

## SECRETARY'S REPORT 2009

The committee has made its best effort to get on top of its duties in a very short time and has done exceptionally well in the process.

Communication with clubs has been good and I hope we have not overwhelmed you in the process.

The committee has reviewed past practices and policies and introduced new policies in a format that is designed to make the intention of the policies clear and their implementation straightforward.. These policy decisions have been sent to all clubs through the emails of president, secretary and club with the hope that clubs will benefit from them.

The two major recommendations of the previous committee for a new judging course following the thoughts of Des Crawley and the need to establish our own honour system have also been implemented.

As a result we now have two sub committees, the educational sub committee and the honours sub committee. Both committees will continue to work on behalf of the members of the FCC. They are not set in concrete and will continue to evolve.

The work of the committee has been full and time consuming. People have learnt that there is a need to debate issues as they arise and to a large extent this has been done through the internet and very successfully. People need to remember that no matter what position is being held every one has one vote and decisions are made by a majority. Only the committee has executive power, not any individual.

At times it has been frustrating when correspondence has gone through more than one channel resulting in delays in dealing with the issue. Clubs are reminded that the appropriate and most efficient communication channel between clubs and the FCC is through the FCC Secretary.

Forward planning has been getting better and we hope to continually improve in this area.

As the peak body representing amateur photography, in NSW, we have made representations on behalf of two members who had difficulty at last year's Royal Easter Show. The two people concerned will have received two complimentary tickets for this year.

It needs to be emphasised that the FCC is not "a mums and dads" organisation, but is the professional body representing amateur photography in NSW. As an incorporated association we have certain legal responsibilities and this sometimes means that our processes and procedures need to be a little more formal than some people might like.

Service to country areas has been a major concern for the committee and all our policy decisions have been to strive to deliver a benefit wherever we can and within fiscal constraints. For example, we are currently developing plans to offer the new education programme in country regions.

Some issues before the committee and committee decisions have caused some concern with some people even to the extent that some have threatened that they will withdraw their

support to the FCC. This reaction is regrettable and to some extent points to an entrenched view of conservatism when it comes to change. Change is always traumatic for some and managing change is always fraught with difficulty. We saw the same kind of concern when we changed to the new constitution last year. This is no different. We have examined past practices and questioned their value for the present circumstances of the FCC in the light of a new committee looking at the need for change to validate the FCC and what it can give to the clubs. This has been painful for individuals on the committee and outside the committee. The need for a new approach to the judging course is such an example. Words like “it’s too academic”, “it’s too costly”, “It’s too long and no one will come” and “we don’t need it because in the past we have always managed with a weekend course”. Strange arguments when all around us we constantly hear complaints about the training of judges. The current success of the workshops indicates that the committee has identified a need among some of the club members. So far I have not heard a single positive comment from the critics now that the workshops are fully subscribed.

We have had two resignations from the committee since its establishment and we thank them both for the efforts they were able to give to the FCC. People should recognise that all contributions are valued. We give of our best in the circumstances we find in our own life. The treasurer has also indicated he cannot continue in the position and we thank him for his contribution to the FCC.

The new constitution is causing some concern in how we implement it. This is another area where we need to continually improve and deal with issues as they arise. Most contributions have been good and have been designed to get the best outcome. However it does not mean we will always agree on all issues.

The newsletter has been a concern for some time and we thank Andrea Robinson for taking on the job of newsletter editor.

I have spent many hours beyond what I had expected for the job in dealing with a myriad of FCC matters. At the moment my computer has over 1000 emails just for FCC.

Looking to the future is a major task and I have written a discussion paper on this issue for the committee.

As long as my health is ok I will continue in the job until the next round of elections.

Luciano Vranich

FCC Hon Secretary



## Federation of Camera Clubs (N.S.W.) Inc

### **REPORT FROM EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE For Annual General Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2009**

The FCC established an Education Subcommittee in 2008 with a brief to organise courses for prospective judges and education programmes for camera club members.

The current members of the subcommittee are: Roy Killen (Chairperson), Luciano Vranich, Ray Finneran, Richard Trousdale and Andy Yeoh.

The major issues that the subcommittee has dealt with since its inception are outlined below.

#### **UPDATING OF LIST OF FCC ACCREDITED JUDGES**

The first task of the subcommittee was to bring the list of FCC accredited judges up to date. All judges on the original list of 69 judges were contacted (with the exception of three who could not be contacted). They were asked to indicate their willingness to remain on the list and to provide up-dated information for the database. A total of 52 judges agreed to remain on the list. Others were no longer available for a number of reasons.

During this process, several people who had previously been on the FCC list of judges but who, for unknown reasons, were not on the list originally given to the subcommittee were identified. They were again placed on the list.

#### **ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF ACCREDITED JUDGES**

In recognition of the fact that many clubs were using judges who were well-qualified but who were not on the list of FCC accredited judges, all clubs were invited to nominate “already qualified” judges to be added to the list. Five nominations were received and these people were asked to provide details to support their nomination. The Sub-Committee reviewed these nominations and agreed that all five nominees met the criteria for being placed on the list of FCC accredited judges.

#### **THE CURRENT LIST OF FCC ACCREDITED JUDGES**

The most recent version of the list of judges (25<sup>th</sup> February, 2009) contains 60 judges. It has been circulated to all clubs. A new version of the list will be generated in September 2009 after the August workshop and forwarded to all clubs.

Approximately 60% of the judges on the current list are prepared to judge at some locations outside the Sydney metropolitan area (but very few are prepared to travel anywhere in the State). Approximately 70% of the judges are prepared to judge electronic images and/or prints that are sent to their home address. The list that has been sent to clubs indicates where judges are prepared to travel and whether or not they will judge images sent to them.

There is a clear need for more judges, particularly people who are willing to judge in country locations.

### **THE 2009 WORKSHOPS AND COURSE FOR JUDGES**

In response to both formal and informal complaints from clubs about the quality of some judges, the Education Subcommittee adopted the position that prospective judges needed more than a weekend workshop to prepare them for the task. The previous FCC Committee had commissioned Prof Des Crawley to prepare a curriculum for a judges course and we were fortunate that he agreed to the proposal that his curriculum framework and image evaluation criteria could be used as a basis for an extended training programme for prospective judges. In co-operation with Des Crawley this framework was developed into a series of four one-day Creative Photography workshops (open to all members of FCC affiliated camera clubs) to be followed by a two-day course for those who wanted to be judges.

The response to these workshops was very positive. Within just a few weeks of the workshops being advertised (through emails to all clubs) the four creative photography workshops were fully booked. The demand for the first workshop (run by Des Crawley) was so strong that it was repeated. Fifty people attended the first offering of Workshop 1 (1<sup>st</sup> March) and 48 people attended the second offering (8<sup>th</sup> March). Fifty-three people attended Workshop 2 (19<sup>th</sup> April). Fifty people will attend Workshops 3 and 4. Twenty-four people have indicated they will attend Workshop 5 (the judges course). This should provide a welcome boost to the list of accredited judges.

The 98 people who attended Workshop 1 came from 20 different clubs, including 8 clubs from outside the Sydney metropolitan area.

The strong demand for these workshops in 2009 (not everyone who wanted to was able to enrol) indicates that they should be repeated in 2010.

### **ACCESS TO WORKSHOPS FOR COUNTRY MEMBERS**

There have been several requests for the workshops to be offered in country regions. The FCC is willing to do this provided that the number of people attending makes the organisational effort and expense worthwhile. Where requests have been received, the initiating club has been asked to contact other clubs in their area to get tentative commitments from people who would be willing to attend workshops that were run as two-day weekend workshops. As a result, two weekend workshops will be held in Port Macquarie in October. Clubs in northern NSW and in the central west are still trying to develop definite plans for the workshops to be run in those areas. It is hoped that these workshops can be held early in 2010.

A number of suggestions have been made about other ways in which members of country clubs could gain access to the workshops. The subcommittee will continue to consider these suggestions and try to find ways that are financially viable and within the organisational capacity of the subcommittee.

### **PHOTOTUTOR WEB SITE**

On the recommendation of the Education Subcommittee, the FCC Committee agreed to provide sponsorship (\$400 for a one-year trail) to the PHOTOtutor web site run by Michael

Smyth. This web site provides information and tutorials that are broadly aligned with the focus of the FCC Workshops and all information on the site is freely available to camera club members. It is anticipated that the links between this site and the work of the Education Subcommittee will be strengthened over the coming year. The address of the site is [www.phototutor.com.au](http://www.phototutor.com.au).

Roy Killen  
Chairman, FCC Education Subcommittee

## Honours Sub Committee Report

The Executive Committee implemented the recommendation of the previous committee to establish awards to recognise the contributions of individuals who have made a contribution to the advancement of photography. Recipients of the awards need not be members of a club. This now satisfies one of the objects of the constitution:

- (e) To provide recognition and reward to those who provide outstanding service to the advancement of the art and science of photography in New South Wales and elsewhere.*

The sub committee comprises: L Vranich(chairperson), Ray Finneran and Phil Ramsden. The original document had some concerns which I raised with the Executive Committee and after reviewing and rewriting a new document came into being. This was presented to the Executive Committee and accepted at the March meeting.

I sent the document out to all clubs with a view to ask for nominations for the awards. There are still some issues to be dealt with.

1. The Executive Committee approved in principle that the FCC should have an award for photographic excellence. The sub committee is still in the process of considering how best to structure and implement these honours.

### **Some thoughts on an honours system for photographic excellence.**

The sub committee is currently favouring the idea that there should be two means of obtaining honours for photographic excellence – an exhibition method and a portfolio method.

A. The Exhibition method could be structured along the following lines:

1. A certain number of points would be required for the award of the honour.
2. Points could be obtained from approved exhibitions, such as:

Topshot  
FCC Interclub  
Nationals  
Internationals  
AIPC (Australian Interstate Photo Competition)  
Other competitions approved by the FCC.

3. Where appropriate (such as in Nationals and Internationals) points would be awarded to images that obtained a certain minimum score (such 10 out of 15) and additional points would be awarded for images that gained special awards such as “best monochrome image in the exhibition”. In the final determination, it may be desirable to have a different point structure for different competitions—for example, awarding more points to a 10/15 image in an International than in a National. Basing points on the score obtained by an image eliminates the vagaries of basing points on “acceptance” which is based on the space available to hang or on a percentage system, but which ultimately may not reflect the true quality of the image.
4. An important issue is whether or not an image could gain points more than once. Once an image has gained points in one competition should it be used for “FCC points” in any other competition? If we don’t have this rule it is possible that a person

could gain enough points for honours by exhibiting the same image (or just a couple of images) in lots of competitions.

B. The Portfolio method could be structured along the following lines:

1. Club members could be required to assemble a portfolio of images following guidelines published by the FCC. The guidelines would address the technical requirements (number of images, image size, format, etc) and the criteria by which the images would be judged.
2. The portfolio would be submitted to a panel of judges.
3. Following the judging, the photographer would be provided with detailed feedback.

C. Other possibilities

The purpose of the honours system is to recognise and reward photographic excellence. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge that such excellence can be demonstrated in many different ways, not just in the traditional ways of competitions/exhibitions (such as Nationals) and portfolios. Other possibilities that need to be considered are solo exhibitions (in libraries, galleries and on the web), and performance at club and inter-club level. These additional ways of recognising excellence may provide some challenges when it comes to assessing the quality of the work, but this should not be seen as an insurmountable barrier.

Some of the other issues that the sub committee is still discussing are:

- a) How many types of honours for excellence should there be?
- b) How should the “standard” required for each level of honour be determined?
- c) Portability-if the individual receiving an honour leaves a member club can they keep the title?
- d) Should people who are not members of FCC affiliated clubs be given an honour for excellence?
- e) What proof is required for obtaining the points acquired from the various sources?
- f) What system of record keeping needs to be established to administer the honours scheme?
- g) What kind of certificate should be given

The sub committee is interested in receiving responses to these tentative proposals and welcomes suggestions for improving the structure and implementation of the proposed honours scheme.

L Vranich  
Chairperson

In January 2009 I presented a report to APS Management Committee regarding APS's relationship with the state bodies.

The reason for this was my desire to deal with some of the issues facing APS with regard to the state bodies and to try and make some recommendations for improving relationships for mutual benefit. This would allow us all to work together to gain the maximum benefit for photographers and to position us for the future.

One of the key issues before us is that some of the state bodies are asking "Why should we be members of APS?" In actual fact there is not much physically provided by APS so in some respects it is a valid question. If however APS could use this interaction with the states to facilitate better communication and co-operation between the states as well as with APS this may prove to be mutually beneficial. It is for this reason that I made a recommendation that APS grant automatic membership to each of the state bodies. This will mean that if any of the committee members on the state committees has a personal issue with APS they cannot raise the "why don't we pull out of APS" issue. It also means that we give them automatic rights to being involved in APS and that we try and encourage the states to come on board as our allies.

One of the clear needs outlined for strategic review by APS is the need for local events. This is the organization of local events for APS members. It is impossible for APS to undertake this on it's own. There are however many local events being organized by state committees and their member Camera Clubs. By forming and nurturing strong relationships with the relevant state committee's (and thus their camera clubs) it will be possible for APS to help promote (and perhaps play a role in) events organized by the state committees and thus be available to APS members. This in itself is a win-win situation that is readily achievable through the opening up of communication channels.

It was for this reason that I made recommendations which were endorsed by the Strategic Review Sub Committee. (Quoted from minutes)

That SRSC Adopt in principle the items below to allow further meaningful discussion to take place with interested parties:

1. That APS abolish the current system where the state body pays a membership fee and APS grants the president of that state body free membership and replace it with automatic membership for the state body. The Image magazine should go to the secretary of that organization.
2. To facilitate the opening of communication channels between the state bodies and also with APS; the formation of a committee of state representatives along with an APS representative be discussed with the State bodies on the basis that each state can appoint a member to this committee.

Points of Discussion:

- It would be envisaged that the committee would be a Committee of APS but suitable powers would be delegated by MC so as the committee is able to function as required.
- The APS committee member would be the state relationships liaison and would serve as chairperson of this committee. The APS secretary may need to be involved
- The State rep can be anyone of their choosing but ideally would be someone with a strong background in state issues not an APS orientated person.
- This committee would meet formally every year at APSCON and at least 3 times through the year by teleconference.

3. That APS invite State Representatives to a meeting at APSCON 09 at Victor Harbour to discuss the option of forming a Committee of State Representatives to better serve photographers in Australia by creating communication channels between APS and State bodies .

The role of this committee may include the following:

- To facilitate the opening of communication channels between the state bodies and also with APS.
- To organize and administer the annual AIPC photographic competition shown at APSCON each year.
- To facilitate the cross promotion of locally organized events between the state bodies and APS members. (APS may be able to assist in this regard by using it's relationship

with Australian Photography to help promote events organized by the state bodies which would strengthen the participation in local events and thus encourage more events in the future).

- By improving communication we can improve information sharing between the state bodies and APS and thus position ourselves to take better advantage of new members by giving them access to both APS and local camera clubs etc.
- This committee can be used as a method of distributing information nationally from organizations such as FIAP and other photographic organizations.
- This committee can be used to make recommendations to the state committees regarding the adoption of policies which are of mutual benefit (such as plagiarism).
- Currently APS has negotiated with PMA independently (as have some of the individual state bodies) for representation at PMA shows. Perhaps we can negotiate an agreement with PMA where APS and the states can be represented together.