



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.120 – Email version – January 2022

Welcome to 2022

A few weeks ago the Committee of the APCS drafted a plan for 2022 that was expecting the year to return to a sense of normality, and that the political plans for the future were assuming that there would be a change from a zero-COVID target to a “fully-vaccinated” target where anyone coming into contact with COVID would not be seriously affected by the emerging dominant omicron variant. However with relaxation of anti-COVID rules in Australia, the incidence of COVID has exploded, throwing into doubt any plans for normality in 2022.

The rules for 2022 are now yet to be determined as a result of the new statistics. The following list of events for 2022 is thus very tentative, and it is becoming likely that individual members will need to make their own decisions on whether to attend or not.

The APCS will comply with any and all rules imposed by the relevant State authorities but will also respond to feedback from the members. The APCS does have a set of COVIDsafe rules in accordance with Victorian Legislation which will be updated as required, and no relaxation of the rules will be contemplated. Some rules appear to be firm now and all attendees must be at least double vaccinated and may require booster shots.

This edition of the newsletter is being sent by Email to all who are members now and all who did not renew in 2020 & 2021. Updates will be notified in the web pages – www.apcsociety.com.au and late changes will also be noted in the APCS Facebook page. A couple of the events listed below are for members-only – lapsed members will need to renew their membership if they wish to attend.

February 20 – 2pm – Meeting and demonstration of WetPlate photography AMRA Hall

Meeting at AMRA Hall including a demonstration of wet-plate photography by Jack McLean – you can see almost a preview from the article in the last issue of Back Focus. We will set up a makeshift darkroom on the stage and at least a few members will be able to see the process – darkroom lights for Tintype photography are quite bright.

March 13 – 9am – Public market at the Box Hill Town Hall

The traditional Box Hill market is expected to return in 2022, but that will also depend on the number of pre-registrations for tables. It seems inevitable that this will be a mandatory-masks event for both sellers and buyers,

spacing will be essential and it is likely to require a significant presence of COVID-security personnel.

April 17 – 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. This auction will be under COVID-SAFE rules as they apply at the time. Expect restrictions on the number of members that can attend and pre-registration is likely to be essential.

May 1 – 9am Adelaide market – Hungarian Club Norwood

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

May 15 – 2pm – Members-only market at AMRA Hall

A now-traditional members-only market will be held at the AMRA Hall on May 15 from 2pm. Bring along your better items to sell to our collecting membership.

June 19 – 2pm – Meeting with Presentation at AMRA Hall

We are looking for a presenter and subject for the June 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.

July 17 – 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 and potentially others is to conduct it via ZOOM software on-line. The current plan is to include the Annual Report in the pages of Back Focus which is planned to be in the mail to you before the end of June.

August 21 – tentative members-only auction

Management of the APCS auctions has been very difficult in recent years. Not only have we had difficulty finding storage locations and members willing to assist but a significant increase in the number of estates involved and the associated need for operational rigour has forced the APCS to consider involving external resources with the ability to do the work for us. While this auction date may be a traditional APCS-managed one, it could also be the first of a new methodology in conjunction with an established auction house.

September 18 – 9am – Public market at the Box Hill Town Hall

All going well this will be the second traditional Box Hill market in 2022, but that will also depend on the number of pre-registrations for tables. It seems inevitable that this will be a mandatory-masks event for both sellers and buyers, and it is likely to require a significant presence of COVID-security personnel.

October 16 – 2pm – Members-only market at AMRA Hall

A members-only market will be held at the AMRA Hall on October 16 from 2pm. Bring along your better items to sell to our collecting membership.

November – The APCS photographic competition for 2022

The APCS is planning a very significant photographic competition for the end of 2022 – aiming to highlight the artistic side of photography. While final details will be published in Back Focus in June, an outline is that the competition will be in conjunction with a major Gallery in Melbourne. Competitors will be allowed to use any technology and a wide range of subject categories will be involved. Professional and amateur classes will compete for significant financial and publicity prizes and the finals competitor entries will be reproduced in Back Focus at a “coffee-table” quality level in 2023.

This is an initiative designed to widen the scope of the APCS and as a way of attracting new membership and ensure the future of the Society. It is envisaged that this will become an annual event. Announcements of the winners will be at a publicised event in the Gallery at a date to be determined in conjunction with other event commitments in 2022.

Vale – Phil Ramsden

We regret that we have to inform members of the passing just before Christmas of Phil Ramsden who was prominent in the Camera collecting world in Sydney. An on-line recording of his funeral service can be found at.

<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/authorise.php?k=1639323226788505>



Communication with members

If you don't receive an electronic copy of this newsletter as well as the postal version, 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.

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.

As was the case in 2021 it is likely that there will be only one issue in 2022 – a larger edition timed in June to include the APCS Annual Report.

Readers will recall that the last couple of issues included an article combining a number of small articles on the subject of “my favourite camera”. That has proved to be popular and will continue in the next edition. Choose your favourite for whatever reason you consider appropriate and write it up in about 1,000 words with a couple of pictures and we will put it together in a combined article for you.

The APCS had increased the payment rate for articles to \$50 per published page measured in the format of Back Focus since Number 114.

Membership renewals

We remind you that membership renewals are due at the end of May each year. The envelope that accompanied the snail mail version of this newsletter (sent to Australian addresses only) has your membership status in the bottom LH corner.

If your subscription is due in May, it can be paid at any time. The annual fee is still \$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.

If you have changed any of your contact details – address, phone numbers, email address etc, 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

Or you can send a cheque (made out to the Australian Photographic Collectors' Society) to the Treasurer P.O.Box126, KANGAROO GROUND, VIC 3097

Mystery object

The item for this month is a real mystery as no-one has been able to work out what it is. It has a strong positive lens unit at the



“other end” – a 2-elment (air-spaced achromat?), too elaborate to be an ordinary condenser, and the black unit at the top is a 16-leaf iris. The lens unit has a focal length of 3 inches and its speed is very fast at about f1.5. The knobs on the side are centring adjustments with a few mm of range, and presumably the “shaft” on the lower right side is a mounting post. Its build quality is high and it looks like a bit of scientific equipment. It weighs just over 1kg, and looks like it was made about 1900. Maybe part of a microscope lamphouse? Or part of some testing system?

Magazine exchanges

We have magazine exchange relationships with other societies of like nature and we have introduced an on-line Library 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, and “Photogram” from the Michigan Photographic Historical Society.

There are a couple of thousand interesting pages in those publications. Of course, we have permission from those societies to share that material – just as they can share what we publish as well.

Classified Advertisements

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.

Vivitar Series 1 auto zoom lens f3.5 70/210mm Nikon F mount. Very good condition, clean glass and working. \$75 plus freight. Arguably the most desirable of the “third-party” tele-zooms. Call Pete on (02)44763900 or email: robinsonpeter1929@gmail.com



Wanted

Committee Member Andrew Korlaki is looking for a Polaroid 110 or 120 for a camera building project. Call him on 0400081738 or best to email andrew.korlaki@gmail.com

No longer for sale...

We have received a notification that the Thornton Pickard “College” kit advertised in the snail-mail version of the January 2022 newsletter has already been sold.

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



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 \$450 may be sent to adverts@apcsociety.com.au or by phoning 0408173662.



Wanted

A reader is looking for a couple of Bolex items – An underwater housing and also a MC17 or U-62 electric motor – also called a Unimotor, all for the early model of the H16-reflex, or the non-reflex H8 and H16. Other housings and motors would also be considered. Call Kade on 0429 641 777, or email at kadebucheli0@gmail.com



For Sale

WILDNESS Scott Millwood's Film 2003 on Tasmanian photography of Truchanas and Dombrowskis: DVD 56min new \$30.

PHOTOGRAPHERS OF AUSTRALIA Dupain, Sievers and Moore covered In Film Australia production (1992) Narrated by Ruth Cracknell: DVD 43min new \$20.

Also various surveys of Australian film history. Prices include postage. David Donaldson Ph 08 8267 5069 filmart@dodo.com.au