

John Lomas LAPS SSAPS FPSQ PSQA

I began taking pictures as an enthusiastic amateur in 1976. I had bought a Pentax K1000 as well as darkroom gear – enlarger, developing tanks, chemicals etc. On that very first day I managed to develop a roll of film and make some prints. I was hooked. I joined the Brisbane Camera Group (BCG).

I entered BCG competitions. I took my camera everywhere. I took mostly pictorial and street genre photography. It was nearly always monochrome. I moved up to AB Grade in the club in a couple of years. At a BCG meeting in 1980, Ted's Camera Store gave a studio lighting demonstration. It changed my life. I purchased a set of Broncolor studio flash shortly thereafter. I had become interested in portrait photography. I also bought a large format Mamiya 645 camera. The larger negatives gave me a technical advantage. My competition work improved. I was soon in A Grade.

By the late 70's I was on the committee of BCG and later PSQ. I became a judge with the Photographic Society of Queensland (PSQ) in the 80's.

I began to enter the National and International competitions. I had the occasional success.

Then along came digital. I was reluctant to leave my darkroom world of producing monochrome prints. BCG had created a Digital Sub Group and I became its coordinator. I had a lot to learn. I bought a digital camera. I bought Photoshop. I started to learn. I began to enjoy the computer darkroom.

I currently use a Nikon D700 with a 28/300 lens. I'm involved with regular BCG portrait workshops. I'm still a very keen competitor in the BCG competitions. I'm still hooked.