rotorua CAMERA CLUB

HANDBOOK

2016

History

Rotorua Camera Club was founded in 1950 and has been affiliated to the Photographic Society of New Zealand since its inception in 1953.

We have a vibrant and dynamic club, attracting photographers of all ages, interests and experience. Membership has grown significantly over the last few years.

Inspiration comes from sharing work and ideas through discussion and assessment in a non-threatening environment. We have workshops and courses, which can include everything from basic camera and compositional techniques. With digital photography almost exclusively replacing film these days, we also cover digital editing and creative exploration.

Club meetings are held at the Netherlands Society Hall, Neil Hunt Park, Rotorua on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

Images are presented and assessments reviewed under a grading system.

We have monthly themed field trips where we meet and work together to improve our photography. New members are welcome to attend these and work with more experienced photographers. See the website for details.

Our vision for the next five years includes increasing membership within all grades; having members achieve higher levels of competency and skill; and having more members achieve Photographic Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) qualifications and Honours awards.

Club Contacts

President   president@rotoruacamera.co.nz

Secretary   secretary@rotoruacamera.co.nz

Treasurer   treasurer@rotoruacamera.co.nz

Competition Secretary   compsecretary@rotoruacamera.co.nz

Webmaster   webmaster@rotoruacamera.co.nz

We also have a members only facebook page. If you'd like to join, email the webmaster.

More information about Club activities can be found on our website www.rotoruacamera.co.nz

Grading

Members are graded into four grades - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Salon.

Grading was introduced to encourage members to become confident within their own level of competency and to encourage growth in skill over time.

When a new member becomes financial a club number and grading is allocated.

The initial grading for all new members is Novice. If the member is from another Club or has experience above Novice grade, the committee may request the member to present his/her portfolio to the Grading Panel for grading assessment. The member may also choose to submit his/her portfolio for evaluation by the Grading Panel.

Novice

Novice grade is for those members learning the basics of photography with limited photographic skills.

This grade provides an avenue for beginners to offer their work for helpful comments and suggestions, without feeling threatened by the level of critique or the technical comments given to the higher grades.

Some technical errors are tolerated, and the critique is generally positive.

All work submitted in both Set Subject and Open categories will be judged as Acceptance, Highly Commended, or Honours for each entry in each section.

When a member has achieved a total of five Honours they will progress immediately to the Intermediate grade. The member will be notified by the Competition Secretary when this occurs.

All competition points are retained in the Novice grade, and credited at the end of the year for the purpose of the aggregate points award within that grade.

Intermediate

An Intermediate grade member must show greater understanding of the basics of photography and be generally producing work that shows competency in exposure, focus and composition.

The evaluation is more critically assessed.

If work submitted is not to the accepted standard it may be deemed Not Accepted by the judge.

When a member has achieved a total of five Honours in the Intermediate grade they will progress immediately to the Advanced grade. The member will be notified by the Competition Secretary when this occurs.

All competition points are retained in the intermediate grade, and credited at the end of the year for the purpose of the aggregate points award within that grade.

Advanced

An Advanced grade member will be encouraged to:

- Participate at a national levels
- Expand on all aspects of photography
- Learn the techniques of critiquing work, so they can take part in the process of evaluating or judging, and
- Apply for PSNZ Honours (Licentiateship or Associateship)

If work submitted is not to the accepted standard it may be Not Accepted by the judge.

When a member has achieved a total of 10 Honours in the Advanced grade, they MUST progress immediately to the Salon grade. The member will be notified by the Competition Secretary when this occurs.

All competition points are retained in the Advanced grade, and credited at the end of the year for the purpose of the aggregate points award within that grade.

Salon

A Salon grade member is experienced and skilled in photography. Work is expected to be technically competent as well as of a very high artistic quality.

Encouragement will be given to work towards and achieve further PSNZ Honours.

If work submitted is not to the accepted standard it may be Not Accepted by the judge.

Judging/Grading Panel

At the first committee meeting of the year a judging/grading panel is appointed for that year, including at least one Salon member or appropriately qualified*, experienced photographer, and at least two other Advanced members who are working towards PSNZ judging accreditation.

*Appropriately qualified photographer means one with PSNZ judging accreditation, professional photographic industry experience or qualifications.

Grading rules and guidelines

During the year the Club holds regular monthly competitions through members entering images into Set Subject or Open sections.

Monthly evaluations cater for various levels of experience and provide the opportunity to progress through the Club's grading system.

Submissions, as a rule, are sent for judging and comment to experienced external judges or professional photographers. In some cases, submissions may be judged by a panel appointed within the Club.

Members are encouraged to participate with a view to increasing skill levels and advancing towards National competitions and Honours within the Photographic Society of New Zealand.

Club members must be financial at the time of entry.

Monthly evaluations

The evaluation process provides a great learning opportunity with constructive feedback.

Monthly evaluations are held in March, April, May, June, August, September, October, November. Entries are submitted via our website before midnight on the Thursday following the meeting.

A member may enter **TWO** digital **projected** images per month - either in the Open section, or as a Set Subject - or as a combination of both.

A member may also choose to enter **TWO** printed images per month - either in the open section, or as a set subject - or as a combination of both.

Open section: The image may be any topic of the members choosing.

Set subject: Pre-determined subjects for each month are listed on the Club website under 'Topics'.

A Set Subject is designed to offer an additional challenge of photographing to a brief and/or interpretation of a particular subject.

Digital entries

- Digital entries are to be uploaded through the Club website http://rotoruacamera.co.nz/upload/
- The page is password protected. (If you are a new member entering for the first time, please contact the Competition Secretary for the password)
- You will need your membership number to be able to submit your entry
- Entries close at midnight on the day following the monthly Club meeting. Late entries will not be accepted.

Print entries

- Prints are submitted at the nominated monthly club meeting.

Assessment

- Members images are assessed within their grades.
- Points are awarded for each image based on the merit award achieved.
- Set Subject images receive additional points over the Open section.
- Judges will, at their discretion, award Accepted, Highly Commended, or Honours for each entry in each section.
- Images submitted within the Intermediate, Advanced and Salon grades may be 'Not Accepted' if the judge feels the image doesn't meet the required standard for the competition. (To encourage participation, all entries within the Novice grade are accepted).

Points

Points are awarded to each club member within each grade and are accrued over the year.   The award for the highest aggregate points for the year is presented at the December meeting.

Merit Award	Open	Set Subject
Honours	10	15
Highly Commended	5	10
Acceptance	2	7
Non Accepted Entry	1	1

Guidelines

Entries to the monthly grading close at midnight on the night following the Club meeting night unless otherwise stated.

Entries will be assessed by suitably experienced judges, either within the Club or external. Preference will be given towards PSNZ accredited judges.

The directions to the assessor will reflect the Club's intention to secure fair criticism which should be direct and be designed to encourage improvement and excellence.

A member may choose to work with a film camera or a digital camera and photo enhancing software.

Whichever system is used, proficiency will be expected according to the standard of the member's given grading.

Previously submitted work may be submitted in a later monthly evaluation only after judge's comments have been acted upon or significant changes made to the image.

Optically created images, film or digital, manipulated or enhanced by either darkroom or electronic processing or art working, are acceptable for all entries.

Exception: Digitally manipulated images are NOT eligible for nature or natural history entries. Competition rules follow those produced by the Photographic Society of New Zealand.

Note: Images generated solely by electronic means (e.g. fractals or similar) are NOT Eligible for entry in any Club or national level work or competition.

The Competition Secretary may alter the number of entries per person if deemed necessary when the entries are too low or too high.

Titles: A short title should be given for every image, to enable the assessor to refer to it when making comments.

Portfolios should be titled as a portfolio.

Presentation

All work, assessments, competition and exhibition entries, whether prints or projected images, are to be correctly prepared and presented as per the requirements below:

The prescription used is that of the PSNZ which means that all work presented will not have to be remounted or sized if you wish to submit it to outside salons and competitions.

A portfolio is individual images on individual mounts.

All digital images must be the work of the entrant although printing and mounting may be done commercially if chosen.

All entries must meet the correct presentation criteria as outlined below.

Entries that do not meet the correct presentation criteria will not be accepted.

Prints

Prints must be mounted with a matt for display.

The minimum mounted size is 230mm x 180mm.   The maximum mounted size is 510mm x 410mm.

The mount and matte should be of cardboard or similar material such as foam core.

Reusable mounts are accepted and are an economical way to present printed work. Permanently mounted prints are recommended for national level competition.

Framed or glass covered prints or mounts with exposed Velcro or similar (which may cause damage to other prints) are not accepted.

A jpg copy of printed images should be emailed to the Competition Secretary. This allows it to be shown on screen when judge feedback is being given. The jpg copy of the printed image is to be identified and named in the same manner as for a projected image identification. (The jpg does not go to the judge).

Print Identification

Identification should appear centered on at the top of the reverse side of the print in the following format.

- Your title

- Subject   (O - Open or S - Set Subject)

- Your Club number

- Your grade

- Underscore between, i.e. At the Beach_O_6_Novice

- *DO NOT use your name.*

Projected Digital Images

Images must be saved as a jpeg file.

In line with PSNZ guidelines, the width of an image can be no greater than 1620 horizontal (wide) and 1080 vertical (high) pixels.

An image can be enhanced, manipulated, or just as it was taken. (The exception is the nature and digital art images which must fit the rules associated with those specific categories.)

To enter:

Upload your images via the Upload page on the Club website http://rotoruacamera.co.nz/upload/

As the page is password protected, please contact the Competition Secretary for the password.

After completing the form and submitting your image, a message will be displayed advising your upload was successful.

While images that are too large will be automatically resized via the website, we recommend you resize them to the above specifications before submitting your entry.

Images that are too small will not be uploaded. A message will be displayed advising you of this. Resize your image correctly and upload again.

Mid-Year Competitions

The Mid-Year Competition - comprising of David Gould Award, Annette Champness Award and Mike Barkman Award is held in July, with entries submitted at the June meeting.

First, second and third placings are given. The award is presented for the first placing only.

Entries are judged as an Open Competition (no grading applies).

Comments are provided for individual work where considered appropriate.

David Gould Award

This award is presented for the best **NIGHT** print or projected image.

The image must have been taken outdoors, at night and depict a night subject.

Sunsets are expressly excluded.

Further definition of a 'night shot' is left to the discretion of the judge.

Members may submit one entry in this section.

Annette Champness Award

This award is presented for the best **NATURE** print or projected image.

Digitally manipulated images are not eligible for the Nature Award - refer PSNZ Guidelines below.

The following rules are based on those used for the Photographic Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) Nature section -

All digital images MUST maintain a faithful representation of a natural form, behaviour or phenomenon as captured in the original image.

Nature photography depicts animals and uncultivated plants in their natural habitat, geology and phenomena not produced by man.

The accurate record of the subject and the natural environment are the prime factors.

Evidence of man and his manipulation of the natural environment is undesirable and should be avoided. Images of captive animals are NOT eligible.

Any manipulation or modification to the original image is limited to minor retouching of blemishes and must not alter the content of the original scene.

Resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening and restoration of original colour of the scene are also acceptable.

No special filters can be applied and any sharpening must appear natural.

As well as satisfying these requirements, every effort should be made to achieve the highest level of artistic skill in all nature photographs.

Titles may be scientific names, or common names.

Members may submit one entry in this section.

Mike Barkman Award

This award is presented for the best black and white or monotone print or projected image. The subject is Open.

Members may submit one entry in this section.

Audio Visual Competition - Bonnington Award

Entries are submitted in July and shown on the night of the August meeting.

This award is presented for the best story-telling projected audio visual presentation. The winner is determined by popular vote of the members present.

The following rules are based on those used for the Photographic Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) Jack Sprosen Audiovisual Award.

- There is no restriction on subject matter.
- The entry may run for a duration up to five minutes. Entries longer than five minutes will be disqualified.
- Sound may be mono or stereo and independent of the visual content if necessary.
- The inclusion of video clips is not accepted.
- Movement – panning and zooming which can be created in some software programs, is permissible.
- The entry must be a stand-alone digital production, able to be run by clicking on an icon and without the need of the software that first produced it or any other conversion software.
- The output must be able to run on a Window based PC with a DVD reader installed.
- The entry must be presented on a disk, with the title printed or marked with a permanent disk writer pen showing the author's name, AV title and the exact running time.
- The production must be the original work of the entrant and his/her declared co-authors and collaborators.
- All credits to be declared at the end of the sequence.
- All work not the original work of the entrant must be acknowledged (but do not include audio visual authors name).
- The images in the presentation must be those of the entrant.
- The Club reserves the right to refuse an entry that they consider, in their absolute discretion, to be undesirable, unsuitable or incorrectly programmed for projection at the Club.

Members may submit one entry in this section.

End of Year Competition

The End of Year competition is held in December with entries submitted at the November meeting.

While first, second and third placings are given, the award is presented for the first placing only.

Entries will be judged as an Open Competition (no grading applies)

Comments will be provided for individual work where considered appropriate.

No work can be entered in both the Mid- and End of Year competitions.

Members may submit one entry only in each section.

Open Digital

Submit what you consider to be your best digital image. The topic may be of your own choosing.

Digital images previously entered into monthly evaluations may be included provided the entry has not already been submitted in a previous Mid- or End of Year competition.

Open Print

Refer to guidelines for presenting prints

The topic may be of the member's own choosing.

Prints entered into monthly evaluations may be included provided the entry has not already been submitted in any previous Mid-or End of Year competition.

George Bennett Award

This Award is for the best portfolio of six prints or projected images.

The portfolio does not have to follow a theme, but must demonstrate the proficiency of the photographer.

The portfolio must exhibit sound basic technical ability (focus and exposure), along with good compositional skills and awareness of lighting.

The portfolio should flow together in a pleasing manner with the images complementing each other.

Proficiency is best demonstrated by

- a variety of subject matter (portrait, landscape, nature etc)
- a variety of lens choice (close up, wide angle, zoom etc)
- a variety of viewpoint
- a variety of lighting etc

Putting a portfolio together

It means that the viewer's eye travels comfortably from one image to the next. This can be achieved by the use of colour, tone, composition or subject matter so that each image is in some way linked to the image that follows. Avoid sharp changes of colour or intensity that may prevent one image leading naturally to the next.

Although the portfolio must demonstrate all-round competence, the six images should sit together as a pleasing unit, without any one image standing out as either below or above the standard of the other.

Digital Entries

Submit your set through the Upload feature on the website.

Your TITLE will be the name of the image as well as SET OF SIX 1 for the first, SET OF SIX 2 for the second etc for the preferred order of viewing.

e.g.   Sky Tower SET OF SIX 1
         Mission Bay SET OF SIX 2
         Parnell SET OF SIX 3
         etc

Prints
Refer also to guidelines for presenting prints

Number the prints on the reverse side from 1 to 6, in the order to which they are to be shown, followed by the collective title, grade and membership number.

Provide a sketch or layout of the way in which the prints are to be displayed.

COLLECTIVE TITLE, SET OF SIX, MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

Rotorua Camera Club
Application for Membership

(Please tick appropriate box)

Single Adult $60 ☐   Single Adult $35 (age 18-25) ☐

Couple $80 ☐   Junior $10 (aged under 18) ☐

Subs can be paid via online banking or bank deposit to
Westpac 03 – 1552 – 0140831 – 00

Please ensure you include your name on the deposit so your payment can be identified.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____Email _____

Signature _____   Date _____

My application is supported by

_____   _____

Proposer   Seconder

Complete this section if joining from another Camera Club

I have been a member of _____Camera Club for _____ years.

I currently hold a _____ grade.

I'm a Photographic Society of New Zealand member   Yes / No

Membership No (to be advised) ☐