



# NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS: AMRA Hall, 92 Wills St, Glen Iris, VIC  
Melways 59 H7 ABN 55 567 464 974

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## APCS NEWSLETTER No.110 – February 2021

### BREAKING NEWS – The APCS meeting scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> February from 2pm is now a ZOOM MEETING

Unfortunately, with the snap COVID lockdown in Melbourne this week, the APCS has decided to run the meeting next Sunday at 2pm as a ZOOM meeting.

Join us on-line and contribute by nominating your favourite camera – and why you have chosen it. We plan to record the meeting and include the material in the next issue of Back Focus so that all members can read what you have to say. It would help if you let us know in advance – email to [president@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:president@apcsociety.com.au) and be sure to identify the camera you wish to talk about.

Due to the 40 minute meeting limit, two meetings are scheduled - the first at 2pm and the second at 2:45pm. When you log in (the easiest is to use your browser and click on the codes below), that will show up in the waiting room and we will admit you when we see you. Please use your name as the computer identifier. The Meeting ID and Passcode is included for those who are existing ZOOM clients. If this is the first time you are using ZOOM then the app might ask for the Passcode.

If a lot of members log in then maybe keep comments etc as short as possible to give everyone a go. If the first meeting times out, log into the second meeting.

For members who have not used ZOOM before, simply go to the “Join” address below – but you will need to have a webcam and microphone on your computer for full involvement. The YouTube video at [How to Join a Zoom Meeting - YouTube](#) goes through the process. Note that we are not using the phone version, and you will be joining as a participant.

Meeting No 1: Feb 21, 2021 02:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91717744683?pwd=WGZqUW80SkgyVnIERHZKVNFOOUdoUT09>

Meeting ID: 917 1774 4683 Passcode: F0pw3M

Meeting no 2: Feb 21, 2021 02:45 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92404510246?pwd=Y3ZveXBGR2tGcldPU3BOdDdGVFUzd09>

Meeting ID: 924 0451 0246 Passcode: xD3GrD

### APCS event planning for 2021

The schedule for the first half of 2021 remains unchanged. However under the stress of COVID, late changes are possible and if you are intending to attend an event, check that it remains unchanged... Late changes will be notified on the APCS webpages – make sure you “refresh” the page...

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

There will be limits on numbers that we can accommodate at the AMRA Hall and there will be a few special rules.

#### April 18 – Noon – Members-only auction AMRA Hall

Inspections will be from 10am on the Sunday morning – ie no Saturday inspections. Due to the backlog of items from 2020, the auction is already full.

#### May 2 – 9am Adelaide market – Hungarian Club Norwood

(Event to be confirmed.) This will be a restricted numbers market strictly according to the rules of the day.

#### May 16 – 2pm Presentation and Social meeting AMRA Hall

We hope to be able to have a normal presentation meeting in May – details later.

#### June 20 – 2pm Annual General Meeting AMRA Hall

Our AGM is 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 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.

### Vale – Keith Baker

Members will be saddened to hear of the passing of the Professor – Keith Baker – just before Christmas. Keith was a fount of knowledge on all things brass and wood and his expertise in manufacture and repair were very much respected. Keith had been ill since mid-2019.

## Communication with members

Thanks to the many who have sent us updated information, our database is now much more accurate. Many of those changes were due to transfer to the NBN etc – please keep us informed. Send us an email to [web@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:web@apcsociety.com.au) and we will ensure that the database is updated.

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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## The Internet – a Photographic Resource

A month does not go by without yet another release of information on the Internet, and this month sees a wealth of new links and resources. A complete list is beyond the resources available to find and record what is there – but maybe the most significant are the links within the web pages of the Royal Photographic Society (UK) which you can see at [The Royal Photographic Society - Home - RPS](#) and the home page of dpreview which you can see at [Digital Photography Review \(dpreview.com\)](#). A huge announcement from the Royal Society is that the 165 years of their Photographic Journal and now available on-line for anyone to read, and dpreview continues to make headlines by reviewing new cameras as they are released – see the notes below on the Sony Alpha 1.

## Sony announces the Alpha 1

The mirrorless DSLR world has become used to groundbreaking releases from several manufacturers and possibility heading the list are those from Sony.



After months of speculation, they have announced the details of the next generation of their E-mount cameras – 10 years after the revolutionary release of the NEX-5. The rumours have largely been correct, and the result is a camera with the look and feel of the now familiar A7 family, but with higher specifications. The base price for the body alone is near enough to A\$10,000 but for that you get a 50,1MP camera that also takes 8k video, and with pixel-shifting techniques allows a 200MP still photo – assuming that you have a capable lens. All this is supported by the new BIONZ processing engine said to be 8 times faster than its predecessor. However rumours that the ISO speed would be crazy-high were wrong and the maximum ISO seems to be 32,000 with noise reduction extension to 104,000 – numbers that we have been used to in the later A7R cameras.

There is a lot to like about this new model especially if you are going to use the video features, and we did not have to wait for long to read early hands-on reviews – see [Sony a1 initial review: Digital Photography Review \(dpreview.com\)](#). A cursory reading suggests that this is nearly a perfect camera. But the superlatives come with a few management problems that will not be to everyone's liking. The cost of storage cards is high if you are recording at the highest resolutions, and if you are

going to record video continuously for more than about an hour then overheating will be an issue. The Alpha 1 will allow you to use any of the E-mount lenses and adapters that are around but to get those super-high resolutions you will need to invest in some of their newest (and costly) lenses. There will be some operational issues like the need to have very fast lenses to achieve the low diffraction necessary to get super-high resolution and that instantly poses depth of field problems. Indeed you may need to become an “imaging expert” to get the best results out of this camera.

Is this new Alpha 1 a practical camera? How often will users need 200MP or 8k performance? In summary, is it a step too far? In a functional comparison, you don't need a Formula 1 race car to drive down to the local shops to buy a loaf of bread! Photographers will probably buy this new Sony so that they can “have the best”, but for most users, a much lower specified and lower cost camera will produce results that are “just as perfect” in practical terms. Availability in Australia is likely to be a couple of weeks away.

## 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.

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. 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.

We are short on articles for Back Focus and the committee has decided to defer the production of the

next issue until May when we can also include the APCS annual report.

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

Geoff Harrison correctly identified last month's mystery item as a focusing magnifier for use with a large format plate camera. The adjustment on the collar allows for individual setting for the observer and for the thickness of the ground glass.



On an earlier mystery object, a fluke discovery while working with some old Back Focus files has unearthed a photo of a camera called the Bebe No.41 – a 6.5x9cm plate camera made by Zulauf and Co, Zurich which was marketed by Zeiss in 1910 – and it seems to be the camera that is part of a photo of a tourist in China – also thought to be taken in about 1910. We will pass the information on to the museum....



## 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.

Subscriptions for 2021-2022 will be coming due at the end of May – not too early to get those in... The annual fee of remains at \$30 and 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

Any changes to your details can be sent to us by downloading the membership form from the website <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/membership.html> and including it with your cheque, or by emailing the changes to the Treasurer or to [web@apcsociety.com.au](mailto: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](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-01_snap-shots_web.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-02\\_snap-shots\\_web.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-02_snap-shots_web.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-03\\_snap-shots\\_web.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-03_snap-shots_web.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-04\\_snap-shots\\_web.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-04_snap-shots_web.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-05\\_snap-shots\\_web.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-05_snap-shots_web.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-06\\_snap-shots\\_web.pdf](http://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](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_04.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS\\_2020\\_05.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_05.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS\\_2020\\_06.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_06.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS\\_2020\\_09.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_09.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS\\_2020\\_10.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_10.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS\\_2020\\_11.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_11.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS\\_2020\\_12.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2020_12.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS\\_2021\\_01.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2021_01.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS\\_2021\\_02.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/NEWS_2021_02.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 reprints from other organisations – see the links for details.

[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA\\_SpV1No1\\_LanternsPartA.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No1_LanternsPartA.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA\\_SpV1No2\\_LanternsPartB.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No2_LanternsPartB.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA\\_SpV1No3\\_Shutters.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No3_Shutters.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA\\_SpV1No4\\_PosingChairs.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No4_PosingChairs.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA\\_SpV1No5\\_FlashLamps.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No5_FlashLamps.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA\\_SpV1No6\\_EnlargersPartA.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No6_EnlargersPartA.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA\\_SpV1No7\\_EnlargersPartB.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV1No7_EnlargersPartB.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA\\_SpV2No1\\_StampCameras.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_SpV2No1_StampCameras.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA\\_V46No1.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_V46No1.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA\\_V46No2.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_V46No2.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA\\_V46No3.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_V46No3.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA\\_V46No4.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_V46No4.pdf)  
[www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA\\_V46No5.pdf](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSC/CANADIANA_V46No5.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.

## 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 [adverts@apcsociety.com.au](mailto: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. 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](mailto: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 [hifiexchange@hotmail.com](mailto:hifiexchange@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](http://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](mailto: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.

## Wanted

Photos by Australian & overseas candid street photographers from the 1920s to 1950s, for an ongoing research project. Also photos taken at attractions such as Luna Park, St. Kilda and photo booth images singly or in strips.

I am also seeking information and insights into street and attraction photography practice and the photographers and firms (e.g. Leicagraph) active in those areas. Contact: Marcel Safier, Brisbane [msafier@ozemail.com.au](mailto:msafier@ozemail.com.au); 0411 238612



## For Sale via offers

A couple of piles of photographic items have arrived for sale and disposal 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. You may arrange a viewing or make an offer etc via the email address [adverts@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:adverts@apcsociety.com.au). The condition etc is

estimated by your President, but it is suggested that your own inspection should be contemplated.

There has been interest in this group and most of the items listed previously are no longer available.

## 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



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:

- Minolta 7000 camera body – definitely faulty – stuck mirror.
- Minolta 2800AF Program flash – untested.
- A nice tripod and a monopod.
- A couple of clean and useful carrying cases.
- A Sony digital colour printer from the early Mavica era – not likely to be working.
- Bell & Howell Slide Cube projector with about a dozen cubes.
- Hanimex TL super-8 cine camera.

## Wall Clock by Gustav Becker

From the estate of the late Ian Carron, this Vienna-style wall clock by Gustav Becker is available for sale with offers in the vicinity of \$350. This unit dates from the 1920s and is typical of the period just before Becker was taken over by the Junghans organisation. It is in proper running condition. Due the fragility, pickup only should be contemplated (Melbourne) and enquiries in the first instance can be directed to President Rod at 0408 173662 or by email to [president@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:president@apcsociety.com.au)

