



NEWSLETTER

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APCS NEWSLETTER No.103 – July 2020

The new “normal” mode continues

We are learning to deal with the COVID era, and some sort of understanding of what now confronts us is emerging. Melbourne and some of its surrounding areas are now in a new lock-down until at least the end of August, and any ideas of returning to pre-COVID meetings and events have been delayed – certainly for the rest of 2020 and probably for a lot longer. This is probably the scene for the future – a struggle to keep the number of infections low by any and all of the actions that we are becoming familiar with, and dealing locally with outbreaks when they happen.

Even if the ideal of a vaccine that gives immunity is likely to be well into the future and even when one turns up, it will be a long time before we can all have an injection – or whatever form of treatment is needed. So for the time being we are in a world of social distancing, the observation of travel boundaries, face masks, exceptional personal hygiene, and relying on remote access and communications to keep in touch and do whatever it is that will keep our interests in photographic collecting alive.

Reaction to COVID varies around the world and even around Australia as the effects are quite localised and different governments take different approaches to dealing with the combined effects on health – and their economies. Some photographic events overseas are now going ahead – an exhibition in Singapore for example but that includes severe restrictions on the number of people that can be in each of the exhibition areas. Societies similar to the APCS are taking a more conservative approach – with a strong move towards on-line communications – see the section below that includes magazine exchanges.

Back Focus

A couple of weeks ago, the plan was to send Back Focus No 115 to you with the expectation that you would have it in your hands by the time you got this newsletter but COVID and related delays means that Back Focus is still with the printer and the expected mailing date is now the 20th July meaning that you should have your copies by the end of the month. The hard copies of Back Focus are being sent to those who are financial members, and those whose membership became due on 31st May but have not yet renewed. Lapsed members will be able to read the electronic version of Back Focus from the APCS website.

This issue is being sent to you in a different packaging – a more protective envelope – and there will be a personalised sheet included which is quite specific about

your membership status. This personal note will be generated automatically from our database, and if any of the details are in error then please let us know as we need to keep our database up to date more than ever. Back Focus is now in a new format – much larger – and in a cover which will look better as a book on the shelf. New printing and binding options allow a higher quality, and you will see in this copy higher resolution images that will, when continued in future editions, allow for more interesting articles.

Back Focus can't exist without good articles. We are a collecting society... Write up your speciality and share your enthusiasm with the rest of the membership – you never can tell what might be hiding out there and current owners don't know what you are really enthusiastic about – it might bring you that elusive model or example that you have been chasing for years.

The APCS does pay for articles at a rate of \$30 a page, but the rate is currently being reconsidered by the committee in light of the new printing standards and the fact that the rate has not been revised for many years. There is also a thought that a higher rate might attract better articles.

Corona Virus COVID19 – an update on the APCS position

Even as governments (particularly the Australian States) talk about relaxing isolation, the APCS is a group of older people that would be very much at risk if we were to become a COVID epicentre. Consequently, we will be more conservative in relaxing meeting restrictions for some time yet. Normality for us is now a period of cancelled and deferred events, with absolutely no certainty about when that will change, and the new expectation is that the old normal won't be achieved until the community has been vaccinated. At the moment that feels like being a long time in the future.

Should this change, announcements will be made on the APCS webpage: www.apcsociety.com.au and on the APCS Facebook page as well as in the newsletters. It is increasingly a case that we have to look after ourselves, and isolation is probably the best policy. This is new territory and at least for the time being we are feeling our way through it.

Communication with members

A key issue in any communications with members that relies on electronic means is that we have electronic addresses for everyone. If your email address changes, please send an email to web@apcsociety.com.au including your name – so that we can communicate effectively.

We know that there are about a dozen members who have not provided us with email addresses – we will be contacting them by phone from time to time as a way of keeping them informed. The newsletter (including back copies) are available electronically from the Members' page on the APCS website. If you feel nostalgic you might download a few and read them. And before anyone complains – there was no “No.30” – someone could not count back in 2013!

We have noted that many members are abandoning their landline based phones and are relying on mobile phones. We want to ensure that we have your phone numbers in the database too – another means of communicating.

The APCS AGM

The AGM is deferred, and on present indications will be some sort of on-line event in October. In preparation for that the full Annual Report for 2019-2020 is included in the copy of Back Focus that you will be getting at the end of the month.

We do need to fill a couple of committee vacancies ASAP, and will consider the election of all positions in the AGM process. Give some thought on how you could contribute and note that all members throughout the world can be part of the committee as we expect that all committee business will be on-line for this next year. Technology is coming to our aid and modern software will be used to facilitate on-line meetings etc.

The APCS is particularly looking for methods for us to buy and sell our collectible items. Auctions and Markets served us well in the past but new approaches and the means of managing them are now sought. Classical on-line auctions are a possibility but there are a few obstacles to going down that path which translate to much higher trading costs and quite a few risks. About all that we can offer at the moment is the classified advertisements that you see at the end of this newsletter.

Membership renewals

Membership renewals for 2020-2021 are now due, and thank you to the members who have already renewed their membership for the next year. Your membership status is included on the sheet with the forthcoming issue of Back Focus. The annual fee of \$30 can be paid by a direct deposit into the bank account:

Account name: Australian Photographic Collectors' Society. BSB: 083166 – Account: 515315423 and be certain to put your name or membership number in the reference field.

Or you can send a cheque to the Treasurer P.O.Box126, KANGAROO GROUND, VIC 3097

If any of your details have changed please let us know. Download the membership form from the website <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/membership.html> and include it with your cheque, or email the changes to the Treasurer or to web@apcsociety.com.au

Magazine exchanges

The APCS has magazine exchange relationships with other societies of like nature and in the past, copies were usually located in the APCS library. Modern trends towards having such items on-line allows us to make those copies directly available to you from our website.

“Snap Shots” from the Photographic Historical Society of New England can be found at:

www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-01_snap-shots_web.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-02_snap-shots_web.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-03_snap-shots_web.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-04_snap-shots_web.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-05_snap-shots_web.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-06_snap-shots_web.pdf

And from the Photographic Historical Society of Canada:

www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_04.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_05.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_06.pdf

And also from the Photographic Historical Society of Canada are web copies of their main magazine “Photographic CANADIANA” Vol 46 No 1 and a special supplement Vol 1 No 1

www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/PHOTO_CANADIANA_SpecialVol1.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/PHOTO_CANADIANA_VOL_46-1.pdf

Of course, we have permission from those societies to share their publications – just as they can share what we publish as well.

When you click on any of the above links, your computer browser may ask you to confirm that you want to take the risk of viruses etc. Those items have all been checked.

Classified Advertisements

With the social effects of COVID forcing us to cancel markets and auctions for a while, this column is available to you to publicise what you wish to sell and what you want to find. While it is logical that you include prices on items for sale, there is no reason why you should not modify that with expressions like “offers above \$xyz”.

To place and ad, send an email including all the details to adverts@apcsociety.com.au with a JPG photo if you wish. Rather than include your name and contact details we can add an enquiry code and pass information on to you – then you can deal directly with the responders – your decision. At present there is no charge for this service. For the timebeing keep the text down to under 50 words per item.

For Sale

Member David Donaldson has for sale Australian photography DVDs new in wrap:

- GIRL IN A MIRROR (Carol Jerrems)
- WILDNESS (Truchanas, Dombrovskis)
- PHOTOGRAPHERS OF AUSTRALIA (Sievers, Dupain, Moore)

Each \$20 in plain envelope, \$30 padded. Details on request. Phone David on (08) 8267 5069.

Wanted

Member Sandy Barrie is looking for Kodak Sepia Toner and Selenium Toner. If you can help send him an email at apbarrie52@dodo.com.au