

# **KAPITI COAST PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY COMPETITION RULES 2024**

## **SALONS:**

Four regular seasonal Salons are held during the year – Summer (March), Autumn (May), Winter (August) and Spring (October) Salons. Each salon has both print and digital (projected) sections. Members enter work in these salons in one of three grades – Novice, Intermediate or Advanced.

Points accumulated from the Novice, Intermediate and Advanced grade seasonal salons lead to awards presented at the end of the year.

In July a special Print competition is held for the Frank Hinchcliff Memorial Trophy. This is open to all (ie not in grade sections).

A final competition is held in November to select the Best of Year Print and Best of Year Digital images - this is also open to all (ie not in grade sections).

See details of salon entry, submission of work, and judging below.

## **IMAGE TYPES:**

### **Prints**

These may be colour or monochrome. They are to be mounted on a firm backing and preferably have an over-mount or matt facing. Prints may be any size from 125 mm by 175 mm (excluding mount) up to 400 mm by 500 mm (or 16 in. by 20 in.) (including the mount). Framed or oversize prints will not be accepted. Prints for the Novice Grade need not be matted but must be mounted on a firm backing.

Entries are usually single images but may be Multiples, ie two or more associated prints mounted on a single backing. For these, the minimum print size (125 mm by 175 mm) does not apply, but the maximum mounted size still applies.

Prints must have a title on the reverse and the photographer's grade, but not the photographer's name.

### **Digital Images**

Digital images may also be either colour or monochrome. These images must be in highest quality JPEG format, sRGB colour space, and have a maximum of 3840 pixels horizontally, and a maximum of 2160 pixels vertically.

## **SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES**

### **Seasonal Salons**

For the Salons, a member may submit up to two entries for each type (i.e., up to two prints, and up to two digital images). Photographs or images submitted must be optically captured by the entrant. For composites, this includes all elements making up the final work. Non-generative AI tools may be used during

capture and to post-process the captured imagery. However, the use of generative AI is forbidden.

Entries must not have been submitted in previous KCPS Salons (including a Frank Hinchcliff competition), except that a non-accepted image may be re-submitted to a later salon.

Where a Salon includes set themes (not all do), that topic must be included in parentheses in the title of the image, whether print or digital.

### **Frank Hinchcliff**

For the Frank Hinchcliff competition in July a member may submit one or two prints. The images must have been captured within the last two years. There is no set theme. The entries must not have been submitted to a previous KCPS Salon or Frank Hinchcliff competition, and may not be submitted to subsequent KCPS Salons. (They may, however be submitted to external competitions and salons)

### **Best of Year**

For the Best of the Year competition (open, ungraded) in November, each member can submit one entry of each type (i.e. one print and one digital image). Each entry must have already been entered into one of the seasonal Salons held during that year, or be fundamentally based on it (e.g. small improvements in line with a judge's comments at the original competition are acceptable). A Best of Year digital image entry must have been entered in a Salon as a digital image, and a print entry as a print.

### **HOW TO ENTER**

For the Salons, entry details and image files for digital entries must be submitted online via the KCPS website at <http://kcps.org.nz/salon-entry-form/> This must be done no later than 1pm on the Sunday four weeks before the judging day for that salon. The specific entry dates each year will be stated in the club brochure and in the online calendar.

Where possible print entry details should also be submitted online. The actual prints are to be handed in at the Monday club meeting straight after the digital deadline. A copy of the entry details as received in the email acknowledgement should be printed out and included with any prints brought to the meeting.

For those who are submitting prints only and prefer not to enter online, prints brought to the meeting must be accompanied by a slip of paper providing details of the entrant's name, grade and the titles of entries.

Print entries must not carry the author's name but must have a title or some other form of identification for use by the Competition Secretary and Judge. This title/identification is also to be used on the entry form.

## **JUDGING**

Each competition is evaluated by a neutral guest judge or by a panel of members appointed by the committee. Seasonal Salon Judging Night is the second meeting in the relevant month. Judges are requested to evaluate each entry on its merits and then categorise each entry using the following scale:

**No Award, Accepted, Commended, Highly Commended, Honours.**

Judges then present their comments and ratings at the Judging Night meeting, or written comments from distant judges are read out.

---

## **GRADING OF IMAGES:**

These notes explain the main distinctions between the different grades awarded:

### **No Award (formerly labelled Not Accepted)**

Not of a suitable standard. There are clearly major flaws that adversely impact on the image. These can include (but are not limited to):

- Major technical errors (subject out of focus, severely over- or under-exposed)
- Very poor composition

Images judged No Award may be re-worked and re-entered in a future competition.

### **Accepted**

The author has seen a subject worthy of making an image, and some of the basic elements are evident – but little more. Essentially, the minimum standard that should be expected of a starting hobbyist using modern photographic equipment. This includes:

- Technically competent “record shots” of little artistic merit.
- An image that displays some degree of thought in its conception and composition, but which has been let down by significant and distracting technical errors.

### **Commended (formerly labelled “Merit”)**

A good basic image. The author has demonstrated the ability to select a subject

for its special interest, and has presented that subject well, with thoughtfulness. There may still be some technical flaws present, but these do not significantly lessen the impact of the image.

### **Highly Commended**

The author has demonstrated the ability to produce an image with some invention and artistic intent. There is good interest and impact. Any technical flaws are minor and do not distract.

### **Honours**

An outstanding photograph, one that stands out and has great impact.

### **Distribution of awards:**

We do not set a target distribution of awards – judges may award as many, or as few, “Honours” as they see fit; as many, or as few, “Highly Commended” as they see fit; and so on. This is because we view this exercise as an “evaluation”, rather than a “competition”. We would like each image to be evaluated individually, on its own merits and against the criteria outlined above – rather than by way of comparison to other images entered.

However, we do appreciate that it is difficult to define precisely the threshold between each award. Therefore, generally:

- “Honours” should be relatively rare, and reserved for those images that really do stand out.
- “No Award” should also be rare, and limited to images with clear major flaws.
- Normally, an “average” (“middle of the pack”) image in our evaluations will be awarded a “commended”.
- The threshold for each award should be adjusted as appropriate for Advanced, Intermediate and Novice grade photographers: the artistic standard required to attain “Honours” in Advanced grade should be higher than that required in Intermediate grade, and so on.

The grades awarded by judges are converted into points that are accumulated towards the end-of-year awards. This table sets out the conversion:

<b>Points Accumulation for Annual Salon Awards</b> Gained from each print or digital image judged	<b>Points</b>
Honours	13
Highly Commended	10
Commended	7

<b>Points Accumulation for Annual Salon Awards</b> Gained from each print or digital image judged	<b>Points</b>
Accepted	4

## **END OF YEAR AWARDS**

At the final meeting of the year several Annual Awards are presented:

**Best of Competition** awards and runner-up certificates are presented for the highest number of points accumulated by a member over the four seasonal Salons from March to October. They are awarded for Novice (combined print and digital), Intermediate Print, Intermediate Digital, Advanced Print and Advanced Digital.

**Best of the Year** cups and runner-up certificates are presented for the best images of the year in the two categories Print and Digital, as chosen by the judge of this November open competition.

The **Frank Hinchcliff Memorial Trophy** is presented to the winner of this July open print competition.