



# 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](mailto:president@apcsociety.com.au)  
SECRETARY – Kevin Saunders 0412 248 026 [secretary@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:secretary@apcsociety.com.au)  
TREASURER – John Young [treasurer@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:treasurer@apcsociety.com.au)  
NEWSLETTER – [web@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:web@apcsociety.com.au)

## APCS NEWSLETTER – August 2021

### Plans for the rest of 2021

Melbourne members will be well aware of the snap decisions to impose various levels of lockdown, and any sense of return to pre-COVID rules seems seriously delayed. The reality is that we may well be fighting COVID and its mutations for a very long time – enough to affect the way that the APCS operates in the future.

Through this winter (which is not over yet) each planned APCS event has had to be modified, deferred, converted to ZOOM and even cancelled only a few days before the scheduled date.

**The August meeting** that was due next week is no exception and over the last couple of months it has changed from a “members-only auction” to a “social meeting”, then a rather special “demonstration of wet-plate photography” and finally to what is announced today – a “Social ZOOM meeting” at 2pm Eastern Australian Standard Time next Sunday 15th August – and the access code is:

<https://zoom.us/j/99443773888?pwd=V3hmS0NwVWVwUzIXb0R3SFE4a05Jdz09>

This will be a social chat meeting and I encourage members to have a photographic device to show the rest of us – a camera, tool or lens maybe that have not been seen before. For example, I will have an exceptional lens find from 1863 – not just because it is old but because it was also a very special and maybe a unique build.

For the rest of the year it will be a matter of “watch this space” because even for September, which would have been a Box Hill Market, the probability that there will still be serious restrictions on the number of people that can attend is so high that it would make such an event most unlikely. That might lead to an alternative event, but we won't know for a couple of weeks yet

### The Annual General Meeting in July

COVID struck the planning again and the AGM became a ZOOM meeting. The reports as printed in Back Focus No 116 were accepted and we have a committee for the 2021-2022 year that looks very much like the last one.

### 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. 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](mailto:web@apcsociety.com.au)

### Vale – Bob Lansdale

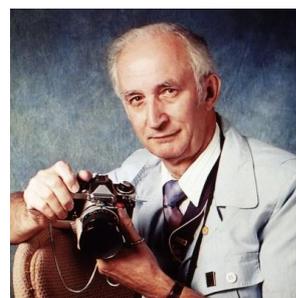
Bob Lansdale of Toronto, was the long-time editor of Photographic Canadiana, the journal of the Photographic Historical Society of Canada.

Bob had the idea to bring together our world-wide disparate communities under the clouds of COVID and subsequent cancellation of many of our usual meetings, fairs and social events, which led to the publication of an Amalgamated Newsletter. But it is Photographic Canadiana that will be best known to APCS members – it has been in our library for years and is now available on-line to APCS members – see under “Magazine Exchanges”. Bob was known to some APCS members via the internet and personally – the following obituary was written by our member Marcel Safier:

Bob passed away on 13 July 2021 from a heart condition at the age of 90. Despite his advancing years, Bob continued to work on his beloved journal and had just finished the latest edition before his untimely death. Bob began that editing role in 1997 and he oversaw the publication of over 100 copies of the journal.

Bob was a professional photographer and photo-journalist, taking up his first job in 1953 after studying photography at Ryerson University. In 1960 he started working for Jack Marshall Photography and he eventually started his own business, along with his wife Margaret in 1969, focussing on commercial & industrial photography. Bob finally retired in 1993. Bob and Marg spent 10 years writing and producing a book of stories & anecdotes from photographers (including Australian Sandy Barrie) that was published in 1997. Bob lost his beloved wife of 45 years in 2007.

He was the official photographer for both the PHSC and the Daguerreian Society, tirelessly chronicling their



many events for both the PHSC's newsletter and journal as well as the Daguerreian Society's journal and the websites of both groups. In recent years, an inability to get health insurance meant Bob was no longer able to cross the Canadian border and attend Daguerreian Society's symposiums.

Bob's legacy lives on through the "Robert Lansdale Photography" archive at the University of Toronto.

On a personal note, Bob was a warm, friendly and considerate person that I had the pleasure to befriend in 2009, meeting him through a photohistory internet group and then at a photohistory symposium in Rochester, NY. I have been a PHSC member for many years and travelled up to Toronto and stayed with Bob after the symposium. He was a consummate host. We caught up every few years at Daguerreian Society events and I last met up with him for dinner in Toronto in late 2019. We regularly exchanged emails and I did supportive research for some of his articles for the PHSC. Bob was passionate about cameras, images and the lives of Canada's past photographers so we had an ongoing accord of interests as well as friendly rivalry over 19th century chromotypes (a form of carbon photo) that we both avidly collect!

Bob will be sadly missed by many friends particularly in the Canadian and American photography worlds. We should spare some thoughts for his two sons and Bob's five grandchildren that he unashamedly doted on. Bob's grandchildren have featured in every Christmas message he sent out over the last decade.

## Back Focus

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 you needs or services. Send an email to [adverts@apcsociety.com.au](mailto: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](http://www.apcsociety.com.au/BF_ARCHIVE.html)

## How are our friends?

Particularly at this time when we don't get together much, the Society is having trouble keeping contact with its members. It would help if we could all keep an eye on those who live near us and maybe keep us informed (an email to [web@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:web@apcsociety.com.au)) if necessary.

We have a few members who don't use the internet and have not provided us with email addresses. You can help keep them in touch by letting them know what is going on as well.

## APCS Auctions

COVID has seriously restricted our ability to prepare catalogues and run the auctions. While we may plan that an auction can be held in October, that will very much depend on our ability to prepare for it, which at the moment is not looking very hopeful.

We do need an auction manager – if you can help, please let us know ([president@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:president@apcsociety.com.au))

## APCS Markets

Likewise. COVID restrictions make the promise of public markets unlikely for now. The Adelaide market has now been cancelled for 2021, and the probability of a Box Hill market in September is looking very remote.

## 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 "Collectblend" which you can access at <https://collectblend.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](http://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](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".

## 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



## Free to a good home

For members in the Newcastle area there is the offer of some minor photographic bits from a kind non-member – Pentax P30, video transfer stuff etc. Call Glen on 0417669162 or email at [glenn.turton@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.turton@gmail.com)

## For Sale

A rare AEROGARD 110 CAN camera has turned up in its original box and packing, and is available for sale at a price in the vicinity of \$120. These were made for the manufacturers of Aerogard insect repellent around 1980 and this one has the serial number 0004. It is located in Melbourne and expressions of interest may be sent to [adverts@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:adverts@apcsociety.com.au) or by phoning 0408173662.



## For Sale

A MINOX Enlarger type 2201 with its dedicated lens and an original Dr Fischer low-voltage lamp. This is a fairly early one and its serial number suggests the late 1950s. It is located in Melbourne and expressions of interest in the region of \$500 may be sent to [adverts@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:adverts@apcsociety.com.au) or by phoning 0408173662.

