



NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS: AMRA Hall, 92 Wills St, Glen Iris, VIC
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APCS NEWSLETTER No.109 – January 2021

Welcome to 2021

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2021 and in it, an outline of the program for the year. The APCS was essentially in recess for most of 2020 and what will happen now is not so much a “return to normal” but a “development of a new COVID-normal” which will affect what we do for the next couple of years at least – and depending on how that works out – what the APCS will become in the future.

COVID is still a major threat to us as individuals as well as to the Society, but we have a few things going for us and we will weather the storms ahead. The APCS is adopting a conservative low-risk approach to our events – to do otherwise would be irresponsible. At some time in the future, medical technology may mean that we are not at risk from COVID and further planning may allow a few of the attractive features of the past to emerge.

This edition of the newsletter is being sent by snail-mail to all who are members now and all who did not renew in 2019 & 2020. A couple of the events listed below are for members-only – lapsed members will need to renew their membership if they wish to attend.

APCS event planning for 2021

The Committee has adopted an event plan for the first half of 2021 – a series of monthly events on the 3rd Sunday or each month, and please note that face to face meetings will be fully in accordance with the prevailing legislative COVID-SAFE rules. Note that the APCS is NOT planning to provide refreshments at any of these events and the kitchen facilities will not be open for use. Members should bring their own bottle of water for example. Please note that the following list is subject to change and late changes can be expected. If you are planning to attend any of the 2021 APCS events, it is expected that pre-registration will be required. If you are one of the few who don't use email, then you should arrange to have phone contact for example with a member that does have internet access. Email, Facebook and the APCS website are all used to get this critical information to you – and you should check just before each event to ensure that last-minute changes are not going to affect you.

February 21 – 2pm AMRA Hall

A presentation meeting along the lines of what we did in February 2020 – this time the headline being “My favourite camera”. If you have a favourite camera write it up in about 500 words and add a photograph of it – or of yourself using it. Send that to president@apcsociety.com.au and we will choose the most interesting 8 or so to present at the meeting. Those write-ups will also be

used as the basis for a general article in the next issue of Back Focus – also just as we did in 2020. The scope of the cameras can be wide – film – digital – cine – video, and the subjects can also be wide – portrait – landscape – documentary – astrophotography.

March 21 – 2pm – Members-only market AMRA Hall

We don't have confidence that we can run a public market in Melbourne as early as March, but we should be able to hold a market for members. There will be limits on numbers that we can accommodate at the AMRA Hall and there will be a few special rules. More details will be included in the February and March newsletters.

April 18 – Noon – Members-only auction AMRA Hall

An auction is planned for April but there will be a few differences... Inspections will be from 10am on the Sunday morning only and depending on the COVID threat level it may be that handling the items prior to the auction won't be possible. All items will be photographed and you will be able to view them from the catalogue via on-line links. This will be a significant auction with several estates up for your consideration. Most items have been in storage for the last year as there were no auctions in 2020. This auction will be under COVID-SAFE rules as they apply at the time. There will be restrictions on the number of members that can attend and pre-registration will be essential. In keeping with the reduced scale of this auction, the number of items on offer is restricted to what has already been received, ie we will not be accepting further items for this auction – see details in the next newsletters.

May 2 – 9am Adelaide market – Hungarian Club Norwood

The Adelaide market is only tentative at this time. It is expected that this will be a restricted numbers market along traditional lines but strictly according to the rules of the day. Details will be included in the APCS newsletters and on the APCS website.

May 16 – 2pm Presentation and Social meeting AMRA Hall

We are looking for a presenter and subject for the May meeting – any subject relevant to the collecting of cameras and photographic equipment. We do have a couple of subjects in reserve but would appreciate some new ideas. We are aiming for a presentation of about an hour – preferably illustrated – and of potential interest to a wide group of members.

June 20 – 2pm Annual General Meeting AMRA Hall

Our AGM is traditionally held in June for the purpose of receiving reports, electing a committee for the next year and dealing with specific items of business to be determined. A contingency plan for this meeting and potentially others is to conduct it via ZOOM software on-line.

Plans for the second half of 2021

It is premature to be specific about the remainder of 2021. We are likely to be reacting to the Winter season of the COVID virus. We will also learn from the experience of the events in the first half of the year.

Communication with members

If you don't receive an electronic copy of this newsletter then it is most likely that we don't have an email address for you or what we have is not working. To ensure that you get newsletters in the future, please let us know your preferred email address – send us an email to web@apcsociety.com.au and we will ensure that the database is updated. See the address sheet with the mailed copy of this newsletter for details of the information that we do have for you.

Whether we like it or not, communications is changing – maybe too rapidly for some – and the internet with its email services etc has all but replaced the 19th and 20th Century norms of the postal service. A key feature of the internet is that it is close to free and instantaneous whereas the postal service is now costly and commonly delayed by many days rendering notification of late changes to meeting plans for example to be useless.

Member opinions

As we enter 2021 which will be affected by COVID, having survived 2020 which was dominated by COVID, it is now time to consider what the APCS is all about and what we can do to provide an appropriate schedule of activities. The Committee has made some assumptions about the first half of 2021.

But in some ways, we are dealing with a new Society, and probably every aspect of what we do is up for reconsideration. Over the last 44 years our program has changed – not only have we added events but we have also ceased doing some things. The “status quo” at the end of 2019 was presentations, markets, auctions, a newsletter, Back Focus, but other features that used to be done included field trips, specialist groups, various social activities (dinners, & Christmas functions) have ceased – mostly from lack of interest. Even matters that seem to be continuous have changed along the way – the whole matter of newsletters and Back Focus and the way that we communicate with members, and where we draw the line between members and the public. Even the size of the society has changed from a small beginning 44 years ago to a peak membership 22 years ago when we had more than 275 members, declining to just under 150 today.

What would your ideal society be in a couple of years? And what form might the society take to encourage a new generation of members? It is probable that we will have to negotiate around COVID for at least a couple of years, and if that means that we seem to be simply cancelling events for fear of COVID then there is a

risk that there will be no-one left in the society in a few years. Please send your ideas to any member of the committee – an email is just fine. In particular, of those events that we have held until a year ago, which are the ones that are important to you and which we might put some extra effort into re-establishing early in this COVID-recovery era.

Back Focus

Back Focus can't exist without good articles. We are a collecting society... Write up your speciality and share your enthusiasm – you never can tell what might be hiding out there – it might bring you that elusive model or example that you have been chasing for years.

The next issue of Back Focus was scheduled for about now. While we have a few articles, there are not enough to allow a worthwhile issue.

Consequently, the committee has decided to defer the production of the next issue until May when we can also include the APCS annual report.

Readers will recall that the meeting of February 2020 was written up as a series of “show and tell” short articles as the first item in the last issue No.115. We plan to do much the same again – take a photo of yourself with an interesting item from your collection, write a few words about it and send it to backfocus@apcsociety.com.au and we will format it for combination with others to make a major article. See the details for the February 2021 meeting.

The APCS does pay for full 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.

Mystery objects

The mystery item for this month should be obvious to many APCS members – but I have to admit that I have only ever seen two of these – this one – un-numbered by Dallmeyer, and another in a black finish made by Wray. They are simple eyepieces with 2-elements but these are for a specific purpose – notice the screw adjustment on the barrel, and that there is no mounting at the far end. The effective focal length is 50mm

We have not had any further suggestions on the identity of the camera in this part of a photo of a tourist in China – thought to be taken in about 1910. The most likely suggestion so far is that it is a Goerz Tenax plate camera, but unfortunately there is not enough detail to be definitive. If you can be more certain about this the research area in Canberra would appreciate your thoughts. Send ideas to web@apcsociety.com.au and we will pass them on.



Membership renewals

Membership renewals for 2020-2021 are now overdue, and thank you to the members who have already renewed their membership for the next year.

Your membership status and the records we hold on our database are on the address page included with the hard copy version of this newsletter – please advise us of changes – and if your membership is due please consider renewing for another year. But note that those details were generated automatically and could be out of date if you have renewed in a few days prior to the mailout. As the subscriptions for 2021-2022 will be coming due in the next few months you might consider saving time and effort and update for the additional year. 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 (made out to the Australian Photographic Collectors' Society) to the Treasurer P.O.Box126, KANGAROO GROUND, VIC 3097

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, but now you can see them on-line 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 news from the Photographic Historical Society of Canada can be found at:

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
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_09.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_10.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_11.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_12.pdf

And also from the Photographic Historical Society of Canada are web copies of their magazine “Photographic CANADIANA” – lots of very interesting material. The “Special Volume” items below are particularly interesting – originally appearing in the journal of the Western Photographic Collectors Association (WPCA) in 1995. That organisation was affiliated with the university of California Museum of Photography. The journal ceased publication in 1996 and the WPCA went into dissolution in 2001.

www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No1_LanternsPartA.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No2_LanternsPartB.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No3_Shutters.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No4_PosingChairs.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No5_FlashLamps.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No6_EnlargersPartA.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No7_EnlargersPartB.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_V46No1_supp.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_V46No2_ShowNTell.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_V46No3.pdf
www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_V46No4.pdf

Of course, we have permission from those societies to share their publications – just as they can share what we publish as well. The links have been checked and are virus free.

Trade News

Michaels Camera Store has been a presence in Melbourne for a Century and many is the conversation that has gone on between people looking at the second-hand windows in Lonsdale Street. Maybe you have a story of a friendship that developed from meeting others at those windows... However, the move away from classical cameras, the effects of COVID, and the consequent drop in business has forced the closure of the shopfront establishment this week. They are continuing trade in an on-line venture.

Classified Advertisements

With the social effects of COVID forcing us to cancel and modify markets and auctions for a while, this column is available to you to publicise what you wish to buy and sell.

To place an ad, send an email including all the details to advert@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. Please try to keep the text down to under 50 words per item. At present there is no charge for placing an ad but it is now requested that for successful sales you remit a fee of 3% of the sale value, with the fee capped at \$15 for items sold for \$500 and above. This is an honour system and you may electronically transfer such fees in the same way as for membership fees – just mark the reference with your membership number and the word “Sale”.

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

Wanted – 11”x14” items

My lockdown project is to go LARGE and I have just bought an 11X14 camera. I need film holders (even Fidelity “medical” ones), lenses, film (expired or good), a contact frame or anything else specific to 11X14.



Just email what you might have to John Corneille hifexchange@hotmail.com Fair prices paid - I'm not looking for cheap.

For Interest

The Save Old Slides project... Small collections of old slides and negatives copied for free... See: www.lenslook.net for details.

For Sale

Copies of the British Journal Photographic Almanac (BJPA) 1940, 1947 & 1948 in poor condition (\$6 each), and 1951, 1954, 1955, & 1958 in fair or better condition (\$10 each) plus postage. Phone Rod on 0408173662 or email rod-reynolds@outlook.com All these are the Yellow cover version.

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.

For Sale via offers

Over the last few months, a couple of piles of photographic items have arrived at the President's home for sale to members without instructions as to prices, and in a couple of cases they are on offer to "anyone that can use them". Some items are substantial and are listed here with suggested prices based on past auction prices and current actual sales prices on ebay. You may arrange a viewing or make an offer etc via the email address adverts@apcsociety.com.au. The condition etc is estimated by your President, but it is suggested that your own inspection should be contemplated – a person to person ZOOM meeting might be an easy way.

There has been interest in this group and several items listed last month are no longer available. Most of the following items have operating manuals.

Canon A1 body in clean condition – seems to work correctly. Suggested price \$150.



Canon Winder A – clean no corrosion but not tested. Suggested price \$40.



Nissin 4000GW Electronic Flash with dedicated Canon DRS-CA adapter for Canon A1 etc, and a PC cable. This unit has been tested and the PC trigger voltage is 4.5Volts. Suggested price \$75



Tamron Adaptall 2 lenses

The following lenses are with Adaptall 2 converters and cases – all clean with no fungus at \$40 each:

- 35-70 zoom – Canon FD
- 85-210 f4.5 zoom – Canon FD
- 28mm f2.5 wide-angle – Canon FD
- 80-210 f3.8 zoom – Pentax Screw

JVC GR-AX400 VHS-C video camera outfit

including charger, batteries, and several cassettes – all of which seem to be working just fine in spite of their age. When new this cost a fortune but now the suggested price is \$50 for the lot.



There is also a quantity of small items most of which have to be considered as faulty, and personal inspection is the only way to assess condition etc. The list includes:

- Glanz monocular in case – OK with adapter.
- Minolta 7000 camera body – definitely faulty – stuck mirror.
- Takumar 3.5/135mm tele lens for Pentax screw mount – complete with several layers of fungus – in case.
- Minolta 2800AF Program flash – untested.
- A nice tripod and a monopod.
- A couple of brass lenses from the 1890-1910 era by various makers – in poor condition.
- A couple of larger format lenses from the 1920s era in unusable condition – display only. These have probably been recovered from press and similar cameras – mostly American.
- The 35mm to 16mm film splitter that was the mystery object a couple of months ago.
- A couple of clean and useful carrying cases.
- A Sony digital colour printer from the early Mavica era – not likely to be working.
- Minolta SRT-303 body – not doing anything, even with fresh batteries.
- Bell & Howell Slide Cube projector with about a dozen cubes.
- Yashica 109 body – seems to work.
- Hanimex TL super-8 cine camera.
- A few grubby 5x4 Graflex type DS plate holders
- A Folding Brownie SIX-20 in case
- An early Pentax SLR right-angled viewer