



**MARLOW  
CAMERA CLUB**

# Night Shoot

26<sup>th</sup> April 2011

## Landscapes

[www.marlowcc.org](http://www.marlowcc.org)

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## **Landscapes**

This session is about photographing landscapes and not just sunsets.

There are 2 ways of arriving at your location, just driving by and you see something, or planning your shoot. Set up and start taking photos – or have a look around without your camera.

*Composition of your image.*

Something of interest, foreground, mid-ground and background (distance)

*Do you want a FULL view of what you can see?*

This normally means the use of a wide angle lens, and could result in lots of sky or foreground which has nothing of interest and will end up being cropped.

*Depth of Field*

You will probably be looking for a large depth of field, and will be considering using the smallest f stop – if you go much beyond f16-22 you may find that your images suffer from an apparent lack of focus – this is caused by the size of the pixels and the way that the light hits them.

Which is the best f stop? this will vary from lens to lens, and should be tested.

By stopping down to f16-22 you will be slowing the shutter speed down, and this will require the use of a tripod.

Once you have decided which f stop you are using, check the hyperfocal distance.

### *Using a Tripod*

When the camera is mounted on a tripod it is best to turn the image stabilisation off, as this may set up vibrations in the lens and result in unsharp images. Ensure that the camera is level, (and vertical if required).

### *Cable Release*

If you are using a cable release or the countdown on the camera, you should cover the eyepiece of the camera to prevent stray light entering and affecting the meter reading. There are various types, ranging from a simple cable with a button to types with various functions, allowing you to take series of images (at a time scale set by the user), with bracketing – to wireless remotes.

### *Bracketing*

Consider bracketing exposures – you can always blend or HDR the images for your final image.

### *Panoramics*

Consider taking a series of shots to create a panoramic on your return – again bracketing your shots may help. If you are going to do this consider turning your camera to portrait view.

### *Graduated Filters*

With sunsets and sunrises, use a neutral density graduated filter to bring the dynamic range of the scene within the limits of the camera. There are colour Graduated filters, but this can normally be done on the computer.

### *Checklist.*

1. Camera
2. Lenses
2. Charged batteries (spare)
3. Memory cards with sufficient space
4. Tripod and bush
5. Cable release
6. Filters
7. Torch

### *Things to Consider*

You may also wish to consider taking a drink, extra clothing, both waterproof and warm. And something to put under your bag to keep it clean/dry.

### **Not Covered on the Night**

#### *Mirror Lock Up (MLU)*

We didn't cover this on the night, as I did not want to overload with information.

When you take an image with an SLR camera the mirror has to move out of the way, to do this it 'flips up', when it does this it hits the viewfinder which causes it to stop. When it hits the viewfinder it causes a vibration even though there are systems in place to dampen these, they still remain. By locking the mirror up these vibrations are avoided. To use MLU to best advantage, you should wait between locking the mirror up and taking the exposure. MLU is activated differently from camera to camera.

#### *Liveview*

Your camera may have a liveview function, which instead of looking through the viewfinder, the image is displayed on the LCD. This can allow you to zoom in (Canon allows 10x zoom) to areas of the image to ensure that it is in/out of focus.

Disadvantages of using the liveview are greater battery drain. The sensor is always on, and this can increase noise in the image.