

PSNZ Definition and Guidelines for Nature

<https://photography.org.nz/about/constitution-bylaws-financials/definitions/>

Nature

Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, 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 – such as barn owls or storks – adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, such as hurricanes or tidal waves. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are allowed.

Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are NOT eligible, 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 allowed. 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 allowed, 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 allowed. 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 may 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. Only scientific names, common names or descriptive titles shall be used.

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

New Zealand Nature

New Zealand Nature must meet the Nature definition with the additional and overriding requirements that:

The photograph must have been taken of New Zealand subjects only.

Any animals or plants illustrated must be untamed or uncultivated in their natural habitat.

The New Zealand Nature definition is used for the William C. Davies Memorial Trophy and the Geoff Moon Nature Trophy.

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; 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.

Competition Ethics

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 and salons.

Photographs or images submitted for exhibitions, competitions or salons organised by or associated with PSNZ must be taken by the entrant. For composites, this includes all elements making up the final work.

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 photographer who must hold copyright for the photographs or image and any written material.

Note from the Nature Photography Society of New Zealand regarding the above rules.

Over the last couple of years the NPSNZ has been asked for some clarification as to how we interpret the PSNZ rules. Below is how we will apply the rules:

The Nature Photographic Society of NZ has the following rules for the Trena Packer Salver:

- *The subject matter must be nature as defined by the PSNZ rules above, which excludes cultivated plants, domestic animals and confined animals.*
- *The subject matter is restricted to New Zealand and its offshore islands.*

The PSNZ Nature Rules includes a statement that the following may be included in Nature Photographs "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."

However, there is also a section on NZ Nature that states "New Zealand Nature must meet the Nature definition with the additional and overriding requirements that: The photograph must have been taken of New Zealand subjects only. Any animals or plants illustrated must be untamed or uncultivated in their natural habitat."

For the purpose of the Trena Packer Salon images must comply with the New Zealand Nature section of the overall PSNZ Nature Rules.