

WELLINGTON
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY
ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING

THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2023



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

28 September 2023

Introduction

I'm pleased to provide an update on the Wellington Photographic Society's activities for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2023. Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated committee and the ongoing participation and support of the membership, the Society has continued to grow and advance in this second and final year of my Presidency.

In this second and final year of my Presidency, the Society has managed to **grow** steadily despite the current economic climate (cost of living crisis) 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.

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 speak with the society.

Membership

As at the end of June our membership stood at 113. This is the net figure after a cull of non-financial members.

- 8 Honorary Life Members (Free)
- 3 PS Members & Honorary Life Members (Free)
- 13 Youth Members (Free)

We are starting to see an increase in youth members (under 18) joining 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 Rick Spencer, the Society remains in a strong position, ending the year with a surplus of **\$3,216** as seen in the statement of financial performance. The only significant capital expenditure was this costs associated with this years Exhibition.

We are looking at refreshing a number of equipment items in the next year, with perhaps adding ability to record meetings in the future. But we will look to purchases only when Grants are available for that purpose.

Speakers

Looking back over the year, we were privileged to hear from some inspiring and talented photographers.

Barry Mahon (on gaining his APSNZ)

Marty Melville (sports photography)

Ans Westra's work (presented by David Alsop)

Madison Emond (Intermedia photography)

The New Defence Force (Corporal Naomi James & Corporal Rachel Pugh)

Tatsiana Chypsanava (mobile photography)

Dr Nicole Miller (Wellington Marine Life)

As you can see, it makes for quite the impressive list.

Meet-ups/Workshops

A number of meet ups and walk arounds have been held throughout the year and all have enjoyed the opportunity to get out and take photographs with their colleagues. Both the St Mary of the Angels – Architectural Photography Meetup and Food & Product Photography Practical events were very well supported. Thank you everyone to help make these events happen for us.

Competitions

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.

The results were:

Print Competition 2019

Open Category Winner:

First Place: Fred Wotton - Toothy*

Living Earth Category:

First Place: Shannon Doyle - Fat Little Birdy

Best Entry from a New Member

Bronwyn Rideout

Club Projected Image Competition 2019

Winner:- Donna Jennings

Annual Exhibition 2023

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.

The annual exhibition was held at a new venue this year; at the Green Gallery in Newtown. It provided an attractive and well lit space and we resurrected the Society's set of frames and mattes to display the work of our members to best advantage. A frantic effort was needed to get all the images matted and framed in time but we made it!

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.

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.

Media and Publicity

The profile of the Society remains high, thanks to the superb work of Shannon Doyle and his team of other contributors to our publication Impact. Our website and Facebook page continue to provide a popular portal for the wider public to the activities undertaken by the Society and extend our reach into the community.

In November 2018, we launched the WPS Discussion and Mentoring Group on Facebook which targets a general audience of photographers rather than just our own members. It has been really successful and congratulations are due to Shannon Doyle for this initiative.

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.

Mel Keith

Wellington Photographic Society President

