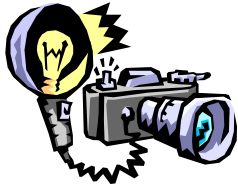




Cable Release

January 2012

Monthly Newsletter of the
Toowoomba Photographic Society INC
www.tpsinc.org.au



The Light Column

Thoughts to ruminate upon

Of passages portal and Doorways (Openings and Closings) January 2012

I would like to say something significant about this 'New Year' **portal** through which we must all pass...But first a question, then a probable answer. (keep in 'photography' mode though!).

We close off the Old-Year by passing through (and out the other end of) ... what's known colloquially as "the silly season" (though most would give it a more devotional and respectful tag). Why 'the silly season'? May I proffer an amateur philosopher's answer?

It starts with a familiar process called 'routine' ...our lives are bathed in it. Routine is something that **gives order** to our lives and **'form'** to our days. At this time of year, suddenly that routine is upset, its form changes. What is the 'trigger' for this upset? Is it that annual holidays kick in?..... or kids (or grandkids?) are suddenly 'around our feet' all day?...or that 'family' or friends drop in 'out of the blue'?. Whatever, we feel like we're being plunged into a different 'world'....and face-to-face at that! Not a bad thing ?..... just 'different!'

So the Christmas/New-Year 'break' ... **breaks routine**. No doubt you've noticed that many in our society are unable to deal with such 'dis'-order...Does this 'upsetting' in any way contribute to the increased incidence of assaults (and worse) at this time of year? Some would say 'yes' to that. Anyway, for many, obviously this is **not** a "*season to be jolly....tra-la-la-a-la la-la-la-la*"

I'd suggest that most at risk at this 'season' might be those trying to 'find their feet' in our society...including our 'teens' ... not sure within themselves whether they are 'kids' or 'adults' ... wanting the benefits of one, but liking the trappings of the other, already aware that they are in 'slo-mo' transition from a 'dependant' to an 'in-dependent' set of routines. I believe that societal breaks to routine at this silly-season time **place stress here** as statistics confirm re the increase in 'anti-social behaviour' including wanton vandalism (to put 'tags' on these phenomena) at this time. But is there something of deeper significance here?

I listened recently to a very revealing interview on Radio National by Rachel Kohn with a Frederick Marx which centred around an apparent '**missing link**' in our culture - a link that is so clearly present in so many other cultures (even so-called 'primitive' ones) yet conspicuously absent in 'Western' society. This link goes under the title of '*rites of passage*'... a **passage**, a '**door opening**' if you like, along which (or through which) one is conscious of moving '**out of**' one stage of life '**into**' another. Do we have such a thing?... such a rite of passage, a process with demanding (even strenuous) societal achievements from he/she who is on that path to the **portal**?

Surely one can't blame our young folk for a sense of confusion about thisthis transition, this 'passing through a doorway' if you like. Rightly they ask of society '**...where is that 'doorway'?**.....**when am** I regarded as 'adult'?. Is it when I am entitled to vote...or to drink....or to drive?...or when I turn 21?...and is it an 'age-determined' thing?...or is it when I can demonstrate a certain 'level of responsibility'? (As evidenced by the increasing

The Toowoomba Photographic Society Meets on the second Tuesday of the month at De Molay House

90 Margaret Street] Toowoomba(Opposite Queens Park, next to Park Cafe)

The Digital Group Meets on the 4th Friday of the month At DeMolay House Meetings begin 7.15pm

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popularity of the 'Pathways Foundation' to which Marx refers...and other programs like it). I believe that our culture is lacking a formalised (even 'ritualised?') 'rite of passage'...a readily recognised and accepted '**doorway**', a **portal** through which one should pass ... one that is at least more readily discernible than a mere mathematically-determined **portal**like 'New Year'

Well...**doorways...portals...openings....this is where I want to focus.**

Assuming that you were actually on the pathway, what is a portal or doorway to us but a 'user-friendly' opening that transforms an (otherwise) wishy-washy nothingness into something that gives 'form' (and meaning?) to our path, our passage 'through' to somewhere beyond.

In my design profession, 'passageways' generally, formal or otherwise, (and 'openings' in particular.... like doorways) are an essential part of almost all design concepts. Not only do openings have a habitational, technical or even energy-driven function, but **aesthetically** they have either a poignant or a subtle purpose. I've previously remarked how 17th century portrait painters in particular utilised **the aesthetic advantages of the opening** with light streaming through an open window to highlight subjects and objects, thus giving the work an 'illuminated' effect (light also symbolising 'hope'). The resultant play of light and shade can often make the subject appear virtually 'three-dimensional'! We photographers can do that....can't we!

The window, the doorway or portal (or even a colonnade) is so often used architecturally to highlight a form beyond. The opening, of itself, can give a sense of 'place', even suggesting 'security'. For us as photographers, as for the painters, the least that the opening can do for us is to provide a 'frame' for our subject....but we can do better!

Many an architect uses the 'opening'...(a window...a doorway...whatever))...to relate to, to give 'form' to...(or to frame) a path, a 'feature' or a view beyond. Even its location, its orientation or proportions (even shape?) is utilised as a 'device' to **restrict** the opening, so focussing our attention on what is important and hiding what is irrelevant. Can we learn something here? Put another way, **the 'closing-off' can be as important as the 'opening-up'** itself.(....a bit like the 'Old-Year New Year metaphor, hey!) Try this with your next image?

As this year **opens up**, may hope stream-in for you. As a photographer, why not consider re-looking at the possibilities of the window, the door (and other 'openings') to 'tell a story' on your 'canvas', the 'produced image'. Enjoy the New Year. BJB.
Pres 30-12-11

PS. Comments on 'Light Columns' (good or bad) are welcome to whisson@aapt.net.au



Club Information
The Society requires an annual Subscription be paid, renewable On the 1st of July each year. Pro rata rates apply after 1st January. Current Rates (2010/2011)

Individual Subscription....\$35.00
Family Subscription.....\$55.00
Concession/Student/Country Single \$20; Family \$40

Member Profiles , Many members have not submitted a profile for the Club History. Please give this matter your attention so that the history can be brought up to date All that is needed is 100/150 words about the member with a head shot, hard copy or a digital File.

Sew on Club Badges are available from Gerard at the door. These badges may be sewn on a black shirt or coat to identify you as a Member of the Toowoomba Photographic Society Inc. They are a great idea for club field days and can be purchased for \$5.00 each

Your Club Membership Card
Can be used at Owens Camera House, Photopro and Cyrils Camera Centre for discounts.

Club Night Competition Entries
Are to be left at Photopro Suite 2/477 Ruthven Street Toowoomba. By 12 pm Saturdays 17 days before preceding Tues Club Meeting night. Please Place the following information On the back of entries:
Name of Author
Title of Image
Grade A or B
Open or Set Subject
Size of Print

Write on the top back left hand side of the print to indicate the top of the image. Use a white sticker if the matt is other than White.
Would all members please pack their work in thin plastic or paper bags and leave them for Frances to collect. If each pair of prints is interleaved with suitable paper and then placed In a plastic bag adequate protection will be afforded.
Members please note on club night each member is allowed one entry consisting of up to 3 images. The images can be shared amongst any of the four categories mentioned above or they may all be entered into one category. Any one image may be entered three times only- once in open subject, set subject, and once in end of year competition.
Specifications for presenting digital Files to club competitions
Make sure you get your copy from The website.
Files are to be 1024 x768 and Compressed to a maximum file size of 500kb.
http://www.tpsinc.org.au/competitions/Saving_Digital_Images.pdf

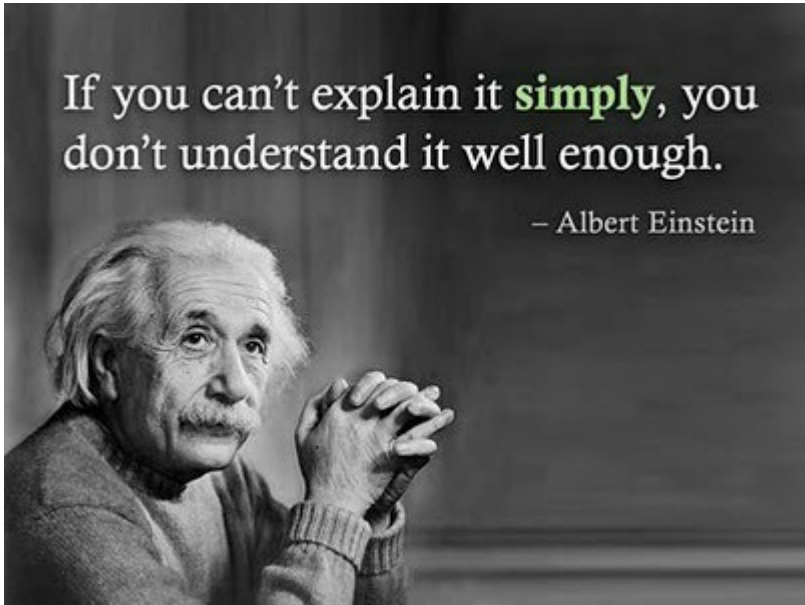
January 2012 (No Competition)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1 Happy New Year
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Club Night	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Digital Night	28 Entries due for Feb Comp	29
30	31					

February 2012 Circles						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Club Night	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Digital Night	25 Entries due for March Comp	26
27	28	29				

All digital images to be sent to alexfreeman1@bigpond.com All prints to be left at Photopro Saturday 17 days prior to competition by 12 noon
Digital Images for Digital Night to graham_harris@westnet.com.au

General Business:

1. January Field Day, Sunday 15th January. It was confirmed that we would proceed with this planned field day at Crows Nest Falls commencing at 2pm. Judi will visit the area and confirm at a later date details of the arrangements including the meeting place.



Elana by Jim Dawson Alice Black

David duChemin

“Lazy vision can't be recovered in Photoshop. There is no Un-Suck filter.”

Gift cards - the gift that keeps on giving trouble

13 Dec 2011

Consumer group CHOICE is taking a lot credit for a government crackdown on gift cards

CHOICE said that following its report last November, the Federal government has taken an initial step toward a potential clampdown on overly restrictive gift card conditions.

In an issues paper released late last week, the Commonwealth Consumer Affairs Advisory Council laid out the problems with gift cards and invited consumers to help determine how the issues should be addressed. Submissions will be accepted until March next year.

Since we first published our report on gift cards that quickly stop giving, consumers have continued to contact us with stories of cashed-up plastic that has ended up worthless, “ a CHOICE spokesperson Ingrid Just said.

“In most cases, the unspent money goes back to the retailer, as does any amount below a certain threshold (usually \$5 or so) – even if you’re quick enough to use the card before it expires. As we argued in November last year, we think this and other gift card gimmickry amounts to consumer abuse.”

Earlier this year Queensland’s Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for the Office of Fair Trading, Paul Lucas, said he would push for nationwide rules restricting underhanded gift card practices. Lucas cited the gift card flaws outlined in CHOICE’s report and said he has asked Queensland Fair Trading to identify best practice options with the aim of developing new regulations.

The CHOICE survey found that nearly all gift cards sold in Australia expire after one year. At the time, Bunnings offered the only card with no expiry date, though Bunnings has since been joined by Toys “R”Us and EB Games.

Exp  sed!

Please check the flyer for competition rules or the website.

Want your work exposed to the public for free?

Murray’s Art & Framing is proud to present a bi-monthly photography competition

Entries close 15th of the month.

Winning work will be printed, framed and hung in prominent window location at Myart Gallery with 24/7 public viewing.

Themes for 2012 will be

Jan-Toowoomba region buildings Mar-Portrait

May-Broad Landscapes July-Up close

Sept-Garden/floral Nov-Black & white

digital entries only to photo@myart.com.au

At completion of each bi-month the work and frame is kept by the winner, if not sold beforehand. If sold the runners up will take their place in turn.

Competition Disclaimer Please note that the TPS Inc does not endorse any competition presented herein. They are reproduced for your information only and it is up to the individual to peruse all entry details more thoroughly regarding final ownership of images and the hosting competition organisers intentions for the use of images collected during the competition. Entering some competitions may result in your losing photographers rights over your images. Images may be used in an inappropriate manner or passed to a third party without any payment or recognition of the photographer. Some third party users are very high profile and should pay for such a usage. Please read all entry rules and competition details carefully before committing your images to a competition

December Comp Images



The Columns Bryce Canyon Utah Judi Neuman



Willy Wagtail Lex Franks



Standing your ground Pierre Boudib



End of the Road Keith Power



Mosaic Plant NY Peter Evans



Grand daughter by Dave Hurst



Model by Tim Dunn



Anzac Wave Alwyn Kucks



Apple Smashed Direct Hit David Martin



Chinese Lantern Joan Power



A Shy Little Lady Alwyn Kucks



Finger Likn Good Dean Mengel



Low Level Flying Richard Wyton



Life Behind Bars Graham Burstow



Launched by Stan Carter



Daybreak Manly Harbour Keith Power



Contemplation by Robert LaBrie



Lighting Wrap Brian Aston