

I am very pleased to provide this President's report, my third and final for the Queensland Camera Group. The last 12 months have seen many successes for the club – the highlights being a brand new website and an influx of new, active members - and we have the management committee, many individual non-committee members and of course our general membership to thank for this.

Your management committee has worked hard to create not only an interesting and engaging 12 month calendar of events, but to also continue to lay the foundations which allow the long term success of the Queensland Camera Group.

Our Vice President Tony FitzGerald has delivered a vibrant speaker program – often remotely – as he travels the country; treasurer Max Biddlestone again made sure our figures added up and steered the club toward continued financial success; secretary Jane McMenamin took over the reins mid-year and barely missed a beat in this important role, despite a very busy (paid) working week; David Bullock ran our myriad competitions with behind-the-scene diligence, patience and professionalism; Martin Riley put his own stamp on our fantastic Focus program, ensured our judges were selected, briefed and debriefed, and in conjunction with David Bullock, has updated the club's bylaws; Esther Andrews continued to deliver an interesting photo shoot program to round out our regular but exciting calendar of events.

My personal thanks to John Edwards who continues to work behind the scenes in a non-committee capacity to make sure our club nights, our competitions and our events run smoothly. Rodney Nancarrow too for organising our interclub competitions and setting up the projector at each meeting, Geoff Shortland who took over the editing of Prism, Carol Clark our fantastic membership officer and Elizabeth Riley who is recording the historical documents of the club and is also part of the web team.

Our thanks go to Gaye Edwards who has delivered a wonderful (and unique to Brisbane camera clubs) portrait special interest group, along with an amazing new website, thanks to Brisbane City Council via the Building Stronger Communities Grant. Congratulations to those who were successful in the special 'My Brisbane' competition which was held to celebrate the new site, judged by Councillors Steve Toomey and Peter Matic.

The Building Stronger Communities grant also afforded the club professional expertise and training in the area of social media, and QCG now has a strong Facebook and Instagram presence.

The grant also helped the club revitalise flagging membership figures. Whilst those figures peaked in 2018/19, the current membership figures for this financial year show a decrease in actual members, but an increase in active members including a burgeoning B Grade! The balance of the Building Stronger Communities grant – around \$800 - must be acquitted by the end of this calendar year.

Thanks to Ray Shorter and Roger Bartlet who completed a Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant application for the club which will be announced later in August.

Challenges for the future include the succession of our long standing treasurer and competitions officer and continuing to manage and review the area of online competition entry and its possible benefits for the Queensland Camera Group's members. My thanks to the many committee members who are actively researching this area on behalf of the club. Finding volunteers in a busy world is the bane of most clubs – QCG is no different in that regard – and we continue to look and

learn from other clubs both in and out of the camera club arena to find best practices. Lighting for the car park and the size of our clubhouse are agenda items which the management committee continues to review and assess monthly.

Our Print Project continues from strength to strength and our thanks goes again to organisers Phil Lawrence and Roger Bartlet. Stef Dunn will mentor the club for the 2020PP, and donated a print as part of our Oxley Common Fund Raiser for the PP2020 which raised \$500. Gaye Edwards again organised the Multiple Births Association photographic event, the proceeds from which also go to the Print Project. The club has forwarded an application to the PSQ for a \$500 grant toward the cost of the event and the committee will advise of this outcome in due course. The ultimate aim is for the event to be self-funding.

Martin Riley organised our inaugural photo book competition, to be held in the off year to the Print Project, again supporting the club's strategic plan which includes promoting the development of collections by members and providing gallery experiences to members. At a cost of around \$500 the judging night providing an opportunity for the club to gather with friends and family to view the work of our members and celebrate the success of putting together our photo books.

The club also continued to enjoy success at the Photographic Society of Queensland's Salon of Excellence, with many individual achievements and the club winning (for the second year in a row) Most Club Acceptances and Club with the Highest Aggregate Score.

Queensland Camera Group is in a terrific position to move forward under the next president and I have been honoured to be involved with its management. I am looking forward to contributing to the club in a communications role next year (that is my professional background so it will be a doddle for me!) but thank all members for their wonderful support – particularly that provided by your management committee – and to all those who mentored me in my first year.

Anne Pappalardo

President, Queensland Camera Group

