

JUNE 2011

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www.naturephotography.org.nz

OBJECTS of the Society

To promote the advancement of nature photography in New Zealand. Nature photography to us means all aspects of the natural environment, including landscapes, flora and fauna, and close-up photography.

To promote friendship, cooperation and the exchange of information and ideas about nature photography among the members of the Society both within New Zealand and overseas.

Code of ETHICS

Nature photographers pursue their interest because they appreciate the value of the natural world. They hope that through their actions they will encourage all who participate in the enjoyment of nature, to do so in a way that best promotes good stewardship of

www.naturephotography.org.nz
- Online forum

- Monthly photography tips

- Members galleries

- Trip & speaker information...

President's Column

I am writing this in Colorado. It should be early summer here now, but we've just had a big snowstorm in the mountains so it still feels like winter. Flowers are coming out, though, and migrating birds returning. The snowpack is at record levels making mountain travel difficult, and potentially hazardous when the thaw finally releases masses of melt water to flood streams and rivers. Our plans are now to explore the prairie states of Kansas, South and North Dakota and maybe return to the mountains towards the end of our stay.

It was great to hear from Trish Brown that the first meeting at St Christopher's went well, and that you all enjoyed Ann Worthy's excellent presentation. I am looking forward to seeing Sally Mason in June. Thanks heaps, Trish, for all you've taken on this year to ensure that our Society continues to thrive... we've benefited so much from your common sense, practical skills, drive and commitment.

I acquired a new tripod recently, lighter and more compact for travelling, but not quite so versatile as my 'Benbo'. I don't like tripods, and fortunately don't find them useful for wildlife, when a relatively fast shutter speed is usually necessary. It is more important to be able to move around quickly and easily. To photograph a black bear last year, a handy tree provided good support for my long lens, as well as getting partly between me and the bear. I've often used a rock to support my camera for landscape shots in early morning light, but finding a rock of the right height, with a relatively flat top, and in the best position can be challenging. This is when I would find it worthwhile to lug the tripod for a day or so into the back-country. But not my Benbo! Hence I'm appreciating the new Gitzo Mountaineer with its versatile Gitzo off-set head.

I hope you are all finding good photo opportunities, especially with winter approaching. We are really appreciating being away from the disruption around Christchurch, although we hadn't realised it would be so good for us. If you have an opportunity for a break, I'd recommend you take it!

Pol



JUNE MEETING

Monday, June 27th at 7.30 pm
ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH
244 Avonhead Road, Christchurch



1. There are approximately 40 parks for our use around St Christophers. Plus there are plenty of parks on the roads. We have been asked by the Church to drive in off Avonhead Road and leave via Coniston St.
2. Tempting as it may be, they ask that you do not wear Stiletto heels inside, on the nice wooden floors.
3. We have the use of a deck off Warren Hall, which will be pleasant during the warmer months, but there is a NO Smoking ban in place for this area.
4. The committee would really appreciate those of you who are able to help at the end of each meeting, to put the chairs back in the adjoining hall.



Ashley River Mouth



July 23rd

When: July 23rd, 9:30am

What to see & photograph:
BIRDS! including black-fronted/white-fronted terns, black stilt etc... beachscapes all in great winter light!

Where: Waikuku, Ashley River Mouth

Trip Leader: Jono Harrod

email: truubloo@gmail.com
Phone: 337 4067



IMPORTANT DATES

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 27th June

COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 4th July

FIELD TRIPS

• **Cass, Mid winter**
1st - 3rd July

• **Ashley River Mouth**
Saturday 23rd July

SUPPER HELPERS

Anne and Doug Johns



CASS WINTER TRIP & CELEBRATION

Trip Leader: Jane Coulter

Phone: 332 8140
Email: coulters@clear.net.nz

Accommodation: Cass Field Station

Cost: \$27 per night per person

What to see & photograph

Frosts, Icicles, Snow, Misty Lakes, Frozen Creeks

What to take: Warm Clothes, Sleeping Bag, Pillow, Food for a Festive Shared meal, Secret Santa gift for Santa's Sack (up to \$5.00)

JULY Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd



I BELIEVE...

Sally Mason cares deeply about the natural world. This month she will share her passion, her very personal approach to photography, and her sensitive portrayal of aspects of nature. Together with her thought provoking words, her images bring those who view her work into a closer communication with the world we know and love.



Sally says “I believe that the more I understand nature, the more I know myself”



MEMBERS GALLERY & WEBSITE

www.naturephotography.org.nz

It would be great if we could get some of your new images for our members gallery; So if you're yet to submit photos for our online gallery, or you haven't up-dated the gallery with your newer images - please send them to Kath (kvarcoe@gmail.com) to ensure our website stays up-to-date and fresh!

This months online tip:-

How to make your own sturdy tripod!!!

THE BOYLE TRIP MAY 13 - 15

The weather forecast was superb, a group of happy like-minded shutterbugs spent the weekend at the Boyle Lodge on a trip ably master-minded by Carl Thompson. There were just over 20 of us, mostly for the full weekend, and we had a lot of fun, found a huge variety of species, tried not to talk about earthquakes (without total success!), and were steered towards the best areas by Carl, who had done some investigation in advance.

Friday afternoon, for those who could make it early, was spent up the hill behind the lodge on the first terrace, where regenerating beech forest, moss and lichens provided ideal conditions for fungi growth. We found green ones, red ones, black ones, brown ones, coral fungi and a great many birds nest fungi.



On Saturday morning we drove 6 km up the road to the Nina Valley suspension bridge. The profusion of species near the bridge was stunning. All were busy and some of us spouted Latin names! It was a great sharing experience. After a picnic lunch, some stayed put, and others went up to the top of the pass. In the bush just beyond the tarn we found another profusion of colours, including yellow ones here. Some even went down into Cannibal Gorge. No fungi, but what a great river! That night we all shared the usual potluck dinner, and swapped stories of other trips.



On Sunday we cleaned the lodge, and spent the last few hours up on the terrace again, amazed at the sight of fungi we had missed on Friday. Just as we were leaving, one of our number discovered a huge and rather revolting stinkhorn, growing on the side of the carpark.

Thank you Carl for organising a super trip, and a chance to get back to pre-digital enthusiasms. Our sophisticated DSLRs get used off-tripod a bit too much these days, thanks to modern stabilisers. Here we were revising techniques learned long ago in the far-off days of Velvia 50!

Richard Studholme

NEXT FUN COMPETITION

“CHRISTMAS CARD IMAGE”

It's time to get your 'competition' caps on again, and this time we are looking for a natural image that could be used as your Christmas card for this year.

Remember this is just a fun club competition, and judging will take place at our December meeting, so you have plenty of time (winter and summer) to think about your image.

Good luck everyone, and remember the prize is a chocolate fish (or a chocolate Santa!) - Happy snapping!

