



IMPACT!

Newsletter of the
Wellington Photographic Society Inc. (Estd. 1892)
www.wps.org.nz

NOVEMBER 2006



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Cover image *Hurricane Warning* by Jenny Dey

PRES SEZ

One of the great benefits of WPS is the access the Society gives us to the variety of talent and ideas that abound in the photographic community we belong to. This is one thing that appeals most strongly to me – to see what other members and other photographers are doing and to be able to draw on this for my own work.

Photography books are of course another source, but these often present us with the end result of a photographer's work, not the process and thinking that went into it. This is the interesting bit. How often do we hear comments along the lines of 'photography is a way of seeing' or 'it's what goes on ten centimeters behind the camera, not what's in front of it'. Remarks like these have been a bit of a black box for me – they have intuitive appeal, but no real meaning because I didn't know how to bring them into my photography in a way that would yield the results I wanted.

For years I've banged away at the shutter after lining up an appealing subject and mostly hoped that the result would convey what I saw. Mostly it didn't, and when it did, it was more by coincidence than by design. My untutored intuition led me to believe that the appeal or beauty of my subject would be mechanically reproduced by the camera and then emerge effortlessly into the photograph.

Two things have happened this year to help me past this – an exhibition of photographs by Derek Henderson, and a workshop held earlier this year by a visiting American photographer called Freeman Patterson on visual design. Many of you will have seen Derek Henderson's exhibition at Pataka or read his book 'The Terrible Boredom of Paradise', and some of you will have attended seminars by Freeman Patterson.

The revelation from Derek Henderson was that he made beautiful photographs of scenes and objects so banal or ordinary that the beauty had to emerge from levels of the photograph other than the subjects themselves. The revelation from Freeman Patterson was to understand what made up the basic building blocks of a visually interesting photo. As I've tried to put what I've learned into practice, I'm reminded again about the process of photography.

Another American photographer, Ralph Gibson, wrote about this recently in a monograph called 'Refractions' in which he describes his creative process in an elegant French phrase as *formation permanente*. Gibson observes that 'photography is like electricity – we know how to use it, but we don't really know what it is'. While photography 'enables us to depict everything from the sacred to the profane, there is no absolute photographic act – it is only a question of process. One makes a photograph and it leads to the next photograph which subsequently leads to the next photograph, and it seems you have to make all three of them rather than go directly to the last one'.

So, there's no end point and there are no elliptical leaps and bounds of growth in a photographers life – there's just a starting point and the process. Which brings me to the final point – about where to start. Gibson had something to say about this too when relating his experience working with Dorothea Lange. She maintained that a photographer must be directed, have a point of departure - even if one is walking to the store to buy toothpaste, the chances of encountering an important photograph would be far greater than if one just stands on the street corner waiting for something to occur. So now I'm interested in what others take as their points of departure – it's a question I'll be asking at our meetings, so if you're on the receiving end, this is what it's about!

Brett Longley

Editor's Note...

Hello all!

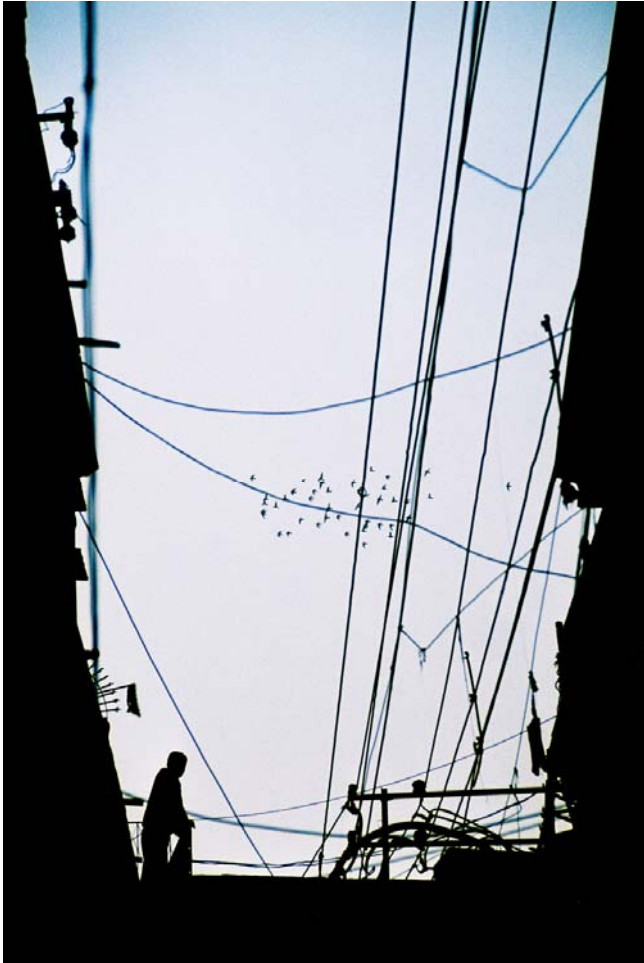
At the last meeting Neville Glasgow said to me how exciting it was to be part of WPS and share the members' commitment to photography. I responded by saying that it was that commitment that makes me want to come to each meeting - to learn more about the fascinating possibilities that a camera provides.

I'm still experiencing a 'high' as a result of seeing our Annual Exhibition at the opening night, this Tuesday and thank you to all who made it such a success. Katie Duke (Wellington Art's Centre) has done a fantastic job in curating the space. The images are stunning, but when seen as an exhibition within the gallery space they take on another level of enchantment, making the entire process of exhibiting one's work a rewarding experience. I hope you get the opportunity to catch the exhibition while it's on (till the 16th of this month) as it is sure to inspire anyone into picking up a camera and capturing their experiences – may it be a daily commute on the train, a weekend boat ride, an overseas trip or simply a colour, a pattern, an expression or a passing glance.

The selection of images by James Gilberd was an interesting process; where he critiqued and commended each image for what worked and what didn't. He pointed out a number of things that were useful to keep in mind while taking photographs – the light, the composition, the sharpness that is crucial when taking macro shots to name a few. He also stressed on being mindful of resolution (digital), the quality of the actual print and finally the choice of title that could make or break a good image.

This month's Impact features a few images from the exhibition, some taken at the opening function, plus some from the Wellington Jazz festival. I look forward to seeing more work in the coming year and hope you continue to send your images in for Impact!

Cheers
Arti



Skyline by Arti Sandhu

What's on in November

Issues around copyright and privacy by Deborah Hart

- **Tuesday 14th November**
- The Arts Centre, Abel Smith Street
- 7.30pm

Deborah Hart will address some legal issues that you need to be aware of when taking photographs (your subject's privacy, for example) and also when submitting your work to a competition, image library, or working on a contract.

Born into the photo mad Woolf family Deborah was a keen amateur photographer. She studied law at Victoria University and has been admitted to the bar in New Zealand and Victoria, Australia. She practised predominantly in the fields of commercial litigation and family law. Deborah is the general manager and part owner of Photography by Woolf Ltd, a business that is a Wellington institution.

Deborah was a New Zealand delegate to the APEC Women Leaders Meeting in 1999. She is also involved in a number of community organisations including being a trustee of the Ronald Woolf Memorial Trust. Deborah is married with 3 children.



Prima by Loma Dellabarca

Special Interest Groups' presentations

- **Monday, 27th November**
- The Arts Centre, Abel Smith Street
- 7.30pm

Come along and see what our Special Interest Groups have been up to during the year!

Special interest groups (SIG) are informal groups of members that share a common interest in photography, like black and white photography for example. Some also set themselves different topics or challenges every month. The groups meet regularly to talk about their photography, share their images and experiences, and learn from each other.

This is always a popular evening, so come along and see what our Special Interest Groups have been up to throughout the year! You might decide to join a group yourself....

Special Interest Groups, please contact Liga Rodgers to discuss the timing and the format of your presentation.

What's on in December

Christmas Social Evening – Bring a plate!

- **Tuesday 12th December**
- The Arts Centre, Abel Smith Street
- 7.30pm
- 'Bring a plate'

It is hard to believe, but another year is close to the end! As always, this will be a social and fun evening with food and drink and Christmas cheer!

Photographic Competitions

2007 Bledisloe and Wiltshire National Interclub Competitions

Just a reminder - the theme for WPS members is **SMOKEY BLUE**.

We will be selecting a **set of 6 prints** and a **set of 6 slides** in early February 2007. Now is the time to shoot more Smokey Blue images so that we have a large number of photographs to choose from.

Inaugural Jack Sprosen Memorial Digital A/V Competition

Closing date for entries - 10 February 2007

Details will be available on the Welcome Desk, or email Fred at fredwotton@paradise.net.nz who will email details and entry form to any interested member.

Bowron Interclub Landscape Slide Competition George Chance Interclub Landscape Print Competition

WPS have not entered these PSNZ organized competitions for several years, but are planning to enter a set of **4 landscape prints** and a set of **4 landscape slides** for these Interclub competitions in 2007.



Berhampore Boy by Jenny Dey

If you would like to enter your landscape images, these will be required for consideration for selection in June 2007. So there's still plenty of time to go out and capture some award winning landscapes.

Fotoforum (Overseas Competition)

Fotoforum, who organise the TRIERENBERG SUPERCIRCUIT consisting of 4 Salons approved by PSA and FIAP, have sent an invitation to WPS for its members to participate in the 16th circuit in 2007.

Entries need to be sent by early April 2007 at the latest. Any member interested please email austriansupercircuit@netway.at or contact Fred Wotton.



WPS Annual Exhibition - Images by Peter Hunt

Exhibitions & Shows

!!! WPS Annual Exhibition !!!

- 6 – 16 November
- Toi Poneke Gallery, 61 Able Smith St
- Opening times: Mon-Fri 9am – 7pm, Sat 10am – 4pm

The WPS Annual Exhibition is an opportunity for members to display their work to the public. The exhibition is a celebration of a year's work and the member's skills and expertise.

Building on its yearly tradition, the 2006 exhibition, titled Capturing Light, features stunning images by its members. The exhibition is in the Toi Poneke Gallery, Wellington Arts Centre (in the building next to the one where we hold our regular meeting). It features a selection of both print and projected images. The gallery will remain open a little later on Tuesday 14th November for those who wish to catch the exhibition before the WPS meeting.

!!Return of Exhibition Prints!!

These prints will be available for members to collect at the Society meeting on Monday 27 November. Please ensure your prints are collected at this meeting.

Arti & Fred @ the WPS Annual Exhibition - Image by Peter Hunt



'Exposed' - Photography Group Show

- 16 November - 04 December
- Entry: Koha (donation)
- Location: Photospace Gallery - 1st floor, 37 Courtenay Place
- Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri 10am - 4.30pm, Sat 11am - 3.00pm

This exhibition is by New Zealand documentary/art photography collective 'Exposed'. This group has had 3 exhibitions this year in London. They tackle the landscape genre – the natural, urban and human environment. The collectives differing imagery explores many photographic formats and processes; from traditional hand processed and toned prints to the latest digital manifestations.

1913 Strike - War on the Wharves

- 22 August - 25 November
- Museum of Wellington, City & Sea, Queens Wharf
- Open: Every day from 10.00am to 5.00pm
- Entry: Free

The dramatic War on the Wharves exhibition describes the progress of an infamous strike that took place on Wellington's wharves.

Two of the strike leaders Peter Fraser and Michael Savage became revered prime ministers, while one of the hated mounted specials, Bernard Freyberg, was our first local-born Governor General. The exhibition includes a real machine gun, a pre-WW1 motorbike and a specially produced film by The Film School.

Sam Taylor-Wood

- 8 October – 28 January
- Location: City Gallery, Civic Square, Wellington. Ph: 801 3952
- Open daily from 10am – 5pm
- Entry: free



A focused survey of portraiture and self-portraiture by one of UK's leading contemporary artists. Sam Taylor-Wood was born in London in 1967. She graduated from Goldsmith's College, London in 1990 and emerged as one of a group of artists that became known as the YBA's (Young British Artists – including Damian Hirst, Sarah Lucas, Tracey Emin, Cornelia Parker).

This poetic and challenging exhibition features 'Crying Men' (2002-2004), twenty-seven photographs of leading male actors in a state of intense emotional vulnerability. While we are used to seeing these performers emote 'fictionally' on the large and small screen—here we are presented with a sequence of evocative black & white and colour images where the 'truth' of their distress is more ambiguous.

The actors include Willem Dafoe, Laurence Fishburne, Paul Newman, Sam Shepherd, Jude Law, and Forest Whitaker. The exhibition features self-portraits from 2000-2001, the moving sequence of images Falling I-IV (2003) depicting figures tumbling mid-air in ornate Baroque interiors, plus a number of key film and video works; Brontosaurus (1995), Ascension and Strings both from 2003 and the much-discussed David (2004), which is a single take of footballer David Beckham sleeping for its 1 hour, 7 minute duration.

Above: Jenny, Alistair & Pat
Below: Simon Woolf

@ The WPS Annual Exhibition - Images by Peter Hunt



In View

- 20 October - 27 February
- Location: Victoria University, Adam Art Gallery
- Open: Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun 11:00am -5.00pm

This is not strictly a photography exhibition but is well worth a visit. In View: Works from the VUW Art Collections, is a major exhibition showcasing an important range of works from the Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection.

This exhibition features work in a variety of media by leading New Zealand artists, such as Colin McCahon, Ralph Hotere, Niki Hastings-McFall and Yuk King Tan. Along with work by these and other acclaimed New Zealand artists from the VUW Art Collection, this exhibition also presents a number of significant new acquisitions including work by Billy Apple, Christine Webster and Anne Noble. As part of the exhibition, leading scholars and students from diverse disciplines across the university have provided their unique interpretation of the works in an accompanying exhibition catalogue.

In View provides an opportunity to re-visit some significant moments in the history of New Zealand culture at VUW. For example Associate Professor Jack Body from the School of Music reflects on Ralph Hotere's Song Cycle, the Voyage, a work intended to accompany a multi-media performance presented at VUW in 1975.

Sotheany Ream - Eyes to Cambodia

- Thu 09 Nov 06 - Tue 14 Nov 06, every day, 10:00am - 4:00pm
- Entry: Unknown, presumably Koha
- Location: Thistle Hall Community Centre, 293 Upper Cuba Street

Sotheany Ream is an emerging documentary photographer exploring the hardships of young Cambodians today. Along with this exhibition is a small selection of photographic work by Heike de la Rey called "City Scape".

Erebus remembered: Flight TE901 - An archival exhibition and commemoration

- This has been going for two years but will be taken down by the end of this year
- Archives New Zealand, 10 Mulgrave Street, Thorndon, Wellington
- Open: Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm, Sat: 9am - 1pm
- Entry: Free



On 28 November 1979, Air New Zealand flight TE901 crashed on the slopes of Mt Erebus, Antarctica, with the loss of all 257 on board. It was the world's fourth largest aircraft disaster at the time and a tragedy that touched the lives of all New Zealanders.

This commemorative exhibition has been mounted jointly by Archives New Zealand and Antarctica New Zealand to mark the 25th anniversary of the Erebus disaster. It invites visitors to reflect on the tragedy and remember its impact on the families, friends, work colleagues and recovery crews involved.

In the exhibition you will see selected items from Archives New Zealand's Christchurch and Wellington offices, including maps and plans used for the Antarctic sightseeing flights, promotional materials given to passengers, a radio log concerning the overdue flight and photographs of the recovery team at work.

Adventure Travel Slide Shows - Garry Weare: Himalaya

- Wednesday 29th November
- Entry: Visit web site or call 0800 number below to inquire
- Location: Bookings are essential, so call 0800 350 354 or visit http://worldexpeditions.co.nz/index.php?section=contact_us&id=324 to register.

Garry Weare will be back in New Zealand to present his entertaining HIMALAYA show for just one week only! Go along to the show for your chance to WIN A TRIP TO BHUTAN!

Garry is a veteran trip leader, photographer, Australian Himalayan Foundation Director and author of Lonely Planet's classic Trekking in the Indian Himalaya guidebook, now in its 4th edition. He has explored the Himalaya for over 30 years, covering over more than 15,000 miles on foot! Based on his wealth of experience, Garry will present an informative and entertaining slideshow about both classic and brand new trekking opportunities available across Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, Sikkim and of course, the Indian Himalaya.



2006 Wellington Jazz Festival
Images by WPS Special Interest Group

Exposure – Graduate Exhibition

- 11th – 19th November
- C-Floor, Old Museum Building, Buckle Street (Massey University)
- Entry: Free
- Open: Mon-Fri: 9am - 7pm, Sat/Sun: 10am - 4pm

This is the annual exhibition of graduate work from all the design disciplines at the College of Creative Arts, Massey University. Includes – Fashion, Textiles, Interiors, Graphic, Industrial and Photographic Design students' work. 'Exposure' is always an interesting exhibition with work that is fresh, innovative and continues to push the boundaries of contemporary art & design.

WPS News and Information

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!!Membership Renewals!!

It's time to renew your WPS Annual Membership for the coming year (2006-2007). All members should have received a renewal form via email. If not, please contact Alistair Owens or Peter Hunt.

Congratulations to...

WPS members on obtaining Open Print Acceptances in the 37th Festival Salon of Photography Dunedin 2006:

Syd Moore for "Yet Another Holiday Snapshot"

Fred Wotton for "Toothy", "Checking the Line" and "Himalayan Woman"

WPS Membership Secretary Position - VACANT

The role of membership secretary is vacant. Anyone interested in taking on this position can contact Fred Wotton or Alistair Owens for more information.

Jazz Festival Special Interest Group

A WPS Special Interest Group (SIG) is up and running with the intent of shooting the Jazz Festival which is currently running in Wellington. The group members are:

Loma Dellabarca, Hamish Edgar, Pamela Glading, Steve Griffin, Michael Hopping, Wayne Hosie, Peter Hunt, Libby Kemp, Dasha Korban, Alistair Owens, Philip Parnell, Andrew Taylor, Matthew Wanden and Fred Wotton

The group is being assisted and facilitated by Graham Orphin from the Jazz Festival. Thanks to Graham's, the group is getting great access to the venues and performers and a lot of fun is being had by all involved. Also a lot is being learnt about shooting in low light and generally testing conditions!

It is the intention of the group to hold an exhibition of the resultant images in the coming months, possibly in conjunction with the Jazz Festival organising body. A competition is also under consideration with the winning images being made available to the Jazz Festival for their CD and other promotional material.

The group will also be very happy to do a "Members Slot" in next year's program to share the experience with all WPS members and display the images. In the meantime here is a teaser of their work.

Below: 2006 Wellington Jazz Festival - Images by WPS Special Interest Group

