



PSA NEWS

Produced for the benefit of Australian and New Zealand members of PSA

May 2019

WELCOME TO NEW PSA MEMBERS

Since my last newsletter we have gained the following new members:

Gerry Gibson (Buderim, QLD)

Margaret Duncan (Brisbane, Qld)

Colleen Price (Wangi Wangi, NSW)

The Australian membership of PSA is now 146 (136 individual members) and the New Zealand membership is now 22 (21 individual members).

You can see images that new members have posted in the New Member Galleries at <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?galleries-new-member-gallery>

All new members (and old ones too) will find some very useful information about PSA here <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?1st-year-member>.

CONGRATULATIONS

Yong Zhi (Simon) Li, Joe Tam and Jennifer Fawkes have been awarded SPSA, the Silver level of the portfolio distinctions. I think Simon is the first Australian to go straight to SPSA (skipping the BPSA). We have three other Australian members with BPSA (Craig Parker, Yvonne Hill and Mark Gillie).

One of our New Zealand members, Julie Holme, recently achieved SPSA. Two of our New Zealand members have achieved GPSA, the Gold level of the portfolio distinctions, they are Scott Fowler and Helen McLeod. Shelley Harvey and Mary Hinsen have BPSA.

You can view galleries of portfolio distinction recipients at <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?portfolio-galleries>.

If you have achieved something noteworthy that I have missed and you would like to share your achievement with fellow PSA members please let me know so that I can include your good news in a future newsletter.

SOME GOOD NEWS

I managed to convince the PSA Board to defer indefinitely the proposed increase in fees for Star Ratings. Other decisions made by the PSA Executive are summarised on page 7 of the May PSA Journal.

STAR RATINGS IN THE PICTORIAL PRINT DIVISION

On July 1 the star paths in PPD will be reduced to two - the Large Colour and Small Colour star paths will be merged into a new PPDC star path and the Large Mono and Small Mono star paths will be merged into a new PPDM star path. Detailed information about how this will be managed are available on this page of the PSA website <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-pictorial-print-star-ratings>. The main reason for this change was to make it easier for members to gain Star Ratings in the Pictorial Print Division. If you are considering applying for a Star Rating in either PPDC or PPDM in the near future you can avoid the rush - let me know and I will give you some advice on the best way for you to proceed. You can then submit your application before 1st July and have it processed ready for the start date. If you have any questions about this change please email me.

There is a new Star Ratings Director for all PPD applications (colour and mono) - Wolfgang Lin, MPSA, SPSA, from Hong Kong. You can email applications to Wolfgang from the web page link in the paragraph above.

CLAIMING JUDGING CREDITS

If you are a member of a judging panel for a PSA recognised exhibition you are entitled to claim Judging Credits that can be used on Star, Galaxy and Diamond applications. The rules for claiming these credits have recently been updated. The changes have been incorporated into the Star and Galaxies application procedures that can be download from here <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?stars-and-ropa>. If you have any questions about Judging Credits please contact the Senior Star Ratings Director, Jenni Horsnell, for advice.

SOME EXHIBITION ISSUES

International Exhibitions that are recognised by PSA are required to follow a set of rules known as the PSA Exhibition Standards. You can download these standards here <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?exhibition-host-int-l-exhibition>. In 2018 PSA granted recognition to more than 500 international exhibitions and so far this year recognition has been granted to more than 400 exhibitions. The vast majority of exhibitions meet their obligations and abide by all the conditions of their recognition. Unfortunately a few exhibitions do not meet their obligations and, for example, fail to send out awards. When there are serious breaches of the Exhibition Standards, the exhibition is denied future recognition. If you experience any problem with an exhibition please email details of the issue to the Exhibition Services Vice President, Brian Magor, exhibitvp@psa-photo.org

To minimise the chances of entering an exhibition that may not live up to your expectations I suggest that you pay careful attention to their website, particularly the “rules” or “conditions of entry”. If something doesn’t look quite right then don’t enter.

PSA INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS 2019-2020

Several changes will be made to the organisation of the PSA Interclub competitions for the 2019-2020 season. There will be three rounds in each Division (previously some Divisions had four rounds) and all Divisions will have common dates for the submission of entries for each round. The image sizes will be standardised at 1400x1050 pixels. The club entry in each round for each Division will remain at

six images but they will have to come from six different club members. More information will be available later in the year.

The Interclub competitions are a great way to get the members of your club involved in 'external' completions. To participate, your club must be a member of PSA but the individual club members whose images are used do not have to be members of PSA (but it would be great if they were!).

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP YOUR FELLOW PSA MEMBERS

There are vacancies for several important volunteer positions:

Exhibition Standards Directors. When an exhibition applies for recognition from PSA the approval is given (or not) by an Exhibition Standards Director (ESD). Collectively the ESD's process more than 500 applications for recognition each year. To reduce their workload, we are looking for several more ESDs. If you are interested in this position let me know and I will send you more information.

Star Ratings Directors. Although the SRD positions are all currently filled, there is an ongoing need for extra SRDs to cover busy periods and to assist when SRDs go on holidays. If you are interested in helping out and you have a few hours a week to spare please contact Jenni Horsnell, the Senior Star Ratings Director (ssrd@psa-photo.org) and she will be able to give you more information and organise training.

Star Ratings Helpers (I haven't thought of a better name yet!). My goal is to have every PSA member achieve the Star Ratings and ROPA distinctions that they are entitled to, and to have them do so as easily as possible. To achieve that goal I need volunteers for a role that would involve the following:

- a) The helpers will be given access to PSA acceptances databases.
- b) On a regular basis the helpers will be given the names of PSA members with a request to check their exhibition acceptance records.
- c) The helpers will copy the member's acceptance records to an Excel spreadsheet and email the records to the member.
- d) The helpers will provide basic advice about the Star Ratings that the member is eligible to apply for.
- e) The helpers will do a "name search" in the database to identify if the member has acceptances recorded under more than one version of their name - the current record is 8 versions!

Helping members in this way can be a very rewarding experience and the workload (number of members the volunteer helps each month) can be adjusted to suit their personal circumstances. If you could help just one member a week that would make 50 members happy every year! If you think that you might like to help with this important task please contact me and I can provide you with more information. Those who volunteer for this role are given detailed instructions and I am available to give help and advice whenever they need it.

Who's Who Director. In September this year the current Who's Who Director will be 'retiring'. If you are interested in volunteering for this position please contact the PSA President, Elena McTighe, FPSA, MPSA, at prespsa@psa-photo.org

Webinar Director. The library of webinars available to PSA members is slowly growing and to speed up the process we need a Webinar Director who can help organise new webinars. The task requires reasonable computing skills (to manage the webinar presentations). Let me know if you are interested and I will give you more information.

HELPING YOU TO GAIN ROPA DISTINCTIONS

Several members responded to my earlier calls for volunteer Star Ratings Helpers (see above). One of those volunteers, John Chapman, GMPSA, has been given a list of Australian members to help. In the near future there will be other volunteers so don't be surprised if you receive an email from John or someone else offering to help you apply for Stars and gain a ROPA distinction.

If you are ready to apply for a Star Rating now but you are still a little unsure of what to do please send me an email and I will help you.

SOME UPCOMING AUSTRALIAN and NZ INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

Queensland Circuit. <http://www.queensland-photo.com/> Entries close 3rd June. 4 judgings.

Redlands. Print and Digital. <http://www.redlandscameraclub.org.au> Entries close 10th August. Special section for mobile phone images.

New Zealand International. <http://www.psnzinternationalsalons.com/> Entries close 14th October.

You can check this page <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?exhibitions-current-exhibition-list> for details of all current PSA recognised exhibitions. When you are on that page, you can click on the Division title (e.g. Nature Division) to get a list of exhibitions that are recognised by that Division. If you go to the bottom of the page and click on a date (e.g. April 2019) you get a list of the exhibitions closing in that month.

PSA CONFERENCES

The **2019** PSA conference will be held in Spokane, Washington State, from September 22-28. There is information about the conference in the May PSA Journal. The conference website - <https://psa-photo.org/conference-2019/> gives further details and *registration is open now. The pre-conference tours are filling fast.* I will be attending the conference, so please let me now if you are also planning to attend.

The **2020 PSA Conference** (which will be called a Photo Festival to reflect changes in how it will be organised) will be held in Colorado Springs, from September 29 to October 3. There will be a heavy emphasis on tours and workshops.

The **2021 PSA Photo Festival** will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota.

BACK ISSUES OF MY NEWSLETTERS

If you go to the Australia membership page on the PSA website <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?australia-3> you will see links (beneath the flag) for my newsletters from June 2018 onwards.

NEW PSA BOARD MEMBERS

Two new members have joined the PSA Board of Directors. Michael Jack from Indiana is now the Treasurer and John Andrew Hughes from Nevada is now the Image Collections Vice President. You can see profiles of these new Directors in the May PSA Journal.

HAVE YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SHARE?

The unofficial motto of the PSA is “Members Helping Members”. So, if you have something to share with fellow members please let me know and I will put it in a future newsletter. It might be a favourite spot for photography, or a new piece of software you have discovered, or a special editing tip, or anything else that you think might be useful to others.

AFTER THE PSA BOARD MEETING

After a week at PSA headquarters (Board meeting and sorting out Print Division records) I was ready for a break - so I headed north from Oklahoma City to Kansas and then Nebraska. My main aim was to do some bird photography at a couple of places I had visited two years ago. First stop was Cheyenne Bottoms National Wildlife Refuge (in true American style that means you can shoot the birds there only some of the time, but you can photograph them any time). This is a very large wetland area and many of the birds are migratory - apparently I did not give them enough advance notice as some had not yet arrived. I did have some luck (at least the snake did not bite me).



My destination in Nebraska was a place called Calamus Outfitters (near Burwell) where I had previously had some luck photographing Prairie Chickens and Sharp-Tailed Grouse. This time the birds co-operated but the weather did not! The only opportunity to photograph these birds is early in the morning when they come to the ‘leks’ (the areas where the males fight and parade to attract the females). The first morning was very overcast, cold and windy - high ISO was the order of the day.



By the afternoon of that day the temperature had dropped to zero and the approaching weather was politely called a blizzard. Overnight it got even colder and by morning the area was covered in about 15cm of snow. Some of the hardy Prairie Chickens still turned up and put on a show.



It snowed again that night but the next morning the sun was shining a little brighter. After a few hours of photography I headed back to Oklahoma. No more nature photography but I had a fun weekend photographing dirt bike racing with one of the local PSA members.

Regards,
Roy

Dr Roy Killen, GMPSA, EFIAP, APSEM
PSA Membership Vice President
Australia Membership Director for PSA
1st May, 2019

Email: roykillen@mac.com
Mobile: 0419434311

If you are enjoying your PSA membership please spread the good news. If you are unhappy with your PSA membership for ANY reason please let me know so that I can help to resolve the issue.