

INTRODUCTION

The Melbourne Camera Club (MCC) is delighted to be conducting the 2023 Club Portrait Competition (CPC) between Melbourne and country camera clubs, following on from the success of this event in 2020, 2021 and 2022. This year, there will be fewer clubs participating than in previous years; however it should still be a strong competition.

The aim of the 2023-CPC is to encourage and improve portrait photography and to enhance interactions and knowledge sharing between camera clubs. In addition, it facilitates the comparison of standards between clubs in the spirit of collaboration and competition.

Importantly, what makes portraiture different from other genres of photography that may also include people in images is that “portraits” are not just photos of people but photos about people.

The competition judging and awards night will be held on Thursday 16 November 2023 commencing at 8.00pm via Zoom.

The following week on Tuesday 23 November at 8.00PM, there will be a further Zoom gathering where photographers of winning and various award images will be invited to discuss their image in some detail.

The clubs competing in the 2023 competition are:

- Camberwell
- Caulfield
- Eastern Suburbs
- Melbourne
- Warragul
- Williamstown

The aim of the competition is to promote the spirit of portrait photography as a specialist genre where the photographer liaises with their subject(s) such that the subjects are aware that they are being photographed.

The photographer utilises, to varying degrees, posing, lighting and environment to capture within the narrative of the image, some, or all of the - essence, personality, identity, attitudes and relationships of, or between the subject(s).

The competition is divided into three DPI categories - single person, two or more people, and creative portraiture. Clubs may enter up to 8 entries from their members in each of the first two categories and 5 entries in the creative category (i.e. 21 images in total).

All entities per club must be submitted via the web by midnight on Sunday 30 September 2023.

COMPETITION RULES

1. Entry requirements

Each participating club must nominate one representative who is responsible for ensuring:

- That all images submitted by the club have been taken by current financial members of that club.
- An entrant who is a member of more than one of the participating clubs can only represent one club in the competition.
- The submitted images must meet the image rules as provided below.
- An image cannot have been entered in this competition in an earlier year even if reedited.
- An image can only be entered in one category and cannot be reedited and entered in another category.
- The images are to be submitted by midnight on 30 September 2023 in accordance with the process provided in point 7. Late entries will not be accepted.
- All entries must comply with these rules. Where there is an issue with an image, and time permits, the club representative will be contacted and given the opportunity to rectify the issue and resubmit the image, provided there is sufficient time remaining to prepare the entry for judging.
- The name, email address and phone number of each club's representative must be emailed to jim.odonnell@melbournecameraclub.org.au by 20 July 2023, so that we have a confirmed point of contact in dealing with each club through the final preparation phase.

2. Image capture

- Entered images must be the original work of the member and, as such, the member must have had complete creative control in creating and editing the image and must not have been under the instruction or direction of others.
- Images may be enhanced or processed using image editing software.
- Entries must be 100% photographic in origin and all elements in an entry must be the original work of the entrant (refer above).
- While proof of model releases will not be required, where necessary for any other purpose this responsibility remains with the individual entrant.

3. Entries per Club Member

- In recognition of the substantial differences in the sizes of the 6 clubs in this competition, to assist in "leveling the playing field", larger clubs with over 100 registered members at 30 June 2022 can only submit one image per member in the total competition, whereas smaller clubs can enter a maximum of 2 images per member in the total competition. The objective is to maximize club member participation while recognizing the limitations faced by smaller clubs.

4. Emphasising “Portraiture”

In formulating this year’s competition, we wish to focus entered images on intentional portraiture rather than any photos that contain a person, such as can be the case with street photography where a subject may be unaware of being photographed. Therefore, images should only be entered where the subjects were knowing participants in the taking of the photo (or in the case of baby/child photos, the responsible adult willingly allowed their participation). This certainly does not mean that only posed photos can be entered but in the case, for example, of photos taken of the blowing out of the candles at a family party, the subjects were aware that photos were being taken.

In addition, in the case of the Single Person category the subject must be recognizable and in the Two or More Persons category at least one person in the image must also be recognizable. This is not a requirement in the Creative category.

The judges will be specifically informed of this objective and these associated requirements and will be asked to judge the entered images accordingly.

5. Subject Categories

The three competition categories and the maximum number of images that can be entered in each category are detailed below. A maximum total of 21 images across all categories can be entered by a club.

a. Single person portrait: maximum of 8 images

- Photograph contains one person only as the main element of the image. For example, the subject person standing in front of a grandstand of football supports would still qualify, provided that it is a portrait of only that person and the people in the grandstand are residual elements only.
- May be a full or partial body.
- The person must be recognizable and a knowing participant in the taking of the photo (refer 4 above for further details).

b. Two or more people: maximum of 8 images

- Photograph contains two or more people in the same image as the main elements of the image (refer to the note above regarding the concept of “main element”).
- May be full or partial bodies.
- At least one of the subjects in the photos must be recognizable and a knowing participant in the taking of the photo (refer 4 above for further details).

c. Creative portraiture: maximum of 5 images

- We are not even going to try to define this category and so let your creative spirit free and experiment! In this context, images might possibly be abstract in nature. Just remember that the overarching topic is still human portraiture.

- Images entered in this category cannot include images entered in other categories, even if substantially reedited.

- Polyptychs (diptychs, triptychs, etc) are permitted in this category only.

- In this category it is not a requirement that one or more people in the photo are recognizable but at least one person must have been a knowing participant in the taking of the (refer 4 above for further details).

6. Image Sizing

- Our competition software can handle individual JPEG images of up to 3840x2160 and 5MB. However, to make it as simple as possible for club members, we suggest that images are sized as JPEGs as per the normal monthly competition sizing/format requirements of each participating club.

- After the judging night we will be in contact with photographers of the 1st and 2nd placed images in each category to request full file versions for the purposes of arranging a quality print for them of their image (refer Awards below).

7. Process for submitting photos to the competition

All entries by a club must be submitted on-line at least approximately one month before the cut-off time for entries, being midnight on 30 September 2023. Details as to the actual process of submitting images will be advised shortly.

The Competition Steward may withdraw an entered image that they believe does not satisfy the competition rules, including falling outside the definition of the particular category in which the images has been entered. If time permits, the Competition Steward may contact the relevant club and allow a substitute image to be entered.

Entries for MCC Members are to be uploaded to: <https://melbournecameraclub.org.au/2023-cpc-mcc/>

JUDGING

Our two external independent guest judges and presenters for this year's competition are:

To be advised.

The judging of each category will result in an image receiving a score of up to 12 points by each judge individually scoring an image out of 6 and then their scores being added together. The judges may choose to consult together during this process and will jointly determine the 1st and 2nd placed images in each category and also the image of the competition. The following table summarises the image awards and associated scored points.

Description	Points
Honor	11 & 12
Highly Commended	9 & 10
Commended	7 & 8
Other	2 to 6
1 st place in category	+4
2 nd place in category	+2

Details of the category ranking for each entry will be made available to all clubs after the presentation night.

The judges' decisions are final and are not open to challenge.

AWARDS

The judges will make the following awards:

- a) For the club receiving the most points overall the prize will be a digital banner for their website and newsletter.
- b) For the top image in each category ("1st Place Image"), the prize will be a certificate and a mounted print of the photograph in A3 size.
- c) For the second-best image in each category ("2nd Place Image"), the prize will be a certificate and a mounted print of the photograph in A3 size.
- d) For other Honour images the prize will be a certificate.

JUDGING/PRESENTATION EVENT – Thursday 16 November 2023 at 8PM.

This event will be held on Zoom. Link details etc will be forwarded to clubs in early November.