

Photography course votes all positives, no negatives

A FIRST! Jiri and Marie Lochman recently found time in their hectic schedule to conduct a photography course for members of the Science and Information Division at the Manjimup Centre.

With the Lochman's reputation as top class photographers, whose work has been published internationally and is frequently seen in CALM's *LANDSCOPE* magazine, it was to be expected that an eager group of participants signed on and fronted up on October 15 and 16.

From all accounts the course was a huge success. The Lochmans had clearly anticipated what would have been the most common difficulties faced by amateurs when they prepared their course outline.

The hand-outs given to those taking part were well

by Pam Burgoyne

thought out and presented, with every opportunity given to the class to grasp the basic components of composition and technique.

Examples were displayed to emphasise these components, making it clear to everyone why some photographs 'work' and others do not.

The class was taken on a field trip for a practice session, and everyone found the experience most valuable.

They were subjected to typical Manjimup spring weather -changeable!

This was probably ideal for emphasising the sorts of difficulties experienced in the field by budding photo-hounds - in rain, overcast conditions, with

only occasional bursts of sunlight to provide the much needed contrast required in outdoor work - and often while having to dodge logging trucks!

Jiri and Marie dashed from one to another eager student, checking and offering constructive criticism, so that as many aspects of the classroom demonstration as possible were covered in practice.

Participants had been asked to bring along for evaluation their own photos - those that didn't work as well as the ones that did - and on the second day everyone was given a chance to explain what they had tried to achieve in each photo, with Jiri and Marie offering suggestions on how the photos could have been improved.

The Lochmans brought

along a large display of camera lenses, tripods and other equipment of their own, to show how they had been able to overcome some highly awkward circumstances and still take beautiful and effective photos.

For the 'bug people' and the 'flower people' it was especially interesting to find out how best to shoot both in the labs and in the field.

Valuable help was also given to those keen on extreme close-up work.

I found the advice on landscape and animal photography enormously rewarding, and we all concluded with grateful appreciation that the course was top class.

We are all hoping there will be a follow up at a later date so we can see how much improvement we have made.



Manjimup's Science and Information Division staff grin broadly for the 'birdie.' Photo by Jiri Lochman