



# NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

DECEMBER 2009

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## The President's Column

We should congratulate Pam Cumming for putting together such a great programme of speakers for our monthly meetings. Our latest speaker, Gary Speer, did not disappoint. Thanking him for his presentation, Trish Brown told Gary that it was his amazing images of fungi that inspired her to take up nature photography and join NPSNZ. As well as showing us inspirational images, Gary revealed the hard work that is an essential ingredient to consistently produce outstanding photographs.

Newell Grenville demonstrated the benefit of this with his stunning shot of an unusual rock formation on Kangaroo Island. He had to go back a number of times until the light was right. I expect he also spent a lot of time selecting the angle he wanted. We can all produce the odd lucky shot, but it takes skill, experience, and artistry to reach that consistent high standard. It would be boring if it were easy, though, wouldn't it?

I've just had another look at some shots I took in mid-October of the threatened plant, *Heliohebe laudiana* at Cattlestop Crag, just up the road from me. I hadn't noticed that the plants were there, but in October I couldn't miss the spectacular display of pinky-white flowers clinging to the rock faces. I went back with my camera on an overcast morning, wasn't 100% happy with the results, so hoped for a second chance. Unfortunately the flowers didn't last long, and the next few days were sunny and windy, so I shall be looking out for them again next year.

I hope we will see lots of you at our next meeting, which is the end-of-year Social. Note that it will be on 14 December, a little earlier in the month than usual, and at our old venue, St Mary's Church Hall, Merivale. Please bring images from field trip activities, your cloud shots, and your cameras.

Live entertainment and refreshments will be provided. Please remember to bring your nametag, as then we don't have to admit we've forgotten your name!

Very best wishes for the holiday season,

*Pol (Pauline)*

### IMPORTANT DATES

**MONTHLY MEETING**  
Monday 14 December

**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Monday 7 December

**FIELD TRIPS**

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**SUPPER HELPERS**

**All Committee Members**



### 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 the natural resource.

December Meeting

**MONDAY DECEMBER 14TH AT 7.30PM**  
**ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL**  
**MERIVALE**

**NOTE THE CHANGE IN VENUE**

**NOTE THAT IT IS THE SECOND MONDAY IN THE MONTH**

You will see in Pauline's Column that this is the end-of-year social function so we hope members will make a special effort to attend and to share time with others.

Remember to brush away the clouds and bring your cloud images for the evening's competition.

Bring your cameras too, to record the entertainment.

## SOME CLUB NOTICES

- The AGM of the Society is set down for the March 2010 meeting night.
- Pauline has received over 20 replies to the questionnaire seeking comments from Society members. From the replies it would appear that small workshops on a Saturday would be popular.
- The Society has now purchased its own laptop computer for using to feed images into the Society projector on club nights.

### FUTURE SPEAKERS

**January: Rebecca Bowater from Nelson**

**February: Graham Dainty from Te Anau**

## ONAWA FIELD TRIP

**Report and photos by David Sutton**

November 21<sup>st</sup> saw a strong contingent meeting at the Blue Duck for fortification with caffeine and excellent lemon pie prior to travelling to the Onawe Peninsula.



Field trip leader Peter Harper arranged just the right weather for photographing the cliffs there. A little morning rain had brought out the red and orange pigments beautifully, and there was easy access to the tidal platform past the west side of the Razorback.



The site is remarkable for the soft tuff in the cliffs: layered volcanic ash pigmented with red ferric oxide and marked throughout by orange banding.

Being soft, the cliff face is being constantly weathered to reveal new patterns. Each visit shows some new facet and is an ideal introduction to pure composition.



## FUTURE FIELD TRIPS

**JAN 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> WEEKEND or DAY TRIP TO MT HUTT**

ARRIVAL TIME: 4-30pm

Accommodation in Methven at the Mt Hutt Bunk House, Lampard Street. Turn right at the Mobil gas station and Lampard Street is first off the main street.

We have booked a cottage which has 10 beds. Cost is \$250 a night so cost per person depends on how many people come. Relax by the fire after a hard day on the slopes. Real NZ country-style cottage. Enjoy a log fire or relax in the garden. BBQ. Heated rooms. Fresh linen. Hot showers. Fully-equipped kitchen. Payment \$50-00 will be required to secure a bed. Bring warm clothing and sturdy footwear.

If you enjoy photographing alpine plants or close-up photography, this field trip is highly recommended. It will be a real treat if you have not photographed in the mountains before. Plenty of scope for the landscape photographer. Carl said there would be heaps of plants to photograph and if you are curious to know more about them come to the next meeting as Carl will bring along some photos and give us more information

The road up to the ski field is in good condition and most cars will have no trouble getting up there.

If you only want to come up for the day that is fine. The best place to meet will be at the Mt Hutt Bunk House but you will have to be there by 8am.

### MT CHEESEMAN - ONE-DAY FIELD TRIP

DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER, SAT JAN 16<sup>th</sup> or SUN 17<sup>th</sup>

Bring warm clothing and sturdy footwear.

Field trip leader: Rebecca Bowater

Rebecca has had an interest in alpine plants since a young child of eight.

She used to go hunting for alpinists with her father who came out to NZ after spending many years working at Kew Gardens. Her father discovered many NZ alpine plants. His favourite hunting ground was Mt Arthur.

Rebecca's knowledge about alpinists is profound and more recently she has taken a great interest in photographing them and has produced some stunning images.

Rebecca has a list of 50 alpinists to be found on Mt Cheeseman.



### OTAGO PENINSULA FEB 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>

ACCOMMODATION: Penguin Place, Harrington Point, Otago Peninsula. Home of the yellow-eyed penguin, NZ tourism multi-award winner.

Set on a private farm alongside penguin reserve, harbour views, individual rooms 4 double, 3 twins

Shared kitchen & bathroom. Bring sleeping bags, towels, pillows. Dine out Saturday night.

PAYMENT: \$50 two night's accommodation - limit of 12 people.

Ray Webb will be our Leader for Saturday. Ray has been taking photos for many years - he is a member of the Dunedin Photographic Society. He is a keen trapper, fisherman and hunter and he has lived most of his life on the peninsula and knows every nook and cranny.

Alf Webb has been looking after and studying a colony of jewelled gecko on the peninsula for many years and will be more than happy to share these gorgeous little creatures. He belongs to the Botanical Society and is very interested and active in conservation work on Otago Peninsula.

Otago has a lot to offer with many lovely beaches and reserves, the albatross colony, many other birds, seals and sea lions. Larnach's Castle, the only true castle in NZ, is worth a visit. It has stunning gardens - so does Glenfalloch. Also of interest is the Butterfly House at the Dunedin Museum.