



## 2024 AGM – Presidents Report

- The 2024 AGM marks our first year operating as an incorporated club.
- We are in a strong financial position. Please refer to the Treasurer’s Report for 2024 for full details.

During the period the funds from the Newcastle Photographic Society were received into our club accounts. Our thanks to Phil Whiteman for facilitating this process.

- During the period the club took our Public Liability and Personal Injury Insurance with the Local Community Insurance Services.
- At the beginning of the 2023-2024 period, we had 85 members including 6 life members. At the end of the period, we had 85 members including 7 life members. 12 new members joined the club during the period.
- We acknowledge and thank the Valentine Bowling Club for their continued support and for allowing us to use their function room without charge. Most of the members of our new club are now social members of Valentine Bowling Club. In the last year our club has attended several VBC functions capturing images for them to use for their promotional purposes.
- LMCC acknowledges our continuing use of the MyPhoto Club website without charge. Our thanks to Colin Woods for his support throughout the year.
- The club would not be able to function without an effective committee. This AGM marks something of a milestone with two long standing committee members stepping down after many years of service to the club. On behalf of all members, I acknowledge the work of Sue Slack and Di Schofield and thank them for their contribution to our club. On a similar vein thank you to those who are relinquishing their committee positions and welcome to those who have been nominated to join the committee for the coming year. The table attached at the end of this report shows the composition of the committee for the coming year.
- **The objectives of our club:**
  - **To provide members of the club with opportunities to advance the standard of their pictorial and technical photographic work.**

Training sessions, photoshoots and presentations have continued throughout the year and thanks must go to the senior members of the club who have delivered and organised these sessions. A focus in the past year has been providing training and development to people who are just beginning their photographic journey with a Beginners Group session held at VBC in mid-April on basic image editing and a session in February on camera settings and use.



At our May meeting we held a feedback session and as a result will implement several Interest Groups in specific genres of photography and image editing. These groups will kick-off their activities in August.

18 of our club members are individual members of PSA, which gives them access to free online courses. Those members who complete a PSA course and give a short presentation to the club about their experiences in the course are eligible to have the club refund their first-year PSA membership fee.

- **To promote the exchange of information and ideas about photography through the provision of education and training programmes, newsletters, a website, and other means.**

The use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in image processing has come to the fore in the last year and the club has amended our competition rules, run a specific Set Subject competition and received a detailed presentation on AI by Roy Killen in response.

Communication with members has been facilitated using the club's website and our newsletter The Leading Line. Our thanks to the editor Julie Brooks.

We have introduced a monthly "coffee catch-up" which provides an opportunity for members to get together informally and socialise.

In recent years the club has offered a photography portfolio exercise modelled on the PSA portfolio process. During the current period the club has offered a photography improvement process facilitated by Roy Killen. The group will make their final presentations in late August – our appreciation to Roy for his efforts in facilitating this group.

- **To encourage and assist members to participate in photographic competitions both within and beyond the Club.**

During 2024 we have utilised 19 different club members as judges. These include experienced judges and those who have recently completed judge training courses. We have also utilised 9 external judges (1 international).

The club participated in the APS Australia Cup competition earlier in the year and finished in 13<sup>th</sup> place. There were 57 entrants.

Several members entered the Northern Photographic Federation (NPF) competitions this year and were successful with acceptance and highly commended scores. Stephane Thomas and Margot Hughes secured first placings in the Mono Prints and People Digital categories respectively.

During the year, our club participated in the Colour, Monochrome, Nature, Photo Travel and Photojournalism sections of the PSA Interclub digital competitions. 23 different members had images selected to represent our club, and our members gained a total of 16 awards.



Our best results were in the Nature section, where we came 1<sup>st</sup> in Group A over the three rounds of the competition. We will enter all these digital sections again in the coming season and, in addition, we will enter the Colour and Monochrome small print sections.

Stephane Thomas also did very well, achieving recognition with his "Before the Concert" image in the Australasia Top Emerging Photographer Competition and a Gold Award for his "Dance with Sofia" series in the Better Photography Magazine Photographer of the Year competition (Open Section).

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a white piece of paper. The signature reads "Archibald" in a cursive script.

Dennis Archibald

President

August 2024.



## 2024 – 2025 Club Committee Positions

<b>Position</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2024 - 2025</b>
President	Dennis Archibald	Dennis Archibald
Secretary, Public Officer	Susan Slack	Dave Richards
Vice President and Training Coordinator	Greg Carruthers	Greg Carruthers
Treasurer	Ruth Keech	Ruth Keech
Competition Coordinator	Di Schofield	Phil Whiteman
Social Functions	Katherine James	Katherine James
Social Functions	Barb Hunter	Barb Hunter
Membership Coordinator	Joy Thomas	Joy Thomas
Training, Grading Officer	Bill Chambers	Bill Chambers
PSA Coordinator and Training	Roy Killen	Roy Killen
Newsletter	Julie Brooks	Julie Brooks
General	Bob Todd	Stephane Thomas
General	Lynda Beeston	Lynda Beeston
General	Laurie Connolly	Steve McGrath