

APCS NEWS

The Newsletter of the Australia Photographic Collectors Society

Issue 44

August 2014

Incorporation Registration No. A16888V

ABN 55 567 464 974

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NEWSLETTER – (Editor- Andrew Korlaki)

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Meetings & Auctions are held at the
Australian Model Railway Hall

92 Wills Street

Glen Iris

Melways Ref 59 H7

Calendar:

August 17 – there will be a meeting **NEXT SUNDAY** at AMRA Hall in Glen Iris.

The meeting will combine a "show and tell" session, so please bring along some goodies with talks by Bob Showers on early Leica SLR and the Novoflex system and Paul Ewins who will be talking about Large Format in general and Peter Gowland in particular.

September 21: Market at Box Hill Town Hall – doors open at 9AM

October 19: Meeting and auction at AMRA Hall in Glen Iris – viewing from 10AM

November 16: Social Meeting at AMRA Hall in Glen Iris

July 20th – Auction & AGM

The combined auction and AGM were well attended, with over 50 members in attendance. The meeting commenced with Alan King saying a few words on the life of long time member, committee member and author Lyle Curr, whos sudden death the previous Sunday had shocked us all.

The AGM then commenced, with all positions being declared vacant. As only 1 nomination had been received for each position no election was necessary, and the following positions were declared filled:

President: Paul Ewins
Secretary: Margaret Mason
Vice President: Ken Anderson
Treasurer: John Young
Back Focus Editor: Ian Carron
Web master: Rod Reynolds
General Committee: Gerry Liedke, Leigh Harris, , Kevin Saunders, Brian Hatfield

(I have not updated the Presidents and Treasurers contact numbers yet, as I am waiting for confirmation from them for their preferred contact number).

After some general discussion on matters arising during the AGM the AGM was declared closed and the auction commenced.

Due to Lyle's passing a number of lots had to be withdrawn. There still remained a great variety of items of interest to everyone.

In fact, as you would have seen from the Auction catalogue (thank you Margaret for all your hard work) there really was something for everyone, from wooden cameras to Leica copies, advertising signs to large format camera lenses, and some truly mint cameras like a Rolleiflex T



to a Olympus Pen F in box



There really was something for everyone...



October Auction:

Margaret is currently accepting goods for October auction between the 1st and 15th of August.

Please remember that darkroom equipment will **no longer** be accepted for future club auctions.

Margaret has also asked me to remind members that SUBS are to be sent to the Treasurer not her!

WANTED

Trevor Thomas sent me an email asking if anyone has a wooden camera for sale. He writes: *We have a small auxiliary for the purpose of raising money for the Childrens Hospital. The hospital has an area designed for the auxiliaries to run fund raising market stalls and we are there about once a month. We sell greens from our garden, preserves, cakes and general merchandise. For the last twelve months I have been taking old cameras and they are selling well. Apart from low budget box brownies and basic cameras things like TLRs and pretty folders also move and these provide more money for the hospital. The buyers are keen on unusual looking and decorative items. They have no interest in rare and collectable items and buy purely on appearance. I would like to try a wooden and brass type plate camera from possibly the \$200-\$300 range but I do not have any. I do have a couple of lens shutter units so would be interested in cameras without these.*

If any members want to sell suitable cameras could they please contact me by phone on 03 57822004, or email thomphoto4@gmail.com.

Market Dates

The Box Hill Town Hall has been booked for the 15th March 2015 and the 20th September 2015.

Magic Lantern Society.

I received the following email from member John Semmens – *A small group (too small to call ourselves a society !) of, mainly Melbourne people, who are*

members of the UK Magic Lantern Society are putting on a one day "convention" hosted by the Salvation Army in their excellent - and well worth seeing venue in Bourke St Melbourne on 11th October 2014 from 9.30 to 5. We have had 2 previous conventions that created sufficient interest to keep going - numbers are limited but then again the interest is reasonably specialised. Contact can be made to Lindsay Cox at the Salvos 03 9653 3270 or even me - John Semmens 0408 318 325

This looks to be a very interesting event, and one which I was hoping to attend (but am unable to do so because of an 11 year olds birthday party..I'm the official photographer!) .

I have always wanted to visit the Salvo's museum/studio, as the Salvation Army are credited with producing the first major "moving picture" in Australia (it was actually a multimedia production that used lantern slides and moving pictures) called "Soldiers Of The Cross" and was made in 1899-1900/

Lyle Curr 1949-2014



Lyle passed away on Sunday the 13th of July as a result of a massive heart attack he had suffered that morning. He was 64.

I received a phone call from Bob Showers asking if I could let the

The Magic Lantern Show

Contact: Lindsay Cox
03 9653 3270
lindsay.cox@aus.salvationarmy.com
RSVP essential

Live Magic-Lantern Shows presented on original Watson Projector

Presenters include
- Dr Ian Edwards
- John Hyett
- John Semmens
Numbers limited to 18 attendees !

Featuring a tour of the famous roof-top Limelight Studio, where from 1894 Glass Slides were produced, and where from 1897 motion films were produced - including "Soldiers of the Cross."
Morning & Afternoon Tea provided.

THE SALVATION ARMY HERITAGE CENTRE
Level M, 69 Bourke Street, Melbourne
Saturday 11th October 2014
9.30 am - 5 pm

members know, so I sent out the email you received, and asked if anyone wished to share any memories.

Within hours I had received messages of condolence from Issy Arieli, Max Amos, Gary Wong from FilmNeverDie, Dugald McLachlan and Yoshi Nagami. Then after Holger Schult posted of Lyle's passing on the IDCC (Internet Directory of Camera Collectors) I received one from Don P of the IDCC, who had had dealings with Lyle in the past.

Then Charlie Kamerman, one of the most knowledgeable Kodak collectors in the world posted the following:

Lyle was one of the best Kodak collectors throughout the world, He had amassed a huge assortment of Kodak photographica. We met on eBay many years ago, he was ozdak. He started divesting his collection many years ago and I am happy to say that I received many wonderful items from him. We have had limited contact over that time, he always had a positive witty view, I always hoped I would get a chance to visit him at Breakwater Vic. His last comment to me in January, "G'day Charlie Glad to know your still at it. Over 100deg here the last few days, I am sweating like mad from the effort of typing Regards and Happy New Year Lyle"

Funny, he and I would send packages to one another when we came across sellers that would not care to ship direct to us! We called them care packages.

I will miss him.

Here is one more funny exchange between us... He always included chocolates in the parcels he sent me! Whether I bought one thing or a large box of stuff!

He knew I had 7 kids... one time they were omitted.

G'day and thanks Charlie

Just finished packing it. In plastic bag inside bubble wrap in strong box. Will be on the way Monday. Forgot to put a thank you note inside, and no chocolates in this one. Flying close to weight limit.

Regards

Lyle

No worries... with my diabetes... can't really eat chocolate any more...later - Charlie

OK Charlie?

The chocolates are usually for the kids, NOT you..... Lyle



Roger Burrows sent the following:

Lyle and I shared many a pub meal in Ballarat and of course the conversation got round to things yellow and red and many an hour was spent deep in discussions of things Kodak.

He introduced me to the joys of collecting Retinas understood why I collected Ihagee and sympathised

over the growing Voigtlander collection.

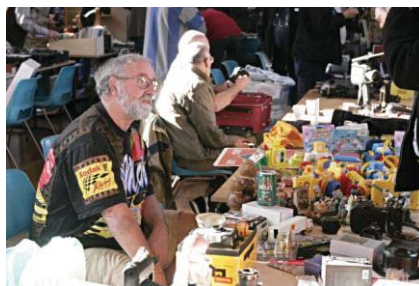
We shared stories of Ballarat and his life here and laughed over some of the adventures he had, but above all was his generosity of spirit and willingness to share information and guide me when starting out as a collector these qualities and enormous reservoir of knowledge will be sorely missed. Roger Burrows



Peter Kitchingman sent the following:

I had met Lyle twice but he was a fellow EBay seller and we swapped many emails discussing Australia Post/eBay and there never-ending charges and how to get around them.

RIP



Hi Andrew,

Below was my first encounter with Lyle back in 1981 and I would like to share it with club members.

Having two V.P. Jiffy Kodak's led to my first meeting with Lyle, in 1981. Thinking it was a bit much with two, I advertised one in the Trading Post, which was the way to sell surplus things in those days. Besides, the info on Jiffy's in McEwans at the

time was scant, describing them as 'common rollfilm cameras'.

The only phone reply I got was from this chap with a typical broad Aussie accent who said he was more interested in swapping than buying.

So whilst I had him on the phone I started madly trying to think of something I was looking for. Amongst others I came up with the Gelto DIII.

Before I could continue, he announced that he had one, however, if we wanted a deal there would have to be some 'cash adjustment'.

We arranged a meeting at our house in Brighton on the same day. When we sat down, I offered him a glass of good quality Aussie wine, but all I got was a blank look. I twigged that this was not his preference to accompany a 'deal', headed for the fridge and returned with a bottle of Fosters.

The change in expression on his face was miraculous. There was much haggling on the condition and rarity of the items. Like a hardened car dealer, Lyle appeared disinterested in the jiffy, but I sensed this was simply a bargaining ploy, as I had experienced this times before. We finally ended with me handing over a small sum for the 'adjustment', shook hands and he was on his way.

Best Regards,

John Hoehn.

Past member APSCA & Melb. Camera Club, 1950-57.





Lyle Curr was a great friend, and a loyal one for about 27 years. He first introduced himself in a letter in 1987, answering a request for Brownie Box Cameras I had in the 'Photographica Trader'.

We initially met at the APCS meetings in South Melbourne, and it was not long before I made several trips to Mildura staying with his family and enjoying his Kodak Museum and long chats about cameras.

In 1991 we embarked on a very memorable and successful 5½ week trip trawling the USA for cameras, and meeting some very influential collectors and dealers in the process.

When he moved to Geelong, our friendship and interest in cameras continued, but was additionally enjoyable with our bicycle rides along the paths beside the Barwon River, and our numerous visits to opp-shops, antique markets and the like.

He had an uncanny ability to 'see' cameras that others would never have noticed, and appeared to come up with rarities at frequent intervals. He was always generous with his finds, and would forego selling for a profit if he knew he had something for your collection.

He was always ready to share his knowledge, and we all enjoy his articles written for the 'Photographica Trader' and our own 'Back Focus' magazine.

He was a little larger than life, and that is perhaps why this life could not contain him any more.

He has left a big gap in my life, but I am very thankful for the enrichment he gave.

Fond memories always; farewell Lyle.
Leigh Harris

And finally – my personal memories of Lyle...

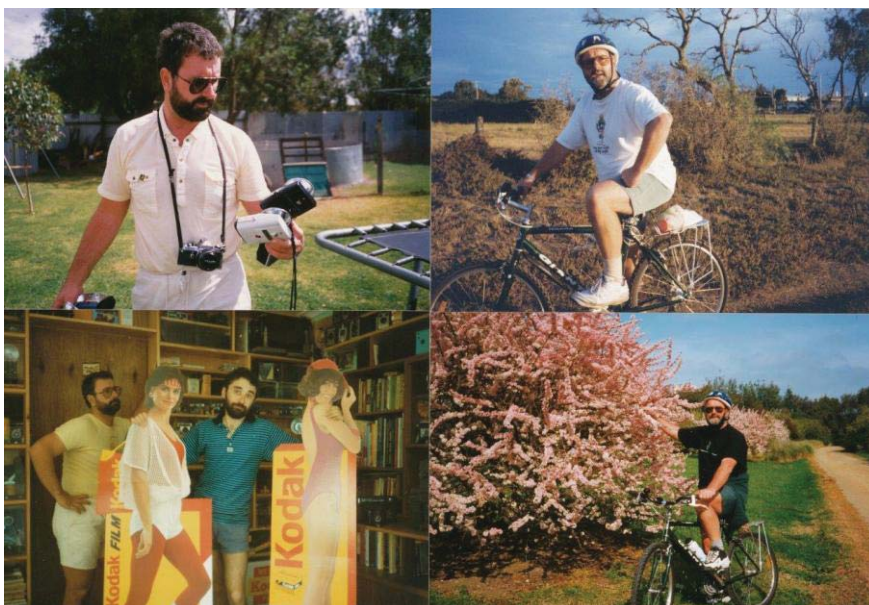
I am indebted to the APCS, or the PCS as it was then because it was through my membership of the club that I met Lyle. It was the early 1980's when I was first introduced to Lyle by Max Amos, but I really didn't get to know him until the first Photographic Market at the Melbourne Camera Club rooms in South Melbourne when I purchased a Stereo Realist camera from him. What impressed him was that I wanted to use it, not just sit it on the shelf.



We got to talking, and he told me that he put out a regular "list" of cameras for sale, and naturally I became a subscriber. Over the next few years we got to know each other, and I invited to visit and stay with him in Mildura.

This was when I saw his collection for the first time, and as many have said, it was an amazing collection of cameras and related items. I think this was one of the things that impressed me the most – Lyle was as enthusiastic about a yo yo or a badge as he was about a camera – just as long as it had Kodak on it.

What also impressed me when I first visited him was the fact that he liked to use his cameras. I can remember going through his albums that contained pictures of his cameras, usually contained some information about where the cameras came from, but most interestingly for me often had an



example of a photograph taken with the camera in question.

Lyle loved to take photos. Family, friends, things that happened, and yes, he even shot a few weddings and commercial assignments...



When he moved to Breakwater in Geelong we used to love going to visit him just to see what new photos would be on the wall next to the bathroom. He called it "views from my balcony", and they were photographs taken out his back door and balcony. Trains featured, as his home backed onto the Warnambool train line, but some of the things like the planes practicing aerobatics or the birds were surprising.



Speaking of birds Lyle was a diehard Collingwood supporter – not easy for someone who lived in Geelong. No wonder his wooden



magpie was hidden around the back under the balcony – not in the front yard where he would have liked...

Lyle and I would meet up whenever we could – Camberwell Market on a Sunday morning was always fun. No matter what the weather was he would always be wearing shorts. You knew it was cold if he was wearing a jumper!

We would also meet up in Adelaide at the photographic market, and looked forward to catching up for a yarn and a meal. It was always fun going out for a meal with Lyle. You could always count on 2 things.

Firstly he would head straight to the dessert bar for his "entree". He would then have a main meal, followed by another dessert. However these were not what you would call small helpings....how he kept the weight off I'll never know.

The other was if we were in a pub he would pop \$1 into a pokie machine. I never saw him put more in, but more than once Lyle shouted everyone lunch as a result of his winnings....

Lyle was a great friend to have. He could have taken advantage of my lack of knowledge and sold me anything, but he chose to teach me instead, often saying to me "you don't want that" when I'd pick something up off his table to look at. And he was always happy to share his knowledge about your

latest market find – even if he wanted it more than you did....

He was also a great support through my low times – dropping everything to drive up from Geelong stay with me for a few days after my wife died so I wouldn't be on my own.

His time spent as a councillor at the CES and his time spent in the church (he did consider becoming a minister in the early 1970's) made him a great friend to talk to about anything and everything.

I will miss him. I have already had to stop myself from sending him an email about something I'd seen..

Things will go on, but it won't be the same. I'm very grateful that I was lucky enough to have called Lyle a friend.

And a good friend at that..

Bye mate...

Andrew Korlaki



A final work from Lyle's memorial booklet..

Life is like a camera;
Just focus on what is important,
And capture the good times,
Develop from the negatives
And if things don't work out....
Just take another shot.