



NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

JANUARY 10

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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 the natural resource.

President's Column

Our end of year Social was well attended; I hope no one went to Tankerville Road by mistake. For longer-standing members it felt good to be back at St Mary's, and to remember Nathan Crooks there, whose family donated our lovely new bell as a memorial to him. The dancer, food, drinks and cloud images made for a full evening that I think everyone enjoyed. Thanks to those who worked hard to make the evening a success, especially David, Nick and Owen who manhandled the seating off and back onto the stage, something we don't have to do at Tankerville Road!

Ten people braved wind and sun to obtain some good images on the Orana Park field trip (see Stacey's report). Several of us were fortunate(?) to see a pair of gibbons interacting with impressive vocalization, and when I visited the cheetahs they were more active than usual: three of them were walking around their outer enclosure, and one climbed into, then jumped out of a tree.

I think we have a good program of field trips and speakers for you during the coming year, kicking off with the Mt Hutt trip the weekend 8-10 January. - Then Rebecca Bowater will be visiting the following weekend to lead a day trip to Mt Cheeseman and show us some of her amazing alpine flower images at our Monday meeting.

Rowan and I took some visitors with an interest in volcanoes to Akaroa recently. It was a beautiful, still, mainly sunny day so we went on the Canterbury Cat tour of the harbour. Not only did the dolphins perform for us (there were more of them than I've seen before) but we were able to go out through the Heads, and along the coast to the north, past spectacular cliffs to a nesting site of spotted shags. The trip was a great photo opportunity for me as well as our visitors, the wildlife a bonus to the volcanic scenery.

Here's an idea for a holiday excursion if you haven't been already. The Canterbury Museum is hosting an exhibition of 'The Press' photographers' favourite images of the last ten years from their portfolios. It is on until February 21st. Although not many are 'nature' images, they are powerful journalistic portrayals of a range of activities that I found inspiring. Some images were familiar, but not all have been published.

Wishing you all an interesting and successful 2010, and look forward to seeing you at meetings and on field trips through the year.

Pol (Pauline)

IMPORTANT DATES

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 18 January

COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 1 February

FIELD TRIPS

Mt Cheeseman
Sunday 17 January

Otago Peninsula
5-7 February

Oamaru
12-14 March

SUPPER HELPERS



Linda Gabites,
Nick & Marg
Webb



Monday
January 18th at 7.30 pm
HANCOCK HALL
Tankerville Road, Hoon Hay

Rebecca Bowater
The Adaptations of
Alpine Plants



Rebecca has been interested in alpine plants since she was 8 years old. She used to go plant hunting with her father, who came out to New Zealand after spending many years working in Kew Gardens. He discovered many New Zealand alpine plants and taught Rebecca their botanical names. Rebecca's knowledge on alpine plants is profound, and she achieved her Fellowship with PSNZ in 2006 on Alpine Plants. Rebecca will be speaking mainly on South Island and Campbell Island Alpine Plants. She will also be on our Mt Cheeseman field trip to show us how to find and photograph alpine plants. If you have images of alpine plants you cannot identify, bring them along on Monday night, and Rebecca will try to help you. Here are two of her images, a view of Mt Arthur, and *Gentiana stellata*.

Beginners First Field Trip

Had a great time, and I learnt lots on the trip as well!

*Here are the things I managed to get right :) *

- dressed for the occasion with good footwear
- brought sunscreen and a hat and remember to apply
- brought camera with memory card and tripod got there mostly on time

Here are the things I need to learn from:

- take a bottle of water in my backpack on a hot sunny windy day! – luckily there were water fountains here and there, but this was a silly thing to forget
- take a tighter fitting hat with less brim on a windy day – mine kept flying off and I nearly lost it into a pond a couple of times – the tripod was a handy arm extension to pin it down and grab it
- remember to use the Manual Focus option on your lens in situations that require it – like trying to focus on a lioness thru fence wire
- one of the NP ladies (Judy Ashton- ed.) who walked around with me for a bit gave me the above advice and also showed me how to easily change the type of focus method my camera uses – REALLY useful tip I had not got around to discovering for myself
- put the tripod BH lock knob on the left hand side of the tripod – you are probably using your right hand to focus with the camera, and this makes it LOTS easier to move and focus quickly
- REMEMBER TO LOCK THE HEAD BEFORE LETTING GO OF THE CAMERA!!! or your camera does the heart stopping flop forward and if you are extra lucky like me, crushes your finger by falling on it!
- *Other good things I got out of the day:*
- if you stand on tippy toe and lean aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa the way forward, you can stretch out from the first barrier, and rest your lens hood on the top of the glass walls of the meerkat enclosure and get the shot of the meerkat that you otherwise wouldn't have got as the glass was in the way – probably works for the otter enclosure as well, and Im sure you aren't posed to
- I found the gibbons/monkeys fairly uninteresting – and the endless hooting from one of the gibbon family was *incredibly* loud and annoying – I felt sorry for the staff having to put up with that on a daily basis
- be patient, wait just a little longer and you might just get the opportunity for a better shot
- Lightroom2 is really cool but *quite* involved – I am currently fumbling my way through it, starting with the pix I took on this field trip
- Stacey



Upcoming Field Trips and Meetings

For detailed information on up and coming field trips, members galleries, online forums & discussions etc. the NPS website is a great way of finding out what's going on within the Society. So next time you are online don't forget to look at the website...



www.naturephotography-nz.org

Next Month's Meeting

Guest Speaker

Graham Dainty FPSNZ

Te Anau

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

We are keen to keep costs to members down, and as most members now have email, we intend to send the newsletter via email to all those with an email address from next month (February). You will receive the newsletter faster this way.

December Christmas Meeting

We had a great night, and some of you will have some great photos of Yurie. She would love to have copies, so please send to:

mebellydance@gmail.com



Otago Peninsula Field Trip (5–7 Feb)

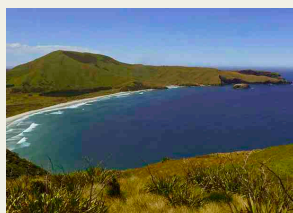
There is only enough space for 13 people on this trip, so **please book early** to make sure that you don't miss out.



Leopard seal,
Otago Peninsula
Ray Webb



Lynda Harper



Oamaru Field Trip (12–14 March)

There are spaces for a maximum of 16 people on this trip, so again, **please book early**. We need numbers by early February.