

# APCS NEWS

The Newsletter of the Australia Photographic Collectors Society

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Meetings & Auctions are held at the

Australian Model Railway Hall

92 Wills Street

Glen Iris

Melways Ref 59 H7

## 15<sup>th</sup> February Meeting AMRA Hall

Rod Reynolds will be talking about “What is a collection?” We will also be having a social “get together/welcome to 2015” which will be catered for by the club.

**To help with catering Margaret requests that you confirm your attendance ASAP. Please phone 9836 3719, or email [secretary@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:secretary@apcsociety.com.au)**

## April Auction

Margaret will be taking goods from Feb 1 to Feb 16 inclusive. The February meeting will be a

## Upcoming events:

February 15 – Meeting AMRA Hall Glen Iris

March 15<sup>th</sup> - Photographic Market - Box Hill Town Hall

April 19<sup>th</sup> - Auction AMRA Hall Glen Iris

## Found photographs

John Fleming sent me the following link he'd found about a man who had bought a Verascope Stereo Camera, and had found both magazines full of negatives taken around the First World War

<http://petapixel.com/2013/04/18/photographer-hunts-for-vintage-cameras-that-contain-undeveloped-film>

I then saw another post – this time about a man who had purchased some processed rolls of film in a thrift shop in Roanoke VA and while looking through them discovered a photograph of Adolf Hitler taken pre WW2.

You can find the article here -

<http://petapixel.com/2014/04/30/400-photos-1938-italy-including-one-hitler-found-film-purchased-thrift-shop> and more photos on his Flickr page: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/philosophyinc/sets/72157644391913736>



Finally I found the “Rescued Film Project”. Here Levi Bettweiser has amassed a fascinating collection of photographs made from unprocessed films he had found in cameras.

Of particular interest is the video on the home page, which traces the discovery, processing and scanning of 31 rolls of unprocessed film taken by a soldier during World War 2.

<http://www.rescuedfilm.com>

## Digital Conversion

A Canon FX converted to a digital Camera (use Google to convert the page from Korean)

<http://parkinstyle.tistory.com/77>

## Wanted – Old Edison Screw Flashbulbs

I need old ES screw type flash bulbs for the big speed graphic flash guns. Paying \$3 each for the larger PF100 size and \$2 each for the smaller PF40, PF50 and PF60s.

Any qty from a handful to a boxful! I can pickup.

John Corneille 0418 313181

## Dean Jones

Former APCS member Dean Jones passed away after a brave battle with cancer on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2014.



I had known Dean for over 15 years, meeting him at my local camera store. Dean loved panoramic photography, but couldn't afford the camera he wanted (a camera taking 120 film shooting 6x17 negs) so he made his own.

He also developed a love of large format photography, and his quest for a hand hold able large format camera led him to becoming a manufacturer of Polaroid cameras to take 5x4

film using a film holder of his own design – the Razzle back.

I asked fellow club member Ander Fildes, who also knew Dean well if he would write something for me about Dean, and he sent me the following..

### Dean Jones – the Razzledog

#### A personal reflection.

Once again the Melbourne photographic scene has lost one of its great characters, well before his time. Dean Jones passed after a long struggle with cancer on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

Many of us encountered Dean in his role as the last Australian camera manufacturer, making his unique and brilliant 'Razzle' 612 and 617 panoramics. If you brought him a lens, he could put a body behind it.



Many of us knew him well from his time at Croydon Camera House and as a frequent seller at the bi-annual swap meet, usually with some remarkable and innovative piece of self designed new kit.

I first met Dean many years ago while we were both dumpster diving in the front window of Croydon Camera House. Two

former Englishmen on a mission, head down in the junk bins. I still remember the cheese eating grin on his face as he emerged triumphant from the heap with a nice Purma Special – he always seemed to beat me to the good ones. At the time, he was a disillusioned auto mechanic, looking for a more interesting way to earn a living. He started doing a few repairs for the store and ended up spending so much time there that they forgot that he wasn't an employee and started paying him. He became their used equipment specialist.

But he soon noticed that there were a number of old Polaroid roll film cameras around, 110 and 120 models, with great lenses on them. At the time, several people were converting them to take pack film, but Dean went one better – he designed a unique 4x5 back for them and did the modification. At first the image from his 'Razzle's was the standard Polaroid 4.25" x 3.35" but eventually he improved that to a true 4"x5" – a large format 'point and shoot' as he called them. And the colours! – each one was different with bright colour leathers.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/25192375@N07/2582914471>

Soon he was making them with lenses provided by the customer – they fit but the camera didn't close properly....but that was a minor thing.

At this time, his venture stuck a rock, in the shape of a deranged American. That's a strong word but I saw some of the correspondence, discussed response with him and it was bizarre, almost insane. A certain Mr Littman in the US had decided that he and he alone had the 'patent' to modify old Polaroids. Nonsense, of course – he could only patent the way in

which he did it and Dean's modification was superior. However EBay, in their usual lazy and overcautious manner, registered Littman's claim under their Vero program without any real evidence and Dean found that he could not put up a listing with the expressions 4x5 and Polaroid together.

He was puzzled and angry at the time, but it soon ceased to matter – within a year or two the orders grew and he soon had a 1-2 year waiting list, especially as the suitable Polaroids became harder to find. His Razzle cameras were used to shoot the Hurricane Katrina (New Orleans) aftermath and US presidential campaigns.

Encouraged by the response and his relentless creativity, he explored the possibility of a 120 panoramic camera along the lines of a Technorama or Fotoman. He designed a basic shell for the back and lens cone which was pressed and finished by a local engineer. He would mount your lens as supplied and set it to hyper focal distance focus.



To my regret, I don't own one (if anyone does own any Razzle, 4x5 or 120, may I borrow/rent it for a while?) But I do own a unique Razzle – a 35mm version of the Razzle panoramic with a Kowa 40mm lens on it – small but perfectly formed.



He knocked it up when he discovered that he had an old film strip holder from an enlarger which would make a good body. I repatriated it from a customer of his in Switzerland I knew from a chat list. Here it is –

<http://somakray.blogspot.com.au/2009/07/razzledogs-handmade-24x72-mm-panoramic.html>

Perhaps we should mount a drive to bring some more Razzles home?

One of the last occasions I saw Dean was at a lecturer by noted US photographer David Burnett. (David was the guy standing next to Nick Ut in Vietnam when he took that world changing 'Napalm Girl' image).

He also uses equipment like Speed Graphics with wide angles so it gives some indication of the regard that Dean's cameras were held in that David specifically requested a meeting with him when he visited Melbourne on an Australia wide lecture tour.

Unfortunately, Dean's Razzledog site is down now but a search brings up plenty of images and his own photography on Flickr and elsewhere.

Of course there was so much more to Dean than photography, a life I hardly knew. He was a keen guitarist and made his own, often rather unusual instruments. He also bred Red Setters, huge lolling dogs which often made a visit to his home an experience and provided great photo opportunities at dog shows.

But oh how I'll miss his cameras..... And him.

Fortunately you can find a few videos of Dean and some of his gear on the web.

Firstly Dean explaining his camera back:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NkATPH\\_X9c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NkATPH_X9c)

And a video of Dean talking about some of his cameras

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G96Jvh0I9X0>

## Scanning movies

While on YouTube I found this interesting video discussing some of the problems associated with scanning 8mm & 16mm color negative film, and offers some interesting solutions to problems like color management and flicker:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1i4o6IzX8IE&feature=youtu.be>

## Chris's Camera Page

If you have an interest in Kodak Retina cameras then Chris Sherlock's website is well worth a visit - <http://retinarescue.com> It contains a wealth of information on the Retina series of cameras, with pictures of individual cameras from Chris's collection, each with specifications and history of each model.

Chris also has an extensive section on camera repair and adjustment, and for those who have never seen a Compur shutter dismantled the following link is well worth a look – a motion GIF of the stages involved in the dismantling of a Synchro Compur shutter –

[http://retinarescue.com/shutter\\_assembly.html](http://retinarescue.com/shutter_assembly.html)

If you've ever wondered why camera technicians charge what they do to repair a leaf shutter this will explain in pictures just how complex one of these shutters is..