



# 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

## Mini-Market 15th May

Even though a number of members who had booked tables had to withdraw from the mini market, the 11 members who had tables offered



those who attended an excellent range of photographica for sale, with everything from a Stereo Voigtlander TLR to a 1930's arc studio light to an original William Yang print on offer.

I spoke with most of the members present, and everyone seemed keen on the idea, and it has been decided that another mini market will be held next year.



## Annual General Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm.

The APCS AGM will be held at the AMRA Hall on 19 June at 2pm to receive reports, to elect a new committee and to do other things in accordance with the Act and the Rules of the Society which may be obtained by sending an email to [web@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:web@apcsociety.com.au)

Following the meeting, we are going to have some fun – a social afternoon that will feature a photographic competition with a difference. We will form into teams of 5 or 6 for a photographic quiz to see how much we know about what we collect. 64 questions have been generated for 8 rounds and

there will be some prizes at the end of the day. Your President and Secretary will run this and there are bound to be some easy questions, some not so easy and some trick questions! Light refreshments will be served and we also plan to have another couple of secret auction items – last time we did this some members got some very nice surprises.

## Annual subscriptions are due

The Society financial year ends on 31 May so for many the subscriptions are due again. Check your membership status on the mailing sheet that comes with Back Focus in June and that will indicate if you are not financial. The easiest way to fix that is to do an internet bank transfer of \$30 per year to the Society account. The bank details are:

**Australian Photographic Collectors' Society,**  
**BSB: 083166 Account:515315423**

and remember to add your membership number and name as the transaction reference, or you can send a cheque to:

**APCS**  
**c/o 65 Wellington Street**  
**Kew, 3101 Victoria, Australia**

And please put your membership number on the back of the cheque.

You will also find a note on the Back Focus cover sheet indicating your email address status. The normal method of sending newsletters and general communication is now by email. You should ensure that you preferred email address is sent to: [web@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:web@apcsociety.com.au).

If you know of anyone who may like to become a member, they can go to the Society webpage and download an application form. Similarly if you are a lapsed member then please fill in a new form so that we have the most recent data and of course and pay the annual fee.

## Members-only Auction AMRA Hall 17 July

The next auction is on 17 July – with viewing starting at 10 am and the auction at noon. The catalogue of items will be mailed to members with the June copy of Back Focus.

There is a good range of mostly cameras.

### Another camera manufacturer closes

Japanese view camera maker Ebony have decided to cease manufacture at the end of June, 2016. Founded in 1981 by Hiromi Sakanashi, Ebony are well known for their high quality, handmade cameras.

Ebony offered a range of cameras in folding and non-folding models in a range of formats from 6X9cm to 20X24Inches, including full plate (6 ½ X 8 ½) and 4x10inch and 6x17CM panoramic view cameras.

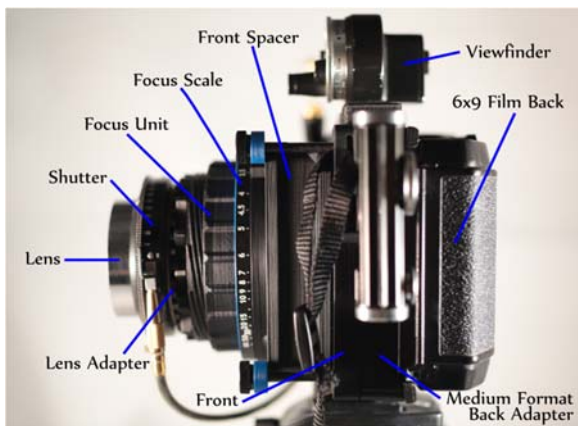


No reason is given on their website for (or is their news of) their closure. However, their US agents Badger Graphics have confirmed the closure, and are accepting final orders now. For more info -

<http://www.ebonycamera.com/cam.html>

[http://www.badgergraphic.com/opencart/index.php?route=product/category&path=2\\_17](http://www.badgergraphic.com/opencart/index.php?route=product/category&path=2_17)

**While one manufacturer closes, another tries to get a unique product off the ground**



Modular cameras are not a new concept. Neither are interchangeable backs or lenses. But a new camera currently being funded on Kickstarter is pushing versatility to a new extreme.

As their website says

*" The Mercury's default configuration is 6x9, medium format. Its default "back adapter" is 2x3 Graflok, which accepts medium format (120) roll film backs from Graflex, Mamiya, Horseman, and Mercury, as well as (with slight adaptation) sheet film holders. We are developing a sophisticated 35mm panoramic back (the first ever made for a removable back) as well as simple, inexpensive roll film backs in 6x9 and 6x6 sizes. The Mercury also has a 4x5 Graflok back adapter, which accepts all 4x5 Graflok accessories, including instant film backs, Grafmatics, 6x12 roll film backs, and (with a slight re-configuration) sheet film holders. The Mercury is entirely modular, consisting of a Front (which accepts the "lens stack") and a Back Adapter (which accepts film and digital backs of a certain format), as well as Front Spacers and Rear Spacers to extend the camera for various formats and lenses, the Mercury Focus Unit for view camera lenses, lens tubes, lens adapters, and a modular Sportfinder system that can be reconfigured for various lenses and formats. We also adapt Instax and Polaroid backs for use on the Mercury. Other back adapters will be available for Hasselblad V backs (film or digital), as well as digital backs for the Contax and Mamiya mounts (in the future)".*

All this with a starting price of \$120 US (plus shipping).

For more info visit their Kickstarter page :

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/294564710/mercury-the-worlds-first-universal-camera>

### Michael Reichmann passes away

Michael passed away on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May after a long battle with cancer. I never met Michael, but through the website he founded 17 years ago – Luminous Landscape I got to know a man who was not only a talented photographer but also a great teacher and thinker.

He was an early adopter of digital technology, and I learnt much from the Luminous Landscape website and DVD's. For a bit of an insight to what Michael was like have a look at the video in the link below – you get to see the rear Michael about 1 ½ minutes into the video....

<https://luminous-landscape.com/sad-day-luminous-landscape>