



Meritorious Service Award

Claire Kent

Claire's commitment and recognised drive was instrumental in building the Coal Country Camera Club, now known as the Latrobe Valley Camera Club. During that time she has run courses within the club such as 'Back to basics', 'How to use a DSLR' and 'Depth of Field'. She has held workshops or taught courses on such topics as picture matting, scrapbooking and she has given slideshows at meetings of trips away.

In 2006, Claire joined the Gippsland Leadership Program, giving lectures regarding photographic matters and inviting them to the camera club. She exhibits at Gippsland Cancer Care Centre and at the Latrobe Regional Hospital on an ongoing basis and was an entrant in the Imagination (2015) exhibition and both the Latrobe Valley Camera Club and, prior to that, the Coal Country Camera Club Art in Photography Exhibitions. She participates in the bi monthly photography competitions and won the peoples' choice award in 2011, which had the theme 'Thanks Dad'. She entered Tyers Art show in 2007 and the Stratford District Art Festival in 2006. She donated photographs to the Cancer Care Auction in 2008 to raise funds for their building and gave photography gifts to local community events. She entered the VAPS interclub competition in 2007, 2009 and 2010. She co-ordinated a club event, along with models and costumes, at Hanging Rock in 2007 and a Scottish dance group exhibition where the club photographed the event in 2007.

Claire produced the Club Newsletter from 2006 to 2010. From 2007 to 2011, she kept the minutes, drew up the agenda and ran club meetings, emailed notification to members and chaired monthly committee meetings. She was club spokesperson in local editorials from 2009 to 2011 and was the contact person for all enquiries. These many contributions speak for themselves. She demonstrated a strong and positive commitment in her term as president and during her tenure; this small club saw membership numbers grow, thanks to her approachability, friendliness and willingness to share in her role as spokesperson and president. She has continued on the committee and attends most outings and weekends away. She organised Lightroom training weekends in 2008 and 2009, organised photography weekends to Trentham, Apollo Bay, Wilsons Prom and Waratah Bay.

Claire is often called upon in her employment to use her photography skills and this is done as a volunteer. She is strong in her commitment to family memories, always seeing the opportunity to take beautiful family photos of loved ones, which she gives to the person later. She started the club scrapbook albums to keep a photography record of Coal Country Camera Club, now the Latrobe Valley Camera Club. The albums continue to be updated. Claire volunteers in many facets of photography within her community (award days, community fun runs, Shave for a Cure and Starlight Foundation).

Claire has been an integral member of the club. She is active, approachable and always willing to share her knowledge and give support. As you can gather from all the above, Claire will often volunteer within the club to assist in the running of meetings, outings, learning or teaching. In the last 16 years, her participation in the photography community has been beneficial to many organisations and charities. She is highly regarded and often approached by the wider community for photographic input and support. The VAPS committee and her club delight in honouring her with a Meritorious Service Award.

Ian Rolfe

President

Margaret Zimmers

Badges and Awards Director