



Taupo Camera Club Newsletter.

"Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst."

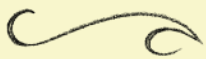
- Henri Cartier-Bresson

"A good photograph comes from knowing where to stand."

- Ansel Adams

"Taking pictures is like tiptoeing into the kitchen late at night and stealing Oreo cookies."

- Diane Arbus



IMPORTANT Information:

The next meeting of the year is Tuesday 18th June at the Vintage Car Club Rooms at 7pm.

If you would like to submit images into club competitions, they must be submitted by 8pm on the Sunday after club night. The next competition entries are due on Sunday 23rd June.

The Subjects are:

Subject 1 - Portraits of People

Subject 2 - Tell a story with a Triptych

Please note the email address for submissions is:

taupocameraimages@gmail.com

Editor's Note: We continue to showcase the talents and diverse perspectives of our camera club community by featuring member spotlights. Regardless of whether you're an experienced photographer or just starting out, you have a unique story to tell. This month, we're pleased to feature Lynne Booth, Mike Timmer and Jose Couchman, who will share their passion and memorable moments. Let's celebrate our shared love for photography and the wonderful individuals who make our camera club community so special.

In Taupo, a club filled with flair,
Photographers gather and share,



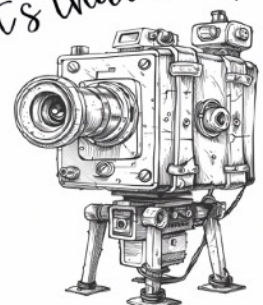
With cameras in tow,



They capture and show
The beauty that's always right there.



TAKE A PHOTO, TELL A STORY
It's that simple.



CAPTURING PORTRAITS.

If you're looking to improve your portrait photography skills for this month's competition, here are some tips to get you started:

1. Build a Connection with Your Subject



Portrait of Old Woman

To capture great portraits, either candid or posed, it's essential to establish a connection with your subject. Engage in conversation, use humour, or listen to their stories to help them feel comfortable and capture genuine emotions.

2. Focus on Lighting

Lighting plays a crucial role in portrait photography. Natural light during the golden hours of sunrise and sunset is ideal for candid shots. Experiment with softboxes, reflectors, or diffusers for posed portraits to control light and create the desired mood. Backlighting adds drama, while soft, diffused light creates a more traditional portrait look.

3. Experiment with Composition

Be bold and think outside the box when it comes to composition. Use the rule of thirds, leading lines, or natural framing to guide the viewer's eye through the portrait. For candid shots, consider shooting from unconventional angles to add interest. Incorporate props, background elements, or environmental context with posed portraits to tell a story.

4. Use a Shallow Depth of Field

A shallow depth of field can help draw attention to your subject by blurring the background. Use a wide aperture (low f-stop number) to create this effect and have space between subject and background. This technique benefits candid and posed portraits, allowing you to focus on facial expressions and other vital details.

5. Capture Natural Moments

Patience and a keen eye for detail are key to capturing natural moments. Look for genuine interactions, gestures, and expressions that reveal your subject's personality. These are the moments that tell a story and create lasting impact.

6. Experiment with Post-Processing

After capturing your portraits, use editing software to fine-tune the final image. Adjust exposure, contrast, and colour balance to enhance the picture. Experiment with black-and-white conversions or creative filters to add an artistic touch.



Portrait of Old Woman

Check out these tips for great
Portrait photography.
[Pixpa Portrait photography](#)

Thank you to our Sponsors, Taupo Office
Products who continue to supply the
Chocolate Fish which are given out to our
Honours Recipients.

Member Spotlight: Lynne's Journey into Photography.

Hello everyone, I'm Lynne Booth. I've been interested in photography since I was young. I started with a box brownie and now use a Fujifilm XT5 and an Apple iPhone 14. Although I've mainly taken photos of my family, kids, grandkids, and travel, I wanted to improve my skills. That's why I joined the camera club back in 2017.

At first, I found it challenging as I knew very little about f/stops, ISO, or the exposure triangle. However, with the help of club members and feedback

Frozen by Lynne Booth

from competitions, I've made significant progress. I now enjoy the challenge of creating better images. Although I'm still exploring different types of photography, the club program encourages me to try various subjects.

My motivation comes and goes, but I use Lightroom and Photoshop when necessary to enhance my images. I've learned how to make subtle changes that can make a big difference. I also follow Mark Denny, The Lightroom Queen, and Nature TTL for tips and tricks.

My advice to others who are interested in photography is to have fun with it and be patient.

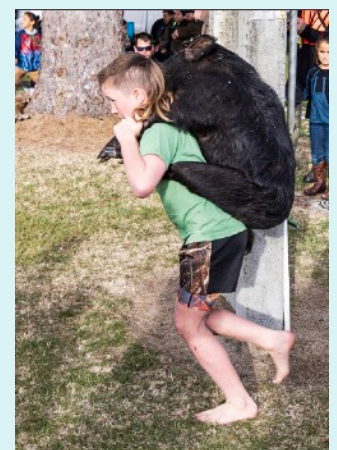


Circles by Lynne Booth

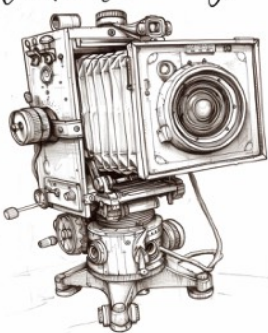
June 2nd Field Trip Report

Well, our field trip on June 2nd was supposed to be all about embracing the fog, but it seems Mother Nature didn't get the memo. Thankfully, Jose was on top of things and had a plan B. So, instead of wandering around aimlessly, we found ourselves at the Reporoa Pig Hunting Competition weigh-in. Who knew pig weighing could be so entertaining? It was like a family picnic but with a twist. There were pig-carrying competitions for the kids

and the adults. Not your average field trip, that's for sure!



PHOTOGRAPHY:
Where art & reality collide.



Member Spotlight: Mike's Journey into Photography.

My father was a passionate photographer, and for my 7th birthday, he gifted me his old Lord camera. It was a completely manual black-and-white film camera. My first shot was taken with the lens cap on, and my second shot was of Lake Taupo. I learned the basics of photography: no light meters; every shot needed to be properly exposed, focused, and composed. It always took some time to start taking a photo with the confidence that it would come out okay when the film was processed. I also learned how to process my own films and prints at school.

After moving from the Kapiti Coast to retire in Taupo, I joined the photography club in February 2022. I was a member of the Wellington Photographic Society for several years and enjoyed the knowledge-sharing, competitions, and get-togethers.

I have been a Nikon user for most of my life and have upgraded my cameras and lenses as technology has improved. I am considering switching to mirrorless, with the new Nikon Z8 offering enhanced bird tracking over my existing D850, which is nevertheless a fantastic camera.

I started out doing photography in my spare time and was attracted to the amazing opportunities travel overseas offered over the subjects available locally. As I gained more experience, I have branched into various genres. I photograph anything I find interesting or might find interesting in the future. If forced to choose just one genre, it would be travel portraits.

I try my best to get my shots right in the camera, both in terms of exposure and composition.



Image by Mike Timmer



Image by Mike Timmer

I use Lightroom Classic and Nik Silver Efex Pro. I also have a number of programs, including Photoshop, but they are used only occasionally. My computer upgrades tend to make my software obsolete.

I use processing to enhance images and crop where I can improve the shot. Processing is an important part of the finished image for me.

I have around 200,000 digital images, which I choose from to enter competitions on the internet, mainly on Photocrowd. Photocrowd has daily competitions judged by its members, and some quite high-level judges judge the premium competitions.

I love to go on photoshoots, get inspiration from books and the internet, and see what others are doing. Photocrowd has a fantastic array of competitions, judges, and great photographers. They are only too happy to share their skills and knowledge. I keep up-to-date with photo news and products by looking at <https://www.dpreview.com>.

Good pictures come from great subjects, and taking the time to get the composition and light right. Look for a different angle. You will often see me down low. Producing a shot that is not at eye level makes for a better composition. The key to a great shot is making it interesting.

I had good teachers along the way and always looked to improve my techniques.

Member Spotlight: Jose's Journey into Photography.

I come from a migrant family that kept family connections alive with photos and letters. It was during those times that I realised the importance of photos. My father's box brownie captured precious moments, and those tiny 2 1/4" x 3 1/4" pictures were the link between my grandparents in Europe and ourselves in NZ. The photos of childhood holidays at Lake Taupo are now etched in my mind, preserved in miniature, bordered in white with a small, serrated edge.

After completing my schooling, I worked for a photographic company, where my primary responsibility was to develop film and print photos in the darkroom, 8 hours a day for many years. During this time, I purchased my first camera, a Rolleiflex. Regrettably, I did not keep it; now it is regarded as an antique and highly valued.

I joined the club almost two years ago to expand my knowledge beyond the 'Auto' on my camera and access the world of amazing photos. I didn't do extensive research before buying my Canon Eos R5; as I had purchased Canon cameras in the past, I gravitated towards them again and haven't been disappointed.



Tramping Stewart Island, by Jose Couchman



Climbing, by Jose Couchman

I have been tramping and climbing in the stunning landscapes of NZ since I was in my teens. Landscapes were my favourite, and I regret not taking enough shots during my tramping days. I did try though, first with 35mm film and later with the first low-pixel digital cameras. Sadly, none of these photos match up to today's standards. Currently, macro photography, especially of fungi, is my favourite genre as it reminds me of all the times spent in the NZ bush.

I am slowly learning Photoshop, but my progress is almost nonexistent. For now, cropping is my go-to editing technique. Fortunately, the internet has been an excellent resource for me to learn about photography. A good YouTube video always has at least one gem to help me. I stay motivated by taking my camera gear, or often just my phone, on walks with my dog. Almost every time I go out, I see something that catches my eye and inspires me to take a photo.



The guide, by Jose Couchman

Congratulations on the submissions for the month of May.

Subject 1 - Open

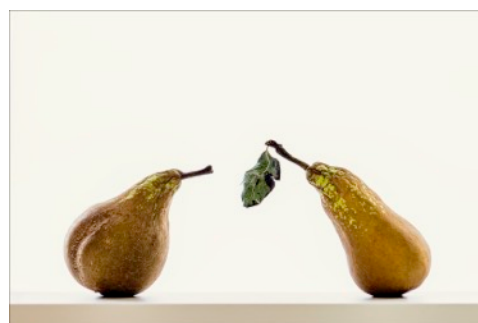
Subject 2 - The Power of Flowers

Honours Images Below



***Highly Commended
Images***





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PSNZ

SONY NATIONAL DIGITAL SALON

**Two Sections
Open and Nature**

(4 images per person, per section)

Entries Open: 9.00am Saturday, 1 June 2024

Entries Close: 5.00pm Sunday, 30 June 2024

**Champion Open and Champion Nature Image will receive a
PSNZ Trophy and a photography voucher to the value of \$500.00**

For more information please go to the PSNZ Website
<https://photography.org.nz/salons-galleries/>

