

Results for_March_2024_MC_Mono_NATURE - Ian

Club Star Rating	Title	Firstname	Lastname	Score	Award	Comment
1S	Joe day dream	Jean	Lens	9	Silver	Nice separation from background. Whites are a bit overexposed - lower bright section with the grass could benefit from lowering exposure levels
2S	Eating the Sun	wynand	lens	12	Gold	Great effort. The beetle is well exposed and has great detail. Well thought out crop with space around the subject with good separation from background.
2S	Tranquil	wynand	lens	10	Gold	Good detail around the eye and thorax of your subject. Good conversion to mono with plenty space around your subject. Think about cropping at least one third of the left side as well as a little off the top. If your left side was completely black it could stay with it assisting with the impact of your subject. The light parts compete with your subject.
3S	Agapanthus (2)	Mags	Vosloo	12	Gold	I like the detail in the radial lines of this flower. Very good distinct focus on the subject with good separation from the background. Exposure also well handled.
3S	Agapanthus	Joan	Lindegger	10	Gold	You have created an interesting story with each of these little buds competing for attention. Good detail - water drops and spiders web is visible. Overall exposure is good - perhaps consider darkening the lower third of the image to ensure more attention is given to the subject.
3S	Daisy	Joan	Lindegger	8	Silver	Focus is sharp on a small part of the stem and on two of the petals on the right. The rest of the flower is out of focus due to the shallow depth of field. The top petal of the flower has been cut off either due to cropping or else being too close to the subject. Sometimes taking a step back will help with composition as well as depth of field.

Best Junior

3S	Mono Flower	Mags	Vosloo	10	Gold	The exposure and the placement of the flower in the square crop work well together. Due to the similarity in the components of this flower there is a lack of a distinct focal point which makes ones eye wander around looking for somewhere to settle. However the flower as a complete study has sufficient detail and texture due to the dark and light areas.
3S	Mushrooms	Jan	Lenz	9	Silver	Subject matter with lots of potential with interesting textures and shapes. Be careful with cropping and cutting off part of the subject on the left side. Also be careful with overexposed whites as can be seen on stem on right hand side. It would appear that high ISO induced noise is evident in this image. If the lighting is a challenge and a high ISO is needed, rather try using a tripod with a much lower shutter speed thus reducing ISO.
3S	Woolly Neck	Jan	Lenz	9	Silver	Exposure and detail in subject is well handled. This category allowed manipulation, according to the competition steward. The saying "less is more" applies to editing, particularly when it comes to dealing with manipulation or removal of backgrounds. There are some aparts around the birds head and upper body that appear un-natural.
4S	Driftwood	Liesl	Couperthwaite	9	Silver	Intersting subject choice with contrasting tones and textures between the rocks and the tree. As a nature category, the piece of paper in the sand at the front of the rock could have been removed prior to taking the photo.
4S	Fluffy	Meleney	Naik	8	Silver	The stem of the dandelion is in focus - exposure is in order as well as good separation from the background. Unfortunately the head of the dandelion has a lack of definition. Perhaps a larger f stop would have helped.

4S	Fronde	Meleney	Naik	10	Gold	A well exposed image with lots of detail down to the fine hairs on this frond. Having the out of focus tendril in the middle of the image lets the composition down. Perhaps if the image had been placed with the main tendril that is in focus, in the centre of the image with some open space on the left. Then crop the image on the right third to remove the back out of focus tendril.
4S	lotus	JOAN	JUNG	14	Merit	Three distinct stand out elements - the white petals with great texture - the central grey cone with the stamens surrounding it and finally the almost velvet textures in the darker background. This image has great depth to it as well as excellent composition. Well done!
4S	magic mushrooms	Liesl	Couperthwaite	10	Gold	An ideal composition with three different mushrooms ascending in height. Exposure is well handled - focus has a bias to the grass in front of the main subject. If you use auto focus make sure you are focusing on the important part or else use manual focus. The diffused background is great - if the front grass was the same the mushrooms would pop.
4S	Salt pans in veldrift	JOAN	JUNG	DQ		Salt pans are man made and do not qualify for nature category
5S0	Birthday rose	Tracey	Rhodes	8	Silver	Good subject choice, well positioned in frame with water drops adding to the story. Image appears to be "harsh" which may be due to the editing process.
5S0	Jackal pup	Heidi	Taylor	10	Gold	Pleasant interaction between the subject and the author. Diffused foreground and background isolates jackal and has decent exposure. Perhaps apply a little noise reduction.
5S0	Pelican in flight	Heidi	Taylor	8	Silver	Exposure has a few overexposed areas. Composition is in order. However the bird is lacking in focus. Perhaps a higher shutter speed could have assisted.

Best Senior

5S0	Petal	Tracey	Rhodes	8	Silver	Minimalistic approach to this image is very brave. The idea has a lot of merit, however the end result is lacking in detail and contrast. A vertical visible line appears on the right fifth of the image which is distracting.
5S0	Zebera	Paul	Naude	10	Gold	Bold image of this Zebra. Great detail in the hairs in the ear. Perhaps a little less of the blacks as well as perhaps toning the background whites down a little.
5S1	Hey Move Over Kiddo	Maxi	Holder	10	Gold	Great story. Well done with the detail in the pair of Terrapins. When converting to monochrome it is important to take note of excessive whites or highlights. Overall this image appears to be a little overexposed. The area on the right below the subject has cobweb that has blown out whites.
5S1	Lanner Falcon On A Stump	Maxi	Holder	8	Silver	A good idea to present this bird on tis stump. Great textures in the stump with the subject at the peak of the triangle shape, which creates good leading lines to focus on the Lanner. Unfortunately the bird has an appearance of being over processed and a halo is visible around the bird. Another of the images where less is more in terms of processing.
5S1	Textures and Lines	Stephen	Pryke	10	Gold	Very appealing image with the diagonal and vertical lines of the tree stump as a host to the fungal growth. The fungus has its own appeal with the repetitive semi circles. Two things that let this image down - firstly what appears to be overexposed areas on the top right of the fungus and secondly a very dark blob on the bottom right corner.
5S1	Web Jewels	Stephen	Pryke	9	Silver	One of natures gifts to the photographer. Wonderful subject with great natural appeal and interest. Unfortunately I see several areas where white "residue" has been left from background editing.

5S3	Fly in Mono	Vicki	Street	9	Silver	Flies tend to be great macro subjects as they are fairly common. To capture one posing where there are few distractions is even better. Most importantly with macro work is to have a good depth of field. A setting of f11 to f14 normally works well with most macro lens setups. A fairly slow shutter speed can also work as the subject is stationary. It would appear that a rather shallow depth of field has been produced which is possibly due to an f stop of 5.6 or 6.3. Try using a smaller aperture (higher fstop) to improve your depth of field.
5S3	From the back	Des	van Tonder	12	Gold	Well done. Subject is separated from the background with great exposure and good detail. Water droplets add to the texture of the image. Possibly try dropping the overall exposure as this could improve the contrast making the image pop even more - (to a COM)
5S3	Grey Heron up close	Ronelle	van den Heever	9	Silver	I like the composition with the curve of the neck giving a natural leading line through to the head of the bird. Reasonable detail has been captured in the neck feathers but overall the image could have been enhanced with a brighter exposure, the black section on the neck is lost against the background.
5S3	Hydrangea in Mono	Vicki	Street	8	Silver	The choice of an image with multiple subjects in varying stages of focus is brave! The exposure appears to be a bit too bright in areas with other areas having excessive grain and noise. I personally would try to isolate a section of the subject against a plain background in order to produce an image that might be more appealing.
5S3	Just hanging	Ronelle	van den Heever	11	Gold	Overall a pleasing image with the different elements working in a cohesive manner - great detail on the spider in the foreground with the radial lines of the web drawing you into the image. Be careful of the highlights on some of the sections of the spider.

5S3	Peter the Pelican	Des	van Tonder	10	Gold	A well captured image of this Pelican showing sufficient detail to convey a pleasing image of this bird. Think about the overall exposure and consider what might be done to set it apart from other similar pictures. An artist working with charcoal on paper may have much darker accents - perhaps try lowering the overall exposure - I tried it and your image popped!
5S4	Bracket fungus 4399	Rob	Hart	13	Merit	Great visual impact which transcends normal visual stimulus. I hear the image asking me to listen. Well done with transporting the viewer into the forest to experience what you saw and captured. Great exposure and detail where it matters!
5S4	Bracket fungus 4481	Rob	Hart	9	Silver	Wonderful subject matter which gives an amazing opportunity to produce a stunning image. Consider a more vertical approach to your image , which would provide the opportunity to have the subject in focus from front to back. Might I suggest cropping out the foreground part leaving only the two sections with the circles overlapping each other.
6S1	Old Wise Owl	Leon	Heyes	11	Gold	Very pleasing portrait of this owl - great detail on the head and the eye. Exposure very well handled. As manipulation is allowed in this competition, consider darkening the background a little to make the owl stand out more.
6S1	Snake Neck	Leon	Heyes	9	Silver	Interesting capture of this flamingo. Composition is great with good line shape and form. Exposure is very well handled. The image unfortunately lacks the feather detail that one would have hoped to have seen.