



NEWSLETTER

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

PRESIDENT – Rod Reynolds 0408 173 662 president@apcsociety.com.au
SECRETARY – Kevin Saunders 0412 248 026 secretary@apcsociety.com.au
TREASURER – John Young treasurer@apcsociety.com.au
NEWSLETTER – web@apcsociety.com.au

APCS NEWSLETTER – July 2021

The next APCS event is the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 18th July at 2pm at the AMRA Hall – 92 Wills St., Glen Iris

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. In accordance with the rules, proxy attendance and voting are permitted.

Nominations for the positions of President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and general committee members should be sent to secretary@apcsociety.com.au prior to the meeting. The meeting will be held under the now-familiar COVIDSafe conditions.

The Annual Report of the APCS is included in Back Focus No 116 which you should have received in the last week, and is also available on-line from <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/APCSannual-report2020-2021.pdf> and the minutes for the 2020 AGM can be found at <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/AGM-Minutes-2020.pdf>

There will also be a “swap and sell” table to add to the interest.

Membership renewals

Subscriptions for 2021-2022 are now due. Renewals are coming in all the time and thank you to those that have already paid. The email that this newsletter links from will have an indication of your financial status in the subject line, and that will be as recorded today (11 July). The annual fee remains at \$30 for the moment 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

Back Focus

You should have the copy of Back Focus No 116 in your hands – and if not, it should not be far away.

What about writing up some aspect of your collecting for the next issue of Back Focus? Some text and a few photos – and we will incorporate that into future issues as

space and programming permit. Back Focus is your magazine and we rely on you to fill its pages.

Back Focus is also potentially a platform for you to advertise your needs or services. Send an email to adverts@apcsociety.com.au for details.

The whole archive of Back Focus and its predecessors is now available to members on-line. Go to: http://www.apcsociety.com.au/BF_ARCHIVE.html

Plans for the second half of 2021

It is premature to be specific about the remainder of 2021. If the last few weeks are anything to go by, Melbourne members will be well aware of the snap decisions by DHHS to impose various levels of lockdown.

Industry news

We get used to the announcement of new digital cameras, but there has been a recent change – the latest Sony catalogues don't include the A-Mount DSLR cameras. The line included some stunning lenses, but fortunately there are a couple of converters that allow them to be used with E-Mount cameras. Other manufacturers are also throwing their development dollars into the Mirrorless cameras, and we are unlikely to see any more of the mirror-types. Simply, the market for the older camera types does not exist anymore. It is also relevant that the world's total production of all cameras is down to a few percent of what it was less than a decade ago, with the emergence of the consumer camera as a feature of all smart phones.

APCS Auctions

Throughout the history of the APCS we have run auctions of photographic items for our members. As the years passed the nature of the offerings and the way that we ran the auctions has changed, and behind the scenes the workload has increased significantly. A major change in recent years has been more estates, and decisions by members to dispose of whole collections.

The APCS auctions have dealt with nearly 1,000 items per year up until COVID. There were no auctions in 2020, so the backlog of items should have been about 1,000 but is currently of the order of 4,000 lots if we accepted all estates on offer.

It is also emerging that some members have been holding back on disposal of collections awaiting a return to normality from COVID.

In spite of requests for secure and clean storage areas, and help in the preparation for the auctions, these resources have not been forthcoming. The committee has considered alternatives, but the associated business cases are not viable for the society. The result is that we

are forced into considering new approaches to our auctions.

We are planning to have another “catch up” auction on 15th August 2021, essentially clearing the accumulated lots from a couple of estates that were delayed by COVID. However our ability to conduct normal auctions in 2022 may have to be questioned unless volunteers and appropriate storage and sorting areas can be found – and indeed that the effects of COVID do not interrupt what we do too much. We do have some months to plan the way forward.

The detailed management of the 2022 auctions will be announced closer to each auction – and at the moment it seems that there are bound to be changes.

To assist in selling items, the Box Hill and Adelaide markets will be back in operation shortly. Similarly, we have our members-only markets for some of our better items, and the newsletter has a classified advertisements section. It is emerging that the demand for some items has evaporated, and there may be some hard decisions for some of us.

Report on the April Auction

Just a repeat of the announcement that a summary of the results of the April auction can be found at:

<http://www.apcsociety.com.au/auctions/April2021results.pdf>

The Internet – a Photographic Resource

Have you had a look at the on-line digitisation of the Journal of the Royal Photographic Society? See <https://rps.org/> ... That is the portal to a huge database that includes the 165 years of their journal as well as other photographic resources. The journal alone is some 30,000 pages and you can read each issue as a book or you can use their query system to search for specific subjects.

As collectors we were quite used to consulting McKeown as a means for camera identification and valuation but that is largely out of date now and the American resource “Collectiblend” which you can access at <https://collectiblend.com/Cameras/> has become the almost universal on-line replacement. Just be aware that the prices are in US\$ and there are examples of price manipulation as updates are provided by viewers. Some of the identifications are also a bit suspect. A feature of their pricing is that historical prices are adjusted for inflation and the current value of the US\$.

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 we have introduced an on-line Library which you can see at www.apcsociety.com.au/Library.html. From that page members will be able to see:

- “Snap Shots” from the Photographic Historical Society of New England
- News and “Photographic CANADIANA” from the Photographic Historical Society of Canada
- “Photogram” from the Michigan Photographic Historical Society

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 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”.

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; 0411 238612



Wanted

Member Sandy Barrie has been cleaning up after floods earlier this year and has discovered that his copy of the Kodak magazine PRO TALK for September 1991 is irreparably damaged. This issue shows Sandy with Max Dupain on the front cover and Sandy would like to find a replacement copy.

If you have a copy that you are prepared to part with or even lend to Sandy so that a copy might be made then please send him an email at apbarrie52@dodo.com.au

