CAMERA CRAFT CHEAT SHEET

Exposure

The "exposure triangle" made up of aperture, ISO and shutter speed is the key to exposing your images correctly. Master this and you will get great results from any camera.

Learn to use your histogram to judge your exposure. In most cases, the histogram should look like a bell - roughly the same as the histogram in this image.

Color

Make sure you are shooting in raw. This file type captures a lot more information than jpegs and allows you more leeway in post production. This means you will be able to control the exact outcome in terms of colour as well as having a little more room to move on improving the exposure when you don't quite get it right in the camera.

Composition

The old chestnut is the rule of thirds. Pretend there is a grid across your scene (like a tic tac toe grid). Place the important elements of the photograph on the places where the grid lines intersect. This is an old guideline that will help you get more powerful compositions, but don't be too constrained by it. Rules were meant to be broken!

What Your Camera Settings Do

Learn what these camera settings do and you can basically control the image output of any camera.

Aperture

Aperture controls the size of the opening in the lens. A narrow opening puts as much as possible in focus. A wide opening throws the background out of focus.

Wider apertures will give you a blurred background
Narrow apertures will make everything sharper

ISO

The higher the ISO, the brighter the image, but also more noise will be in your photos. Usually you want to minimise noise so keep ISO down as much as possible.

Shutter Speed

A slow shutter speed lets more light into the camera and also allows the sensor to record movement in the frame.

The first image is dark and frozen. The last image is light and the clouds have motion blur.