



NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS: AMRA Hall, 92 Wills St, Glen Iris, VIC
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APCS NEWSLETTER No.96 – Special holiday edition – January 2020

The next APCS event is a Special “Show & Tell” Meeting: Sunday 16th February at 2pm

First of all, welcome to 2020! This special holiday issue of the newsletter is to outline some of the planning for 2020 but especially to outline what is intended for the February meeting and lead into an initiative for Back Focus.

This meeting is to be a “Show and Tell” with a difference. The idea is for members to bring along a camera which is rare, unusual, or simply so interesting that it is worth showing off to camera collectors. It is hoped that there will be about a dozen items brought along, and that you as the owner will give about a 10 minute talk on the item or maybe hand out a one page description. We will take photos of you and the item and then combine the whole afternoon into a major item for the next edition of Back Focus. To help in that preparation we will also take a video of the day.

If this proves to be a success then we could branch into other photographic items but this time, and as a start, please stick to a single camera. A few ideas to prompt your choice:

- If the camera is chosen because it is rare then maybe only choose a camera where you suspect that there were no more than a couple of hundred made.
- If the camera is a variant of a common model then it also should be a production variant rather than a local modification.
- If the camera is combined with a rare accessory or lens then the rarity can relate to the accessory, should be the manufacturer’s intention, and not be an adapted modification.
- The camera can be clearly a prototype that went into later production – or maybe not.
- The camera can be from any era.

Maybe you can generate your own rules – just remember that the idea is that the item should be of general interest and promote the idea of “collecting”.

An idea of what might be candidates consider the following:

- A common Edixa from the 1950s fitted with an original factory version of the Voigtlander Zoomar coupled to the Edixa body providing semiautomatic aperture – yes it exists!
- A special version of a common Kodak Autographic from about 1924 but fitted with a premium lens, shutter and coupled rangefinder – all original and costing about ten times what the standard version

cost – an unsuccessful attempt by Kodak to get into the premium market.

- Possibly the most stupid ‘quality’ camera ever – a Zeiss Contarex Electronic fitted with a 450-shot back, remote automatic exposure and control and the massive 40-120 Zoom, the whole lot being so heavy that you can’t lift it easily. There are less than 50 units like this than can be put together and one wonders if there was any demand for it at all – your President might bring this one along.

To help with planning an interesting meeting in February, could intending “Show and Tellers” send an email to president@apcsociety.com.au outlining the item they plan to present as soon as possible. If necessary we have a few items in reserve that could also be presented – but need some advance preparation time.

APCS Program for 2020

The program for APCS 2020 events has now been determined and can be viewed on the calendar page of the website:

- 16 February: Meeting and special “Show and Tell” (see above)
 - 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.

Just a reminder – there is no APCS meeting in January 2020

Changes within the APCS in the future

Several submissions were made by members in response to the presentation in November and the request for comment. Overall, the summary seems to be a reluctance to change anything. But it is very evident that we are changing as an organisation and what we do:

- Over the last few years we have had fewer social events like dinners before the Box Hill Market. It has been quite a few years since the last November BBQ.

- Back Focus has changed in the printed form, the move to colour on the front page then throughout.
- The newsletter has been an electronic monthly for the last couple of years.
- The information to members about items up for auction has increased substantially.
- Regular members-only markets.
- It used to be that the “Blue Book” then “McEwans Guide” were the central references – but today internet resources like “Collectiblend” seem to be far more useful.

We are experiencing change all the time, just as the world is changing around us. And it is likely that change will occur without us being aware of it happening. A couple of changes that are coming up in the near future include...

- A new build of the website in visibility and content.
- EFTPOS facilities for payments of all kinds.

Many of the recent changes followed on from experiments around a single idea or event. We tried variations in the monthly meetings – a quiz – different presentation subjects – and members-only markets. The latter was particularly popular with members and the 2020 program includes three such events – in May, August and November.

Astute members will also realise that most of the 2020 program is to do with trading cameras rather than simply collecting them – a sentiment that is evident throughout the world of those interested in cameras.

Magazine exchanges

The APCS has magazine exchange relationships with other societies of like nature and in the past, copies were usually located in the APCS library. Modern trends towards having such items on-line (and permission from the original societies) allows us to make those copies directly available to you from our website.

Recent copies of “Snap Shots” from the Photographic Historical Society of New England can be found at:

- www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2019-10_snap-shots_web.pdf
- www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2019-11_snap-shots_web.pdf
- www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2019-12_snap-shots_web.pdf
- www.apcsociety.com.au/PHSNE/2020-01_snap-shots_web.pdf

Members-only Auction submissions

It is not too early to submit lists for the APCS members-only auctions for 2020 – see the “Auction” and “Calendar” pages on the APCS website and if necessary for further details send an email to:

auctions@apcsociety.com.au

Public Markets – Box Hill & Adelaide

Two public photographic markets are happening soon: On 15 March the APCS hosts the Box Hill market in the Box Hill Town Hall, and on 3 May we host the Adelaide market in the Hungarian Club, Norwood. See the web pages for details.

No Back Focus? – Membership lapsed?

Did you get a copy of Back Focus #114 in December? 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. And it is only a couple of months off that we will be prompting you for renewals for 2020-2021. The annual fee remains at \$30 for the moment 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.

With the massive increases in the cost of production of Back Focus and its postage, and the potential option for electronic delivery, there may need to be a review of the membership costs – they have been unchanged for over 10 years. That will be an important issue for the next committee which will be elected in June.

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

Committee and operational vacancies

We need to find new people to take over some of the management roles in the APCS.

- The executive position of Secretary of the Society. This is a legislated position and includes the role of secretary to the committee.
- Positions in the general committee.
- Management of the public markets in Melbourne and Adelaide – the procedures are well established but are open to review and modification.

Unlike many other societies, the APCS is not under any financial stress and has good reserves. But it is a time of change and good management is essential to a quality future. This is an opportunity for members interested in the future of the APCS to be part of its management. We have an AGM in June and now would be a good time to get involved – and be ready for the challenges of the following year. Have a word with any of the current committee or indeed chat among yourselves, and let the acting Secretary know – secretary@apcsociety.com.au

Classified Advertisements

You can place classified advertisements in these pages. Send an email to adverts@apcsociety.com.au including a JPG photo if you wish. Rather than include your name and contact details we can add an enquiry code and pass information on to you – then you can deal directly with the responders – your decision. At present there is no charge for this service. For the timebeing keep the text down to under 50 words per item.