

Mount Gravatt Photographic Society

MEMBER HANDBOOK

Welcome to the Mt Gravatt Photographic Society Inc. (MGPS). I am pleased that you have decided to join the club and commit yourself to photography.

We are one of the largest photographic clubs in Queensland. Our members are from all walks of life with a wide variety of photographic skills and experience. No matter which area of photography you are interested in and what level your skills are at, you will always get the support and guidance required to help you develop your skills and creativity. Please do not hesitate to ask our friendly members if you have any questions.

To start with, I encourage you to:

- attend club meetings regularly;
- participate in monthly competitions;
- participate in outings and other practical activities;
- participate in the various special interest groups.

These activities will not only help you develop your skills, but also assist you to form a routine and gain space for your photographic interest in your already busy life.

Once you are comfortable with your new routine with the club, you may think about helping others and taking voluntary club positions.

While this "Blue Book" explains how the Club is run, you will find the latest information on your club activities in our regular newsletter "Exposure" and on our website: www.mgps.org.au

Welcome and happy shooting.

President MGPS

Ian Sweetman

24/11/2021

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1. MGPS Overview

The Mount Gravatt Photographic Society Inc (MGPS) is a community based, non-profit camera club that is affiliated with the Photographic Society of Queensland (**PSQ**).

Incorporated Association – The Mount Gravatt Photographic Society Inc is an Incorporated Association in accordance with the Associations Incorporated Act 1981, registration number IA06777.

Aims – The aims of the MGPS are to:

- foster a love for the art of photography amongst its members and in the community;
- assist members to develop their vision and technique in photography;
- encourage interaction between beginning and experienced photographers;
- offer lectures on different aspects of photography;
- arrange photographic activities for members;
- organise photography competitions within the Society and to participate in competitions with other bodies.

History – Our club was formed in 1967 by a group of enthusiastic amateur photographers in Brisbane's southern suburbs. The original formation was established to run the photographic section of the annual Mt Gravatt Show. The first meeting to form the club was held at the Mt Gravatt Show Society hall on 13 February 1967.

The club's original aims were to stimulate an interest in photography and to assist members to improve their photographic technique. This was to be achieved through practical demonstrations, lectures and competitions. These aims were soon formalised within the present objectives. The club originally had only seven members but has now grown to well over 100 members and is one of the largest photographic clubs in Queensland.

Our club has successfully run national and inter-club competitions, salons and conferences over the years.

The MGPS is affiliated with the Photographic Society of Queensland (PSQ). Several MGPS members are PSQ approved photographic judges. Current members that have received PSQ judge's accreditation include Warren Veivers, John North, Gordon Dixon, Graham Martin, Dan Demy-Geroe, Gang Wei, John Doody and Sue Gordon.

In February 1999, MGPS launched its site on the World Wide Web. This has allowed the club to display a general information gallery.

In May 2013 a private Facebook group for MGPS members was created.

Activities – Club activities range from half day outings to weekends at interesting locations in South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales. You are encouraged to attend.

Addresses:

Postal: PO Box 234 Mount Gravatt Qld 4122

Web: <http://www.mgps.org.au>

Email: info@mgps.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/431815370247369/>

2. Club Meetings

There are two regular club meetings per month with the exception of the Christmas break.

1. the 2nd Wednesday of each month (except January)
Activities include guest speakers, lectures, demonstrations, workshops etc.
2. the 4th Wednesday of each month (except December)
Activities include the judging of the prints and digital images in the monthly club competition.
Print and Digital entries are due on this night for the following monthly competition.

These meetings are held at the St Bartholomew Church Hall, Mountain Street, Mount Gravatt.

3. Club Information Resources

3.1 Web Site

<https://www.mgps.org.au/>

Here you will find general information about meetings, competitions, and activities along with the newsletter, contact details, and links to other resources. Current copies of official club documentation including this handbook are also available here.

3.2 Newsletter (Exposure)

Your club has a newsletter that is published regularly providing useful information such as:

- Club and inter-club Competitions
- National and International competitions
- Year to date member competition points
- Upcoming Club activities
- Upcoming Club speakers
- Reports on Club activities
- Promotional articles
- Other photography articles

Past editions of the newsletter are archived on our website and can be accessed at the following web address:

<http://www.mgps.org.au/club/index.php/newsletter>

3.3 Email distribution lists

Your club holds, and uses, your email address solely for the purpose of communicating information about club and associated photographic activities to you. To achieve this, your club uses a number of email distribution lists. Details will be added to these lists based on the information provided by you on your membership application form. In each of the emails sent out from the email lists there is an un-subscribe link. Alternatively you may advise the club by email at info@mgps.org.au if you wish to be removed from the emailing lists.

3.4 Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/431815370247369/>

Your club has a private Facebook group for members to interact between meetings and outings by arranging events and activities, asking and answering questions, posting photos, seeking and offering constructive criticism, and so on.

4. Special interest groups

Your club has several special interest groups. Currently these include Developers, Digital, Monochrome, and the National/International competitions groups. These groups meet at the times and places indicated below. Always check the club's website for confirmation. New special interest groups may be formed should there be enough interest in a particular area of photography. To participate in a group you must be a financial member.

We do allow one visit only if you are not a member.

4.1 Developers Group

This group runs zoom meetings and practical meetings and will notify members when they will be occurring

The group coordinator may be contacted via email at: *developers@mgps.org.au*

The aims of this group are to:

- teach members the fundamentals of photography, and how to use their cameras more efficiently;
- explain photographic terminology so members can better appreciate presentations at MGPS meetings;
- give members the knowledge and confidence to compete and succeed in competitions;
- provide members with the confidence to actively participate in MGPS outings;
- provide a friendly and comfortable environment for new members to ask questions directed at an experienced member and to make new friends.

Participants must sign in and pay an entry fee at all monthly meetings, group meetings and events.

4.2 Digital Group:

Meets on the 4th Monday of each month, as a zoom meeting, Any financial members of the MGPS interested in the digital aspects of photography can attend.

Aims: To promote, encourage and improve the creative art of digital photography by exploring the principles, techniques and tools involved in the capture, post processing and presentation of various types of digital images. Presentations involving different editing programs and techniques are held.

DIGITAL GROUP COORDINATOR: *digital@mgps.org.au*

4.3 Monochrome Group:

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at via Zoom meetings .Info will be on the slides presented at the monthly meetings and sent to you via email.

Any financial members of the MGPS interested in monochrome photography may attend.

The group coordinator may contacted via email at: *monochrome@mgps.org.au*

Aims: – To promote, encourage and improve monochrome photography within the club.

4.4 National/International Group

This group is not meeting at this time

The group coordinator may be contacted via email at: *international@mgps.org.au*

Aims: – To encourage and support club members intending to enter national and international

competitions.

5. Monthly Club Competitions

5.1 Grading Assessment

You are invited to submit 10 printed or digital images that are representative examples of your current work for assessment. You will be assigned an initial competition grade and your club competition number.

Members should bring their 10 images to a monthly club meeting and ask a welcoming officer at the door to be introduced to the assessors.

The club conducts competitions in four grades:

B Grade Beginner

AB Grade Advanced Beginner

A Grade Advanced

A Gold Grade - are members who, in the opinion of the management committee, have shown a high level of photographic achievement over an extended period of time in A Grade and have also a proven record of assisting fellow members.

5.2 Initial Grading

Your initial club grading (B, AB or A grade) will be based on the assessment of your submitted images and other relevant factors.

5.3 Competition Number

After receiving a grading the Records Officer will allocate a club competition number to you. Your competition number must be used to identify your entries in the competitions throughout the year.

- The range 001 – 099 signifies A or A Gold Grade.
- The range 100 – 199 signifies AB Grade.
- The range 200 – 299 signifies B Grade.

As you change grades you will be issued with a new club competition number in the applicable range by the Records Officer.

5.4 Entering the Club's Monthly Competition

Once you have been assigned a club competition number you may submit entries into the print and digital divisions.

- The set category is a nominated subject. Images submitted in the set category must conform to the subject definition published on the MGPS website monthly competition guidelines page.
- The open category may consist of images from any genre.
- For the judging months of January to November (Entries submitted the previous month) you may enter 1 set and 1 open image into both the digital and print sections. A maximum of 4 images may be entered into any one club monthly completion.
- Images may be colour or monochrome.
- Entries must originate as photographs (image-capture of objects via light sensitivity) made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally. All digital post processing must be made by the entrant. By submitting an entry you certify that the image results solely from your own work and does not include any third party imagery, graphics, or textures.

- Failure to submit or mount print entries as prescribed may lead to them being rejected.
- An image that is consistent with the set category may be entered into the open category.
- The same or a derivative of an image that has been awarded an Honour or a Merit cannot be entered into another club monthly competition with the exception of the annual competition held in December.
- The same image may not be concurrently entered into both the digital and print competitions.

5.5 Projected Digital Image Entries

- Entries close on the second Wednesday's club monthly meeting at 9pm.
- Entries need to be uploaded via the club digital entry system which is available on the club's website: www.mgps.org.au

Projected digital image (PDI) size details are as follows:

- Each image must have a maximum horizontal dimension of 1920 pixels, a maximum vertical dimension of 1080 pixels and have a file size not exceeding 2mb (2,000kb).
- Each image must be in JPEG format.
- Images must not include any names or identifying text.

A PDI entry cannot be altered after PDI submissions have closed.

5.6 Print Entries

- Entries close the second meeting of the month.
- Mounted Prints
Print size details are as follows for A Gold, A and AB Grades.
Each entry's overall dimensions must not exceed 40cm x 50cm (16in x 20in).
Images must be mounted.
- Small Prints
B Grade only.
The minimum unmounted size is 10cm x 15cm (4in x 6in) and the maximum overall size must not exceed 25cm x 30cm (10in x 12in).
Images do not need to be mounted.
- A digital version of the print must be entered on the website.
- Prints do not have to be mounted

5.7 Print Entry Labelling

- Prints must be labelled in pencil or biro. The use of felt or ink pens is not permitted.
- Prints must have your competition number, image title and category (Open or Set) clearly marked on the back. Any print showing your name will not be accepted.
- All Prints must have an arrow indicating the top of the print.
- Mounted prints must not contain any exposed adhesive, Velcro, pins or tape nor must they be labelled or constructed in a manner that is potentially damaging to other prints. The simplest way to avoid this is to mount prints with a full backing sheet with no exposed tape.
- Prints mounted in a manner that will potentially damage another image will be rejected.

5.8 Scoring

- In each monthly club competition images will be assessed by the judge and awarded an Acceptance, a Credit, a Merit or an Honour in accordance with the merit award system.
- The judge may assess an entry that is inconsistent with the subject definition as being out

of category and no points will be awarded.

- You will receive points as outlined in the Club's By-laws.
- On the club's judging nights, you will be given the opportunity to vote for the print that you deem to be "The best Print of night". An award will be presented to the winner.
- The competition judge will select "The best Digital image of the night". An award will be presented to the winner.
- The members with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd highest aggregate points totals over the competition year (July to June judging nights) in each grade and division will be awarded trophies and medallions as soon as possible after the end of the competition year. 1st place a trophy, 2nd and 3rd a medallion.
- Members who accumulate sufficient points over their time in the Club will become eligible for Bronze, Silver and Gold status awards. National and International competition results will also contribute to these awards. It is your responsibility to notify the Records Officer of such National and International competition results.

5.9 Use of Competition Entries

By entering images into the club's competitions, you acknowledge that your images may be displayed on the club's web site. At all times the club will give credit to the author, no images will be used for commercial purposes and you retain the copyright to your images.

6 Other Club Competitions

6.1 Annual Competition Photo of the Year

The Annual Competition is held each year and prize winners are announced at the Christmas function in December. The competition is seen as establishing the Photo of the Year (POTY) in each section.

The competition is conducted in two grades - A (for A and A Gold members) and B (for AB and B grade members) Only images captured within the past 12 months from entry date are eligible. This gives 'image of the year' significance

Print and digital images are due on the FIRST Wednesday meeting in November.

You are permitted to enter one image in each section.

Images that have received an Honour or a Merit may be submitted into this competition.

Mark your image with your competition number, your grade, the section number you wish the image to be judged in, the image title, and an arrow indicating top of the image.

Section numbers

- 1 Colour Print
- 2 Monochrome Print
- 3 Colour Digital Image
- 4 Monochrome Digital Image Sections (1-4 are open subject)

First, second, third and HC (at the judge's discretion) are awarded in each section

Champion Print of the Year and Champion Digital Image of the Year are selected from the four respective winning images.

Club points are allocated as follows

Champion	30 Points
First	20 points
Second	15 points
Third	10 points
HC	5 points

A perpetual trophy, and a personal trophy, is awarded for the:

Champion Print of the Year

Champion Digital Image of the Year

Medals are awarded to first, second, third in each category:

Colour Print of the Year

Monochrome Print of the Year

Colour Digital Image of the Year

Monochrome Digital Image of the Year

Certificates are awarded to all winning entries including those achieving highly commended in each category.

A Trophy will be awarded to the Most Improved B Grader

6.2 Hunt and Shoot

This is a fun activity for club members. The event is usually held in May. The Hunt and Shoot coordinator selects a location (which may change each year), a time and place to meet.

- On the day, you will be given a list of 10 subjects. Using a blank memory card, you may then take up to 20 photos in total and specify one image to be considered for each subject. Images may not be deleted from your memory card. The memory card is then handed in to the organisers who will upload your photos.
- The winner of each subject and a Grand Winner is announced at a subsequent club meeting.
- A Perpetual trophy is awarded.

7. Inter-club Competitions

At various times throughout the year the club will participate in inter-club competitions locally, nationally and internationally. The Inter-club Coordinator may call for submissions for these competitions.

Image submission guidelines vary depending on the competition, so information will be provided at the time of the call for competition submissions.

8. Library

MGPS Library Rules:

- Only financial MGPS members can borrow books and videos.
- Books can be borrowed for a maximum period of TWO months at any one time and videos for one month.
- Hardware (such as the Spyder monitor calibrator) may only be borrowed for a TWO week period or for the length of time between consecutive club monthly meetings.
- Members are asked to return items promptly as the club has a limited collection and others may wish to borrow the item.
- Loans can be made through the Librarian on any club monthly meeting night by entering the relevant details into the Library Loans Register. If the Librarian is unavailable, please see a management committee member. All returns must also be recorded in the register.
- Each member may borrow a maximum of three items at any one time.
- Members must take care of items to avoid loss or damage.
- Members are asked to recommend new library purchases to the club's Librarian.

9. Membership Badges

Club badges are issued to each member on the following basis:

- Gold Badge – Lifetime member
- Black and gold -- an Experienced Member
- Black badge with gold writing – a Committee Member
- White badge with black writing – a Member

You are encouraged to wear your badge at club meetings.

10. Annual General Meeting

The club's annual general meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday in August.

Election of Committee Members – At the Annual General Meeting of the club, all current members of the management committee shall retire from office, but shall be eligible upon nomination for re-election, provided that a member shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive years in the position of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer.

The election of members of the Committee shall take place in the following manner:

- Any two members of the Society may nominate any other member to serve as a member of the Committee.
- The nomination, which shall be in writing and signed by the member, the proposer and seconder, shall be lodged with the Secretary at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place.
- At the commencement of such meeting, should there be an insufficient number of candidates nominated; nominations may be taken from the floor of the meeting.

11. Associations

11.1 Photographic Society of Queensland (PSQ)

- The PSQ represents affiliated camera clubs in Queensland. The MGPS is one of approximately 45 Queensland photography clubs.
- The PSQ Convention is held annually at a date to be announced and alternates between Brisbane and country venues.
- Previous PSQ conventions have included a competition for small and large monochrome and colour prints, and digital images.

11.2 APS (Australian Photographic Society)

- The APS is a national body of photographers that provides services to its members and sets standards for the accredited photographic competitions it endorses.
- It is open to individuals.
- The APS has an annual convention, APSCON, whose location rotates between the states.
- Individuals may subscribe to the Australian Photography and Digital magazine delivered monthly as well as have the opportunity to be involved in Print, Digital and Audio-Visual Folios.
- Distinctions – LAPS, AAPS, FAPS, etc. –are awarded by APS.

11.3 Member Associations

Financial members of The Mount Gravatt Photographic Society Inc. who also conduct a photographic business may, with the approval of the management committee, advertise their activities in the club's newsletter and by placing fliers on the front table at the club's monthly meetings subject to the club's advertising guidelines.

12. Advertising Guidelines

12.1 Nature of advertisements

All advertisements in Society publications, on the Society website or at Society events are to photography related only. Anything that is non-photography related is not permitted.

12.2 Advertisers

- Society members with or without photography businesses may advertise free of charge.
- Associated photography organisation may advertise free of charge.
- Other individuals and organisations may advertise with the approval of the Management Committee for an agreed consideration or donation.
- Each such advertisement requires committee approval for 1 month(2 adds) for an advertisement

12.3 Media

a. Newsletter

Advertisements shall be positioned at the editor's discretion.

- Each advertisement shall not be larger than 1 page.
- All advertisements shall be clearly marked or indicated as advertisement.

b. At club meetings

- For meeting time control purpose, verbal advertisements are not allowed, unless otherwise agreed by the Management Committee.
- All advertisements shall be placed in the "auto show" version of the slides, which will be automatically shown before the meeting and during the break.
- Each advertisement will be contained in one slide and marked as "advertisement".
- Flyers may be placed on the meeting registration table

c. Website

- No advertisements shall be shown in the front page of the MGPS website. This does not include advertisements for the club's own activities.
- Advertisements may be placed in the designated section of forums. The advertiser is responsible for the advertisements placed.

12.4 Exceptions

- Information of various photographic competitions and exhibitions, as seen by National/International Group Coordinator or any of the executives as appropriate, shall not be treated as advertisements.
- Announcements from PSQ, APS and sister clubs shall not be treated as advertisements.