

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS.

The Exceptional Merit of the FCC (EMFCC) is the next higher photographic excellence award.

The award may be achieved in one of the following ways:

- a. Through accumulation of points in photographic competitions.
- b. By submission of a portfolio of images.

Candidates for the award must be a current member of a camera club that is a-member of the FCC and must have held membership of such a club for at least three years prior to applying for the award.

Once an award is given the award remains with the recipient irrespective of whether the recipient continues to be a member of a camera club affiliated with the FCC. The intention is to make the awards portable and to recognise excellence and promote camera clubs. It is also the intention to make the system simple for administration and not make it impossible for awards to be achieved.

The Exceptional Merit (EMFCC) is a significant step up from the Merit FCC. While in the Merit award we are looking for a basic competence and skill, to be successful at Exceptional Merit level you need to demonstrate a high standard of technical competence as well as provide evidence of creative ability and the development of a personal style.

You also need to be able to show that you are in complete control of the technical aspects which allows you to produce quality which is entirely 'fit for purpose' i.e. it suits the subject. You can apply straight for the Exceptional Merit without having gone through the Merit, but in general we do not recommend this unless you have considerable experience in photography.

Benefits:- Recipients of the EMFCC will receive:

- Framed certificate acknowledging and declaring the recognition
- The right to use the title, eg. M.Y.Name EMFCC

Achieving awards through accumulation of competition points.

Points may be gained in the following ways:

Level 1 competitions:

1. **Nationals:** An image that obtains an acceptance receives 3 points.
2. **Internationals:** An image that obtains an acceptance receives 3 points.

Level 2 competitions:

3. **AIPC** (Australian Interstate Photo Competition): An image that is accepted to represent NSW receives 2 points.

4. **Topshot:** An image that obtains a score of 10 or more out of a possible 15 receives 2 points.
5. **FCC Interclub:** An image that obtains a score of 10 or more out of a possible 15 receives 2 points.
6. **Zone competitions:** For example, Northern Zone; Western District Zone; NPF PASOTY. An image that obtains a score of 10 or more out of a possible 15 (or the equivalent) receives 1 point.

Special conditions:

1. Images may be in print form or digital. Image specifications are determined by the competition in which they are entered.
2. For the award of EMFCC a total of 100 points must be accumulated. This total may include the points used to achieve the award of MFCC but may NOT include any further points gained from Level 3 competitions. (That is, it requires accumulation of a further 50 points from Level 1 or Level 2 competitions.)
3. For the purposes of an award an image can gain points in only one competition. In other words the same image can only be used once to gain points.

Achieving awards through submission of a portfolio.

General conditions:

Dates for submitting portfolios:

The closing date for the portfolio section be the 31st of December of any year and the judging to take place in January, February of the following year.

Two types of portfolios:

Type one: a collection 30 images showing a wide range of image creation.

1. Images may be in print form or digital.
2. Images in digital form must comply with the technical standards specified by the FCC and must be submitted on a CD (three copies one for each judge).
3. The portfolio is to be submitted to a panel of three judges nominated by the FCC. The judges will assess the portfolio independently. For a portfolio to be accepted, all images must be of a standard that, in the opinion of two of the three judges, would score 11/15 in a national competition.

Type two:

4. A portfolio consisting of 20 images on a specific theme.
5. **Statement of Intent:** A statement of not more than 150 words outlining the purpose, objectives or intent of the work. This gives you the opportunity to tell the judges about your work and explain why you took the images and what you want them to convey; it also enables the judges to consider your work in a meaningful context. It should not describe the images or give technical details, unless you wish to highlight any special or unusual techniques employed.
6. Images may be in print form or digital.
7. Images in digital form must comply with the technical standards specified by the FCC and must be submitted on a CD (three copies one for each judge).
8. The portfolio is to be submitted to a panel of three judges nominated by the FCC. The judges will assess the portfolio independently. For a portfolio to be accepted, all images must be of a standard that, in the opinion of two of the three judges, would score 11/15 in a national competition.
9. Following the judging, the unsuccessful photographer will be provided with detailed feedback.

CRITERIA

The following general assessment criteria apply to all submissions.

PRINTS

- Prints should be mounted, not framed, one print per mount.
- The overall thickness of each print must not exceed 5mm.
- Prints are to be no smaller than A4 and together with a mat can be no larger than 40 x 50 cm.
- The prints may be in colour or in monochrome or a mixture of both.
- If you submit a portfolio of oversize prints it will not be assessed.
- You should consider the presentation and mounting which should be sympathetic with the subject matter and free from marks and blemishes.
- Label your prints on the reverse with your name and number them in the order in which you want them to be displayed.
- You should not have any title or name on the front.
- For the benefit of the judge you should include a viewing plan with your portfolio. This should be a set of thumbnails, set out in the order of display, on a plain A4 sheet (i.e. not mounted on card).
- You can have your prints commercially processed.

DIGITAL IMAGES ON CD

- Images to be submitted on a CD, clearly labelled with the applicant's name and the award sought.
- Images must be in the sRGB colour space.

- Files may be saved in uncompressed TIFF format or in JPG format.
- File size is to be no more than 15MB.
- Files should be named 01, 02, 03 . . . etc to indicate the order in which they are to be viewed.

- On the CD the images should be placed in two folders, one called “Projection” and the other called “Monitor”. In the “Projection” folder the images should be no more than 1024 pixels in the horizontal dimension and no more than 768 pixels in the vertical dimension when the image is viewed in its correct orientation. In the “Monitor” folder the images should be identical to these in the “Projection” folder excepting that there is no restriction on the pixel dimensions.

L Vranich
Chairperson Honours Sub Committee