

RESULTS - APR 2025 - MONTHLY COMPETITION -											
Cat.	Seq.	Star Rating	FirstName	LastName	Title	INTREF	SCORE	AWARD	Comments		
AS	1	1S	Jason	Johnstone	Challenge	2601516	13	Merit	Excellent capture of action, retaining movement in the water, nicely composed, not too cluttered and good tonal range. Well done!		
AS	2	4S	wynand	lens	Capital Marathon	2602394	8	Silver	Good action and great attempt at panning. Good vibrant colours and background separation. None of the runners are sharp.		
AS	3	5S2	Terry	Burne	Cycling Grand Prix of Montreal - 9793	2595465	13	Merit	Beautifully panned and captured. Cyclist's concentration is well captured, the busy background cleverly separated with blurring, great colours and action. Well done!		
AS	4	5S3	Des	van Tonder	Concentration	2602331	14	Merit	Outstanding action image: the perspective at water level makes this interesting, the face of the paddler is sharp, background separation excellent and the action captured in the well lit water droplets together make this what it is. Well done!	Best Senior	
AS	5	5S4	Rob	Hart	Canoeists start Mission Rock dropoff 11688	2602265	10	Gold	Good action shot with nice contrasts and colours. Pity only the back paddler is sharp. Skin tones might be a bit off but difficult to tell as it may be muddy water reflection.		
AS	6	5S4	Rob	Hart	Mission Rock hazard ahead 11392	2602262	8	Silver	Action well captured. Image works with subject very central. However, faces not sharp and same comment on skin tones.		
NB	2	1S	Craig	Backhouse	European Roller - CB	2602330	6	Bronze	Nice colours and bird well defined against the background. The crop looks very tight and could be opened up. Digital noise in the sky and unfortunately not sharp.		
NB	1	1S	Craig	Backhouse	European Roller - CB	2602334	9	Silver	Well composed, image sharp and nicely separated from background. Unfortunately it is over-exposed and the colours look very washed out.		
NB	3	1S	Jason	Johnstone	Little Beauty	2601519	11	Gold	Good image, nice and sharp and well composed. Try pulling your levels slider to darken the background a bit and create better separation between background and bird.		
NB	4	2S	Sandra	Comrie	Tawny Frogmouth	2601611	10	Gold	Lovely image of the bird - sharp, good colours and textures. The background is quite busy with specks of sky blown out. When shooting against a bright background rather under-expose and bring up the shadows.		
NB	5	3S	Derek	Brittain	Orange throated Longclaw	2602466	8	Silver	Well time moment, good composition and nice clean background. Throat is too saturated and not enough light on the eye.		
NB	6	3S	Joan	Lindegger	Travelling family	2602451	9	Silver	Well timed with the calling goose nice and sharp. Colours are good. The geese are swimming uphill - try and rotate the image a bit - and you can bring up the dark shadow in the top left a bit.		
NB	7	4S	wynand	lens	Flyby	2602396	8	Silver	Brilliantly timed image, shot at a high enough speed to keep the eye nice and sharp. The tops of the wings are quite blown out and the top of the head also over-exposed.		

NB	8	4S	Meleney	Naik	Got a bone to pick with you	2601911	10	Gold	Great portrait: well-exposed and composed, colours and textures are excellent. The background bird(s) is very bright and could be brought down a bit to make less of a distraction.	
NB	9	4S	Jan	Lens	Purple crested Lourie	2584890	12	Gold	Striking colours and texture. You've done well to get the bird to stand out against a busy background. Crop in front of the head is a bit tight and you could reduce brightness on the top of the beak and forehead.	
NB	10	5S3	Des	van Tonder	Kingfisher Sushi	2602333	8	Silver	Striking image with wonderful clear background separation. The bird looks over-sharpened and there is a significant halo around the log, inside the bird's beak and in one or two other places.	
NB	11	5S3	Ronelle	van den Heever	Sounds of the bush	2602436	11	Gold	Great capture and excellent management of light, especially on the whites. I like the beak against the black of the wing and that you've managed to keep the head area clear of the business of the rest of the image.	
NB	12	6S1	Leon	Heyes	Fancy Meeting You Here	2590480	11	Gold	Lovely story telling, nice light and textures. Consider bringing down the exposure on the background bird to reduce the potential for distraction.	
NN	1	1S	Lesley	Marchant	Busy Bee	2597435	9	Silver	Excellent timing, good colours and exposure. The focus is more on the plant and side of the bee than on the bee's eye, which is what brought an otherwise very good image down.	
NN	2	1S	Toni	Harley	Bzzzzzz	2601322	9	Silver	Well composed, lovely image, sharp and good textures. The colours on the flower are too over-saturated and can be brought back easily to make this an excellent image.	
NN	3	1S	Toni	Harley	Frequent flyer	2601324	15	Merit	Outstanding macro image, the more so from a 1 star worker. Sharp as a tack, colours and exposure perfect, excellent background separation. Well done!	Best Junior
NN	4	1S	Marc	Gordon	Mamba challenge	2601216	11	Gold	Excellent capture, with the snakes eye well in focus, composition perfect and I like the narrow DOF with the body blurring into the background. The colours (especially the snake) appear a bit over-saturated, but not to the over-all significant detriment of the image. At a higher star rating would have been more penalised.	
NN	5	1S	Craig	Backhouse	Peek a Boo - CB	2602336	12	Gold	Well spotted and captured. Good focus on the ye, lovely textures and I like the light beneath the neck. Good background separation with bokeh. Consider cropping some of the tree out as it is out of focus and dominates the image without adding value to it.	
NN	6	1S	Marc	Gordon	Say Cheese	2601400	13	Merit	This tells a wonderful story with it being one of those rare images where background busy-ness is what makes the story. I love the way you have brought up the light on the subject mouse, which itself is sharp, well textured and ticks most other boxes. The white mouse on the left presents a slight distraction which could be resolved with a bit less exposure.	

NN	7	2S	Sandra	Comrie	Grey-Headed Flying Fox	2601620	10	Gold	Image is sharp and well seen. Textures are good and colours look right. Background busy-ness and the stick which cuts the wing in two has brought the score down. Watch for the bright area at the top which is tending to overexpose the tail area of the animal.	
NN	8	2S	Sandra	Comrie	I Cannot Reach	2601621	10	Gold	Nicely seen and good timing with your shot. Colours are good and great texture on the cow / buffalo. Try and bring up some detail in the shadows beneath the ear and the corner of the mouth and bring down highlights on the tongue. <b>[NOTE: to committee: I do not know if this is a cow or baby buffalo. If it is a cow, then the award is DQ.]</b>	
NN	9	2S	Nyasha	Godoka	My real dad is a what	2602367	9	Silver	Great story-telling and your title is humorous (although titles aren't judged). Exposure and colours are good. The focus appears not to be on the eye of either animal and the crop in front of them is a bit tight.	
NN	10	3S	Diane	Backhouse	Catch of the Day - DB	2593192	6	Bronze	Excellent capture, nicely composed with action aplenty and very good story-telling. Alas, the image is over-exposed and nothing is in focus save for one or two teeth.	
NN	11	3S	Gustav	de Wet	Grass stem decoration	2601399	8	Silver	Nice composition and good contrast with background separation. Colours and texture good. The face is not in focus, has an area with no pixels on it and generally the image is a bit over-exposed.	
NN	12	3S	Diane	Backhouse	Leopard in the Bush - DB	2593193	9	Silver	This was a well-seen image and presents as a quiet bush scene. The animal appears to be sharp. Overall the image is a bit under-exposed, making the leopard compete for the viewer's attention with the background. Try putting some more light on the animal to make it pop out.	
NN	13	3S	Diane	Backhouse	Leopard on the Rocks - DB	2593194	10	Gold	You have captured the animal's movement and essence nicely here. The leopard stands out well against the separated background, although you could consider bring the background brightness down.	
NN	14	3S	Gustav	de Wet	New growth	2601398	9	Silver	Well seen and nicely composed. I like the mood created by the water droplets. Having said that, their over-exposure and brightness creates a distraction from your subject which itself is starting to look a bit over-exposed.	
NN	15	3S	Jake	Alletson	Out of Sight But Not Out of Mind	2601476	11	Gold	A creative perspective on the giraffe and bird - well done for capturing both. Through the reflection the image tells a story. There is more orange and yellow in the image, esp. the sky, than I would expect for a midday shot, but it may be the reflection that is making the colours slightly unnatural.	
NN	16	3S	Derek	Brittain	Patience is a requirement for survival	2602467	9	Silver	You have captured the lion's stare and alertness very well. Your exposure is good with light falling nicely on the animal's face. I find the large area of blurred green grass on the left very distracting and it can easily be reduced with a crop. Also bring down the brightness on the foreground grass stalk.	

NN	17	3S	Gustav	de Wet	Spot the spider	2601397	8	Silver	This is well seen and composed, with the spider itself sharp and well exposed. However, your title says it all: the subject of the image is insignificant against the brightness of the droplets. You can bring down the brightness of the background and bring up the contrasts in the spider in post to make it more visible.	
NN	18	4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	Just touching 8459	2601441	8	Silver	Timing and composure are good with excellent texture on the flower. Only the wings of the insect are sharp, but not the face. Also try bring saturation down for more natural greens and less yellow.	
NN	19	5S0	Heidi	Taylor	Climbing upwards	2597537	11	Gold	Good try telling with the insect well exposed and sharp, although whites on the caterpillar are starting to get a bit bright. Textures and lighting are good, with the background greens a bit noisy.	
NN	20	5S2	Terry	Burne	The spider and the web - 6885	2595466	12	Gold	Lovely lighting, well exposed throughout with excellent detail on the spider and web. I'm not convinced that a panorama crop does full justice to the subject: try a tighter landscape crop and you get a lot more impact with the subject.	
NN	21	5S3	Ronelle	van den Heever	Terrapin march	2602437	11	Gold	I like the expression you have captured and the sharpness of the face, but enough DOF at F9 to capture the rest of the body. The bright spots behind the head, which are difficult to manage when shooting wet images in the middle of the day, brings this image down.	
NN	22	5S4	Rob	Hart	Spider hunting wasp with prey	2602279	10	Gold	A story well told with image sharp and well exposed. The aerial view makes the image a bit flat and lifeless.	
NN	23	6S1	Leon	Heyes	Warthog Head Takeaway	2590477	11	Gold	Great bush veld story well told. Although the warthog tusk cuts the hyaena face in two, I rather like the inter-twining. The light in the image is a little flat, although you have done well to bring up detail and textures.	
OM	1	1S	Jay	Nabbe	Blinded by the light	2601967	12	Gold	Clever use of light: well done for getting the timing exactly right. Although this works well as a low key image, consider bringing up the light in the shadows a bit to show a little more detail and not make the contrast so great.	
OM	2	1S	Jason	Johnstone	Witnesses	2601521	12	Gold	I love this story, with immense drama in the sky and the 3 animals on the move with purpose. A bit more light on the faces will move this into a merit spot.	
OM	3	4S	wynand	lens	Lilly	2602395	DQ	DQ	No award. Although a striking image, DQ because it's a colour image in a mono category.	
OM	4	5S0	Heidi	Taylor	Majestic Lammergeier	2597479	9	Silver	Striking portrait of the bird with a good tonal range. At 5 star level I would like to see some more detail in the tail and the dark area below the bird.	
OP	1	1S	Lestey	Marchant	Autumn colours	2597252	13	Merit	Excellent work with the scene well captured, background well separated and colours, textures and light setting the mood well. Try and get rid of peripheral distractions like the top left corner. Well done!	

OP	2	1S	Debbie	Kleu	Berry Nests	2601706	11	Gold	Nice and sharp image with good contrasts and background separation. The ant adds to the story, although it would have been nice to see a face. Consider cropping out the blurred plants on the right and bringing exposure down slightly on the main subject.	
OP	3	1S	Toni	Harley	Concentration	2601326	13	Merit	You've captured the action and told the story very well. Front paddler nice and sharp and the shutter speed has frozen the action well. Consider a bit more light on the paddlers. Well done!	
OP	4	1S	Lestey	Marchant	Crane rising	2597224	10	Gold	I love the simplicity of the image with the striking flower against a plain black background. The stalk seems a bit noisy and to disappear where it intersects with the green sleeve.	
OP	5	1S	Aimee	Hendriksz	dewdrop	2595645	9	Silver	The image works nicely with the drop in the lower centre of the frame. The drop and buds inside are reasonably sharp. What brought this down is over-saturated colours which make it look quite unnatural.	
OP	6	1S	Jay	Nabbe	Doorway	2601966	11	Gold	I love the story-telling quality of this image. The shapes, especially the leading line of the stairs, focus the viewer on the story itself. Exposure is good in a low key setting. Consider a slight crop at the top to make the door less central.	
OP	7	1S	Jay	Nabbe	Eye Contact	2602368	9	Silver	A nice street photograph which was well seen. Despite the harsh light you have handled most of the contracts quite well, although a bit of detail on the legs would be nice. What brought this down is that the toy is in focus when the story is more about the children, who are very much out of focus.	
OP	8	1S	Debbie	Kleu	Flutterby on flower	2601704	13	Merit	Excellent work with the image well seen, great mood and story-telling with water droplets and butterfly surprisingly sharp for F2.1. Colours and lighting are good. In the open category there are a few minor distractions that could be removed.	
OP	9	1S	Aimee	Hendriksz	Little Purple Flower	2595045	8	Silver	Good colour contrasts with the purple and yellow. Exposure is good with nice blurred background. The subject is not sharp (there is a sharpish droplet on it). Consider a portrait crop bringing it in on the left and removing the berry at the bottom.	
OP	10	1S	Dylan	Evans	Mossy Rock	2602452	10	Gold	The image is surprisingly sharp at 1/6th, but perhaps the camera was stabilised. I like the contrast of the green shoots against the dark background. The dark lower third of the image doesn't add value and can be cropped out.	
OP	11	1S	Debbie	Kleu	Wasp on flower	2601703	13	Merit	Excellent capture and great story. Colour and DOF well handled with the important parts nice and sharp. Consider cloning out the yellow spot on the left side toe. Well done.	
OP	12	2S	Nyasha	Godoka	Fly killing the mooed	2602347	10	Gold	Nice tight portrait of the cow with colour well handled and good textures. Consider bringing up the shadow on the beast's face and reducing brightness in the background. Although the fly is in the title, it is out of focus and to some extent detracts from the image.	

OP	13	3S	Derek	Brittain	One tusk and I aint moving	2602468	8	Silver	Impactful bush scene with good focus on the face of the left hand elephant. The harsh light and shadows makes for very flat lighting with huge contrasts. Image generally over-exposed.	
OP	14	3S	Joan	Lindegger	Rusty grin	2602455	9	Silver	The image is well seen and the minimal selection of the subject works well. Exposure on the outside of the car is good, but the dark shadows inside could use some detail. Although the jaunty angle is interesting, when I rotated the image to straight the grin became more "human" - more real.	
OP	15	4S	Meleney	Naik	Dancer	2601950	9	Silver	I like the way the well lit arms have framed the waist and decorations, with the whole image set against a dark background. What brought this down is there are significant areas in front which have no detail, but some of which can be brought up in post.	
OP	16	4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	how to shift a shark	2601430	6	Bronze	Nice PJ with good story telling. Although the light on top of the shark is good, the faces of the guys pulling the shark are in deep shadow, nothing really appears to be in focus and the image needs to be straightened up.	
OP	17	4S	Meleney	Naik	On Pointe	2601955	11	Gold	The simplicity of the subject set against contrasty colour and with a strong textured overlay makes this an interesting image on which the viewer's eyes can dwell. Although the overall effect is the artistic licence of the author, my personal preference would have been to see legs in their original state with texture everywhere else.	
OP	18	4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	Starbursts 8284	2601440	10	Gold	Your exposure and colours on the main and secondary starbursts are good and gets the attention. I find the one on the bottom right very bright. When I removed it balance was restored to the image.	
OP	19	4S	JOAN	JUNG	tiny mushrooms	2602151	10	Gold	A nice composition and a setting that has the imagination of the viewer going. Exposure is generally good with the tops of the mushrooms a tad over-exposed. A light crop at the bottom and a bit on the left creates a stronger image and less distraction from the out of focus area.	
OP	20	5S0	Heidi	Taylor	Just peachy	2597478	13	Merit	Beautiful rendition of the rose which ticks every box for colour, contrast, uncluttered background and mood. It could be enhanced a bit with a little more light on subject. Well done!	
OP	21	5S1	Tracey	Rhodes	Classic time piece	2602401	11	Gold	A powerful image with great impact. Lovely, well exposed colours against the dark background. The out of focus piece at the bottom would work without the bright highlights, but becomes distracting. Try removing the highlights.	
OP	22	5S1	Tracey	Rhodes	Forgotten sunflower	2602402	11	Gold	An interesting still life telling a story of neglect. I like the hint of source light at the top left, and starkness of the image against the background. Focus appears to be in the darker areas of the sunflower.	

OP	23	5S2	Terry	Burne	Early morning dew in the grass - 6869	2595467	13	Merit	A lot of impact with the sharpness of the grass and dew drops well separated against the background. It is not entirely clear whether the large drop or the intersection of the grasses is the subject, but nonetheless a very pleasing image. Well done!	
OP	24	6S1	Leon	Heyes	Lotus and Buds	2590481	12	Gold	The flower is beautifully captured and presented, with excellent light, textures and colours. I find the brightness and position of the bud against the stem derating from the perfection of the flower. If the bud had been slightly to the left of the stem the image would have felt more balanced.	
PA	1	3S	Joan	Lindegger	Blurry dream	2602453	8	Silver	I enjoy the ethereal feel to this image and the way it has been put together. However, there is too much grey in the image and several areas in heavy shadow.	
PO	1	1S	Marc	Gordon	Frendemys	2601401	9	Silver	A lovely very human scene. The tight crop works to bring the viewer into the group. No one's eyes are in focus, there is a lot of purple in the image, esp. on the forehead of the girl on the left, and the teeth are blown out.	
PO	2	4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	i am smiling	2601429	10	Gold	Nicely composed a presented mother and son portrait. Nice contrast against the black background. Skin tones look a bit yellow and the brightness of the boy's shirt could be brought down.	
PO	3	4S	JOAN	JUNG	muscle mania	2602149	12	Gold	Lovely low key image with great detail and light on the model's face and hands. I would have liked to see some detail in the hair.	
PO	4	4S	Doug	Couperthwaite	Patiently waiting 7690	2601442	10	Gold	Nice high key effect with the personality of the dog well captured. There are some edges of the dog which disappear against the white background and wonder if some more contrast would deal with that.	
PO	5	4S	Liesl	Couperthwaite	senior beauty	2601428	13	Merit	A lovely image, well exposed which presents the essence of the person to the viewer. Good exposure, sharpness and colours against a dark background make for a pleasing image. Well done!	
PO	6	4S	JOAN	JUNG	sissy	2602150	13	Merit	Very well presented against the white background with lovely detail, exposure, skin tones and eye contact. Well done!	
PO	7	5S3	Ronelle	van den Heever	Wild Dog	2602443	9	Silver	You have portrayed the concentration and of the animal very well with the background well separated to focus the viewer on the subject. I would like to see a bit more light on the shadowy side of the face to show up the eye some more and the grass in front of the neck can be removed.	
SC	1	1S	Aimee	Hendriksz	krugersunset	2595647	7	Silver	Nice mood and good use of the tree to frame the sun setting. However, the sun is very bright and blown out with the consequence that the viewer can see very little detail elsewhere. Shadows could be brought up in post, so remember to rather expose images for the brightest areas and then lift shadows afterwards.	

SC	2	1S	Dylan	Evans	Misty Dorpspruit	2602447	13	Merit	Lovely composition. Excellent use of slow shutter speed to blur the water, but keep the form and movement. Good mood created with the mist in the forest. Try bringing up shadows in some of the darker patches. Well done!	
SC	3	1S	Dylan	Evans	Sun rays through the tree canopy	2602450	10	Gold	Nice mood captured with the rays filtering through. Reasonable tonal range. Watch out for loss of textures with a strong backlight and also solar flare on the front of the main tree. The focal point appears to be the fork in the tree, which is a bit too central.	
SC	4	2S	Nyasha	Godoka	Desert Milkyway	2602370	14	Merit	Outstanding work! Great capture of the milky way with good management of light on the windmill and bushes / trees. The only improvement might be to bring down a bit of brightness on the top of the windmill. Well done!	
SC	5	3S	Jake	Alletson	No More Load Shedding From Here	2601472	10	Gold	The towers have been captured from a good vantage point illustrating their dominance over the landscape. Colours are good and DOF has been well handled. Having said that, the lighting is a bit flat and introducing some more contrast with a levels slider will make the image pop.	
SC	6	3S	Jake	Alletson	Wagondrift Dam in Flood	2601474	9	Silver	The image is a powerful one with good impact. Nice use of leading line with the fence and the action in the water neatly framed in the dam walls and sky. The base of the waterfall on the right is blown out and the image is leaning to the left and can easily be straightened.	
SC	7	5S3	Des	van Tonder	Pastel Beach	2602362	10	Gold	Good technique with a nice use of slow shutter speed to create the lovely pastel and creamy look in the water and sky. Although the focal point (the small rock in the right foreground) is sharp, it isn't big or bold enough to hold the viewer's attention for long. For future images of this genre consider a bigger and more interesting focal point.	