U3A Stonnington

Where Will Your Photos Be In 100 Years' Time?

presented by

Michael J Bauer

`mjbauer@iprimus.com.au`

The short answer is…

"Who knows?"

Most likely, it will depend on the diligence of successive generations to safe-guard the images, whether film negatives, prints, or digital images. (Nothing has changed.)

A better question might be…

Will anyone care where your photos are in 100 years' time?

Perhaps not, but the next generation of descendants and maybe the one after might.

Another factor could be the level of public interest in your life or in your photographs.

Otherwise, it's doubtful that your photos alone will honour you with "immortality".

Do you have any photos older than 100 years in your house?

If so, are they…

❑ In a box in the attic?

❑ In a box easily accessible?

❑ In a photo album?

❑ Framed and on display?

(In increasing order of survivability)

Digital images stand the best chance of long-term survival.

However, they will need to be "regenerated" from time to time for storage on the prevalent medium.

How to maximize your photos' chance of long-term survival...

1. Convert film negatives, slides and prints to digital image files.
2. Organise your photos on a computer.
3. Make multiple backup copies.
4. Pick the best to be printed and framed.

Step 1: Convert film negatives, slides and prints to digital.

- Do it yourself, or try to persuade your children to do it for you.
- Commercial services are available... (at a price – is it really worth it?)
- When? – Sooner the better
- Why? – Google for answers [demo]
- How? – (coming up...)

Step 2: Organise your digital photos.

- Delete unwanted, uninteresting, redundant & replicated photos (or archive these separately).
- Sort into categories, e.g.
  - Chronological
  - Locations
  - People
- Make "albums", annotated with…
  - Names, Places, Dates, etc

Step 3: Make backup copies.

- Use at least two different media types, e.g.
  - Optical disc (CD-R, DVD-R)
  - USB drive (Flash or HD)
  - Internet-based storage (the "Cloud")
- Backups on portable media, e.g. CD, DVD, USB drives, should be kept in different locations away from your principal storage medium (PC hard disk or whatever).
- Don't leave photos in your camera SD card! (Transfer them to your computer regularly.)

Step 4: Print the best photos.

- Pick out the best and make prints...
  - Use high-quality paper,
  - Use "archive-quality" dyes (OfficeWorks provides a good print service)
- Keep prints in hard-bound albums.
- Mount large prints in big heavy frames.
- Ensure prints are annotated on the back with names, dates, places, etc.
- Avoid exposure to sunlight.

How to convert photographic prints to digital image files.

Prints which are exceptionally precious may justify the use of professional scanning equipment to ensure every detail is preserved.

Otherwise, a low-cost document scanner, or digital camera, is all you need.

Once digitized, photo images can be "corrected" or enhanced using photo editing software on your computer.

[Demonstration follows.]

Internet/Cloud storage for photos.

- Google search for options.
- Paid or free service?
  -- What's the catch?
- Privacy and security issues.
- How will your descendants and others know of the existence of the repository?... and how to gain access?
- Long-term guarantee?

Internet/Cloud storage for photos
(continued)

Live demonstration of **Google Photos**
(time permitting)