

Melbourne Photographic Society – AGM 2017

Presidents Report

This is my first year as President, and with a new committee in place, it has taken a while to get processes established and running. It is important that the stability provided by previous committees is continued and built on, in order to maintain the longevity of our society.

I propose to look at our key areas of activity within the society.

Exhibitions. This is the secretaries first year in post, and during that period, there have been four exhibitions held, including a new event at Calke Abbey. Support and footfall in all of these events was good, but did not convert itself into new membership in 2017. The change in venue at the Melbourne Art Festival provided access to considerably more visitors, and is planned to be used again this year. The Chellaston Carnival entry will not be followed up this year.

Competitions, Simon has taken on the mantle of Competition Secretary and has continued the standards of delivery set by the last incumbent. The new approach to selection seems to have been proven to have worked well for external competitions, with continued good results. Both internal and external competitions are well supported by the membership and the quality of the images entered certainly seems to be showing improvement.

Financially we continue to perform well, with controlled expenditure and some strong fund raising by a small team. Between Alan, Lorraine and on occasions John more than £700 has been raised for the society by the fund-raising team. For this we must all say a big thank you for their leadership in this key area. This has put us in a good position to move forward into the next season.

Committee meetings are managed by the secretary, and for the last three years Ken has undertaken this role, often behind the scenes. Thank You.

Ian has fulfilled the role of programme secretary and vice president through the year, and has worked hard to deliver the programme that meets everyone's photographic expectations, and without repetition from previous years. Without Ian dedication to this we would not see as many interesting speakers. He is actively working to draw up a programme for next years season, and will be handing this over to the new programme secretary. Good Luck with the impending retirement.

Membership is slightly below last year's peak, with several long established members not renewing this membership last year.

In conclusion 2017 has been a year of transition & stabilisation, which has run relatively smoothly. I Must say it has been a privilege to be President of the Society this year, and to serve you all.

Paul Cooper