

MIPP Secretary General Annual Report 2017

Hon. Secretary General
24 February 2017

I would like to start by thanking you for the support you have shown towards the MIPP during the past year. As you know, last year was our 20th year anniversary and we highlighted the year with a number of activities to celebrate such a special year. The MIPP's success can be traced through the vision and hard work of our founding members and thanks to the work of the committee members through the years and to the members who have always backed the MIPP. Special thanks must go to Kevin Casha, our President, who has worked tirelessly through these years to make the MIPP a respected and credible photography organisation. I would like to also thank the other committee members, Martin, Tonio and Oriella who gave a lot of their time and managed the organisation in the best possible way.

Over the years it was Kevin's dream that the MIPP should have our own premises. This year, Kevin and the committee visited a lot of different places and we finally managed to find a suitable place in Paola. The premises will be used for a number of different purposes such as an office, a venue for our small courses, as well as a storage place. At the moment we are still waiting for the necessary Planning Authority permits to be able to do the final contract. Unfortunately this involves a long process, however we hope that by the end of this year we will manage to get this sorted out and start to work on the premises which is in an advanced shell form. In the meantime, this year the MIPP has rented a garage so that we put all our equipment in one place. It is good to mention that for the last few years several members were generously offering their space so that we keep the organisation's equipment however such a situation was not proving to be feasible, hence the committee agreed to rent a garage. However, once we will have our premises, this rental will be terminated.

2016-2017 was another eventful year for the MIPP. We had a number of different activities every month. Apart from the variety of lectures that the MIPP offered to its members we also organised a number of photowalks. The committee is very proud to note that most of our activities were attended by a good number of members. As in previous years we have organised the November Convention. This was the last convention of its type as the committee plans to suggest to the incoming committee to change the format of the convention and organise a number of one day seminars throughout the year.

During the Awards Night, the committee noted with satisfaction the number of MIPP members and non- members who have received some form of recognition through the courses and other opportunities that we have provided during the year. It is of utmost importance that we remain in the forefront to educate and provide learning platforms in the field of photography. However we want to emphasis that even if a good number of students have received their certificate in photography they had to work hard as we firmly believe that only work of high standard should be awarded. As part of the the 20th year Anniversary events we organised a lecture by Kevin, followed by a dinner at the Hilltop Gardens during the world photography day. We also distributed USB drives with the MIPP logo as a commemorative memento. The MIPP also organised a trip to Matera. This trip was successful not only because we provided our members with a good photographic opportunity but also because we have established an excellent relationship with the photographic community in Matera and we hope to colaborate even further to organise joint projects. Finally, as part of the 20th year celebrations the MIPP donated a further 20 framed prints to Mater Dei Hospital. This was possible through the help of our sponsors ILAB and INTERVISIONS.

As in previous years the MIPP has worked hard to provide both members and the general public with courses on photography. These courses also help to create much needed income to run the Institute. This year the MIPP offered an introductory course in photography as well as two Still Image accredited courses. Due to the popularity of this course the MIPP held this course twice during the year. The third course that the MIPP offers is a course on post processing methods which is also proving to be popular with our members. We would also like to say that the MIPP is working to have another two accredited courses: Fashion Photography and Applied Commercial photography. Apart from having a good number of students who earn their accredited certificate in photography, the MIPP offers its own qualifications. This year we have also had two successful Associate panels from two MIPP members Domenic Aqlina and Johann Debono. Well done to both for their success. We would also like to congratulate Sean Azzopardi for winning this year's photographer of the year competition. A well deserved thanks goes to all participants who have submitted their photos and we are very pleased to say that during this competition we saw a good level of work. Also we would like to thank Martin Agius and his team for taking care of the organisation of the PTYA. We would like to encourage members to participate in this year's competition as it is another means how one can improve one's photography.

It is also satisfying to point out that this year we had an increase in the amount of members working in the different subcommittees and that is very positive, as we need as many hands-on-deck as possible to run this voluntary organisation. As from this year, the MIPP has a new subcommittee that is working on the newsletter, however we would like to take this opportunity to thank Therese Debono for the work she did for the past years in the

production of the newsletter. Today's newsletter is being taken care of by Sita Azzopardi, Louisa Tonna and Daniel Vassallo, and co-ordinated by Kevin Casha. We would also like to thank Brian Agius for the design of the MIPP's promotional flyers. The committee would like to thank the team for all the work being done. This year we also worked to revamp the MIPP website. The committee decided that the previous website was giving us a lot of problems in order to maintain and update it. Therefore it was decided to invest in a new site. Thanks to Tonio Polidano, the committee enlisted the services of a web designer to build the new site, which was launched last November. The site was well received and on a daily basis we get a good number of hits. The site is currently managed by Tonio who will soon train some other members to help out. The committee would also like to thank Ivan Consilgio and Charles Calleja who have supported the outgoing committee during this year and have helped us on numerous occasions.

This will be my last year as a committee member as due to family commitments I have less time to spare for other activities. However I am fully committed to keep on giving the support to the new committee and the MIPP and I urge all members to do the same. The new committee faces new challenges and it needs everyone's support as without your help it will not be possible. If the MIPP manages to get the necessary permits we will have to start to work on furnishing the premises - this means that we have to organise more fundraising events to finance these new projects. Also next year we might be faced with a hefty sum of money that we will have to pay to the NCFHE in order to have our accredited Courses reviewed and audited. If the NCFHE decides to go on with this plan, the MIPP will have to review whether to proceed or not with accreditation. However, at this stage we are contesting the sum that organisations such as ours have to pay through the GRTU. This year we have also become members of the GRTU so we can give a better service to our members.

Therefore we need your help and support. Every committee needs to feel that members are standing behind them. We also encourage our members to keep on this positive attitude to take part in our activities and make use of all the services that our organisation provides. We also recommend that you take a look at the member's handbook that Oriella and myself prepared. There you will find all these services listed, such as mentoring and possible loaning of a set of frames that can be used for any exhibition or even renting out of the MIPP's studio lights.

I wish the new committee a good and productive year and thank you all for your support.

Sergio Morana

(Secretary general)

Kevin Casha

President MIPP

Approved at MIPP AGM 7th March 2017