



Presidents Address



Hello and welcome to the June 2008 edition of Focal Plane and the first edition as the newly elected President of the Society. I hope to live up to the high standards set by the Immediate Past Presidents Chris Morton and Robert Jaques, and look forward to working with the Committee who are very dedicated and

supportive to myself and to the Society – especially now a budding young photographer has been born into the Glover household.

It turns out that Robert and I are keeping the President's position "in the family" so-to-speak as he and I are second cousins.

For the short term I will remain as Digital Convenor mainly because I enjoy seeing what members are submitting to our competition nights and I am committed to seeing the Society known for its high quality images in the digital projection medium. I will talk about that in detail later in this Focal Plane.

In the immediate future, APS has a number of workshops that I think will be very interesting and informative to you all including Macro Photography, Landscape Photography and Portrait Photography from some of our most experienced and accomplished members. Members giving a workshop often do so freely, so I encourage members to show their support and take up the opportunity to learn new techniques and ideas for little outlay.

So once again, hello and welcome, I look forward meeting you all in due course.

Brent Glover

Competitions

The Bowron Landscape Inter-club digital Competition and the George Chance Landscape Interclub Print Competition is being convened this year by the Pukekohe Franklin Camera Club.

The Auckland Photographic Society happens to be very good at Landscapes and we are calling for entries from members.

4 prints by four photographers and similarly 4 digital images from four photographers are required for APS to enter each media category.

The rules for this competition have been posted on the following [url](http://www.photography.org.nz/bowron_rules.htm) link... http://www.photography.org.nz/bowron_rules.htm.

We would like to see members of all grades submitting work for these competitions.

Digital Images and must be submitted to the Digital Convenor on or before the 17th July competition night and be no more than 1024x768px in a sRGB gamut.

Printed images can vary in size according to the rules but for the Society to submit a consistent body of work it is preferable to submit all images on the same mounting size. To that end we would like to hear from all members interested in submitting a print. Please contact the President (Brent Glover 021 847456 or preferably president@aps.net.nz) by 17th July (a competition night) to give enough time for image selections and mounting.

Images put forward by members will go into a pool to be selected by committee or impartial judge.

Workshops

*We have some very interesting workshops planned this year and into February next year. Check out the **calendar** section of our web site <http://www.aps.net.nz> for a complete list of workshops planned.*

In July, Robert Jaques will hold a workshop to do with Macro Photography. Macro images can be very exciting as it often explores and area of photography we cannot necessarily see well with the human eye.

In August, a panel of our most accomplished photographers will be exploring the world of Landscape Photography. APS traditionally has been very strong on Landscapes. Here is an opportunity for members to get ideas and hints on this aspect of photography.

In September, Hans Weichselbaum will be giving an advanced course on Photoshop CS2/CS3 in areas such as masking and layering, advanced sharpening and RAW conversion. There will be a cover charge for this night (we expect this to be \$20).



In October, John McCallum will be holding a workshop in Black and White Photography. John gave a riveting workshop on B&W photography a few years ago and we have a rare chance to hear and see John's passion on the topic again.

In November, Lisa Crandell will repeat her workshop on Portrait Photography. Members are encouraged to bring their camera kit and try some of the techniques Lisa talks about on the day/night. Last year's workshop was packed and this year will be no different.

Location Suitability

The Society is seeing a packed room at workshops and competition nights regularly. The Committee is aware of how tight things can be and has been discussing the suitability of our present location at St. Lukes Church. We will continue to monitor the situation but we are investigating alternative locations that have more parking and seating capacity.

Printed Imagery

The committee has received some very interesting correspondence from members over the last few months including a very good question regarding "multiple images" (e.g. diptych and triptych) submitted as a single body of work.

Reading the rules it is a little unclear as to what is allowable and the Committee have now met and discussed the question.



To clarify: Multiple images may be submitted as a single body of work provided all images do not go below the minimum or maximum mounting size requirement. All images displayed on the single body of work must have a common theme such that each image compliments one another.

We have also received a question regarding why our maximum mat board dimensions exceed that of PSNZ and other clubs. To clarify, in this new digital age where a good portion of members now have A3 and A3+ printers, the Committee of the day recognized this fact and allowed members to submit images of this format with a reasonable border. Check out what those dimensions are in the monthly competition rules

document under the **rules** section of our web site <http://www.aps.net.nz>.

The APS maximum mount dimensions do not constrain members from submitting PSNZ or other club sized prints at APS competition nights.

A question has also been raised why we only have three award grades at our competition nights. In fact we have four, PASS, ACCEPTED, HIGHLY COMMENDED, and HONOURS. These days we see less PASS grades issued if at all.

The PASS is an opportunity for a photographer to take the image away and have a go at making changes the judge of the night suggests and then resubmitting at a later point.

For those that gain honours prints at competition nights and would like to have them displayed on the web site, please email a jpeg of the image to our webmaster@aps.net.nz by the following Saturday.

Digital Imagery

Some of you may have noticed we are trying to improve the highlight blowout issue of the current data projector. Some members have stopped submitting images in this media because of the problem.

For the immediate term, all laptops have been colour calibrated and significant testing with the projector has and will continue to be a work in progress. For members who attended the June competition night you would have noticed the new titles between grades and the calibration images.

For the medium to long term we are also investigating upgrading the projector with a preference for accurate colour and contrast display. We will keep you posted.

Be careful when converting your images from the RAW format to JPEG or other file format. The import process usually embeds a colour space like "sRGB", "AdobeRGB", "colour match" or "proPhoto". Incorrect colour spaces can produce washed out images when projecting or printing on a computer system not under your control or is outside the colour gamut of the printer or projector.

For best results at APS and other society competition nights, digital images should only be submitted in sRGB and officially should not exceed 1024px wide by 768px high.



APS Web Site

The APS web site is your first and best port of call to obtain information about the Society.

The site has almost reached its size capacity before we have to pay money and the committee is now taking steps to archive off older images in the gallery onto another hosting platform. The site as it stands will remain the same, and the archived images will still be available albeit slower to be viewed and will not necessarily be available for browsing 100% of the time.

We are also looking at ways to improve email communications to the committee members and steps to improve submittal of Digital images for competition nights. It is our hope to enable members to submit images to the convenor via the web site directly rather than having to know the convenors email address.

Member Watch

Watch out for Issue #20 of the Life & leisure magazine (July/August 2008) for a big write-up about our very own Immediate Past President Chris Morton. Chris has been gallivanting about the world photographing UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Members will get an opportunity to quiz Chris at the Landscapes workshop later in the year!