

Hello all Camera Club members

## **Last Meeting**

### **14<sup>th</sup> August at Kaikohe**

What a wonderful turn-out. It is great to have such a marvellous group of people come and participate, each with their own wealth of experience and unique way of seeing the world. This is what makes our photography club. I notice we are getting some very experienced photographers along now, this is so exciting, and the standard of our photography is going way up.

Denis gave us a wonderful talk about Panoramas, many hints about settings on the camera, positioning your shots, and taking them. Then let your software do the job of stitching. Modern software is very sophisticated at this - if the preparation and settings are done well.

Denis also did a professional looking PowerPoint presentation on the subject.

Requests have been made for copies of the information that was on the PowerPoint presentation. At this request Denis has supplied and added more information to the notes. See below.

***Thank you Denis; very informative and much appreciated.***

Shaun talked about pictures 'old and new' for the proposed new book. We hope members will actively participate in tracking down old photos of the Mid North area that may be included. If they are selected for the book it may mean taking pictures of the same scene now to compare.

***Thanks Shaun, this has great possibilities***

## **Coming Meeting – September**

Date: 11th September  
Time: 7pm  
Place: Cherry Park House, Waipapa Landing, Kerikeri  
Club Competition: Portrait (Trophy)

### **Highlight:**

Annie will talk to us about taking Portrait photos. Annie specialises in portraits and child photography using natural light. She has a knack of getting a lot of feeling into her photos.

### **Workshop:**

We will have a workshop on Portraiture.

For this workshop natural light will not be possible so we will need to use other lighting

### **Request:**

If you have lighting that would be suitable, could you please bring it along.

Ring Denis at Ph 401 1871 or Jill 407 6524 so we can get an idea of what we will have to work with.

Read up and practice portraiture and bring along your knowledge, we are all teachers.

Also see attachment on portraits as well as the web site link below.

### **Something New**

We are introducing club competitions pictures in digital form e.g. on a CD or memory stick, starting this September meeting.

***Our regular club competition of three printed photos still stands but this is extra.***

So as well as your printed pictures, you can also bring along three pictures in digital form and we will view them on the Laptop.

The format should be 1024 pixels at its longest edge and jpg format.

### **Interclub Competition at Whangarei**

We need your best photo for the Interclub Competition at Whangarei. If you have some that are no older than 18 months, you would like to be considered for this competition, bring them along to our September meeting. These can be pictures that you have printed previously for club competition or others you are proud of. The subject is 'Open'.

## October Meeting

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> October  
Time: 7 pm  
Place: Kaikohe Citizen's Hall, Tawanui Road, Kaikohe  
Club Competition: All Creatures Great and Small

## Camera Club Calender for the rest of the year

### *Keep these dates in mind*

October (early)	Afternoon outing to Wairere Boulders, Horeke.	
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Interclub Competition at Whangarei	Open
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	BOI P@I Show, Waimate North	
November	Mountain Trophy	Reflections (Set of four)
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	Kerikeri Meeting	
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Kaikohe Meeting	AGM & Pot luck dinner

This is a web site I found on 'People & Portrait Photography Tips' you may find it helpful.  
<http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/photo-tips/portrait-quick-tips.html>

Jill Lancaster  
[jillland@kol.co.nz](mailto:jillland@kol.co.nz)

*If you have received this newsletter by mistake or wish to be removed please press reply and write the word 'unsubscribe' at the top.*

---

# CAPTURING GREAT PANORAMAS

---

There are 4 very important considerations for shooting panoramas and they will be discussed as follows:

1. Your Lens
2. Your Tripod
3. Settings, Orientation, Execution
4. Stitching

## (1) PICK YOUR LENS

---

Many people have photographed panoramas with different lenses. The range is from super-wide to super zooms. For best quality a prime lens is better than a zoom but if using a zoom then avoid the extreme ends of the zoom range otherwise you may have some barrel distortion or vignetting on each frame. Do not vary the zoom while photographing the panorama.

## (2) TRIPOD (a must for low-light/night photography)

---

Many people have been quoted to say that the tripod is an absolute must for a panorama. Not true! Using the tripod is desirable but not always necessary.

If you use a tripod... Then great! The tripod must be level with the ground if you want your horizon to be straight. If your tripod does not have a level, you can purchase one that goes into your camera flash hot shoe.

Pay careful attention to this... Take a lot of time, as MUCH time as it takes, to get the tripod level. Correction of a horizon that is not straight can and will be a nightmare. If and only if you think the tripod and camera is level, pan the camera across the scene and make sure that the horizon stays consistently on your gridlines. If you pan the camera/tripod head and it is not level, then go back and make it level!

IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO USE A TRIPOD... then beware that you will lose some of the top or bottom details of your panorama depending on your skills.

If your tripod is not level or you don't keep the camera straight as you pan ... you will end up with a wiggly horizon, a bowed and/or lop-sided panorama.

### (3) SETTINGS, ORIENTATION, EXECUTION

---

Since most panoramas are scenic and the subject is wide and far away, the following settings should work for most situations and will be discussed as follows:

- (a) Initial camera settings
- (b) Aperture and Exposure
- (c) Setup camera in MANUAL
- (d) Execute the panorama

#### --3A-- Initial camera settings:

---

- (1) MATRIX METERING
- (2) APERTURE PRIORITY
- (3) the proper WHITE BALANCE
- (4) shoot at RAW and JPEG FINE (if available)
- (5) shoot in PORTRAIT orientation or with the camera VERTICALLY

#### --3B-- Setting aperture and metering the scene for EXPOSURE

---

You will want to set your aperture appropriately to what is appropriate for the lighting conditions. One thing to consider is the sunny 16 rule. Works great every time. In full sun use the sunny 16 rule and don't meter.

>>> Sunny 16 Rule: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunny\\_16\\_rule](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunny_16_rule) <<<

*(The basic sunny 16 rule, applicable on a sunny day, is this: Set aperture to f/16 and shutter speed to ISO speed. For example, for ISO 100, choose shutter speed of 1/100 second (or 1/125 second) – your camera may vary slightly from this – experiment.)*

For NIGHT shooting, set your ISO to the lowest possible setting... usually 100 or 200. Your aperture should be between f/8 and f/11 to get the sharpest pictures. If your scene contains water, then you may want to consider smaller apertures for smoother, more reflective water.

Set your camera to aperture priority (A Mode). Once you have your aperture set to the desired setting, depress the shutter button halfway and pan across the scene slowly. Notice the exposure readings for each part of the scene and (very important) take special note of the brightest part of the scene. NEVER INCLUDE THE SUN IN THE FRAME WHEN METERING.

#### --3C-- Final setup of your camera in MANUAL MODE

---

Put your camera in MANUAL mode and use the settings that you noted from the brightest part of the scene. Depending on the scene, you might be able to overexpose it a bit. For example, if the brightest part of the scene calls for f/16, 1/250s and the brightest part of the scene only comprises of 10% or less of the scene, you might be able to get away with shooting the panorama at 1/200s. You could make 2 panoramas and see what comes out best for you.

Whatever the case, you will need to shoot EVERY SINGLE frame with the same manual settings (INCLUDING WB). DO NOT change your settings between frames. No... No means NO! No changey da settings!

#### --3D-- The execution!

---

(a) WB should be set properly. Auto WB is a NO NO!!! The camera WILL adjust the WB for each frame differently. You will end up with a nightmare. You better hope you were shooting raw!

(b) Shooting Orientation (very important, to avoid stitching issues):

- 1 - in PORTRAIT ORIENTATION or VERTICALLY.. make sure to overlap 40-50%
- 2 – in LANDSCAPE ORIENTATION or HORIZONTALLY.. make sure to overlap 30-40%

(c) Shoot every single frame with the same MANUAL settings!!

(d) For best results, start with the left most frame of your scene. After shooting each frame, pan over and make sure the next frame overlaps with the previous frame with proper overlap rate (above). The more you overlap the better the panorama will align.

(e) After the final frame, YOU'RE DONE!

### \*\*\* NOTE FOR NIGHT PANORAMAS:

---

- > For night or evening panoramas, you must use a cable release or set the self-timer to 2 seconds.
- > Remove UV filters to avoid flaring

### (4) STICHING YOUR PANORAMA

---

There are many programs you can use to stitch the panorama.

If you are serious about panoramas and plan on doing it professionally, PTgui is a must.

Others are AutoPano Pro, Panorama Maker, Panorama Factory, Serif's PanoramaPlus 3, AutoStitch (free), or Photoshop CS3.

*With thanks to Leung Photography – <http://photography.leung.us/>*