

# PSA News

Produced for the benefit of PSA Members in Australia and New Zealand

MAY 2021



## Welcome

The new members who joined in April are:

*Leanne Moore*, Hamilton, VIC

*Lisa Carter*, Rangiora, NZ.

*Veronica Wedlake*, Rangiora, NZ.

*Our total membership in Australia is now 179 and in New Zealand it is 27.*

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## Congratulations

*Jenni Horsnell* has been awarded GMPSA/G. (Grand Master GOLD). Jenni is the first Australian and only the 11th PSA member worldwide to achieve this ROPA distinction. A fantastic achievement Jenni!

*Jiongxin Peng* has been awarded GPSA

## Who's Who

The PSA *Who's Who in Photography* magazine is normally available in June online, and as a published copy accompanying the *PSA Journal*.

2020-21 has presented PSA with some difficult and unavoidable circumstances, and it has become necessary to reschedule publication of the 2020 Who's Who edition until August. Any corrections to that issue should be reported to the Who's Who Chair (Melissa Cramer) no later than September 15. Those corrections will be printed in an issue of the Journal at the end of the year.

## PSA Online Courses

There are currently ten PSA online courses accepting registrations and you can access details of all courses from this page <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?education-online-courses> There is no charge for these courses. Some of the courses have long waiting lists so if you are considering a course it might be a good idea to register as soon as possible so that you get on that list.

All the PSA online course instructors are volunteers; including seven from Australia. Many of these volunteers are also helping PSA members in various other ways so to say they are busy is an understatement - hence the waiting lists.

If you believe that you could help as an instructor in any of the online courses please email me and I will give you further information about what is involved and put you in contact with the course co-ordinator. The co-ordinator for each course monitors the workloads of the instructors, so even if you can spare only an hour a week that will be appreciated. I am particularly looking for instructors for the “Creating Images for PSA Competitions and Exhibitions” course.

## PSA Journal

The May issue of the PSA Journal is available now and the PDF can be downloaded from the PSA website (if you log in first).

If you login and select *Journal > Journal Issues* you can access all issues of the Journal and the PSA Who's Who in Photography back to 2007.

The PSA Journal is always looking for feature articles on topics of current interest, as well as articles about photographic techniques and interesting photographic locations. If you would like to contribute an article please contact the Publications VP, Larry Cowles, at [pubvp@psa-photo.org](mailto:pubvp@psa-photo.org).



## EXHIBITION RESULTS

On the PSA Website where the exhibitions are listed, the orange highlights indicate those exhibitions for which the EDAS reports (results from the exhibitions) have been uploaded to the PSA database. I just checked and none of the 2021 exhibition results have been uploaded yet. All except a couple of results up until December 2020 have been uploaded. The volunteers responsible for uploading the results will clear the backlog as soon as possible.

Up until about a year ago, yellow highlighting was used to indicate that the exhibition results had been received but this did not necessarily mean the results had been uploaded. The new system (orange highlights) removes some of the confusion caused by the old system.

Exhibitions have to follow this timeframe:

- a) Judging has to take place no later than 14 days after the advertised closing date of the exhibition.
- b) EDAS reports have to be submitted no later than 30 days after the last day of judging. There is a separate EDAS report for each section in the exhibition; for example, a circuit with 3 exhibitions and 6 sections would have to submit 18 separate EDAS reports.

Given these periods, it is quite possible that some exhibitions that closed in January 2021 will not have submitted their EDAS reports until mid-March. Once PSA receives the EDAS reports from an exhibition, the details have to be checked and, when necessary, requests are sent to the exhibition for corrections (this happens a lot!). This is a time-consuming process carried out by volunteers who are doing their best.

I appreciate your frustration if you are waiting on EDAS uploads to complete a Star/Galaxy/Diamond application. I suggest you prepare your application on the assumption that the EDAS reports will show exactly the same information that was on your report cards (as should be the case) so that you can submit the application as soon as the results are in the database.

Don't forget to check the online catalogue for each exhibition as soon as it becomes available - unless there have been some errors by the exhibition, the information in the catalogue will be the same as the information in the EDAS reports.

## Exhibition Issues

Most PSA recognised exhibitions are well run, but occasionally there are problems. If you have an issue with an exhibition (such as not receiving a report card) the first course of action should be to email the Chair of the exhibition. Set out your concerns clearly (the Chair may not have English as a first language) and ask for a response. If you do not receive a satisfactory response within a reasonable time then email the Exhibition Grievances Coordinator, Nadia Filiaggi, [exhibition-complaints@psa-photo.org](mailto:exhibition-complaints@psa-photo.org) with full details of the issue and include any correspondence between you and the exhibition Chair.

## Ethical Bird Photography

The following points are based on Birdlife Australia's Ethical Birdwatching Guidelines <https://birdlife.org.au/documents/POL-Ethical-Birding-Guidelines.pdf> and they reinforce the PSA rule that *the welfare of the subject is more important than the photograph*. These are just a few of the main points to consider:

- Keep a close watch on the subject and look for signs of distress, such as alarm calls, “broken wing displays” or “crouching” and leave if these occur.
- Do not stay too long in a bird's territory during the breeding season as this can cause stress to the birds or their young.
- Use artificial light (including flash) sparingly, especially for close-ups.
- Avoid photography near a nest as it can attract predators or spook adults and chicks. Never make modifications to a nest or its surroundings.
- Do not use drones to photograph birds - *PSA specifically prohibits this*.
- Do not use call playback to attract birds.
- Do not flush birds.
- Minimise habitat disturbance.
- Avoid posting images, GPS points and other information about sensitive species and nest locations on public digital platforms including social media, websites, etc.
- Avoid posting images and information about rare and threatened species locations and nests obtained in restricted access or non-permitted areas on social media and websites.

## Some of the Free Educational Services for PSA members

[Online Courses](#) for PSA individual Members.

[Digital Dialog](#)--members in one of over 60 small groups, placed according to their choice of a wide range of photographic interests, share their images and comments with one another.

[Study Groups](#)--similar to Digital Dialogue but more structured for inter-group discussion of submitted images in the Pictorial, Photo Travel, Photojournalism and Nature Divisions.

[Image Evaluation](#) (requires log in)—an opportunity to submit images for comment on appropriate subject matter and technique by an experienced member in any of four areas (Pictorial, Photo Travel, Photojournalism and Nature).

[Mentors](#)--information and advice on many specific photographic topics, offering references and an email address to contact a specialist.

[Webinars](#)—a wide variety of topics covered.

[Nature subject identification service](#)--help with correctly identifying Nature subjects.

[Online Galleries](#)--browse the work of successful photographers for inspiration.

## Discounts for Members

Discounts can be accessed through this page <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?membership-member-discounts> You have to log in to the PSA website to see these discounts.

Companies will offer discounts if they see that PSA members visit the site and take up the discounts offered. The more members that visit the discount page and take advantage of what's on offer the more companies will offer discounts.

If you come across any discount opportunities or have any questions about discounts for PSA members please contact the Discount Program Co-ordinator through the website.

## SOME ADVICE

As everyone knows, it costs money to enter national and international exhibitions. As a frequent judge, I regularly see that some people simply waste their money by entering images that have no chance of being accepted. The most common reasons I see for this are:

- The image does not satisfy the definition for the section in which it was entered. This is common in Nature sections but also frequent in Photo Travel sections. It also occurs in Photojournalism and Monochrome sections. It can even occur in Colour sections (where monochrome images are not permitted.) There is a simple solution - read the definitions in the Conditions of Entry of the exhibition and if you are not sure about something in the definition ask someone who knows. If you are still not 100% sure that your image will satisfy the special definition then do not enter it, or enter it in an open section.
- The image has obvious serious technical faults that outweigh any of its merits. There is a simple solution - check your images carefully and, if possible, get someone else to review them before you enter them. In particular, make sure the important parts of the image are in focus, the colours are not over-saturated, there is not excessive sharpening, and the composition is appropriate.
- The image is a straightforward record shot of a scene that has been photographed by 10,000 other photographers in basically the same way that you have photographed it. There is a simple solution - stop pretending that your image is special when you know it is not, and stop hoping that the judges will never have seen an image like it before (because they almost certainly will have). Instead, look for ways of capturing the scene that will make your image unique (or at least impressively different).
- The subject of image may have great significance to the owner but holds little interest to other viewers. This can be a particular problem with images of children and pets. There is a simple solution - don't enter images that rely on the viewer having a personal connection with the subject.

Of course, judging is always subjective and what one judge sees as a fault may be viewed positively by another judge. However, when there is a panel of three judges it usually takes only one judge to give an image a low score to ensure that it does not get accepted.

Feel free to disagree and send me your thoughts on this topic.

## Some Upcoming Exhibitions

**MAITLAND INTERNATIONAL SALON OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY** (PSA 2021-1238) Sections for Colour, Monochrome, Portrait, Travel, Nature and Wildlife. <https://maitlandsalondigital.myphotoclub.com.au> Entries close on **20th June**.

**VIGEX** (2021-1150) **closes 24th May 2021** <http://www.vigex.org.au>  
Sections for Colour, Creative, Differences in Society, Mono, Nature, Travel.

**QUEENSLAND INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CIRCUIT** (PSA 2021-1232).  
Entries close **7th June**. [www.queensland-photo.com](http://www.queensland-photo.com) Just four sections this year (Colour, People, Monochrome, Shadows).

**LAKE MACQUARIE CIRCUIT**. (PSA 2021-1353) Three exhibitions. Sections for Colour, Mono, Nature, Wildlife, Photojournalism, Photo Travel. Entries close **1st October**. <https://lakemacint.myphotoclub.com.au>

A full list of upcoming PSA recognised exhibitions is available here <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?exhibitions-current-exhibition-list>

If you need help with any PSA matters please contact me.

Regards,  
Roy

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