reefton i-Site/Visitors Centre; rvcinfo@xtra.co.nz, phone 03 732 8391.

This may be a busy weekend in Reefton so be sure to arrange your accommodation early if you plan to attend.

CLUB CALENDAR

26th April - Club Night 7:30pm
Viewing - MONOCHROME. Submit - MOVEMENT.
Town Library.

24th May - Club Night 7:30pm
Viewing - MOVEMENT. Submit - PORTFOLIO.
Town Library.

28th June - Club Night 7:30pm
Viewing - PORTFOLIO. Submit - LANDSCAPE.
Town Library.

26th July - Club Night 7:30pm
Viewing - LANDSCAPE. Submit - NATURE.
Town Library.

PSNZ EVENT CALENDAR

25th April - Canon Online
Entries Close for Round 2 of Canon Online competition.

25th May - Laurie Thomas Salon
Entries close for LT Landscape Salon
http://lauriethomassalon.com

15th June - Trenna Packer Salver
Inter-club entries close for the salon.

25th June – Canon Online
Entries Close for Round 3 of Canon Online competition.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Want to see your story or images published in the newsletter?

Email them to Sheridan at sheridanlark@hotmail.com, don't forget to add a few details about any images you would like to see here.

We would love to see them!