

WELLINGTON
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY
ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING

THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 2020



President's Report: Annual General Meeting of the Wellington Photographic Society

13 August 2020

Introduction

It's been a very hectic year for the society with some great highs such as the 24hr Black & White Competition and some low points such as the 4-month enforced break due to a global pandemic.

The past year has seen some big changes behind the scenes, implementation of Internet banking and MYOB for management of Membership fees. The internet banking was well overdue, especially considering the move towards removal of cheques. The implementation of internet banking has been a discussion item within the committee right back into the mid 2000's.

Speakers and events for the Society have been top notch this year. We work really hard behind the scenes to ensure we are getting top photographers in their field to share their experience with the Society. Unfortunately, we had to adapt our planned programme to account for COVID-19, and I was pleased to see that members continued to take part in our digital meetings held via Zoom.

We have also been working behind the scenes to modernise the Society's systems and policies. For several years running now, we have been storing back-ups of all the societies images and documents. Being able to store and easily share documents and images online ensures safety of all our notes and images and allows us to be able to access them whenever and wherever we need to. This flexibility has been well utilised, allowing us to easily share images with judges, sort through all of our stored images for our entries into national competitions and much more. This was a necessary step as we, and other businesses and societies, move towards using paperless systems.

So thank you from all of us for your contributions to the society.

Membership

As at the end of June our membership stood at 104. This is down on last year very slightly, but we have discovered some historical records were artificially inflating our numbers. A thorough reconciliation has been conducted and our membership records are now up to date and accurate. The introduction of MYOB has assisted with this and will allow us to have a more robust system going forward.

We have seen an increased interest in membership towards the end of lockdown and had 8 members join in May and June. We have plans to build on this momentum and are working on a marketing plan for new members, with youth members being a large target for this. Increasing our membership and members engagement with the club and our activities is a priority we would like to focus on for the coming year.

We are starting to see youth members (under 18) join the society, this is pleasing as we all need to look toward a new generation of members to continue the society in the future.

Finances

As you will see in the financial report by our Treasurer Mel Keith, the Society remains in a strong position, No significant capital expenditure was incurred this year, in part due to the 4-month break.

We are aiming to have all expenditure be cost neutral going forward, i.e. Exhibition and asset purchases should be purchased with funds sourced from gaming trusts and sponsors. This allows us to spend our money a lot more wisely and saves us from running into a deficit when we need to hold events or make significant purchases.

We are looking at refreshing a number of equipment items in the next year, with perhaps adding ability to record meetings in the future.

Speakers

Over the past year we have been privileged to hear from some incredible and talented local photographers:

- Sean Gillespie (Documentary – Wellington Suburbs)
- Dean Hewison & Matty Warmington (Shooting video with DSLR)
- Julian Butler (Infrared Photography)
- Destina Munro (Multiple exposure and abstract photography)
- Esther Bunning (Fine art photography)
- Sean Aickin (Black and White)
- Robert Fletcher and Holly Neill (Street Photography)
- Sophie Thorn (Curating the Adam Art Gallery – Digital meeting during lockdown)
- Adrian Heke (Documentary – Wellington Free Ambulance)

The committee has worked hard to ensure we have had a varied and interesting programme, and I would like to thank Lee for the effort she has continued to put into securing these speakers for us.

Meet-ups

We have held a number of meet-ups during the year. These are opportunities to get out and take photos with fellow society members. We are continuing to hold these on a variety of topics and are working to include things like critique evenings and more. If you have any suggestions, please let the committee know. We would love to see more members involved in these activities.

Annual Exhibition 2019

The annual exhibition was held at a new venue this year; the Thistle Hall in Cuba St.

It has been one of our best exhibition venues to date, providing both a high visibility for the society and the work of the members, but also in terms of cost. Rental for the space for the week was \$160, which allowed us to hold the Exhibition at fairly short notice.

The selection, printing, matting, framing and all the associated media and marketing were organised in just over a week. This was an exceptional effort by all involved.

We were able to streamline some of processes from the previous year's exhibition which was crucial to making this happen. The timeframe was very tight, and some lessons were noted for this year's upcoming exhibition.

We were lucky to have the full support of our wonderful sponsors – Wellington Photographic Supplies and Art for Art's Sake who were able to help us have all of our images ready from digital files to finished products within a couple of days. Having a predetermined size and a template for prints/matts to fit within our frames was key to this, but still involved them working through the weekend. I would like to once again thank them very much for doing so. Art for Arts sake also supplied us with additional frames, ensuring that we had enough for all of the displayed images, allowing us to sell framed images and also allowing us to replace some existing broken frames. We now have stockpile of roughly 60 frames that can be used by the society for exhibitions.

Having the members work presented in a professional fashion is an important factor in putting on an exhibition with a large amount of foot traffic. We received a number of comments on the presentation of the exhibition. Lastly a big thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the setting up, dismantling and cleaning of the

frames. It great to have members to are willing to help with these types of events. Everything is certainly smoother when you have a great team!

Competitions

In addition to our traditional competitions we also held two new events open to all: the 12hr Black and White competition and the @wpsathome competition held early in the year.

I think we'll endeavour to hold an annual January/February competition which is open to the public. The exposure and engagement from the public are hugely beneficial to the society, and provides a great way to kick off the year.

We have definitely learned our lessons from holding these January competitions over the last two years. Mainly that it pays to keep things simpler in terms of what the goals and endgame of the competitions are. But I think the general idea of a January competition is an idea the society should continue to build on. We have gained new members as a direct result each time and the less formal nature of the competitions results in a significant number of entries and engagement.

The results were:

12hr Black and White Competiton:

- Overall Winner: Jack Driver
- Category Winners:
 - At the Coast - Alison Viskovic
 - Highlight the Shadows - Holly Neill
 - Manmade - Jack Driver
 - People in the community - Zuyi Woon

Print Competition 2019

Open Category Winner:

- First Place: Fred Wotton - Toothy*
- Second Place: Mel Keith - Under the Stars
- Third Place: Raymond Cho - Smoke and Mirrors

Living Earth Category:

- First Place: Shannon Doyle - Fat Little Birdy
- Second Place: Donna Jennings - Ghostly Woman with Trees
- Third Place: Bronwyn Rideout - Through the Chasm

Best Entry from a New Member

- Bronwyn Rideout

Club Projected Image Competition 2019

- Winner:- Donna Jennings

Other

We also submitted entries in the annual PSNZ print and projected image competitions for affiliated clubs, and this year took part in the Treena Packer nature competition for the first time in a while. Our entry into the projected image competition resulted in us winning and taking away the Wiltshire Cup - an excellent result.

Media and Publicity

We have continued to build on our increasing public profile through social media, our website and Impact. Our social media pages are continuing to grow with 1,666 people following our Facebook page and over 100 people taking part in the mentoring and discussion group. We have also been working on increasing

our following on Instagram where we currently have 677 followers.

These are increasingly important tools in engaging the greater Wellington public about what the Society is up too and helping us recruit new members.

Sponsorship

During the year we received sponsorship from several firms:

- Wellington Photographic Supplies
- Art for Art's Sake
- Okko Pro Filters
- Woolf Photography
- Splendid
- Canon New Zealand

The sponsorship for the 12hr Black & White competition was particularly pleasing, the effort provided by Glen Innes in organising that was truly amazing and has certainly set a good bar for the society to maintain.

Committee

There are going to be some changes in the committee for 2020/21. Donna Jennings, Raymond Cho and Peter Rodgers are not seeking re-election. I would like to thank them for the work they have done over the last year. Myself, Glen Innes, Mel Keith, Lee McLauchlan and Keith Molloy are continuing members.

I am looking forward to welcoming back Julie Brixton to the committee and welcoming some of our newer members - Bronwyn Rideout, Fionnbharr Sherry, Julie McGowan and Brian Gray.

I am looking forward to working with this incoming committee and am sure we will achieve some great things.

I hope as members of The Wellington Photographic Society, you continue to enjoy your photography, engage with your fellow photographers, take the opportunity to take part in meetups and workshops, and enjoy the practice and art of photography.

Shannon Doyle

Wellington Photographic Society President