

Essendon Camera Club Criteria for Life Membership

Life Membership is the highest Award available to recognise the exceptional contribution of individuals to the Essendon Camera Club.

1. Benefits of Life Membership

1.1. In addition to the status of gaining membership to a select group within the Club, Life Membership will be recognised by:

- Award of the Life Membership at the Annual Presentation Night
- Exemption from fees associated with the Club
- Listing on the Club's Life Member Honour Board and other official documents (as case may be required)

2. Length of service

2.1. Service may be outstanding due to length or level of contribution. Normally, the period of service should be a minimum of 10 years in aggregate, although this may be less in exceptional circumstances where the contribution is outstanding.

3. Quality of service

3.1. In addition to the length of service requirement (2.1), any candidate must satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

- 3.1.1. A minimum of five (5) years service on the ECC Committee
- 3.1.2. A minimum of five (5) years service contributing to a major activity of the club
- 3.1.3. A combination of the above, at the discretion of the Committee
- 3.1.4. A significant ongoing contribution to the benefit of the ECC

3.2. It is important to note that achieving minimum service levels does not automatically guarantee the award of Life Membership.

4. Reputable Conduct

4.1. The person must not have brought the club into disrepute nor contributed to prolonged internal conflict.

4.2. The person must have earned the respect of the majority of the current life members. This is assessed by feedback given to the Life Members representatives on the Selection Panel. These representatives must make every endeavour to seek the views of current life members.

5. General Considerations

5.1. In considering the award of Life Membership an individual should have demonstrated significant, sustained and high quality service to the Club.

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5.2. Factors that may be taken into account when considering any nomination should include:

- the general attitude and overall demeanour of the nominee to ensure that the attitude is one that reflects a dedication to the values of the Club; and/or
- valued leadership and good role modelling that reflects credit upon the Club and its members.

6. Process for Assessing Applications for Life Membership

6.1. Applications for Life membership should be made in writing by at least two members, and forwarded to the Committee by 30 September each year.

Applications must detail the attainment of minimum service requirements and other details of exemplary service.

6.2. A Life Membership Selection Panel will assess all nominations for Life Membership and make a recommendation to the Committee of the ECC by the November Committee meeting.

6.3. The Life Membership Selection Panel will consist of the:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Two Ordinary (non-Executive) Members of the Committee and
- Two current Life Members

6.4. If one of the Committee members mentioned in 6.3 is nominated for Life Membership they will be replaced by another member of the Committee.

6.5. The Life Membership Selection Panel will assess any nomination put forward and consider whether the nominee/s are worthy of Life Membership.

6.6. Approval for the granting of life membership shall require a majority of the Committee of the ECC.

6.7. The Committee shall notify the nominators in writing of the outcome of any nomination.

6.8. Should the Committee not approve a nomination, the notification shall merely be to this effect and no reason shall be given.

6.9. The decision is to be recorded in the minutes of the Committee meeting.

7. Retraction of Life Membership

7.1. Retraction of a Life Membership Award may occur where the recipient has conducted themselves in a manner that reflects directly and adversely on the image or activities of the Club.

7.2. This provision will only be exercised in exceptional circumstances and any recommendation to commence actions to retract a life membership will require the unanimous support of the Committee.

7.3. Any proceedings to retract a life membership should be conducted in accordance with Rule 7 of the Essendon Camera Club Statement of Purpose and Rules.