

## **THIS IS YOUR LIFE – GEORGE TOWNSEND**

*George joined the Ballarat YMCA Camera Group in 1969. After 2 years he became a committee member and in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year with the club was elected President, a role that seemed to recur regularly at 4 year intervals until the 1980's when he did a three year stint from 1984 to 86.*

*Apart from a one year break in 1982 he has served on the Committee for a total of 37 years and edited the Newsletter for twenty of those years. For some strange reason he thinks it is time to retire from the committee.*

*As you may imagine, George has been, nay still is, a serious and competitive photographer in club and interclub events and has a string of awards to his credit, and is still adding to them to this day.*

*He has a great 'eye' for unusual angles and, currently, architecture is a hallmark of his work.*

*Stepping back a little his slides of Begonias were published in the 'Women's Weekly' in 1973. In 1977 he won the BTV6 award for a series of Yacht photos. At the 1986 AGM George presented photos depicting all aspects of the Begonia Festival. In 1995 his photo of the Golden City Paddle Steamer won a special competition conducted by that organisation.*



*During George's long association with the club, his efforts have not gone unrewarded. He received a 25 year service badge and a Meritorious Service Award from V.A.P.S. and was made a Life Member of the Ballarat YMCA Camera Group.*

*He has won the Slide Aggregate 10 times and the Small Print Aggregate and Print of the Year on two occasions and the Club Award in 2003. He received medallions for amassing a vast number of points in Slides, Small Prints and Large Prints.*

*George is a quiet achiever. Do you ever think about how the door is always open when you get here on meeting nights or that there is always milk, sugar and biscuits for that after meeting cuppa. Yes it is all thanks to George.*

*He also makes a point of welcoming, assisting, and encouraging new members to the club.*

*George's preferred medium is still in slides but he has, like most of us, embraced the wonders of digital photography, although he prefers his trusty typewriter to those new fangled computer things. This has led to a bit of sledging from cheeky younger members but George, may I say, "a better looking, (refer to wedding photo in a recent edition of the Courier) friendly and more helpful Dinosaur I have yet to meet, and you fully deserve a year off the Committee".*

*Congratulations on your hard work and dedication over the years.*