

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ESSENDON CAMERA CLUB

22 July 2024

Present

Committee

Carmen Caruana, Allan Hine, Douglas Golob, Mal Grebert, Alan Wilson, Matt Wings, Sue Newton, Clem De Silva, Mendo Cvetkovski

Members

Monica Bonnici, Robert Schirato, Tony Zorzi, Tom Kress, Carol Sant, Chelsea Trewarne, Scott Emanuelsson, Clive Williams, J Haber, Leo McGuire, Don Starr, Pam Kreuger, Steve Sheddick, Steven Mallia, George Trifunovic, Neil Anderton, Martin Vargas, Kevin Phelan, Brendan Schoenfelder, A J Hilton, Stuart Anderson, Paul Scicluna, Terry Frankel, Jennifer Swanton, James Fennel, Ben Gofron

Visitors

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Apologies

Margaret Greenwood, Martin Greenwood, Karen Vassallo

Minutes

The minutes of the 2023 AGM, having been distributed, were accepted.

Moved, Alan Wilson

ECC President's Report 2023-24

Overview

A look back in time & review of the proposed plan over the last 12 months:
First & primary focus was the restoration of the club's '**spirit**'. Based on the membership (from 58 to 85), attendance at meetings, and general morale, it appears 'mission accomplished'.

Original Proposal : Overview & revision:

Events & Presentations

2023

AUG

Smart phone Presentation: Mike James

SEP

Macro Photography: Tom Kress

OCT

Interclub Southern Suburbs

NOV

Brighton Beach Boxes

2024

JAN

PRESENTATION Adrian Whear - Street Photography

FEB 14

PHOTOSHOP BOOTCAMP

OUTING

CBD Walk

PRESENTATION Albert Tay Long Exposure

MAR

Intro Photography Course: 6 weeks

PORTRAIT INTEREST GROUP

OUTING

Malmsbury Viaduct & Botanical Gardens

PRESENTATION Alwyn's Photo School 'How to photograph City Buildings'

APR

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY Long Exposure ~ Southbank

WORKSHOP Adrian Whear ~ Street Photography

APR 22 PRESENTATION Anne Morley ~ Lake Tyrell

Sunday OUTING ~ Kensington Walk

MAY

Sunday OUTING Warburton - Redwood Forest /Yarra Walk PORTRAIT INTEREST GROUP

JUNE

PRESENTATION

Gary Smith: Sports photography

PRESENTATION Alwyn's Photo School~ Outdoor Portraits

Sunday WORKSHOP Portraits : Alwyn's Photo School, Queens Park

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

COMMITTEE: Sue Newton, Alan Wilson, Allan Hine, Clem DeSilva, Malcolm Grebert, Mendo Cvetkovski, Matt Wings & Doug Golob.

Course helpers & Assistants:

Steve Mallia, Tony Sores, Alex VH, Steve Sheddick.

Course facilitator: Matt Wings.

Activities Officer: Monica Bonnici.

Final expression of thanks to all members.

Treasurer's Report Financial Year 2023-2024

I present the following report to the members of the Essendon Camera Club as part of the Annual General Meeting requirements.

Opening balance as at the 29th June 2023 was \$34,318.24

This was made up of \$11,158.91 in the general statement account, \$371.79 in the credit card account and \$22787.54 in the term deposit.

The Rental for ECC for use of Aberfeldie Baptist Church - \$4,095

Bendigo Bank sponsored Essendon Camera Club for \$2,000.

The ITP Course income for this year, which was \$4457.85

As of the 29th June 2024 the Essendon Camera Club has accumulated funds of \$ 28,438.47

consisting of \$ 4,762.82 in the general statement account, \$ 453.49 in the debit card account and \$ \$23,222.16 in term deposit.

The Profit and Loss statement indicates an overall decrease of \$ 5879.77

for this year.

Sue Newton

Treasurer

Essendon Camera Club Inc

Election of the 2024-2025 committee

Steve Sheddick acted as the returning officer. New nominations were called for, from the floor. There were none. There being no more than one nomination for any position on the committee, no elections were needed.

New committee

President	Carmen Caruana
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Vice-president	Matt Wings
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Treasurer	Sue Newton
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Secretary	Alan Wilson
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Competition secretary	Allan Hine
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Interclub secretary	Allan Hine
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Webmaster	Doug Golob
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Competition secretary 3iC	Mal Grebert
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Pam Kreuger	
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Chelsea Trewarne	
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(See next page)

The following presentation, by Monica Bonnici, was given to the AGM.

SELECTING PRESENTERS

It has come to my attention that there has been some dissatisfaction of some presenters. Whether it is their personality or whether it is the content given or any other reason, I am taking this opportunity to discuss my experiences in trying to book Presenters. It made me think that perhaps there could be some dissatisfaction in the Education and Outings areas as well. So, I felt that the need to communicate more to you all about what goes on behind the scenes.

I would like to start with the President and the committee. The amount of work that goes on behind the scenes of running the club. The committee has so many tasks to run to keep the club afloat and running smoothly. It is all voluntary. No one is getting paid. Everyone is doing the best they can. And although I am not on the committee, I have happily volunteered to do these tasks. I still have to work within the rules of the club and sometimes to get the committee's approval when needed.

I just want to go back a little into the past and remind everyone that under the last Presidency, for a few years, the Annual Syllabus had a lot of TBA on them. To be announced. Maybe some events were booked in, but we usually didn't find out who was presenting or what the outing was till about a month before sometimes before the meeting itself. Some of the Genre of photography and programs were getting repeated year after year. I have been in the club for well over 16 years and my experience in the past taught me that this was not good enough. If there was not a change of leadership, I was ready to leave.

When Carmen nominated for Presidency, I got excited again because I felt here was an opportunity to turn this club around. I offered to do the job of finding Presenters, bring in more Education and Outings. So, with Carmen's club guidelines of where she wanted to direct the club to, I got working on this. At that time, July 2023, we still had 5 months to finish the year.

Five months of presenters and outings. I quickly got to work researching and making bookings to fulfil the remainder of 2023 to show our members that change was coming.

Then I got to work to fulfil the 2024 Syllabus. I did not want to see TBA all over our new Syllabus. I feel that we have achieved that change.

The Reality – Education.

I assumed that I was going to book all these photographers in regional Victoria and that we would pay a small fee and they would take us around the photographic locations of that region. In reality, it was far from the truth. These people were professionals running businesses and the fees were way too high for the club to cover. Then I researched other camera clubs in regional areas to see if we could connect with members to take us around. That was not easy to do either. So that idea had to be dropped for now.

In my research I found some old club members, small businesses and you-tubers that could offer workshops.

Those are the 3 workshops held this year 1. Street Photography 2. Outdoor Portraits 3. Bird Photography.

Everything we are doing is just on a trial run. We are testing, adjusting our way forward to try to connect with what the members want. It doesn't mean that if a member wants something that it will just happen. There are a lot of decisions to be made of a member's idea. Does it fit into the club rules, do we have the finance to pay for it, does it fit into the annual program, how much work is involved to run this. It is not as simple as it sounds.

The Reality - Outings - An explanation of how these are planned.

In the planning of Outings

With Carmen's guidelines some outings needed to be close to inner Melbourne, so that members who don't travel well for long distance could at least join in the club activities. Closer to home. And, of course, some outings can be regional to please other members.

The outing, if possible, has to be planned to match the Presentation's subject at hand. So, if we have a presenter discussing flowers, we try to match the outing to find flowers, etc.

This ties everything up together from presentation to the outing to enable us to put into practice what we learn.

The Reality - Presenters - explaining the Search.

This was the most difficult research so far.

All presenters are being paid for their time at the club. They don't come here for free.

I am trying to offer the club presenters to cover all Genre of photography and not repeating the same old favourite subjects year to year.

I do have a list of Presenters from the VAPS. However not all of them cover enough Genres of photography.

The reality of finding presenters is not easy. Some are professionals and do not do camera club presentations. Some want a lot of money. Sometimes I am lucky to find one photographer within a Genre I want to include. I even had to resort to searching for photographers on YouTube and that was the most helpful option for me so far.

So, selection is hard and difficult with the added club limitations. The Club doesn't always have a choice.

In finding a presenter I also do not know their personality or what content they are going to give on a given night. I do give them an outline of what I am after but in the end, it is up to them.

When I book them in, I also have to cut their presentation time to 1 hour or so. I have to tell them that we have 15 mins club business to discuss first. Then after the presentation the club likes a coffee and chat time. The presenter has to condense their presentation to suit us.

So, with some of them, this in itself cuts the details out of their presentation.

In the end we get a 1 hour or 2-hour discussion, within a month, each month and essentially, we are getting very little information about that Genre of photography in a month.

A Presentation can never be a full-blown detailed session where you get everything you need to know about that Genre. We just don't have the time.

Therefore, a Presentation's objective is to give you an introduction into that Genre to see if it can inspire you to take it up or give it a go.

The only way forward to progress to a higher level of photography of learning comes from you. You have to put in your own effort by either searching tutorials and information on Google or YouTube or to attend a workshop with a professional photographer or asking for help from a member with more experience and going out with them to learn. You have to get out there and practise, practise, practise - we are your club here ready to help you if you need us.

Regardless of where you are in your photographic journey, from beginners to experienced, there are different expectations from the presenters. For some it is not enough, for others it is enough. I would ask for some courtesy to be shown towards the presenters. Avoid indicating disapproval by shaking of heads and making remarks. This only serves to throw them off their work. Apart from that, it reflects poorly on the reputation of the club itself.

If anyone wants to put forward an idea, by all means, it would be welcomed and appreciated but don't wait for someone else to do the task for you. You do the research, find a presenter and get all we need to know from them first, then please bring all that information to me and I will proceed to contact them. We all have to contribute towards what we all want. A person can only take on so much of a task.

I hope you now have a bit of a better understanding of this situation.

Closing

I want to finish with this. Although at times the tasks of this role can be

challenging, I love working on these roles. I get a great fulfilment out of it because I want members to have things to look forward to. I want you to be happy not disappointed. I have 2 new members to help me from here on, to bring you more diversity and different perspectives to map our road forward in getting better.

We are listening and will try to adjust the program to fit into what the club wants if it is possible. The club only got back on its feet really in the last year. A bit of patience and contribution goes a long way in getting this club where it needs to be together. We all need to contribute to get what is needed here.

We are a community - we are all photographers - beginners to experienced, sharing this wonderful art.

To me there are 3 main Reasons you join a Camera Club.

1. Education 2. Outings 3. Friendships

There is always something you will get from a club. You may not get it all, but you will get something.

I have made wonderful friendships in this club. I have enjoyed trips away with them, days out with them, all doing our photography together. And that is quite a good thing for me. It takes time.

Thank you for listening