



PSNZ Definitions

- **PSNZ Definitions** are the subject definitions that Council has approved for use in PSNZ Salons and Competitions. They are updated after each Council meeting and/or reviewed annually by the Rules & By-Laws committee.

PSNZ Definitions

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1. Landscape:

Photographs which capture a sense of “space” and “place” and tell a story of the scene before the camera. A Landscape will typically combine elements of earth, sea or sky. The image may include human elements for scale and context but not to the extent that they become the predominant element. Creative enhancement of the image is acceptable provided that the resulting image still reflects the essential story of what is seen in that landscape.

2. Nature

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality.

Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible.

Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. No techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content, or without altering the content of the original scene, are permitted including HDR, focus stacking and dodging/burning.

Techniques that remove elements added by the camera, such as dust spots, digital noise, and film scratches, are allowed. Stitched images are not permitted. All allowed adjustments must appear natural. Colour images can be converted to grey-scale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.

Images entered in **Nature** sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

Photographers must have complied with the PSNZ Nature Code of Conduct.

3. Wildlife

Images entered in **Wildlife** sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above are further defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Landscapes, geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals, or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in Wildlife sections. Wildlife is not limited to animals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species. Wildlife images may be entered in Nature sections of Exhibitions.

Photographers must have complied with the PSNZ Nature Code of Conduct.

4. New Zealand Nature:

New Zealand subjects only, shall illustrate untamed animals and uncultivated plants in their natural habitat, astronomy, geology and phenomena not produced by man. Naturalised subjects are allowable, providing that they are taken under natural, not domestic conditions. Examples of naturalised subjects are deer, black swan, monarch butterfly, and briar (not cultivated) roses.

Digital manipulation of images is allowed as per the Nature Section above.

For NZ Nature entries, only scientific or common names shall be used.

Astro-photography will be specifically allowed for in the New Zealand Nature category.

Photographers must have complied with the PSNZ Nature Code of Conduct.

5. Photojournalism:

Photojournalism is included as an award in each Open Section. The Photographic Society of New Zealand defines this as story telling images such as seen in the news media and periodicals. They may include contemporary life, human interest, documentary, illustrative, spot news, sport, etc.

The storytelling value of the image shall receive priority over pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility; photojournalism images must not misrepresent the truth. No situations shall be set up for the purpose of photography.

Any manipulation or modification of the original image must not alter the content of the original scene and elements of the story may not be introduced, removed, shifted or changed in any way including HDR toning or use of image enhancement software, but corrections to exposure and the removal of spots is acceptable.

Cropping is acceptable only if this does not affect the truth of the story.

Colour images can be converted to greyscale monochrome. Infrared images, either direct-captures or derivations, are not allowed.

APPENDIX

a) PSNZ Ethics Policy

Ethics for the photographer are the principles of best practice that should be adopted in carrying out their practice.

PSNZ expects its members and those eligible for entering PSNZ exhibitions, competitions or salons to work ethically at all times and comply with the rules relating to the exhibitions, competitions or salons. Specifically:

- Photographs or images submitted for exhibitions, competitions or salons organised by or associated with PSNZ must be taken by the entrant.
- Where such photographs or images are selected for exhibitions, competitions or salons, they shall not be re-entered in the same or different format in any section of that exhibition in any subsequent year, either under the same title or using a different title.
- A reproduction of a photograph or image selected in one year, that is so similar as to be confused with the original work, is likewise not to be entered in the same PSNZ exhibition, competition or salon in subsequent years.
- Photographs or images submitted for possible publication in NZ Camera, CameraTalk or on the PSNZ Website must be taken by the author who must hold copyright for the photographs or images and any written material.

b) PSNZ Nature Code of Conduct:

When photographing nature subjects, there is always a certain amount of stress put on the subjects by the photographer. The Photographic Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) therefore has put together a series of principles for all members when they are photographing or even observing nature subjects, so that any stress is minimised.

The welfare of the subject is more important than the photograph. This applies to geological as well as biological subjects. Any local or national conservation requirements must be obeyed. This includes getting appropriate permits and observing restricted areas. Permission should be sought from private landholders before venturing on to their land. There should be minimal disturbance to the surroundings. It is most important that the photographer has a reasonable knowledge of the subject before attempting to take any pictures.

For uncommon subjects this knowledge needs to be extensive. It is important that the photographer has a general knowledge of other associated subjects so that the process of photographing causes no risk or stress to them. This in particular refers to small life forms.

Compliance with the Code of Conduct

The aim of this code of conduct is to prevent any damage to the environment and subjects being photographed, and so members of the PSNZ are expected to comply with it. Compliance will be assisted by taking time to study the subject to be photographed so as to ensure that it is not inadvertently placed at risk. Where evidence of a serious and deliberate violation of this Code by a PSNZ

member is drawn to the attention of a PSNZ affiliated Club or PSNZ member, it or they will refer the matter to the PSNZ Council for consideration.

The Final Image

Any nature picture should record the truth of what the photographer saw at the time the picture was taken and reflect the competence of the image as captured by the photographer. Digital techniques that extend the capability of the camera may be used providing that they honestly and accurately represent the original nature story or event at the time of capture.