

Frank Turner Award Winner 2014: Scott Laird

The Frank Turner Award is the most prestigious award given by the Victoria Camera club. This award was created to honour Frank Turner, a long-time member of the club. Frank Turner was a very accomplished photographer who won many awards and recognition for his art. He was also an important and vital member of the club. He served on the executive in several positions over the years including President, but more than that he taught and shared his passion for photography selflessly to other members, especially new members. When he passed away, his Pentax camera was made into this trophy to honour him and his outstanding contributions to the club.

The selection committee for this award, who are the last 3 active recipients, makes its selection based on and reflecting the example and qualities of Frank Turner. This year's committee, Carole Valkenier, Ian Pope (Carol and Ian were joint recipients), Garry Schaefer and Richard James, had no difficulty in selecting this year's recipient. This person started in photography as a teenager with a Box Brownie camera and from there transitioned to digital in 2002 with a Canon PowerShot camera although he still shoots film as well.

This person, as I will briefly recount, has participated in all aspects of the club and its activities and has made significant contributions and provided service to the club and its members. Not only is this member an accomplished photographer, this member is eager to learn and explore new techniques, and to pass this knowledge on to other club members. In addition to this you took over an executive position in 2009, 2 years after joining the club. 2009 was a year of change in the management of the club and this member rose to the challenge of learning on the job and developing a key component of the club's current management system.

Whilst this member does not routinely participate in club competitions your images are certainly exemplary and could well serve as an example of creativity and technical competence that all our members could aspire to. They can sometimes be found in our club image galleries. Your images and articles have also appeared in several issues of *Close-Up* including the cover image.

You were also instrumental in the founding of one of our successful SIGs where you lent your knowledge and experience tenable other members to advance their knowledge of this aspect of photography.

I think by now most of you have probably figured out who this year's recipient is. If not, then I think it's time to reveal the secret. This year's recipient of the Frank Turner Award is Scott Laird.

Scott, you stepped forward and joined the executive at a time when we needed a fresh and very thorough review of the financial aspects of our operations. Without any detailed training in accounting you stepped forward and took on the position of Treasurer and developed an accounting system that met our needs. At first you relied on assistance from 2 other members, but once the basics were established you took on the task, you kept the executive on track and ensured that we were running in a sound financial manner. One of the features you put in place was the creation of a reserve fund so that we did not have to go begging to members the next time we need to replace our computer equipment and projector. Your thoroughness in keeping the books made it easy for the Directors to see where we were at financially and ensured through your reporting that money was collected and payments made in a timely manner.

Turning to your photography, you are well known for your prowess in lighting, creativity, black-and-white imaging, HDR, panoramas and for your collection of photographic equipment, you are a true gearophile!

We understand that you are not only a photographer but also a collector of photographic equipment and have a stock of cameras and lenses etc. spanning many manufacturers and years including Canon, Leica (with Zeiss lenses), Fuji, and in the medium format realm Hasselblad and Pentax. In addition to cameras you have also been collecting lighting equipment which you make extensive use of in studio photography for both portraits and still-lives. Your collection of cameras is not sitting on bookshelves gathering dust, but many are still in use which allows you to practice such archaic skills as external light metering and manual focusing.

You were instrumental in setting up our Lighting SIG which has certainly been appreciated by the many members who have participated and benefited from your knowledge and skills.

Notwithstanding the digital age, we gather that you are still shooting film, processing it in a small darkroom and scanning it for further digital processing and printing. We

understand that you have been taking a number of photographic courses at the Luz Gallery and also through Vancouver Photo Workshops and other providers. These include exploring more esoteric photographic printing processes that have been used in the past as well as long exposure and portraiture courses.

When it comes to digital processing you believe “simpler is better” and use almost exclusively Lightroom and the Google/Nik suite of plug-ins. I think it’s true to say that you have shown how the Nik suite can be used and have convinced more than one member of the club to follow in your footsteps.

Scott, your approach to the club, to photography, your willingness to help and your photographic creativity are an example to all our members.

I ask you to come forward and accept the Frank Turner Award for 2013.