



President's Note

We have had a busy start to the year and it's not going to stop! With our 70th Birthday Celebration coming up we are going to make this year's TopShot bigger than ever!

For 70 years, the FCC has been providing support and services to our member Clubs and the amateur photography movement across NSW. This year, we'd like you to help us celebrate the FCC's birthday and, more importantly, to celebrate seven decades of amateur photography in NSW.

Our TopShot Competition opens TODAY 1 April!!! We have 9 Sections this year, with the new Drone/Aerial Photography Section! That's 9 opportunities to enter and win from our awesome prize pool. In previous years the FCC has given away up to \$10,000 in prizes and this year is no exception! We'll be releasing further information on our Sponsors in the coming weeks. Be sure to check out the TopShot Website for entry information, and to get your entries in.

The FCC Committee has also released new definitions for our Topshot competitions. Clubs are asked to check out the new FCC definition of Nature which is now consistent with the internationally-recognised definition used by the Photographic Society of America and FIAP.

On 18 June We'll be hosting an interactive "Shooting Through the Decades" Exhibition with seven photography stations and several camera brands in attendance on the day, with exclusive deals to all those Members who come along and check it out. This is all taking place on the Central Coast at Central Coast Leagues Club, Gosford.

Our FCC Photographic Judges' course which took place in February, the first since 2019, was very successful and resulted in 22 new judges from the South Coast to the Blue Mountains to the Hunter. The updated Judges List was sent out to all the Club Secretaries. Please get in touch with us if you are needing a copy. We had some amazing guests speakers at that course with Bill Backman and Meg Hewitt. Sending them both my biggest thanks for their valuable insights to the Judges' Course. Importantly this was not a one-off course. The FCC will run a similar course for member Clubs in regional NSW later this year and in future years.

More details on both the upcoming Topshot Event and future Judges Courses will be published in upcoming F/Stops.

Get those cameras going and those entries in!!!!

Michelle Kennedy
President





FCC Judges' Course



Clubs in Sydney, the South Coast, the Blue Mountains, the Central Coast and the Hunter now have 22 new photographic judges to choose from as a result of the FCC's first judges' course since 2019.

The judges completed a two-day course that was developed with Bill Bachman, a photographer with over 40 years' experience who was also the coordinator of the Judge Development and Training program for the Australian Institute of Professional Photography from 2016 to 2021.

"We were delighted to have someone of Bill's calibre helping us with the FCC course," said Michelle Kennedy, President of the FCC. "All our new judges learned modern ways to assess the content, composition and technical aspects of images and how to provide positive feedback to photographers," she added.

Meg Hewitt, an internationally-awarded street photographer and a judge for the 2022 Head On awards, also spoke about what judges look for in award-winning images.

The trainees learned how to analyse, give positive feedback on, and score images and they participated in four workshops and five practical sessions over the two days.



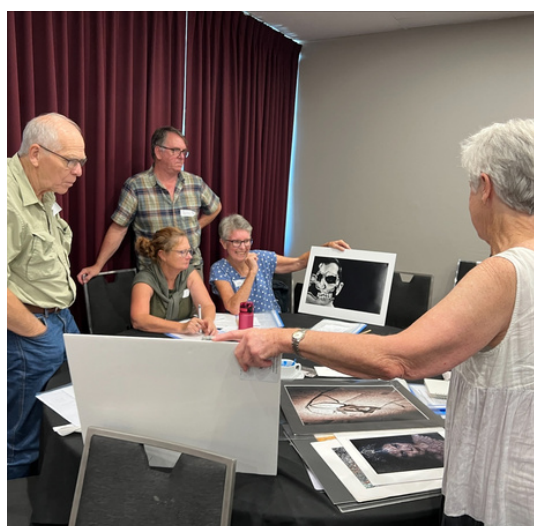
Participants said they liked “The supportive and instructive tone of the course – light hearted but lots of good content” and “The practical photo judging aspect” of the course.

Trainees also used the new FCC Photographic Judges’ Handbook as part of their training. The Handbook identifies international best practice in analysing, commenting on and scoring photographs, as well as the practicalities of contacting and working with Clubs.

There are now 74 photographic judges available to Clubs across NSW, and for the first time, more than one-third of them are women. Most of the new judges will provide face-to-face judging for Clubs, but some specialise in digital judging only. The updated FCC Judges List with their contact details will be sent to Club Secretaries this week.

“This course was very successful, but we still have more to do,” said Michelle. “We’ll be running a similar course in regional NSW later this year to boost the number of judges for our country members”.

Three regions have expressed interest in hosting the new judges’ course at the end of 2023. For more details on the regional course, contact Don Munro at nswfccsecretary@gmail.com





Topshot 2023

OPENS 1st APRIL

This year Topshot will coincide with the 70th anniversary of the founding of the FCC.

For the first time, a new category for drone and aerial photographers has been developed for Topshot. This recognises the interest in drone photography that has taken place in many Clubs around the state.

All photographers are also strongly encouraged to check out the new definitions which have been published on the FCC website.

The Nature definition has changed so that it is consistent with the APS definition for Nature. The Australian Landscape definition has also been clarified to remove some past ambiguities.

Photographers should especially consider the new definition that applies to the use of AI. Essentially, all images and all parts of an image that are entered into Topshot must be a photograph - that is, created by a photographer through the action of light on a light-sensitive material (such as a sensor or film). The generation of images or elements of images using AI image generators or other non-photographic methods are prohibited.

The 2023 exhibition of Topshot entrants and winners is planned for 18 June 2023 at Central Coast Leagues Gosford.

Keep watching F/Stop and the FCC website for more news about our celebration of 70 years of supporting photography clubs and photography across NSW.



Northern NSW Zone

Interclub Comp

More than 600 photographs have been entered into the largest regional competition in NSW, the 2023 Northern NSW Zone Interclub competition. Entries have been provided by nine camera clubs from Taree, Forster, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Lismore, Nambucca Heads, Port Macquarie, Tamworth and Kempsey.

This is the 47th annual interclub competition organised by the Northern NSW Zone of Photographic Societies, and the first post-COVID convention. Entries will be judged by the FCC, and results will be announced at the exhibition and convention that takes place on 19-21 May.

The convention, which is hosted by Coffs Camera Club, includes photographic talks, exhibitions and socialising. For more details, see the Northern NSW Zone website: <https://northnsw.myphotoclub.com.au/>



Wollundry *Photo Competition*

The Rotary Club of Wollundry Wagga Wagga invites all amateur and semi-professional photographers to enter its second annual Wollundry Photo Competition.

There are three categories of Landscape, Portrait, and General (which includes “anything not already covered”).

There is \$4,000 in prize money, and entries close on 5 May, 2023.

Entry fees are \$10 per photo, and if you sell your photo during the exhibition Rotary will retain 20% of the sales to be distributed to local charities.

For details about the terms and conditions, definitions, prize money, how to enter etc, see the Wollundry Rotary website at:

<https://wollundryrotary.org.au/Page/wollundry-photo-competition>



Spotlight on...

Vivian Maier

Vivian Maier was an amateur photographer who produced some of the greatest examples of street photography ever seen. Born in 1926, Vivian lived her life in relative obscurity, working as a nanny and caregiver for more than 40 years. On her outings with the children, or on her days off, she photographed children, housewives, homeless people, abandoned toys, workers, commuters and a few experimental self-portraits. She shot street scenes, shop fronts and arcades, used street level and aerial points-of-view, and often used shadows and reflections to capture the moments that made up the world around her.

Maier learned photography from friends using a basic Kodak Brownie camera in 6×9 film format. In 1952 she began shooting in a square format with a Rolleiflex camera. She worked in a black-and-white documentary style until the early 1970s, when she took up colour and also began to adopt a more abstract approach. As a very private person, none of her carefully archived 150,000 images were seen by the public until 2007 when they were discovered by accident two years before she died. Her photographs are now shown in exhibitions around the world. Her 2022 exhibition in the UK showed Maier's unique ability to capture everyday life and infuse it with wit, humour and a deep sense of humanity.



For more information:
[The life of Vivian Maier](#)
[Vivian Maier's UK Exhibition](#)
[Maier's photographic style](#)





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