

FROM THE BADGES AND AWARDS DIRECTOR

The whole purpose for nominating people for an Award, either Merit or Service is so that the person's Club can reward and recognise people's efforts in advancing the cause of photography to an outstanding degree both within and outside their Club.

A Meritorious Service Award is given mainly for outstanding service to the Club itself or to the advancement of the Camera Club Movement in Victoria.

A VAPS Service Award (SSVAPS) is given to people who have given exceptional service to photography not only within their Club, but also service to advancing the art of photography on a much wider scale than at their own Club. The letters SSVAPS, which the Award recipient is entitled to put after their name when it appears in print, stand for "**S**tate **S**ervice to **V**ictorian **A**ssociation of **P**hotographic **S**ocieties"

I would urge those who are considering nominating worthy people for an Award to please read the criteria on each form carefully. In past years, we have received nominations for Service (SSVAPS) Awards in which an insufficient amount of criteria was satisfied, which meant that a Merit Award was given instead. On the other hand, we have received several Merit Award nominations which the VAPS Committee has upgraded to SSVAPS because of the Award nominee's outstanding efforts and achievements.

Year Bars are awarded by Clubs to members in recognition of their years of active involvement with their Club, rather than just being for years of association.

At this point, I would remind you all that Year Bars, Merit Awards and Service (SSVAPS) Awards are presented at the Annual Dinner, and it is thus desirable that all Year Bar and Award recipients attend the Annual Dinner so that their efforts can be publicly recognised in the presence of their peers. If it is ascertained that an Award recipient does not intend being at the Dinner, then VAPS will instruct the Club to inform the person concerned that they are to receive "an Award" without actually telling them which one, and that we would like them to attend the Dinner. However, if it is known that the person concerned will definitely be there, then they will not be told, so as to maintain the element of surprise. Of course, we also understand that in some cases, for very good reasons, Award recipients cannot come to the Dinner, in which case the Award will either be sent to the Club or presented by VAPS at a Club meeting.

If Clubs or individuals need extra copies of Year Bar and Award nomination forms, please feel free to photocopy the originals or else you can download extra copies of all three forms from the VAPS Website.

I trust that you will all give consideration to nominating deserving people for Awards – last year the number of Awards was well down on former years, as was the number of Year Bars ordered.

I look forward to receiving a good number of nominations for Awards this year as well as orders for Year Bars.

Lin Richards SSVAPS

VAPS Badges and Awards Director.