

focus

the newsletter of the matamata camera club

February, 2011

Present

Dan & Sarah, Carl, Stuart, Tina, Andy, Keith & Elaine, Brie, Robbo, Liz, Cushla, Jo G, John, Pam & Ian, Esther plus guests/new members Adam, Joel, Craig, Tania, Jo M and Louise.

Apologies

Geoff, Sonya, Judy, Jan.

Welcome

Hi, and welcome to the first newsletter of 2011. We have another great year planned which includes hosting the annual 'SixWays'. This year also sees an expansion of last year's image awards to now include a separate 'Open' section to run parallel to the usual Set Themes.

The February meeting saw the resignation from the committee of Dan & Sarah Macmillan who have put in a lot of hard work for the club over the past three years in their roles as our President & Secretary respectively. It's time for them to focus on their own photographic challenges and we thank Dan & Sarah for helping build the club into what it is now, and look forward to them continue being active members of the club.

A couple of photography items that grabbed my attention over the Christmas break were a TV article about Vivian Maier, and reading Susan Sontag's book '*On Photography*'.

The Vivian Maier photographs were a chance discovery at a defaulters auction by John Maloof, who was searching for images to complete a book on Chicago History. Vivian Maier was a woman of French descent working in Chicago as a nanny. A solitary person, but a keen amateur street photographer, her photographs, numbering some 100,000 and many undeveloped, never saw the light of day until the sale of her possessions after illness caused defaulting on fees for a storage locker. Truly unique photographs of 50's and 60's Chicago and also her further travels with a unique slant from the square format waist-level Rolleiflex TLR camera she favoured. Many images are still to be developed and catalogued but some are being posted on a blog at <http://vivianmaier.blogspot.com/>. It's well worth your time to take a look through both the images and story posted in this blog. A documentary is currently in production which should be an interesting watch.

Susan Sontag on the other hand was never far from publicity. Activist, intellectual and essayist she wrote on a numbers of subjects, but the arts in general and particularly her book '*On Photography*' is possibly what she is best known for. A collection of essays written between 1973 and 1977 the subjects focus on the role and effect of photographs in society with some discussion on photographic styles. There's nothing about techniques or equipment here, nevertheless, this is a very worthwhile read about perceptions of images.

Carl.

From the President's Desk

I would like to welcome you all to the 2011 Camera Club Year, particularly our new members.

I trust everyone had a productive break, took lots of photos, and you are all out shooting for the upcoming themes.

The last committee has certainly gone to a lot of effort coming up with themes that are going to make us think and test our skills. Throughout the year we will hold some workshops on ways to achieve these.

There is a very diverse range of members in this club with a wide range of camera skills. The points competition was started last year, not to see who is the best photographer, but to challenge everyone and encourage them to enter photos, and of course to have fun.

For me the most important thing is to learn to be a better photographer and enjoy it. We are extremely fortunate to have some very experienced members who are only too willing to share their knowledge, I know this because I have learnt heaps from other members... Thank you Dan, Carl, Geoff and whoever else I have gained knowledge from, be it intentionally or unwittingly!

Skills come from all sorts of places, magazines, books, etc which we have a few of, please feel free to borrow any, just fill out the form. Most of my learning has come from just listening to other members.

Happy shooting everyone....

Don't forget next month's theme is "Simply Red"

The themes are basically out of camera with only minimal computer manipulation. e.g. Cropping, straightening, lightening, darkening, colour balance etc.

Also don't forget the open digital, this can be any subject, and any amount of computer manipulation.

This is also the first month for the open print. Must be mounted, see the theme programme or the website for information on how to mount your prints.

Don't forget all photos and any computer work must be your own work.

Until next meeting I'll see you round like a film roll.

Keith.

2011 Committee

We'd like to welcome the new and returning committee members;

President:	Keith Melville
Secretary:	Elaine Corin
Treasurer:	Brie Martin
Editor/Website:	Carl Proffit
Judging Convener:	Geoff Brokenshire
Committee:	Adam Purdie
Committee:	Esther Bell
Committee:	Jo Good
Committee:	Jo Marshal

2011 Fees

Fees for 2011 are now due. \$35.00 for individual member or \$50.00 for couples. We prefer you pay by internet banking, but cash on the next club night is also accepted.

Account:	Kiwibank	Matamata Camera Club	38 9010 0534664 00
Reference:	MCC Subs	First Name	Surname

Remember only paid members are eligible to earn points from the monthly image critiques.

Correspondence

PSNZ Camera Talk newsletter

Website

The club website www.matamatacameraclub.org will continue to have newsletters, club info and critique results posted regularly throughout the year. Any members that wish to display a small personal gallery on the club website please send up to 6 photos to the editor's email at carl@movingstill.net.nz.

Also, if you have a website, either personal or professional, send your details to the editor and we'll get it on our Links page. Some free promotion for our club members ☺.

SixWays

The 2011 SixWays interclub competition is being hosted by us in July. For our own entries we will need to have our images submitted to the Convener Of Judging, Geoff, by the April meeting so we can make the final selections. We want the two very best images from each member to be considered for the SixWays.

Images can be sent in digitally to photos@matamatacameraclub.org with 'SixWays' in the subject line of your email, or bring prints along to the meeting. More will be discussed next meeting.

Club Events

Field Trips:

No planned trips this month

Shooting Ideas

19 February Chinese Lantern Festival, Garden Place, Hamilton.

19 February Waikato Rodeo. Kihikihi Domain, 8.30 a.m.
Adults \$15, Children 5-12 \$5, Under-5 free.

20 February Motorcycle Street Racing, Paeroa.

26 February Matamata Breeders Stakes, Matamata Racecourse.

25 April ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

We'd like to encourage all our club members to make suggestions for, or to organise themselves, field trips for the club. Everyone hears of interesting events, or knows of unique places to visit – a group outing is not only enjoyable, it offers a learning experience to be shared amongst those present.

Around The Web

Learn the Basics of Photoshop in Under 25 Minutes (Video)

From the Lifehacker website:

<http://lifehacker.com/#15753459/learn-the-basics-of-photoshop-in-under-25-minutes>

Colors In Photography — How To Get Great Colors In-Camera

<http://www.advancedphotography.net/colors-photography-great-colors-incamera/>

Vivian Maier

<http://vivianmaier.blogspot.com>

<http://www.chicagomag.com/Chicago-Magazine/January-2011/Vivian-Maier-Street-Photographer/>

2011 Critiques

The monthly critiques/awards have been expanded for this year with the addition of a separate 'Open' category. This year's Open will see one digital image submitted per month, plus one print every three months starting March. The Set Themes will continue as previous years with two digital images per month.

Please remember to size and name your images correctly. The full details and submission guidelines for the monthly critiques can be downloaded from the club website if you didn't receive a copy at the meeting.

Next Theme

The set theme for March is: '**Simply Red**' – We're looking for a bright red to dominate the frame. It doesn't necessarily have to fill the frame, or even cover the majority, but the colour must dominate. You may enter two images for the theme.

March will also see the first entries for the new Open critique section. You can enter one digital image, and one printed and matted.

Please read through the guide on submitting images in the 2011 Programme (a PDF copy is on the website if you don't have one). They are there to minimise the workload for the Judging Convener who has to sort and send away all the images.