



Welcome!

Our new Australian members in August were:

Stephen Jude, Mount Eliza, VIC.

Kathie Thomas, Selby, VIC

Congratulations

Vicki Moritz has gained her GMPSA/S.

Nilmini De Silva has gained her Silver Portfolio distinction.

If you gain a new ROPA or Portfolio distinction, or achieved anything else that you would like to share with other PSA members, please let me know.

Thank you!

This month I can share with you articles from Kathie Thomas and Vicki Moritz.

Please email me if you have anything related to photography that you would like to share with fellow PSA members.

PSA Journal

The September issue of the PSA Journal is available now and can be downloaded from the PSA website after you log in. <https://psa-photo.org/page/journal>

NEW PID INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS (2023-24)

In addition to the ongoing Portrait competition, PID will offer:

Landscape Competition: For information contact Director, Mohammed Arfan Asif, APSA, MPSA, EFIAP/d2, pid-landscape@psa-photo.org (Also the Portrait Director).

Individual Still-Life Competition: For information contact Director, Boskee Selarka, BPSA, pid-still-life@psa-photo.org

Architecture Competition: For information contact Director, Thirumalai Sheerapathi, PPSA, SPSA, AFIAP, pid-architecture@psa-photo.org

All competitions will have 3 rounds with entries due Dec 1, 2023, Feb 1 and April 1, 2024. For further updates. <https://psa-photo.org/page/competitions>

PID Digital Dialogue Study Groups

Join us and expand your horizons. Monochrome, Assigned Subject, Creative, Birds, Closeup, Flowers & Plants, Landscapes, Infrared, HDR, iPhoneography, Nature Plus, Advanced Photoshop Compositing, Painting, Closeups, Street Scenes, Sports, Video. 3D, Fine Arts, Drones, Macro and General which encompasses everything. For further information contact Barbara E Miller, HonPSA, MPSA, pid-digital-dialogue-director@psa-photo.org

PSA Interclub Competitions

Registration for the 2023-2024 PSA Interclub competitions closes on 1st October. These competitions are open to all PSA-member clubs and the individual club members whose images are submitted do not have to be PSA members.

The competitions are conducted over three rounds, with separate sections for Colour, Monochrome, Nature. Photojournalism, Photo Travel, Pictorial Prints and 3D.

This can be a great way to help your club members improve their photography.

Anthropomorphism– the portfolio

Vicki Moritz GMPSA/s BPSA EFIAP/d3 APSEM/g

The portfolio that earned me a PSA Portfolio Bronze and the Dan Charbonnet Portfolio award had its origins in the requirement to do a studio subject in the Advanced Diploma of Photography at the Photographic Studies College in Melbourne.

In the later part of this course most of the work was portfolio based. We had to develop proposals related to the subject and deliver the outcome for assessment at the end of the semester. I have carried this approach into my photography since completing the Advanced Diploma in Photography (fine art) and recommend the discipline of working to produce a thematic body of work.

I am no fan of the studio - I would rather be out in the landscape, travelling or making images on the streets- not fussing around with lights, models, makeup etc. I thought the best way to tackle this subject was to do something that I could enjoy eg get a group of friends and acquaintances together and offer pet portraits- with the proviso the dogs owners would also sit for me for my later use! All the owners were posed with crossed arms to ensure consistency in the images.

PSA Portfolio Distinction Program



Dan Charbonnet Portfolio Award

Presented in recognition of his major contributions
to the PSA Portfolio Distinction Program

2022

VICKI MORITZ SPSA - AUSTRALIA
ANTHROPOMORPHISM

Anthropomorphism is the attribution of human traits, emotions or intentions to non-human entities. After many years of showing and breeding dogs, it has never ceased to amaze me how people will select a dog with looks and characteristics similar to themselves. This series shows the likeness taken to the next step where human and canine merge into one entity.



The portfolio is an outstanding example of a cohesive, consistent and balanced portfolio with the Statement of Intent and the Overview Image supporting each other and complementing the portfolio which shows excellent originality and artistry.

(Vicki's portfolio story continued . . .)

I took over the lounge room at home and set up a home studio using off camera flashes, controller, gels, soft box (some of the flashes were borrowed - I think I used 4 for most shoots). The dogs and people were largely well behaved and we had a lot of fun (?) getting the lighting right and keeping the animals in place. After the shooting there was a fair bit of work in Photoshop to composite the dog heads onto the human bodies and tone the images to provide a cohesive set of images. And I believe there were some nice portraits of canine companions supplied as well - with thanks to those who helped out. The first image is myself and one of my favourite ridgebacks (I breed them). The final image is my husband and his companion ridgeback- Derrick- who has just left us at a good age, sadly missed. The likenesses between owners and dogs in this series was striking - with most dog heads being merged with the bodies of their owners

New contact for membership issues

Mindy Seidel is the new Headquarter staff member in charge of membership and can be reached at membership@psa-photo.org if you have any questions or issues with your membership.

An opportunity to volunteer

I was appointed as the PSA Membership Director for Australia in 2018. I have enjoyed working in that role, but it is time for someone else to take over. If you are interested in taking in this role, please email me.

What are your thoughts on AI?

In relation to your photography, are you:

- Pretending AI is not happening.
- Refusing to use any form of AI.
- Embracing AI and finding productive uses for it.

Please share your thoughts.

Photography and Healthy Choices

Kathie Thomas

Hi everyone, I'm a new member to the PSA but not new to photography. I got my first camera in my teens and have been hooked, ever since. My uncle was a wedding and portrait photographer and he used to share with me how he used his camera. My first camera was a Kodak Instamatic in the 1970s. When I was 21 I got my first SLR, a Pentax 35mm, second hand from the father of a friend of mine. By that time I was married with my firstborn and I spent time taking baby and family shots and holiday shots, but not much else. The camera was put away more than it was out. Early 2000s my husband bought me my first Nikon digital camera. It took awhile to get used to it and, sadly, I dropped it and broke it and that was the end of that. I later bought a Kodak CX7430 zoom digital and kept using that till 2009. That's when my husband took pity on me as I'd been trying to pan and take photos of him and his mates out mountain biking. I could get landscape shots and still bird shots but not much else. That year he bought me a Nikon D90 and suddenly that opened a whole new world to me. I used that camera for 5 years and totally wore it out, taking nearly 100,000 images with it. During that time birds became my passion and I became addicted to taking birds in flight shots and birds in their habitats.



(Kathie's story continued)

Now, alongside all of that I ran an online business for 27 years, mostly sitting at a computer and totally unrelated to photography. I didn't really get the exercise I should be getting or the fresh air and all that stuff you know you should be doing to keep well, keep fit both mentally and physically. My doctor advised me around 2010 or so that I needed to get outside, at least 3 or 4 days a week, for a minimum of 20 mins each time. I did that but found it extremely boring – I just wanted to be back at my computer (I loved my work) but then one day my eyes fell upon my camera and I thought maybe I'll take that out with me on my walk. Well, that changed everything and I mean EVERYTHING! Suddenly 3 days a week became 6 or 7 days a week, 20 mins became an hour, hour and a half, two hours and more. No wonder I wore out my D90! I invested in a D7100 after that and, by then, I had about 6 different lenses, my favourite being a Nikon 200-500mm for those long distance shots and birds in flight (BIF) shots. Photography began to take on a whole new meaning to me.

What I haven't yet shared is that in 2008 we lost a close member of our family. Photography became my escape from my own particular world and led me into the world of nature. It kept me going, kept me focused (pardon the pun) on things around me, rather than what was happening in my own life. It really did help me through a very difficult time in my life and kept me going. Even when at my computer, I couldn't wait for my work day to finish so I could play with the photos I'd taken that day. Processing photos is now a daily habit and I do it while watching TV at night – there is a TV monitor on my desk, lol.



(Kathie's story continued)

Moving on a few years, the pandemic and only being able to travel no more than 5kms from my home here in Melbourne. For many people that was very difficult, but for me, it wasn't a challenge. We live on 2 acres so that in itself is a joy – we get lots of birds and some wildlife here. One of my favourite parks and wetland is less than 5kms from my home, suitably called Birdsland (although it is named after the people that owned it rather than the inhabitants) and it was my daily place to visit. Photography was very much then about mental health, as well as physical health. On my photography journey and chatting with other 'togs' I found that many also find that photography helps them with their mental health. There is a Facebook group called 'Shooting the Black Dog' and this group is very much about mental health and combatting depression through photography. Suddenly I'd found others who were using photography in the same way as me – bringing joy to our lives and discovering the real and natural world around us, and setting aside, for a time, the things that might be troubling us.

In 2020 I began looking for a more lightweight camera. The weight of the D7100, combined with the 200-500mm lens became troubling for my shoulder – I can use it in short doses but not 2 or 3 hours at a time. I needed something that would shoot the distance, get the shots I wanted, but be easier to carry and manage. Enter the Nikon P950. I read reviews at DPRReview, found someone local with a P900 to get a feel for how the camera worked and then ordered my P950. I've not regretted that decision. I get the most amazing close ups with the 2000mm digital zoom. BIF shots are still a challenge with it but close ups of birds, wildlife, insects, flowers, landscapes, etc are a joy to get. The P950 is at my hip whenever I go outside – I always have it with me.

I'm in a much better place these days and nature photography, particularly birding, is my daily joy and pleasure. I share online via Facebook and also my own website, suitably named Dandenong Ranges Nature Photography. I sell products at a local market with my images on them, including a calendar which I've been producing for over 10 years now. Locally I'm known as a bird photographer and people often tag me to ask about a bird they've heard or seen. I have written and published two books about birds in my region which the locals enjoy, particularly children.

RK - Check out Kathie's great website here <https://dandenong-ranges->

Some Upcoming Exhibitions

NSW International Circuit (PSA 2-23-429). Sections for PIDC, PIDM, Nature, Land or Sea Scapes (PIDC). **Entries close 1st October**. Full details here <https://nswint.myphotoclub.com.au/> APS approval for three exhibitions in the circuit.

The only exhibitions that I list here are the Australian exhibitions that have PSA recognition. A **full list of all PSA-recognized exhibitions for 2023** is available here <https://listings.psaems.org/>

Everyone, please consider sending me some news or articles for my next newsletter!

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

Regards,

Roy

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