

Y 2025 - MONTHLY						
Cat	Title	SCORE	AWARD	Firstname	Lastname	Comment
AS	Glory Together	10	Gold	Nicholas	Deyssel	This image tells a great story. The subjects are in focus. There is symmetry in the image with the two young men on either side of the circle. The fact that we cannot see any of the other boys faces, does not bother me because I feel that this image is not about the faces, but about the spirit that it portrays - one of camaraderie - teamwork - and friendship.
AS	Oopsie Dusi	12	Gold	Jason	Johnstone	Excellent action shot. We can see the disappointment in this mans eyes as to swims to safety. The image is in focus and all the details can be seen. Well done.
AS	Rugby	8	Silver	Nicholas	Deyssel	Well captured. We can see the concentration and effort as he kicks the ball. However, the image is not sharp throughout. Well done though on capturing movement on his legs.
AS	Stringing my guitar	10	Gold	Magda	Bezuidenhout	There is a fantastic mood to this image. Well done on capturing the yellow in the smoke against the blue, because of this, your subject can be clearly seen and our eyes are drawn to him. Subject is in focus and we can see all the detail. I do not mind that his eyes are closed as this reflects the intensity of his performance.
AS	Scouting the waves	12	Gold	wynand	lens	This is an amazing image and it tells an even greater story. Your subject is on a third. There is no question as to what she is about to do. The subject is in focus and sharp. The exposure and highlights have been expertly handled. Well done.
AS	DJ Rally 2025 - Ariel 500 - 7383	13	Merit	Terry	Burne	Well done. The subject is pin sharp. The subjects face can be clearly seen as well as all the detail on the motorcycle. What really make this image is that you have shown movement by your panning technique.
AS	World MTB Champs - Mt St Anne - 0772	13	Merit	Terry	Burne	I honestly love this picture. Your rider is coming straight at us which creates a tenseness. The rider is focused on the terrain which we can clearly seen by her expression. Then, we have the onlookers. Their expression is either one of concern or of disdain. Either way, this is a wonderful image. Well done.
NB	Explorer of the sky	9	Silver	Shem	Acutt	The pose ,the composition and facial expression of the eagle are good.The exposure is good considering the interesting lighting angle.There is a good separation from the background but the bird is just not sharp enough to score higher. There is no detail in the feathers.

NB	Gentle Goliath	10	Gold	Toni	Harley	A lovely composition with curvy lines leading to the focus point ie the head of the heron. Good detail in the neck feathers and separation from the background.Unfortunately the beak is not sharp probably due to the fact that it was moving too fast for the shutter speed.
NB	Munchies - CB	10	Gold	Craig	Backhouse	Very nice composition with diagonal lines and pose of the bird.Great moment caught as the munchie adds to the story and is the intended point of focus.The worm is a tad bright and is not quite sharp which is a pity.
NB	Perfectly Pulled	12	Gold	Toni	Harley	This unusual view of the goose works well. The perfectly caught moment makes ths the story clear as well as the intended centre of interest.The exposure and focus are good as is the composition which is enhanced by the circular ripples.
NB	The stalking Stork	12	Gold	Lesley	Marchant	This image is technically well executed. Maybe crop more of the body off turning it into more of a portrait of the stalk as the existing cut off point seems a bit awkward. The muted background tones in well with the bird.
NB	Thick Knee - CB	9	Silver	Craig	Backhouse	One gets a good idea of the bird's habitat although it does make the image busy.The exposure is ok although it is taken at a difficult time of day to achieve better lighting.The camera's focus point seems to have missed the bird which makes it a bit soft compared to the grass roots in front of it.
NB	Whisper	12	Gold	Jason	Johnstone	I admire the simplification of this image achieved by the shallow depth of field and tone matching gentle background.The central composition works and the bird's slightly turned head is in a good position to utilize the available light.Well done
NB	Australasian Swamphen	9	Silver	Sandra	Comrie	A well timed capture of the 2 birds in step strutting through the mud.The high contrast makes it difficult to see detail in the birds. Lifting the exposure or the blacks may help.Cropping off the top and rhs could reduce the dominance of the bright background.
NB	Magpie Lark	9	Silver	Sandra	Comrie	Another example of a bird in its habitat which adds to the story. It's a pity that there is so much distraction in front of it.The exposure and composition are good but the focus on the face is a bit soft.
NB	Snacking - DK	13	Merit	Diane	Backhouse	The technical aspects of this image are all good. The exposure, focus and the background. It certainly tells a story and the slight blur on the snack illustrates action and just how fast it is being thrown back ! Well done

NB	Preening Beauty	10	Gold	Jan	Lens	The action and story are both clear. The exposure is well handled seeing the light seems to be directly overhead. The composition is good with interesting curves and angles. The sharpness on the stationary parts is perfect eg the standing foot but softens on the moving parts eg the head. A faster shutter speed could have helped.
NB	African Barred Owlet	12	Gold	Maxi	Holder	Luckily the owl was probably sitting still with only a blink of the eye or swivel of the head. Thus the focus is sharp throughout. The diagonal branch adds to the composition. The background is busy and contrasty but this situation is often the case.
NB	Preening Wattled Lapwing	14	Merit	Maxi	Holder	The fine thread in the beak makes the story and takes this very well presented image to the next level. The technical aspects ie exposure and sharpness are excellent. Maybe crop off a little from the base to remove the darker triangle on the bottom left which draws the eye down to this corner. Well done
NB	Goliath Hairday	12	Gold	Ronelle	van den Heever	This image scores due to its humorous touch. The sharply focused eye ( both photographically and in reality ) framed by those feathers says it all. The composition is good and the background complimentary. The neck feathers lose clarity but focus is good where it matters.
NB	Long threads	11	Gold	Des	van Tonder	A pleasing image with both action and story well separated from the complimentary background. The focus is sharp where needed. Harsh light does result in bright highlights.
NB	Sacred Ibis Fledgeling	12	Gold	Ronelle	van den Heever	A good action shot of the big footed fledgling. Good exposure, sharp focus and good composition. The background is well toned and suitably out of focus.
NN	Butterfly - CB	9	Silver	Craig	Backhouse	Nice diagonal lines created by the flower stalks on a suitably muted background. The exposure is fine but the sharpness a bit soft on the butterfly. Cropping in to eliminate the top stalk might help if there are enough pixels.
NN	Jeff Goldblum	11	Gold	Lesley	Marchant	The super sharp compound eyes are definitely the intended focus point here. The fading off of sharpness is ok because of this. The plant is rather bright. Maybe cropping in would give even more impact to the eyes. At least to remove the tiny intrusion on the left edge and the little bright triangle on the base. ie border patrol!
NN	Landing gear down	12	Gold	Lesley	Marchant	Perfect moment for landing approach. The twig even seems to be saying "land here"! Well done technically as well as composition. The background is quite noisy. Denoise might help.

NN	Lunch - DK	13	Merit	Diane	Backhouse	What a story here! The image is technically good with the face of the croc in good focus. The composition is great and would be even better if the whole foot was included. Perhaps tone down the white area top left? Well done.
NN	Rock Monitor - DK	11	Gold	Diane	Backhouse	Lovely play of textures and shades of brown. Good exposure on the monitor. The right hand side does detract due to the brightness and the back branch being so close to the edge as to cause a tension area that draws the eye.
NN	Bee and thistle	12	Gold	Heidi	Taylor	This image sure has impact. The contrasting colours and the oval shape draw the eye. The bee is well exposed and sharp where it matters. My only query is 'do the in focus water droplets add to, or detract from the whole'? I do find my eye jumps from them to bee and back probably due to the fairly large blurred area between them.
NN	Praying Mantis in the long grass - 6955	11	Gold	Terry	Burne	The beautifully sharp mantis is well exposed and shown in his habitat. The lines and angles are attractive however there is just a bit too much grass in front of him especially at his hind leg.
NN	Watching You	11	Gold	Maxi	Holder	A great composition created by the mirrored heads that really do seem to be posing mid action for the camera. The exposure is good although the image is a bit flat. Upping the contrast could add more punch.
NN	Golden fly 13574	11	Gold	Rob	Hart	The fly is well posed and the red eye is the focus point especially against the green background.. The eye is in focus but it would have done better if a bit more of the body was sharp.
NN	Graceful grasshopper 13205	11	Gold	Rob	Hart	The subject matter here is sharp, well positioned and exposed. The lines and angles do create interest. It's a pity that the offshoot of the main branch interferes with the back legs.
NN	Robber fly 13658	11	Gold	Rob	Hart	Nice diagonal composition with the fly really filling the frame. The general exposure is good. The highlights and all the sharp details tend to make the fly's body a bit busy and hard to read.
NN	Warthog Head Takeaway	13	Merit	Leon	Heyes	Wow what a story here. The rest of the warthog seems to be in the belly! This image scores due to the unusual moment caught and the perfect position of the take away in its mouth. The hyena is well focused and exposed. Background exposure 1/2 a stop down??
OM	Shadow movements	7	Silver	Jay	Nabbe	Well spotted. I do appreciate the leading lines you have seen here as they take us into the image and then up the stairs. However, I do find myself looking for a focus point - is it the lady in the front? Or the bird on the floor? Or is it the couple walking up the stairs? I would suggest, that you crop out the right side of the image, including the shadows of the two people. This may provide a stronger image.

OM	Old window	7	Silver	Joan	Lindegger	I think that you seen the different in the ordinary here which is good. I do like that you have given the impression of the wire behaving like a curtain being blown in the wind. I do find though the angle of the image a bit strange. Also, relook at your white or highlight levels and see if you can reduce it and then increase your shadows. This might not make the image so bright.
OM	The Dancer	12	Gold	Magda	Bezuidenhout	This is a really lovely conversion into monochrome. None of the detail has been lost. I love all the triangles you have captured using the dancers body. The pose is also very good as it has allowed us to see the flowing dress she is wearing. Good effort.
OM	DJ Rally 1	13	Merit	wynand	lens	You have captured something iconic here. The rider and the motorcycle are pin sharp and all the details can be seen. We can see that there is movement in the spoke of the bike as well as the panning in the background. Due to it being in monochrome it has given the image a vintage look, which I do enjoy.
OM	Speedster	13	Merit	Des	van Tonder	You have captured such power and speed in this image that I can actually hear the engine roaring as the bike speeds past. The image is in focus and the monochrome is well converted. I am very impressed that you have captured the reflections on the visor of the helmet and the fact that I cannot see the riders face, does not bother me at all.
OP	Droplets	10	Gold	Toni	Harley	This was well spotted and I can see what you were trying to do here. The colours or lovely and the purples, mauves yellows and greens all work well. Congratulations on your bokeh background. The image is sharp where it should be. My only suggestion would be to crop off or remove the bud on the right hand side as I feel it competes with the foreground image.
OP	My good side	13	Merit	Laura	Smit	This is such a well taken image. The lighting and texture on the subject are pleasing. The positioning of the subject is perfect. The texture of the rhino's skin and its eye can be clearly seen. There are not blown out areas either. Good job.
OP	Perspective	9	Silver	Shem	Acutt	I can see what you were trying to achieve with this image so this is a good attempt. The impala are in focus which is what you were trying to achieve here and the shrubbery providing context. However because the zebras in the foreground and the sky in the background are quite prominent, the impalas get lost.

OP	Sisterly Love	10	Gold	Laura	Smit	The image tells a story which is always good. The face of the one subject is in focus and has good detail. The other subject though does seem to have some motion blur and therefore is soft. You have handled the light very well, as well as the skin tones. If I could suggest anything, try selecting the background and toning it down a bit.
OP	Waiting	13	Gold	Jay	Nabbe	This is a very good attempt at light trails. The trails are clear and vibrant. I like how you have carried over the orange to the pathway in the back. The addition of a human element adds to the impact of the image.
OP	What did you say	13	Gold	Laura	Smit	This is really wonderful image. The subject is sharp from head to tail. The eye is sharp with catch light. Image is on a third. The back ground has been handled very well. Good job.
OP	Luna	12	Gold	Sandra	Comrie	This image has the cute factor in bucket loads. The puppy is in focus and the texture of the fur is visible, which can be challenging at the best of times, due to the fur being black. The eyes are nice and sharp with lovely catch lighting. It was clever of you to put the pup on the white pathway as this really made it a strong image.
OP	Pensively plotting	11	Gold	Marisan	Victor	Such a beautiful portrayal of childhood innocence. The lighting on the child has been well handled with no overtly bright spots. If I could suggest anything, try a tighter crop at the bottom of the image and then use a gradient tool to bring down the white in the cushion the child is lying on.
OP	Showing off my plumage	12	Gold	Marisan	Victor	You really have captured the fun side of this picture. Your subject is nicely exposed, with no bright spots. The colour has been well handled. The image is overall sharp.
OP	The perfect seat	DQ	DQ	Marisan	Victor	Image has text in.
OP	Preparing for bed	7	Silver	Joan	Lindegger	I can see what you were seeing here and I think you did try hard to make it interesting. Your focus is good and there is detail. However I did find myself looking for something of interest. If you plan to take images like this, might I suggest that you to try contrasting colours or various textures, various light strengths and angles and maybe even close ups of the items.
OP	Turn your face away from the light	9	Silver	Joan	Lindegger	A rather different way of photographing flowers, but I do think it is clever. The image is nice and bright and not over saturated. We can see some of the background which gives the image depth. For the most part the image is clear except for the bottom of the stem. If I could suggest anything, try not to crop too close to the sides of your image.

OP	coffee and cake	10	Gold	Liesl	Couperthwaite	It's an interesting image and it does tell a story. All the items displayed are in focus and there is plenty of details. If I could suggest anything perhaps tone down the highlights on the saucer and inside the cup. Also, I did find there was a lot going on in the image so I did not quite know which item was the star of the image.
OP	Marina Reflections	12	Gold	Jan	Lens	Well done on capturing this image under what appears to be quite difficult lighting conditions. Congratulations on getting the starburst in the lights. The image is clear and sharp. The light has been well handled. I appreciate that you have captured the light being cast on the buildings and the reflections really are an added bonus.
OP	natures velvet	9	Silver	Liesl	Couperthwaite	Well spotted. I love the bright orange and brown colours of this lichen complimented by the green moss. The centre of the image is in focus while the rest is slightly out of focus. In this case I don't mind as you have captured the interesting parts. If you get the opportunity to photograph something like this again, perhaps try focussing on one specific part of the lichen which might prove to be beneficial.
OP	Stories Untold	11	Gold	Meleney	Naik	I like this image because of its rustic nature. There is beauty to be found anywhere and this is no exception. Your colours are well handled but I feel that the green has been over-saturated. I appreciate that you have included the items of interest on the right hand side. The main subject is in focus. If you have a chance, maybe go back to the image and see if you can tease some more colour out of the rusted car, using saturation.
OP	This is a ford	11	Gold	Jan	Lens	I love the way you have handled this image because taking an image with so many reflective surfaces is always challenging. You have also created a lovely mood here with the background lighting. The subject is in focus and all the details can be seen. If I must be pedantic, you could have cloned out the little white piece of paper at the bottom left hand corner.
OP	when the fall falls	11	Gold	Liesl	Couperthwaite	I must say you have managed to capture the stunning of the waterfall. I can almost hear the water crashing down and feel the spray. Your inclusion of the human element helps us understand the sheer size of it. You have lovely browns and oranges in the rocks and the light there has been handled well. However, some detail has been lost on the bright water which means that you have lost some detail in these spaces. Maybe, if you can, go back to the image, use the radial gradient tool and then see if you can bring the whites and highlights down. Otherwise a really pleasing image.

OP	Trapped	8	Silver	Heidi	Taylor	This was well spotted. I like how you have used leading lines which lead my eye to the point of the plant. I also like that there is this lovely red highlight in the point, which contrast against the soft green background. However, there are soft places in the image and might be due your depth of field.
OP	Autumn Colours at Kenmo	12	Gold	Vicki	Street	This is really beautiful. The colours are alive and vibrant. The overall image is pin sharp and clear. The reflection adds another nice touch. Well done.
OP	Not all who wander are lost	13	Merit	Des	van Tonder	This is fantastic. Well done. There is good interaction between the subject and the photographer. The colours are all complementing one another with just the right amount of light where it really matters. Very well done.
OP	Open Faced	13	Gold	Leon	Heyes	Well done. The centre of the flower is in focus, clear and sharp and all the details can be seen. The image is not over saturated and the light has been handled well.
PA	Dance Of the Grey Heron	10	Gold	Meleney	Naik	I do like the way you have interpreted this category. The image is well handled and I do appreciate the various colour tones. The background is not overpowering and it reminds me of the Northern Lights.
PA	yellow and pink cosmos twirl	10	Gold	JOAN	JUNG	These are always so nice to see. There are contrasting colours and the image is in focus. Lovely purples, greens, yellows and pinks all coming together to make a rather pleasing image.
PO	A Man and his garage	14	Merit	Jay	Nabbe	Well done. This image tells the most amazing story. The subject is 100% in focus. All the detail can be clearly seen on him and inside his workshop. This is an exceptional image.
PO	Horse Rider	13	Merit	Shem	Acutt	Fantastic engagement between subject and photographer. Image is clear and in focus. The light has been handled well. Background is pleasing and not over bearing. Well done.
PO	Portrait of Patti Lee	12	Gold	Magda	Bezuidenhout	Such vibrant colours. I love the flame of orange hair and the almost defiant look on the subjects face. Overall the light has been well handled and the image is sharp. Very well done.
PO	brad	13	Merit	JOAN	JUNG	This is a really stunning image of this young man. The lighting is perfect and his eyes are nice and sharp. Good idea to convert it into monochrome as I think it works well.
PO	I Love My Pink Tutu	12	Gold	Meleney	Naik	This looks such a fun image. The subject is interacting with the photographer. The light on her face has worked well. However, not so with her torso. If I might suggest: bring up the shadows or the blacks so we can see the details there.



PO	On guard	12	Gold	wynand	lens	Wow, this image does tell a story. The subject is clear and sharp and the image has an intense desperation feel about it. I love the way you have captured that sunlight over his face. The colours of his cloths have been well handled and the background is not over powering. His eyes are pin sharp.
PO	yellow bokeh portrait	13	Merit	JOAN	JUNG	The subject is posed well and is looking directly at the camera. The image is crisp and clear with various highlights in her hair which creates another interesting component to the image. The bokeh background also compliments the image overall.
PO	Contemplative	12	Gold	Heidi	Taylor	This is a lovely image with interesting points such as the highlights on her face, eyes and jewellery. The overall image is good but to me, it looks like her skin is rather textured. But this may have been the image you wished to portray.
PO	Hollywood Starlet	15	Merit	Vicki	Street	This image is iconic. Not much more to say other than well done.
PO	I am a Diva	13	Merit	Vicki	Street	This is such an amazing image. The subject is well handled with no overly bright spots, there is little to no noise on the image. I like how you have framed his head using the headdress. Well done.
PO	Sushi	13	Merit	Leon	Heyes	Lovely big smile from your subject which is such a delight. Her pose is good and she is interacting with the photographers. The colours have been handled well and not over saturated. There is catchlight in her eyes which is always desirable. Well done.
SC	City Lights	7	Silver	Marc	Gordon	You have a keen eye for seeing the unusual which is good. The composition is good with this dark dramatic sky. However, the image is not sharp and here seems to be a grey patch at the bottom right of the image.
SC	Harbor Dreams	8	Silver	Marc	Gordon	I think I see what you were trying to do here and in some ways the ICM did work. However, overall what was meant to be in focus, isn't in focus.
SC	The Yaught Club	8	Silver	Marc	Gordon	A good use of a leading line. Image is bright and colourful with the lights being handled well. I do like the dramatic sky as well, which adds to it another dimension of interest. Well done.
SC	Durban Harbour	13	Merit	Ronelle	van den Heever	Well done. You have captured this Durban skyline extremely well. The image is not over processed, and I do like the monochrome conversion. The reflection is great and does give the image a balanced feel.

	A Man and his garage	14	Best Junior	Jay	Nabbe	
	Hollywood Starlet	15	Best Senior	Vicki	Street	