

Newsflash

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CAMERA CLUB INC. (EST. 1917) NO. 1/2017 FEBRUARY

ONLINE

www.wacameraclub.org

100 not out

CLUB OPENS ITS CENTENARY YEAR WITH ITS 100TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Celebrating Our Centenary
1917-2017



Western Australian Camera Club

**100 Years of
Popular
Photography
in Western
Australia**



President Ray Ross (left) with Kathy and Mark, grandchildren of founding member John Henry Wilmott.
Pic by

A strong rollcall of members and four guests of honour attended the WA Camera Club's 100th AGM on 9 February 2017.

Cr David Michael represented the City of Stirling on the historic occasion and Kingsley Klau, president of the WA Photographic Federation, represented the state's 36 affiliated camera clubs.

The normal format of the AGM was expanded with two ceremonial speeches and a slide show featuring highlights of the club's long history.

Two surprise guests were Mark Wilmott and Kathy Cameron from NSW, whose grandfather was one of the club's founding members and early committeeman, professional photographer John Henry Wilmott. He made his name in the WA Goldfields and worked at the Lafayette Studios in Barrack Street, Perth, early last century.

FULL STORY — PAGE 3



Members and guests cheer as the club marks a century: WAPF's Kingsley Klau captured the occasion at the end of the 100th AGM. Full caption—P 4

A CENTURY IN THE FRAME - A special series throughout 2017 on highlights from our 100 year history - starts page 2

Innovations and hard work

PRESIDENT **RAY ROSS** SUMMARISES THE STATE OF THE CLUB IN HIS REPORT TO THE AGM

Club memberships held steady during 2016, with most new member enquiries throughout the year converting to actual memberships. The club values the arrival of new members and the bonds and friendships they develop within the club. We also appreciate the ongoing and loyal commitment of our long-standing members. For the first time, we devised a "Friends" email group to keep visitors informed of progress with the club and encourage sustained participation.

Management of competition and workshop nights is generally maintaining the two and a half hour time frame allowed. High quality guest speakers dominated most of our workshops and delivered great insights and advice to members. Our workshop series in 2016 was particularly well attended by members and visitors, as were the competition nights and social outings.

Visiting judges consistently commented on the depth and calibre of our photographic entries. It has been a general consensus from our judges that they enjoy our competition nights and feel very much welcomed by the members overall. In turn, we are grateful for the guidance and feedback our judges so generously provide.

The club achieved fourth overall placing in the annual WAPF interclub (statewide) print competition and continued our success winning a gold excellence award in the colour section.

Jocelyn Manning enthusiastically took up the role of "Meet & Greet" leader, engaging with new members and visitors, and also as Education Officer, with Elaine Reynolds assisting ably in the latter capacity. Thanks to both.

A Centenary Committee was established and worked tirelessly throughout the year to lay a solid foundation for hosting a successful inter-club event in June 2017 as well as a string of other centennial activities.

A lot of the initial groundwork was done by Richard Goodwin. Rob Woodbury has co-ordinated guest speakers for the convention with excellent results. We have six top speakers signed up to run workshops as well as a leading "ambassador" from Nikon's stable as keynote speaker. Thanks to Richard for all the hard work, especially in the early days and to the committee members for their time and input in the latter part of this year.

Thanks to Richard for the work in the Secretary's role and as *Newsflash* Editor. Thanks to Treasurer Hans for his diligent and sound management of our finances and to Kim for her continual work on the website and for the time given personally as Competition Director.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of the committee members who have given much of their personal time and energy to keep the club going with their ideas, contributions to our meetings and hard work. I also acknowledge our representatives and colleagues from other clubs on the WAPF board.

Special thanks to David White and John King who month after month provide refreshments at our meetings and are now retiring from their catering duties. Thanks fellows. To those members who give their time at workshops and competition nights setting up the hall thank you and to all members for your continued support, I thank you all.

A CENTURY IN THE FRAME



The top picture was taken in 1938 when the club was celebrating its 21st 'birthday'.

The picture below marked the club's 75th anniversary in 1992. Grace Munday is the only member from that era still in our ranks



Meeting every month & year since 1917

HISTORIC LINKS RECALLED AND CELEBRATED AS PART OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Western Australian Camera Club, founded in 1917, conducted its 100th annual general meeting.

The camera club has played an important and often pioneering role in the growth of popular photography in Perth and Western Australia.

It began on 22 June 1917 in the boardroom of St Georges House (now the Terrace Hotel) at the top of St Georges Terrace. From its foundation, the club had strong ties with the University of Western Australia and met there regularly. Later it moved to localities around West Perth.

Its purpose was “the encouragement of the science, art and practice of photography, and the interchange of knowledge of such amongst members”.

The initial meeting to form the club was convened by the then Colonial Secretary and Education Minister, Hal Colebatch, an Avon Valley newspaper proprietor, who remained patron for some years.

Thirty-four inaugural members signed on at that first gathering. Two months later when the club ran its first annual general meeting, 85 people attended.

UWA’s first professor of biology, William Dakin, was the pioneering president. Its foundation committee included a Scottish physicist who became a UWA Vice-Chancellor, a future Minister for Health and a future WA Government astronomer.

A street in Daglish is named in Dakin’s honour. Decades later he was an advisor to Prime Minister John Curtin on military camouflage.

Among the founding members of the club was professional photographer, John Henry Wilmott, of Lafayette Studios in Barrack Street, who worked in Kalgoorlie in the early 1900s.

The 100th AGM rekindled the Wilmott family connection with two of his grandchildren, Mark Wilmott and Kathy Cameron, participating in the milestone meeting at the Tuart Hill Community Centre while on a trip from their homes in New South Wales.

President Ray Ross welcomed their presence as a tangible link with the club’s origins.

“One thing that really impressed me as I observed the AGM,” said Mark Wilmott, “was that, in spite of the huge technological and social changes that have taken place over the decades, the club remains true to the initial impulse of its founding members.”

Every year since August 1917 the WA Camera Club has held an annual general meeting, described by City of Stirling’s Tuart Hill ward councillor David Michael as a remarkable record of continuity and achievement.

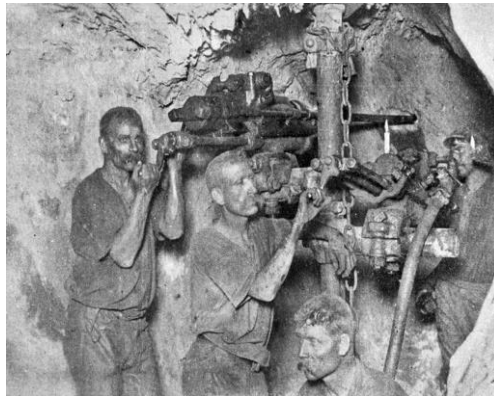
“Research by the University of WA reveals that spending at least two hours a week engaged in the arts improves the overall mental health of participants,” he said. “So well done to you all.”

The club’s monthly meetings have been held throughout the past century in a variety of venues in the City of Perth and the City of Stirling. Today the Tuart Hill Centre is its home. It is still governed by its original rules and certificate of incorporation, registered on 29 October 1917.

The 100th AGM marks the start of a year of celebrations for the State’s entire camera club movement.

WA Photographic Federation President, Kingsley Klau, from Rockingham, was also a guest of honour at the landmark AGM.

He congratulated the club on attaining this milestone and applauded the work of your club’s management team and centenary committee in developing an excellent program for the year.



Pic by Kingsley Klau

The club remains true to the initial impulse of its founding members [like my grandfather]

MARK WILMOTT

Cr Michael acknowledged the economic, social and cultural benefits to the community of organisations like the camera club.

TOP RIGHT *John Henry Wilmott. Club pioneer*
 TOP LEFT *One of Wilmott’s Goldfields images*
 LOWER *President Ray Ross, Cr David Michael and Secretary Richard Goodwin*

For history's sake . . .

A PICTURE THAT FORMS PART OF THE RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT OF THE WA CAMERA CLUB



It's a picture that makes history. Here are the 33 members and various guests who attended the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the WA Camera Club . . . the 100th consecutive AGM.

FRONT ROW FROM LEFT

Olivera Lucic, Anton Lucic, Steve Brown, John Reidy-Crofts, Richard Kujda, Elaine Reynolds, Ann Jones, Jocelyn Manning, Katie Park, Lisa Boulden, Grace Munday, "Nikon", John Horton, Kathy Cameron (visitor, granddaughter of founding member), Mark Wilmott (visitor, grandson of founding member), Leanne Ross (visitor), Ray Ross.

SECOND ROW FROM LEFT

Radoslav Lucic, Hans Wellinger, Lee Bickford, Susan Moss, Dick Beilby, John King, Peter Chalmers, Robert Woodbury, Richard Goodwin, Kim McAvoy, Steve Brooks, Munib Fetahovic, Todd Edwards, Glen Moralee, Amanda Blanksby, Greg Bilton, Vicki White, Ron Dullard, Michelle Augustyn, Cr David Michael (visitor), Peter Sharman and Ray Moss (visitor).

EDITOR'S NOTE

I have always been determined to caption all photographs in *Newsflash* so that future members and historians can avoid the frustration I have often faced in recent years in trying to identify people in old pictures. Who knows in what medium these contemporary records might survive of course?

The WA Camera Club was not the first association dedicated to photography in WA. A club started in Perth in 1899 under the leadership of the then Police Commissioner, George Phillips, but he died within a year and the club did not survive. The Kalgoorlie Miner reported the existence of a camera club in Boulder in the early 1900s.