

This is my second report as the President of Melbourne Photographic Society. The last season has been one characterised by successful activity. I must thank you all for your participation and support during the last year. I think it would be right to briefly reflect on the key areas.

Our programme of activity was transitioned from Ian to John Z and has continued to operate to the high standards set by Ian, albeit with an odd hiccup here or there. We recovered well from these and have offered a full range of activities throughout the year. The requested summer programme was not always been well supported as in previous years, and we should perhaps reflect how we move forward in October following the execution of this summers programme. The trips away have been well supported by a common core group, but I think we need to be mindful of this polarising into a travel group that is accessible only to those members who do not have work commitments.

The Competitions have gone smoothly, with events managed in a pragmatic way, that I think all of us appreciate. The revised approach to selection has proved interesting, and has enabled members to feel part of the selection process. The support for competitions has been growing, with huge number of members entering both PDI and prints for selection.

The Exhibitions have proven successful throughout the year, both in terms of footfall, spreading the message and fund raising. The addition of the third event at Swarkstone, saw a good footfall, and spread out the events away from being clustered in just the summer months. I feel we should increase these early and late events if at all possible, as in reality this is where much of our programme is located.

There have been a very small number of complaints from members around the sale of members work at these events, and I would be interested to hear if this felt more widely by the membership or is limited to a very small number of members.

We should not forget that the society is for everyone, and not just the committee. This means that we all enjoy the benefits as well of the pains and challenges of our activities. As an example, setting out the hall for a nights meeting, is not a privilege of being on committee. Its back breaking work in order to get this set up for the enjoyment of the membership. Support for exhibitions and fund raising can on occasions be limited when it comes running the event on the day. As this is a members society, can I ask that you all contribute in the execution of our programme rather than leaving to the elected few, who like the rest of you are volunteers, who give their time freely to arrange the running of the society.

European Legislation even manages to reach into the world of our members club. Our data is subject to the same scrutiny as the large corporates and the data that we hold has to be managed by the same principals set about the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that is coming into force now. Going forward we need your annual approval to store and use your contact details etc for notifying you of events. We have already set the process in place to ensure that the emails details are only visible to myself and Alan as treasurer. The membership forms for 2018/19 will be modified to give this approval. This also means that the list of past and potential members is no longer usable and will be closed down by the end of the month. Web pages on the site and social media sites that provide members contact details and names will be purged out during the coming month to comply with the needs of the legislation. We are taking advise at present as to how long we can store competition results etc, as this relates to individuals and their performance. This is without doubt going to make following up on the next hundred years difficult to say the least. The rules apply to everyone now, and rules that have been set to prevent the continued abuse of personal data by direct marketing organisations, organised crime, big data companies and social media giants effect even us with very small online presence.

On the financial position, we have continued to grow with the fund raising targets exceeded and the fact that the 2018 programme had a lower budget than forecast. Firstly, well done to Alan who has worked hard to gather in the monies and work actively as a member of the fund raising committee. The only fly in the ointment, is the seeming issues with getting Harpur's to pay out for a second year on the loyalty card.

Lorraine has done a sterling job in three areas. Firstly as the secretary of the society she has worked relentlessly to ensure that the actions on the committee's agenda are fulfilled on time. In addition she has sought ways to improve the society, and has worked tirelessly in leading the societies fund raising and has so far raised more than £840 this year. On top of this, Lorraine supported by John Wesson has jumped whole heartedly into the research and planning around the societies 100<sup>th</sup> year celebrations in 2021. This single minded approach has already located many historic artefacts from the society previous 97 years.

Finally to Ian, who has served as the societies Programme Secretary, President and latterly Vice President. Ian you have done a huge amount to lead this members society in its continued growth and to reach the levels of success in all areas. You have been involved in the leadership of the society for almost 10 years, with Ann supporting you. You have shown a deep commitment to all thing photographic, and welcomed and educated many of us sitting here tonight. To this we must all say a big thank you. It's a very big path to follow behind you. You now go onto that elevated association of past leaders, known colloquially as the "Tut Tut Club" .....

Thank you everyone, its been a privilege to act as President of the society for the last year.