

Federation of Camera Clubs



Supporting Photographers and
Photography in NSW





A note from our President



Welcome all to what is going to be a bumper year for photography in NSW!

I hope you all had a restful break over the Christmas-New Year period, because now it's time to start planning for your Clubs and members!

The NSW Topshot competition opens on 1 April and the NSW Interclub competition opens on 5 August. Details will be available in future editions of F-Stop. If your club would like to host this year's Topshot or Interclub competitions, please let us know urgently at nswfccsecretary@gmail.com.

This year the FCC wants to make sure no printed photos sent to Topshot or Interclub competitions get damaged. The FCC Committee is developing a photo packing and handling policy – more on this in the next edition of F-Stop. In the meantime, could all photographers and clubs PLEASE note it is essential your images are carefully mounted and packed so they don't get damaged and so they don't damage other people's prints. See the article in this F-Stop about how to properly mount prints to prevent damage from occurring.

Clubs in the Northern NSW Zone are already organising their annual regional Interclub competition. This year the interclub competition is hosted by Club Taree Photographic. Entries are digital only and close in 4 March. Check out the website (<https://northnsw.myphotoclub.com.au/>) for details on how to enter.

The FCC's first 2-day FCC Judges' Course for 2024 takes place on 18 and 19 May in Coffs Harbour. I'd particularly like to thank the C ex. Coffs Camera Club for organising the venue, and by doing so, helping to keep the cost of the course low for members. Places are limited, and see inside this edition of F-Stop for more details. Costs and details will be sent to Clubs at the end of January.

This edition of F-Stop is also full of more news – new competitions to consider, an uplifting story about another world-famous amateur photographer, and, unfortunately, sad news about the closure of one of the oldest clubs in NSW, Pittwater Camera Club.

Finally, and most importantly, this year is the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the FCC. This makes the FCC one of the oldest institutions in Australia supporting photographers and photography. Our 70th is an opportunity to look back on our successes and failures, and to look forward to the challenges facing photographers and clubs in the foreseeable future. We plan to have a special anniversary event at the FCC AGM in 16 June – so pop that date in your Club's calendar as well!

As always, if you have any questions, or if you would like to let the FCC know how photography is going in your club or your region, just send us an email at nswfccsecretary@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Happy shooting in 2024!
Michelle Kennedy
FCC President



New FCC Photographic Judges Course

FCC-affiliated Clubs are asked to provide the following information to their members.

Thanks to the C.ex Coffs Camera Club, the FCC's next Photographic Judges' Course will take place in Coffs Harbour on Saturday 18 May and Sunday 19 May, 2024.

The Coffs course is based on the very successful judges' courses held by the FCC in 2023 in Sydney and Newcastle.

The course is open to all people who are interested in becoming a photographic judge. Current judges wishing to update their skills are also invited.

The two day course consists of discussions and practical workshops on the key factors judges look for in photos, and involves many practical exercises in analysing, giving feedback, and scoring images.

The course is open to all. However, people wishing to be considered for the FCC Judges' List must (i) successfully complete both days; (ii) have at least 12 months experience in a camera club, as a professional photographer or similar practical experience; and (iii) participate in a short mentoring scheme with experienced judges after the course.

If you are interested in doing this course please contact the FCC Secretary, nswfccsecretary@gmail.com who will send details on how to apply, costs etc.

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Interested in joining the FCC Committee?

The FCC Committee is inviting interested members of Clubs to nominate to fill four casual vacancies on the FCC Committee.

The vacancies arose in December 2023 with the resignation of Albert Hakvoort, Alison Wong and Nancy Morley due to changed work commitments and changed priorities. The fourth casual vacancy arose when Russell Field resigned in mid-2023 to take on a new job with the State Emergency Services.

At its December 2023 meeting, the FCC Committee thanked Albert, Alison and Nancy for the valuable contribution they had made to the FCC Committee over the past year-and-a-half, and wished them the best in their future photographic endeavours.

The next FCC Committee will be officially elected at the AGM in June this year.

However, until then, the FCC Committee is inviting Club members to apply to join the committee. The Committee meets monthly via Zoom meetings, and is keen to have a mix of representatives from city and regional Clubs.

Committee members set policy directions for the FCC, assist with the development of resources for clubs around NSW, and help organise and run major photographic events such as the NSW Topshot and Interclub Competitions. Committee involvement is voluntary and Committee members must abide by the FCC Code of Conduct (available in the Club Resources tab at <https://fccnsw.myphotoclub.com.au/>).

If you are interested in joining the FCC Committee, please send your expression of interest to nswfccsecretary@gmail.com for further information.



Farewell Pittwater Camera Club

In sad news for the NSW camera club community, Pittwater Camera Club ceased operations after 57 years of supporting photographers and photography.

Pittwater Camera Club started in a back room of a member's house in 1966. It grew over the years, supporting hundreds of people to learn and enjoy photography, collaborating with other clubs in the northern Sydney region, and participating in state-wide initiatives with the FCC.

Unfortunately, COVID had a devastating impact. The Club's membership dropped from around 44 per annum to less than 20 and, in its final years, to single numbers. Although it attracted several new members, there were not enough to be viable. At its AGM in November, 2023, the Pittwater Camera Club decided to close, effective 31 December 2023.

In a final gesture of generosity, Pittwater CC donated its projector and 6 print stands to the Hornsby Heights Camera Club, one of the clubs with which Pittwater had a long-standing connection. Its remaining funds were to distributed equally to Hornsby Heights Camera Club and Dee Why Camera Club, another Club with long-standing links to Pittwater.

In one of the Club's final acts, Brian Halls, Secretary, Pittwater Camera Club thanked the FCC for its support over the decades, "including ensuring we had insurance for our members, holding annual competitions, running courses for Judges and much more."

"It's always a sad occasion when one of our member clubs has to close," said Michelle Kennedy, FCC President, "especially when that club is one of the oldest in NSW."

"I thank Pittwater Camera Club for its important work for nearly 60 years in supporting local photographers, contributing to the camera community in the northern Sydney region, and participating in the FCC. You will be missed."



Photo Mounting

The FCC Committee has called on all photographers and clubs entering any FCC competition to make sure their prints are properly mounted and presented. The call for high quality mounting arose after several prints in the 2023 NSW Interclub competition were damaged by poorly constructed mounting including loose sticky tape.

Careful mounting of prints protects your own images as well as protecting others' prints.

All photographers and club committees are asked to ensure:

- All prints are to be mounted to a finished size of 40cm x 50cm and not exceed 5mm in thickness. The actual print can be any size within this finished mount. Polystyrene mounts are not eligible.
- The back of each print must bear the label produced by your entry in this competition. Please affix the label to the rear of each print (preferably in the top left-hand corner).
- Ensuring prints and mounts do not have Velcro, unstuck labels, tape flaps or sticky residue on the back of mounts.

It is a longstanding condition of entry into FCC (and other) competitions, that if prints do not adhere to these requirements they will not be accepted and will be returned unjudged. The entry fee will not be refunded.

The FCC Committee is also establishing a new policy and practices to ensure prints entered in the Interclub and Topshot competitions are carefully protected during competition judging, presentation and post-competition packing.



Making clubs a positive place for members

The Entrance Camera Club has developed two new policies as a way to promote “a collegial, productive and safe environment” in their club, and has offered their policies for other Clubs to use.

The Entrance Camera Club’s Code of Conduct and Ethical Principles and the Complaints disputes and grievances policies build on the broad, one-page Code of Conduct developed by the FCC in 2022.

However, The Entrance Camera Club policies have much more detail about the conduct expected of members and guests, and clarify how Committees are to respond to any complaints.

Michelle Kennedy, FCC President, congratulated The Entrance Camera Club on their new policies and thanked the club for sharing them with other Clubs.

“The best Camera Clubs provide a positive environment for members to learn and socialise,” she said. “If problems arise, Committees should resolve those problems urgently and fairly,” she added.

The Entrance Club’s policies were developed by the Committee during 2023 and were independently reviewed by an associate with legal experience, before being adopted at the Club’s AGM in November 2023.

The Code of Conduct and Ethical Principles expects members to treat each other fairly and reasonably, protect the property of members and the club, and protect privacy. The Complaints disputes policy states the procedure to be followed by the Committee if a member makes a complaint.

The Entrance Camera Club’s approach is one of many ways clubs are using the principles in the FCC 2022 Code of Conduct.

Clubs have promoted the FCC Code on their websites, or made the Code part of their membership application forms. Acceptance of the FCC Code is a requirement for all new judges becoming an FCC-accredited judge.

The Entrance Camera Club has kindly offered its two policies for use by interested Clubs. For a copy of these documents, please contact Anthony Spratt, Secretary, The Entrance Camera Club on tecc_59@hotmail.com



"Feathered Friends" Rochelle James

51st Warragul National Photographic Competition 2024

Entries open 5th January, Close 20th March 2024

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Exhibition 17th to 19th May

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www.warragulnational.org

All enquiries: enquiries@warragulnational.org



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APS Approval Number 2024/05

51st Warragul National
Photographic Competition 2024



Famous Amateur Photographers - Julia Margaret Cameron

Julia Margaret Cameron, one of the world's most important portrait photographers, was an amateur photographer who began taking pictures when she was 48.

Cameron was born in India in 1815 to wealthy English parents. She studied in Paris, married and then raised her 5 children, 5 orphaned nieces and a beggar girl. In 1863, she was given a camera as a Christmas present. Cameron immediately cleared out a chicken coop in her backyard, converted it into a studio, and joined one of the world's first camera clubs, the Photographic Society of London. Cameron created "the finest and most revealing gallery of eminent Victorians in existence".

When photographing men such as the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson and the naturalist Charles Darwin, Cameron used strong lighting to create dramatic contrasts between light and dark areas, close-up compositions, and a soft-focus, shallow depth of field style. For her images of women, Cameron used softer lighting to make images that had a dreamy, ethereal quality.

Cameron was also a virtuoso using the technology of the day: a large wooden camera on a tripod, wet collodion glass negatives, and the sun to expose negatives onto sensitised paper to make prints. Cameron's approach was ground-breaking. Mainstream critics who believed photos should always be sharp and naturalistic ridiculed her soft-focus Pictorialist-style. Cameron replied that she had a duty to capture the inner character, emotions or personality of her sitters and not just their external appearances.

This was a wholly original approach at the time which is commonly accepted today. Her approach of showing the inner life of her sitters, dream-like scenes and imagined identities inspired Surrealist photographers in the 1920s. Her sensitive portraits, particularly of children, influenced modern photographers such as Diane Arbus, Dorothea Lange and Sally Mann.

For more information see [Julia Margaret Cameron](#)





2024 Mullins Conceptual Photography Prize

Entries Open – 4 March 2024

Entries Close – Midnight 12 June 2024

Finalists Announced – 28 June 2024

Exhibition Launch Event and Announcement of Winners – 17 August 2024

Exhibition Dates – 15 August-12 October 2024

Muswellbrook Art Gallery, 1-3 Bridge Street Muswellbrook NSW 2333





Australian Photography over the ages

The State Library of NSW has opened its virtual doors to the Library's biggest and most significant photography exhibition to date. Shot is a digital exhibition of 400 important historical moments by 200 photographers over three centuries.

The 400 photos are arranged into decades creating a unique visual history of Australia over the last 180 years. It includes fashion, architecture and transport, as well as different photographic styles and printing processes.

State Librarian Dr Caroline Butler-Bowdon said "The State Library is now home to Sydney's largest photography gallery." Shot has almost every photographic format and every year between 1845 and 2022, starting with Australia's oldest photograph, an 1845 daguerreotype by George Barron Goodman.

Highlights include:

- early examples of colour photography (including rare photo-crayotype prints);
- one of the original Paget plates Frank Hurley saved from Shackleton's sinking ship Endurance in Antarctica in 1915;
- iconic works by some of our most acclaimed photographers, including Max Dupain, Harold Cazneaux, David Moore, Olive Cotton; and
- contemporary images and commentary by over 30 living photographers, including Stephen Dupont, Tony Mott, Anne Zahalka.

The Shot exhibition has been designed to be viewed on computer desktops so users can easily move through the timeline to view images either by decade, alongside captions or at full screen with zoom capabilities. A mobile view will be developed later.

View the Shot online exhibition and learn more about the Library's photography program and collections at <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/year-photography>. The Shot exhibition has been extended to 3 November 2024 by popular demand.



Lake Conjola, 24 December 2019.
Photo by Matthew Abbott



Dove Pink Star Walk, by Robert James Wallace (2008)

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