Prism 2022

The newsletter of the Queensland Camera Group Issue: 376



What's Inside

President's Piece	2-3
What's On—Calendar	4
Month in Review	5
Focus	6
Speaker Review	7
Skill Seekers	8
Photo Shoot Outings	9—10
Portrait Group	11
Competitions Update	12—15
Salon of Excellence Award Recipients	16
Australian Photographic Honours Awarded	17
QCG Photo Book Competition	18
River City Print Competition	19
Australian Cup	19
Birdlife Photography Conference	20—21
Who Does What?	22



President's Piece

Martin Riley, AAPS



I hope our members enjoyed yet another jam packed month. Our program in May certainly reminded us that photography is a two step process - capture AND post processing!

Former QCG member Ben Stoffl kicked us off in our May Focus Group, demonstrating the power of Photoshop and how to convert a digital photo into a finished image. Ben's skill in this area inspired us all to learn more. Charli Savage, our May speaker, then showed us the power of her imagination to create extraordinary images. Her ability to use her creative skills through her camera and then in Photoshop was amazing.

I am currently on the Great Ocean Road on a photo workshop, part of a six week road trip around our amazing country. Together with committee member Georgie Crossley

(see picture) Elizabeth and I are setting our alarm for multiple sunrises and heading out for sunsets in an effort to capture this dramatic coastline in its best light.

My absence also reminded me of the number of people who make this amazing club function. Thanks to the energetic Tony FitzGerald who has seamlessly taken over my presidential duties.



It's not just the nine

committee members who help this club function, but it is the likes of the dependable David Bullock who has handled the competitions officer role without missing a beat; Rob Champion who manages our IT and Zoom programs that allow us to virtually attend QCG meetings from Port Campbell; Anne Pappalardo who produces this very professional newsletter every month; the wonderful Edwards who prepare supper, maintain our web page and organise Portrait group every month; Jasmine Westerman who seeks our monthly judges; Geoff Shortland who assists with our sound and event registration system; and Nick Lefebvre who supports our social media presence - to name but a few.

I'd encourage anyone who has an interest in our club to think about supporting QCG through volunteering for a position whether formal or informal - there are activities such as fund raising and helping with administrative tasks that we would still love assistance with!

Our Special Interest Groups have also enjoyed a stellar month.

Our Skill Seeker session, coordinated by Sharon Hobbs, comprised a presentation by Yvonne Hill on composition and was enthusiastically attended by a number of members looking to improve their photography skills.

Our other group, the APS Honours Group, enjoyed success with members Joy Melchiori, Georgie Crossley and Elizabeth Riley all receiving photographic honours Associateship of the Australian Photographic Society (AAPS) awards in recognition of their photographic prowess. It is great to see members of our





Yvonne Hill's Skill Seeker presentation on composition, coordinated by Sharon Hobbs. Photo: Tony FitzGerald.

club recognised for their efforts outside of QCG!

Finally I'd like to welcome new member Heleen Daniels and I look forward to meeting Heleen in person and catching up with QCG friends on our return in late June.

Martin Riley

What's on in June

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2 Focus: Printing Masterclass. 7.30 pm @ Kenmore Library. F2F only.	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Speaker: Bruno Dominigues on Portraits. F2F @ Zoom at SPACE	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Portrait Group. 10 am to 12 pm.	19
20	21	22	23 DPI Competition Judging Zoom only. Portrait & Monochrome.	24	25	26 Photoshoot Outing Details TBA.
27	28	29	30 Print Competition judging Prints. F2F only at SPACE. 7.30 pm.			



Month in Review

With the Rileys on a well-earned holiday we were all a bit nervous to see whether the QCG wheels fell off. Turns out we were totally fine!

May was another BIG month full of fabulous activities, speakers, workshops, competitions and more.

Read on for full details.

Such a great photo by Tony FitzGerald: Yvonne Hill is congratulated by QCG members at the conclusion of her presentation on composition.

Focus

Photoshop with Ben Stoffl, Thursday 5 May

Former QCG member Ben Stoffl presented a Photoshop master class at the Focus meeting on Thursday 5 May. Ben is a highly skilled photographer and post processor of images and as a photography judge, has a deep understanding of how to improve images so that they gain higher awards in camera clubs and acceptances or awards in international competitions.

In addition to his camera craft and Photoshop abilities, Ben is also skilled at identifying the potential of an image. To this end, he took a wide selection of QCG member images and showed us how he might edit these, and why.

The why was just as interesting as the how. Ben uses Photoshop to blur and simplify backgrounds, create leading lines in landscapes, alter and swap out colour, and much more.

Ben spent a lot of time demonstrating the various methods of selecting parts of an image in Photoshop (as opposed to making a global adjustment to the entire image). With his selections made, Ben then wowed us with what he did with those selections, admitting that he sometimes spent a long time in this part of his workflow to ensure accuracy and accordingly, a realistic edit.









Top image: Keith Fincham (left) thanks presenter, Ben Stoffl. Second top: Say it with me: Gaye, Kay, Jay and Joy. Second bottom: Nick Lefebvre, Keith Fincham and Chris Pigott. Bottom: Dorothy Bunzli, Christine Kramer, Malcolm Bunzli and Harvey Kramer.

Speaker Review

A Journey into Conceptual Art with Charli Savage, Thursday 12 May

Our speaker for May was self-taught conceptual fine art photographer Charli Savage (pictured right) who, like her images, took QCG members on an amazing journey into this style of photographic art.

Charli confesses that she is drawn to and inspired by the magic of story-telling, incorporating props to help with the symbolism of her images and allowing them to be interpreted in different ways by different viewers.

Nature, location and negative space are important elements of her work, as are people and Charli is often the model in her images. She says she prefers not to show the character's face so that people are mesmerised by what the character is doing in the scene, rather than interacting with the character itself.

Charli took us through her back-catalogue of work, but confessed she has hit a barrier and is looking to make her art a little weirder. We cannot wait to see what's next for Charli (and her bone collection!).

As a fabulous coincidence, the club's portrait group featured one of Charli's favourite models in May. The very talented Billie-Erin (see her featured in Charli's image bottom right) gave us three amazing 'looks'. Read full details here.

The club is considering hosting a workshop, hosted by Charli, to learn her post processing tips and tricks.

Contact Georgie Crossley via email to register your interest as we still need a few more people for the workshop to be viable.

georgie.crossley@icloud.com







Skill Seekers

Understanding Composition by Yvonne Hill, Thursday 17 May By Sharon Hobbs

Our first Skill Seeker's session was held on Tuesday night, 17 May. It was well attended by members both old and new to the Club. Accredited judge and member of QCG, Yvonne Hill, gave a presentation on 'Understanding Composition'.

Yvonne showed slides of her own images and demonstrated with accompanying drawings the different composition layout. We finished the presentation with a critique session of photos brought in by some of the members.

It was a well presented and informative evening that generated a lot of discussion. We asked for suggestions from members as to what they would like to see next and there will more on that in the coming weeks!









Photos: Tony FitzGerald.

Photoshoot Outings

Goodwill Bridge, QUT, Botanica 29 May, 2022 By Peter Moodie

Finally, a fine weekend, and the westerlies calmed down.

We kicked off at the QUT end of the Goodwill bridge. Our intrepid group split up promising to gather again in time to watch and photograph the sunset over the Brisbane River.

Off we went to explore where we wished between the architecture of QUT, the gardens or the mangroves.

On returning we moved out onto the bridge, tripods out, to grab a spot.

Worried at first that the night was going to be too clear (can't believe I said that) we were actually rewarded with enough clouds and colour to provide a colourful sky.

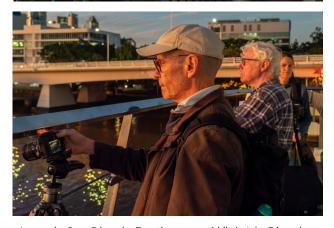
With the sky darkened we then set off towards the lights of Botanica.

First stop was old parliament house, lit up in a rainbow of colour. From there we moved down into the gardens proper, splitting up to explore were we wished.

Botanica was certainly a challenge, the crowds making it difficult to use a tripod and the light output on some exhibits quite low. Despite this I think our group enjoyed themselves with plenty of options to explore.







Images by Gaye Edwards: Top, the gang; middle is John Edwards left and Peter Moodie; bottom is Chris Pigott, Peter Moodie and brand new member Heleen Daniels.







Top images are of Yvonne Hill (left) and Mala Ranu, rugged up and ready for anything (photo Gaye Edwards) and above, more action at the photo shoot outing (photo Peter Moodie).

From last month's Silhouette and Open. My sincere apologies to Bob Britcher. Bob was the judge of this competition and took this image. I asked him for a copy to put into last month's Prism but somehow I overlooked it. Sorry, Bob—great image, and thanks for all you do for QCG.



Portrait Group

Saturday 28 May, by Gaye Edwards

We had a very lively Portrait Group meeting on Saturday 28 May with genuinely enthusiastic photographers and a talented professional model (including several costume changes). Our model, Billie, allowed us plenty of those important "story-telling" images which our judges now value.

My thanks to all who helped show new member Hamid through the basics of studio lighting and posing. Thanks also for again efficiently setting up and dismantling the gear we use each meeting. We are a great team and your cooperation is very much appreciated.

There's a new gallery from May's meeting on the club website - click on GALLERIES and scroll down.

Watch for my registration email on the Monday before next PG meeting (to be held 18.06.2022).





Top right: new member Hamid with model Billie. Right: Geoff Shortland poses so that we might get our backdrop juuuuust right. Above: Rob Dearden, David Bullock, Geoff, Hamid, Peter Moodie and Anne Pappalardo. Photos Gaye Edwards.



Competitions Update

By Competitions Officer Elizabeth Riley

Once a year QCG has traditionally invited an artist to judge the Still Life and Open aggregate monthly competition. This year artist Barbara Brown accepted the challenge and provided us with not only written comments in MyPhotoClub but also an enthusiastic presentation in person on Competition Night.

Barbara's judging was very gracious and appreciative of members' work, and reinforced the commonalities between what makes an effective image whether created by an artist or a photographer. Barbara is the wife of PSQ President and photographic judge Ralph Brown, who also attended and presented two SEQ trophies to the club and certificates and medals to individual winners.

It was a pleasure to be able to sit back for a change and watch the evening unfold via Zoom while David Bullock did the heavy lifting—much appreciated David!

Top: Gaye Edwards provided the vote of thanks to Barbara Brown. Pictures: Tony FitzGerald. Below: I am all in a tangle by Judy Greer.















Barb Brown in action. Photos by Tony FitzGerald.

Results for May 2022: Still Life and Open

Judged by Barb Brown, artist

A Grade Still Life DPI

Lest we forget	Honour	Yvonne Hill FAPS EFIAP/b
Kings Supper	Honour	Martin Riley AAPS
Sunflower pollen	Merit	Cheryl Mares GMAPS EFIAP/b
What it takes	Merit	Geoff Shortland
Lefties and Righties	Merit	Georgie Crossley
Lest We Forget	Merit	Ray Shorter FAPS

A Grade Still Life Print

A Pot of Orange Tea Anyone	Honour Most Apt Title	Georgie Crossley
Rainbow Drop	Honour	Chris Pigott
Seasons Harvest	Honour	Ray Shorter FAPS
Cherries in a glass	Merit	Yvonne Hill FAPS EFIAP/b BPSA OAM
Chardonnay	Merit	Elizabeth Riley
Let's arrange tea	Merit	Tony FitzGerald
Morning Smell of Coffee	Merit	Martin Riley AAPS

A Grade Open DPI

Now where was that apartment again?	Honour	Geoff Shortland
Roulette Roster Tails	Honour	Peter Moodie
Three trees a Derby aerial	Honour	Elizabeth Riley
Sandscape by Nature	Merit	Jasmine Westerman
Making Haste	Merit	Jane McMenamin
Country stroll	Merit	Joy Melchiori
Graceful Gaze	Merit	Anne Pappalardo AAPS
Trillions of Stars	Merit	Georgie Crossley
Mesmerised	Merit	Paul Harrop
SuPAWdog	Merit	Zoe McGrath
Tidal Creations	Merit	Martin Riley AAPS
Cranky Chicks	Merit	Philip Michael
Gallipoli Flashback	Merit	Philip Lawrence FAPS EFIAP

AB Grade Still Life DPI

On Fire	Merit	Ray Eisenmenger
Office	MCH	Ray Liseinnenger

Results for May 2022: Still Life and Open

Judged by Barb Brown, artist

AB Grade Still Life Print

Jos Pears I	Honour	John Roberts

AB Grade Open DPI

My What Big Eyes You Have	Honour	Harvey Kramer
Bee in a Lilly II	Honour	John Roberts

B Grade Still Life DPI

broken tip	Merit	Colleen Roberts
I am all in a tangle	Merit Most Apt Title	Judy Greer

B Grade Still Life Print

Beach Therapy	Merit	Judy Greer
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B Grade Open DPI

Fairies make music	Honour	Colleen Roberts
Against power	Merit	Hamidreza Rahnama
Kimberley	Merit	Suzanne Mulligan

Hitting the Still Life sweet spot: 'Seasons Harvest' by Ray Shorter (below top left); 'Kings Supper' by Martin Riley (bottom left); 'Rainbow Drop' by Chris Pigott (below center); 'Lest We Forget' by Ray Shorter (middle); 'Jos Pears I' by John Roberts (center bottom); 'A Pot of Orange Tea Anyone' by Georgie Crossley (top right) 'Lest we forget' by Yvonne Hill (bottom right); All honour images across prints and DPIs.



Salon of Excellence Award Recipients

Heartiest of congratulations to QCG and its members who participated in the <u>2022 Salon of Excellence</u> as part of the PSQ's annual convention. Our thanks to PSQ president, Ralph Brown, who presented medallions and certificates to some of the successful individual QCG members. Images below by Tony FitzGerald:

- Harvey Kramer, Colleen Roberts, Gaye Edwards, Ivan Chang, Chayvis Zhang and Chris Pigott
- Bottom left: PSQ president, Ralph Brown presents Esther Andrews, on behalf of QCG, with the Angus Buchanan trophy for the club with the highest aggregate score overall and the Dalby Photographic Society Shield for the club with the most acceptances.
- Print queens: Gaye Edwards with 'Caught in the Act' which won Champion A
 Grade Print and Colleen Roberts with 'Portrait of Robert' which won Non AGrade Open Mono Prints.







Australian Photographic Society Honours Awarded

Three QCG members were recently successful in their applications for photographic honours with the Australian Photographic Society. Joy Melchiori and Georgie Crossley both received AAPS via panel. Elizabeth Riley received AAPS via exhibition. Elizabeth provided her insights into gaining honours via the exhibition pathway before she left for holidays, and happily, has updated this piece with her success! Elizabeth is the first QCG member to receive honours via exhibition for many years, so her insights are extremely interesting and valuable to those who will follow. If you would like to join the QCG special interest group for Honours, just contact Tony FitzGerald or Sharon Hobbs.

After three attempts at correctly completing my AAPS by Exhibition application form, I have finally got it right. The Verifying Officer (VO) has signed off and passed it on to APS, and having confirmed that I have met the criteria, I hope the outcome is now a formality. (Update – it was!)

When applying for AAPS, by Exhibition, entering images in international competitions is the easy part; documenting the successful results is the challenge. The lessons I have learned are to enter successful images in the application form promptly when competition results come in; include PSA section numbers; download the competition catalogue for verification if required (a report card won't necessarily be accepted); and if a competition has FIAP patronage, use those numbers even if the PSA numbers are easier to find.

A big thanks to Margaret O'Grady who volunteers her time as a VO among other duties (including APS president!); this bit of administration, checking that Acceptances and Awards claimed were actually received, is a necessary part of ensuring that standards are met and that APS Honours continue to mean something.

Why did I choose to work towards AAPS by Exhibition rather than by Panel? Firstly, I thought my photography would improve more by taking the longer road, with more time to improve my processing skills and to re-edit images before submitting them to additional competitions. Secondly, I preferred to work to my own timeframe, rather than rush to achieve a deadline (AAPS by Panel has a March deadline each year). And thirdly I wanted to see how my images would fare in a larger context, compared to a wider pool of images and judged by a much wider pool of judges.

Along the way I was bemused by how one image could achieve such widely varying results, from a non Acceptance through to an award. Yes, photography is subjective – and seeing that even in international competition, an image will be received differently on different occasions or by different people, has helped me to take the ups and downs of club competition less seriously.

My goals on the road to the next level, FAPS, now include improving my selection of images and their processing to the point that they will more often be accepted in all rounds of a circuit, not just one or two; and to achieve a gold medal somewhere along the line (one can dream). And maybe this time I will extend those processing skills a little further. And finally I want to prove that it can be done with a micro four thirds camera!

QCG Photo Book Competition

Entries due 11 August.

Winners announced at an afternoon celebration Saturday 3 September at Space.

momento **pro**

All QCG members are invited to participate in this biennial competition, held in the off year to the Collections Exhibition. You may enter an existing book (as long as it has not been entered into a QCG photo book competition in the past, or you may enter a brand new book. There is no restriction on which manufacturer has made your book and handmade entries are welcome.

Our thanks to sponsor Momento Pro who are providing two \$150 vouchers as prizes—one for the Storytelling category and one for Portfolio.

For full details of the competition, look here.

Key dates are as follows:

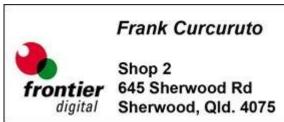
- Thursday 2 June—Finishing your photobook and printing masterclass. A Focus meeting to be held at Kenmore Library at 7.30 pm and a great opportunity to learn not only about things to consider as you finalise your photo book, but to learn from experienced print makers like Louise McDonald, John Little and Ray Shorter.
- Thursday 21 July—for those not hand-making a book, this is the most likely the last date by which your book must be completed and uploaded to your commercial photo book maker (ie, 21 calender days for Momento Pro) so that it's back in time to be entered into the QCG competition. Please, please double check lead times for production and delivery with your book manufacturer.
- Thursday 11 August—entries close for QCG competition.
- **Saturday 3 September, 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm**—announcement of winners at QCG event; all welcome to attend. Light canapes and drinks and the chance to review all of the entries.
- **Friday 7 October**—entries close for the APS's photo book competition. Why not consider putting your QCG entry into this national competition?



River City Print Competition

Hosted by QCG, Saturday 30 July, 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm, SPACE

A small team of QCG members has been quietly and behind the scenes reprising the <u>River City Print</u> <u>Competition</u>. This is an inter-club competition which seeks to promote the printed photographic form.



While this is a club competition there are myriad things that as members, QCG can lock in:

- Put aside your better prints; these may be required to form part of the QCG entry. Elizabeth Riley will be in contact if your image has been shortlisted, but the categories include Open Colour, Open Mono, Nature, Portrait and Non A-Grade Open.
- Put the date of the event in your diary. It will be a terrific opportunity to meet members from other camera clubs and watch the impact judging.
- Volunteer. The club will need assistance prior to the event for a few jobs including
 the possible matting of prints received from regional clubs. QCG has offered this
 as a service to these clubs, recognising that distance and cost factors may prohibit
 these clubs from participating in print competitions.

Our thanks to Frank from Frontier Digital who is a sponsor of the event. Frank is providing assistance to regional clubs (via QCG) with both printing and matting, and has generously donated 5 x \$50 vouchers to be used by the club to raise funds to offset the cost of hosting this event. The Photographic Society of Queensland (PSQ) is also supporting the event with the donation of a new trophy (the previous trophy was lost during the two year hiatus imposed by Covid).

Australian Cup

Hosted by Australian Photographic Society with results Zoomed Sunday 31 July

Congratulations to the QCG members whose images have been selected in QCG's entry into this year's APS's Australian Cup. This is another inter-club competition (note the Zoomed results happen the day after River City!), looking for the best images from Australian Photographic Club members both as a club and as individual members. There will be 10 awards for clubs and 29 awards for individual photographers presented and the judging will be done by three international judges. Each entry is made up of 20 images. If you have been shortlisted as part of the QCG entry you would have been advised by now by Elizabeth Riley. All camera club members will be invited to the announcement of winners so stand by for further details and the Zoom link.



Birdlife Photography Conference

By Anne Pappalardo

A handful of QCG members attended the recent biennial Birdlife Photography Conference at the Gold Coast from Friday 20 May to Sunday 22 May. The conference itself was a great couple of days, and some of us also took the opportunity to participate in the unfortunately rain-affected photo shoot outings on either side of the conference proper.



The conference was opened by one of the best welcome to country 'welcomes' I've heard, where

the speaker explained the Aboriginal origin and meaning of many place names on the Gold Coast. This was followed by a wonderful presentation by Graham Cam on 'Birds inspiring art', providing a timeline of human art incorporating birds including 25,000 year old Aboriginal bird art.

Over the next two days conference attendees could choose from myriad sessions including Jan Wegener's 'How to develop your own style and take sharper images', Kim Wormald's 'Wildlife and Wellbeing' and Georgina Steytler's 'Advantages of Mirrorless cameras and top tips for creative photography'.

So, what were the main themes coming out of the conference? Here's a short summary of what I took away:

- the planet is losing birds at a rapid rate; imagery is now more important than ever to sell the message about bird conservation; bird photography has a part to play to remind people of what we have, and sadly, to be a beautiful reminder of the many species of birds which will soon be extinct (research shows that one in six Australian birds is now threatened).
- . to succeed in bird photography competitions it is important to stand out from an ever growing pack. Look for images that are unique and tell a story. Going 'Beyond bird on a stick' was a common theme amongst all of the presenters.
- . take a close look at denoise options for your bird photography including Topaz and DXO Pure Raw 2.
- . check firmware updates on your camera regularly you may find an update will deliver you a whole new camera.
- . for shorebirds, tides coming in are the best time to photograph; migratory birds arrive early September and leave late March; be very mindful not to disturb them while eating they need every gram of fat preserved to build up their reserves; signs of distress or that you are influencing their behaviour include head bobbing, leading behaviour (leading you away from their nests) and false brooding (snuggling down into the sand as if they are on their eggs/chicks).
- . pixel peeping sharpness is fantastic but don't forget to have fun and look for creative opportunities; intentional camera movement and in camera multiple exposures make for beautiful bird captures and there were many examples of these being done brilliantly at the conference.

The next Bird Photography Conference will be in March in Adelaide in 2024. See you there.



Lynda Davidson (centre), Jane McMenamin (grey top next to Lynda) and Gaye Edwards (other side of Lynda, blue top) sat at the Western Australian table at the conference dinner. The chap is Keith Ross-Jones who won an award for an article he wrote on bird photography and made an entertaining presentation during dinner.





The conference provided an opportunity to check out and purchase gear from the major brands as well as talk to the reps. Above left in the black t-shirt is Mark Rayner, Nikon ambassador and all around nature photography legend. Above right, Gaye Edwards takes the opportunity to chat with the Olympus rep. Shot by Anne Pappalardo who was trying out the Sony 85 mm 1.4. GM.







One of the photo shoot outings was Oxenford Weir, a known birding hotspot and a reliable location for those interested in the eastern osprey (above). On this day, the osprey was being most uncooperative, so like most of the other photographers there, I took home a series of bottoms, undercarriages and out of focus shots. As I commiserated with the gentleman beside me—we were both looking at our screens to confirm we'd pretty



much stuffed our photo op—I asked him (he was super-experienced, knew the names of all the birds and gave me so many tips), if he knew what type of fish the osprey had caught. He told me in fresh water environments just call everything a mullet. No one knows the difference and usually the fish is the smallest thing in the frame so no one can tell either. Noted.

For this little striated heron (left) I dragged the shutter and I love the effect. Will definitely give this another try on another day. Also at Oxenford Weir.

Who does what?

What a handsome group*. Our thanks to Gaye Edwards for helping us to put faces to names—these portraits were taken prior to the Tri Nations Judging in a mobile portrait studio which Gaye set up at Kenmore Library. Don't forget, if you need to contact a member of the committee there are many contact details listed here. If the person you want to contact is not listed, just email the secretary for their details.



Martin Riley, President



Tony FitzGerald, Vice President, Focus Coordinator



Chris Pigott, Treasurer



Harvey Kramer, Secretary



Elizabeth Riley, Competitions Officer



Georgie Crossley, Speaker Liaison & Print Coordinator



Peter Moodie, Photo Shoot Outings



Louise McDonald, Membership Officer



Jasmine Westerman, Immediate Past President, Judges Liaison



Anne Pappalardo, Prism Editor, Events



Gaye Edwards, Portrait Group, Web Master



John Edwards, Catering



Rob Champion, IT Desk

Queensland Camera Group | May 2022



Geoff Shortland, Floktu, IT Desk



Sharon Hobbs, Skills Seeker Special Interest



David Bullock, Back up Competitions

^{*} Esther Andrews missing from committee images.