

# Welcome to New Members

Welcome to your new club.

You now belong to a group of friends all with a passion for photography. We are currently the only club in Western Australia that meets weekly which means a great variety of activities for you to experience and enjoy.

## Communication with members

A large amount of information about Workshop Camera Club is available on the website (see [www.workshopcameraclub.org.au](http://www.workshopcameraclub.org.au)). It is worth checking the **What's On** section regularly for details of coming events. After login you will notice that additional information and galleries are available to members.

In addition, members receive regular emails about club activities and other matters of interest. If you send an email to all club members by using the *WCCmembers* email address your email will be moderated before it is sent to all members.

The club's newsletter *Dark Rumours* is uploaded to the website each month and contains news from around the club including results from exhibitions.

A closed Facebook group attracts regular posts from members wishing to share images and other information. Posts are moderated before upload and membership is limited to the club. We encourage you to join and share your images and ideas.

## On arrival at meetings

On the table inside the door to the left is a green box containing name badges. We return them when we leave but if you forget yours just bring it back next week.

You will notice some badges are green. These identify committee members who will help and guide you with any questions. Other people have blue badges which indicate significant roles outside the main committee such as the Club Librarian, Equipment Officer, etc.

Also on the table is the "sign-in sheet" which we initial to acknowledge attendance. This is used to help the committee monitor the popularity of club activities and tailor the program accordingly.

## Meeting format

The meetings follow a general format beginning with announcements from the President and other members. Each month we hold an exhibition of images and also try to have one training session, one speaker (guest or member) and one workshop or outing.

Weekly meetings on Wednesday nights are sometimes replaced by outings.

On average, meetings finish between 9.00 and 9.30pm. There is usually time after the meeting to chat with other members and enjoy supper.

Catering duties are shared among members so please add your name to the roster on the website which you will find under **My Menu** after login.

Basic provisions are stored in the darkroom but milk and cakes or biscuits need to be brought on the night. Costs are reimbursed by the Treasurer. Instructions are provided by email.

## **Exhibitions**

Most photographers are keen to share their latest images and receive feedback, so we hold an exhibition on the first Wednesday of every month from February to November when members can submit images for judging.

The system of judging is based on awards for Gold, Silver and Bronze instead of the traditional first, second and third. This allows images to be judged on their own merit instead of in competition which is much less intimidating for new exhibitors.

We use a mix of well qualified external and internal judges.

The exhibition consists of subject and open categories in print and projected formats. Only one image can be uploaded in each category, allowing a maximum of four entries each month.

All images are submitted anonymously then identified after judging to prevent bias. Should you find this daunting you can remain anonymous. That way your image will still be judged and you are able to benefit from the judge's critique. No club points are awarded to anonymous entries and they are not shown in the newsletter.

Entry to exhibitions is strongly encouraged as a valuable part of the learning curve in your photographic journey. Top images win vouchers from local retailers.

The exhibitions are covered by a set of rules. In most cases, images need to have been captured in the previous 12 months but exceptions are made about twice a year in the open category. You can find the rules on our website. Please check them out before entering.

## **Special Interest Groups**

The club has a fully equipped monochrome darkroom. An active Darkroom Group provides orientation and instruction in darkroom practice. Film photography up to medium format size, and photo printing using traditional enlargers are both available to members.

The Abstractists Special Interest Group enjoys sharing and uploading abstract images. Images on a set theme and in the open category are uploaded to galleries each month for judging. Join the group online or simply enjoy the images presented.

## **Library**

The club maintains a library of photographic books available for loan to members. Just enter your details on the relevant record card to borrow any book. There is no fixed time for return but about two or three weeks is normal.

## **Club loan equipment**

The club owns equipment that is available for loan. Refer to the website and Equipment Officer for details.

## **Photomarket**

Three times a year in February, July and October we join the Northern Exposure Photographers Group to hold a photographic equipment market at Leederville Town Hall. This market offers opportunity to buy and sell any unwanted gear and is well patronised. The clubs benefit by sharing the proceeds from entry, table hire and the cafe. We all do our best to support this by helping to set up, assist on the club table, run the cafe and tidy up afterwards.

## West Australian Photographic Federation

About 40 camera clubs in Perth and WA regional areas belong to the West Australian Photographic Federation ([www.wapf.org.au](http://www.wapf.org.au)). This umbrella organisation represents and supports the interests of member clubs across Western Australia.

Its aims include promotion and recognition of photography generally and particularly as an art form; to assist and coordinate the activities of camera and photography clubs within Western Australia; to embrace new ideas and technology associated with photography.

WAPF runs training courses, competitions for both member clubs and individuals, and hosts events. Signing up for their free email newsletter will keep you in touch with activities.

## Sponsorship

Workshop Camera Club receives generous support from several leading photographic retailers. Current sponsors are Camera Electronic and Team Digital. They are good sources of information about equipment and also provide us with vouchers that are used as prizes in exhibitions. Show your club membership card at these premises to receive useful discounts. Please support them.

## Website

WCC's web address is: <http://www.workshopcameraclub.org.au>. There is a mine of information about the club so please explore. Part of the site is open to the public and part is restricted to members.

Begin by clicking on and exploring the menus that are visible to everyone: **Club Info, What's On, Galleries, Newsletter, Links and Tech Info**. Look at the Exhibition Rules under **Club Info**. Under **What's On**, check out the Calendar to see what is happening in the next few weeks, and Exhibitions for the list of current subjects. If you are interested in the standard of our images look at some of the *Galleries* and see which images attracted awards.

We are extremely proud of our newsletter, *Dark Rumours*, and previous editions are found under the **Newsletter** menu. Spending time browsing through these will give you an excellent snapshot of our club and some of the people who help to run it.

Your logon details should be emailed to you shortly. You are now ready to explore the 'Members Only' section. Click on the **Member Login** tab and enter the **User Name** and **Password** that have been sent to you.

- After login you are returned to the Home page and the Member Login option is replaced by **My Menu**. Clicking on **My Menu** reveals a whole new set of menu items.
- Click on **Change My Password**. Change your password to one known only to you, then click on **Update Password**. When you see the message "Password was updated successfully" click on **Cancel** to return to **My Menu**.
- Now click on **Change My Details**. Change anything that is incorrect. If you have your own website or a page on a photo-sharing site you can add the link here. It is also helpful to other club members if you can upload a current photo of yourself.
- Return to the Home page and explore the galleries again. You now have access to galleries that are hidden from non-members.

- You will also find an **Exhibitions** menu with more information about preparing your prints and projected images for exhibitions.

If you are not sure about anything on the website, try hovering your mouse pointer over the object in question to see a helpful hint.

Welcome aboard, and we hope you enjoy your time with us. Please contact any members of the committee if you have any queries.

## **Summary**

For our club to function effectively there are many tasks, small and large, that need to be done. Each meeting begins by clearing the room and setting out chairs and equipment and ends by restoring the room to the state in which we found it.

On exhibition nights helpers are also required to log in the entries, hang prints on display boards and run the raffle. These are small things but very important in the smooth running of busy nights.

As in all things, the more you put in the more you will get out of your new club.