

Christchurch Photography Society - Confidential Members' Survey 2010
Please return by 25 August 2010



Your feedback and ideas will help us plan future activities to meet members' expectations. It will be impossible to please every member equally, and the "popular" choice may not always be the most practical or fair, but will carefully consider your opinions and wishes in planning future activities. Mark the response you agree with. Feel free to add notes and further ideas by the question, or on the last page.

Wednesday Night Programmes - the background:

Planning the year's programme is difficult and changes during the year are inevitable through speakers' and judges' availability changing, programmes proving shorter or longer than expected, and special opportunities arising. We aim to produce a mix of activities to meet the needs of the majority of members.

Wednesday night programs for 2010 are categorised here as "Competitions", "Presentations" and "Events".

2010 program	Medium	Entries	Night	%
Club Competitions				
Open Prints	Prints	10	5	
Open Projected Images	PI	10	10	
'C' Grade	Prints + PI	2	2	
Natural History (2nd NH extended to 2 nights because of entry volume.)	Prints + PI	2	3	
Audio Visual	AV	1	1	
P.I. Salon	PI	1	1	
Print Salon	Prints	1	1	
Total Competitions		<u>27</u>	<u>23</u>	52%
Presentations - Lectures etc				
Presentations by several CPS members			2	
Presentations by individual CPS members			4	
Presentations by visitors			10	
Total Presentations			<u>16</u>	36%
Events				
Opening Night Entertainment/Speaker			1	
Laurie Thomas Landscape Salon showing			1	
PSNZ National Salon Showing (Planned but not always produced...!)			1	
Highlights from the Permanent Collection			1	
AGM - shared with short program			1/2	
Field trip etc Images/Round Up			1/2	
Total Events			<u>5</u>	11%
Total Wednesday night programs	(In most years there are 45 regular meetings.)		<u>44</u>	100%

The club also arranges other activities including an informal Monthly Digital Challenge competition on varying topics. Preceding the formal meetings we hold training tutorials with follow ups and newer members' workshops. A number of weekend activities such as workshops and field trips are also held.

Explanatory notes

Within some of the questions set out here are some notes expressed as neutrally as possible. These are not exhaustive but are offered as a starting point for your personal consideration.

Opinions

The club's competition structure is quite complicated and it may be difficult to understand the full implications of these matters, particularly for newer members. You may find it helpful to discuss these matters with other members but remember we all have our own opinions.

A summary of the competition structure is included as a preamble to the revised competition rules which have been very recently added to the website.

And now the questions!

Your overall view

- 1 (a) In general, how often do you attend CPS Wednesday meeting nights? Almost every Wednesday
 About three-quarters of meetings
 About half
 About one a month
 Seldom or not at all
- (b) In general, how satisfied are you with this year's program? Very satisfied
 Quite satisfied
 Just okay
 Not very satisfied
 Not at all satisfied
- (c) Do you expect to renew your CPS membership next year or not? Yes, definitely
 Almost certainly
 Maybe or not sure
 Probably not
 Almost certainly not

Program balance

Referring to the different kinds of programme activities as listed on page one;

- 2 (a) Do you think the number of Competitions this year is... Too many
 About right
 Too few
- (b) Do you think the number of presentations shared by several CPS members this year (i.e. 2) is... Too many
 About right
 Too few
- (c) Do you think the number of full programs by individual CPS members this year (i.e. 4) is... Too many
 About right
 Too few
- (d) Do you think the number of full programs by visitors this year (i.e. 10) is... Too many
 About right
 Too few

Competition categories and entries

- 3 (a) Which of the following competitions, if any, would you normally expect to enter each year?

	Prints	P.I.
Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
'C' Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural History	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Audio Visual	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(b) A larger and more active membership has increased entries, particularly in open topic competitions. To cope with these numbers while maintaining meaningful overall open aggregate competitions the Committee decided this year not to hold separate competitions for the specific topics of Landscape, Photojournalism and Portraiture. The various champions are to be chosen from all images gaining awards in open competitions during the year, an approach akin to that used in the PSNZ annual salon.

Natural History continues as a separate competition because the judging criteria stress scientific information rather than pictorial or general appeal. Open competition judges are instructed to consider images of all genres even handedly.

Are you personally happy with the 2010 competition structure?

- Very happy
 Quite happy
 Satisfied or indifferent
 Not really happy
 Not at all happy

Have you any relevant comments?

Number of Natural History Competitions

4 This competition remains separate from others because specific judging criteria. Natural History Aggregate competitions in each medium are selected from a total of four prints and projected images respectively. Should this number be increased?
 A possibility would be to increase each number to six. Based on present entries this could be achieved by having one additional P.I. night and allowing three entries in each print competition.

Do you personally think the number of Natural History entries should be increased??

- I strongly feel the entry numbers should be increased
- I mildly feel the entry numbers should be increased
- I am happy with the present number or am indifferent
- I mildly feel the entry numbers should not be increased
- I strongly feel the entry numbers should not be increased

Salons - should they count?

5 We have in the last few years operated P.I. and Print salons. In these competitions works submitted are considered by three judges who give a score but no comments. These are not judged in the same way as other competitions; in salons the judging is generally done quickly and it is possible that images with more complex qualities may not fare as well as those with instant and perhaps not lasting appeal. Awards gained in these salons have not been included in points calculations for end of year aggregate trophies. Should salon award points count for end of year aggregate awards? Some members use the salons to try out work before entering in other competitions. Under the rules awarded images may not be re-entered in other formal competitions so this use would no longer be possible if the awards "counted".

- I strongly feel salon competitions should count for aggregates
- I mildly feel salon competitions should count for aggregates
- I am happy with the present position or am indifferent
- I mildly feel salon competitions should not count for aggregates
- I strongly feel salon competitions should not count for aggregates

Should judge's names be advised in advance of competitions?

6 Few clubs advise the names of judges before competition closing dates. Some competitors feel it is an advantage to know the name of a judge and some do not. Some competitors know the particular judge's areas of interest and some do not. Some competitors feel it is an advantage to forward particular work to some judge's and some do not. The competition secretaries inevitably know the names of the judges in advance and may also enter competitions. What do you think?

- I strongly feel names of judges should be advised in advance
- I mildly feel names of judges should be advised in advance
- I am indifferent as to whether names of judges are advised in advance
- I mildly feel names of judges should not be advised in advance
- I strongly feel names of judges should not be advised in advance

Use of the website www.cpsnz.com

7 (a) The website is now our primary means of communication. It contains program upgrades, competition results and useful information. How often do you visit the website?

- More than once a week
- About once a week
- Less than once a week but more than once a month
- About once a month
- Rarely, if at all

(b) When you have used the website what information have you been seeking? Mark all that apply.

- The upcoming program
- New members information
- Competition rules and conditions
- Competition results
- To download Viewfinder
- General information, links etc

Other, please list:

Viewfinder

8 (a) Almost all members now receive the club's monthly newsletter in electronic form only.
How often do you actually access and read at least part of Viewfinder?

- Nearly every issue
- More than half the issues
- About half of the issues
- Less than half of the issues
- Seldom if at all

(b) Producing a downloadable magazine style layout for Viewfinder plus printing and posting a hard copy to a small number of members costs about \$160 a month. Would you be happy with a simple weekly or monthly summary of upcoming events downloadable from the web?

- I would be very happy to forgo a regular Viewfinder magazine
- I would be prepared to forgo a regular Viewfinder magazine
- I have a neutral feeling about forgoing a regular Viewfinder magazine
- I would be unhappy to forgo a regular Viewfinder magazine
- I would be very unhappy to forgo a regular Viewfinder magazine

(c) What information in Viewfinder do you value most? Advise as many types as you wish.

Future programs

9 (a) Which CPS members would you like the program to include next year - if they were willing?

(b) Please name any non members from whom you would like to have a program.

(c) Would you be interested in contributing to an evening's program either alone or with others? If so please advise possible topics and length of program.

(d) Do you have any suggestion(s) to improve next year's program?

Help, please!

10 (a) The success of CPS depends upon willing volunteers. We do not always know who is willing to help, nor the skills of individual members. How would you like to help if we had a need?

(b) Have you any other comments and suggestions on the questions posed here, or any other club matters?

Name or membership no: _____ Date: _____/_____/_____

(This is only to preclude accidental duplication.)

Please hand your completed survey to a Committee member, or post to the society at P O Box 1789, Christchurch 8140