

COMBINED Results for February 2024 MONTHLY COMPETITION

Star	Firstname	Lastname	Title	Score	Award	Comment
5S0	Heidi	Taylor	Ski splash	12	Gold	Good composition and action caught at the right moment.The tension in the rope can really be felt. The B/W conversion is good. If the happy face was a bit sharper it would have scored higher.
6S1	Leon	Heyes	In Sync	13	Merit	Super action shot.Exposure and focus both good.Being in sync really helps the composition and the facial expressions tell the story.
1S	Sandra	Comrie	Grey Duck on Lake Taupo	11	Gold	Good separation between the subject and background. Nice and sharp, just needs a little more light in the eye and I would crop a little more at the top and on the right.
1S	Craig	Backhouse	Nest Building - CB	9	Silver	This is a great capture the exposure is spot on, however th eye is not quite sharp enough, the focus seems to be more on the body of the subject.
1S	Sandra	Comrie	Swallow	12	Gold	Well done this is a good image, the exposure and colour is spot on and I like the diagonal lines. The eye is just a tad soft.
3S	Jan	Lens	No mercy	10	Gold	Excellent timing! Exposure and colour are well handled, however the image seems to be a little over processed and there seems to be a halo around the subject.
5S0	Heidi	Taylor	Hungry Heron	11	Gold	Wow what a moment!Lucky heron,poor fish!Composition,exposure and separation from the background all good. Just a pity the focus is not better.
5S1	Maxi	Holder	Male Wattled Lapwing Portrait	13	Merit	Super sharp, super exposure, great portrait with good separation from the background. Well done.
5S1	Maxi	Holder	Whitefaced Whistling Duck	11	Gold	The duck is shown off in all it's splendor.If the face and the waterdrops , which show some action, were sharper it could be even better. Maybe more space on the left to swim into could also help the composition.
5S3	Ronelle	van den Heever	Breakfast on speed dial	13	Merit	Stunning action shot with high impact.Technically well done. The red bloom does give info but also tends to draw the eye. Perhaps crop some off on the right?
5S3	Des	van Tonder	Eye of the Bird	11	Gold	The composition with the negative space works.The pose is unusual. The focus of the bird is a little bit soft.
5S3	Ronelle	van den Heever	Feed me Seymor	12	Gold	Good story and interaction between the birds. Exposure good and junior is perfectly in focus. Would have been nice if mom was too.
5S3	Des	van Tonder	Pretty coot	11	Gold	The image is bright but sets off the well exposed coot.Nice composition with negative space.
5S4	Rob	Hart	Bishop splendour-3719	10	Gold	An impactful image with the bird posing for a good composition.Good separation from the background.The bird is just not sharp and the black chest is clogged.
5S4	Rob	Hart	Ibis at breeding colony-3257	11	Gold	The landing bird is well exposed and in focus. Capturing it a second earlier could have resulted in more separation from the chaos of the nest which is a necessary part of the image for the story.
5S4	Rob	Hart	Ibis in flight-3393	12	Gold	Well caught moment.The face is sharp while the wings show the movement. Good composition and exposure. There is a slight halo around the head.

6S1	Leon	Heyes	Foraging Juvenile Harrier Hawk	12	Gold	Good crop and action well caught. Nice exposure and story telling. A slight halo but does not detract.
1S	Craig	Backhouse	Ellie Chowling - CB	9	Silver	great image, though I feel the crop on the left is a little too close to the eye and there is a little too much space on the right. A little bit of levels would have elevated this image to a gold.
1S	Craig	Backhouse	On the Prowl - CB	12	Gold	Great image of the lioness intent on her prey. Well done!
1S	Noxolo	Kheswa	Siding Swamp1	10	Gold	Good capture of something not many people would think to photograph. Gives the feeling of stillness, though dropping a pebble in the water to show some ripples would have given the image a point of interest.
1S	Noxolo	Kheswa	Siding Swamp2	11	Gold	Same as the previous image, though the bit of grass in the foreground gives the image a point of interest as well as the reflection at the top.
2S	wynand	lens	Hanging out	13	Merit	I love this, the sharpness and depth of field is good, it's just a pity the leaf under the chin is a bit distracting.
2S	wynand	lens	Murder Scene 2	12	Gold	Fantastic capture, lighting and colour are really well handled, however, the overall focus is a tad soft.
2S	wynand	lens	On Top	13	Merit	Really good sharpness on the eye and light and colour is well handled. However, I feel the image could do with a slight crop on the right and a very fine border.
3S	Diane	Backhouse	Hunter - DB	9	Silver	Good image, you can see this guy has seen a few fights. The focus is soft though.
3S	Diane	Backhouse	Huntress - DB	10	Gold	A well composed image with good lighting, however the overall focus is soft.
3S	Diane	Backhouse	Mean Machine - DB	11	Gold	Well spotted! The bits of grass over eye is a bit distracting and again, the focus is a little soft.
4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	Mismatched pair 6303	9	Silver	The low sun lighting and colour tie this image together. However, neither animal is quite sharp enough and the branch along the top is disturbing.
5S1	Maxi	Holder	Soft And Cuddly For Now	13	Merit	Cuteness personified! Technically well handled with focus where needed and yet good separation from the background. Well done.
5S3	Ronelle	van den Heever	Banded Mongoose	11	Gold	The red nose is definitely the focus point. Good exposure. A little more DOF would have been helpful. Try cropping off on the right as the large area of blur does not add to the image.
1S	Marisan	Victor	Beauty	9	Silver	A nice fill the frame image and the point of interest is nice & sharp, however the pink area below seems a bit bright and is distracting.
1S	Marisan	Victor	Downhill	9	Silver	An interesting perspective. Good depth of field. This could be improved by adjusting the levels a bit and the orange in the background is a bit distracting.
1S	Marisan	Victor	Firestarter	12	Gold	Great use of light, you have really captured the attitude. A very fine border would have been beneficial.
1S	Noxolo	Kheswa	No Way Out	12	Gold	Good sharp focus, exposure is well handled, well done!
3S	Mags	Vosloo	All things Spice	12	Gold	Great composition, good focus and colour. Would benefit from levels adjustment and toning down the brightness in the lower right corner.
3S	Mags	Vosloo	Bread Bucket	13	Merit	Well done! Great image composition, colour and light is well handled.

3S	Joan	Lindegger	Opening up	8	Silver	A good capture, however the focus seems to be on the leaves behind the flower. A tighter crop, removing the pink at the bottom left would have increased the score.
3S	Joan	Lindegger	Reflection of a windmill	10	Gold	A good image of a windmill reflection, nice and sharp. The colours are a bit dull, a conversion to mono could create a more dramatic image.
3S	Mags	Vosloo	Strawberry Sugar Rush	13	Merit	Well composed image, light well handled. Slow shutter speed photography can be tricky, but you have handled it well. Well done!
3S	Joan	Lindegger	The last bloom on the head	10	Gold	Well captured, but maybe a crop to potrait mode would have more impact. The green buds and dead bloom in the background are a bit distracting.
4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	berg sunset	9	Silver	The silhouette of the mountains does set off the sky.The sky itself could have more contrast or clarity to make it more dramatic.
4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	Cargo loading never sleeps 5703	12	Gold	A high impact image which the colour palette enhances.The repetition of pattern is great. Perhaps the white line under the C could be removed as it looks out of place.
4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	early beach morning	11	Gold	Nicely seen image with pleasing dawn colours.Good attempt to combine the sun and the tree in a composition.Perhaps moving the horizontal lines of tree, and sea down and having more sky would get away from everything happening in the middle?
4S	Meleney	Naik	Le Eiffel Tower	10	Gold	The central composition works and the light beams add to it.If the foreground heads could have been further away and looking towards the tower it could have been stronger.Well done in the circumstances.
4S	Meleney	Naik	Love Locks at Casa di Giulietta	10	Gold	The dominant red colour sure gives impact and there is a good story. It is a busy image but the eye does find a place to rest with Elizabeth and Richard.Try cropping off the grey area at bottom left to give an edge to edge lock effect?
4S	Cornelia	Appel	Pancakes	11	Gold	Technically well done and good enough to eat!The plate is the centre of focus and I wonder if seeing more of the hand would help? Are the spoons on the left adding to the story?
4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	Stormy Sky 6906	10	Gold	A well timed shot! The trees are great silhouetted against the stormy sky but the bright light at the bottom is distracting. Maybe crop it out.
4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	the wheels on the bus	10	Gold	The patterns of the wheels and the repetition of the windows make this image. It is very graphic and I wonder if a tighter crop wouldn't make it even more so.
5S0	Paul	Naude	A Close Shave	11	Gold	The bird is well placed in the frame .The focus is a little soft and its white head a bit burnt out.
5S0	Heidi	Taylor	Lily and Bee	13	Merit	A great impactful image. The bee and the circle of yellow grab the eye as the focus point. Good lighting. Well done
5S0	Paul	Naude	Out of my way	12	Gold	Technically all well done albeit a little bright.It is sharp where it matters. Being entered in open the red item could have been removed. The wing on the rhs is quite close to the edge.
5S0	Tracey	Rhodes	Rose droplets	12	Gold	Super light on this beautiful rose with droplets. Perhaps the centre of the rose should be the sharpest focus point instead of outer petals?? Good subtle border.

5S0	Paul	Naude	Sting like a Bee	13	Merit	This image really portrays the difference between the steady bird and its super fast wing beat. Good exposure and focus. Perhaps a tighter crop would make it even stronger?
5S0	Tracey	Rhodes	Sunflower	12	Gold	Great portrayal of Natures beautiful geometry. Well done in all respects
5S1	Stephen	Pryke	Cape Vulture	9	Silver	This magnificent bird is in a perfect pose and seen from a good angle. However the shadows are noisy and it would be nice to have included the feet.
5S1	Stephen	Pryke	Giraffe Duo	10	Gold	The neck bashing duo creates a busy and confusing view of giraffe. But that is how it is! There seem to be some processing issues that detract from the image. eg inconsistent background blurring.
5S1	Stephen	Pryke	Sunrise over the Amphitheatre	10	Gold	Magnificent view with a good composition and nice lighting. Cropping out the brightest part of the sun on the left might prevent ones eye from being drawn out of the image.
5S1	Terry	Burne	Tynemouth Priory - 9245bw	11	Gold	A dramatic and emotional image which the conversion to B&W emphasises. Good DOF. Perhaps the sky is a little too dramatic and competes with the priory and the gun?
5S3	Des	van Tonder	Sugar Sugar	13	Merit	This image can't be faulted technically and the composition is great. Well done. As a much photographed subject, the impact is lessened unfortunately.
6S1	Leon	Heyes	The Epitome of Sunshine	14	Merit	A high impact well handled image in all respects. A tiny border would help to define the composition when viewed against a black background.
1S	Sandra	Comrie	James	10	Gold	A lovely, serious portrait of James, lighting is well handled. Adding levels adjustment would make the image pop
4S	Avril	Janssen	Blue Eyes	11	Gold	Beautiful blue eyes engaging directly with the viewer make this shot. Nice soft light and good pose. Just not sharp enough to score higher. A pity. The one bright earring could be toned down.
4S	Meleney	Naik	Geisha Girl	10	Gold	This seems to be a candid street photo and as such is successful. If her face had been turned a little more towards the light it could be even better?
4S	Cornelia	Appel	Girl with her Bangle	11	Gold	Good soft lighting and a happy relaxed pose. The eyes are lovely. Not too sure about the hand pose. Maybe if under the chin it would appear smaller? There seems to be some inconsistent blurring of the silver chain and finger against the chin.
4S	Avril	Janssen	Its cold out there	9	Silver	Charming portrait of a delightful smiley face. Good crop with eyes fully engaging with the viewer. If the all over focus was better this would have scored much higher.
5S0	Tracey	Rhodes	Carnival time	12	Gold	An impactful, interesting and different portrait. The conversion to B&W is great. His left eye does not have a highlight which disturbs.
5S3	Vicki	Street	Contemplation	14	Merit	Beautiful shot with a wonderful colour palette. Interesting pose and the facial expression says it all! Well done.

5S3	Vicki	Street	Jenna	13	Merit	Beautiful soft colours enhanced by good lighting. The pose is commanding with eye connection with the viewer. The face, particularly around the mouth appears to have been over smoothed and appears plasticity. Hands well positioned.
5S3	Vicki	Street	The world is in our hands	13	Merit	Indeed a thought provoking portrait. Technically very well handled. Well done. I hope they found the pot of gold! Good composition, the lighthouse and the rainbow and boat balance the image nicely. Maybe a small amount of dehazing would have lifted the image a bit.
1S	Jean	Lens	Finding Gold	11	Gold	A well balanced image with good exposure, however there is not much that is sharp in the image.
1S	Dylan	Evans	Ponte Vecchio	9	Silver	This is an impactful image, well balanced and lighting and colour is well handled. There is no EXIF data, so not sure of the camera settings, or what lens was used. It looks like it could be a fisheye lens?
3S	Jan	Lens	How green is my valey	10	Gold	Another impactful image, but seems to have been overprocessed.
3S	Jan	Lens	Level with the clouds	8	Silver	The various elements of this image are great. The river, the mountains and the clouds. But the composition suffers as the eye is pulled from the top right corner to bottom left and vice versa.
4S	Avril	Janssen	In the mountains	10	Gold	This landscape is so graphic. Great composition. The boat is just in the right place and even the cloud is well positioned! Nice complimentary colours.
5S1	Terry	Burne	Blyth Beach - 2573	12	Gold	Good portrayal of the super green pastoral landscape. The main focus is the church which is well placed with the patterns of lines leading to it. Perhaps crop a little off the bottom to reduce the foreground bright green which competes with the pastures?
5S1	Terry	Burne	Somewhere on Dartmoor - 3041	11	Gold	