
QUEENSLAND CAMERA GROUP

HANDBOOK

2024

Welcome to Queensland Camera Group!

This handbook provides a comprehensive overview of the club and its activities. It is a great starting point to find out about meetings, club events, grading and competitions. Don't forget that more detailed information is available on the club websites and in emails before events. And from club members – please ask!

Have fun as you take, make and share your images.



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CLUB INFORMATION

Queensland Camera Group has been in operation since 1956. The club aims to provide a fun, friendly and supportive outlet for photographers of all standards seeking to develop their skills.

QCG WEBSITES

Queensland Camera Group (QCG) has two websites:

- a club website
- a competition website.

QCG's **club website**, <http://www.qcg.org.au/>, is the place to go for up-to-date information about club activities, galleries of members' images, the blog, club documents and copies of the QCG monthly newsletter, Prism.

Important website sections

[About](#) Find out about the club and its history, as well as contact details for key committee members.

[Calendar](#) Read the latest information about upcoming events. Download a printable PDF year calendar which also includes contact details for event organisers. The club's web calendar will always be the point of truth for events as it is continually updated; if you are ever uncertain about an event, check here first.

[Galleries](#) View images from recent competitions and events.

[Newsletters](#) Read current and back issues of Prism and the PSQ Flashes newsletter

[Competitions](#) Link to the competition website, MyPhotoClub.

[Resources](#) Discover the Handbook, set subject definitions for monthly competitions, blogs, club documents and library resources.

QCG's **competition website**, <https://qcggroup.myphotoclub.com.au/>, was introduced in 2020. This is where members submit entries for most club competitions, view published competitions, request feedback via Critique Corner and provide comments on other members' images. The club uses a password protected competition platform called MyPhotoClub. You may hear this referred to as 'MPC', which is club shorthand for 'Queensland Camera Group's MyPhotoClub website'.

Important website sections

[Members](#) Upload competition entries, view published competitions, view pointscores, view other members' entries, upload an image for critiquing.

[Help documents](#) Discover help with using MPC and preparing print or digital entries for competition.

[Competition resources](#) Find extra information about club competitions.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The club generally meets from February to early December. Meetings are held at SPACE in Kenmore Hills (Cnr Branton Street & Paley Street), unless otherwise noted.

To allow us to adapt to circumstances, events may be face-to-face, face-to-face and live streamed via Zoom, or via Zoom only.

Always check the Calendar section of the club website for details of times and venues, as these may change. And watch your email!

Meeting times will typically be:

- First Thursday of the month: Focus Group
- Second Thursday of the month: Speaker Night
- Fourth Thursday of the month: Competition Judging Night
- Third Saturday of the month: Portrait Group
- Last Sunday of the month (quite variable): Photoshoot Outing

SPEAKER NIGHT

A speaker from the photography world shares their knowledge with the club. Visitors are welcome.

COMPETITION JUDGING NIGHT

All images entered in the month's competitions are presented, by grade and topic, with feedback from a judge. Visitors are welcome.

FOCUS GROUP

Demonstrations and talks by experienced club members and external photographers provide all grade levels of members with information designed to improve their photographic and processing skills. Members only.

PORTRAIT GROUP

This group is designed to help all members with an interest in portraits to learn about studio lighting equipment and its use, as well as other styles of portrait (including natural light). Volunteer portrait models are always welcomed (family and friends). Members only. Portrait Group is usually held at the Centenary Community Hub.

PHOTOSHOOT OUTINGS

This is your chance to get out and about, exploring new places with your camera in the company of fellow club members.

ANNUAL WEEKEND AWAY

Every year, QCG organises a weekend away, sometimes with another club. The aim of the weekend is to get to know your fellow members better and maybe make new connections with members from another club. Details are usually provided in the first half of the year for a weekend away usually held in the second part of the year.

NAME BADGE

An official club name badge can be ordered when you pay your initial membership fee. Members are encouraged to wear their badge at club meetings, photoshoot outings and interclub activities.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The QCG Management Committee is elected at the Annual General Meeting in September. Nominations are called for prior to each AGM. The new committee begins its term in the next calendar year, holding office for the remainder of that calendar year. Committee members are listed on the QCG website. The committee meets monthly.

MENTORING

The Shutter Buddy program offers new members the chance to be paired up with an experienced member with similar photographic interests or equipment. You will be asked if you want to participate in this program when you join. A Shutter Buddy can really help you become comfortable navigating the club's processes, well as being a photographic sounding board.

We encourage everyone - if you have a question about club procedures, competition requirements or any photography topic, please ask!

CLUB SPIRIT AWARD

Each year the Committee considers the presentation of the QCG Club Spirit Award to any member, not currently a member of the Committee, who has given highly meritorious contribution or service to the Club for that year.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Queensland Camera Group has social media accounts on Facebook (one [open](#) group and one closed group for members only, the link to which is pinned at the top of the open group) and Instagram.

The purpose of these accounts is to give the club a digital presence and to share information about our club, its events, its achievements, and the successes of its members. If you enjoy social media, please drop by our Facebook and Instagram pages and hit 'Follow' and apply to join the closed the group (all members welcome).

YOUR IMAGES ON THE WEB

QCG is a content-rich organisation and sometimes we'd like to share your competition images and images of you at QCG events on the internet.

We seek your permission to do this on your membership form. Images may be used in various places including, but not limited to, QCG Facebook and Instagram accounts and the social media of industry groups like the Australian Photographic Society (APS), Photographic Society of Queensland (PSQ), Momento Pro, Camera Pro, etc.

As a matter of course, ALL Honour and Merit competition images are automatically uploaded to the club's website under the Gallery tab. Competition images and photos of our members are also used in our monthly newsletter, Prism, and occasionally in blogs, which are also located on the club's website. In MyPhotoClub images may also be visible to the public in competition results posts and on the home page rotator.

At all times the maker retains copyright of their image and, where possible, the maker will receive attribution for their work.

HOW TO BE A HELPFUL CLUB MEMBER

The cornerstone of social clubs like ours is cohesion. This is achieved when members do what they can, when they can, for the benefit of their fellow member and for the benefit of their club.

It's also important to remember that people join camera clubs for many different yet valid reasons. Most join to improve their photography, but people also join to connect with others socially, to reinvigorate

their creativity, to show their work to others and to enjoy a wonderful pastime with like-minded individuals.

Fun and learning are at the forefront of what we do, and it's easier to achieve those goals when we all (generally!!) follow the same path.

- Be responsible for informing yourself. This means:
 - Read your emails carefully. Emails are the main way we will communicate with you. They are always drafted with great care and are only ever sent when the information is important to you.
 - If you still have questions, refer to the club's website, handbook and the myriad of bespoke resources in MyPhotoClub (or your buddy if you have one).
- Be punctual and proactive. Whether the meeting or catch up is in person or via Zoom, come a little bit early if you can. Notice if help is required (putting out chairs, washing up cups, selling raffle tickets). Your enthusiasm will be infectious and greatly appreciated.
- Be polite – to our external guests (speakers, judges, workshop hosts) and to each other. Never criticise a judge's opinion and be very mindful of what is written in Zoom chats as this can be seen by both the presenter/judge and your fellow members.
- Be generous. Got a skill you can share? We'd love to hear about it.

WHAT DO ALL THOSE INITIALS MEAN?

When you first join the camera club, you may be baffled by the numerous abbreviations which are commonly used. It's a lazy habit in some cases, but often also a term of endearment. 'QCG', for instance, is just 'us'! 'PSQ' is an organisation comprising members of affiliated camera clubs from throughout the state. 'BCG' is the Brisbane Camera Group, another metropolitan club, as is 'MGP', Mt Gravatt Photographic Society, and so on. Sometimes we forget to explain to new members just what these initials mean! Here is a selection of those you will often hear mentioned.

PSQ

The [Photographic Society of Queensland](#) (PSQ) represents clubs and promotes photographic standards throughout the state. Part of your annual QCG membership fees go to PSQ to help provide public liability insurance for QCG members and access for the club to accredited judges for our competitions. In addition, the Annual PSQ Convention, offering competitions, lectures, displays and photo opportunities, is held on the May long weekend and is an opportunity for members of all camera clubs to get to know each other (it's also one of our Photoshoot topics!).

The PSQ Council comprises a Management Committee (representatives of affiliated clubs) and the Judges Executive (subcommittee of PSQ accredited judges). Any club member can attend as a non-voting delegate at PSQ Council meetings. A monthly Newsletter, Flashes, is available to clubs and on the PSQ website (www.psq.org.au). Club members are encouraged to nominate for positions on the PSQ Management Committee and/or be delegates at PSQ meetings.

APS

The [Australian Photographic Society](#) is the only national photographic group available to amateur photographers. It covers a variety of specialist divisions and groups including Contemporary, Nature, Audio Visual and Conceptual and provides the pathways to achieve national and international photographic honours. Individuals become members by subscription. The APS also hosts national

interclub competitions including the fiercely contested Australian Cup (see also Interclub Competitions) and a national photo book competition.

SEQ

SEQ stands for Salon of Excellence Queensland and is a state competition held in conjunction with the Photographic Society of Queensland's annual convention. Each year QCG encourages its members to participate (there is a small cost to participants). Members can have their images judged in the context of images from all over the state, vying for individual and club awards (see also Interclub Competitions). Check the [PSQ website](#) for information.

DPI (or PDI or EDI)

Short for Digital Projected Image, digital images are always judged in their own category (prints, sometimes considered the purest form of photographic image, are judged separately). Digital images are useful in that they are inexpensive to produce and easily allow images to be shared and judged across state lines and between countries. Some clubs also refer to digital competition entries as PDIs (Projected Digital Images) or EDIs (Electronic Digital Images).

MPC

The most common way to refer to MyPhotoClub, the competition software platform used by QCG, many other camera clubs and the APS. There is an overarching MPC website but you will mostly be interacting with QCG's MPC site, <https://qcgroup.myphotoclub.com.au/>.

COMPETITION INFORMATION

Photography club competitions offer members many benefits. They provide a platform for others to see your work and give you the opportunity to be inspired by the work of other members. Through constructive feedback from expert judges on both your own and others' images, competitions can help improve your photography, your visual literacy and your post-processing skills. They also offer a way to measure your progress against yourself and others. Not to mention that they challenge you to explore new techniques and subjects you may not have tried otherwise!

Queensland Camera Group holds

- monthly Aggregate (point-scoring) competitions (Prints and DPs)
- stand-alone competitions throughout the year (which may involve prints, DPs, portfolios, audio visuals, Photo books and more), and
- the Year End Photographic Awards.

For monthly Aggregate competitions, entries are submitted via MyPhotoClub (MPC). New members receive information about accessing MPC when they join. For other competitions, entry may be via Dropbox or other methods. Watch club correspondence for details.

The club also regularly participates in interclub competitions.

The information in the Handbook provides an overview of these competitions. Comprehensive details and specifics of competition entry are provided in **MyPhotoClub** and in club correspondence closer to an event.

To gain some insight into the judging process, the club and the Photographic Society of Queensland's Judges Executive recommends reading the [PSQ's Photography Judge's Manual 2023](#).

GRADING

If you wish to enter competitions, your photography must first be graded so that you are competing at the appropriate skill level. Grades used by QCG are A (our highest level), AB and B.

Our aim is to provide the opportunity for as much feedback on your work as possible, at a level which is appropriate. Feedback from judges is tailored to your level. Of course, you can also learn from feedback on everyone else's images.

Grading information is supplied to members on joining the club. To be graded, you submit around 10 examples of your digital images (referred to as Digital Projected Images or DPs) or Prints, showing a variety of subjects and styles. Submitting images in both media (Prints and DPs) might increase your chance of a higher grade but is not required. The Grading Panel (made up of the previous year's highest scoring A Grade members and the club President) will consider your images and recommend a grade.

Members will be considered for upgrading at the end of the competition year, when the Grading Panel reviews Aggregate Competition results (total score, average score and number of images entered). Upgrades are announced at the annual dinner.

Members may also request re-grading at any time, by resubmitting a portfolio of images.

CLUB COMPETITIONS

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

- Only financial members are eligible to enter club competitions (with the exception of the Hunt and Shoot Competition).
- All entries and elements must be the work of the entrant and must be of photographic origin. (For example, textures and sky replacements, if used, must be the work of the entrant.)

Post-production must be the work of the entrant.

Generative Fill or other Artificial Intelligence processes that use content generated by software from written prompts or developed from the work of others **must not be used** unless specifically allowed.

- Members should exercise judgment to ensure that images are within the bounds of good taste. For example, artistic nudity in images is acceptable but must marry all aspects of good photography including light, composition and form in a manner that neither objectifies nor sexualises the model. Genitalia must not be visible. The Committee has the right to remove images from competition where it feels an image is questionable.
- To enter graded competitions, members must first have their work assessed for placement in A, AB or B Grade. The same grade is used for both Digital Projected Images (DPIs) and Prints.

AGGREGATE COMPETITIONS

Aggregate competitions (also known as Point-scoring competitions or Monthly competitions) are conducted most months until near the end of year.

Aggregate competitions usually include a nominated Set Subject and an Open category (any subject allowed). Check the entry form in MyPhotoClub to see how many prints and DPIs are permitted for each. This may vary from year to year as the club attempts to keep the overall number of entries under 100, in line with Photographic Society of Queensland recommendations.

Images are awarded Honour, Merit, Commended, Acceptance, Non Acceptance or Out of Category. Points for Prints and DPIs are tallied and accumulate throughout the year. Members can view cumulative pointscores in MyPhotoClub until July or August each year, when they are hidden to allow an element of surprise for the Aggregate Competition trophies awarded at the annual dinner for the highest point scorers in various categories.

Some set subjects are used every year while others will vary from year to year. Because QCG participates in the Interclub DPI competition each year, the set subjects for that competition are always used. Other subjects are decided by the QCG Management Committee, with input from members.

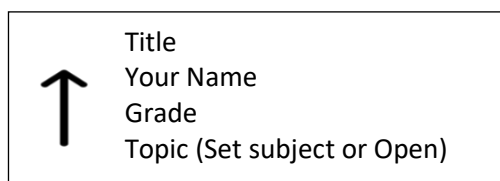
Broad definitions are provided for each year's set subjects in a separate [Subject Guidelines](#) document; these are also accessible from the MyPhotoclub entry submission page.

AGGREGATE COMPETITION RULES

- All General Competition Rules apply.
- You may NOT enter the same image in the DPI and Print categories of the same competition.
- If an image has gained an Acceptance or higher award in an Aggregate Competition, you may NOT enter it into any other Aggregate Competition **in any year**, even if you process it differently.
- You may enter an image which has gained Non Acceptance or Out of Category in a subsequent Aggregate Competition.
- Try NOT to enter images containing subject matter which meets the definition for the Set Subject, in the Open Competition on the same night. (Not a rule, just good advice.)
- Awards and Points are as follows:

Honour	10 points	Acceptance	3 points
Merit	7 points	Non Acceptance	0 points
Commended	5 points	Out of Category	0 points
- All images must have a title. (Note that MyPhotoClub has a title limit of 35 characters, allowing only letters, numbers and spaces and no special characters.)
- Two images within each monthly Aggregate competition will be awarded ‘Most Apt Title’, where the judge decides the title that most accurately, wittily or humorously reflects the subject matter of the image.
- **DPI entries** must be uploaded into the relevant competition space in the QCG [MyPhotoClub](#) website and must comply with the following requirements:
 - File format: jpeg (.jpg)
 - Colour space: sRGB
 - Maximum file size 2 MB
 - Maximum horizontal dimension: 1920 pixels
 - Maximum vertical dimension: 1080 pixels

Files outside of these dimensions will not be accepted by MyPhotoClub.
- **Print entries** must be mounted and labelled.
 - Matboards can be sourced from [Frontier Digital](#) or other printing services.
 - Maximum mount size: 16” x 20” for rectangular images or 16” x 16” for square images.
 - Prints may be any size within that mount.
 - Printable labels can be generated through MyPhotoClub when you upload the DPI of your print entries. These should be printed and affixed to the reverse side of the mount or matboard, **in the centre at the top**. If you can’t print the label, you can use a sticky label and include title, maker, grade, competition topic and an arrow to indicate which way is up.



- A digital version of all Print entries must be uploaded to the QCG MyPhotoClub website to register your entries. File size limitations and closing dates are the same as for DPI entries.
- The Prints themselves should be lodged with the Competitions Officer or Print Coordinator by the closing date.
- Make sure you collect your prints at the end of each Competition Judging night. Uncollected prints will be disposed of at regular intervals.

AGGREGATE COMPETITION AWARDS

These awards are presented at the Annual Dinner. They celebrate photographers who have participated consistently and achieved good results throughout the calendar year. The awards include:

Premier A Grade Photographer (Joan Robinson Memorial Trophy)

Awarded to the A Grade member achieving the greatest number of aggregate points (across both DPis and Prints) in Aggregate club competitions throughout the year.

AB Grade Photographer of the Year

Awarded to the AB Grade member achieving the greatest number of aggregate points (across both DPis and Prints) in Aggregate club competitions throughout the year.

B Grade Photographer of the Year

Awarded to the B Grade member achieving the greatest number of aggregate points (across both DPis and Prints) in Aggregate club competitions throughout the year.

Highest Aggregate Pointscore - Prints (Trophy of Excellence)

Awarded to the member achieving the greatest number of aggregate points in Prints, in any grade, in Aggregate club competitions throughout the year.

Highest Aggregate Pointscore - Digital Projected Images (Dulcie Reid Memorial Trophy)

Awarded to the member achieving the greatest number of aggregate points in DPis, in any grade, in Aggregate club competitions throughout the year.

OTHER CLUB COMPETITIONS (NON-AGGREGATE)

Artist Competition

Every year, one Aggregate Competition is judged by a practising artist rather than a photographic judge. Traditionally the Set Subject was Still Life; from 2022 the Set Subject alternates between Still Life and Creative.

Artist Open Competition (Peggy Stumbles Trophy (Print)/Bill Woodhead Trophy (DPI))

An overall winner is chosen from the Honour awards (any grade) in Creative and Open (or only from the Open subject in years where the Set Subject is Still Life).

Still Life Competition (Graham Forster Still Life Trophy)

This trophy is awarded when the set subject for the Artist competition is Still Life (from 2022, this will be every second year). An overall winner is chosen from the Honour awards (any grade) in the Still Life Aggregate competition.

Three Related Images (Stewart Parker Perpetual Trophy)

The Three Related Images competition allows members to showcase a portfolio of images which are linked in some way. The competition has an Open subject and is non-graded. Members are allowed one entry, containing three visually related images. Images may be presented as a single three-part image or three separate images.

Club Audiovisual Competition (Ted Warren Trophy)

Creating an Audiovisual (a planned sequence of still images using a combination of sound, music, voiceover and/or transitions) is a way to showcase a collection of images for the purposes of storytelling or mood creation. The Audiovisual Competition is non-graded with an Open topic.

Hunt and Shoot

The Hunt and Shoot is a fun outing and harks back to the days of film photography, where for the most part, we only had one chance to get a shot right in camera. Subjects are unknown by competitors until the start of the shoot. Competitors meet at a pre-arranged time and place and the rules of the day are explained, including that shots must be taken in the order provided by the organiser (only one shot per subject), and that no shots may be deleted. The competition organiser downloads entries on the day and arranges judging of the images. Announcement of awards and viewing of entries takes place at a future club meeting. This is traditionally a fun competition, open to members, friends and family and other non-members.

QCG Photobook Competition

This competition allows members to create a collection of printed images – in book form. Awards for first, second and third as well as a People’s Choice are usually made. The Photobook competition was introduced in 2019 and is intended to be a bi-annual competition held in the off-year to Collections.

Gallery Experience (Roger Bartlett Trophy and People’s Choice Award)

The Gallery Experience, formerly known as Collections or the Print Project, is a bi-annual competition held by the club to provide members with a true gallery exhibition experience. While details are subject to change, participants have the opportunity to exhibit images in a gallery chosen by the club.

YEAR END PHOTOGRAPHIC AWARDS

These competitions celebrate the best images of the year across various categories. Introduced in 2021, these awards incorporate two previously held end-of-year competitions (the Annuals and the Best of the Best).

The Year End Photographic Awards are judged at a gala judging event on the last weekend of November, open to all members. Judging is impact style by a panel of three judges, who are encouraged to offer feedback on their final choices. This event recognises the traditions of live judging and impact judging enjoyed with the old ‘Annuals’.

Check the specific rules for each category in the separate QCG Year End Photographic Awards document, available in MyPhotoClub.

DPI of the Year (President’s Trophy)

Print of the Year (QCG Trophy)

Most Apt Title (Most Apt Title Trophy)

Portrait of the Year (Gaye Edwards Portrait Trophy)

Black and White Print of the Year (Nick Caris Trophy)

Mountain Landscape Image of the Year (Mountain Landscape Trophy, donated by Andrew Klonowski)

Social Documentary Image of the Year (Social Documentary trophy)

Creative Image of the Year (Phil Lawrence Creative Trophy)

Nature Image of the Year (Anne Pappalardo Nature Trophy)

INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

QCG regularly participates in interclub competitions, each of which is governed by their own rules and subject definitions. For some competitions the entry is made by the club, with entries chosen by QCG subcommittees with the assistance of the Competitions Officer. For other competitions, members are responsible for entering their own images. Some interclub competitions provide awards for individual images as well as club level awards.

Tri Nations

This is an annual competition run between Queensland Camera Group, Westville Camera Club (South Africa) and Stoke Poges Photographic Club (UK). Each club submits 20 entries. All 60 entries are judged in each country and the results tallied.

APS Australian Cup

This competition is open to Australian Camera Clubs, with each club submitting 20 entries. Images may be any subject, colour or mono, but must **not** have been entered into the APS Australian Cup before. Also, if you are a member of several camera clubs, you may only enter images on behalf of **one club**. This is a club entry, but awards are also made to individual images.

SEQ (Salon of Excellence Queensland)

Salon of Excellence Queensland is a state-wide print and DPI competition held in conjunction with the Photographic Society of Queensland annual convention. Members of PSQ-affiliated clubs enter their own images individually on the SEQ competition website. There are separate competitions for A and Non-A graders. There are three club level awards: the Angus Buchanan Trophy for the club with the highest points, the Stewart Parker Trophy for the club with the highest average points and the Dalby Photographic Society Shield for the club with the most acceptances. Individual awards are also offered in each category.

River City Print Competition

This print competition, normally run annually, is open to all Queensland camera groups, with different clubs taking turns to run it. Queensland Camera Group hosted this competition in 2022 and will do so again in 2023.

Queensland Interclub Competition

This traditionally DPI only competition is conducted annually and is open to all Queensland camera clubs. Entries are made by each club, although First and Second place certificates are awarded to individual members in each category. There are three compulsory subjects: Scapes, Nature or Animals, and Portrait/People. Three additional subjects are selected by delegate vote each year. An Open subject for non-A graders encourages involvement of these grades.

The Queenslanders

This is a travelling photographic print exhibition open to all members of PSQ-affiliated clubs and private members. It comprises the winning prints from the Salon of Excellence Queensland.