

Entering into club competitions.

Or how to improve your photographic skills.

A guide for Nelson Camera Club members.



As we welcome you, perhaps as a new member to our Camera Club, entering your images into our local club competitions might seem like a daunting idea. This guide will hopefully help you through the process of submitting them, give you an idea of what to expect, and how you may expect to increase enjoyment of your hobby.

Why enter into the club competitions?

A Club "Competition" is how we encourage members to submit their images for critiquing and thus enabling you and the whole club to benefit in the learning and the sharing. It's free for all financial club members.

What are some potential pros to entering in the club competition?

It's a great way to get considered feedback on your images from an experienced judge. It can also provide a goal or motivation for you to improve on your images (for instance we have numerous end-of-year awards).

What are some potential cons to entering in the club competition?

Judges are all different, and on occasions the judge's comments on your image may be unhelpful, or at worst insensitive. Harsh comments on your image may impact on your confidence negatively. Don't be put off by any of these. They are just one person's opinion.

How do I enter images into the club competition and what are the rules?

The Club's website (www.nelsoncameraclub.co.nz) under "Competitions" then "Competition rules" sets out the rules for the running of competitions including dates and how to submit images.

How do I know which of my images to submit?

You may choose some of the most recent images you have taken, or some others of your favourites. Perhaps you might like to submit an image where you've tried something new and want some feedback from others. There are no rules limiting your image submission for Open competitions (except if the image is to be considered as a natural history image).

What should I expect on Club Results night?

Images are generally displayed with the entire A or B grades first, then any other the grades, and in alphabetical order according to the title of the image. Each image is displayed along with the judge's comments, the author's name and, hopefully, an award, "Acceptance, Merit or Honours". The author's name is not read out if "No Award".

Judge's construct their critique on the submitted images, and with a variety in approaches and language. Comments may range from being perceived as harsh or generous, long or short, helpful or unhelpful. Sometimes they can seem to be misaligned with the final award given. The Club makes efforts to deliver helpful and consistent quality of judging but this cannot be guaranteed, as we still rely on individual judge's opinions.

One of the main purposes of Results night is for all club members to have the opportunity to view and learn from everyone else's images. This critiquing adds to everyone's benefits. In this context, the judge's comments on an image can be considered more important than the actual award given.

I've got my results, now what?

Congratulations if you received comments and the results on your images you were hoping for. If not, don't be discouraged, but listen to all comments on all other submissions. This is how you may learn. If later you want access to the judge's comments, feel to email the competition secretary (competitions@nelsoncameraclub.co.nz) who may be able to provide a written copy of the comments. Other Club members may provide a second opinion on your image. You may also enter your image into another club competition if you wish.

I'm getting the hang of the club competition, where to next?

Beyond the Club, there is a whole world of competitions or photographic "salons" out there. These range from semi-regional events (e.g. Seddon Shield), regional events (e.g. Southern Regional) to national events (e.g. NATEX or North Shore Salon to name a couple). These are all opportunities for you to further your photographic hobby. Enjoy it.