Manawatu Camera Club Assignment & Competition Rules - 2023

1 Introduction:

The Manawatu Camera Club runs a number of assignments each year including
- A monthly assignment
- An end of year competition

This document lays out the rules for these assignments and competitions.

2 Ownership and Use of Images:

You as author will always retain ownership of images submitted to Manawatu Camera Club. Images may be used to promote the Manawatu Camera Club or displayed at club evenings unless expressly specified by the author otherwise in writing – i.e. "Not for publicity use."

3 General:

- Entrants must be financial or life-time members of the club.
- Images may be commercially processed but must have been exposed by the entrant.
- Entries must be the bona-fide work of the entrant
- Images may be digitally enhanced, but images created solely by electronic means e.g. fractals, are not eligible for entry.
- The final image must have been based on a photograph taken by the entrant.
- The "year" refers to the calendar year.
- Any image may only be entered twice - once only in "Set Subject" and once in "Open". The second time may be in the same year or in any subsequent year.
- The submission of an entry in any assignment or competition is deemed to be acceptance and understanding of these Rules.

4 Assignments:

- There are two separate image categories for monthly assignments, one for "open" images and one for "set subject" images.
- Open images are those of the entrant's choice.

- At the beginning of the year the set subject topics for the monthly assignments will be selected by the committee and published.
- There are different grades depending on member's experience. In each grade there is a section for printed images and a section for digital projected images.
- Members can enter up to two images. Either one "open" image and one "set subject" image or two "open" images or two "set subject" images each month.
- The same image may not be submitted in both prints and projected image sections.

4.1 Grading:

- Entrants are assigned a grade by the club's committee and must work in the same grade for prints and projected images.
- Once you have entered in a grade you cannot go back to a lower grade without the approval of the committee.
- Members who wish to advance a grade may submit a portfolio of 5 images to the committee for consideration of a grade change.
- Members unsure about which grade to enter should seek the advice of the Competition Secretary and Committee.

Beginner (B):
New members with less than two years photographic experience at club/competition level would usually start in this grade. Members move to the Advanced grade if one or more of the following applies:
- They gain 40 points in the year.
- The Committee decides they need to be moved up a grade.

Advanced (A):
The A Grade are experienced photographers and working toward Masters
Members move to the Advanced grade if one or more of the following applies:
- They gain 60 points in the year.
- The Committee decides they need to be moved up a grade.

Masters (M):
- The Masters are proficient and experienced photographers
- Work is evaluated at a level acceptable for outside competitions.

4.2 Entries:

- It is the entrant's responsibility to get entries to the Competition Secretary by closing date and time specified in the club program and notified on the club website.
- Entrant's names should not appear on entries (either as a watermark on the image or in the metadata of a projected image).

- Entries deemed by the evaluator not to comply with the set subject will be placed in the open subject category.
- Failure to comply with these instructions will invalidate the entry and exclude it from evaluation or competition.

4.3 Print Entries:

- Prints should be mounted or fixed on backing material firm enough to hold the print upright.
- Prints may be matted.
- Mounted and/or Matted prints may not exceed 41cm x 51cm (16" x 20")
- Framed or glass covered prints are not acceptable
- The image title and orientation must appear on the reverse of the print.
- Enter your entry's details on the online entry form on the club's website.
- While every care is taken, the club will not accept liability for damage to entries.

4.4 Digital Projected Image Entries:

- Images must be in jpg format.
- The ideal file should be between 2 and 5 Megabytes.
- **The file size should not exceed 10 Megabytes. Any image exceeding this size will be rejected automatically by the website's online entry process.**
- Files are to be named as follows: "**Title.jpg**" where **Title** is the image title. Example file names are: Rusty Gate.jpg, Over the Rainbow.jpg
- Images are to be submitted via the online entry form on the website.
- The Manawatu Camera Club is not responsible for loss of images due to corruption during file transfer or any other accidental deletion and or corruption of images.

4.5 Entering Images Via the Website

- Click on "Competition" in the top right corner of the home page
- Click on "Digital Entry" in the drop-down list.
- Type in your name
- Pick the appropriate grade, print or digital, and either open or set subject (as applicable) for your image from each of the drop-down lists.
- Type in the title of your image under "Image Title".
- Upload your image as an attachment by clicking the "Choose a file" icon.
- **Please make sure that the filename of your uploaded image matches what you typed under "Image Title", e.g., if the image title is "Sunset" the filename should be "sunset.jpg"**
- Type in any additional comments that you feel are needed (optional).

- Click on "Submit". It will take a few moments to load and then you will see a message saying your entry has been submitted successfully. Be patient as this takes a few seconds. The larger the image the longer it takes.

4.6 Evaluation of Images for Assignments and Competitions:

Images will be evaluated by an independent evaluator. Evaluators are asked to be cognisant of the fact that most entrants are amateur photographers, and that evaluation is intended to be positive and educational.

The evaluator will consider the quality of the image with reference to:
- Impact,
- Creativity,
- Visual design,
- Technical aspects,
- Presentation

Each image will be given one of the following awards:

- **Honours** – an exceptionally strong image, it will have the "wow" factor

    An Honours image is an exceptionally strong image and demonstrates excellence in ALL of the above five elements; i.e. true photographic excellence. It need not be a perfect image, just a very, very strong image. Such an image is technically correct and much, much more. The elements of the image must work together to form a whole that is far greater than the sum of the parts. There should not be any obvious flaws. Images that score an Honours may break the "rules". When the rules are broken, they are broken for impact. Technical excellence is expected. Difficult exposures, effective use of selective focusing and depth of field, as well as other advanced photographic techniques, are very common in such an image. While the score of an Honours should not be given out without very good reason since it implies true photographic excellence, if a judge feels that an image has the "Wow" factor and immediately falls in love with it they should give it Honours with no apologies to anyone. Authors of photographic images should not be made to feel that Honours is impossible to achieve

- **Merit** – a very strong image - not quite the wow - flaws are hard to find

    An image that scores a Merit is a very strong image and exhibits excellence in AT LEAST FOUR of the above five elements. Such an image is technically correct and much more. The elements of the image must work together. If there are flaws, they are minor and hard to find. Obvious flaws must be compensated by other elements in the image. Images that score Merit may break the "rules". When the rules are broken, they are broken for impact. Technical excellence is expected. Difficult exposures, effective use of

selective focusing and depth of field, as well as other advanced photographic techniques are commonly found in such an image.

- **Commended** - A good solid image - technically correct and a bit more

  This is a good solid image; an image towards which every member should be striving as a minimum. Such an image is technically correct and a bit more. It exhibits AT LEAST THREE of the above five elements. The elements of the image work together. There may be minor flaws, but they are compensated for by other elements in the image. For the most part, images that score a Commended do not break the "rules". If a rule is broken, it is broken with intention and works to enhance the image. A image awarded Commended is more than just a good technical image; it is the first step *above* a technically correct but otherwise uninspiring image. It is the start on the path towards a high impact image.

- **Accepted** – an image with no specific strengths

  An Accepted would be awarded to an image that either may have some technical flaws or has no significant strengths. Such an image is sometimes referred to as a record shot. It is acceptable but does not generate any special interest or stir emotions. It is the quality of image that we would expect that most hobbyists should be able to take as a minimum standard. It has the technical proficiency that modern auto-exposure, autofocus cameras allow. The author has made a correct exposure in a non-difficult lighting situation and the subject of the image is sharp. However, the image lacks those elements towards which image-makers who are working at polishing their craft should be striving. An Accepted could also be awarded to an image that did show excellence in AT LEAST TWO of the five elements described above, but that strength has been neutralized by a significant flaw.

Other Judging Notes:

- The evaluator will give constructive comments aimed at helping the author to improve the quality of their work.
- The entrant will be identified where the image receives an honours award.
- The evaluator will select the best image in the set subject categories for each grade.
- All communication with the Evaluator/Judge will be made through the Competition Secretary.

4.6 Assignment of Points for Evaluated Images:

Points are awarded in each grade as follows based on the rating given by the evaluator:

Open Category Images
- Honours   6 Points
- Merit   4 Points
- Commended   2 Points
- Accepted   1 point

Set Subject Images

- Honours   7 Points
- Merit   5 Points
- Commended   3 Points
- Accepted   1 point

Points will be accumulated throughout the year and will go towards grade progression and acknowledgment at end of year competitions.

Last Updated November 2022 (RL)