

## Committee Members 2014-15

President:	Shirley Steel
Vice President:	Robyn Cook
Secretary	Mandy Ferretti
Treasurer:	Anne Baker
Public Officer:	Ted Szafraniec
Committee:	Jeannie McInnes Ann Wharton David Jenkins Position Vacant
Newsletter :	Jeannie McInnes

### Frequently asked questions:

**1. *How do I become a member?***

Annual membership is \$60 and a \$2 donation each club night. See the Treasurer (Anne Baker ) who will help you.

**2. *Do I have to enter images on exhibition nights?***

No, not everyone brings along images each time but we encourage you to do so because as keen photographers, we love sharing our images and will enjoy looking at yours.

**3. *What if I'm not confident enough to display my work?***

That's OK. Take your time and get a feel for the club or ask one of the regular club members how they felt to start with. It might be helpful to ask an experienced club member to have a look at your work and give you feedback. You will probably find that others think your work is good!

**4. *I don't have a mat cutter and I don't know how to cut mats. Do I purchase mats?***

No, don't feel you have to purchase expensive mats. The club gives each new member 3 mats as a welcome. The club owns a mat cutter and if you ask a committee member, they will arrange for someone to help you cut a mat before the meeting starts. Just make sure you arrange it in advance. The Picture Framing Warehouse in Russell St Emu Plains is a supporter of our club and if you speak with Sonja or Ben they will help you. Many of the framing shops have precut frames on display and some are good prices.

**5. *What happens in judging?***

Usually we have an outside judge from another club or a photography professional come along to our club. On exhibition nights, members usually try to come a bit earlier if they are entering images, as all images need to be on display before the

meeting commences at 8pm. We have a couple of large stands that we put up each night.

The club also has some laminated numbers. You take a number and place it near your print when you place your image on the boards with everyone else. Make sure you put them in the sections that will be labelled Colour, Mono, Theme (Colour & Mono mixed for theme)

If you have brought along digital images, hand those to the club member who is operating the laptop.

Once you have done all of that, you need to fill in your entry form (it's pretty self explanatory). Make sure you write the number that is attached to your image on the entry form so the scorekeeper can easily cross check later when they are compiling the scores. NB Numbers will be given for the digital images as they are projected. The other item you need is the members' choice voting slip. Also, if you have a Theme image, be sure to mark the relevant image with a "T".

NB To save time you can download the entry form from our website and fill it in beforehand.

Now, take a seat beside a friendly face and enjoy!

Once the judge begins, they will probably go through section by section. Usually they comment on the image and then they allocate a score out of 15. A club member will then ask, "Author?" and if it is your image, you say so.

It is your responsibility to write the mark for each of your images in the relevant section on your entry form. At the end of the night you hand it to the club scorekeeper.

We break for supper midway and this is a great time to get to know people, have a chat about the images that are on display and ask questions.

See the By-Laws for detailed information on image size limitations and other rules for exhibitions.

#### **6. *How do I print my images?***

Some club members own their own printer. Some have large format printers and others a smaller desktop photo printer. Printing your own images can be an expensive option so we suggest that you look around and talk to club members who already own printers. Don't just take advice from the first person you speak with. Take your time and do your research. Having a good printer and being able to do your own printing can be very satisfying BUT it can also be frustrating. There are online printing options that some members use. Some members use the local printing outlets in the big stores.

#### **7. *What if I don't agree with the judge?***

Judges will usually preface their session with a comment that although they are accredited as judges with the FCC, theirs is a personal appraisal. Do not be disheartened but listen and see if there is anything constructive you can take from

the commentary. More experienced members will often say that it is not the score, but the comments that they seek.

Why not also ask for feedback from other members, particularly those that are more experienced.

We try to book judges who we respect and who we feel show respect for our club members. We all want to be encouraged in our photography and we want good constructive feedback for our work. We also enjoy it when the judge has an interactive approach and asks us questions about what we have captured

### **8. What if I joined the club to learn?**

We hope that the opportunity to regularly select images to enter for appraisal is one valuable opportunity to learn. The club program also provides visiting speakers on a range of topics and at least one professional learning opportunity (usually of a weekend) each year. Our club outings that we try to run monthly offer a chance to capture images with other club members who will have various equipment, skills and experience. Informal observations, conversations and questions that occur while actually shooting or at the coffee shop afterwards are an ideal opportunity to learn from each other. In addition, the FCC and other photographic organisations publicise courses and programs. We attempt to keep members informed of web-based forums and opportunities that come our way.

We have a Facebook page that some of our members are using.

Many of us have made strong photographic links through the club and these friendships have often led to great learning opportunities.

Some would say that you will get out of the club what you put into it, so we encourage you to ask, suggest, offer, participate, involve yourself and above all ..... Enjoy your photography!

Welcome to BMPG!