

# FORSTER DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



## Grades and Competitions

Our Club competitions are conducted in two grades ... A and B.

When joining the club new members normally start in B Grade, however experienced photographers joining the club may request to start in a higher grade. In considering such requests, the Committee may ask for supporting evidence of prior experience such as by providing a folio of work, by having attained recognized honours or qualifications in photography or by having been an advanced worker in another club.

For inexperienced photographers a non-competition evaluation system by club mentors is available

**A Grade** This is for photographers who have significant experience and competence in the art and technique of capturing and processing images. Competition at this level is at high standard

**B Grade** This grade provides a good level of competition for those photographers who have reasonable experience in photography and for those wishing to develop their skills.

**.Evaluation** This is a non competition system. It is intended for new members in their first year who may not wish to go straight into the competition B Grade or would like some extra assistance.

A mentor will be allocated from within the club who will review their images on a monthly basis in parallel with our monthly competition. The mentor will also be available for technical advice where possible.

Each month there is an Open and Set Subject competition. Each is judged by an external judge using the club website.

A Merit, Credit and Highly Commended rating may be given to images in each grade.

**Merit** is awarded to images of the highest standard in the grade. Images should be very high quality with no significant issues. They should also contain a wide range of elements that contribute to the success of the image.

**Credit** is awarded to images of a high standard and demonstrates the competence of the photographer but fall short of Merit. They should contain some elements that help the image stand out.

**Highly Commended** is awarded to images that are a good standard for the grade.

It is normal for each award to be given to several images in each grade. The judge will generally give a short comment or critique on each image.

Members score 6 points for a merit, 4 points for a Credit, 3 points for a Highly Commended and 1 point for entries not awarded.

Judge may award a Judges Choice from across grades. Gets 1 bonus point. Awards Points are accumulated throughout the calendar to determine Grade Champions.

Members will remain in the same grade for the entire competition year. Following the final (November) competition each year the member with the highest point score in B Grade will be automatically promoted to A Grade.

The Committee may promote other members to a higher grade in order to maintain a balance of numbers in the grades. Promotions will be based on the points earned during the year, with those members having the highest number of points being the first to be promoted. Members cannot go to a lower grade.

## Image Elements

These are a guide to what may be used in image evaluation.

### **Impact**

Impact is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time.

An important fact about impact is that it is just one of the elements of a fine photograph

### **Technical excellence**

This is the image quality as it is presented for viewing.

### **Creativity**

Creativity is the original, fresh, and external expression of the imagination of the maker, and the viewer.

### **Composition**

Composition is important to the design of an image, bringing all of the visual elements together in concert.

### **Presentation**

Presentation affects an image by giving it a finished look. The mats and borders used, either physical or digital, should support and enhance the image, not distract from it.

### **Colour Harmony**

Colour Harmony supplies structure to an image.

### **Interest Areas**

Interest Areas is the point or points on the image where the viewer wants to stop as they view the image. These are called fixation points.

### **Light**

Light - the use and control of light refers to how dimension, shape and roundness are defined in an image. Visual direction to guide the viewer in the image.

### **Technique**

Technique is the approach used to create the image.

### **The Story**

Story Telling refers to the image's ability to evoke imagination in the viewer.