

## Judges Executive Newsletter - September 2017

### **Hi Everyone.**

November is rushing at us fast,

There will be two Judges Forums in November again this year.

Due to the problems with trying to connect both events with Skype it has been decided to run the two BBQ's on different dates.

### **Townsville PSQ Barbeque.**

The first will be in Townsville on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of November.

This will be a two day event that will be a "mini convention" to showcase PSQ and the Judges Executive.

There will be presentations, workshops and photo shoots.

The idea is to show photographers in the north what to expect if they went to a PSQ Convention (but on a bigger, better, wow scale).

If are in North Queensland it will be well worth your time to attend.

### **Brisbane PSQ Barbeque.**

The PSQ BBQ/Judges Forum will be at the Caboolture Historical Village on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November.

While the day is "shared" with PSQ, it is an opportunity to both get and give feedback on matters that affect our judging.

(While there may be some negative feedback, these speakers will be limited to addressing procedures only. There will be no direct criticisms of individuals allowed.)

If you are attending it will be a good idea to bring the family and have a full day wandering around and getting photos when you aren't busy with the meetings.

Judges attending the forum will have their entry fee to the Historical Village paid by PSQ.

Everyone else attending will be charged a discounted fee of \$10 (usually \$15)

Entry to the BBQ is \$15 each.

Information is on the PSQ, Townsville Camera Club and Mackay Camera Group websites.

Please contact Sue Gordon, [president@psq.org.au](mailto:president@psq.org.au)

Robyn Frew, [secretary@psq.org.au](mailto:secretary@psq.org.au)

Maureen Cathy, [maureen.cathy@optusnet.com.au](mailto:maureen.cathy@optusnet.com.au) or

John Blessas, [jb@mky.net.au](mailto:jb@mky.net.au) for further details on this.

### **Brisbane Judges Forum.**

#### ***Proposed for March, 2018.***

*One day Judges Forum, limited to Accredited and Understudy Judges only.*

*This will be a day where we have guest speakers, a workshop and a round table discussion of matters of concern brought up by those attending.*

#### ***We need feedback on this.***

- 1. If the judges Executive arranged this forum, would you attend?*
- 2. What subjects do you want to be addressed?*
- 3. Can you suggest a venue?*

We would like as many Accredited and Understudy Judges as possible to attend these forums. Unless we can get feedback we don't know what you want us to do with respect to further forums, information to clubs (committees and competition secretaries), and what you would like us to arrange for the proposed one day Judges' Forum in the Brisbane area in March 2018. So, please attend if you can and give the Judges Executive your thoughts and feedback on what you would like to have happen in the future.

Feedback to John Blessas please: [jb@mky.net.au](mailto:jb@mky.net.au)

## **Congratulations.**

We have two new PSQA's. **Sue Gordon** and **Michael Steffinini**. The Judges Exec congratulates them on achieving their Accreditation.

## **Photo Judging.**

The article below comes from a Model Railway website.

From <https://www.nmra.org/national-photo-contest-judging-guidelines>

### **National Photo Contest Judging Guidelines**

Judging photographs is much more subjective than judging models. A prize-winning photograph is often more a matter of art and luck than execution of technique. Certainly, the photographer is faced with more things that are beyond his control than the model builder, particularly for prototype photos.

### **Judging Factor**

1.Impact – This is best explained by the "I wish I'd taken that picture" reaction. Given a choice, action is preferable to a static scene; rare or unusual equipment is more interesting than the ordinary. In model photography, the choice of the model will contribute to the impact of the picture. Other questions arise in model photography: Does the photograph reveal obvious, distracting flaws, or has the photographer apparently taken pains to be sure that all of the elements shown work together to produce a pleasing result? When the environment is exceptional, or the viewpoint makes the ordinary extraordinary, full credit should be given for the contribution the photographer's sensitivity brought to the subject.

2.Composition – The arrangement of the forms within the photo should be pleasing to the eye. How well did the photographer use the available space within his format? Did he or she follow the guidelines taught in art and photography classes? If the rules are broken, did the result justify that decision?

3.Artistic Approach – This subjective area is where a strongly graphic or symbolic composition may move one judge and a "typical calendar shot" may be more moving to another. One tends to evaluate artistic and aesthetic qualities on the basis of one's own experience. What moves us and the degree we are impressed will change as we are exposed to more and better images. A judge should not start out looking for a special kind of artistry. To do so would impose our own personal values, sensibilities, or preconceptions without giving the entries a chance to speak for themselves.

4.Lighting – In photography, light is law. It is the only thing that makes it possible to expose film or activate the sensor in a digital camera. Skilfully handled, the result can be a work of art; badly handled, the result is a total failure or a snapshot at best. A picture made with on-camera flash and no other light would be a snapshot. The photographer should be given full credit for use of multiple flash, supplemental reflectors, or a well developed room lighting system, depending on the quality of the execution. Natural sunlight is superior to flash systems, but it can be handled poorly. The best execution of any lighting system in model photography is one that produces a realistic, natural appearance, without multiple shadows (there can be only one sun!), with accurate colour, and without excessively harsh contrast and black holes devoid of details.

5.Exposure –

6.Focus –

7.Difficulty –

8.Technique –

9.Finish – Consider the impact of the presentation. Prints should not be streaked or blemished and should be bonded correctly to the mount, with carefully measured borders. Mounts and mats should be clean and neatly cut; they should lie flat, and not show excess mounting tissue or adhesive around the edges. If a print is not suitable for publication reproduction, it should not be considered for an award."

I found it interesting that their aims coincide with our thoughts in terms of defining a good photo.  
(Left out the "boring" bits about the technical requirements.)

John Blessas for the PSQ Judges Executive