

## **Nature: Impact of Humans on Nature NPSNZ Honours Submissions: Instructions and Categories**

The aim of nature photography is to sensitise the viewer to the natural world, to be thought provoking, and to elicit an emotional response from the viewer. Nature photography should reveal and champion the diversity of life on earth. NPSNZ challenges its Honours applicants to produce a set of images that meets these goals.

A set of images submitted for NPSNZ Honours must contain images of an appropriate standard for each level of Honours (L, A, F). However, the images must work together to form a portfolio of work in which the set as a whole has greater value than that of the sum of the individual images.

Sets of images may be submitted as either prints or digital images in one of three categories (see below).

**Prints** must be matted, with a maximum size of 20 × 16 inches. Please include a diagram of the layout you wish to be used to display your prints.

**Digital projected images** must be JPEGs, preferably using sRGB colour space, with the long side 1620 pixels for landscape orientation and 1080 pixels across the top for portrait orientation

In all categories subjects must be out of doors, with the sole exception of microscopic photography.

### **Nature: Impact of Humans on Nature**

Sets of images must represent the influence of humans on nature or a natural process or activity.

This category is intended to promote photojournalism as it relates to natural subjects.

- Images and sets should tell a story that describes the impacts of humans on nature or natural processes.
- The inclusion of human elements is expected and a strong interaction with nature or a natural process must be demonstrated.
- Except for cropping, limited manipulations, either in or out of camera, are allowed, which change the original content of the image.
- Techniques allowed are limited to those that enhance the original capture to make it more accurately reflect what the photographer saw at the time.

### **Ethics of obtaining the Image**

Extreme care should be taken not to disturb wildlife subjects by approaching too closely, making undue noise, or by any other activity likely to adversely affect the subject. If any method of baiting or manipulation of the subject is used, this should not harm the subject, and full details should be given on submission of the image(s). Excessive trampling and 'gardening' should be avoided in obtaining images of plants and fungi, especially if they are rare in the wild.

## **Integrity of Images**

In order to verify the integrity of any image submitted in any category, the original (out of camera) image should be made available if requested by the Chairman of the Honours Board.

## **Titles**

Titles must include the subject's correct common and/or scientific name, as appropriate. 'Cute' names, with anthropomorphic connotations, are not acceptable in this category..

## **NPSNZ Honours: Supplementary Information for Applicants, Notes and Examples**

For each of the three levels of Honours (L, A and F) a set of images is required. From the submitted set, the Honours Board must be able to assess the applicant's level of skill in using the camera, in post processing, and in the presentation of the images.

The emphasis is on the set, rather than on the individual images, so it may be better to leave out an excellent image if it does not fit well with other images in the set. A set of prints must be arranged symmetrically, and in a pleasing way so that the eye moves smoothly from one to the next, and rests comfortably on the final image. A set of projected images must also flow well from one to the next, and rest comfortably on the final image. The completed set must provide a pleasing demonstration of both technical skill and artistry.

- This category lends itself well to producing a set that tells a story. There is scope for an L candidate to demonstrate a range of skills and an F candidate to produce a well craft, cohesive set.
- Examples of human impacts can be positive or negative.
- A positive impact story might depict artificial rearing in captivity and release into the wild of a rare bird, such as the black stilt.
- A negative impact story might be the effect of predators such as cats on skinks, or of dogs and people disturbing nesting birds. Protection for nesting birds could be included to complete the story.

Examples of **natural processes** might include erosion and fire. Examples of **natural activities** might include a ladybird feeding on an aphid, birds building a nest, and polar bears fishing.

## **Techniques**

- We have resisted specifying a list of acceptable techniques because photography is changing so rapidly that anything we specify is likely to become out of date in a relatively short time.
- Accurate depiction of the subject is paramount, and therefore manipulation must be limited. Besides cropping, techniques to correct colour, contrast, etc., are acceptable, provided they serve to more accurately reflect what the photographer saw at the time. These manipulations may be carried out in the camera or in post-production.
- Monochrome is acceptable.
- Sets must flow and have cohesion.

## **Application Form**

### **Declaration of any instance in which 'baiting' has been used**

In this section, please give details of any means you have used to attract or manipulate your subject. These might include feeding nuts to a squirrel, or moving a dead rabbit to a more photogenic site to attract a hawk.

### **Description or Interpretation of Set of Images**

The Honours Board appreciates knowing how the applicant expects his or her work to be interpreted, and invites all applicants to submit a brief (maximum 150 words) description of the concept or story behind the set of images. This is **compulsory for those submitting a set for their Fellowship**, and optional for those applying for an L or an A.