



IMPACT!

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NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY INC. (ESTD. 1892)

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In this issue ...

**PRES SEZ ★ WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER ★ WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY ★ COMPETITIONS ★
EXHIBITIONS AND SHOWS ★ NEWS AND INFORMATION ★ SOCIETY CONTACTS ★**

Cover image: Untitled image (it's a swan plant) by Catherine Cattnach
(from the exhibition)

PRES SEZ

As we approach the end of the year there seems to be yet another mad rush to 'get things done' before the holiday break – this somehow seems to mark a point where anything left undone will remain undone and where we gaze forward into the new year and figure out how we'll fit in all the other things we need to do! However, despite all the stress, there is something satisfying in finishing work for the year and looking forward to the holiday break and the summer and all the things we do as part of that.

At the beginning of my second term as President of WPS, it's an appropriate time to look back at what I set out last year as my vision of what I wanted to achieve and to take stock of what has actually happened.

I indicated at the 2006 AGM three main 'themes' to the direction I wanted to see us take:

- to have a programme that offers plenty of exciting opportunities to get us out making photos and exploring new ideas;
- to tap into the wealth of talent we have in the Society and encourage more of you to present and talk about your work at each meeting;
and
- to take advantage of the dynamic world of photography in ways that make WPS a society that others want to be part of.

So how much of this has been achieved? The programme that Liga Rodgers put together for this year has taken a wide range of interests into account, given us access to excellent presenters, and has brought a good balance of practice and ideas – and has culminated in the Annual Exhibition which is our flagship event for the year. Nuala Fitzpatrick has developed the programme for next year and this will be unveiled at the final meeting for the year on 11 December at our Christmas Social.

We've also tapped into the very substantial pool of talent that we have in WPS with several meetings drawing on members' expertise on topics as diverse as guidelines for presenting your images in competitions and exhibitions, digital manipulation, influences that shape our photography, and lighting techniques.

I think we could do more to get members involved in presenting and talking about your work and with the new Committee and great work by Richard Bryan, we're making member's spots a regular feature of our meetings.

Our membership has grown by over 60 percent since this time last year which must reflect that we're doing some things right. We don't advertise, so new members hear about us primarily by word of mouth or through the website or through the public events we run. WPS won't exist without members and members will only stay if the Society delivers what they want. I wouldn't pretend we're doing everything right yet, but I believe we're broadly on the right track and the challenge ahead is to focus on what you as members want and deliver this to a high standard and in the right balance.

So, on balance, I think we've achieved two of the three challenges I set and I hope we can build on this and do even better next year. The platform for this will be our newly developed strategic plan. While it doesn't sound like a glamorous achievement, it provides us with a basis on which to look out over the next three to five years and to plan the development of WPS. The Committee has worked on the plan during the first part of this year based on ideas and preferences you as the members have said you wanted WPS to deliver for you.

I think it provides us with a good foundation for next year. We're always open to new ideas, so please let any of the Committee know what you think about what WPS is delivering for you – what works and what doesn't – so we can look for ways to improve.

Financially, WPS is in very good shape, thanks in large part to Alistair Owens' careful stewardship and management. In terms of membership, we're also in good shape with just over 120 members. This gives us not only a good financial base where we can cover our operational costs from subscriptions without drawing down reserves, but also a solid talent base that allows WPS to deliver high quality public events like the Annual Exhibition and a high quality programme for members.



Brett speaking at the opening of the exhibition
(Image by Des Culling)

At the meeting on 26 November, the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) gave presentations on the work they've done during the year. These groups are open to any WPS members and cater for those with particular interests that we can't cover fully in the main programme. They're very popular and include about half the total membership of WPS.

We have the Print group (now called the Digital Darkroom group), the ALE (Aperture, Light, Exposure) group, the Flashers group, and the Offshoots group. There's no limit to the number of groups that can be formed or the interests they can cover – all that's required is enough enthusiasm to get together and work with your ideas and equipment!

The presentations showed again that we have a wealth of talent and ideas in WPS, and not just in the photos taken but also in the presentations with impressive audio-visuais.

The final meeting for the year is on 11 December where you'll have the opportunity to demonstrate your unparalleled knowledge at the quiz designed by Peter and Liga Rodgers, whose reputation for plumbing the oceanic depths and expanses of photographic facts and figures (including fascinating trivia) is also unparalleled. Critical success factors include your choice of quiz partners and the quantity of wine consumed!

Unfortunately, I'm not able to be at the December meeting – I'll be away overseas on business and not back until December 14th. So, I wish you a very happy Christmas and great New Year and hope to see you back safely in 2008. If you're around at the end of January, our first meeting for 2008 will be on Monday 28 January when we'll have the President's Rally and a display of your holiday images (further details in the issue of *Impact*).

Brett Longley

What's on in December

Christmas social – The WPS quiz 2007

- Tuesday, 11 December
- The Arts Centre, 61-69 Abel Smith Street
- 7.30pm

Liga and Peter Rodgers have put together a quiz similar to last year's to test your photographic knowledge. We'll form up into teams of four or five and tackle six rounds of questions. We'll also have some drinks provided and members are asked to bring a plate. Next year's programme will also be announced during the evening.



The new Wellington Deputy Mayor, Ian McKinnon, opening the exhibition
(Image by Des Culling)

What's on in January



Image by Malcolm McNaught
(from the exhibition)

President's rally and best holiday photographs

- Monday, 28 January
- The Arts Centre, 61-69 Abel Smith Street
- 7.30pm

For our first meeting of 2008, we will be divided up into groups and given different topics to photograph. The teams will then have 20 to 30 minutes to go out and take some photographs before returning to present their best five or six images. Also, we are keen to see what you photographed over your holidays, so you are invited to bring along your best three photographs from your holidays and put them on the display boards on arrival at the meeting.

Photographic competitions

2007 Central Regional Interclub Digital Competition

WPS came fourth in this interclub digital competition which was won by the Gisborne Camera Club. The judging was on each individual image, not as a set. The judges comments on our entry are as follows:

"Two very strong images 'Beneath Skin' and 'French Kiss'. The latter well captured and created a romantic mood of Paris. I struggled with a couple of the images and the message the photographer tried to convey just didn't reach me, especially in 'Miles go by'. Overall a very good effort".

"A mixed set with some strong images – particularly 1, 2 and 5".

1 = "Beneath Skin" by Himiona Grace.

2 = "French Kiss" by Karim Sahai

5 = "Rain" by Pedram Pirnia.

The Champion Image, which won the Heney Cup, was awarded to Karim Sahai for his image "French Kiss". Congratulations Karim.

Bledisloe and Wiltshire Interclub Competitions 2008

Details have not as yet been announced, but it is anticipated that entries will close sometime in February. WPS has decided to have no set subject or theme this year – in other words it is "open" to any subject.

For the Bledisloe (six prints in a set), we will be asking you to submit your best images in print form, from any size from 4"x6" up, for selection in early February. Selected prints will then need to be enlarged, if necessary, to a minimum of A4 size by the author. WPS will arrange matting.

The Wiltshire Cup (previously for slides) will be, for 2008 only, for a set of six projected images. From 2009, it will be for eight individual projected images (not required to form a set), and will be from the best sets from the three 2008 Regional Interclub Projected Image competitions.

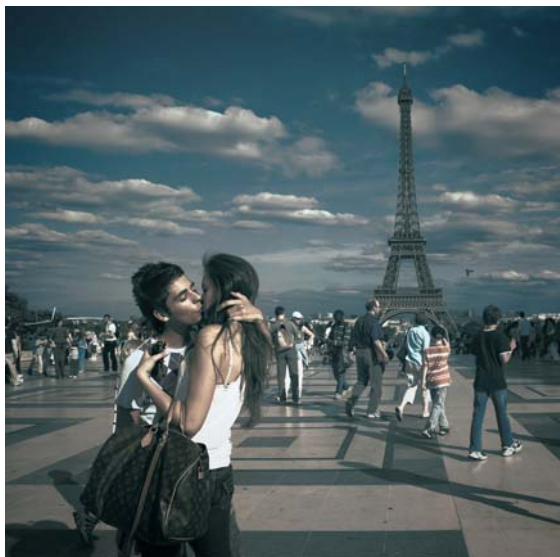
Exhibitions and shows

Te di todos mis suenos – Desiree Dolron

- Dates unknown
- Suite Gallery, 69 Owen Street, Newtown
(open Thursday 11am - 5pm, Friday 11am - 5pm, Saturday 11am - 4pm)

Work by internationally renowned Dutch photographer Desiree Dolron, from the "Te e di todos mis sueno / I give you all my dreams" (2002) series. Dolron spent four months in Havana photographing the poorest

"French Kiss" by Karim Sahai
(winner of the Heney Cup)





"Lake Ferry sands" by Hilary Troup
(from the exhibition)

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areas of the city. She photographed kitchens, sitting rooms, classrooms, a library, schoolchildren, a ballerina, back streets and Havana Bay. The atmosphere is one of mystery and silence as if time had magically stopped. The prints are luminously clean and coloured with a sensitive precise palate.

War in Paradise

- 25 August 2007 - 28 January 2008

- Museum of Wellington City and Sea, Queen's Wharf

The story of the Third New Zealand Division in New Caledonia during World War 2 told through photographs and extracts from the unofficial histories. The exhibition explores how the soldiers related to the local people – Kanak, French, Indonesian and Vietnamese – and how they coped with living in "the Paris of the Pacific" while preparing to confront the Japanese. Alongside is a fresh look at New Caledonia and the New Zealand War Cemetery and Memorial in Bourail through recent photographs by Paul Thompson.

Zeitgeist Becomes Form: German Fashion Photography 1945-1995

- 6 October 2007 - 3 February 2008

- The New Dowse, 45 Laings Rd, Lower Hutt

Take a stroll through more than 100 images celebrating 50 years of iconic world fashion, from Christian Dior in the 1940s to Issey Miyake in the 1990s. *Zeitgeist Becomes Form* includes unforgettable images by some of Germany's most renowned photographers including Helmut Newton, Sybille Bergmann, Rico Puhmann and Thomas Rusch.

Observance – Portraits by Nicola Dove

- 1 December 2007 - 16 March 2008

- Pataka, cnr Norrie and Parumoana Sts, Porirua

"Observance" is a series of long exposure portraits and soundscapes of people in a meditative state of prayer from a wide spectrum of spiritual practices and faiths from around the world. Long exposures hark back to the beginnings of photography, when film was slow and shutter-speeds long, and when it was commonly believed that a photograph could capture one's soul.

Public – Peter Black

- 6 December 2007 - 10 February 2008

- Photospace, 1st floor, 37 Courtenay Place

A selection of twenty photographs representing a larger body of around 100 photos taken over a five-year period, up to this year. Black's project was to show the essence of people from all walks of life as they went about their normal business in the city. The gallery will be closed from 24 December to 6 January. Viewing will be by appointment during this period. Hours will be 11am-3pm in the week 7-12 January, then back to normal.

WPS news and information

Unclaimed prints

The following members have unclaimed prints they have submitted in competitions earlier this year: Patricia Hehir, Jenaro Garita, Pedram Pirnia, Wayne Hosie, John Owens, Matthew Wanden, Neil Doherty (unclaimed CD). It would be appreciated if the above would contact the Competition Secretary, Fred Wotton, at the forthcoming meeting to uplift their prints.

New members

WPS welcomes new members, David and Sheridan Lewis, and Barbara Rehder.