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QCG HANDBOOK

Updated Jan 2017

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GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

- Only financial members are eligible to enter club competitions (with the exception of the Annual Hunt & Shoot Competition)
- All entries must be taken by the photographer
- To enter graded competitions, members must first be graded (A, AB or B - the same grade is used for both Projected Images and Prints)
- All entries for club competitions must be identified as follows:

DPIs: DIGITAL PROJECTED IMAGES (Graded B, AB, A)

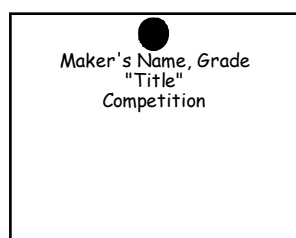


NEW in 2016: The maximum horizontal dimension of each image is **1920 pixels** and the maximum vertical dimension is **1080 pixels, with a resolution of 96 dpi**. Each image file should be .jpg format for IBM-PC, with sRGB Colour Space and a **MAXIMUM FILE SIZE OF 1MB**.

Entries may be on CD in a protective case, or a memory stick, clearly marked with your name, grade, subject categories and the file name of each image. DPIs may also be emailed directly to the Competitions Officer (David Bullock davidhb7@bigpond.com)

Multiple entries may be on the same memory device, but must clearly be marked in a folder titled with the competition name. **File names: MUST show Subject Title Maker Grade.jpg** (e.g., Landscape_Sunset_John Smith_Agr.jpg)

PRINTS (Graded B, AB, A)



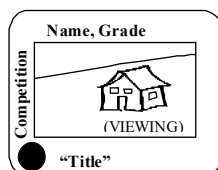
All prints must be mounted and must show (on the REVERSE side of the print) the location of the **TOP of the print**, marked with a **coloured adhesive sticker. Maximum mount size is 16" x 20". Prints may be any size within that mount.**

Use the correct LARGE coloured adhesive spot for your grade: **(Red: A Grade, Yellow: AB Grade, Green: B Grade)**.

Put the name of the maker, the maker's grade, the title of the print and the competition subject.

SLIDES (Graded B, AB, A)

Slides were withdrawn from Competitions in 2011, but will always have a special place in QCG's history. QCG originally stood for "Queensland Colour Group" as we hosted an annual international colour slide competition in our early years. We may schedule a nostalgic slide show now and then! So:



All slides must show the maker's name and the title of the image. Please refer to the diagram on the left. Use the correct SMALL coloured adhesive "spot" for your grade. **Red: A Grade, Yellow: AB Grade, Green: B Grade)**.

Recommended pen for writing on slides: Staedtler lumocolor permanent 313 (fine point).

PLEASE CONTACT THE COMPETITIONS OFFICER FOR FURTHER ADVICE

1. Aggregate (point-scoring) Competitions are conducted most months until near the end of year. Points are scored cumulatively (see point 8. below) and tallied at the end of the year. Prints and Digital Projected Images (DPIs) are scored separately with awards in each grade presented at the Annual Dinner. Point-scoring competitions are referred to as “Aggregate Competitions”.
2. Aggregate Monthly Competitions often include both a nominated Set Subject and an Open Subject. Strict definitions are not provided for most subjects—we encourage members to call on their own experiences and use their imagination. (Refer to page 5 for *some* subject guidelines.)
3. Lodge entries with the Competitions Officer at the Club no later than the scheduled Club night immediately prior to the Competition (unless otherwise advised). If you cannot attend the relevant Club night you may submit earlier, by prior arrangement with the Competitions Officer. **Always write your name AND titles clearly on the appropriate Entry Form at club meetings.** The Entry Forms are the official record of your submissions and **MUST** be completed.
4. The same image must **NOT** be entered in the Projected Images and Prints categories of the same competition.
5. Images which contain subject matter which might also suit the Set Subject topic, **CANNOT** be entered in the Open Competition on the same night.
6. **Entries which have gained an acceptance or higher award in a previous aggregate competition, or which have won a place in an annual competition, are NOT eligible for further aggregate competitions.** Non-acceptances may be re-submitted.
7. Subjects are the same for DPIs and Print competitions and shall be judged on the same night.
8. Points are awarded as follows:

Non Acceptance	No points
Acceptance Per Entry	3 points
Merit	7 points
Honour	10 points
9. **Digital Projected Images (DPIs) Competition Rules—each financial member may enter 1 (one) digital projected image in each Set Subject & 1 (one) in each Open Subject in their assigned grade.** The image must have been exposed by the photographer. Computer generated images are not accepted. See p. 2 for entry preparation information.
10. **Print Competition Rules— Each financial member may enter 1 (one) print in each Set Subject & 1 (one) print in each Open Subject in their assigned grade. (All prints MUST be mounted.)** Prints have no minimum size but mounts must not exceed 406mm x 508mm (16" x 20"). Prints can be colour or monochrome. Monochrome includes prints which are hand-coloured, toned, tinted or dyed with shades of only one colour. Digitally and commercially processed prints are accepted. Clearly indicate the top of each print (using coloured dots assigned to each grade). Place the name of the maker, the maker's grade, the title of the print and the competition subject (e.g., Nature, Landscape/Seascape) on the back (see diagram page 2). The original image must have been exposed by the photographer. Computer generated images are not acceptable.

MISCELLANEOUS CLUB INFORMATION

COMPETITION GRADING — B, AB OR A (*all enquiries to the Competition Officer*) If you wish to enter competitions, new members must present approx. 10 examples of their prints and/or projected images (showing a variety of subjects & styles) to the Competitions Officer for submission to the current Grading & Selection Committee (consisting of the previous year's highest scoring A Grade projected image and print workers and the club President).

UPGRADING - Members will be considered for upgrading at the end of the competition year, or may request upgrading at any time by resubmitting a portfolio of images. *Contact Club Competitions Officer for more information.*

CLUB COMPETITION ENTRIES (*all enquiries to the Competition Officer*) - After grading, prepare your work for competition as described in this Booklet. Hand in work to the Competitions Officer at the Competition Table, usually 2 weeks before the Competition. **Write your name and titles clearly on the entry forms. Make sure you collect your CDs and prints at the end of the Competition Judging night.**

"THE PRISM" (*all enquiries to the Editor*) - Your club newsletter is available at the QCG website: www.qcg.org.au (a few hard copies available at club meetings for members without internet access). Contains previous competitions results, reports on club events, Photoshoot Outings details, reminders of future competitions, notice of Outside Competitions (national, international competitions), photographic advertising space (free) for members.

QCG WEBSITE - introduced in 2004, all club activities are promoted and galleries of members' images are displayed at www.qcg.org.au

CHECK THE MAIN TABLE FOR - Attendance Book (please enter your name), Nightly Entrance Fee payment, The Prism newsletter, PSQ Flashes Newsletter, other photographic notices/items of interest.

CLUB LIBRARY (*all enquiries to the Club Librarian*) There is a Library Cupboard containing quality books and magazines. These are available to members free of charge – record your borrowings in the Library Book.

CLUB EQUIPMENT (*all enquiries to the Equipment Officer*) After 6 months' membership, members are eligible to borrow certain Club Equipment for personal use. Special conditions apply for hire of Audio-Visual Equipment.

OFFICIAL CLUB BADGE WITH MEMBER'S NAME - It is recommended that an official club badge be worn by members at club meetings, photoshoots and interclub activities. Embroidery of our logo on your garments is also available. See *"REMINDERS"* page on club website for details.

THE QCG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - Elected at each Annual General Meeting in September. Nominations are called for prior to each AGM. The new committee begins its term in the next calendar year, holding office for the remainder of that calendar year.

SUBJECT GUIDELINES

These Guidelines on some common competition subjects are supplied to our judges where relevant. Unless otherwise specified, these are not rules — they are merely intended for your guidance. For Set Subjects, QCG generally asks judges to allow as wide an interpretation of the subject as possible, to encourage members to be creative. *However, the one subject that does not allow for flexible interpretation is "Nature". Both FIAP (International) and APS (National) organisations are generally agreed that the following Nature definition should be adhered to:*

NATURE:

Nature photography depicts untamed plants or animals in their natural or adaptive habitats, as well as geology, weather and phenomena generally not produced by humans. Subject matter can be anything to do with natural history (the study and description of organisms and natural objects), except anthropology or archaeology. Not acceptable are human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, plants growing in controlled conditions (e.g. a hot house), feral, domestic or captive animals, extinct animals, and mounted specimens. Subjects that qualify as landscapes, seascapes or still life do not qualify as nature. Allowable human elements are those that are an integral part of the nature story (such as birds nesting on a man-made structure, and scientific bands, tags or collars). Images may be enhanced with techniques that do not alter the nature story or the original pictorial content. Examples of acceptable processes are cropping, HDR, focus stacking, contrast adjustment, removal of dust spots, digital noise or film scratches, or converting to grey-scale monochrome images. Not permitted is anything that alters the original content by adding, moving or removing image elements such as by cloning, turning day into night, toned monochrome images or infrared images. *These have been adapted from the new APS Definition of Nature applying from 1st January 2015. Always take care to read any rules or guidelines for each competition as these may vary.*

OPEN or PICTORIAL:

Any subject that is treated pictorially, embodying the elements of good design, arrangement or composition, and which reflects the personal interpretation of the photographer.

LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE:

Must be an image featuring an expansive view without any subject dominating the scene. Landscape photographs depict natural features of the terrain, including lakes and waterways, land-based cloud or skiescapes. Trees, people or buildings may be included, but should not dominate, except where illustrating an urban landscape. Seascapes can be water panoramas, wave studies or coastal vistas combining shoreline features. Close up features are not regarded as landscapes.

PEOPLE

A photograph of a person or people that is strictly not a closeup or a portrait. The person/s in the photograph must be the main subject however the image could depict their environment or a broader scene. Must be a live human being (manikins, statues, ornaments not accepted).

PORTRAIT

Photograph of a person or group of people that captures the personality of a subject by using effective lighting, backdrops, and poses.

SELF PORTRAIT

A photograph of yourself taken by yourself. Some things to consider include lighting, background or environment, features of yourself you might want to emphasise, your hobbies or interests, your emotions.

SOCIAL DOCUMENTARY:

The image should be concerned with the portrayal and interpretation of society, encompassing both human and non-human subject matter. Social Documentary images **MUST BE TITLED**, the titles playing an important part in their impact.

CREATIVE:

This is either (a) a photograph which displays a novel effect because of an unusual combination of objects and/or an unusual viewpoint, or (b) a photograph in which the images have been modified during exposure, or (c) a photograph which has been modified after exposure. Always the picture must have a basic photographic image. Digital processes are included, provided the original image was exposed by the entrant.

NEW SET SUBJECTS:

Some new set subjects are introduced each year — if necessary, guidelines will be included in the yearly calendar (see website) but we usually encourage you to use your imagination and interpret a subject in your own unique style.

CLUB ANNUAL COMPETITION INFORMATION

ANNUAL DIGITAL PROJECTED IMAGES & ANNUAL PRINT COMPETITIONS:

Subjects: Creative, Nature, Pictorial, Social Documentary (including title). Held at the end of each year, both Annual Competitions are graded, with members invited to enter up to two (2) digitally projected images, and up to two (2) prints in each subject section. **ENTRIES WHICH HAVE WON A PLACE IN A PREVIOUS ANNUAL COMPETITION ARE NOT ELIGIBLE**, but entries from the current year's Monthly Competitions may be entered again.

SELECTION OF ANNUAL PRINT and DPI Of The Year: all images which have received an **Honour** or **First Place** at any club competition throughout the year (all grades) are eligible. The closing date will be announced by the competitions officer near the end of the competition year, with an independent judging conducted prior to the Annual Dinner. Awards will be announced and presented at the Annual Dinner.

NICK CARIS BLACK & WHITE PRINT OF THE YEAR TROPHY – Established in 2015; to be awarded at Annual Dinner & Awards Nights commencing 2016. Long term member Nick Caris, a dedicated film and darkroom photographer, instigated this trophy to encourage high quality black & white printmaking. If you enter a black and white print in a monthly club competition, and it scores an Honour or First Place, that print will be eligible for assessment again near the end of the year to compete for this perpetual trophy. **Only prints which are true black and white (and shades thereof), with no colour casts or toning, will be eligible.** The trophy judging will be ungraded and Open category (no set subject).

GRAHAM FORSTER'S STILL LIFE COMPETITION (conducted annually, included in Aggregate Point-scoring tallies). The perpetual trophy was donated by past member, Graham Forster. **Still life photography** is the photographer's arrangement of inanimate subject matter, most typically a grouping of objects. Still Life allows freedom in the design elements within a composition. You are able to combine a sense of lighting coupled with compositional skills. This is a graded, aggregate scoring competition with each member allowed 1 entry only in each medium (i.e, 1 print and 1 dpi). The same image must not be submitted as a projected image and a print.

THE ARTIST'S COMPETITION (conducted annually, included in Aggregate Point-scoring tallies)

The subject matter for the Artist's Competition has an Open subject but should contain qualities of pictorialism, impact, appeal, story-telling or interest. This competition will be judged by an artist, including those involved in photography. (The perpetual trophy was donated by late Peggy Stumbles, a Life Member of QCG). This is a graded, aggregate scoring competition with each member allowed 1 entry only in each medium (i.e, 1 print and 1 dpi). The same image must not be submitted as a projected image and a print.

CLUB DIGITAL AUDIO VISUAL COMPETITION

Sequences must be no longer than SEVEN minutes in duration and must NOT show the name of the maker on any of the images. Entries must be in the format of a self-executable file (e.g., title.exe for Windows). The same categories as the Interclub AV Competition will be used (Mini-10, Novice, Open) – more details distributed prior to competition. Members may enter up to 2 presentations in their category.

HUNT & SHOOT COMPETITION

The competition organiser chooses a venue and lists subjects which are unknown by competitors until the start of the shoot. Competitors meet at a pre-arranged time and place and the rules of the day are explained. A competition time limit must be observed. The competition organiser processes entries and arranges judging of the images. Announcement of awards and viewing of entries takes place at a future club meeting. This is traditionally a "fun" competition, open to all members, their friends & family and other non-members.

PHOTOSHOOT OUTINGS COMPETITION (conducted annually, included in Aggregate Point-scoring tallies)

Only images taken at official Club "Photoshoot Outings" in the current year (as designated in the website Calendar and printed programme handout) are eligible to be entered. Images must be taken within the designated areas of the outing and during the specified time-span of the outing. The Photoshoot Outings Competition is a graded competition with each member able to enter up to two (2)

images in each medium (i.e., 2 DPIs and 2 prints).

THE PRESIDENTS TROPHY: THREE RELATED IMAGES

Introduced by Past President Stewart Parker in 2005, this competition is judged at the Annual General Meeting. It has an Open subject and is non-graded. Members are allowed ONE entry (containing three visually related images), in EITHER print OR projected image format (not both). Prints may be presented on a single mat board, or separate mats. The competition should be judged by a past or present QCG President. When 3 separate images are entered, their titles should include the numbers 1, 2, 3 to indicate viewing order.

JOAN ROBINSON MEMORIAL TROPHY — Awarded to the Premier A Grade Photographer. Introduced in 2002, in memory of popular club member and past president, the late Joan Robinson. This perpetual trophy is awarded annually to the A Grade member achieving the greatest number of points from Merit and Honour Awards (both projected images & prints) in club competitions throughout the year. Both aggregate and non-aggregate competitions are included, with the exception of the Annual Hunt & Shoot Competition and the Annual Projected Images and Annual Prints.

INTERCLUB COMPETITION INFORMATION

RIVER CITY PRINT COMPETITION:

Conducted annually and open to all Queensland camera groups. Clubs alternate as host club. The competition is Open (no set subject) with grades of A & Others (B, AB). Club members are invited to submit prints for selection in the club's entry. Entries are invited by the Competitions Officer for selection before the closing date.

INTERCLUB DIGITAL PROJECTED IMAGES COMPETITION:

Conducted annually and open to all Queensland camera groups. It is a club entry rather than an individual entry, although First and Second place certificates are awarded to individual members in each category. Each year QCG selects Set Subjects at a club meeting by popular vote and submits three to the Delegates Meeting at the next Interclub DPI Competition. Each participating club nominates three choices and the delegates then vote for three of the total submitted. These three subjects become the Interclub Set Subjects, along with the compulsory subjects, Landscape/Seascape, Nature and People. As most of the entries submitted in the competition are usually from A grade members, an Open subject was introduced strictly for competitors below A grade in their own club. This is intended to stimulate and encourage competition between lower grades. Entries are invited by the Competitions Officer for selection before the closing date.

INTERCLUB DIGITAL AUDIOVISUAL COMPETITION

The Interclub Audiovisual competition is conducted bi-annually. Each club is allowed a maximum of eight entries spread between the categories of Mini-10, Novice and Open. There is a time limit of 7 minutes per AV sequence; the maker's name must NOT appear at any stage during a sequence.

THE QUEENSLANDERS

This is a photographic exhibition open to all members of PSQ-affiliated clubs and private members. This rules for this travelling print exhibition announced at the appropriate time.

APSCON

The Australian Photographic Society Incorporated (APS) conducts an annual convention, known as APSCON. An APS national exhibition is exhibited during APSCON. Also associated with the Convention are slide, print & audio-visual National Competitions for individuals, plus the Allied Camera Club Interstate Competition. Entry forms are distributed to clubs and members by the Convention organisers.

SEQ

Salon of Excellence Queensland and is a state competition held in conjunction with the Photographic Society of Queensland annual convention. More details to be provided at the appropriate time.

WHAT DO ALL THOSE INITIALS MEAN?

When you first join the camera club, you may be baffled by the reference to various organisations by their capital letters only. It's a lazy habit in some cases, but often also a term of endearment. "QCG", for instance, is just "us"! "PSQ" is an organisation comprising members of affiliated camera clubs from throughout the state. "BCG" is the Brisbane Camera Group (another metropolitan club, as is "MGPS", Mt Gravatt Photographic Society)and so on. Sometimes we forget to explain to new members just what these initials mean! Here is a selection of those you will often hear mentioned. Please raise your hand during a meeting if an unknown acronym crops up—someone should know the meaning.

PSQ

The Photographic Society of Queensland represents clubs & promotes photographic standards throughout the state. Affiliated clubs pay a per capita subscription based on their membership numbers—part of your annual QCG membership fees go to PSQ. Private membership is also offered. The Annual PSQ Convention (offering competitions, lectures, displays & photo opportunities) will be held on the long weekend in June in 2012 and from 2013 on the May long weekend and is normally hosted by one of the affiliated clubs. The PSQ Council comprises a Management Committee (representatives of affiliated clubs) & The Judges Panel Executive (sub-committee of PSQ accredited judges). Any club member can attend as a non-voting delegate at PSQ Council meetings. A monthly Newsletter, "Flashes", is available at clubs and on www.psq.org.au. Club members are encouraged to nominate for positions on the PSQ Management Committee and/or be delegates at PSQ meetings.

APS

The Australian Photographic Society Inc. (www.australianphotographicsociety.org.au) is a national photographic group and coordinates many facets of photography. It offers its members extensive services that are specifically designed to improve their photography and photographic skills. Individuals become members by subscription and may participate in activities of the various Divisions of the Society. Copies of Australian Photography & Image magazines are included with membership. You do not have to belong to a camera club to join APS although it encourages members to join camera clubs.

APSCON

The Australian Photographic Society Convention, held annually in Sept/Oct and normally hosted by a camera club. The week-long convention is comprised of lectures, photographic opportunities and a Dinner at which Photographic Honours are presented. The Convention includes projected image, print & audio-visual National Competitions for individuals and the Allied Interstate Photograph Competition. The AGM is also held. **AIPC (Australian Interstate Photographic Competition):** An annual individual competition held in conjunction with the APS Convention, with images selected for entry by the relevant state body (e.g., PSQ). The Alan Moran Trophy (the major award) is awarded to the most successful state body each year.

SEQ

The South East Queensland Association of Camera Clubs was an alliance which conducted a Salon (competition) over the May Day holiday weekend. From 2012, SEQ stands for Salon of Excellence Queensland and is a state competition held in conjunction with the Photographic Society of Queensland annual convention. Check the PSQ website for information (www.psq.org.au)

THE QCG **HELP** PAGE – how we **Help Each other Learn Photography!**

PHOTOSHOOT OUTINGS – if practicable, each monthly photoshoot outing will begin with a 10 minute discussion of tips and useful info for that particular photoshoot location. Members are encouraged to suggest any topics they might need help with at a future photoshoot.

Photoshoot outings provide excellent photo opportunities and a chance to get to know other members.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS - Members Only

Portraiture Group– contact Gaye Edwards for info.

The group meets on the third Saturday afternoon of the month, at **The Hub, Dandenong Rd, Mt Ommaney, 1pm – 3pm.**

A beautiful portrait is a timeless memory cherished for generations. The portraiture special interest group is designed to help all members with an interest in portraits to learn about studio lighting equipment and its use, as well as other styles of portrait (including natural light). Volunteer portrait models are always welcomed (family and friends).

Focus Group – contact John Edwards for info.

The group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. **Venue: Kenmore Library, 7pm—9pm** (super provided—contributions welcomed). Demonstrations and Talks by experienced club & other photographers which will provide all grade levels of members with information designed to improve their photographic and processing skills.

MENTORING – if a new member has any questions about a club procedure, a competition requirement, or particular camera info, they shouldn't hesitate to ask more experienced members

HOW YOU CAN HELP ON CLUB NIGHTS - Help set out the chairs, tables & presentation equipment from 7pm & pack away at the end. **Extra hands ensure smoother, shorter meetings!** Enjoy supper & remember to do your own washing up.

Always collect your print & dpi entries from past competitions
(usually on a table on the stage)