

FRANK TURNER AWARD - 2023

Each year the Frank Turner Award Committee recognizes a member with the Club's most prestigious award, The Frank Turner Trophy. First presented in 1988, the award honours the ongoing dedication and contributions of a member to the Club and their demonstrated excellence in the art of photography. It also acknowledges the example set by those being distinguished and the value that we attach to their service to the club.



Sandhill Crane - Clive Townley

The selection of the winner of the trophy is traditionally made by the last three winners independently from the executive of the Club. This year's committee consists of Richard Webber (2020-21), Jacqui James (2021-22) and Richard Letourneau (2022-23). There are no established award criteria; the decision is left to the discretion of the selectors. The winners are always accomplished members who have made a significant contribution to the Club over an extended period of time. The committee was unanimous in its decision and we are proud to name Clive Townley as this year's recipient of the Frank Turner Award.

Clive has been an enthusiastic member since September 1st, 2008, and has made significant contributions to the Club. For the last 15 years, he holds the unique distinction of co-chairing Members' Night longer than any other individual in the history of the Club. His dedication and ongoing contribution is unmatched and has contributed greatly to the success of the regularly scheduled Members' Night meetings.

Member's night is a unique opportunity for any member to share their images, their techniques, their knowledge and their questions on any subject matter related to photography. Clive notes that "there is a great deal of talent and photographic skill in our Club and every Members' Night is a window into that talent."

Clive has been instrumental in working diligently behind the scenes through canvassing members for submissions and ideas, including inviting new members to share their work.

Clive's earliest experience in photography was in Auckland, New Zealand, as a member of his school camera club.

Later, he worked as a nightclub and wedding photographer to support his university education. Clive notes that “like every Kiwi of his generation...” he was compelled to see the rest of the world. It was 36 years before he got back.

Initially, Clive sought inspiration from his friends’ high contrast black and white film images and notably, from Federico Fellini. He used his flat’s linen closet as a darkroom.

In 1999, during a trip to Argentina, Clive discovered the benefits of digital photography with a Nikon Coolpix camera. Happy to be rid of stained fingers and regulating temperatures, he embraced this new technology. He has used a wide variety of Nikon equipment, over the years.

Clive was a regular contributor to the former Close-Up magazine. He shared his personal experiences and photography insights in a wide range of topics, including Havana Games (March 2015), Shooting Sports (May-June 2019), and Backcountry Photography (May-June 2021). I quote from his member’s profile (Close-Up February 2017): “I try to avoid rules and feel that although rules make for good photos, breaking the rules often makes for awesome photos”.



He joined the camera Club to find out if his pictures had any merit. Clive, like the rest of us, learned that entering competitions can be a humbling experience at first, but through perseverance and hard work one’s photography improves.

Clive is a very accomplished photographer as evidenced in part through his numerous placings in Club competitions, both digital images and prints. In 2011, he received 1st for his monochrome prints “Tillicum Club” and “All Washed Up”; in February 2013 he received a 2nd place for his mono print “The Storm Watchers”; in October 2015 open print “Tarpoon Explosion”; September 2016, 2nd for his Theme image “King of the Road”; and in July 2019 he placed 1st in the annual competition for his Advanced digital wildlife image “Sandhill Crane”.

Thank you Clive for your dedication and long standing support for the Club. We have all benefited from your contributions.