

WPS Presidents Report 2022

Kia ora koutou,

Despite it being another slightly topsy-turvy year, we've managed to pull together a pretty good programme and I've had an enjoyable year leading you all.

The change in alert system and vaccination passes had a significant impact with some members being unable to make in-person meetings at all for some time. Thankfully those days are now over and we are mostly back to our regular activities.

Once again, we have had an emphasis on meet-ups and group activities. We've visited locations such as Wellington Zoo, the Botanical Gardens, Te Papa and Karori Cemetery to name just few. These activities are a wonderful way to discover new subjects, learn a new skill or simply to get out and socialise! They're a great introduction for new members and I urge you all to continue to take part in these activities.

We have also had some wonderful speakers over the past year on all sorts of topics. Fujifilm not only brought us equipment to play with, but Patina Photography to speak about their award-winning wedding photography. We had some other excellent evenings covering topics such as bird photography (with a practical session following), A long exposure session via Zoom (also with a practical session following it) and other topics such as fireworks, street photography and show and tell sessions.

We were also able to host our 2021 exhibition at Te Auaha with over 60 images displayed, and also hosted our projected image competition, judged by Bob Zhur, via Zoom. Our print competition had to be delayed and is happening soon. We also took part in the 2021 Interclub competition and are currently getting entries for this year's Interclub.

Our membership is still healthy, though down slightly on last year. Not unexpected given the difficulties of covid.

Our financial position is still quite strong, though as noted in the Treasurers report our income looks to be significantly down from last year due to receiving grant income in 2021 which was spent in 2022. We have also had a significant increase in rent and the incoming committee will discuss what options we may have to help reduce this expense.

We've also had some quite devastating losses. Firstly just prior to our AGM last year we lost committee member Brian Gray, and more recently we lost Fred Wotton – a juggernaut of B&W landscape photography. Please keep them both in your thoughts.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their continued support and hard work over the last year. Lots of last-minute emails and arrangements have gone on behind the scenes!

To the committee members leaving us – Lee and Keith, I cannot thank you enough for all the work you have done over the years you've been involved with the committee.

To the committee members joining us – I look forward to working with you.

Nga mihi nui,

Mel