



PSA NEWS

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

June 2019

WELCOME TO NEW PSA MEMBERS

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

Wade Buchan (Sunshine North, Vic)

Donald Anderson (The Hill, NSW)

Sue Gordon (Shailer Park, Qld)

Julie Sheppard (Christchurch, NZ)

The Australian membership of PSA is now 152 (142 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

Karen Willshaw has been awarded PPSA.

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.

NEW STAR APPLICATIONS SPREADSHEETS

The Stars (and Galaxy/Diamonds) applications spreadsheets have been updated to accommodate the changes in the Pictorial Print Division that some into effect on 1 July. They can be downloaded from this page <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?stars-and-ropa>

When you submit your first Star of Galaxy application please use these new spreadsheets. If you have already applied for a Star or Galaxy rating then your next application should be on a copy of the spreadsheet that was returned to you when you last application was approved.

Before submitting any application it is always a good idea to download the latest version of the application instructions. The instructions were recently updated to clarify the conditions under which Judging Credits and Chairing Credits can be claimed. The instructions for sorting acceptances on the application have also changed. The new instructions should be available on the PSA website by the end of the first week in June.

PHOTOGRAPHER-NATURALIST AWARD

Did you know that the Nature Division has a special way of recognising continued achievements in international nature exhibitions? The Photographer-Naturalist awards can be earned by members who have achieved Star 5 (or above) in the Nature Division. Each award requires 50 projected images and/or prints which are new (not used for any previous Star or Galaxy award.) Each of these 50 images must be accepted twice in recognized PSA-ND international exhibitions. The photographer chooses a restricted subject for the submission (such as “Butterflies” or “Raptors of Australia”). Multiple awards can be gained, but each one must be on a new topic. The acceptances used for these awards count towards the number of acceptances needed for ROPA distinctions. More information is available here <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-nature-star-ratings> (under the “Application” heading at the bottom of the page).

PSA RECOGNISED EXHIBITIONS

Starting with the September 2019 issue the PSA Journal will no longer list the upcoming PSA-recognized exhibitions. You will be able to download and print the list from the website <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?exhibitions-current-exhibition-list>

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>. If you have any questions about this change please email me.

BE STRATEGIC WITH YOUR EXHIBITION ENTRIES

The PSA Stars/Galaxies/Diamond system has two critical components - acceptances in PSA recognised exhibitions and the titles of those acceptances. Many members who participate regularly in exhibitions overlook two important things: (1) When they have achieved Star 5 in a Division or Class all the titles they used for those star ratings are retired and cannot be used for Galaxy or Diamond applications in that Division/Class; and (2) Each title can be used for only one ‘title set’ in a Galaxy or Diamond application and then it must be retired. As a consequence of these factors it is very easy for a member to accumulate acceptances that they cannot use for star ratings. Most commonly this occurs when a member has a very good image that almost always gets accepted - so they keep entering it and sometimes accumulate hundreds of acceptances for that image. (I have come across situations where a member has in excess of 200 acceptances for the same image.) It can be very disappointing for a member to discover that most of these acceptances cannot be used for star ratings.

To avoid wasting acceptances, you need to think strategically about what acceptances you will use on each application and which images you should continue to enter after the image has received some exhibition acceptances. This is particularly important when you are submitting a Star 5 application - at that stage it is often useful set aside images that have three acceptances and save them for Galaxy applications.

Let me know if you need any advice about how to make the best of your acceptances.

PORTFOLIOS

PSA Portfolio Assessment - Portfolio assessment Session 3, 2019, has a closing date of Friday, June 21, for assessment at the end of June. Applicants need to submit (pay, upload and finalize) their portfolios by that date. The portfolio limit is 24. Portfolios submitted above 24 will be placed on the waiting list for an assessment session after September, 2019. Notice will be given for that session. Contact John Davis, HonPSA, MPSA, Portfolio Director: portfolios-chairman@psa-photo.org if you need further information.

ARE YOU GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR PSA MEMBERSHIP?

Have you participated in a study group, taken an online course, used the image evaluation service, or taken advantage of any of the other member services listed here <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?member-services> ? If so, please let me now about your experiences.

CHANGES TO PSA INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

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!).

If you are a member of more than one club that participates in these interclub competitions you can enter images for only one club.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP YOUR FELLOW PSA MEMBERS

There are vacancies for several important volunteer positions:

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 involved 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.

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.

Director Nature Division Interclub Competition

Director Photo Travel Division Interclub Competition

The Director must be able to use Excel and Word for recording the results. (Scoring results will be recorded on an auto generated Excel compatible sheet.) Each Director will coordinate three competitions per year from a list of competing clubs, maintain results, and email winning images for later posting on the web. The director of the nature or photo travel competitions should also have an understanding of the specific rules and guidelines used in that division (the definition of a nature or photo travel image). If you wish to volunteer for either of this positions please email Division Vice President, Bob Benson, APSA, PPSA, at divVP@psa-photo.org

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.

PSA INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

The 2019 PSA International Exhibition is open for entries <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?psa-international>. Entries close on 8th July. Each digital Division (PID, Nature, PJ, Photo Travel) has two sections. The Pictorial Print Division and the 3D Division have multiple sections.

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.

HAVE YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SHARE?

The unofficial moto 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 thing might be useful to others.

Regards,
Roy

Dr Roy Killen, GMPSA, EFIAP, APSEM
PSA Membership Vice President
Australia Membership Director for PSA
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Email: roykillen@mac.com
Mobile: 0419434311