

Focal Plane June 2016



From the Presidents Pen -



It was after a lot of soul searching that I finally accepted the role of APS President in March 2016. It is, I think, a position not to be taken lightly. Presidents over the years have expressed the sentiment that it is an honour to hold the position of President of such a long standing Society. I agree. While I cannot promise to satisfy all members all of the time with regard to policy, it is certainly my intention to provide for a well-rounded, interactive and member oriented society where members are encouraged to air their particular point of view; where decisions are made through robust discussion; and where if those decisions do not meet individual approval then at least the reasons for their implementation are easily understood and appreciated as having been reached with their particular view point having been considered. All of this of course, whilst providing as much opportunity as is possible for members to venture outside their comfort zones to create, experiment, develop their art in a way that would not have been conceived before joining APS. We are a large club. I thank God for diversity and am keen to celebrate individual uniqueness – it is, I think, what makes us inspiring, energizing and artists.

Recently I heard a story on air that went something like this:

A traveler observed that a parade of elephants was being herded tethered only by a rope on one leg. Clearly the weight and power of these enormous beasts meant that each could easily break free. The traveler asked the farmer why they did not do so. He smiled and said that from a very young age the animals had been tethered by just one rope per leg. At that point the strength of the rope was enough to hold the young animals. But as they grew older and their strength increased it never occurred to them that they could now easily overcome such a minimal tether, and so they never tried.

How often, I wonder, are we guilty of just such a mind-set? How many times have we been easily put off by a lack of success; paralysed by our earlier failures? Are you guilty of giving into a feeling of a lack of self-belief and rather than taking stock, reworking and trying again you have let past failures define your work? My challenge to you is simply this. If at first you don't succeed – keep trying. And, above all, enjoy your photographic journey in whatever form it takes and wherever it may take you.

Karin Charteris

Focal Plane – June 2016

A final (presidential) word from Roger

I would like to thank all those who have helped and encouraged me during my 3 years as president. Karin Charteris has been a tremendous support to me and I'm sure she will make an excellent president.

Being president has been an enjoyable and, at times, challenging experience. I have particularly liked the new friendships that come with working in a team and thank those who have generously given their time to serve on the committee.

For APS the next year is an exciting one with the exhibition this month and plenty of more activities leading up to the 2017 convention next April. For me it's dusting off my camera getting back out there. There are images to be made.

Roger Hammond

A warm welcome...

APS welcomes the following new members to the Club (apologies to anyone left off this list, please let me know if I have inadvertently missed you out). Join in, become involved, grow your photography, your art, meet new people and, above all, have some fun.

Himanshu Jaswal

Bartek Wypych

Dean and Nicole Waters

Colin Tyler

Rowan Foster

Karan Singh

Life through the Lens Exhibition

This is the 3rd year that APS is participating in the Auckland Festival of Photography and we have an exciting new location: Hum at 123 Grafton Rd, Grafton (the historic villa at the Grafton end of Grafton Bridge). <http://www.fallingapple.org.nz/humevent/auckland-photographic-society-life-through-the-lens/>

The "Life through the Lens" exhibition is an interesting collection of images showing the wide variety of styles within the society in both printed and digital form. As is fitting with the more casual style of Hum, we have dropped the usual rules around framing and presenting images. Many of you have stayed with the tried and true method of presenting your work but some brave folk have experimented with new materials while others have taken the opportunity to make extra large pieces.

The exhibition opens on Tuesday 7th of June at 6pm and runs through to Friday 24th of June.

Roger Hammond

Focal Plane – June 2016

A most agreeable outing to Great Barrier

In April, 8 members from APS took part in the GREAT BARRIER SHOOTOUT a fun, local competition run by the Tourism Department .



Far from the traffic and city lights, Great Barrier(Aotea) is the ultimate place to get away from it all and to capture the beautiful rugged and remote landscape: a photographers paradise. We began the day with an excellent Breakfast and coffee at The Wild Rose Cafe before jumping into our cars cameras in hand, ready to explore this unspoilt part of NZ. It was like stepping back in time!

The locals were all so helpful and Friendly. My favourite new friend, Kenny “Goodshit”, was a wonderful model posing in his 70's Piha caravan now permanently parked on the seaside of Awana.

There was so much to see and shoot, a photographer’s paradise: native bush, beaches and seashores that stretched for miles, birds, artist’s studios to visit, good food and friendly locals.

The weekend was topped off with a magnificent flight into the sunset over our beautiful Hauraki Gulf.



Bev Winstone.

Focal Plane – June 2016

Convention 2016

A first-time convention-goer

By the time the plane landed at Queenstown airport I think I already had about a 150 images on my card. Passing over Franz Joseph glacier and the majestic Southern Alps was an opportunity not to be missed. My first Photographic Society of NZ (PSNZ) Convention during Anzac weekend this year, on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, was going to be one to remember. I had workshops booked with some of New Zealand's most loved photographers: Andris Apse and Jackie Rankin.

Jackie was the first to speak on the opening night on Friday with a presentation I would call 'I love black and white'. Her enthusiasm for her art was so infectious, it set the scene for a long weekend of everything photography. Later that night Andris Apse regaled us with the stories behind some of his most iconic images. One image in particular nearly cost him his life as the helicopters' engines cut out in the gale force wind hovering over stormy seas. All in a bid for the best angle of a boat set against a backdrop of crashing waves. Just before the pilot regained control the last thought going through Andris's mind was 'bugger, no one's ever going to see these pictures!' An artist to the bitter end!

"Caught in the Moment" was the theme the Queenstown Photography Club chose for the 64th Convention for the PSNZ. It was held at the recently built Remarkables Primary School which turned out to be the perfect venue with

the entire rooftop available to photograph the surrounding landscape. The images of those who placed in the National Exhibition (Natex) were on show, as well as the portfolios of those who achieved their PSNZ honours. Seeing the standard expected of the print portfolios, in the flesh so to speak, was invaluable for anyone wishing to add a few more letters after their name.



Saturday was the day for seminars, visiting the trade stands and mingling with fellow photographers. There were outstanding international speakers who gave inspiring talks about their photographic journeys and the highs and lows of life behind a lens. Graeme Murry, a Red Bull photographer, shared 'My Story' and it turned out his signature style was 'the angle'. A Canon 5d tapped to 3 meter pole was the way to get an angle for an image

Focal Plane – June 2016

that would leave you wondering how he did it. Johannes van Kan, wedding photographer extraordinaire told us his pathway to glory was all due to the collapse of a flimsy tripod that led to an image that won a Gold in the 2004 NZIPP. Nick Rains, an Australian pro travel documentary photographer, shared a tip after 30 years in the game of waiting for the moment to come to you. Once again we hear of the old adage that patience is the photographer's friend.



Sunday was a day of field trips. They were so well organised that the day ran like clockwork and was thoroughly enjoyable. Some were off to Skippers Canyon, photo-shoots were held at an old bar in town, Chard Farm

Winery for wedding shots and other classic Queenstown destinations. My trip to Deer Park Heights with Andris Apse in the morning changed my perspective for landscape photography. Five minutes with a master was better than trying to read 5 books on the subject. To be able to see what he looked for in a landscape image, and to set the camera up to capture it, became noticeable when I got home to process the images. I could look at some of my previous work and think, wow, before / after.

The CR Kennedy Honours Banquet, where the awards are presented, was at Millennium Hotel on the Sunday night. A black tie event gave everyone a chance to put on their glad-rags and dance the night away. The food during the entire weekend was outstanding and the atmosphere, with so many like minded individuals, made it a weekend I was glad to have made the effort for. With so many talented speakers and an opportunity to have workshop tuition with them made the weekend incredible value for money.

For a first timer like me, it left an indelible impression of a feast in every way. Images and stories from masters of their art to inspire those with long term artist's block. There were opportunities to talk to any one of them for tips that may have taken ages to learn. There was a literal feast of food that was fit for a king and of course the images. Images that were proof of improvement and certainly not the last I'll be taking at Conventions!

Lezanne Gibbs



Lezanne Gibbs

Convention 2017

Planning for the 2017 PSNZ National Convention continues and is proceeding well. We are now in the process of finalising our guest speakers and discussing with them the topics they would like to present. We have some excellent photographers lined up and have provided everyone snippets of their work through the great AV that Karen Lawton has put together.

Mark and Grant have done some excellent work in scouting out potential field trips. We are trying to make these consistent with our convention theme of “photography on the edge” and ensure there will be something to tempt our Auckland based delegates.

Yesterday a number of the committee visited Waipuna Convention Centre, our chosen venue, and were all excited about the prospect of holding our event there next year. Based on feedback from APS members that have attended past conventions, we are certain that a dedicated convention space based at Waipuna will provide the environment for a great convention.

Roger is now putting the final touches to the programme, which now compressed to three days rather than four as has been the norm (note the 2016 convention in Queenstown was also 3 days) has set some challenges for us. However Roger’s planning will ensure a successful outcome.

John is now fine tuning our budget with PSNZ such that we will cover our costs and hopefully have a surplus that we can share between APS and PSNZ.

Focal Plane – June 2016

Karen is also heading up our sponsorship programme. We have identified a number of companies that we would like to approach. However we always welcome ideas from our APS members about companies or organisations to talk to about sponsorship.

Rounding out our team is Joan who provides excellent secretarial support and keeps us all on track and focussed during our committee meetings.

We are also lucky to have Doug Crutch and Marlise Shadbolt (both from the Henderson Club) working with us. As you may know Henderson will be hosting the Natex exhibition. Next year's Natex will be the largest photographic exhibition in NZ and we plan to make the most of this and publicise the convention and Natex far and wide across Auckland.

Also this year we will be hosting an International Salon exhibition in conjunction with the convention. Tony Gorham is helping out with this. He has informed me that the organisers are expecting over 1000 entries over four categories, so there will be plenty of great images to view.

Lastly we showed our AV at the Queenstown convention in April. Grant and Mark attended the convention and had some promising discussions with our key sponsors and PSNZ council members.

We are confident that the 2017 convention will be a highlight of the photographic year and a prestige event for APS to be involved in.

We are still looking for more helpers and will be shoulder tapping a number of APS members that have indicated they would like to help out over the next few months.

Colin Kropach Chairman 2017 PSN National Convention Organising Committee

May Workshop at Kingsize Studio. Portraits and Studio Lighting.

About 30 APS members showed up on May 5th for this presentation and introduction to Kingsize Studios by Christian Espinoza.

Christian started by showing us a collection of inspirational portrait work by some of the world's top photographers. With our Portrait Competition coming up in September, these superb images provided good motivation.

We were then treated to practical demonstrations using stand mounted Studio Flash units. First with a large soft box light positioned very close to the models head to give soft defused light. Christian spoke about how shadows on a face make it more interesting and showed us ways to achieve three-dimensional appearance by including additional light positions and

Focal Plane – June 2016



Christian demonstrating studio lighting.

Photo by Scott Neill

using various modifiers and reflectors. Background/hair/accent lights with modifiers such as honeycomb grids and barn doors for light control were introduced with the aim of achieving an agreeable balance of light and shadow.

Christian told us that Studio Flash lights are usually the best choice for portrait photography because they are much more powerful than continuous lights and don't generate uncomfortable heat levels characteristic of incandescent lights. LED light is cool but both of these continuous light forms require longer shutter speeds and/or larger apertures and this combination often results in blurred images when using live subjects.

Some members brought cameras along and were able to take few shots with the lighting set-up.

A huge thank you from APS to Kingsize Studios for doing this for us free of charge – and especially Christian Espinoza for his knowledgeable and easy to follow presentation from which we gained so much. Special thanks to our impromptu models too!

Kingsize are offering APS package deals for small groups interested in gaining more experience and knowledge in studio work. This will be emailed out to members when the date is confirmed. For more on Kingsize Studio visit their website www.kingsize.co.nz or their Club at <http://kingsizestudios.com/pages/join-the-club>

John Walrond

Celebrating Success and Achievement:

We congratulate Moira

“PSNZ is the parent body of 70 plus affiliated camera clubs in New Zealand. They have a proud history spanning over 50 years and they also hold a wonderful collection of photographs spanning these decades. PSNZ are basically there to support clubs who run events on their behalf, offer the Honours system, publish a beautiful coffee table book of members work and to train judges.

It is very special for APS to have Moira Blincoe LPSNZ representing our club at national council level. Moira has recently been named as the Vice President of PSNZ so our club can be very proud of this achievement. Moira will be your voice on council so any issues you might have speak to Moira. By issues I also mean fresh ideas, not just complaints!

APS pay an affiliation fee to PSNZ but as an individual member of PSNZ you receive additional benefits such as a discount on convention next year and being eligible to submit to the NZ Camera book. Check out the website and join up if you haven't already - www.photography.org.nz

Moira has a strong background in Publicity and Marketing as well as running her own photography business so has many skills to take to the table. Please support her these next four years.”

Lynn Clayton



Focal Plane – June 2016

Hats off to Lynn

Recently at the PSNZ Convention in Queenstown, *Lynn Clayton* was awarded the prestigious - Honorary Membership of PSNZ.

Lynn is a valued member of APS and her list of success and awards are impressive - surpassed only by her passion for her art. She has been heard to say “*Photography is who I am*”. It is certainly true to say that her passion and enthusiasm are infectious to all who engage her in things photographic. Lynn began her interest in photography back in the days of the Box Brownie little knowing where her interest would take her. In 1998 she received her Associateship Award (APSNZ) and in 2008 she was awarded a PSNZ Service medal for her contribution to Photography. She has also been awarded her (EFIAP) Excellence FIAP in 2005, and in 2014 her ESFIAP for services rendered to photography on an international scale.

On a local level Lynn was instrumental in establishing one of the country’s most recognized and successful photographic salons – North Shore Photographic Salon. Also, Lynn has served in numerous administrative positions on the PSNZ Council over a period of 8 years. She has been particularly successful as the PSNZ marketing and sponsorship specialist negotiating and sealing the long term sponsorship of PSNZ activities by

Canon. In 2002 she was elected as President – a position she held for 2 years and she served a further 2 years as Immediate Past President. Lynn is also a prolific judge. She has been selector for National and International Salons over many years and continues to do so.

Our congratulations Lynn – we are proud to have you as a member of APS.

Karin Charteris

Editor’s note

Many thanks to the members who have contributed their thoughts, ideas and copy to this edition of Focal Plane. The task of attempting to, in some way, fill Karen’s shoes in the position of editor was quite daunting. However, everybody has been most supportive and generous with their assistance. My intention is to have as many contributors as possible thereby covering a range of topics and points of interest. If you have some ideas, photos or opinions to share with fellow club members, I would love to hear from you at focalplane@aps.net.nz

...and, by the way. Something Bev Winstone didn’t mention, one of her images was awarded first place in the competition on Great Barrier. Well done Bev.