

**Nelson Camera Club  
August comp (B-grade Print)**

Title	Comments	Result
Acianthus sinclairii, Brook sanctuary	I like the simple composition of this close-up image of this small herb. The angled stem works nicely to lead me up to the fascinating orchid-like flowers. Overall, I would expect to see a little more sharpness somewhere, suggesting this is a tight crop from a larger image, and there are a few areas where the focus seems to flip from sharp to soft, perhaps from a focus-stacking issue. If this is a tight crop, perhaps consider printing it smaller - as a small intimate plant portrait it would still have lots of impact. the bright highlights pull my eye very strongly towards these areas, but they are lacking detail - exposing for the highlights that catch a subject should prevent blown-out bright patches	not accepted
Brain Freeze	Nicely composed, this image sets the scene of a country event, with the two gents enjoying their Mr Whippy cones. Using the van as a background helps separate the two main subjects from the trees, and the tack stall in the background gives good context. There are some blocked blacks in the print, making the gent's clothing blend to dark - some detail here would improve this image further. the choice to convert this image to monochrome works really well, removing any potential colour distractions in the background.	merit
Cortinarius castoreus, Brook sanctuary	Nice texture on the gills of this fairly large fungi. Nice depth of field to keep the front rim and stem sharp. As with a lot of images, the background can make all the difference - in this case it mostly works for me, there's sufficient focus to give me context without any overly bright highlights. Some additional 'gardening' would improve this further, to reduce distractions that pull me away from the main subject; The stick heading down and right from the cap is quite contrasty and leads me out of the image, and a couple of the more out-of-focus twigs and bark close to the lens also pull my eye. Nice framing and space around the subject, and very good colour rendition	accepted
Glacier curves	The textures and S-curve flow of the glacier work superbly, leading my eye from the crevasse-strewn base of the image all the way to the far ice-fields. The simple wispy clouds help create a non-distracting texture in the sky, and the monochrome treatment allows me to enjoy the textures without the distraction of the contrasting sky and rock colours. There is good depth of field throughout and I love the large print, just be careful as it seems that it might be close to the limit of available pixels - a smaller print may 'feel' sharper.	honours

Holly Jane	The first portrait of what appears to be sisters. The lighting and monochrome treatment work very nicely to let me engage with the her lovely smile. The symmetry in this image works really well; her level eyes framed by the hair, and the piping on her jacket finish off this almost circular framing around her face to keep me centred on her eyes and smile. I am particularly impressed with how at ease and comfortable the model looks, a real talent! Great depth of field and lovely presentation	honours
Libby	The second of a pair of nicely presented portraits in this competition. I like the slight head tilt, and again we have a lovely smile and a compelling engagement with the viewer from the pin-sharp eyes. The girls' right cheek has become very bright in the image, and my eye gets pulled up towards her ear, which is given perhaps a little too much visual weight in the frame. There are also a couple of odd sharp areas of hair where I would expect the blur to continue (lower RHS) that pull my away from her eyes. Still a lovely portrait that has been very nicely presented	merit