

As you may know, this year we have two nominees for the position of President of the Photographic Society of Queensland. Tryg Helander from Toowoomba Photographic Society has put up his hand, and I will also be seeking your support to continue in the role I have held for the last three years.

Having served on the PSQ Management Committee since 2013, I believe I have a sound understanding of the functions and workings of every area of the organisation. We have at this point a vision for the future and a strategy for sustainable and continuous development into the future. My wish is to see the work that we as a team have undertaken, building steadily on previous years.

We have seen much growth and support in many of our activities and this is both satisfying and motivational. We have seen a steady increase in the SEQ competition, great support for our annual conventions and BBQ's and the introduction of sponsorship of the club competition of the RNA. Relationships are being built with sponsors and supporters, with commitments being established into the future. Moving forward, we wish to see continued growth in these areas but raising their profile within our club community, constantly aiming to raise the standard of every event.

In response to much feedback from our affiliate clubs, one of the key areas of focus of the past three years and in particular the past twelve months has been the recruitment, training, and ongoing education of our team of accredited judges. We have sought out speakers who address areas we feel we lack understanding, and have encouraged our team to independently seek to increase their exposure to new styles and ideas in photography as well as consolidate the foundational skills necessary to function effectively as a judge. This will be a priority moving forward, with the areas of judging portraits and communication skills on the list for the near future.

Ralph Brown has taken on the role of Judges Executive Chair, and has drawn together a group of committee members keen to move forward, beginning with the review of our Judge's Manual. This will be examined in detail over the next few months in collaboration with the Management Committee and interested individuals. It is hoped this will begin to address concerns voiced by clubs within the society.

We envision a PSQ being a community of individual clubs, each carrying their own unique flavour and direction. The introduction of Zoom and other online platforms offer innumerable opportunities for us to connect with clubs like never before. There is now a simple cost-effective means of including our more distant judges in the bi-annual Forums. It is a means of meeting with club committees to discuss their concerns and ideas. I personally, should I be re-elected, will be working toward meeting with each club committee either in person or via Zoom to receive feedback, hear their ideas and increase their understanding of our role in the club, beyond providing insurance cover.

I personally have both enjoyed and been challenged by my time as President and committee member, and feel I have the background knowledge of what PSQ is and what it is not to continue to work hard for our clubs alongside a Management Committee team committed to working together to improve services to our member clubs.

Any questions can be directed to me or any of the current committee members.