



# 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.95 – November 2019

### The next APCS event is a Special General Meeting on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm

The committee has been considering what the form of the APCS should be into the future, and while there seems to be a preference for not disturbing things too much, there have been some trends that may force the issues. Consequently, the committee has decided to hold a Special General Meeting at the AMRA Hall instead of the normal November meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. There are two central issues for discussion:

- The form and future of Back Focus, and,
- The nature of the APCS as a body of people.

The intent of this meeting is to gather information on the wishes of the membership, and to encourage the members to think about the future of the APCS and potentially to express their ideas. Some specific information on the financing of the APCS will be presented. There are no resolutions for determination.

Back Focus has been published in essentially an unchanged form for 27 years, and if there are to be changes then this is the appropriate time as new editing policies are determined. The traditional pattern of 4 issues per year has become unsustainable, with a central issue being the effort and cost of distribution, and there is a viable business case for 1 or 2 issues per year, each being significantly larger than previously, and in any case using modern desktop publishing techniques. You will get some idea of the new presentation from the most recent issue #114 that you should have had in the mail in the last couple of weeks.

Members will recall that there have been very few monthly presentations in the last couple of years. That, and a couple of other pointers suggest that the nature of the Society is changing from “a group of people interested in collecting cameras” to “a group of people interested in trading cameras”. The fact that the annual program for the last couple of years included 3 public markets, 3 Members-only auctions and 2 Members-only markets points strongly towards trading.

This is an opportunity for you to be part of the discussion on what the APCS should be in the future, and to make your wishes and/or expectations known. This is your society, and it is the responsibility of your elected committee to manage it on your behalf. Changes are happening around us as well as what we individually expect. Let's keep the conversations going and discover what we all want of the society.

Following the SGM, your President will give a presentation on the use of mirror lenses in photography. Historically, mirror lenses have not been considered to

be great performers, but is that really the case? Items on show will vary from a tiny mirror lens only 50mm in diameter to a massive unit with a focal length of 4,281mm – and no, these are not in general telescope objectives but lenses designed for precision photography – with demonstrations of course! There will be a handout covering the history of reflecting lenses, notes on each of the dozen units that will be displayed and some newly emerging information about some of the most modern units – but written in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century – challenging some of the most commonly held beliefs about early inventions.

### No Back Focus? – Membership lapsed?

Did you get a copy of Back Focus #114 in the last couple of weeks? If not, it is probable that you did not renew your membership last year (we continue to send newsletters for a year after members become unfinancial).

Thankyou if you have already renewed for 2019-20, but about 20% of members have not renewed this year. The annual fee remains at \$30 and can be paid by a direct deposit into the APCS 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. Or send a cheque to the Treasurer P.O.Box126, KANGAROO GROUND, VIC 3097

If any of your details have changed 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](mailto:web@apcsociety.com.au)

### Committee vacancies

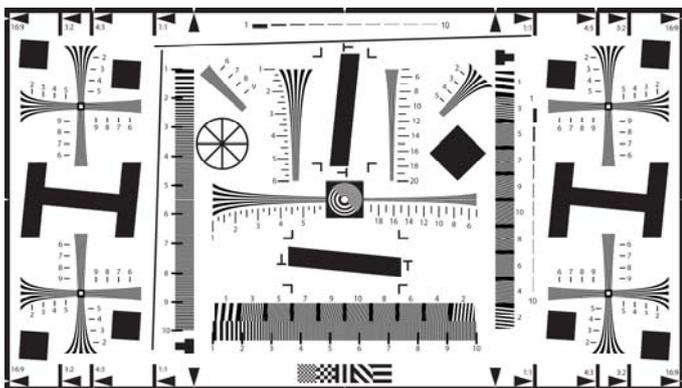
There is a vacancy for the position of Secretary of the Society and for positions in the general committee. This is an opportunity for members interested in the future of the APCS to be part of its management. Have a word with any of the current committee or indeed chat among yourselves, and let the acting Secretary know – [secretary@apcsociety.com.au](mailto:secretary@apcsociety.com.au)

### Members-only auction October 2019 Results

The results of the members-only auction in October can be viewed and downloaded from the APCS website: <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/auctions/Oct2019results.pdf>

The auction system continues to be popular and some 900 items were cleared in 2019. Members wishing to avail themselves of the service in 2020 should check with the webpage and follow the timetable for submissions. Bidding is restricted to members but anyone can submit items for auction.

## A lens testing chart



If you test lenses, you probably need a lens testing chart. There are a few around and one that does a good job when estimating resolution, chromatic and spherical distortion is the industry standard chart from ISO-12233. You can download a PDF copy of this from the APCS website <http://www.apcsociety.com.au/images/ISO-12233-chart.pdf>

This file is compiled in a way that allows your printer to produce a copy at the maximum printer resolution. If you print it and it is not absolutely sharp down to the fine detail, maybe find a friend who has a different printer, or take a copy of the file to a printing service and get them to print it out on A3 or A2 as you wish. More about this in a Back Focus article in the not-too-distant future.

## APCS Program for 2020

The expected program for APCS 2020 events has now been determined and is available from the website:

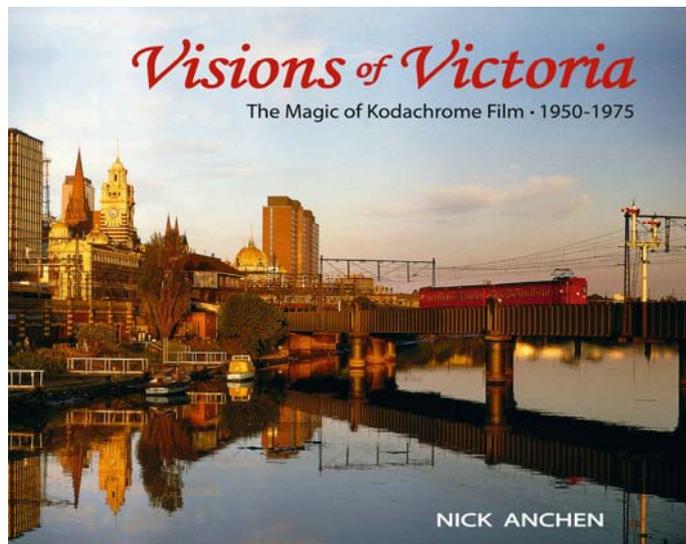
- 16 February: Meeting and social event
- 15 March: Public Photographic Market - Box Hill Town Hall
- 19 April: Members-only auction
- 3 May: Public Photographic Market – ADELAIDE
- 17 May: Members-only market and social event
- 21 June: Annual General Meeting and social event
- 19 July: Members-only auction
- 16 August: Members-only market and social event
- 20 September: Public Photographic Market - Box Hill Town Hall
- 18 October: Members-only auction
- 15 November: Members-only market and social event

All events are at the AMRA Hall unless otherwise listed. See announcements closer to the date for starting times etc.

## ‘VISIONS OF VICTORIA’ – Nick Anchen

Book review by John Fleming

Not often these days do I buy a new and expensive book – it has to be outstanding – but the minute I saw ‘Visions of Victoria I obtained TWO copies! Last month, Ferntree Gully (Victoria) based author Nick Anchen released this truly magnificent book containing over 160 ‘vintage’ Kodachromes of Melbourne, suburbs and country Victoria, dating from 1951 to the 1970s.



The print quality and standard of reproduction together with the outstanding colour saturation in this glorious landscape format book is a delight and a wonderful trip back in time to a gentler era. Mainly the work of two veteran photographers, Peter Ralph and Bernie Kelly, (also noted H. Dacre Stubbs) the 35 mm Kodachrome transparencies are reproduced razor sharp and are so lifelike one is transported right into the photograph. Digital scanning has extracted far more detail, sharpness and colour than could ever have been achieved optically by projecting – this is what the camera lens saw, and it's stunning!

The photographers used Exakta cameras with the Zeiss Biometar lens, also a Kodak-Nagle Retina, and then both settled on Pentax SLRs with the Takumar lenses. Apart from demonstrating the technical wonder Kodachrome was, this book is also a tribute to those cameras and lenses. I can thoroughly recommend this beautiful Australian photographic book as it will have such wide appeal on so many levels – the photographic, the architecture, the fashions, the transport, shipping, aviation – it goes on. I am told there may have to be a second print run, so well received has this publication been in just the first month. Apart from us as photographers and camera enthusiasts, this book would make a perfect gift for relatives or friends overseas.

Available at many bookshops, online, or for your nearest stockist and perhaps a signed copy, email Nick Anchen, [sierra@netspace.net.au](mailto:sierra@netspace.net.au) RRP is around \$70 – from Dymocks, Amazon etc.

## Classified Advertisements

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