



# EXPOSURE

## My Photographic Journey in MGPS

By Trudi Aykens

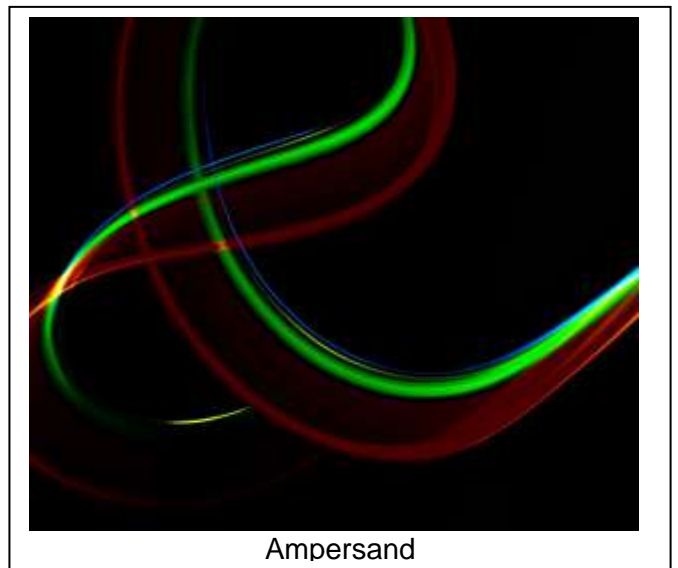


When Paul asked me if I would like to write something for the club newsletter, my first thought was “what on earth can I tell these people about photography?” So rather than anything technical, I will tell you about my photographic journey with MGPS and what I have learned so far.

I’d had my eye on MGPS for quite a few years, but it wasn’t until 2019, that I found the time to join. My youngest son Marcus was born with severe cerebral palsy, and as a single working Mum, pretty much all of my spare time was spent looking after Marcus, while also trying to do my best for his older brother. Marcus had complex medical needs and it wasn’t until the introduction of the NDIS that I could pay for a suitably qualified carer to spend time with Marcus to give me a break. For the first time in fourteen years, I could start a new interest - Photography. I joined the MGPS beginner group and was instantly hooked.



Marcus at home



Ampersand

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Beginner lessons with Julie Geldard and Suzanne Edgeworth were a perfect introduction to the basics of operating my new little Olympus OMD EM10 and the kit lenses that came with it. I was so impressed with the presentation nights, and thoroughly intimidated by the competition nights. I was lucky enough to be graded into AB grade and eventually found the courage to enter the competitions. It was a slow start, but I gained my first Honour Award towards the end of 2019, for a photo taken during one of our beginner lessons (“Ampersand”).

For two years most of my photos were taken around home, my local neighborhood, or further afield around Brisbane. Marcus was my constant companion. I would load him into his

wheelchair, collect all his medications and feeding gear, grab my camera, and off we would go on one of our

little photography expeditions together. Marcus loved to be outside and moving, which was great, but if I ever stopped pushing his wheelchair for too long, he would let me know about it. When out with Marcus, my photography technique was in the style of point, shoot, and run. One club member told me that if my first photo was my best, I was doing something wrong. I think my early days photographing with Marcus caused me to have this problem, which I continue to this day. Looking on the positive side, however, the restriction of staying local meant that I was pushed to find all the special things that were in plain sight, which I think is good practice for a beginner. The way looking through a viewfinder changes how you see the world is one of the beautiful things about photography.

In February 2021, my world came crashing down when Marcus died suddenly at the age of 16. My photo buddy was gone, and although I now had all the time in the world to get the best shot, I felt nothing but sadness when taking photos without him. Three years down the track, I still struggle with this, however, I am slowly finding ways to enjoy photography again.

I love photos of people, and through friends who are also parents of disabled children, I have had the opportunity to photograph some special events. These include dances for



Let's dance

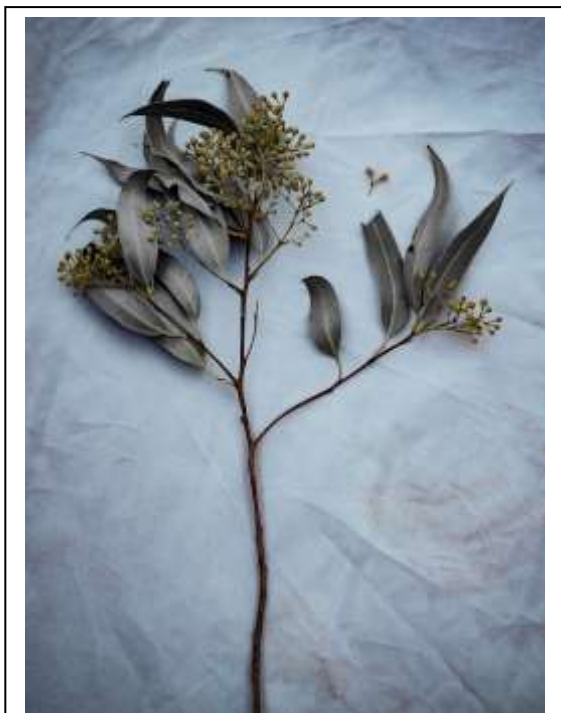


Macquarie River Reflections

teenagers and young adults, who due to their complex disabilities, would otherwise not have the chance to get out and socialise at music events. I find this photography challenging as it's usually in a room with dim lighting, and I can't use a flash because many participants have epilepsy. I also think using the flash would be very distracting, and I try to be as inconspicuous as possible. Last year I received my first image of the night with a photo taken at one of these events ("Let's Dance").

In February 2022, I went on a solo trip to Tasmania. I bought myself a new wide-angle lens and travelled light. Staying at Airbnbs I hired a car and drove from Hobart to White Beach, then Bicheno and back to Hobart, enjoying many sights in between. At White Beach, I stayed at a wombat rescue Airbnb and got to cuddle a baby wombat. It was so amazing to finally have new places to photograph. I only had a week but could have kept going for months.

Hobart to White Beach, then Bicheno and back to Hobart, enjoying many sights in between. At White Beach, I stayed at a wombat rescue Airbnb and got to cuddle a baby wombat. It was so amazing to finally have new places to photograph. I only had a week but could have kept going for months.



Eucalyptus

Other styles of photos that I love include botanical images, and this is an area that I would like to spend more time working on. I am always collecting sticks and leaves during my bushwalks around Toohey Forrest. I have also learnt that simplicity in photography works best for me. Although I love images that have lots of complexity, I think this takes a lot of skill. Monochrome is also an area I would like to develop and I would love to try infrared photography one day. Time is my biggest problem. Full-time work and part-time university study means



Giant old tree

Time is my biggest problem. Full-time work and part-time university study means



Bird of Paradise

that I have not been able to spend as much time practicing my photography as I would like, but I am hanging in there. I particularly appreciate the set subject category of the club competitions, as they force me to pick up my camera and think about my photography.

What else do I love about being a member of MGPS? I think it's the inspiration that I get from being with a group of people who are so engaged in doing something they love.

Photography is such an amazing pastime (or profession). It's art, science, and technology all rolled into one.



It's an excuse to get outside and explore, or something to do on a rainy day, staying inside to Photoshop, or taking still lifes. Travelling to exotic locations or crawling around your backyard looking for bugs. Photography is an opportunity for creativity and continuous learning, that I hope to continue for the rest of my life.

## FROM THE EDITOR



I thank Trudi Aykens for her very touching article about her photographic journey since joining MGPS. Trudi's story really fulfills the exact purpose of *Exposure's* feature articles: to assist members to know more about one another and to explore how members create meaning through their photography.

As we approach our Annual General meeting, I want to acknowledge just a few office bearers who contribute significantly to the newsletter. Michael Mitchell is our records officer and every month without fail he sends me the competition results. He also keeps track of new members and helps me get in touch with them. Gwenda Kruger as well as being treasurer is the activities officer. Each month, Gwenda organises an interesting photoshoot for members. Often, I'm pestering her for the details of the next month's shoot before the current month's shoot has taken place. Gwenda always forwards me the details in time as well as a report on the previous shoot. Margareta Dewilde is our competitions officer. She updates me with results and details of judges. She has done an amazing job locating judges and working to coordinate the judging of our monthly competitions. Suzanne Edgeworth is our Inter-club competitions officer. She provides me with regular notice of these competitions as well as results. Thanks for your dedicated work, Michael, Gwenda, Margareta and Suzanne. Of course, MGPS has many other office bearers who do a wonderful job as volunteers but have less involvement with the newsletter.

Our club's **Annual General Meeting** is being held soon on Wednesday 11 September at 7.00 pm. Awards will be presented for the yearly competition which finalises this month. I know that several office holders are stepping down after serving the club for some years. Please consider nominating for one of the official positions that serve club members. All positions are declared vacant at the meeting. Our club depends on the work of our voluntary office bearers. Most positions are not onerous. You will be mentored by more experienced members and arrangements can be put in place to cover you if you go away travelling for a block of time. Please give it some thought. As usual, send ideas, feedback or contributions to **my email**.

[newsletter@mgps.org.au](mailto:newsletter@mgps.org.au) Paul Mackay

## Member Successes

Congratulations to **Geoff Hui** who has been achieving very well in international competitions. Below is a summary of Geoff's recent results.

Photo Title	International Competition	Award
Cottages In Bour Faroe Islands	Azerbaijan Photo Salon 2024	PSA Gold Medal
The Hunt Ndotu	Matrix Circuit 2024 – India	FIP HM
Gasadalur Faroe Islands	MGM Circuit 2024 – Greenland	Salon Diploma 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Durdle Door	PhotoHouse Grand Prix - Serbia	Salon Silver Medal
Gasadalur Faroe Islands	3° Salon Intl De Fotografia -Argentina	Ribbon FC del Plata
Monkeying Around	3° Salon Intl De Fotografia -Argentina	Dip FC del Plata
A Deadly Game of Chase	VIGEX 22nd Intl Photog Print Salon	FIAP HM



*Cottages in the Faroe Islands*

## Annual Fees Due

**This is a gentle reminder that membership fees become due on July 1st each year. Please note that the fees listed on the web site are incorrect and are being updated. The correct fees are listed below.**

Membership fees can be paid on meeting nights in cash or preferably using our EFTPOS facilities. Alternately membership fees can be paid by direct deposit into the club's bank account.

Remember to use your *COMPETITION NUMBER* and/or *SURNAME* as reference so we know who has paid!

For those who wish to use direct deposit the bank details are as follows:

Mt Gravatt Photographic Society Inc, BSB 064-118, Account 10054613

Membership fees for the year are :

- Full - \$60
- Concessional\* - \$30 (for pensioners or full-time students)
- Spouse of FULL Member - \$30
- Associate \$40 (U18)

You need to be a financial member to continue entering monthly competitions and to continue to receive the newsletter and emails,

It is also a requirement to be a financial member to vote at our AGM.

# City Photo Shoot



Margaret Kemmery



Cheryl Zwart



Margaret Kemmery



Cheryl Zwart

## Honours from June - People

### **Mekong skipper by Paul Mackay**

I was visiting Pak Ou Caves, an hour north of Luang Prabang in Laos. To reach the caves we took a motorised canoe across the Mekong River. My wife and I were the only passengers and the canoe rocked quite a bit, so I was hesitant to attempt to turn around to photograph the skipper for fear of unbalancing the craft. Instead, I figured out the likely settings, used the widest angle of my lens, set focus for the lower middle and held the camera over my shoulder photographing backward on burst mode just guessing what I might capture. I was delighted with one of the images. The skipper is drinking a caffeine beverage.

Olympus OMD EM 1 Mk III with 12-40 Zuko Pro lens at 12 mm with UV filter. ISO 320, f9, 1/160 sec.

I substantially increased contrast and darkened the sky in Photoshop.



### **Striving for Australia by Rose Parr**

Being a tennis tragic, I attended the Billy Jean Cup at the Qld Tennis Centre Tennyson in April this year. Knowing the arena's layout, I chose my seat from the seating map when booking online. A restriction regarding spectator photography at this venue limits lens size to 200mm, so I used this occasion to try out my new 70-200mm lens. I found this an adequate size (if you're not after extreme close-ups) as you need a wide shot anyway when anticipating the players' moves, and the cropping in processing was reasonable. Since there is a roof over the arena, the light wasn't great and I was avoiding a high ISO but was pleasantly surprised when the shots looked OK with my settings. I composed most shots to avoid a cluttered background. I intend to experiment further with settings and compositions at the

Brisbane International early 2025.

I watched the two matches in the session through a viewfinder. I feel that's real dedication to my photography journey.

Edited in Adobe Lightroom Classic.

Sony A7Riii camera body, Sony FE 70-200 F2.8 lens at 86mm. Aperture Priority. 1/1600 second, F2.8, ISO 500. Handheld. Continuous focus, burst mode.

### **Jubilation by John Langer**

Suncorp Stadium (Lang Park) was the venue on Saturday 12 August 2023 for a Matilda's football (soccer) match that will be remembered for many years. Featuring Australia against a very competitive French outfit, this World Cup Quarter-final game was to be decided in a dramatic penalty shootout. When Cortnee Vine struck the penalty that led to Australia's 7-6 victory, it was wonderful to witness first-hand the celebrations that followed. Fortunately, our front row seats allowed us to see up-close the jubilation of the Matildas as they then walked around the stadium. It also provided an opportunity for me to capture a relatively successful, low resolution image with an Apple iPhone (unfortunately, most sports stadiums restrict the use of a DSLR camera with a long lens). My final image was produced after adjustments in Lightroom, especially to the texture, clarity and light (by reducing shadows),



Apple iPhone 11 Pro Max, Telephoto camera, f2 at 127mm, 1/200s, f2, ISO 80.

### ***Flowing hair* by Bruce McDonald**

Captured in a studio with a cyclorama allowed for a seamless background on this model shoot. A large octo-box softbox was the single light source used throughout the shoot. A model with experience in dance and photographic modelling provided the subject. As she stood head and hair forward, she then threw her head back as she stepped forward and up to produce this pose. This was about the 15<sup>th</sup> attempt to get the hair extended behind the model.

The image was processed in ***Lightroom Classic*** using the Adobe Portrait profile with Basic panel adjustments including contrast, highlights, whites, shadows and blacks along with small adjustments to the clarity and vibrance. Sharpening and noise reduction were applied before adding a vignette. The colour image was then converted to black and white.

Capture: Canon R5 with RF 70-200 f/2.8 IS L lens @ 70mm, f8, 1/200 sec ISO 200. Manual mode was used.



### ***Morning tea* by Shuying Jiang**

Morning teatime in downtown Brisbane. This is really a happy time for people. Some are playing with their phone, some are chatting and laughing. One lady has her blouse half hanging out. They look very relaxed.

Capture: Canon Eos R5, f/9; 1/100s; ISO 320. Lens at 100mm. Manual.

### ***Lady about town* by Margareta Dewilde**

The photo was taken in the Queen Street Mall in February. A few of us were out doing some street photography, I turned around and this lady was walking towards us. The topic of people was due shortly so I took this shot as the lady looked interesting.

Olympus E-M5III, lens M.12-100mm F4.0, 1/60 sec, f/8, ISO 500, Aperture priority, Spot Metering, Focal length 14mm (28mm)



### ***Morning fog* by Rosslyn Garnett**

This photo was taken on a holiday at Kinrara. This is a 70,000-acre working cattle station offering a week's accommodation on a large lake. It is situated 250klms southwest of Cairns with glamping style accommodation.

On awaking one morning it was very foggy, so I grabbed my camera went up to the back of the kitchen to see all the fog coming through the trees. I was amazed also to see how many different types of cobwebs had been spun in the bushes.

This photo was a simple edit with little to change in Lightroom

and Photoshop for Levels & Curves.

Canon R5 f5.6 Exposure 1/160 ISO 100

## August Photo Shoot – Oxley Common

<b>Date, Location and Time:</b>	<b>10/8/2024 - SATURDAY 10 August 2024 at 8.00 AM OXLEY CREEK COMMON, 258 SHERWOOD ROAD ROCKLEA MEET AT THE BBQ/TOILET AREA.</b>
<b>Details</b>	Slightly early in the month, but I am off on holidays the following week. Although we have had some chilly weather, we have had sunshine, so this should still bring the birds out. Oxley Common is often good for the robins and blue wrens, so let's give it a go. By 8 am they should be up and chirping. Don't forget to also bring your Macro lens as there is plenty of pretty vegetation and probably bugs. Coffee afterwards will be arranged.

## MGPS Annual General Meeting 11 September



Mount Gravatt Photographic Society Inc

### AGM CONVENING NOTICE

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The Annual General meeting for the Mt Gravatt Photographic Society will be held on:

**Wed 11<sup>th</sup> September - 7:30pm**

At St Bartholomew's Hall,  
Cnr Mountain Road & Logan Road Mt Gravatt

#### BUSINESS OF MEETING

- Presentation of Awards
- Minutes of 2023 AGM
- Presentation of Presidents Reports
- Presentation of Treasurer Report
- Election of Auditor
- Interest Group Reports
- Election of Office Bearers
- Appointment of Public Officer
- Nomination to Appointed Positions
- General Business

All financial members are requested to attend.

A full agenda and proxy forms will be distributed in due course.

All committee positions become vacant.

Nomination forms for the 2024-2025 Committee will be emailed to all members.



## Results from July Competition: Subject: Scapes

PRINT COMPETITION judged by Keven Hyde				
Member name	Open Image	Set Image	Points	Points YTD
<b>AB Grade Print</b>				
Christine Jull	Merit	Honour	21	21
Gwenda Kruger	Honour		12	12
Joni Keenan		Credit	6	6
<b>A Grade Print</b>				
Bob Garnett	Credit	Honour ***	18	18
Dorothy Harkins	Acceptance	Merit	12	12
Lekha Suraweera	Credit	Acceptance	9	9
Paul MacKay	Merit	Credit	15	15
Susan Chisholm	Merit	Credit	15	15
Bruce McDonald	Credit	Credit	12	12
Rose Parr	Credit	Credit	12	12
Joyce Metassa	Acceptance	Out of Category	3	3
Kerri-Anne Cook	Merit	Acceptance	12	12
Rosslyn Garnett	Honour	Merit	21	21
Swarna Wijesekera	Merit	Credit	15	15

\*\*\* Print Image of the night

Images awarded Merits or Honours will be displayed on the MGPS website -[www.mgps.org.au/club/monthly-comps/winning-images](http://www.mgps.org.au/club/monthly-comps/winning-images). Contact the Records Officer records@mgps.org.au for any problems.

DIGITAL COMPETITION judged by Robert Cullen				
Member name	Open Image	Set Image	Points	Points YTD
<b>AB Grade Digital</b>				
Margareta Dewilde	Acceptance	Honour	15	15
Carol Rustichelli	Honour	Merit	21	21
Christine Jull	Credit	Merit	15	15
John Langer	Merit	Honour	21	21
Janet Richardson	Credit	Credit	12	12
Gwenda Kruger	Merit	Credit	15	15
Bhaskar Desha	Merit	Acceptance	12	12
Joni Keenan	Merit	Credit	15	15
Robert Vallance	Acceptance	Acceptance	6	6

### MGPS OBJECTIVES

The Mount Gravatt Photographic Society is a community-based non-profit camera club that is affiliated with the Photographic Society of Queensland (PSQ). The club was formed in February 1967 by a small group of enthusiastic amateur photographers.

See <http://www.mgps.org.au/club/about-mgps/club-history> for more details.

#### The Aims of Mount Gravatt Photographic Society:

- To foster a love of the art of photography amongst its members and in the community.
- To assist members with problems pertaining to photography.
- To achieve a more fruitful alliance between the beginner and the experienced photographer.
- To present lectures on photography for beginners.
- To arrange competitions both within the Society and with other bodies from time to time.

A Grade Digital	DIGITAL COMPETITION judged by Robert Cullen			
Member name	Open Image	Set Image	Points	Points YTD
Dorothy Hurdle	Merit	Honour	21	21
Hazel Sempf	Merit	Honour	21	21
Rodney Topor	Merit	Honour	21	21
Bob Garnett	Acceptance	Credit	9	9
Dorothy Harkins	Credit	Honour	18	18
Lekha Suraweera	Merit	Acceptance	12	12
Paul MacKay	Honour	Honour	24	24
Heidi Wallis	Credit	Credit	12	12
Robert Macfarlane	Honour	Credit	18	18
Susan Chisholm	Merit	Credit	15	15
Bruce McDonald	Credit	Credit	12	12
Stephen Relf	Acceptance	Merit	12	12
Ian Sweetman	Merit	Merit	18	18
Rose Parr	Honour	Merit	21	21
Joyce Metassa	Merit	Acceptance	12	12
Michael Mitchell	Acceptance	Credit	9	9
Kerri-Anne Cook	Merit	Merit	18	18
Rosslyn Garnett	Credit	Merit	15	15
Jeffrey Mott	Merit	Honour ***	21	21
Trudi Aykens	Acceptance	Acceptance	6	6
Swarna Wijesekera	Acceptance	Merit	12	12
Shuying Jiang	Acceptance	Merit	12	12
Cheryl Zwart	Acceptance	Credit	9	9

\*\*\* Digital Image of the night

## MT GRAVATT SHOW ON 27th & 28th July 2024 PHOTOGRAPHY



Proudly Presented and  
sponsored by  
MT Gravatt Photographic  
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Society

&



CameraPro 

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Email [info@mtgravattshow.com.au](mailto:info@mtgravattshow.com.au)  
[www.mtgravattshow.com.au](http://www.mtgravattshow.com.au)

## MGPS Executive



Ian Sweetman  
President

Vice President  
(currently vacant)



Gavin Carter  
Secretary



Gwenda Kruger  
Treasurer



Janet Richardson  
Activities Officer



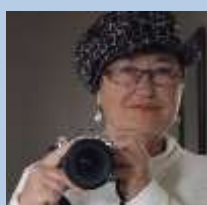
Margareta Dewilde  
Competitions Officer



Paul Mackay  
Newsletter Editor



Michael Mitchell  
Records Officer



Margaret Kemmery  
Member #9

## MGPS Officer Bearers

Technical Support Officer	Susan McGrory	Welcome Desk 1	Hazel Sempf
Club Activities Officer	Gwenda Kruger	Welcome Desk 2	Joni Keenan
Data Projectionist	Rodney Topor	Welcome Door 1	Christine Jull
Assistant Projectionist	Rick O'Shea	Welcome Door 2	Lekha Suraweera
Digital Competitions	Tony White	Welcome Door 3	Bruce McDonald
Interclub Competition Officer	Suzanne Edgeworth	PSQ Liaison	Sue Gordon
Assistant Treasurer			
Competition Assistant	Janet Rowe	Supper Convenor	Margaret Kemmery
Equipment Officers	Rick O'Shea	Hunt and Shoot Coordinator	Ellis Cole
Public Officer	Suzanne Edgeworth		
<b>SUBGROUP COORDINATORS</b>			
Digital Group	Jeffrey Mott Reserve: Geoffrey Hui	Monochrome Group	Warren Veivers, Cheryl Zwart

# CLUB COMPETITION SCHEDULE Aug 2024-Jan 2025

Set subject	Entries due	Judging date	Description
<b>Mono</b>	24-July	28-Aug	Any photograph containing shades of only one colour. If toning is carried out, it must be over the total photograph-partial toning and/or the addition of one or more colour is not acceptable in this monochrome section
<b>Solitude</b>	28-Aug	25-Sept	The state or situation of being alone, a lonely uninhabited place.
<b>Curves</b>	25-Sept	23-Oct	Curves are graceful, rhythmic, dynamic and add energy to an image.
<b>Machinery</b>	23-Oct	27-Nov	An apparatus or part there-of, designed to apply mechanical power or to carry out some mechanical function. It must consist of several parts each with its own function.
<b>Annual</b>	<b>13-Nov</b>	11-Dec	Refer to MGPS website competition page or <b>Member handbook</b> number 6.1-page 11
<b>Open</b>	11-Dec	22-Jan 2025	"An image of any subject or genre. 2 open images can be entered for both the digital and the print competitions."

## EXTERNAL COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS

Competition	Closes	Website
Graham Burstown Monochrome Prize	30-7-24	<a href="http://myphotoclub.com.au">APS Graham Burstow Monochrome Prize (myphotoclub.com.au)</a>
South Coast camera National Print Salon	11-11-24	<a href="http://visualpursuits-au.com">South Coast Camera Club National Print Salon (visualpursuits-au.com)</a>

It is a rewarding challenge to participate in National and International photographic competitions. There are hundreds of competitors approved by the Photographic Society of America. You can access these competitions via this website: [Exhibitions \(psaems.org\)](http://Exhibitions(psaems.org))

For Australian based competitions, check the APS site at [Current Exhibitions \(a-p-s.org.au\)](http://CurrentExhibitions(a-p-s.org.au))

You can use your results in these competitions to build credit for photographic honours.

## Out From the Mist COMPETITION

Out From The Mist is an international competition that celebrates photography, short films, and music, providing a powerful platform for those with lived experiences of mental illness. When words fall short, images and music become vibrant conduits for expression.

This competition is open to photographers, musicians, and short filmmakers who wish to explore their own experiences or those of someone close to them. Whether you are a professional or an amateur, all stories are valid and welcome.

For more information and entry conditions, please visit the website:

<https://www.outfromthemist.com/about/the-competition/>

The competition runs from July 1st to August 30th, with the awards night being held on World Mental Health Day, October 10th, in Brisbane.