

## **Belinda KRANZ PSQA**

Photography to me is like painting – with light.

For many years I have been an avid photographer. My first camera was an SLR (film) camera back in 1986 at the age of 16. Due to the price of film, every photo was carefully thought out before pressing that shutter! This habit has carried on into my digital journey.

The birth of our third child in 2000 bought along my first digital camera. By 2008 my interest in photography grew along with my model horse hobby. I began exploring beyond the AUTO setting and dabbled in AV mode and semi manual settings which piqued my interest in Photography. In 2012 I went way outside my comfort zone and joined the local camera club – Kingaroy. It was a real learning curve. I jumped in the deep end in 2014 with a determination to learn full manual settings; shooting in RAW and my first forays into Lightroom. From there, my photography has grown in leaps and bounds. I consider myself a late starter in life to photography as my early shots were more as a ‘snapper’.

One of my passions is ‘scapes (funny as I originally thought they were ‘boring’). I am especially drawn to water and love long exposure photography. Nature in general has always been a love of mine – animals and plants. Growing up on a farm I had a large ‘backyard’. As a mad gardener I always have a ready supply of flowers, foliage and birds on hand. I love creativity and utilise photoshop to express it. Architecture is also an interest; some of my fave subjects are the iconic Opera House and Harbour Bridge of Sydney. I don’t mind product and food photography - I have a little ‘studio’ at home permanently set up for that purpose.

In 2017 I completed a Diploma of Photography and Photo Imaging. 2019 saw me hold my first solo exhibition at Wondai Art Gallery. I have dabbled in some paid work – mostly for formals but also pet portraits and horse shows. Red Earth Community Foundation contacted me about an image of mine to licence the use of it for their website and other materials. I’ve had photos printed in national and international calendars/magazines as well as writing a 6 page article on model horse photography that was published in an American magazine distributed globally. Various workshops that I have attended include Steve Parish, Ken Duncan and a host of local camera club portrait ones. I have entered competitions in the Australian Photography and other magazines with success in attaining many Highly Commended awards in Landscape and Art categories.

My location is just outside Kingaroy, on a beautiful, bird filled 5 acres opposite the local golf course. I live here with my husband, 3 adult kids and a multitude of pets. We have decorated the house with many canvases and prints of my photography. I feel photos need to be seen and appreciated; not just left ‘on a computer’. In between working on my PSQ judging accreditation, I have been sorting out my photography ‘bucket list’. Photography has been on and off for me due to life issues including double total knee replacements in 2021; not for the faint hearted and a lot of hard work to recover. But it gave me my life back as I could walk again! I also have bipolar but I attribute my artistic streak to it and I don’t hide it from anyone.

I have had a lot of life to catch up on post surgery hence my journey into becoming a judge and finding a mentor to guide me along the way. During my time in various camera clubs I found that entering the monthly competitions has been a way to learn new techniques, different ways to look at my images and how to improve them. This led me to want to give some of that back to other photographers to help them think about their images in an alternative way. My judging approach is to reward effort; be constructive, consistent and give helpful information with quality feedback.

Lately I have been dabbling more in the art of being a ‘phone photographer’ as I like to go to events and sadly many no longer allow DSLR cameras. I upgraded my phone to be able to do so. I always say “it is not your gear but how you use it!” – I have won honours with photos taken on my phone.

My website (old, needs updating as it was mostly created as part of my Diploma Of Photography studies as part of my assessment) is:

<https://bakzphotography.myportfolio.com>

I have a Facebook page though mostly I post to my private page. I sometimes update this one:

<https://www.facebook.com/BAKZPhotography>

To me the greatest skill is not travelling to the most exotic places to take a 'wow' image – but to take the everyday ordinary and make it extra-ordinary using a different angle or lighting technique to make the viewer think.