

WELLINGTON
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY
ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING

THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2024



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

28 November 2024

Introduction

I'm pleased to provide an update on the Wellington Photographic Society's activities for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2024. 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.

Despite a pretty tough economic climate the Society has maintained a steady membership. This is in large part due to the effort of our committee and the ongoing 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 and to ensure everyone has a chance to show off their photography.

Membership

As at the end of June our membership stood at 115. This is the net figure after a cull of non-financial members. This is a very small increase from last year.

- Honorary Life Members (Free) - 9
- Youth Members (Free) - 17

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.

We ended the fiscal year with a loss of \$2,369 (LY -\$2,678) for the year to end June 2024. as seen in the statement of financial performance. The major contribution to this loss was the costs associated with the 2023 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 funding is available for that purpose. This is especially true of the Annual Exhibition, which we will go into further detail below.

Speakers

Looking back over the year, we were privileged to hear from some inspiring and talented photographers. We are truly lucky to be able to get in these amazing photographers, especially as we don't have the resources of much larger organizations.

- Tatsiana Chypanava - Ethical Visual Storytelling
- Why's and How's of Creative Black and White Photography - Mark Berger & Glen Wheatley
- Debbie Rawson - Musician to Photographer
- Rebecca Kempton (Commercial and Portrait Professional Photographer)
- Clive Pigott - Alternative Printing Processes
- Tawhai Moss Brown | Bird Scientist
- Amber-Jayne Bain: My Journey Into Commercial Photography

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 everyone has enjoyed the opportunity to get out and take photographs with their colleagues. The Black & White Meetup, Zealandia, Zoo and Steel Wool Photography Practical events were very well supported. Thank you everyone to helped make these events happen for us.

Competitions

Our Projected Image Competition in June was well attended and received a large number of quality entries. The winner of this competition was Glen Wheatley. Many thanks go to our judge Kane Feaver, who is also the local AIPA president. It's really great to have judges of this caliber for our competitions.

Our 2024 print competition is a few weeks away yet. The 2023 edition was one of the highlights of the year with life member Simon Woolf taking on judging duties for this one. It's always great we can get long term members back to the club, especially with Simon being a key figure in making sure the club exists in it's current form.

The results were:

Print Competition 2023

- **Open Category Winner:**
First Place: Glen Wheatley
- **Shapes Category:**
First Place: Helen Beaven
- **Projected Image Competition 2024**
Winner:- Glen Wheatley

Media and Publicity

We have continued to build on our increasing public profile through social media, our website and our events. Our social media pages are continuing to grow with 1.9k people following our Facebook page and over 190 people taking part in the mentoring and discussion group. We have also been working on increasing our following on Instagram where we currently have 1026 followers.

To reach our membership we use a variety of these tools, as no one platform allows us to reach all our members all at once. To reach our membership we have to use a combination of tools including our Website, Mailchimp (mass email platform) and social media.

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

Our website and Facebook page still continue to provide the most popular portal for the wider public to the activities undertaken by the Society and extend our reach into the community.

Some work will need to be undertaken in the near future to expand further into Instagram and perhaps Tiktok or similar platforms. It's probably worth adding a specific social media/comms manager to the committee in the near future.

It's a pretty considerable amount of work each week to keep these all ticking over smoothly, but in terms of bringing in new members this is the area where we have the most to gain.

Website

Related to above Media and Publicity. The current website is nearly 6 years old and is a little due for a

refresh. There are two big items that needed to be addressed with a new website . One being a smoother onboarding process for new and potential members. The current process is a little clunky as it stands and it makes it little tougher for the treasurer and membership in the back end than it needs to be.

Second item would be the URL address, our previous webmaster mistakenly setup the current website as a subdomain of the old website. This means the old website still exists as a layer under the newer website. This would likely be a significant amount of work to untie and might necessitate a brand new website in the near future.

Some work will need to be undertaken to research the best way forward here by the committee.

Ongoing Exhibitions

Preparations began early in the year to host another Exhibition this year, however we were not able to progress this too far, as we lost our main Exhibition partner Wellington Photographic Supplies. This was a huge loss for the society and the community. Wellington Photographic Supplies have supported nearly all of the societies Exhibitions since their inception in the early 1990s.

Looking at alternative options, losing our print sponsor would triple our printing expenditure. This makes holding an Exhibition without funding in place quite an unsustainable cost. It has also proven quite tough to nail down a venue this year, Thistle Hall is probably our preferred option, but places there are only granted via a lottery, Te Auaha has significantly raised their prices and most other options tried were not suitable.

With all this taken into account, it was deemed suitable to look to make the Exhibition a bi-annual exercise, with an exhibition every 2nd year rather than every year. This gives a bit more time to potentially plan said Exhibition and spread the costs a bit more evenly.

Lastly an Exhibition sub-committee probably needs to be appointed to make this happen going forward. For previous iterations of the exhibition, committee members have had to take multiple days off work to plan/setup and breakdown each year.

Committee

There are going to be some changes in the committee for 2024/2025. Bronwyn Rideout, Julie McGowan and Martin Richardson are not seeking re-election. A big thank to all of you for the huge amount of work you have done over the years.

Additionally, we will be losing our treasurer Rick Spencer who has done an amazing job looking after our accounts for the past few years. We will miss his efforts immensely.

Myself, Mel Keith and Julie Brixton will be continuing on the committee.

This year we will be welcoming back Peter Rodgers to the committee, and welcoming some of our newer members – Lesley Cornish, Caelyn Daughney, and John Kelly. With the loss of Rick, we will also be looking to bring on board a new treasurer.

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