

Manawatu Camera Club

Proposed Buddy System for new members

It is generally agreed that for new members there are a couple of months where they may feel a little lost and unsure of how to make the most of their membership and to feel involved.

The following idea is proposed as a means of facilitating an introduction into the club for new members that makes them feel welcome, included and quickly familiar with the activities and events provided by the club and helps make their photographic experience richer and more rewarding.

It is very simple

For every new fully paid member the committee invites a member to act as a “buddy” for the new person for their first **8 meetings or 4 calendar months**.

The buddy is to be someone who has been a member for 6 months or more and whom the committee believe can effectively achieve the objectives of the system.

A recommended buddy has the right to turn down the invitation if they feel they are unable to fulfil the objectives.

A recommended buddy may have more than one new member to partner with but no more than two at any one time.

During this time the buddy’s role is to:

1. Ensure the new member’s club card is prepared and given to them within the month. This means the buddy must have the right to request this of the committee if it is not done within this time.
2. Give the new member a call prior to the meeting on the first two months to encourage their attendance and make them feel welcome.
3. Ensure the new member’s door card is prepared correctly for them and there on the night they arrive.
4. Encourage and assist the new member to enter a digital image on their first and second month as an entry step to presenting a print for judging.
5. Encourage and assist the new member to enter a print image on their 3rd month for judging.
6. To introduce the new member to other club members and look out for them during their first few meetings.
7. Be available to answer any question or concerns the new member may have either by phone or email about the club/activities/guidelines.

What the buddy is not required to do:

1. Chase up the new member if they continually miss attending the meeting, this role belongs to the committee.
2. Be an advisor to the new member on their photographic skills or presentation of their images, unless this is requested by the new member of their buddy and given willingly.
3. Be responsible for the effort the new member puts into participating in the clubs activities and events provided.