



# The History of BCG

## “Hunt and Shoot”

BCG's first Hunt and Shoot was held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 1989. Participants met at the ANZAC Square Park in the city. Two new members had raised the Hunt and Shoot suggestion as tabled in the June 1989 minutes - *“Members Rosemary Machen and Sue Hoile have proposed a “Hunt and Shoot”. Entrants will be handed a roll of film and given a fixed time to capture a number of pre-determined subjects. The film will be given back to the organisers, processed and handed back unopened to the entrant on the judging night.”* Rosemary and Sue subsequently agreed to organise the event. An impact silent electronic judging with three BCG judges was held at the club meeting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1989.

The aim of the BCG Hunt and Shoot is to capture 12 set subjects in only 24 frames. The set subjects are only made known to the participants just before the commencement of the event. Traditionally, there is a 10 minutes exam like perusal of these subjects. The tension builds. The starters gun is fired so to speak and the Hunt and Shooters have 3 hours to complete the task. In the early pre digital Hunt and Shoots, participants were given a 24 exposure roll of slide film. By the early 2000's, participants had a choice of digital and slide film. However, digital soon dominated and the slide film option was discarded. Venues for the Hunt and Shoot have been wide and varied – New Farm Park, University of Queensland and Shorncliffe to name a few. There have been hundreds of set subjects of varying degrees of difficulty and some selected with the venue in mind. Examples are “Connected with music”, “Colourful”, “Three of a kind”, “In the marketplace”, “Religious significance”, “Arches”, “Transport” and “Something in water”.

With only 24 exposures allowed, participants typically adopted a “think before you shoot” approach. There may be a better “Colourful” shot around the corner. Can the “Colourful” shot be nailed in just one exposure? Keeping tabs of exposures versus set subjects on the provided A4 sheet is helpful. After all, trying to complete 6 subjects with only 4 remaining exposures just doesn't work. The 3 hours allocated seems generous but Hunt and Shooters over the decades have reported struggling to finish with some shooting half the subjects in the last half hour. Each entrant ultimately submits one unedited image for each of the set subjects.

Typically, there is often a field of around 20 participants in a Hunt and Shoot. Winning is a source of great pride and achievement. As the competition is judged over 12 subjects and by multiple judges, the “luck” factor in winning is greatly diminished. The Hunt and Shoot is arguably BCG's photographic equivalent of the Melbourne Cup. A real staying race.

There are notable achievements in the Hunt and Shoot Hall of Fame. Russell Kelly, BCG Print Director at the time, won the inaugural 1989 Hunt and Shoot. Notably though, Russell also won in the next two years – 1990 and 1991. However, the Champion Hunt and Shooter is without doubt Jurgen Sprengel with his wins in 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002.

One BCG member who particularly enjoyed the annual Hunt and Shoot was Les Harden. Amber, his young daughter, would accompany him. Depending on the set subjects, Les would submit an image that included Amber as one of his entries. Sadly, Les passed away in 2016. BCG decided to rename the Hunt and Shoot Trophy in his honour. It is now called the Les Harden Memorial Trophy.



**BCG Attendees at the inaugural 1989 Hunt and Shoot (ANZAC Square Park)**

**Standing (Left to right)** – Peter Tennyson, Rod Shea, George Greenaway, John Lomas, Garry Williams, Jeff Pollard, Jan Bruce, Les Warner, Kevin Lane

**Sitting (Left to right)** – Jeannie Brown, Rosemary Machen, Russell Kelly, Audrey Warner, Pauls Wright, Anne Russell

**Middle (Left to right)** – Sue Hoile's son, Sue Hoile



The Les Harden Memorial Trophy