

*A  
HISTORY  
OF  
GEE LONG CAMERA CLUB  
1889 to 2000*



*“We Grasp The Shadow”*

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## FORWARD

The following history of the *Geelong Camera Club (1889-1999)* is a description of a continually changing and evolving organisation whose principle aim has always been the celebration of photography.

One might wonder how a largely social organisation, like the *Geelong Camera Club*, not only manages to survive but also actually thrives for well over one hundred years? The answer is a simple one. People with a common love will always find each other.

These people have and still do come from all walks of life. They have brought their own expectations, their own sensibilities and their own level of skill into a larger group. They have come for the support, the knowledge and the friendship.

Some have come for only a short time but many have stayed for a lifetime.

For the latter it becomes something more than the desire to gain photographic knowledge. It becomes a love for the sense of lasting camaraderie that now helps feed their photographic souls.

Photography on the world scale has continued to evolve over the last century and so has the *Geelong Camera Club*. It can boast many fine photographic practitioners over its generations. Current members admire the achievements of those who have come before them just as surely as future generations will admire the work produced today.

The success and longevity of the *Geelong Camera Club* is due to many factors. One of which must surely be the occasionally heated discussion on all aspects of photography and this is precisely what makes it a progressive club that has managed to evolve in-step with modern society.

As the following text outlines, many individuals have contributed to the success of the *Geelong Camera Club* and as time will tell many more will contribute to its successful future.

To those responsible for the following research I take the liberty of thanking them on behalf of all members past and present for finally giving recognition to those who have made it all possible and I consider this research to be a fine first chapter to the story that is yet to unfold.

**Charles Radnay**

December 2000

## FOUNDATION

*“A meeting was held in Gordon College on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 1889 for the purpose of considering the desirability of forming an amateur photographic group or association and after the matter had been thoroughly discussed it was resolved to advertise a meeting of persons interested in photography and also send post cards to people known as Amateur Photographers”.*

That is how the first minute book, in rather a casual manner, records the birth of the Geelong Camera Club. One can not help but wonder had those first members only known that the organisation they were proposing would go on to be the oldest existing Camera Club on the Australian mainland, they might have been a little more expansive in their comments.

In those early days of Australian history it was not unusual for cultural or artistic activities to emanate from, and indeed revolve around, places of learning. Therefore it is not surprising to read that the first meeting was held in the recently completed Gordon College, and the organisation was named “The Gordon College Amateur Photographic Society”, a name it was to be known as for the next 70 years.

Nine gentlemen attended the inaugural meeting and the January 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Geelong Advertiser announced to Geelong's 23,000 population the formation of the Society. The Society's first president was Mr. H. C. Roebuck, a prominent Geelong personality, with the first secretary being Mr. J. E. Bennett.

In the first decade the membership grew rapidly as word of the Society spread and it assumed a higher profile; it's members being busily engaged in photographic activities in and around the

developing city. There was never a shortage of photographic opportunity with the ever-present activity on the waterfront and the ever-changing nature of the streetscape. Indeed many of the exceptional photographic images of early Geelong held in collections by Historical Societies and private residents are a direct result of the dedicated work of those early members of the Society.



*Club and family members on a day trip. Circa 1895. Reproduced from a full plate glass negative.*

The members were not content to work in and around the confines of the city but were prepared to travel long distances to capture on film the natural and man-made features of Victoria.

The minutes of the first 20 years mention trips to the Central and Western Districts of the State, in addition to the Dandenong Ranges and beyond. However with some of the country's finest coastal and mountain scenery within the immediate region, members of the Gordon Society became a regular sight on local roads and byways complete with bulky cameras and tripods.





*Members on a field trip. Reproduced from a glass slide. Date unknown.*

Their accomplishments certainly did not go unnoticed as the 1895 Inter-Colonial Photographic Exposition was proof enough of the enthusiasm and technical skill already acquired by the members of the six year old Society. The Gordon Society was really establishing a name for itself. Mr. Roebuck remained as president with the two newly elected vice- presidents being Mr. R. C. Hocking and Mr. J. B. Leitch. Mr. J. Hammerton was elected as secretary with Mr. A Purnell taking on the role as treasurer.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society was observed in January 1914 with a tram trip to the Barwon River and then a motor boat trip to the scenic wilds of Queens Park followed by a reunion of past members and a smoke night.



*Above is an early flashlight photograph taken of 15 of the Society's members in their clubrooms at the Gordon College on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1898. It depicts a very distinguished group of gentlemen, formally posed and complete with examples of their work and two large format cameras on wooden tripods. Photo by W.H. Watts, Art Photo. Geelong.*

## EVOLUTION

In 1926 the Gordon College underwent a name change and from then on was known as the Gordon Institute of Technology. Since its inception, the Society had always enjoyed a close relationship with its landlord organisation, culminating in 1930 with the election of the Gordon Institute's Principal, Mr. G. R. King as President of our Society; a position he held until 1936.



*Club members on an outing formally posed with the equipment available at the time. Date of photograph unknown. Reproduced from a glass slide.*

The Gordon Photographic Society's high community profile was earned the hard way through participation in photographic exhibitions at the annual Geelong Show, in the more suitable surrounds of the Davidson Hall of the Gordon Institute, as well as further afield in the Victorian Salons of Photography. An advertisement of the era publicising a "development night" perhaps was an indication of the growing interest in photography. The wealth of local scenery and places of interest continued to provide outings for members even through the depression years.

The death of Mr. King past principal of the Gordon Institute and President of the Society from 1930 until 1936 marked the end of an era for the organisation. Although in 1952 it had moved into its long

awaited new rooms, the close relationship it had enjoyed with the Institute for many years was rapidly deteriorating. In a show of independence a special meeting in 1954 voted by a two-thirds majority that the Society should sever all relationship with the Gordon Institute and become known as the Geelong Camera Club



(incorporating the Gordon Photographic Society Geelong).

*Fred Williams (Secretary) and H.L.S. Potter (President)*

## **ASSOCIATIONS and AFFILIATIONS**

The various Photographic Societies of the Colonies had for some time been discussing the possibility of conducting an Inter-Colonial Photographic Congress with all of the Colonies and New Zealand taking part. This sounded a wonderful idea until a decision had to be made where it would be held and who would be the host Society. All of the other Societies within Victoria and the Colonies declined and so it was, in 1895, the six year old Gordon College Photographic Society accepted the challenge and responsibility to become the host Society for the first ever Photographic Convention and National Exhibition of Photography to be held in Australia.

One can only imagine the logistics and the preparation involved in organising an event of such magnitude in those early years, with only limited means of communication. Easter Week 1895, from Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> through Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of April, was selected and what an eventful week of activity it was, consisting of lectures and demonstrations, with many well-accredited photographers presenting papers, both through the day and also in the evenings. All this in addition to an exhibition of some 2000 photographs all of which had to be judged prior to being displayed.

An impressive range of lecturers was organised, some travelling from interstate but it is interesting to note that one of the main lecturers and also a successful entrant was a Mr. Ludwig Hart from the Working Men's College Photographic Society in Melbourne. Records indicate that Mr Hart, who went on to become Professor Ludwig Hart, was the founder of the Photographic Society at the Working Men's College, eventually becoming the Melbourne Camera Club.

The convention received excellent press coverage in the Geelong Advertiser each day. Copies of these articles are held in the Club's archives and make very interesting reading as they contain full details

of the various sections of the Exhibition with all of the prize-winners being listed together with the lectures and the subjects they presented.



*The above photograph could have been taken at one of the Convention Lectures, judging by the amount of paper laying around. Reproduced from a glass slide .*

The Committee of the Congress must have felt very flattered indeed with the great success of the event, particularly when they received a letter during the week from the Secretary of the Exhibition Trustees in Melbourne, inviting all of the exhibits to be forwarded to Melbourne at the conclusion of the Geelong Congress for display in the Melbourne Exhibition Buildings, with all expenses being paid for by the Trustees.

Despite the problems of transport and communications the early Society appears to have kept in touch with and maintained a happy relationship with the other photographic organisations within the State mainly through its membership with the Victorian Photographic Affiliation.



*Members of the First Photographic Congress of Australia, Geelong, Easter Week, 1895. Reproduced from a photograph appearing in The Australian Photographic Journal, June 20, 1895.*

**Back row:** J.C. Langley, B. Stafford, F. Foster, A. Purnell (Hon. Treas.) J.F. Miller, H.P. Bennett, W. Stutterd, A.J. Campbell. **Middle row:** R. Mozley, Leo. Goodwin, Miss E.I. Baker, R.C. Hocking (Vice-Pres.), H.G. Roebuck (President), F.W. Niven, J.B. Leitch (Vice-Pres.). **Front row:** G.H. Brinsmead (Hon. Sec.), J. Hammerton (Hon. Sec.), C.O. Dentry (Hon. Sec.), W. Thacker.

As the predecessor to the Victorian Association of Photographic Societies (VAPS), the Victorian Photographic Affiliation (VPA) was holding an annual inter-club competition as early as 1912. It organised interclub visits, provided judges for monthly competitions and also conducted an annual exhibition and conference, which from 1913 was made moveable so that active photographic communities like Geelong could have the opportunity of hosting it from time to time.



*Conference of Victorian Photographic Clubs adopting the Constitution of the Victorian Photographic Affiliation.*

*From left to right: W.J. Edwards, F. Dutton (Clifton Hill); A.J. Relph (W.M. College); C. Nayler, T.F.M. Smith (Footscray); H. Potter, J.H. Harvey (Geelong); D.W. Paterson, A.P.A.V.; E.C. Joshua, Sydney Fox (Conference Hon. Sec.) (East Malvern; H.C. Mais, M. Inst. C.E. (A.P.A.V. President).*

The Gordon Society provided four delegates to the VPA Council. The backbone clubs appear to have been the Clifton Hill Photographic Club, the Working Men's College Photographic Society, the Photographic Association of Victoria, the Footscray Photographic Club and the Gordon College Photographic Society.

The years following the Second World War saw the development of closer ties with other photographic organisations; print exchanges and inter-club visits with the Melbourne club started in the late 1940s. The Gordon Society was invited to exhibit a selection of prints at Melbourne Camera Clubs' Jubilee exhibition in the Melbourne Town Hall. The first exchange of prints with the Ballarat Camera Club also started around the same time and Geelong was beginning to spread its wings.

The growing informal co-operation and interaction between the clubs crystallised in May 1952 with an invitation from the Melbourne



Camera Club to form an association of all clubs within Victoria. The Gordon Society responded enthusiastically by sending delegates to a meeting to discuss the formation of what was ultimately to become the Victorian Association of Photographic Societies or VAPS as we know it today.

No doubt partly due to the post-war prosperity with full employment, the popularity of photography within the community was growing rapidly. By 1954 Geelong had four camera clubs; Geelong Camera Club, Ford Camera Club (later to become Corio Bay), International Harvester Camera Club, and the State Electricity Camera Club (SEC). The International Harvester Camera Club did not survive for very long but the three remaining clubs had regular tri-angular inter-club competitions until the 1980s when the SEC Club finally closed down. As the SEC Club consisted of slide workers only, until the 1980s the inter-club competitions were restricted to slides. After the SEC Club ceased to exist, the competition between Corio Bay Club and Geelong continued and was expanded to include prints. Along with the interclub competition with Corio Bay, Geelong was also involved in separate competitions against Essendon Camera Club and Ballarat Camera Club.

In 1997, for the first time in our interclub competition history, Geelong won all of our three competitions against Ballarat, Essendon and Corio Bay Camera Clubs.

## KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES

In addition to the usual annual election of office bearers of the Gordon College Photographic Society, one of the other main appointments was that of three “Lantern Engineers”. Minutes of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century frequently refer to the purchase of pieces of equipment for the Lantern such as burners and arc lamps. In 1913 some traditionalists made a gallant attempt at stalling progress, when on the moving of a motion to install electricity to the clubrooms, they insisted on the gas burners being left in the darkroom for the use of some members. Needless to say, the motions to connect electric power was passed, although the minute book some 12 months later records that gas mantles were still being purchased for the enlarging lantern.

As far back as the 1895 Congress, mention was frequently made to the viewing of lantern-slides and the definite advantage of viewing them by limelight. This reference to limelight puzzled us until investigation showed that for many years, apart from an electric arc, the only satisfactory source of a highly concentrated and powerful light was a piece of lime or rather zirconia heated by an oxy-acetylene flame. No wonder they appointed three Lantern Engineers each year; one wonders if they were paid danger money!

Most of the prints being entered in the monthly competitions in this era were probably contact prints, which is understandable considering that the majority of members were using either medium, or large-format cameras, but in 1913 a special enlargement section was introduced into the competition.

The first mention of Colour Photography occurs as early as 1914, but it must have been referring to the delicate art of hand colouring, for it was at least another 40 years before colour film made it's mark on the organisation.

A change of direction in 1914 seemed to be the beginning of an age of enlightenment within the Society. In a fit of liberal thinking, we read in a motion of November that year, that the proposed lecture by

Mr. Purnell on the “Life of Birds” be open to the male portion of the general public. As if the private lives of birds was not daring enough, less than six months later the 26 year male domination of the Society was finally broken with the introduction of its first three ladies as full members, which no doubt must have added another dimension to the Society’s outings.

The first mention of colour transparencies came in the society’s minutes in the early 1930 and although Kodak introduced Kodachrome to the photographic world in 1935 the society was still holding lanternslide-making workshops as late as 1944. A Mrs. Alma Ling is a name well remembered within the club for her excellent work in colour transparencies.

No doubt the members were heartened to hear the guest speaker at the 1931 Annual General Meeting, Chief Art Inspector Mr. W. Dean telling the gathering that photography had advanced to the stage where it was definitely considered as works of art.

Cine Film was beginning to capture the attention of the amateur photographer by the late 1930s, as it was decided in 1939 to form a Cine section of the Society, with one night per month devoted to the photographic side of Cine film. Whether it was due to the outbreak of war or perhaps other unrecorded factors the Cine section was short lived having gone into recess by July 1940.

With the advent of litigation came the requirement for the Camera Club to become incorporated for the protection of the committee and members. So in 1985 we became the Geelong Camera Club Incorporated.

Again the world of technology was expanding and several members felt it was time Geelong Camera Club allowed the inclusion of computer images to the monthly competitions. A motion was put to the 1995 Annual General Meeting, which after a heated discussion was defeated. An amended motion was put forward that computer images be allowed in monthly competition in a separate category – this motion was carried.

## IMP OR DEVIL



From the mid 1920s the syllabus carried the Society's logo of a Photographic Imp (or more correctly a Devil) together with the rather dramatic motto "We Grasp the Shadow". The logo was then cast as a statuette and become the Society's mascot. Such was the formal nature of the meetings in those days, that they could not be commenced until the statuette was ceremoniously carried out and placed on the table, when the President then declared the meeting officially open. Unfortunately the statuette has been lost over the years, despite a plea in the newspaper for its return. The Imp and motto are still an important part of the club's tradition and appear on our stationery, syllabus and monthly newsletter.

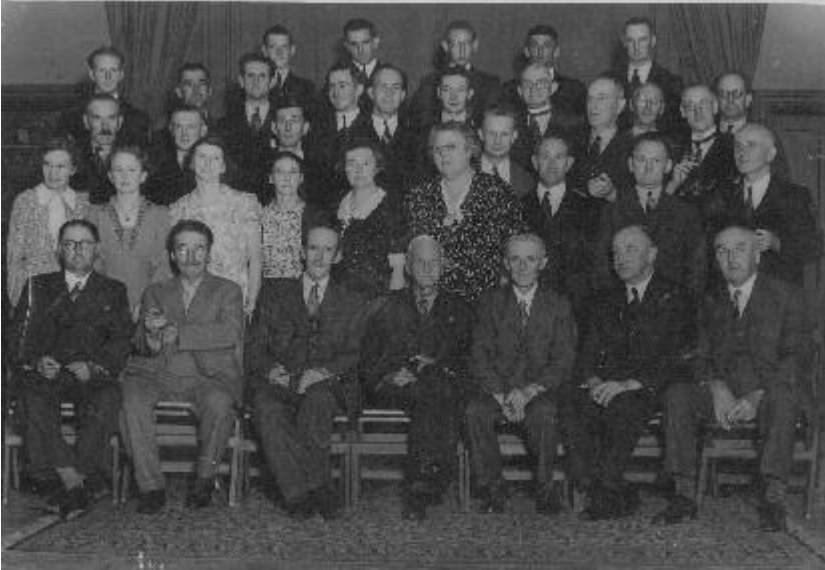
## THE DEPRESSION AND WAR YEARS

The joy of achieving 25 years was soon marred by the outbreak of World War 1 which was brought closer to home with the first enlistment of a member, Mr. Turnbull, and then not long after, the solemn noting in the minutes of a member killed in action. As in other areas of Australia, the war left an indelible mark on the Geelong community, and perhaps for the first time brought the problems of a troubled world to our otherwise isolated existence.

As attendance at meetings continued to be strong, the Society appeared to have survived the depression years reasonably well, whereas it had devastated the community at large. Out of the gloom of the depression years came the first mention of the Society's venture into figure photography, which must have raised a few eyebrows amongst some of the more conservative members of the Geelong community nearly 60 years ago. Either the male members were a little shy or more likely were short of willing models, but the first competition in figure studies was dominated by a Miss Miles who took out not only first prize but was also placed second and third. However there was no doubting Miss Miles photographic ability because the next month she won the Argus newspaper Camera Supplement competition.

Just as the society's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1914 had been clouded by the outbreak of World War 1, it's 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in January 1939 was held in the midst of growing tension as the world appeared to be moving closer to global conflict. It was a special moment at the January Jubilee meeting when in the presence of the founding president Mr. Roebuck, the current president Mr. Potter spoke with great feeling about the achievements of the Society over the previous 50 years. He noted that prominent amongst its achievements had been the club's part in hosting the 1895 Inter-Colonial Exhibition, its activities during the war years with it's participation in the 'Snapshots From Home League' and its status as the oldest amateur photographic

association on the Australian mainland. Undoubtedly the members entered the Society's second 50 years with a feeling of pride and enthusiasm.



*The Jubilee Reunion – 1939.*

The 1940 Annual General Meeting records the fact that members were enlisting in the Armed Services and a motion was passed that money belts be presented to members who were posted overseas. Once again the Society worked closely with the 'Snapshots from Home League' as it had done during the First World War. Official cards were issued to participating members and the Society agreed to supply printing paper and developer. The December 1941 entry of Japan into the war brought the conflict closer to home and during 1942 an invitation was extended to all servicemen stationed, or on leave within the Geelong area, to attend the meetings or make use of the society's facilities.

The Battle of the Coral Sea in May 1942 intensified wartime sentiment. The 1942 Annual General Meeting moved that club members enlisting in the services be kept financial, and returned servicemen were offered one year free membership upon their return.

Despite obviously depleted numbers, a 1943 members display attracted 150 prints which is a little surprising as a common plea through the 1930s had been for greater members participation in print competition. Presumably in an attempt to boost numbers and also to foster new photographic talent, students at Geelong High School (Geelong's only high school in 1942) were offered free membership during that time, with their work to be judged by Society members.

## **WANTED: A NEW HOME**

The Society's President Mr. G.R. King retired as Principal of the Gordon Institute in 1934. The appointment of Mr. Pavia as the new principal the following year appears to mark the start of deterioration in the relation between the two bodies. By mid 1938 the clubrooms had been reclaimed as classrooms although members were permitted to use the darkroom in the evenings and Saturday afternoon but definitely not on Sundays.

By July 1945 the society's long-standing relationship with the Gordon Institute had broken down. In January the principal suggested that the Society should look for other clubrooms, and by April even the private darkroom had been commandeered by the Institute, and members were required to store items of equipment in their homes. With no darkroom and all equipment in storage it was the start of a difficult few years for the Gordon Amateur Photographic Society. The outcome of a special general meeting in December 1947 to discuss the future of the society was to change to monthly meetings instead of weekly, which had been a tradition since the formation of the Society. In June 1948 the President was still appealing to members to pull together until the Society had passed through this difficult period.

In mid 1948 the Society was still meeting once a month for business purposes that were interspersed with demonstrations and practical nights and as well as a bi-monthly competition. Meetings were held in the Bostock Memorial Lecture room at the Institute while the new clubrooms promised by the Institute were being built; although it was 1952, four years later before the Society was finally re-accommodated.

The festering relationship between the Society and the Gordon Institute was finally brought to a head in 1957 when the Society was



asked to vacate the clubrooms by the end of the year. The interim landlord became the Geelong and District Cultural Institute that was located in the Band of Hope Buildings in Ryrie Street (now part of the Performing Arts complex). The 68<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held at these premises, this being the first time in the Society's history that it had been held away from the Gordon Institute. The Society obviously prospered after leaving the Gordon Institute as a photograph taken in 1950 at the 60th anniversary shows that membership had grown to 53 members. However this move to the Cultural Institute was only a temporary measure for in January 1961 the Society was on the move again, this time to the Reformed Presbyterian Church Hall at 8 Fenwick Street and ironically directly opposite their original home at the Gordon College.

## **BE IT EVER SO WET, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.**

It was more than eight years before the search for a new permanent home came to an end in 1969 when the Society moved to its present site on the Barwon Common which for many years had been an airfield.

However the move didn't come without much anguish and discussion. The building which the club managed to obtain was unused and almost derelict, with no ceiling or wall lining, one half having a concrete floor whilst the remaining floor was just plain dirt. A great deal of work and finance was required; eight members were needed to act as guarantors for \$1600 from the bank to secure the necessary funds. Some members felt that the onus of such a loan was too much for only eight members, so the offer was extended, allowing more members to become guarantors. This resulted in sixteen members acting as guarantors. The bank was amused at the trickle of people who came in to sign the contract. At least they became aware our members cared about the future of their club.



*Jubilant members outside the newly acquired clubrooms.*

In an attempt to reduce the debt, the club sub-let the newly renovated rooms to various groups such as Geelong Chess Club, Society for Growing Australian Plants, Scandinavian Society and the Sporting Motor Cycle Club. These arrangements were not satisfactory but the debt was finally reduced to a manageable level and with the commencement of an annual Introduction to Photography Course as a source of income, the club eventually was able to regain sole use of the rooms.

One problem, which although predicted still remains a problem, is that the rooms are located on a flood-prone area, and on two or three occasions flood-waters to a height of approx. 1-1/2 metres have swept through the rooms, thankfully not leaving any permanent damage. Now situated in permanent clubrooms and the threat of eviction removed after almost 30 years the club consolidated its activities through the 1970's with a reasonably large and enthusiastic membership for most of the decade. The prediction that a permanent home would enhance club life proved correct. Monthly competition for both prints and slides continued to be the backbone of club activity, special exhibitions were held to highlight members work both at the clubrooms and at other venues throughout the city.

During the 1970's the club darkroom was completed and whilst many members have their own facilities, the darkroom is much appreciated by those who require it and by those participating in the annual photographic course. Likewise the clubrooms are equipped with backdrops, floodlights etc. which enable special interest groups to use it as a studio on non-club nights. Geelong is one of the few camera clubs in Victoria which has the rooms open during the day on two occasions each month to enable retirees, shift workers, unemployed people and housewives to enjoy the facilities of the Club at a time convenient to them.



*Clubroom renovations.*

Around the late 1980's two major working bees were held by club members with the exterior of the clubrooms being rubbed down and painted, and the entire building being re-roofed. Both of these activities were conducted with the assistance of the South Barwon Council supplying the materials and the club providing the labour. Both were extremely well organised particularly the roofing and it was considered by all as a job well done.

In 1994, the committee, being always conscious of the need to provide additional facilities for the members, purchased a set of Manfrotto backdrops for use in the main hall when it was being used

as a studio. Members were most appreciative of these purchases and thanks were expressed to Frank Sady for the part he played in their acquisition. 1998 saw the purchase of a further set of Manfrotto backdrops for the use of members. Another coup in the equipment stakes was the purchase of a dry mounting press. This disappointed members from Essendon Camera Club who were trying to purchase the same bargain-priced press.

The committee decided that it was time that the Club purchased its own crockery and cutlery instead of hiring it whenever there was a function such as an interclub visit, for which to cater. This resulted in a set of fifty being purchased, which has proved to be of great benefit to the club.

Now the clubrooms were really starting to feel like home.



*Front row: Ken Tyas, Terri Graham, Bruce Ketchen, Jill Turner, Ken McKeown, Audrey McKeown.*

*Second row: Frances Poole, John Boocock, Kevin Wilson, Jim Coutts, Elizabeth Wohlers, Carol O'Laughlin, Ann McElhinney, Moya James, Max Wilson, Eric Gold, Joe Saliljac.*

*Third row: Rob McKinlay, Beryl Wood, Otto Rieckhoff, John Moore, Louise Rough, Graeme Burns, Charles Radnay, Ken Beckworth, Denise Drews.*

*Fourth row: Paul Moore, Laurie Santispirito, Richard Crisp, Frank Davies, Roy Ellery, Ian Littler, Steve Cooper, Col Munday, Christing Radnay, Cheryl Brunger, Jenny Gold, Robb Hooper.*

## **LONG SERVICE & LOYALTY**

Since it's formation, the club has been distinguished by periods of long service from a number of members. While most presidents served for a period of one or two years, there are some notable exceptions: - Mr. King served for six years, Mr. Hammerton for 11 years and Mr. Potter for 15 years. The minutes of the 1955 Annual General Meeting recorded that the stalwart of the club Mr. Potter had not missed an AGM for an incredible 57 years. He was the first member to be awarded life membership.

There has been a number of long serving secretaries over the years most notable being Mr P Treyvaud who served for 10 years, closely followed by Mr J H Campbell with nine years. The year of 1992 ended with a note of sadness when it was learned of the serious illness of our long-serving secretary Les Lister. Les, secretary for 10 years, had done a sterling job and club members were stunned by the news. However by early the following year it was encouraging to learn that Les was gradually making a slow but steady recovery and in the months to come, delighted to find that he would be able to be back with us at the Club, but not in an administrative role.

At the 1994 Annual General Meeting, Graham Harris, a former President, was elected as a Life Member of the Geelong Camera Club. The following year, long serving member Robb Hooper was awarded the highest honour that the Club could bestow that of Life Membership, at the Annual General Meeting. A well-deserved honour as Robb first joined the Club well before moving to its present clubrooms was even considered.

Many competent photographers have been associated with the Geelong Camera Club, with one of the most notable Laurie Wilson.

Despite being a professional photographer for almost two decades Laurie's most interesting work appears to have been around and after the time of his retirement. A terminal illness coupled with his feeling for the environment and man's place in it, gave the work of his last 10 years a passionate energy that is evident in only a handful of gifted photographers. A grant from the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council during the mid 1970's enabled Laurie and his wife Gwen to travel throughout Victoria, a project that proved vital to his photographic development. In 1977 he presented the impressive fruits of his year's work to the National Gallery of Victoria which formed a major part of an exhibition in the gallery the following year. In appreciation of the time given to the Club in the form of advice and assistance, Laurie Wilson was made an Honorary Member of the Club.

## **EXPOSURE AND ADVANCEMENT**

From the early 1970's the Geelong Camera Club conducted a series of National Photographic Exhibitions. The first was held at the present site of the Club with the slides being presented in the clubrooms and the prints displayed at the adjacent volleyball court. Four National exhibitions hosted by the Geelong Camera Club were held during those years with a fifth National being conducted by the Corio Bay Camera Club. While these National Competitions were very successful, they involved a considerable amount of work and also caused some friction within the club due to a clash of personalities, so it was in the best interest of the Club to discontinue them.

Then in 1978 past- president Jim Abrahams SSAPS came up with the idea that we in Geelong should conduct an International Exhibition. This was not very well received within the Club with many members remembering only too well the problems encountered with the Nationals, so it was decided that it would not be an official Geelong Camera Club project. However, never daunted, Jim battled on as only Jim could, gathered together a group of current and past Geelong Club members to work with him and so Vigex was born; with Geelong's first International Exhibition being conducted in January 1980. Whilst Vigex is an autonomous body and not an official function of the Geelong club, it never-the-less received great support from the Club and the clubrooms really became the home of Vigex, with this happy relationship continuing until the present time.

In 1991/92 the Club was invited by South Barwon Council to be involved in the production of a pictorial diary where club members took and supplied the photographs of the region while the council organised the printing of the diaries, and their sale to the public. It



wasn't a huge financial success but the Club did receive some financial reward and had the satisfaction of having participated in the exercise.

It was a year of intense activity for the club in 1993! During the previous year it was announced that the honour of hosting the Australian Photographic Society's Annual Convention for 1993 had been awarded to Geelong. A special meeting of all APS members in the region, together with the two camera clubs was called to form an APSCON committee charged with the responsibility of running the weeklong convention. The result was that five Geelong members accepted positions on the committee acting as chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, catering and entertainment. The Geelong Club, as a project, took on the big responsibility of conducting the A.P.S National Exhibition of Photography, which is always held by the Society during the week of the convention. This was a very big task indeed considering that five experienced members were already committed to the convention organising committee but as one has come to expect of any project taken on by the Geelong Club it was carried out with the usual efficiency.

Six hundred and one prints and 1102 slide entries were received which were judged in the Melbourne Camera Clubrooms. Rowick Press in Geelong printed a fine catalogue recording the event. Good relationship with the Vigex committee at this stage paid dividends when it willingly loaned the Vigex frames and even though much extra work was involved, for the first time a National Exhibition in Australia the prints were displayed as they richly deserved.

The APSCON hired display stands with built-in lighting, which Geelong Club members assembled and the exhibition was finally hung. It was an excellent display of which the club could be justifiably proud and A.P.S members still comment on the manner in which the 1993 National was exhibited.

## A WOMENS PLACE IS NOT IN THE KITCHEN

The history of the club would not be complete without a section devoted to the role that our lady photographers have played in its development. For most of its long history, the Club appears to have been male dominated in regards to administration, although as far back as 1895 we have a record of Miss Baker being on the Intercolonial Convention committee.



*Could this be Miss. E. Baker getting a little hands-on experience on a club field-trip. Reproduced from a glass plate. Date unknown.*

The ladies seemed to be prepared to “hide their light under a bushel” (or perhaps one should say behind a tea towel) for there are frequent references to the delicious suppers prepared by the “Ladies of the Club”. There are current members who well remember that matriarch of the kitchen, Miss Sheila Campbell, and her famous cream sponges, which she would produce on special occasions. Not that we didn’t have very active lady members within the Club because photographs held by the club show that for our 25th anniversary there were three

ladies present whilst for our 50th there were six, our 60th there were thirteen, with fifteen present in 1982.

However it wasn't until 1976 that we had a woman elected to office, when Mary Griffin became secretary. She apparently started the ball rolling, as from then on our ladies have not hesitated to come forward to nominate for office. In 1979 Mrs. Audrey McKeown became the first lady treasurer, closely followed in 1980 by Mrs Jackie Basterfield as secretary. In 1982, ninety-three years after the formation of the club, we saw the election of the first and only lady President - Mrs. Terry Graham. During her term in office Terry instituted many innovations to our Club, such as weekend camps, and family kite flying days (a tradition still carried on to the present time). Then there were those never-to-be-forgotten Christmas pantomimes: such as "Filmarella" and "Snow White & the Seven Flashers" with some members still active in the club (no names mentioned) playing leading parts. Our current secretary Mrs. Irene Sady was elected in 1994, Miss Mary Sifri taking over the financial affairs of the club in 1996. In 2000, these last two named members are still holding office.



*Terry Graham – First Female President*

In 1995 Audrey McKeown became the first lady member in the long history of the Club to be awarded photographic honours when she was made a Licentiate of the Australian Photographic Society (LAPS). She was elevated to an Associate of the Society (AAPS) in 1997, the same year that she was awarded the Society's service honour SSAPS for State Service to photography.

In the early 1990's the annual VAPS convention at Echuca was dedicated to the contribution that had and were continuing to make their mark on Victorian photography. All of the lecturers were women, with 10 Victorian women photographers being invited to display an exhibition of their work. Audrey McKeown and our club were honoured when she was asked to display 10 of her Cibachrome prints for this rather special convention.

It is worthy of note at this point to highlight the fact that after 110 years we finally elected the first lady life members in 1999; the recipients to receive this honour were Irene Sady and Audrey McKeown.

Whether or not it was this interest that the women were taking in the administration roles of the Club is hard to say, but the fact remains that from the late 1970's there appears to have been a feeling of enthusiasm and drive within the Club, with many members actively taking part in other photographic activities outside the club. Members became regular attendees at the annual VAPS conventions over the Queen's Birthday weekend each year with a consequent renewal of interest in the VAPS Interclub competition in which the club was elevated to "A" grade status, a rating that we still hold to the current time.

## **ONE HUNDRED YEARS ON AND STILL GOING STRONG**

During the mid to late 1980's there was a period of great activity amongst the committee and members alike as it was realised that the centenary of the formation of our club was fast approaching. It was decided that the celebrations would take the form of a dinner and that a documentary audio / visual covering the first 100 years of the club's history should be made.

This meant, of course, a great deal of research back through the archives and a small sub-committee was formed comprising (from memory) Les Lister, Robb Hooper, Tim Bracher and Ken McKeown. Many weeks were spent at the Geelong Historical Records Centre researching old minutes books, newspapers going back to 1889 and copying old photographs onto slide film for the Audio /Visual. It was fortunate that at the time the club had two competent A/V workers amongst its membership, namely David and Nereda Ellerton, who put it together complete music, with Tim Bracher doing the voice-over commentary.

A similar amount of work went into organising the Centenary Dinner with invitations being sent to all past members for whom we had a contact address. The Silver Horseshoe Wedding Reception House (suitably decorated) was the venue selected for the dinner which was attended by approx. 150 members, past members and guests. The guests of honour were the Mayor & Mayoress of the City of South Barwon with the President of VAPS Ross Garner together with his wife Dianne representing the Victorian State body. During the evening letters of congratulations were read from the Australian Photographic Society, The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain and the Federation Internationale de l.'Art Photographique.

The AudioVisual “Our First 100 Years” was shown and the display of members’ prints (both past & current) caused much interest. Also during the evening the Club was presented with the ‘J H Campbell Memorial Honour Board “ by the Campbell Family and the H S L Potter Memorial Perpetual Trophy for Clubmanship in honour of Harry Potter.

It was not possible to obtain a photograph of the whole group to record this historical event because of the large number in attendance, but a series of photographs were taken of the members and friends from all of the individual tables. These pictures appear in the last few pages.

The final event of our centenary celebrations was in June when the State body, VAPS, dedicated the annual convention to the Geelong club naming it as the “Geelong Convention” even though it was actually held in Erskine House at Lorne. Some of the guest speakers and lecturers were from Geelong and the Geelong club screened the final and updated version of “Our First 100 Years”. This caused those involved some anxious moments as the slides and tape didn’t arrive at Lorne until approx. 30 minutes before it was due to be screened due to some last minute technical problems. However all went according to plan and it was well received by the conventioners in attendance from around the State. This A/V is still held in the club archives but unfortunately some of the slides have deteriorated due to water damage when the clubrooms were flooded during the 1990’s.

## **HONOUR AMONGST PHOTOGRAPHERS**

In 1991 Hans Kawitzki became the first member in the long history of the club to be awarded a Fellowship of the Australian Photographic Society. This honour is usually presented at the Society's annual convention but as Hans was unable to attend it was presented to him at a special dinner organised by the club here in Geelong with the President of APS, Mr. Trevor Bower travelling from Adelaide to officially make the presentation. In the same year Hans was also awarded the Les Newcombe Award for Contemporary Photography by the Society. Since joining the club in 1979 Hans has built up a very impressive record as a photographer. He was placed first in the APS Who's Who listing for pictorial slides on 1988, 1991 and 1995, together with being placed first in the Society's Who's Who for experimental slides in the years 1990, 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1996. Altogether he has received over 850 acceptances in International exhibitions with 113 awards along with 650 acceptances in National exhibitions with 235 awards.

Over the years many of the Geelong club members have distinguished themselves with their photographic expertise and have achieved photographic honours from such organisations as the Australian Photographic Society, Royal Photographic Society, Photographic Society of America and the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique. Many of our members have devoted their time and talents in service to others within the club and throughout the photographic community and this dedicated contribution has been acknowledged by the club by the bestowing of Life Membership to them. Distinguished service by our members outside of the club and within Victoria has been recognised by the Victorian State body, the

Victorian Association of Photographic Societies, by the awarding of their Service Honour SSVAPS.

In a similar manner the National Body, the Australian Photographic Society has recognised some of our member's service on a wider basis and on a National level by the awarding of their Service Honours, SSAPS and ESAPS. One of our members, Ken McKeown, was honoured by an award of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 1998 Queen's Birthday Honours list for Service to Photography on a Local, State, National and International level. This appears to indicate that over the years club members have more than pulled their weight in the advancement of Australian photography

Frank Sady was awarded the photographic honour, Associate of the Australian Photographic Society for expertise in monochrome prints in 1999. The same year he also received the Service Award by the Victorian Association of Photographic Societies. This gives Frank the right to append the post numerals AAPS and SSVAPS after his name whenever he chooses. Frank received his SSVAPS citation and label badge at the VAPS annual convention at Shepparton and was presented with his AAPS Certificate and the distinguishing badge of an Associate of the Australian Photographic Society, by Sandra Whitson, a Junior Vice-President.



## **BEYOND CAMERA CLUB**

Geelong Camera Club has produced many successful photographers on the National and International Competition circuit. There have also been some notable successes beyond the confines of the Camera Club movement. Rhonda Milner has successfully combined her skills as a nurse and a freelance photographer having a lot of her work published in medical, nursing and parenting journals. Rod Nicholson's love for the sea and photography has resulted in him having his own Gallery at Queenscliff, exhibiting and selling his own work.

However, our most distinguished past member is unquestionably Charles Radnay. Charles started his photography at Geelong Camera Club in 1978 at 18 years of age. He has moved on to become a successful art photographer. His work has been acquired by places such as the National Gallery of Victoria; Australian National Library; the Geelong, Horsham and Warnambool Regional Galleries; Deakin University; City of St Kilda; Albury Arts Centre; Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris; and the Kodak Australia Centre. His work has

been exhibited throughout Australia. He has also written articles for Australian Camera and Australian Photoworld Magazines.

## **TROPHIES WORTH COMPETING FOR**

It was during 1993 that the committee made a decision regarding the club trophies, which are presented each year on award nights. It was felt that in a club with more than 100 years of tradition it should have a unique club trophy, not only of which the recipient would be proud, but also one that would promote the image of the club. Frank Sady, through a contact, arranged to have a 50-mm diameter medallion bearing the club logo and motto die-cast and then he handcrafted the mounting in blackwood resulting in an excellent and much sought-after trophy. In subsequent years the mounting was changed to a circular disc turned by Ken McKeown with the medallion recessed in blackwood and jarrah, the timber being supplied by Frank Sady and Philip Brew. Our supplier of the die-cast medallions went out of business and the medallions have now been replaced by a 50mm plastic insert still bearing the club logo and motto and still being mounted in the same manner as previously.



*A display of the individual and perpetual trophies awarded at the Annual Presentation Night.*

A series of generous benefactors over the years has provided the club with a most impressive array of handsome perpetual trophies to acknowledge the achievements of outstanding workers. After the Centenary celebrations, the committee reviewed the number of perpetual trophies that had been donated to the club by benefactors and decided that it should have a custom-built glass-fronted trophy cabinet in which the trophies could be housed and shown off to their full advantage. This has become a valuable and much admired asset to our clubrooms.

## **WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE!**

Despite the new roofing of the clubrooms there was a continual problem of the rooms being flooded after every heavy shower of rain. It was finally ascertained that the cause was the constant blocking up of the spouting and downpipes by pine needles from the row of ancient but rather mutilated (through lopping) pine trees alongside the road and adjacent to the Clubrooms. In 1994, after numerous approaches to the council, the club was finally successful in having them removed, much to the relief of all concerned, and the recurring storm water damage problem was solved.

The year 1995 will be remembered by all connected with the club, as it was the year of the “Big Flood.” Following torrential rains, the Barwon River close to the clubrooms, caused considerable damage when it flooded the entire surrounding area resulting in floodwaters surging through the rooms to the height of approximately 1.5 metres.

Only prompt action by the President Frank Sady (a former S.E.S Unit Controller) saved us from utter devastation. Working in muddy water chest and waist high, he was able to move most items safely above the flood level, although of course it resulted in some loss of equipment and items of historical interest. The flood soon abated and the heartbreaking job of cleaning the thick layer of mud covering the floor and walls commenced. Under Frank's guidance members rallied around with hoses, mops and buckets the mess was gradually cleaned up. Fortunately we were covered for flood damage by the council's insurance and it was most co-operative having electricians rewiring, internal walls repaired and repainted together with new floor tiling being laid. Although working under difficulty the club was back in action and didn't even miss one weekly meeting night; a real tribute to the spirit of the club.

Even though the interior of the clubrooms was fully renovated by council following the 1995 floods nothing was done to the exterior of the building which by 1999 was beginning to look very dilapidated and badly in need of maintenance. The committee was surprised when, upon approaching the council with a view to a combined council and club resources for a painting project, were informed that the City of Greater Geelong had decided to renovate the building. The old weatherboards and corrugated iron was removed and the walls were completely recovered with Colourbond cladding to blend in with the other buildings of the Barwon Valley Activity Centre. This was completed in mid-year resulting in the club now having very attractive clubrooms thanks to the City of Greater Geelong Council!

## **WINNERS ARE GRINNERS**

In 1992 it was realised that the long-serving and well-used Lietz projector needed replacement. This would have been a major item of expenditure, which the club could not afford. During those years the Warragul National Exhibition of Photography offered, as one of the prizes, a Lieca slide projector for the most successful camera club in Australia based on the number of acceptances gained by members from that club. It was decided to make an all-out effort to be that top club. To the club's delight, notification was received that, with 34 acceptances, Geelong was in fact the winner of the award, becoming the proud owner of a brand new Lieca projector valued at more than \$1000, earned solely through the efforts of its own members. An excellent effort by everyone.

Over the years it has become almost a tradition of the club that whenever a job needed to be done and difficulty was being experienced in obtaining volunteers, the Geelong Club members were always ready to stand up and be counted. 1996 proved to be one of these years! An important event on the Australian Photographic Calendar is the Allied Camera Club's Interstate Competition in which each of the State bodies select 10 Monochrome Prints, 10 Colour Prints and 20 Slides to compete against the other States. The competition is judged by the State hosting the Australian Photographic Society convention for that particular year. For a number of years Victoria did not enter for the very good reason that at the particular time when selection needed to be made, all of the members of the VAPS executive were fully occupied organising Victoria's annual Convention and the VAPS / RASV National Photographic Exhibition. However, this lack of an entry from Victoria did cause a great deal of embarrassment to those Victorians attending the A.P.S convention. As a result Ken McKeown wrote to VAPS suggesting that a small sub-committee be appointed from people not involved with the two other events, who would have the task of organising Victoria's entry.

The job was immediately handed over to Ken who with the assistance of Irene Sady then approached the Geelong Club which willingly took on board the task of collecting entries from around the State, organising the selection panel and handling the dispatch and return of entries. It is pleasing to report that on the first occasion in 1996 the competition was judged in Tasmania with Victoria taking out first prize and regaining the Alan Moran Memorial Shield. Naturally enough Geelong was asked to continue in this organising role so 1997 saw the event being judged in South Australia where Victoria was placed second (by one point) to South Australia. In 1998 the competition was judged by Western Australia with Victoria regaining the shield again by taking out first place with the top colour print (a Bill Herbert Medal) and five merits coming our way.

In 1999 Victoria was again the victorious State, with the entries being judged in Queensland and a Bill Herbert Medal for the Best Colour Print again coming to Victoria along with another five merits. The club can therefore feel justifiably proud of the fact that it played a large part in establishing Victoria as the leading photographic State, particularly as in those four years the Geelong club members were well represented in Victoria's entry in both prints and slides.

The club had great success in the 1998 VAPS annual inter-club competition where it won first place in A grade slides and second place in A grade prints with Frank Sady winning the inaugural Viv Ball Memorial trophy for the Best Landscape.



*A combined Geelong region effort. Members from Geelong and Corio Bay Camera Clubs show off the array of awards earned at the 1998 VAPS Convention. L – R: Frank Sady, Irene Sady, Ken McKeown, Audrey McKeown, Coral Spence and Bert Spence.*





*Frank Sady with his Best Landscape print - 'Liffey Falls'. He was awarded the inaugural Viv Ball Trophy for this image.*

## DEPARTURES

The last one hundred and eleven years have seen many members come and go. The cycle of life is unending, even for our esteemed members. There have been many sad events, which have marked our history. The death of Terry Graham in 1983, our first female President, while on holidays in England was one such event. During 1997, the club suffered a distressingly sad period when three long serving and highly respected members died, namely Jim Coutts, Nick Majetic and Robb Hooper. All three were loyal members and staunch workers of the club and they were, and still are, sadly missed by all. Nick and Robb's deaths occurred within days of each other preceding our Christmas break-up dinner, which naturally enough was a very subdued celebration on this occasion.



*The Three Wise Photographers  
Les Lister, Robb Hooper and Jimmy Coutts. Photo by Rhonda Milner*

## **SPONSORS**

A Club needs its supporters and sponsors, and ours is no different. Over the years there have been many businesses that have given their support to the club in various ways. Prior to Kodak coming to Australia, the main distributor of photographic supplies and equipment was a firm by the name of Baker and Rouse. Our minute books of the 1890s period show that two beautiful large bromide photographs approximately 16" X 20" were presented to the Gordon Society by the aforementioned company. One depicted a scene of Melbourne, with the featuring a bridge and tree-fern gully, possibly somewhere around Marysville. Both were obviously shot with large

format cameras as the detail captured is incredible and a joy to behold.

Unfortunately the Melbourne scene has been lost over the years but the Marysville landscape is in excellent condition and occupies pride of place in the current clubrooms. One wonders if any of our current photographs will be in such good condition in 100 years time.

Despite the tough economic times up until the early 1930s, Kodak paid for the printing of the Society's syllabus. Times have changed, but the club is still supported by Kodak, with their donation of a trophy every year, together with guest speakers almost annually. Another large company, Ilford Australia, also supports us with trophy and guest speakers. Local businesses are really the main strength of our sponsorship. As business come and go they are usually happy to provide sponsorship, and in return, our members provide them custom.

## **THE FUTURE**

So what of the future? What will Geelong Camera Club be like in 2089? Will there be a Geelong Camera Club? Present trends show a decline in camera club membership to the extent that some clubs have ceased functioning. Is this cause for concern? Perhaps not. Clubs have come and gone throughout the history of camera clubs, yet we and the camera club movement are still here.

What is certain is that the Geelong Camera Club of 2089 will be totally different to the Club we know today.

Photography as we know it today will probably only exist on the periphery of image making. Digital imaging will certainly supersede film and the wet darkroom with only those interested in the art of chemical photography practising in the 'old' style of making images.

It has been said by some that the camera club of the future will be 'on line', you'll be able to attend club meetings without leaving home. Personally I don't think that technology will ever eliminate the human desire for social contact and interaction. After all, television didn't kill the movie theatre, the experts said it would, but they didn't reckon on the need for people to do things together. Almost everybody has a television but cinemas are doing bigger business today than ever before.

When it comes to photographers the truth of the matter is that they like to share their images. They have a need for discussion of and approval for what they produce. The reality is that very few if any photographers, painters, etc. produce images for their eyes only. Writers write books for others to read, painters paint pictures for others to see and photographers make their photographs for their peers to see, approve of and appreciate.

For those reasons we will continue to get together to share our photographs/images however we produce them.

I am sure that in the year 2089 Geelong Camera Club members will still be meeting, but perhaps not in our present location. I am sure that as at present, members will still be trying to impress their peers with the images they produce. I have no doubt that the camera club will survive. It will just be different.

**Frank Sady**

President 1993-1998, 1999-2001

## **HONOURABLE MEMBERS**

Past & Current members who have held Photographic Skill Honours and Service Honours awarded by the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP), the Australian Photographic Society (APS) the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain (RPS), the Photographic Society of America (PSA) & the Victorian Association of Photographic Societies (VAPS)

Les Lister

SSAPS, SSVAPS

Hans Kawitzki	AFIAP, FAPS, PSA 4 *
Bruce Ketchen	SSVAPS
Audrey McKeown	AAPS, SSAPS
Ken McKeown	OAM, AFIAP, AAPS, ESAPS, and SSVAPS
Frank Sady	AAPS, SSVAPS
Bert Spence	SSVAPS
Ken Tyas	ARPS

## **PERPETUAL TROPHIES AND HONOUR BOARDS**

### **THE J. H. CAMPBELL MEMORIAL HONOUR BOARD**

John Hollis Campbell, known affectionately simply as “J H” to his many friends, was a much loved and respected member of the Club from the mid 1960s until his death in the late 1980s. A quietly spoken and gentle person, he was a real gentleman in the truest sense of the word.

He was a master and house master at the Geelong College and was obviously just as much esteemed there as he was at our Club; a

residence for College boarders in Noble Street was named Campbell House to honour his memory,

He served as a most diligent Secretary of our Club for a period of nine years, from 1964 until 1973 during which time he was the driving force behind all club activities and an inspiration to some of our present day members. He lived in Stephen Street, Newtown with his sister Sheila who was herself a very active member of the Club; neither of them married so there was no family to carry on the traditions so firmly established by them both.

Immediately following his death his nieces and nephews, knowing of his love for our Club contacted some of our members and donated a sum of money to be used as we saw fit to perpetuate his memory. As our Club was well endowed with Memorial Trophies for photographic excellence it seemed appropriate to have a memorial which would honour those who have faithfully served the club over it's long history. It was finally decided that an Honour Board would be a most suitable memorial; this suggestion was agreeable to the relatives of J H and they felt it would be a fitting tribute to this very fine gentleman and former member.

The **“J H Campbell Memorial Honour Board”** was made by club member Ken McKeown and presented by him together with a framed photograph of J H, to the Club on behalf of the Campbell family on the occasion of the Centenary Dinner in 1989. It lists all of the Past Presidents, Past Secretaries and Life Members of the Club since it's inception in 1889 with provision for the inclusion of the names of future Presidents and Secretaries as they complete their terms of office and also the names of future Life Members as they have this honour bestowed upon them.



*J.H. Campbell – Life Member  
Secretary 1964-1973 Committee 1973-1976*

## **THE PORTER MEMORIAL TROPHY**

For many years Kodak employed Mr. Porter in its School Lecture Services giving lectures and demonstrations. Robb Hooper could



recall Mr. Porter giving a talk to the Geelong Apex Club in the very early days of that organisation.

He served as President of the Club from 1953 until 1957 and was a very respected member not only of the Club but also of the entire Geelong community.

After leaving Kodak as an employee he bought and operated the photographic business (Previously owned by Kodak) in Ryrie Street almost directly opposite Griffith's Book Store.

The trophy was originally a perpetual trophy sponsored by Kodak as the top award in an annual Slide Competition held by a Belmont Church which was judged by Mr. Porter and another well known Geelong photographic identity, Cliff Barclay.

This competition finally lapsed and after the death of Mr. Porter the Geelong Camera Club approached Kodak, who agreed to the idea of having this trophy as an annual award for the club as a memorial to Mr. Porter.

**The Porter Memorial Trophy is awarded annually for**

**"Excellence in Colour Slide Photography"**

**THE POTTER MEMORIAL CLUBMANSHIP AWARD**

Mr. Potter was possibly the member who gave the most service to the club in its long history, serving as Secretary for 7 years from 1906 until 1913 and then as President for 15 years from 1937 until 1952.

Club records reveal that he did not miss one Annual General Meeting for an incredible 57 years; although it appears that during the latter years of his life he was not as regular at ordinary club meetings, only attending when required to lecture or judge.

He owned and operated a photographic store for many years, which was situated in Ryrie Street almost opposite Griffiths Bookstore. It was eventually taken over by Kodak and then subsequently taken over by a Mr Porter (see Porter Memorial Trophy). Although it is no longer a photographic store the building still bears the name "Potter" on the facade above the veranda.

With the Club having many Memorial Trophies for excellence in photographic expertise it was realised that we did not have a Memorial Trophy in honour of the person who was the backbone of the club for so many years and who acted as an inspiration to so many members.

The late Robb Hooper, a life member of the club, donated this trophy which was presented to the President on behalf of the Potter family on the occasion of the Centenary Dinner in 1989

The recipient for the **Potter Memorial Award for Clubmanship** is chosen annually by the incumbent President and is awarded to the member who has given **"outstanding service to the Club throughout the preceding year."**

## **THE ROGERS MEMORIAL TROPHY**

Ted Rogers was Secretary of the Club from 1945 until 1948 when the Geelong Camera Club still met in a classroom at the Gordon Institute of Technology. He lived in Virginia Street Newtown and Robb Hooper could tell many tales of his experiences when receiving instruction on the then “**new** “ technique in the club-- that of making enlargements.

Ted was an accomplished photographer and an excellent Black & White print worker; unfortunately the club did not have a permanent collection of prints in those days with the result that we do not have the opportunity of now appreciating the excellence of his printing expertise..

The **Ted Rogers Memorial Trophy** was presented to the club by his family after his death and is awarded annually for

**"Meritorious Effort in Black & White Photography"**

**THE WILLIAMS MEMORIAL TROPHY**

Fred Williams was Secretary of the club in 1938 and again from 1948 until 1954. He also served as Honorary Auditor from 1926 until 1937 and then again from 1965 until 1971. He was a most meticulous press correspondent for the club from 1971 until 1979. He was awarded Life Membership in 1955 and died in 1980 having been a member of the club for 56 years.

In private life Fred was the chief invoice clerk at Hawkes Bros., a large hardware wholesalers here in Geelong where his "**junior**" assistant was none other than another of our life members, Robb Hooper. Robb could well remember, without the aid of calculators and prior to metrication, doing calculations such as 2 ton 3 cwt 2qrt 17 lb. at a cost of 37 pound 13 shillings & 6 pence per pound.

Following Fred's death this memorial trophy was donated by his wife and was organised by Robb Hooper.

**The Fred Williams Memorial Trophy is awarded annually for**

**" Meritorious Effort in Colour Print Photography"**

**THE WILSON MEMORIAL LANDSCAPE TROPHY**

Laurie Wilson was born in 1920 and commenced his photography career in 1941 when he was accepted as an assistant with Lockwood Studios here in Geelong.

He worked only 10 months at Lockwood Studios before taking a higher paid job as a cinema projectionist. It was here that he met his future wife Gwen, who worked as an usherette.

In 1945 he and Gwen opened their own studio covering all types of photography. They carried on this prosperous business until 1962 when they sold due to ill health.

Laurie was a member of the Melbourne Camera Club and in the early 1970s was made an Honorary Member of the Geelong Camera Club in recognition of his assistance as a lecturer, judge and mentor to the members.

His work was first accepted in exhibitions in 1966 and from then until 1973 his prints were accepted in 64 National and International exhibitions; during that time he was awarded 37 trophies for prize-winning prints in addition to 13 certificates of merit.

In 1971 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and in the early 1970s was awarded the prestigious photographic honour EFIAP by the European based Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique. He is the only Geelong photographer to have received the EFIAP honour

In 1975 he was awarded a one year grant from the Australia Council which enabled him to travel to the most distant parts of Victoria capturing magnificent landscapes which were then circulated through Victorian schools and exhibited in the National Gallery of Victoria

His wife Gwen died in 1979 and Laurie died a little over a year later.

The design of the trophy, made and presented to the club by Life Member Bruce Ketchen, actually incorporates the trophy that Laurie won as first place in the Sydney International Salon of Photography.

It can be awarded annually, **but only if in the judge's opinion there is a monochrome print submitted that is worthy of receiving this prestigious trophy.**

## **THE NICK MAJETIC ENDEAVOUR AWARD**

The Nick Majetic Endeavour Award is commemorative of a Geelong Camera Club member who represented all the qualities that a member should subscribe to be.

Nick Majetic was a gentle and accommodating man. He had a very high tolerance level and never had a bad thing to say about another member. His willingness to assist and advise fellow members often saw him sitting up to the late hours of the night trying to solve their photographic problems. When it came to devoting his time to camera club projects, Nick didn't know how to say 'no'. In fact, he was always there, with a smile.

His own abilities as a photographer were considerable. Nick was a very meticulous person, probably a reflection of his training as a radiographer. His understanding of the principles of photography was complete and stood out clearly in the quality of the images he produced. Nick had a great love of the Black and White image and pursued the perfect image relentlessly.

Nick Majetic was a very good man and a most valuable member of Geelong Camera Club. The committee awards the Endeavour Award to a member who reflects the qualities seen so admirably in Nick Majetic.



*The Inaugural Nick Majetic Endeavour Award being presented to Phillip Brew by Mrs. Nev Majetic in the presence of Ken Sizer (President) 1998*



## GEELONG CAMERA CLUB PRESIDENTS

1889-1904	Mr.H.C. Roebuck
1905-1906	Mr. A Mockridge
1906-1912	Mr. J. B. Leitch
1913-1914	Mr. T Lord
1914-1915	Mr. A. Mockridge
1915-1926	Mr. J. Hammerton
1927-1928	Mr. A. Muncey
1928-1929	Mr. M. Watson
1930-1936	Mr. G.R. King
1937-1952	Mr. H.L.S. Potter
1953-1957	Mr. W Porter
1958 -1963	Mr A.J. Firth
1964-1965	Mr. R. Kirkham
1966-1967	Mr. A.J. Firth
1968 -1971	Mr. R. Kirkham
1972 -1973	Mr. S Bankin
1972 -1973	Mr. J. Abrahams
1973 -1974	Mr. J. Abrahams
1975 -1976	Mr. R McMahan
1977 -1978	Mr. B. Ketchen
1979-1980	Rev. I Littler
1981-1982	Mr. B. Ketchen
1982-1983	Mrs. T. Graham
1984-1986	Mr. G. Harris

1987-1989	Mr. B. Cohn
1989-1990	Mr. M. McCoy
1990-1993	Mr. G. Harris
1993-1997	Mr. F. Sady
1997-1998	Mr. K. Sizer
1998-2000	Mr. F. Sady

## **GEELONG CAMERA CLUB SECRETARIES**

1891-1894	Mr. J.E. Bennett
1894-1905	
1905-1906	Mr. C.T. Seeley
1905-1906	Mr. C. Creek
1906-1913	Mr. H. Potter
1913-1915	Mr. A. Muncey
1915-1925	Mr. P. Treyvaud
1925-1933	Mr. J. Sharp
1933-1936	Mr. A. Muncey
1936-1937	Mr. W. Greenfield
1937-1938	Mr. F. Williams
1938-1944	Mr. H. Ganly
1944-1946	Mr. E. Rogers
1947-1948	Mr. E. Rogers
1947-1948	Mr. H. Briggs
1948-1954	Mr. F. Williams

1954-1957	Mr. C. Prout
1957-1963	Mr. H.E. Taylor
1963-1973	Mr. J.H. Campbell
1973-1976	Mr. K. McKeown
1976-1977	Miss M. Griffin
1977-1979	Mr. S. Cooper
1980-1981	Mrs. J. Basterfield
1982-1983	Mr. C. Munday
1983-1991	Mr. Les Lister
1992-2000	Mrs. I. Sady

## **GEELONG CAMERA CLUB LIFE MEMBERS**

Mr. H L S Potter	Mr. J H Campbell
Mr. G R King	Mr. B Ketchen
Mr. W J Porter	Mr. K A McKeown
Mr. A J Firth	Mr. L Lister
Mr. R Hobson	Mr. G R Harris
Mr. F Williams	Mr. R Hooper
Mr. H E Taylor	Mrs. I Sady
Mr. E Rogers	Mr. F Sady
Mr. R Kirkham	Mrs. A McKeown



*Geelong Camera Club committee 1997-1998*

*Back row: Alf Layton, Phillip Brew*

*Front Row: Daryl Forrester, Frank Sady (Vice Pres.), Ken Sizer (President),  
Irene Sady (Sec.), Mary Sifri (Treas.)*



*Back row: David Rendle, Daryl Forrester, Ketut Suwitra, Brian Flewell-Smith,  
Harry de Wit.*

*Middle row: David Evans, Graeme Harris, Daryl Wembridge, Ken McKenzie,  
Ken McKeown, Graham Mournay, Phil Brew, Andrew Nolte, Charles Radnay, Alf Layton,  
Frank Sady.*

*Front row, Berridge, Georgette Berridge, Audrey McKeown, Ken Sizer, Irene Sady,  
Mary Sifri, Nikki Watson, Meagan Rufus.*