

**2012... A Great Year**

We do not have to wait for the results of a harvest to know this is going to be a great year for the Society. It started with a great field trip to the Old Treasury Building with lunch down town; in February we have over 400 lots up for Auction; March sees our Market back at Box Hill while our April meeting will feature a presentation by Geoff Schirmer.



This Ihagee Exa is Lot 13 in our Auction

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Ihagee company of Dresden, makers of the Exakta line of cameras. Geoff will have many items from his collection on display and give us a detailed illustrated history. In addition, we will have the cameras and photographs from the January outing on display and video of our field trips.

The year continues with a field trip scheduled for May then June is our Annual General Meeting. With two more Auctions and a

second Market in the latter half of the year, we have a great year ahead.

The Victorian Historic Racing Register hill climb for racing cars at historic Rob Roy is now 22nd April, so it leaves the May field trip available. However, I am still heading up to Rob Roy where the historic photographic atmosphere will be fantastic. Contact Alan King (Contact Info) if you are interested in making it a group outing.

Kodak Files for Bankruptcy Protection

A couple of weeks ago Kodak (USA) filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. What does this mean? The company can keep trading and try to get themselves out of the financial mess they are in. How are they going to do it? According to a press release from the company they are going to "transform into a lean, world-class, digital imaging and materials science company" through the sale of "significant assets". What does this mean to us, are we going to lose another pioneer of the photographic industry (like we did with Agfa a few years ago)?

According to the press release the bankruptcy only affects Kodak USA – all international operations "continue as normal". According to US financial experts Kodak will not cease to exist if they are declared bankrupt, as the Kodak name is one of the most well known names in the world. What it means for products like film and paper remains to be seen, but many people believe that Kodak will sell off its film and paper manufacturing technology lines to another company – and the front runner is Fuji!

More news as it comes to hand...



Lot 57 in our Auction

Diary Entries**February 19, 2012**

Auction at AMRA Hall
Over 400 lots

Absentee Bidders contact
Margaret Mason 03 9836 3719
secretary@apcsociety.com.au

March 18, 2012

Photographic Market
Box Hill Town Hall
Kevin Saunders 03 98088692
market@apcsociety.com.au

April 15, 2012

Meeting at AMRA Hall
Field trip cameras, videos and
photographs
Geoff Schirmer will present
"100 years of Ihagee"
Margaret Mason 03 9836 3719
secretary@apcsociety.com.au

April 22, 2012

Historic Rob Roy Hillclimb
VHRR Racing Cars outing
Alan King 0409 330852
president@apcsociety.com.au

May, 2012

Field Day... TBA
Bob Showers on 0418 536562
president@apcsociety.com.au

June 17, 2012

A.G. Meeting at AMRA Hall
Margaret Mason 03 9836 3719
secretary@apcsociety.com.au

Meetings & Auctions

12 noon
Australian Model Railway Hall
92 Wills Street, Glen Iris
(Melway 59 H7)

Contact Info

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Old Treasury Building



Our thanks to Bob Showers for organising a fantastic day out on January 15th. We had a guided tour of the Old Treasury Building at the top of Collins Street; the leisurely two hours or so giving us a fascinating insight into past eras.

As well as being the store for the colony's gold, the building was the offices for our colonial leaders including the Governor. Photographs of the construction and a panorama of Melbourne at the time; the start of photography in the prison system; the gold vaults; the letters and documents from that time and the elegant architecture, wood panelling and furniture of that bygone era. Not open to the public, our tour also took in the Executive Council Chamber upstairs, where the Governor of Victoria still meets weekly with the Executive Council to sign off legislation. Our thanks to the staff and guide for the day.

I counted 22 of us in the Executive Council Chamber and under Chi Chan's guidance 17 of us headed down Little Bourke Street to a great (and inexpensive) Chinese lunch. Thanks Chi!

There were some great opportunities for using our cameras, including a video taken by Ian Carron to be shown at the April meeting along with the other cameras and their results. Shown here is my own effort with a quarter-plate camera from about 1880, about 20 years younger than the building! My first effort with large format, my thanks to Ray Strong and Karena Goldfinch for their help. *AK*



Large Format Interest Group

Following discussion with members Karena Goldfinch and Ritesh Das, there may be enough APCS members interested in Large Format to form an interest group within our society. Maybe an extra couple of meetings per year with practical sessions devoted to understanding and using the equipment as well as collecting. If you are interested, email or call me: Alan King 0409 330852 or president@apcsociety.com.au.

Camera Repair Materials

Members have asked me in the past where they can purchase certain things to repair cameras, one of the most common being where they can get the foam that is used in the light seals of many 35mm cameras. Recently I had the need to get some seals for a Ricoh Auto Half, and wanted to report on the excellent service I had received from Aki-Asahi.com in Japan. Don't worry – their web site is in English, and they manufacture not only custom cut light seal kits for classic cameras, but also custom replacement camera leather covering kits.

While the range of supported cameras is not extensive, their quality and pricing is first rate. My Ricoh Auto half kit cost me \$7US, plus \$4 US postage – for 2 kits! And they arrived within a week. They also offer pre-cut strips of self adhesive foam suitable for most SLR and compact 35mm cameras – you get 24 strips for \$6 US, and the web site has an excellent step by step guide on how to install the foam. <http://aki-asahi.com/store/>

If you want to re-cover a camera in something more exotic have a look at the Cameraleather website - <http://www.cameraleather.com> They supply a range of different leathers in an extensive range of colors – anyone for a Pink Leica M3 or a bright Red



Argus C3? If you have a camera that is not supported on their extensive list of cameras then you can also purchase most of the leathers they sell in sheets and cut them yourself to size.

And if you want to purchase some foam light seal material and cut it to size yourself the best place I've found to buy sheets is from ebay – look up this seller in this seller in the UK - <http://stores.ebay.com.au/CAMERA-REPAIR-MATERIALS> they sell a range of 8X5 inch sheets of foam for reasonable prices, and their postage costs are also very reasonable. Plus, a 8X 5 inch piece of foam will be enough to do 10 or 20 cameras. *Andrew K*

Vanishing Cultures Project

American photographer Dennis Manarchy has set out to photograph Americas vanishing cultures (native Americans, Cowboys, Japanese interned in WW2, Cajuns etc) using a unique, custom made camera that at 35ft long x 8 ft wide x 12 ft high is large enough for the photographer to walk in to, and produces negatives that are a staggering 6 X 4 ½ feet in size.

You can see a great introductory video for the project on his website - <http://www.thefpac.org/index.html> I found it amazing that when Dennis was being interviewed he was holding a 2 ¼ negative – that was not much larger than the eyeball on the enormous negative behind him! *Andrew K*