

Additional Guidelines for Whanganui Camera Club Panels

Club assessing panels are an important development opportunity for WCC members and add diversity to the assessment of our competitions (and in some cases external competitions).

Our Club panels are typically comprised of three members – with at least one experienced in club competition assessing. One member may be at an early or learning stage.

There are additional challenges to assessment as part of a club panel – you may have images of your own entered, you may recognize the images of others, members of the panel are likely to have differing views. This raises issues of how to manage conflicts of interest and how to moderate disparate views across the panel.

To assist panels with these additional challenges the Club will appoint a convenor. This will typically be one of the panel members who has not entered images in the competition and is thus not conflicted. If all the panel members have entered images then the Club will appoint an additional unconflicted person to act as convenor but who will not actively assess the images.

The role of the convenor is to:

- convene the meeting(s) of the panel
- organise the assessment of the images by the panel (these are typically mounted prints which are judged in the clubrooms)
- manage conflicts of interest
- facilitate the discussion on images and moderate the assessment of images where panelists differ in their assessment.
- record the assessment and feedback comments.
- circulate the written comments to all panel members for sign-off before submitting to the Club Competitions Secretary
- organise the panel to present the results and feedback on Club night.

In moderating divergent assessments across the panel, the convenor should assist the panel avoid any tendency to “average down” and explore each members’ perspectives. It may be that one member has a stronger resonance with the image and this should be given thoughtful consideration by the other members of the Panel.

Panel members who have entered images in the competition being assessed should declare this as a conflict of interest. They should leave the room when their image is being assessed and take no part in any discussion in relation to their image.