

Focal Plane January 2013



A few words from the APS President

Once again I would like to welcome you all to APS.

I hope you all had a great summer break and are ready for this year's photography challenges.

It was great to see so many of you come along to our annual End of Year competition and function, it's a wonderful opportunity so recap on some of the years images and relax a bit.

The Muriwai trip in October with Lynn Clayton and Chris Piper was a real big hit, thanks to all who came, we need to do it again. Watch out for more outings this year and don't forget you can make suggestions.

From me another big thank you to all the existing and new members, committee and helpers, without you the club could not function.

I spent time in Melbourne this summer; I love that city, it has so much diversity, not only its inhabitants, architecture & landscape but also in its climate. And as much as the trip was not purely my photographic journey I did take as many opportunities as I could to indulge without boring my husband too much. I think he was rather pleased once we hired bicycles as it was more difficult for me to stop and photograph points of interest so I did stop less often.



Good luck to you all this year.

Cheers

Sandrina

Street photography is my pet subject at the moment and I did get brave on a few occasions to ask permission to photograph someone we had met along our way. Not easy for me but it's been a great experience and in all cases the people I asked said "yes".

It did cross my mind though that Auckland has many interesting places to investigate also, we just need to look at our environment from a visitors point of view, ideal for the "travel" subject this coming February.

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Question of the Quarter

In the October 2012 edition of Focal Plane I asked the question:

‘Should Open category entries be permitted every competition night or should we have a separate Open themes judging night?’

I received no responses to this. Which begs the question really – do I persist with the Question of the Quarter? Is anybody interested? Did the Question make you think about the subject, even if it did not encourage you to share a response in writing?

What do you think?

Update: I received the following response today [21st January] after I wrote the paragraph above. Thank you Bryan, you always manage to make the effort to give a measured and thoughtful response to the Q of the Q.....

I understand the reasoning behind reducing allowable entries, but I do not agree with it. The club should be encouraging members to create and show more images, not the opposite. It is an important part of the learning process.

As membership continues to grow so will image entries and the same time issues on competition nights will arise again. The first meeting of 2013 finished closer to 10:30pm than 10:00pm and was attended by half a dozen visitors/potential new members, so it seems the problem has already caught up with us. An increase in the number of competition nights is inevitable.

Entering Open rather than Set subjects may not necessarily indicate a lack of purpose but rather a lack of interest in the Set subjects. I don't think excluding Open images as a means of reducing numbers is a good idea. Members should be free to follow their own "muse", photographing and entering whatever they choose.

I also would not like to see a print versus digital split. I would prefer an open/set split, but not as a means to reduce entries, but to encourage more, including prints, spread over 2 competition nights. My suggestion:

2 competition nights per month: 1 Open and 1 Set subject

3 entries (max) per month

If 3 images are entered, at least 1 must be digital or print and 1 must be open or set.

The inherent problems are not insurmountable:

Finding 2 judges a month; North Shore and Howick seem to manage. Perhaps this is an opportunity to promote our up and coming judges.

Additional costs; certainly, but I'm sure the club is large and financial enough to cope if the need is justified. Perhaps casual nights, which aren't now being used, could be utilised. Bryan Lay Yee

Upcoming Competitions

Canon Online Competition: The 1st Round for 2013 closes **midnight 25th February 2013**. Check out the details and the rationale behind his annual competition here: http://www.photography.org.nz/canon_online.html

Natex: In 2013, the National Exhibition (NATEX) will be held in Wellington from the 1st to 5th May and will be convened by the Kapiti Coast Photographic Society. Entries for NATEX 2013 open on 7 January 2013 and close on 6 March 2013.

For full NATEX and National Convention information, go to:

<http://kcps.org.nz/natex2013/>

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Competition Results

Liz Hardley received three Honours in the 2012 43rd Dunedin Festival of Photography (two in Photojournalism Prints - The Window Cleaner and First Swimmer Home) and one in Projected Images (In the Zone).



First Swimmer Home



In the Zone



The Window Cleaner

Club News

New Members

Welcome to the following new members of Auckland Photographic Society [apologies to anyone whose name I have missed]:

Dave Cole and Roy Cernohorsky

D Photo

APS appeared as the feature Club in a recent edition of DPhoto. This is a regular article spot that profiles regional clubs. A reprint of the article can be accessed here on the APS website: <http://www.aps.net.nz/2013/01/aps-features-in-d-photo-issue-51/>

Re-grading

At the conclusion of each calendar year, the APS Committee looks at the results achieved by members through the years' Club and other competitions. As a result the following members have been promoted from Novice grade to Advanced grade:

Dhamidhu Eratne

Murray Sarelius

Bridget Rule

Sarah Wells

John Walrond

Craig Chalmers

Tony Gorham

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Gaylene Heydon

Jo McCarthy

Michael Danesh-Meyer

These members have been promoted from Advanced grade to Salon grade:

Trevor Lowe

Faye Hayman

Idil Gaziulusoy

Upcoming Workshops

February 2013: Michael Mannion will present a workshop on image preparation which will include mat making.

This workshop will be aimed at new members who wish to enter images in the APS print and digital competitions and beyond. Topics covered will be:

- Capturing the image – jpeg versus raw files
- Printing your own images
- Mat mounting method
- Preparing images for digital presentation
- Resizing images for APS digital competitions
- Relationship of DPI in image files
- An overview of image editing software

Michael will display the tools required for mat mounting.

March 2013: Macro workshop with Andrew Simpson and Sandrina Huish.

The macro workshop will explore the basics of the genre and key elements of macro photography such as managing limited depth of field [including focus

stacking]. Alternative methods such as using a normal lens to take a macro image including the reverse lens technique will ensure this workshop has relevance for a wide range of members. The workshop will be a practical session where techniques discussed can be applied. A number of experienced macro photographers will be on hand to assist during the practical session. Attendees should bring their own camera and a tripod if they have one.

Sandrina's image [below] was taken using the reverse lens technique – a 50mm lens tapped lens onto the camera in reverse.



April 2013: to be confirmed

Upcoming Competition night set subjects

February 2013: Travel

'Travel' does not imply a restriction to images from exotic international holiday destinations. Most of us travel somewhere, every day....so be lateral, treat this as an opportunity to consider travel in its broadest interpretation.

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March 2013: Street Photography

Simply put, the main focus of street photography is taking the everyday and the mundane and making it into something unique and beautiful. You may be interested to follow a link or two.....

<http://www.lfph.org/what-is-street-photography>

<http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2008/12/14/the-beauty-of-street-photography/>

<http://photo.net/learn/street/intro>

April 2013: Natural history

Strict PSNZ guidelines will be applied to this set subject in the hope that we will discover images worthy of entry into the annual Trena Packer Salver national competition. You can access the PSNZ natural history guidelines here:

<http://www.naturephotography.org.nz/pdfs/trenna-packer-Nat-History-Rules.pdf>

You can see last year's winning images at:

http://www.naturephotography.org.nz/events/trenna_packer_salver.aspx

Image size on the website

Concern has been raised about the size of images displayed on the website. Currently they are 900pixels on the longest edge @72dpi. This makes the images on the website larger and clearer than the previous sizing of 300pixels on the longest side.

The 'right click' to save option is NOT available so images cannot be copied from the site. If any Honours recipients are not happy to have their image displayed at the revised size, please submit a smaller image to the Web Master.

Competition Night Digital image size

As of 2013 APS will update our digital image competition size to stay in line with the PSNZ requirements. The new maximum size will be 1920pixels on the horizontal edge and 1080pixels on the vertical edge.

Images may be smaller but must not exceed these dimensions.

In addition, the print registrations thumbnail sizing will go up from 300pixels on the longest side to 900pixels on the longest side.

Events

Club outing - NZ Classic Car Show February 9th 2013

Tony Gorham has arranged a photographic outing in conjunction with the NZ Classic Car Show. The organisers have agreed to allow APS members early access (before the crowds make photography impossible).

The show will have a lot of cars in their very best condition - polished and looking great so some really great photo ops. Once the crowds arrive the people photography aspects are added so there should be lots to keep everyone interested.



Where: Ellerslie Racecourse

When: Feb 9th @ 7:00

Register here: <http://www.aps.net.nz/event-registration>

Cost for entry is \$15. Show gates open at 10am but contestants arrive from 6:30am onwards so it's an early start.

See <http://www.concours.org.nz/> for more info on the event.

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The new APS Website

Tony Gorham has provided the following information about the newly re-launched APS website.....

Welcome to the APS website

The APS website has been going through a refresh recently. At the same time we have added some new features. Working through the process I found many resources available to club members that you might not be aware of, so here is my I quick start guide.

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The essentials of the home page:

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The screenshot shows the homepage of the Auckland Photographic Society Inc. website. The layout includes a header with the society's logo and name, a search bar, a navigation menu, a main content area with a featured article and a large image, a sidebar with polls and recent posts, and a footer with social media links and copyright information. Numbered callouts (1-8) are placed over various elements: 1. Search bar; 2. Home link in the navigation menu; 3. Next meeting announcement; 4. Polls section; 5. End of Year Competition results link; 6. Focal Plane Survey section; 7. Recent Posts section; 8. Recent Flickr Photos section.

1 SEARCH

Auckland Photographic Society Inc.
Promoting the art and science of photography since 1883

2 Home Events Calendar Resources » Galleries » Achievements Join APS About Us » Forums Login

3 Home

3 Next meeting: 17 January 2013 **COMPETITION NIGHT: Doors and – or Stairs and Ten Competition**

Venue : St Pauls Methodist Church Hall, 12 St Vincent Avenue, Remuera – Doors open 7:30pm, 2012

End of Year Competition **Results** now online click here **EOY 2012**

5

4 **POLLS**

How do you feel about the current limit of 2 entries per month to the Monthly APS contest?

It's just right (33%, 8 Votes)

It's not enough (47%, 7 Votes)

It's too many (20%, 0 Votes)

Total Voters: 15

6 **FOCAL PLANE SURVEY**

Please give us your **feedback**.

7 **RECENT POSTS**

Flickr

wildlife photography workshop – 1st of November at 7:45pm

Focal Plane Survey

The all new website

APS Night time photography trip – North Head June 06 2013

8 **RECENT FLICKR PHOTOS**

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2

3

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1 Search

Type a search term and click the search button to find any posts on that subject. For example, let's say you know that you went to Lynn's outing to Muriwai and you want to see the original post and any comments that have been added. You could type Muriwai and click search and you'll get a list of all posts on the APS website that reference Muriwai.

2 The navigation menu

This is how you move to other pages on the site. You'll notice that if you put your mouse over items with a >> at the end of the name like Galleries a sub menu will open.

To go to any page just click on it.

3 Coming up

Usually we place info here on the next APS event or competition.

4 Polls

We are running polls to get a snapshot of members' views on a range of topics. You can vote by choosing an option and clicking vote.

5 Latest images gallery

After each APS competition the honours images are loaded onto the web site. (If you don't want your image on the site simply let us know when you submit your entry). For the next month they will show as a slideshow on the homepage. They also get added to a gallery for that month which you can find by clicking Galleries, choosing a year and then selecting a gallery to view.

6 Surveys

We also run surveys and at the moment we want your feedback on Focal

Plane, the official club newsletter. Surveys let us get far more information than a poll and let you type a more detailed response.

7 Recent Posts

As we add news items to the website they are categorised. To see all posts just go to the Blog; this can be found under resources. Items that are APS specific such as upcoming club outings will show here and on the homepage to draw attention to them.

8 Recent Flickr Photos

The site links to the APS group in Flickr and shows the last eight images posted.

Using the APS web site

Registering for the APS website

We ask all members to register on the website. We collect your latest membership info at this point and then we cross check your membership. If you are a paying member then we activate your account which lets you access additional content. At the moment not much is behind this security wall other than result sheets for APS contests but over time we will move more content to the private area. Also, forums require you to be a registered site user.

Please be sure to register - just go to the Login page and if you are not registered you will see the register link. www.aps.net.nz/register will take you straight there.

Getting Interaction with our members

We have two types of content on the website: Pages and Posts. A page is where we place static content like club rules and resource info. **Posts are interactive!**

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When you read a post you can also post feedback and make comments, simply type your reply at the bottom of the screen under “Leave a Reply” and click Post Comment.

There are a couple of options there so before you click post decide if you want to get an email when other members comment. You can opt back out of these emails later but rather than checking back when you post a question, you can ask the site to email you when another member posts a reply.

Forums

The forums are a place to go wild. Not only can you reply to posts that we make, you can start your own posts in the forums and ask a question or make an announcement. Want to sell something to other club members? Post it to the for sale area.

Forums are organised into sections such as Gear, Canon, Nikon, Pentax, Sony so that you can get to the content you are interested in easily and share info just as easily. If you think we need more sections just email webmaster@aps.net.nz.

Blog

As we make posts on the website we categorise them - so you can easily find external competitions, news, special events like Nikon nights and of course every issue of Focal Plane is also available online.

Club Resources

The best thing for me about working on the new website was that as a new member I was forced to read everything. I found that we have books, DVDs and magazines available to borrow for FREE (<http://www.aps.net.nz/resources/>). It's well worth looking at what we have.

Events Calendar

Ok not new, but improved. The new site allows committee members to edit and look after their own content. We are all still learning but Bridget has picked up the ball and run with it. The Event calendar now has info on upcoming outings and much more info on guest speakers with links to their work and sample images to help give you a flavour of what's coming. 2013 is looking amazing so be sure to check it out <http://www.aps.net.nz/calendar/>.

Club Rules

If you are new to the club and thinking of submitting your first entry into one of the monthly competitions, just read the rules <http://www.aps.net.nz/rules/> and you'll have a great feel for how to go about submitting your entry. You'll notice that we have galleries of all the images that gained honours during judging. If you don't want your image to be displayed on the website, be sure to note this with your submission.

PSNZ News

PSNZ National Convention – Wellington, 1-5 May 2013

Don't forget to register for the 61st National Convention of the Photographic Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) which will be held at the Wellington Town Hall, 1 – 5 May 2013.

‘Positively Photography Wellington’ will offer photographers of all status an excellent opportunity for learning new skills, increasing technical knowledge, networking with like-minded people and participating in workshops and field trips.

An outstanding lineup of speakers and workshop presenters are confirmed, including Amos Chapple, Peter Dobre, Norm Heke, Camus Wyatt and Liu Heung Shing from Hong Kong.

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There are many half-day workshops to choose from covering topics such as lighting on location, photographing architecture and documentary style projects. Full day field trips will take in the Wairarapa, Kapiti Island nature reserve, Wellington – City and surrounds, as well as an afternoon trip to Quarantine Island.

The National Exhibition will be held in conjunction with this annual convention – if you haven't entered, then start planning your entries now.

For more information on Positively Photography Wellington and to register online, go to www.positivelyphotography.org.nz

Member Watch

Congratulations to **Karin Charteris** and **Liz Hardley** who were awarded the FIAP distinction of AFIAP and to **Brian Cudby** who was awarded the EFIAP in December 2012. The awards will be formally presented at the PSNZ National Convention in Wellington in May 2013.

Liz provides the following information:

'What is the AFIAP?

The first FIAP distinction is the AFIAP (Artiste Federation Internationale de L'Art Photographique). To qualify for this distinction a photographer must have a FIAP Photographer's Life Card and is required to have had success in Salons conducted under FIAP patronage for at least one year. The candidate must have at least 30 acceptances at a minimum of 10 different FIAP salons, across a minimum of five different countries and with at least 10 different images. There is also a PSNZ requirement for a candidate to be a PSNZ member, to have had five or more acceptances at PSNZ National Salons (NATEX) and make available – over time - at least three of their best images to the PSNZ for FIAP Biennials and/or Trans-Tasman and/or other international events.

The second FIAP distinction is the EFIAP (Excellence Federation Internationale de L'Art Photographique). This is awarded to a holder of an AFIAP (for at least one year) who has had at least 150 acceptances at a minimum 30 different Salons conducted under FIAP patronage, across a minimum of fifteen different countries and with at least 50 different images. After achieving an EFIAP there are also further levels which recognize continuing salon successes.

Further information is on the PSNZ website:
<http://www.photography.org.nz/fiap.html>

Printing Solution: In October we listed a few print suppliers for those members [like me] who do not print their own images.I have been recommended another supplier:.....check out Biz Dojo Co.Space for your printing needs....as their advert says "Biz Dojo....offers the tools to help achieve your creative vision." contact jess@bizdojo.com

Focal Plane

Remember if you have something that you feel may be of interest to your fellow Focal Plane readers, please drop an email to the Editor c/- karen@istari.co.nz

The Bit at the End [aka Editorial Musings]

I have been musing about Vision.....

No, not photographic vision. More the concept of strategic Vision [yes, capital 'V'].

Would APS benefit from formulating, articulating and circulating a Vision for the Club? APS may be a member run, not for profit organization, but the bank balance is healthy [largely due to the very successful Northern Region Convention that APS hosted in 2010. Along with my fellow Convention committee members the profit generated from that Convention was hard work. We would all vouch for that].

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Given that the Club's annual subscription fees basically cover the annual outgoings, the reserve fund could be attributed to Well to what.....To undertaking activities that put an articulated Vision in to practice.

For that to happen, the Club's Executive needs to give thought to the formulation of a strategic plan for the next 5 to 10 years. Don't run for the hills at the mention of a strategic plan – this does not imply huge tomes of business speak. It could be a concise A4 page of pertinent bullet points to move the Club into a phase of educational and exhibition development perhaps. If APS is going to move into those realms, let's make sure it does so in a measured and planned way, to create the most [enduring] benefit for the membership.

I understand that the majority of the membership in many Club situations is happy with the status quo – and if they aren't they either get involved at committee level or vote with their feet and leave, find a Club that more closely fits their needs. Or no Club at all if there is no fit.

However I do believe there is room for innovation within APS and that any Club member who has any thoughts about the current and potential future directions we should be considering should articulate those ideas.

Perhaps this would cover points such as the ideal membership number for APS – after all, growth for growths' sake is not ideal. We ran out of visitor badges at the first meeting on January 17th and it is great to see so much new interest in the Club. But we are also struggling with high numbers of entries on competition nights. When I joined APS – not that long ago – we could enter up to four images each competition night [2 print, 2 digital]. Now we are down to two in total. The primary result for members is that not so many of their images can undergo expert, external scrutiny. And having images subject to that scrutiny is a primary way to learn about photography. Perhaps too this Vision could look at whether the aim is to generate profit from which to provide better education and experiential opportunities for members or whether breaking even is the most desirable means to ensure Club continuity.

Planning is always an iterative process. Is it time to take the process out to the membership?

As before, comments welcome