



Meritorious Service Award

Kay Mack

Kay Mack has been an extremely active and valued member of Doncaster Camera Club for 45 years until her death earlier this year. Joining the club in 1976, she became a committee member in 1977 and for the next 16 years held significant positions on that committee, namely Treasurer (1977 – 80), President (1981-83) and Newsletter Editor (1986 – 92). Kay established and then was the convener of The Themes and Series Special Interest Group at DCC since its commencement in 2012, a group that meets regularly and undertakes photography challenges and presentations. Kay has been a mentor to many new club members over many years. She has also advised and assisted club members with applications for VAPS awards. Kay has a special interest in Black and White photography. The Doncaster Camera Club annually awards a perpetual Trophy, established in 2014 and called The Kay Mack Trophy for Monochrome Image of the year. Fittingly she was awarded Life Membership of Doncaster Camera Club in 2009.

Kay began entering National Competitions in 1977 and then Internationals as well. She earned for herself a string of honours namely FAPS (1999), LAPS (1984), AAPS (1991), and SSVAPS (1994). Other awards include Les Newcombe Award for Creative Photography (2014) and Contemporary Group Award (2018).

Her contribution did not stop at club level. Kay has run numerous workshops at VAPS Conventions. The first one was in 1984 and was called “Try Something Different”. This was repeated in various forms in Victorian Camera Clubs. Kay has done many presentations to Camera Clubs over the years including – “My life in photography”, “PD Presents” and “Contemporary Division Presents”.

Since 1984, Kay has judged and presented her own work frequently at many clubs in Victoria, including Warragul, Shepparton, Horsham and many Melbourne Clubs as well as Redcliffe in Queensland in 2011.

Kay has been involved in organizing several local community events and Exhibitions.

- Wurrundjeri Festival Photography Exhibition
- The first four Doncaster National Exhibitions. 1984-1987.
- “Playground Portraits” exhibition in 2003 at Templestowe Primary School
- “Travellers’ Tales” Exhibition in 2005 at Box Hill Community Arts Centre.
- “Chasing Shadows” Exhibition in 2006 at Gold St Studios Gallery in Collingwood.
- “Chasing Shadows” was part of fringe section at Daylesford Biennale of Photographic Art in 2007. These were hand printed Mono Prints.

Jan Rolfe

President

Margaret Zimmers

Badges and Awards Director

Kay joined the Doncaster Historical Society in 2003 until her death. With her photographic knowledge and expertise Kay was a valuable member, working on cataloguing the archive and scanning and printing copies of historical photographs, manning open days, improving display labelling. Kay also took part in their successful application for Museum Accreditation.

Kay has also worked with Manningham Council on photos for brochures they were producing.

Kay Mack has been an active member of APS. In that organisation she

- Was elected to Management Committee in 1988
- Chair of Honours Sub Committee in 1991
- Senior Vice President 1992-94
- President 1994-96 (First female President of APS)
- Honorary Fellow 1999
- Chair of Contemporary Group for 12 years 2003-2015

She was also a verifier for the APS Exhibition Honours system for many years until 2012.

Kay has taken on numerous projects and photographic work in the local community.

She was a teacher at Templestowe Park Primary School and made significant contributions there with her photographic knowledge and skills. Kay encouraged and assisted students to enter junior photography competitions. She also taught staff members to develop and print black and white film. She took many photographs of the school's development, which today are a valuable historical record.

Since her retirement Kay has made several photobooks of her school photos and been invited back to speak to students. She has donated copies of her photobooks to Templestowe Park Primary School, the Municipal Library and The Doncaster Historical society.

Reason for Nomination

Kay Mack has made significant contributions for 45 years to Doncaster Camera Club, VAPS and APS. Kay was an inspiring teacher and mentor and was always generous with her time and knowledge to Camera Club members and the local community.

Kay demonstrated for many years that photography is a valuable means of raising people's awareness of their surroundings and community.

She always had a great interest in Contemporary photography and with her keen eye and imagination, she saw beyond the obvious to capture unique images. She moved from film to digital and more recently phone and iPad photography, often seeing the story and enjoyment of photography as more important than technical excellence.

A VAPS Meritorious Award would be a very fitting recognition of Kay's contributions and service to photography. Her achievements were so numerous, so significant and so valuable that VAPS confers the award posthumously.