

PSNZ Definition and Guidelines for Nature

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

Nature

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans. Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life or welfare of a living organism are not allowed. The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected and the image must look natural.

Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.

Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.

Images taken with subjects under controlled conditions, such as zoos, are allowed.

Controlling live subjects by chilling, anaesthetic or any other method of restricting natural movement for the purpose of a photograph is not allowed.

Only scientific names, common names or descriptive titles shall be used.

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

Wildlife

In addition to the restrictions on Nature photography, to be eligible for any Wildlife award images must meet the following conditions:

Zoological organisms must be living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat of their own choosing. Images of zoological organisms that have been removed from their natural habitat, are in any form of captivity or are being controlled by humans for the purpose of photography are not allowed.

Botanical organisms may not be removed from their natural environment for the purpose of photography.

Images that have been staged for the purpose of photography are not allowed.

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.

Landscape

This definition is used for the H. S. James Landscape Print Award and the Eric Young Memorial Trophy.

Photographs which capture a sense of 'space' and 'place' and tell a story of the scene before the camera. A landscape may combine elements such as land, sea, bodies of water and sky and may include human elements for scale and context but not to the extent that the human element becomes the prominent element.

The integrity of the landscape at the time of capture must be maintained. The making of physical changes to the landscape such as the introduction of new elements either from photographic sources or digital painting eg, adding in or replacing skies, foregrounds, birds, mists, sun, moon, sunray, etc, or the deletion of significant objects is NOT permitted.

Minor deletions of transient items eg, a leaf or stone or dust spot or litter, etc are permitted if they do not impact on the integrity of the scene. Digital adjustments including dodging and burning, changes to tone and contrast, and cropping are allowed, as are High Dynamic Range, stitched panoramas, and focus stacking.

Note: Landscapes may be included in the Trena Packer Salon if they show natural phenomena or geological features.

Editing Guidelines

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

Allowed editing techniques:

Cropping, straightening and perspective correction.

Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion.

Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene.

Complete conversion of colour images to grayscale monochrome.

Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking).

Image stitching – combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas).

Editing techniques that are not allowed:

Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.

Adding a vignette during processing.

Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.

Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.

All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome.

Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of colour.

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.

Discipline

Trena Packer Salon Competition

Where it is judged that this Code of Conduct has been breached, the NPSNZ Committee or a subcommittee may, on taking account of representations from parties and having regard to the best interests of the Society, take appropriate action, including but not restricted to:

- Providing a formal censure.
- Requesting an image or set of images be withdrawn from the Trena Packer competition or publication.
- Refuse to accept an image or set of images for inclusion in the Trena Packer competition.

- Withdraw an image or set of images from the Trena Packer competition or nullify a competition result.
- In matters of significant concern, it may be appropriate for the NPSNZ Committee to consider suspending or cancelling future entries from the affected club or society or to take other disciplinary action as it deems appropriate.

Acting with integrity at all times will protect the good standing of the society and enhance the overall enjoyment of photography and membership of the Society.