

WELLINGTON
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY
ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING

THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2021



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

11th of November 2021

Introduction

It's great to finally be able to hold this event. As with other organisations, we weren't clear when we would be able to hold this meeting. The safety of our membership was our top priority in organising in-person events such as the AGM.

In this second and final year of my Presidency, the Society has managed to grow steadily despite the setbacks of the last two years. This is in large part due to the effort of our committee and the ongoing participation and support of the membership.

So a big thank you to all of you for your contributions to the society. I hope you are all doing well in what has been an uncertain and stressful time.

It's been an interesting year for the society, with some great speakers and events, along with some periods of little to no activity due to the ongoing pandemic. When we have been able to hold meetings and meetups there has been lots of interest and participation.

The speakers and events for the society have been top-notch over the last 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, particularly during the later part of 2021. It's important to realise that it may be a while before things return to 'normal' and with that in mind we are aiming to be more flexible with programme options going forward.

Membership

As of the end of September, our membership stood at 142. This is up on last year, but I would expect this to drop over the coming year as we will still be experiencing the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We have now come through 2 years relatively unscathed and we are in a very lucky position. Some other local clubs are struggling at the moment and I believe that we should be looking to do what we can to help them through.

Finances

As you will see in the financial report by our Treasurer Mel Keith, with assistance from Glen Innes, the Society remains in a strong position, No unexpected expenditure was incurred this year, with our largest expense being incurred by the two exhibitions held within one financial year.

The aim as of last year is to make the Society operations 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. Over the last year, we applied for and received a significant grant for each of the exhibitions which contributed significantly to the cost of those. Thank you very much to Pelorus Trust for the support.

We are looking at replacing and purchasing a few large items in the coming year, a replacement laptop and

audio-visual to record stream meetings are a top priority in the next year.

Speakers

Over the year we have had some of New Zealand's top photographic artists speak to the club. Karolina Stus came and spoke about her recent fine art photography, Joseph Kelly gave us a glimpse into the work of a top-level commercial photographer, Mandi Lynn spoke about her Click Happy project and the work she has done with youth and photography.

We also heard from award-winning experimental artist Poppy Lekner, who spoke about her recent award-winning work, covered Bird Photography with Simon Runting, Film & Documentary photography with Andy Monk, Seascapes with Mary Livingston, LGBTQI Portraiture with Joshua Harvey, and the very timely Bubbles of Paekakariki with Bob Zuur.

We also heard from some of our own members in a 10X10 format, covering a variety of topics including club meet-ups and events.

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. A large amount of the work of the committee is ensuring that we have top speakers and other programme items to present to our members.

Meet-ups

We have held a number of meet-ups, practical sessions, critique evenings and PSNZ sessions during the year. These are opportunities to get out and take photos with fellow society members, get feedback on photos and learn more about PSNZ and prepare images for PSNZ activities.

This committee was always keen to host more meetups and practical activities. We are pleased to see that these are popular and will continue to offer sessions like these, as well as workshops such as the very successful one hosted by Frank Hopfler (organised by Keith Molloy). These smaller group activities have proven to be a great way to get members engaged, learning and trying new things in a relaxed, supportive environment.

If you have any suggestions, please let the committee know. We would love to see more members involved in these activities.

Some of the meetups & sessions this year:

- Image Critique Evenings
- Full Moon shoot at Wright's Hill
- New Years Mini-golf
- PSNZ Honours Club
- Astro presentation (with Frank Hopfler)

Annual Exhibition 2020 & 2021

We have managed to hold two Exhibitions in the last year, this was a huge undertaking by the committee and everyone who helped to execute both of these exhibitions.

The committee made the decision to host the 2021 Exhibition earlier this year for two reasons - this was when the gallery was available, and it allowed the current committee to execute the exhibition rather than expecting a new committee to pick up a half-organised event and deliver it as their first major action. It was felt that this was not fair, and the new date appeared to work well.

Both of our annual exhibitions were held at a new venue; the Te Auaha Gallery in Dixon Street, right in the heart of the city. This gallery has been an excellent exhibition venue, providing both high visibility for the society and the work of the members. It has also been a lovely venue to work with, with modern facilities and accommodating staff. Te Auaha has

been exemplary in helping us organise and prepare for both of these exhibitions.

The frames continue to be an excellent resource. We have received plenty of comments about how professional they make the images and the presentation of the exhibition look. The standard size of the frames has also helped us to streamline the organising process, as well as the printing, matting, framing and layout of the exhibition.

We were lucky to have the full support of our wonderful sponsors – Wellington Photographic Supplies and Art for Art's Sake who, once again, did a wonderful job getting the images printed and matted for us.

Lastly a big thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the setting up, dismantling and cleaning of the frames. It is great to have members to be willing to help with these types of events. Everything is certainly smoother when you have a great team!

Competitions

Once again, the summer public competition was a success, with plenty of entries and new members joining as a result. Congratulations to Nicole Lively for winning the competition. Starting the year with a public competition during summer has been successful, though does take some planning and work by the committee to make it happen.

Competitions this year have been impacted by COVID, leaving us unable to host a print competition in 2020, postponing the projected image competition to the end of the year and impacting on the interclub competition(s) as well.

The competitions we were able to host had these results:

Club Print Competition 2021

- Open Category Winner: Emma Hissey
- Diffuse: Rick Spencer
- Best Entry from a New Member: Emma Hissey

Club Projected Image Competition 2020

- Winner: Mel Keith - Waiting

Others

This year we took part in the PSNZ hosted Trena Packer nature competition again. Thank you to Barry Mahon and everyone who helped to pull that entry together.

The 2020 Interclub competition was initially postponed and was eventually held at the start of 2021. Thank you to everyone involved in organising our entries into that competition.

Media and Publicity

We have continued to build on our increasing public profile through social media, and other avenues. Our social media pages are continuing to grow with 2,000 people following our Facebook page and over 176 people taking part in the mentoring and discussion group. We have also been working on increasing our following on Instagram where we currently have 861 followers. Each of these numbers has increased significantly since last year.

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

Committee

There are going to be some changes in the committee for 2021/22. Glen Innes is the only committee member not seeking re-election this year due to his commitment to other clubs, including

being the President of the Johnsonville Camera Club. I would like to thank Glen very much for the work he has put into the club over the last 6 or so years. He is a large part of the reason the club is the shape it is today. Myself, Mel Keith, Lee McLauchlan, Keith Molloy, Brian Gray, Bronwyn Rideout, Julie McGowan and Julie Brixton are all happy to continue as members.

I am looking forward to welcoming Rick Spencer, Terry Harkin and Helen Beaven to the committee for the coming year. I am looking forward to working with this incoming committee, especially the new members, and am sure we will achieve some great things.

I'm very grateful to have been president of the society for the last two years, but am looking forward to stepping down from the role. I've spent close to seven years on the committee and will continue to be involved - especially in the social media and marketing aspects.

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**