

## Toowoomba Photographic Society 2025 Member Survey Report

### Demographics

There were 55 respondents to the survey. The demographics of these is provided in Tables 1 to 3.

**Table 1** Age and gender breakup of respondents

Age	Female	Male	Prefer not to Say
Less than 18	0	0	0
18 to 29	0	1	0
30 to 49	0	0	0
50 to 69	14	18	0
Over 70	10	10	0
Prefer Not to Say	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>

**Table 2** Occupation breakup of respondents

	Female	Male	Prefer not to Say
Full Time Student	0	0	0
Working Full Time	3	4	0
Working Part Time	3	4	0
Retired	17	20	0
Other	2	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>

**Table 3** TPS Membership Status of respondents

Club Membership	Female	Male	Prefer not to Say
Less than 1 year	3	3	0
1 to 5 years	10	18	0
More than 5 years	12	8	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>What Grade are you in</b>			
B Grade	3	7	0
A Grade	11	6	1
Salon Grade	11	10	0
Not Yet Assigned	0	6	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>

A good representation of members responded to the survey.

## Competitions

Table 4 summarises the participation by respondents in TPS monthly Aggregate competitions. Note there was a greater number of A Grade and Salon Grade members responding to the survey. A greater proportion of B Grade members are not participating in the monthly Aggregate Competitions (something we already knew and need to address).

**Table 4** Regular participation in Aggregate Competitions

<b>Response</b>	<b>B Grade</b>	<b>A Grade</b>	<b>Salon Grade</b>	<b>Not Yet Assigned</b>
No	6	4	1	6
Yes	4	14	20	0

Respondents were asked if they were happy with the Aggregate Competition night format. Their responses are provided in Table 5.

**Table 5** Are you happy with the Competition Night Format

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
No	8	15%
Yes	47	85%

A large majority are happy with the existing Aggregate Competition Night format. When asked if they preferred an abbreviated competition display the vast majority indicated that this was not preferred (see Table 6).

**Table 6** Preference for Abbreviated Competition Display

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
No	39	74%
Yes	14	26%

Those respondents answering ‘Yes’ to preference for an abbreviated competition display were asked to suggest additional competition night activities that could be done. Their responses are summarised in Table 7.

**Table 7** Preference for Additional Competition Night Activities

<b>Additional competition Night Activities</b>	<b>Number</b>
Guest speaker	12
More time for socialising	5
Updates on future club activities	7
Presentation of work by selected club members	8
Short tutorial session	17
YouTube Photographer videos	5
Examples of how to improve your images	1

The greatest interest was in providing short tutorial sessions and a guest speaker (now provided on the fourth Tuesday of the month via Zoom).

Respondents not entering the monthly Aggregate competition were asked to give their reasons. Their responses are summarised in Table 8.

**Table 8** Reasons for not entering Aggregate Competitions

<b>Reasons for Not Entering Competitions</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Lack of Time	8	47%
Lost Interest	3	18%
Competitions Not Useful	2	12%
No Entries	1	6%
Lack Skills	2	12%
Lack of Instructions on Entering	1	6%

### **Field Days**

Respondents were asked if they had attended a field day in the last year. Only 22 indicated that they had (40% of respondents) – 33 indicated that they had not (60% of respondents). Those who had not attended were asked for their reasons which are summarised in Table 9 below.

**Table 9** Reasons given for not attending TPS Field Days

<b>Why field days not attended</b>	<b>Number</b>
Need better topics for Field Days	2
Travel distance too far	12
Participants unfriendly	1
Lack of time	2
Cost	3
Field Day too long	1
Not suited to beginners/ no training provided	2
Not available	5
Current health restricts attendance	2
Not publicised well enough	2

A range of reasons given but the main ones were the travel distance was too far (this response mainly by members living outside of Toowoomba) and their availability on the days of the field days (all primarily held on Saturdays). There were a number of other considerations that we need to take note of (in particular that training/mentoring not provided to participants).

Respondents attending field days were asked how they could be improved. Their responses are provided in Table 10.

**Table 10** Suggested ways to improve Field Days for participants

<b>Ways to improve field days</b>	<b>Number</b>
Mentors	4
Provide Drinks	1
Provide Transport	1
Earlier or Later Starts	1
Longer Field Days	1
Photo Challenge	1

The provision of mentors/trainers was the most requested improvement.

Respondents were asked if we should continue with field days given the record of poor attendance in 2024. The responses by attendees and non-attendees are provided in Table 11.

**Table 11** Continuation of Field Days (number of respondents)

<b>Participation</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
None Attendees	22	11
Attendees	17	5
TOTAL	39	16

There is great interest in the continuation of field days, but their format/conduct needs some tweaking.

Respondents answering “No” to the continuation of Field Days were asked for alternative activities that could be held. There were a range of suggestions made – these are summarised in Table 12.

**Table 12** Suggested alternatives to existing monthly TPS Field Days

<b>Alternatives to Field Days</b>	<b>Number</b>
Bi-monthly or quarterly field days	6
Workshops - focused on techniques and camera use	3
Scavenger Hunts	1
Meetup/Walks - chance to socialise	1
Need to Diversify Membership	1
Emulate Famous Photographers	1

More detail on some of these alternatives is provided in the full responses by those surveyed. The greatest number of responses favoured less frequent field days and more focused workshops on camera use and photographic techniques.

Respondents who favoured continuation of field days were asked for suggestions on the type that should be conducted. As expected there was a broad range of suggestions, all of which are summarised in Table 13. The greatest interest was in the conduct of field days specifically targeting new/inexperienced members paired with

mentors and landscape. There were a number of other suggestions that need to be considered in the conduct of future field days.

**Table 13** Field Day Suggestions for the Future

<b>Possible Field Days that could be held</b>	<b>Response Numbers</b>
Focused on new/inexperienced members (with later learner meeting)+ experienced members mentoring	5
Portraits with models	2
Landscape (mountains/coastal/river sites) - bus trip	6
Bird of Prey	1
Social/Photo/BBQ Days	1
Events	2
Historical venues	1
Not too much physical exertion	1
Architecture	2
Pre-empt upcoming Set Subjects	1
Street walk	3
Photo Challenge	1
Local sport	1
Royal Shows	1
Wings and Wheels	1
Nature	1
Heavy horse day	1
Rodeo	1
Horse racing	1
Dog racing	1
Speedway	1
Astro Night	1
West of Toowoomba (weekend)	1

## Training Sessions

Respondents were asked about their attendance at the TPS Training Sessions held during 2024. Their responses are provided in Table 14.

**Table 14** TPS Training Attendance in 2024

<b>Training Sessions</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
The Digital Darkroom	22
Other Zoom Sessions	20
Photography Complete Course	19
Lightroom for Beginners	5
Guest Speaker Presentations	29
None of these	16

There was a good proportion of attendees at Training Sessions held although the number attending face-to-face training (the Lightroom for Beginners Workshop) was quite low. Around 30% of respondents attended none of the training provided.

Respondents were also asked if they had accessed any of the TPS Training Resources available through our website. Forty-one respondents indicated they had done so (41 respondents). Six respondents (11%) indicated they were not aware of these.

Respondents were asked to indicate their interest in a range of possible future training sessions that could be run. The results are presented in Table 15.

**Table 15** Interest by Respondents in Possible Future Training Sessions

Possible Training Sessions	No interest	Little Interest	Neutral	Interested	Very Interested
Understanding my camera	7	4	10	23	11
People photography	0	5	13	22	15
Landscape Photography	0	2	6	22	25
Nature Photography	1	2	9	21	22
Macro photography	1	4	11	18	21
Event Photography	2	11	17	19	6
Post-processing my images	1	1	7	21	25
Printing my images	6	6	8	24	11
Creating a portfolio website	10	5	15	18	7

There is clearly great interest in providing training activities in the following training:

- Landscape Photography
- Nature photography
- Macro photography
- Post processing of images
- Understanding my camera

Overall there was interest in most of the suggested possible future training sessions.

Respondents were also asked to suggest possible other training sessions that they would be interested in. There responses are provided in the list below:

- Special techniques: e.g. light painting, lighting techniques etc.
- I am still a learner when it comes to the photography that I share with people outside my family, so very open to all learning opportunities
- Photoshop workshops
- Creative Photography post processing
- Post processing images is of interest but as I do not have Lightroom it is of little interest.
- Sports photography - what makes a good/interesting image
- Most of these topics should be covered by a basics "how to photograph" course where members learn the basics of photography. People need to actually be going out to do this type of photography, sitting and listening to someone ramble on will not help.

- Lighting and portraiture
- Creative photography
- Editing that is not Lightroom.
- Explanation of equipment - e.g. flashes etc.
- Studying specific famous photographers
- Understanding all basics especially 'depth of field' & camera settings in different situations. 2. Grasping Lightroom enhancing & folders (basically anything basic in Lightroom). 3. Understanding how to submit pics to TPS monthly competitions via TPS website. 4. I know all such info is available but my learning style requires tutoring.
- Photographic accessories (recommended/waste of time)
- Entering external competitions
- Image composition prior to capture. How to frame an image either artistically and/or to best tell a story. What is best target within a frame to best tell a story. 2. Camera basics courses incorporating theory and practical components.
- Equipment we have purchased and don't know how to use

## Special Interest Groups

Respondents were asked for their feedback on the possible formation of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that could be formed within TPS. These groups would require an enthusiastic leader and would determine how they would meet and operate under the TPS Rules. Their interest in participation in proposed SIGs is provided in Table 16.

**Table 16** Interest in Participation in Special Interest Groups within TPS

<b>SIGs</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Maybe</b>	<b>No Response</b>
Macro	29	6	20	0
Portraiture	23	14	16	2
Creative	23	13	16	3
Monochrome	34	5	13	3
Prints	12	20	17	6
Nature	31	7	15	2
Audio-Visuals	8	27	13	7
Astro/Nightsky	17	13	18	7

There is strong interest in a number of these possible SIGs. In particular in Monochrome, Nature, Macro, Portraiture and Creative SiGs. A significant number of respondents indicated they may be interested in the SIGs.

Respondents were also asked if there were other SIGs they would suggest could be established. These other possible SIGs and respondent number are summarised in Table 17.

**Table 17** Suggested other SIGs that could be established

<b>Other SIGs Suggested</b>	<b>Respondents</b>
New member/unskilled group	2
Architecture/Urban Landscape	3
Artistic Photo Perception Group	1
Landscape/Scapes	4
Specific camera groups	1
Still Life	1
Special Effects	1
Street Photography/Social Documentary	3
Travel Photography	1
Mobile Phone Photography	1

There are a range of suggested SIGs here – the most popular are landscape/scapes, Architecture/Urban landscapes, Street Photography/Social Documentary and a new member/unskilled group.

### **Photographic Honours**

Only a small number of respondents possess photographic honours – six in all. Of these all possess honours from the Australian Photographic Society. Only one respondent holds honours from other photographic organisations (FIAP, PSA and GPU).

Fifteen respondents (27%) indicated they would be interested in knowing more about obtaining honours with 22 (40%) suggesting they may be interested.

TPS should provide more information on the Australian Photographic Society honour system and aid members in applying for honours if they wish to do so.

### **TPS Club Feedback**

Respondents were asked what they saw as their greatest challenge in their photography at the moment. A summary of their responses is provided in Table 18.

**Table 18** Greatest Photographic Challenge for Respondents

<b>Greatest Photographic Challenge</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Time Constraints	11	22%
Equipment Knowledge	7	14%
Physical condition	2	4%
Post-production	9	18%
Photo Choice for Competition	1	2%
Taking Photos	22	44%

The greatest challenge appears to be the taking of photos – often this related to understanding of their equipment, photographic artistry and time constraints. Post-production skill also identified as a challenge.



Respondents were also asked what they felt was the most important thing that TPS should be doing. Their responses are summarised in Table 19.

**Table 19** The Most Important thing TPS should be doing

<b>Most important thing TPS Should be Doing</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Training	22	47%
Encouraging	13	28%
Socialising	6	13%
Post-processing	3	6%
Own Clubhouse	1	2%
Fund raising	1	2%
Interact with Community	1	2%
Image Feedback	2	4%
Sound Equipment Use	1	2%
Mentoring	2	4%

It was evident that TPS should be providing training in an encouraging way for members. There were also a number of responses related to the judging process (some felt it was really valuable and others that it was demoralising). More effort was needed to provide encouraging training to members – in the taking of photographs and their post-processing.

The final survey question asked respondents to suggest where TPS should be directing its energies and resources. Twenty-seven respondents provided answers to this question – some of which simply referred back to the earlier question as to what TPS should be doing. The responses were in some cases very detailed. A summary of these is provided in Table 20.

**Table 20** Where TPS should direct energy and resources

<b>Directing future energy and resources</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>% of those responding</b>
Training	8	50%
Social Events	6	38%
Learner Group	3	19%
Own Clubhouse	2	13%
Fundraising	3	19%
Exhibitions	2	13%
Image Feedback	1	6%
Mentoring	2	13%

There were again a strong emphasis on provision of training for members and providing social events. A learner group (SIG) appeared again along with fundraising and mentoring. The more detailed responses need to be considered by the TPS Management Committee in planning 2025 activities.

**APPENDIX 1**  
**TPS Member Survey 2025**

**Demographics**

1. What is your gender?  
 Female     Male     Prefer not to say
2. What is your age?  
 Less than 18 years     18 – 29 years     30 – 49 years  
 50 - 69 years     Over 70 years     Prefer not to say
3. Are you:  
 A full time student     Working full time     Working part time  
 Retired     Other

**Club Membership**

4. How long have you been a member of Toowoomba Photographic Society  
 Less than 1 year     1 to 5 years     More than 5 years
5. What Grade are you presently assigned to within TPS?  
 B Grade     A Grade     Salon Grade     Not yet assigned a grade

**Monthly Aggregate Competition Participation**

6. Do you regularly enter images into our Monthly Aggregate Competition?  
 Yes     No
7. If you answered No to question 6, what is the reason/s you have not entered our Monthly Aggregate Competition – please provide details below:


8. Are you happy with the current competition night format where the entire night is devoted to the display of every competition entry?  
 Yes     No
9. Would you prefer an abbreviated competition display – say Merits and Honors with comments on these images by the judge, leaving time for other activities? (Judges still asked to make comment on all images in their written appraisal)  
 Yes     No
10. If you answered Yes to Question 9 please indicate which additional activities you would like presented on our Aggregate Competition Night – please select multiple items if you wish?  
 Guest speaker  
 More time for socialising  
 Updates on future club activities  
 Presentation of work by selected club member  
 Short tutorial session  
 YouTube Photographic videos  
 Other suggestions

11. If you selected "Other" in Question 10 please provide details here.


**Field Days**

TPS regularly holds photographic field days for our members. We would like your feedback on these

12. Have you attended a Field Day in 2024

- Yes     No

13. If you answered Yes in Question 9 what do you feel could have been done to improve the experience?


14. If you answered No to Question 11. Can you provide feedback on why you did not attend and what would it have made it more attractive to attend?


15. Should we continue with Monthly Field Days (given the poor attendance in 2024)?

- Yes  No

16. If you answered No in question 11. Can you suggest alternative photographic opportunities we should hold instead of field days that you might attend?


17. If you answered Yes in question 11. Please suggest possible field days that TPS could hold that you would be interested in attending?


### Photography Training

18. TPS conducts training opportunities for our members. These include Zoom meeting sessions and guest speakers. We have also conducted workshops for our members. Could you please indicate which of our training sessions you have attended this year:

- The Digital Darkroom Sessions (run by Margaret Kebble)
- Other Zoom Sessions (Camera Q&A, Image Review Night)
- Workshops (Lightroom for Beginners)
- Guest Speaker presentations

19. If we were to hold further training sessions please indicate your interest in possible future topics (use scale of 1= No interest, 2 = little Interest, 3 = neutral, 4 = interested, 5 = very interested):

- Understanding my camera
- People photography
- Landscape photography
- Nature photography
- Macro photography
- Event photography
- Post-processing my images
- Printing my images
- Creating a Portfolio website

20. Please indicate any further training topics you would be interested in attending if they do not appear in Question 19.


21. Have you ever accessed the training resources on the TPS website:

- Yes     No     Did not know they existed

### Special Interest Groups

22. TPS is considering the formation of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that can meet via Zoom or face-to-face. Please indicate your interest in possible SIGs in the list below:

- |   |                              |                             |                                |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Macro          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portraiture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monochrome     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prints         | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature         | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visuals  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Astro/Nightsky | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe |

23. Please suggest possible other SIGs you would be interested in joining.


**Photographic Honours**

Photographers have the opportunity to acquire photographic honours through a range of organisations – these include:

- Australian Photographic Society (APS)
- The International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP)
- Photographic Society of America (PSA)
- Global Photographic Union (GPU)

24. Do you have photographic honours  Yes  No

25. If you answered Yes please provide details below of your current photographic honours.


26. Are you interested in finding out more about obtaining Photographic Honours?  
 Yes  No  Maybe

**Club Feedback**

We are seeking overall feedback on the performance of the club from your perspective. Could you please answer the following questions.

27. What do you consider to be the greatest challenge for you in your photography?


28. What is the most important thing our club should be doing?


29. Where should we be directing our energies and resources into the future?


## APPENDIX 2 COMPETITIONS

### Detailed Reasons for Not Entering Competitions

- Was a bit slack in 2024 but will return in 2025
- At the moment have lost interest in photography. Intention is to resume attending meetings, hoping that this will ignite my interest
- In a slump at the moment having just moved to a new area.
- Monthly competitions are repetitive, the same comments, from the same judges, there is never any new insight, new ways of thinking. Comments are often copy pasted with minor variation. There's almost no point in receiving feedback as often it's just derogatory.
- Time, commitments, and health reason have been why I have not entered in then last 2 years. I am hoping to do more 2025
- I don't find much time to take photographs, or review my images. Time poor! Happy to observe, interact and learn about photography. I do plan to apply the knowledge when I have time. Retirement plans!
- I understand that most people says it's the best way to learn, but I just take photos for my own satisfaction. Skill nights (both zoom & at DeMolay) are beneficial and just talking to club members is excellent.
- don't have any worth while entries
- Used to be a regular but dropped out over the last 12 months. No specific reason. The winners are very good, and it became a bit difficult to lose all the time without making any progress. I became interested in some family activities as well.
- Just rejoined club but intend to enter some of the competition categories.
- Lethargy. Embarrassed due to being Newbie to photography with minimal knowkedge of camera settings & subject setup/skills etc.
- Not confident in camera skills. 2. Poor knowledge how to use Lightroom development & enhancement. 3. Therefore cannot submit images. 4. Because of poor camera basics & Lightroom skills, I'm too embarrassed to enter monthly comps & mix/compare my images with other member high quality entries.
- not taking many photos at the moment
- lack of instruction on requirements and method of entering
- Too lazy to get entries in on time
- 2024 was a bugged of a year, a few health concerns consumed my time and resources
- Too busy judging

## APPENDIX 3 FIELD DAYS

### Reasons for Not Attending Field Days

- Travel distance, especially having to overnight. Also only one car and husband was working. Several of the venues held no interest for me. I would prefer local areas for field days and not just racing cars.
- Sometimes it didn't work out that I could attend or possibly wasn't of interest to me
- Takes me an hour to drive to Toowoomba - adding extra time to travel to Field Days is out of the question. Have found in the past that these days are unfriendly, and "clicky". Members are not interested in speaking to people that are not in their group
- Recently moved home so too busy to attend at the moment.
- Love to far away atm.
- Difficult to travel long distances & costs involved. Two - three hour photo session demands full day or weekend travel. I feel one hour radius from Toowoomba is sufficient. I also feel Tmba district has a lot to suit photos.
- Excessive travel & associated costs. 2. I'm an inexperienced learner & no accomodation for my skill level was promoted to entice me. 3. Field Day duration should not exceed 3hrs unless full day/weekend.
- Not available to attend
- I live over 4 hours away, so attending is difficult.
- don't go to many gatherings these days
- Live too far away unfortunately.
- car pooling would be a help for ones that dont drive out of town willing to put in for cost of petrol
- Wasn't a club member at that time
- Not having a driver licence plus my disability limits safe access and mobility (e.g. surfaces that are wheelchair-friendly). So full accessibility and enjoyment suffer.
- We are currently travelling full time in our Caravan and was unable to attend
- Live interstate
- Not able to attend
- It is the distance for me. I live in Brisbane and am a care for my wife.
- Distance. I live in Brisbane and am a carer for my wife.
- I was unable to attend for a variety of reasons: health, being away, on a Sunday, etc
- Events weren't publicised well.
- a better opportunity for those attending to be informed when and where some months there was no mention of the field days outing
- I slowed right down with photography in 2024. So little interaction with any TPS event.
- Other commitments
- Appears to be no instruction offered with field days
- Time and resources were not on my side in 2024. My photography had to take a back seat.
- Distance is a big Problem
- New member
- Field days have clashed with other events that I attended
- I would like to see more local outings like the park one or short tutorial /workshop sessions from experienced members. It would help those who are unable to travel far or do not have a great deal of extra money for travel, accommodation etc. I think it could be much simpler closer to home field days

## What can be done to improve field day experience

- Attended only the night photography session. The short duration fitted with my limited time availability. No suggestions on improving it.
- The Park hunt was great and well organised
- I thoroughly enjoyed the experience being new to the area. Unfortunately personal travel has stopped me from attending more field days. Travel will stop me from attending more field days this year but I think they are important.
- I think the field days are quite good as they are. Perhaps if we supplied a drink or two?
- Maybe organise group trips by bus
- Not sure.
- Have mentors available for the less experienced photographers.
- Maybe more early starts or later finishes to coincide with golden hours
- Potentially having someone designated to see if any of the members need help with their cameras.
- I'm happy with the experiences I had at 2024 Field Days and can't think of ways to improve things. Disappointing though about the poor attendance at a number of the field days.
- Have not attended a lot of field days but have been satisfied with those attended.
- Members tended to sit around and take their own photos. Again, would have preferred discussion and suggestions from senior members.
- Would like club to consider more trips outside the Toowoomba area, to other rural towns or look further to Brisbane or coastal locations. How about a weekend at a location, it could be a structured or unstructured event where people organise own accommodation and come together for the event or socialising over dinner.
- Unfortunately, several were cancelled due to weather (one for rain and one for excessive heat). Each of these involved an overnight option which I was particularly interested in as it provided an opportunity for astro and some socialisation. I attended Lake Broadwater which was well attended but a little loose in its structure - my experiences thus far is that there is little or no attempt at providing introductions to attendees - there appears to be some expectation that everyone knows each other (and this is the same at Judging Nights). My first field day saw only one person speak to me - this tainted my experience and willingness to attend future field days. The treasure hunt did include introductions and small group activities that appeared to work well. I suspect that if you looked at the profile of the attendees you may find that the majority are "active" members anyway who are probably Salon and A Grade and aspiring B Grade members. Given that only 50% of members submit to the monthly judging (and this is predominantly A Grade and Salon Grade) begs the question - how does the Society engage the other 50% (many of which are newer B Grade members who ultimately do not rejoin)?
- A photo challenge. Maybe with yearly accumulative points towards a prize at the end of the year.



## Suggested Alternatives to Field Days

- Perhaps some more 'scavenger hunts' which are fun and give people a chance to socialize.
- Workshops eg. portraiture, selecting correct exposure etc and practical camera usage.
- Maybe do one a quarter rather than 1 per month
- What is the question ???
- I answered 'yes' but am unsure. I think bi-monthly competition/aggregate field days mixed with in-between bi-monthly field days focused on training/upskilling member camera & subject knowledge.
- Maybe themed coffee meet up and walks
- I'm not able to attend field days
- Need to diversify the club. Members are an aged population who don't like to go anywhere but to take flowers or bird pictures. Need to consider attending local events / functions. Try and bring new blood back to tps
- no
- Pick a famous photographer, study their work and try to takes similar pictures which are then discussed at a meeting
- More short skills events; like Jilly's nights of old.
- havent got a solution
- No suggestions. The opportunity to join with people doing what they enjoy doing and learning from them is my desire, but rarely do the timings align.
- Bimonthly field days may work better if the monthly ones are poorly attended.
- Maybe alternate months
- Think that monthly is too often, could try every second month for a start.
- Less FD's more engaging topics
- Small group instruction with various stations featuring different techniques. Photography can be a very technical pastime. Modern cameras have a multitude of setting with the majority of users probably using automatic. We need to encourage people to step out from auto but also experience different ways of photographing the same subject.  
Eg: landscape - stations could be - DOF; focus stacking; composition; lighting; effects ....  
people experience a brief introduction - take a few shots - move to the next station - could be a review/feedback session at the end where each person submits one image for a group discussion and feedback...

I think the majority of members want to be able to use their camera better and take better shots - the club needs to appeal to the masses - not the specific individual needs - from his perspective I don't see the point in having sessions on lighting setups when the average member does not have access to such equipment ...

## Possible Field Days that Could be Held

- Bird of prey photoshoots.  
Portrait tutorials (as inexpensive as possible).  
Landscape outings. Not all members are familiar with the area.
- not at the moment
- More social/photo/barbecue days in areas with barbecues/shelters etc enabling members to get to meet each other, mingle & share knowledge. A small fee from members to cover food etc. Not to go ahead unless minimal numbers to assist or attend. 2. Hold a field day exclusively for inexperienced (newbie) camera users with attendees pics submitted for critique during a later dedicated learner meeting. 3. Currently, TPS mixes all member skill levels in one 'barrel'. Its daunting for 'newbies' to compare themselves with highly skilled others.
- Refer to 16. Also...1. Field days that do not demand too much physical exertion or agility. 2. Sunset (Golden Hour) landscape & architecture opportunities. 3. Field days focused on new/inexperienced members.
- The members attending should have the benefit of mixing with like-minded photographers and others may learn from the more qualified photographers.
- Events, historical venues, sessions with models
- I'd have to research to answer properly
- I live interstate so can't comment on venues etc. However field days or outings or whatever are very important for photographic clubs. Members get to know other members, information is passed on etc.

Perhaps there's something wrong with the subjects for field days. Are they too male oriented, too female oriented, too far from Toowoomba given the club's demographics? Are participants given a challenge and what support is there prior to event to execute the event photographically?

The Questionnaire doesn't indicate how many people are attending. Even if only 4 - 7 people are attending, you should consider them a success.

- Even though I am not able to attend, I think Field days are a great motivator for club members to get out. It also brings members together in a social setting
- I couldn't make it
- Street walk, Photo challenge, Local Sports (eg Twmba Marathon)
- tutorial days with experienced members ASSISTING less experienced not belittling those that don't know. the saying " there are no stupid questions only stupid answers" should be applied. No I have not attended field days as I only hear about them after the fact
- Suggestion - only organize them if you have a minimum number who have agreed to attend, otherwise too much work for the organizers.
- Royal shows, Wings and Wheels but also landscape (you cant beat Australia's Back Yard)
- not sure
- Street. Architecture
- Field days are good for members to get together. I would attend if for clashes.
- Hosting various workshops with hands on assistance at different local locations focusing on one aspect of photography. would be very helpful in developing peoples skills. Good for socialisation too. Very heavily focussed on competitions at the moment
- Nature locations and event occasions.
- Heavy horse Day...Allora. March 15, 2025  
Horse Racing/Rodeo  
Dog Racing

- Bus group trips to mountains, coastal or rivers sites
- A trip to the beach either for sunrise or sunset.  
Speedway.
- Street photography eg Toowoomba CBD, astro night, somewhere on the coast (eg Snapper Rocks), weekend somewhere west of Toowoomba.
- No suggestions, but would accept whatever decision the committee makes on the future of field days.
- A guided weekend landscape workshop. Field days could pre-empt upcoming set subjects

## APPENDIX 4 TRAINING

### Further training topics interested in

- Special techniques: e.g. light painting, lighting techniques etc.
- I am still a learner when it comes to the photography that I share with people outside my family, so very open to all learning opportunities
- Photoshop workshops.
- Creative Photography post processing
- Post processing images is of interest but as I do not have Lightroom it is of little interest.
- Sports photography - what makes a good/interesting image
- Most of these topics should be covered by a basics "how to photograph" course where members learn the basics of photography. People need to actually be going out to do this type of photography, sitting and listening to someone ramble on will not help.
- Lighting and portraiture
- Creative photography
- Editing that is not Lightroom.  
Explanation of equipment - eg. Flashes etc.
- Studying specific famous photogrpahers
- Understanding all basics esp 'depth of field' & camera settings in different situations. 2. Grasping Lightroom enhancing & folders (basically anything basic in Lightroom). 3. Understanding how to submit pics to TPS monthly competitions via TPS website. 4. I know all such info is available but my learning style requires tutoring.
- Photographic accessories (recommended/waste of time)  
Entering external competitions
- Image composition prior to capture. How to frame an image either artistically and/or to best tell a story. What is best target within a frame to best tell a story. 2. Camera basics courses incorporating theory and practical components.
- Equipment we have purchased and don't know how to use

## **APPENDIX 5 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

### **Suggested Possible Special Interest Groups**

- Architecture (primarily historical/heritage).
- New members & unskilled learners group.
- New member introduction/social meetup twice per year.
- New member & low skilled photographers group.
- Camera basics & lightroom group.
- Training your artistic photo perception group. That is, train the photographer to seek out the unusual, different composition of subjects leaning more to the artistic & Story Telling.
- Golden or blue photography.
- Architecture, urban landscapes.
- Intimate landscapes
- Landscapes or other scapes.
- Macro is of interest but I don't think I have the proper equipment for it.
- Scapes
- Scapes
- Specific camera groups
- Still Life Photography and Special Effects
- Street photography
- Architecture
- Street photography
- Street photography, social documentary
- travel photography
- Using the mobile phone to take images and to edit all in the phone with Lightroom.

## APPENDIX 6

### CLUB FEEDBACK

#### Greatest Challenges in Your Photography

- "Seeing" what I want to photograph..... and deciding how far to go (or not go) in post.
- Lack of camera basics.
- Unsure of which genre I show potential in, that is, I ask for help in understanding what I could succeed with.
- My fitness level is low which restricts me from scenarios involving long walks, acrobatics (crouching, bending, twisting, stretching).
- My belief I'm a poor photographer due to low camera usage understanding
- TPS monthly competitions displaying very high quality images whereas I compare myself & become reluctant to enter because my images do not rate.
- I'm unskilled with Lightroom development, therefore I cannot (if I wanted to) enter images in TPS monthly comps.
- I'm interested in most genres of photography but don't know which I'm best at or should focus more on. I tend to get confused/frustrated with camera settings when changing genres.
- Allocating time to do photography and review/refine images.
- Being able to access the right time of day eg. sunrise and sunset. I don't want to wake my husband early to be able to do thi. s and it is not safe to do it on my own. (He wouldn't allow it).
- Being able to get out and take new photos as have had issues with vehicles in multiple in family and that becomes #1 issue to get family to work rather than take photos. Motivation especially when I don't like being in salon grade - the harsh critique is very off-putting
- Choosing my photos to enter. When seeing other entries I know I could have chosen better.
- Composition, story telling, monochrome
- Confidence
- Creating an engaging image or and image that connects to the viewer. Going beyond just another image.
- Depth of Field is a problem to me.
- Developing visual literacy
- Distance to travel
- doing great
- Finding good subject matter
- Getting enough time to go out photographing
- getting it right
- Getting it right in camera
- Getting out in wheelchair-favourable places within a 1-day travel (due ot needfor oxygen at night)
- Getting out to take photos.
- Getting quality time to go out to capture images
- Getting scenes other than trees, flowers and rocks
- Going out on my own and not having models etc to work with
- Good Photo and Editing
- Ideas and the creative process.
- Technical aspects.
- Improving skills - mainly p.p.
- Keeping up with technology.

- Learning enough to put into practice.
- Learning how to use manual settings for different types of genres.
- learning more skills in both capturing and editing my photos
- Locating locations/subjects/something new
- Mastering my equipment
- Motivation, company, new places to photograph
- Motivation.
- Not getting too excited when doing wildlife photography.
- Nothing of note.
- Post production work/touch-ups.
- Regaining my mojo
- scheduling time to pick up the camera
- Taking enough photos
- Time
- Time
- Time - to go out and do it!
- time and locations
- To separate the technical from the emotional.
- Turning photography and videography into a career.  
Pushing the limits of my own creativity.
- Understanding my camera
- Understanding my camera and setting for the optimum photo
- understanding my camera and use of Lightroom/photoshop
- Understanding what is a good image and how to post-process it,

## Most Important Thing the Club should be Doing

- Encouraging photographers not to overprocess their images. At last there is a trend world wide away from the HDR, oversaturating & over sharpening but I feel most of our judges are still 5-10 years behind the times!
- Education/Training. Help new & other unskilled enthusiasts get to know camera basics, subject appreciation & image enhancement/ development via various software.
- Such training should be progressive that is, unskilled members should remain in that category for either a 'set' duration while being trained or have 'accomplished' a pre-determined stage by attendance, achieving a pre-requisite or regular proven image improvement. This is similar to what TPS already has but the difference here is that 'newbies' are grouped & attention is prioritised to them and moreover they would feel on an equal basis with others, feel comfortable to socialise and assist each other with photography.
- After proven proficiency, The 'newbie' moves to the next category. Much like new drivers, first a 'learners permit, then two categories of "P plates" & then "open" licence. In their own time, they would feel more comfortable entering images in TPS monthly comps & outings etc. with a view, then, on personal gradings.
- TPS should hold 'get to know each other' social meetups (like barbecues/sausage sizzle) at various local venues for regional members.
- Out-of-District members (internet etc) could be catered via a Zoom social with games, quizzes, competitions, personal introductions or invited speakers.
- First, thankyou for this survey. I feel valued & believe I might have an influence in my club's future and, importantly, my own improved camera skills.
- I feel its important to assist new & unskilled members continuously throughout the year.
- Committee should develop a Long Term strategy to acquire its own clubhouse (ownership). TPS has a long community history in Tmba, its about time it "grew up" & purchased its own purpose-built premises. I understand its complicated but "no start" "no success"!
- Committee should consider attracting regular income streams other than via memberships etc. There should be a committee dedicated to attracting income.
- a meeting place for interested photographers with opportunities to improve skills and knowledge
- As previously mentioned, we need to be getting out in the community more. At the moment we cater for a small percentage of the community. We should interface with Toowoomba regional council for events, be sponsoring or providing services to community events and such. For TPS to evolve, improve and essentially continue into the future we need members who are passionate photographers. We've even gone out of our way to exclude families, young people by removing the family membership option and making concessional as 16+. May as well just advertise TPS as retiree's only.
- Basically I think the club is doing a reasonable job in trying to help people.
- Being more friendly. Major reason that I ceased travelling the hour to Toowoomba was that people were clicky and not inviting others into their group
- Educating and encouraging members in the art of photography.
- Encourage people to find their own path in photography... and give them guidance along the way.
- Encouragement and teaching of less experienced and beginner photographers
- encouraging and teaching skills to those who need it.
- Encouraging enjoyment of photography.
- Community.
- encouraging everyone
- Encouraging members to get to know each other
- Encouraging members to go out and shoot anything.



- Encouraging people, a fairer scoring system.
- For external competitions we should helping our members who have submitted images to these competitions to make them better before submitting to the external body. Refer to submission by Pete McDonald at 2023 committee meeting for a different format.
- Giving feedback on members photos - both positive and negative. Also training members to give critical feedback.
- Having a PA system manager to look after that part of an evening's presentation ... so people even in the third row can hear ... AND insisting that speakers know how to use a mic. and speak as if there is an audience out there and not at 'conversational' sound level. I AM serious!
- Helping each person to understand their equipment and then applying it. Also critiquing photos helps understand what makes a good photo.
- Helping members to enjoy and improve their photography.
- I think more regular sessions on camera familiarisation would be helpful for new members and also act as re-familiarisation for more experienced members.
- I think there has been a lot of positive changes in the direction the club has taken. I think the focus should be on socialisation and sharing the knowledge the experienced members can pass on to the beginner photographers.
- I think this is a great club and that's why I have been a member for so long even while living interstate.  
Sometimes it is frustrating with the judge's comments but they don't reflect the scores they give but not sure if this can be changed.
- improving understanding of photography
- Looking at mentoring
- Making the members more proficient with several genre's of photography
- My experience is pretty neutral for feedback apart from ensuring new comers feel welcome and wanted
- not sure
- Promoting community amongst its members (the SIG's is a good thing)
- Providing the social opportunities for people interested in photography to meet, share knowledge and encourage each other.
- Providing training opportunities to members and mentoring support
- Spending more time actually helping people improve their photography rather than the heavy emphasis on competitions. Hands on practical work with one's camera.
- Supporting other members to learn
- Supporting photographers and photography.
- supporting you members as you do
- Take the initiative to interact, respect and nurture, our fellow members and we will grow and prosper as a club. Reflect on our past, engage with the present and look to the future.
- Teaching and mentoring beginners and intermediaries, so that TPS can become more competitive when we enter interclub competitions.
- teaching by example in your comp nights there are no mentions of error , failed shots and the process to get to the images shown they cant see the process to get to the shown results on screen ,when members look at these and compare them to themselves they may feel they cant compete
- Teaching how to use your camera
- Teaching tutorials. Focus stacking, HDR etc
- The monthly competition is very important and am very grateful for having them available on Zoom.
- This survey is a great idea to find out what people want in their photography journey
- To promote informal as well as formal discussion.

- Training, excursions.
- Trying to improve the standard of our photographic process, from previsualisation, planning the outing/trip, getting the right composition, technical issues with the photo taking, processing and then printing the photo

## Where TPS should be directing energy and resources

- Educating & training particularly with new & camera inexperienced members.
- Welcome social barbecues/sausage sizzles at various local venues. A small nominal fee to cover costs etc.
- Form a TPS group of learner members with their own recognised progression standards or prerequisites before advancing to open TPS competitions & grading.
- Committee should develop a long-term strategy to acquire its own purpose-built premises & a regular income stream eg: sale of copyright-free donated or small commissioned quality images from members.
- Education/training. Keep TPS monthly comps & grading YES but give some focus on unskilled new or disenfranchised members who are reluctant to participate.
- Education in software image development.
- Uniting members in intimate social gatherings apart from field days
- TPS should investigate income-earning avenues. I suggest members could donate a quality image (copyright free) to TPS for TPS to sell by any method. Or TPS could hold an image gallery display at some public venue where all images are sold copyright free to TPS & displaying photographers name.
- TPS should have a long-term strategy of acquiring its OWN CLUBHOUSE It would involve member enthusiasm, TPS positive income stream, TPS budget & local & state government assistance (grants, VIP networking etc).
- A difficult question. Probably just continue on from Question 28. I think that the monthly competition has taken over the show. My comments are put forward with the best intentions in mind. May have to appeal for patience and constructive comments.
- Better answered by those who can attend in person.
- Building some sort of photography to support photographers and photography.
- Continue providing advice to questions/issues/ problems to learners at field excursions.
- Encourage interaction and sharing between members (Jilly's nights), show and tell, Q&A
- Encouraging new members with training
- Feedback on images is still so important to improve skills.
- Getting together to establish better relationships within the club
- Guest tutorials.
- I stepped back from photography in 2024 but from a distance, it looks like the committee is really putting in a huge effort and doing a good job. All the best in 2025
- Inexpensive workshops would be good. Members could supply items and/ or models for various genres. They could converse with more experienced photographers and learn while hands on. Everyone could learn or relearn in practical terms.
- Keep doing the same. I enjoy when we have new judges for the monthly comps.
- Maintaining the current monthly competition which also should incorporate the education and encouragement of members; instruction on specific topics including those suggested in this survey.
- Mentoring
- more learning opportunities and social events
- New Memberships
- Fund-raising
- Not really sure if the direction/energy needs to be changed.
- passing on knowledge of the photographic process how encouraging those starting on this journey
- People contact. Too much Zoom is anti-social.
- Providing support for new photographers.

- Providing training opportunities and the chance for members to display their work
- Reducing the churn of new members; positive member engagement; higher retention rate. The club is largely geared towards competitions. It misses those that either get burnt by their first poor judging experience or are too scared to submit. The fact that only half the membership submits (ie. over 100 members - but only about 100 images (2 images each) submitted each month = about half of the members) in the monthly competition says something about the current focus - add this with the high number of new members who do not renew needs further consideration. Consider how many (relatively few) people attend judging night (inc Zoom) - on a "good" night 30 present and 10 zoom - less than half the membership.