

Whanganui Camera Club Portrait competition

Title	Feedback	Result
B Grade Open		
Fungi	Trying to capture close ups of details like this in the dark bush is not always easy. So well done on this lovely capture and how you have lit this. I love the angle looking up into the fungi this works really well. Did you get to take some closer in details, I'm sure these would have produced some lovely images also.	Highly Commended
North Island Robin, Bushy Park	Beautiful portrait of this Robin, love the use of depth of field and Bokeh. The composition and cropping is perfect. Watch areas of highlight - turn print upside down and look at darkening some areas that take your eye away from the subject. Love the catch lights in the birds eyes. It really makes a difference when photographing birds if they are well lit like this and they have light catching the eye - well done a lovely capture.	Honours
South Island Pīwakawaka	Lovely portrait of the South Island Piwakawaka. The focus is soft on it's eye and the overall image is very flat. I'm finding the chain very distracting. It's not easy to capture these lovely wee birds, so you've done very well. Those moments between the right light catching their eye and face can really make an image. It's patience but I can see you have lots of this already.	Merit
B Grade Set Subject		
Akeelah in Anticipation	Beautiful portrait. The tight crop works well for this image and you've captured her reaction to a moment well. I'd go into the eyes and lighten up the iris, the image is very magenta on her checks look into how to remove some of this redness. It's a lovely capture I'm lead straight into her eyes and emotion.	Honours
Alex	You have really captured the moment and personality of Alex. The cropping works well for me. Where this image is being let down is the purple fringing appearing in his hair (such an amazing head of hair!!) I'm sure you have worked to retain the detail in the areas of his hair - but this has been taken too far. I know at times we are challenged by what available light there is in a situation, when capturing a moment like this. So brilliant work you have a gift capturing the essence of people.	Highly Commended

Angela 1	Proud warrior stance you have captured a strong moment and presence of this woman. When photographing in low light a monopod can help to prevent this camera shake occurring, or use image stabilizer on your lens, don't be afraid to take the ISO right up high as most digital cameras today can cope well with this. Watch for blown out highlights and it's worth taking a white balance reading to correct the yellow. Keep up the great work capturing these type of images it's something you do well.	
Angela 2	It's lovely to see some black and white portraits. Posing, posing, posing. The arm coming towards the camera, the folds of skin around her neck. She has such a strong presence - look at Rembrandt style portraits the posing of them, being front on to the camera, lighting, the eyes are the key to our soul. This beautiful lady if you know her, I'd love for you to ask her to sit for you and practice some other poses. You can use lovely window light and have her sit back from the window. In Rembrandt style portraits the subject would have been beside a window back behind a table for this beautiful light. Have a play and enjoy the process of learning and trying new ways to pose women that are flattering to them	
Chilling	You've captured the pissed off look well. I feel the cropping is way too tight and it would have been best to leave some space above his head, or shot the image very tight so we just see the person and the expression. The background is distracting - always remember to clean up backgrounds, by either moving yourself or using a shallow depth of field such as f2.8. Keep capturing documentary style portraits and keep these things in mind.	Merit
Distracted	Lovely portrait of this wee boy being distracted looking away from the camera. I love the cropping and light. Where you can improve is to go in and really highlight the iris's in his eyes. In Photoshop place the eye dropper over the skin and take a reading - there is a very high amount of magenta in this boy's skin and whole image at present. It can really help to take a white balance reading. The way he is looking into the light is lovely. You have a gift at capturing children so keep up the great work.	Highly Commended

friend Sean	Wow this is your friend - such a presence and a lovely subject to capture. I feel there is so much you could work on with this person being close to you. Well done for choosing to use backlight. Being outside the light is very harsh - could have got someone to hold a reflector under this chin to reflect the light up into his eyes, watch camera movement (so choose a shutter speed that will suit the lenses focal length) Watch your focus - I would love to see it on the eyes, rather than the chin. Ask this friend to pose for you - he has some lovely features and you could go into a close crop with lovely window light and capture these.	
hmmmm	You have a good sense of composition and cropping for portraiture. This image has been let down by camera movement and point of focus being on his jacket, that's hiding his face. So just keep doing what you're doing but when shooting be very careful to focus on the eyes of the subject. If the light is low then up your ISO to a speed where it's possible for you to handhold the camera without shake occurring. You capture the subject's personality well.	Merit
It's not like that any more	Great expression. Once again the eyes hold the key to the soul so we need to be focusing on the subject's eyes. With older bald men it's critical we look at light reflecting on their heads. Blown out highlights is something to be aware of and avoid. I would like to see a bit more space around the subject for this crop.	
Just watching	This is a strong portrait. Be very careful when photographing people that you retain details in the highlight areas. The eyes are the window to the soul. I'd love to see this subject looking straight into the camera and seeing the symmetry of his tattoos.	Highly Commended
Maia	Her parents are so lucky you have taken such a beautiful portrait of Maia at this age. The lighting is lovely. I would like to see the background all the same with the window filters. A reflector being held on the right side would have bounced some light back into her face. Always go into portraits and bring out the iris's more. I want to go in and crop the left side in more to balance this out. She looks very relaxed and natural - well done a lovely portrait.	Highly Commended

On Show	What a personality - you have really captured a moment with this lady. Direct flash though is never flattering - especially as we get older. There are modifiers that can be used on a flash to help soften the light in these cases. A lovely moment well done.	Merit
our woofer Alex	You have captured a fun moment for you both it seems. Sometimes these things are spontaneous and in a split second the moment is gone. So then is this the right image to enter into an award section? Things that would have helped if you had time to plan this image would be, lighting, cropping, cleaning up the background so everything is the solid black backdrop, would it have helped if he held the dead animal up higher and looked up to it, should I have shot this from a lower angle. Don't be afraid to allow these conversations to run over in your head as you shot and plan your photographs. It's always brilliant to be able to see the next place you can take your photography to.	
Ryan	Such a lovely image of this wee boy Ryan. He's totally present with you and enjoying the moment of being photographed. The square crop works well for this portrait. You have used depth of field well.	Honours
Smiles For You	You have captured the moment beautifully - such joy and a sparkle in her eyes. My concern is for the extremely tight unbalanced cropping of this image and the use of direct flash that creates such a strong black line under her chin. Just keep these things in mind.	Merit
Steady now	I love your out there capturing documentary portraiture and using black and white edits. My eyes are being distracted by the background of customers and not held on the subject. Had his had been on the handles pouring the beer, my eye would have gone there and have been able to connect with the subject more. Keep doing these projects I'd love to see more work of this nature.	Merit
Watching you	Lovely portrait of this boy peering over his glasses. I absolutely love tight crops in portraiture. But think carefully about balance, if you crop so so tight on the bottom of the chin, then is it balanced with the space above his eyes. Would it be best to crop the scene as a whole and keep things in balance? You could still leave him on the third. Experiment with more portraits like this and trying to capture the subject essence.	Merit

A Grade Set Subject		
Angela	Good composition and study. Watch areas of loss of highlight details. If your shooting with window light play around until the light is more even.	Highly Commended
Colin	Lovely environmental portrait of this mechanic.	Honours
Generation Gap	Lovely story telling and treatment of this image, the angle this is taken from works well.	Honours
Greg	Lovely portrait using natural light. It captures a lovely moment and reflective mood of the subject and the composition works well.	Honours
Happy stories about my place	This is a lovely environmental portrait, such a visually interesting place to photograph. He has such personality I hope you were able to go in and get some lovely close up shots also.	Highly Commended
Junior Hunter	Great energy captured	Merit
Loving The Beach Life	Lovely moment but the treatment of this image is overdone.	
Luana's triple ice cream rose	Lovely moment you have captured and bight personality, I would love to see the top of her head in this crop though.	Highly Commended
Maia	It lovely to see you using side light and reflector boucing light back into the subject would have worked well. I find the airbed? Is it, quiet distracting as a choice for her to sit on.	Merit
my pesky little brother	A lovely travel photograph. I know you've named the picture my pesky little brother, for me I feel the image would work so much better cropped into the girl on the left.	Merit
Night Watchman	Such a lovely strong expression and lighting. The tight square crop is too much and the treatment has gone into blue skin tones. It could have helped to have moved his arm in closer to his face.	Highly Commended
Not Happy With The Coach's Call	Brillant documentary picture. Well captured moment of the mood on a rainy muddy day. You can imagine being there. Well done	Honours. Winner

One man band	Great subject to focus on. But ask what can I do to tell the story, capture the feeling and energy of the moment? Close your eyes, listen to the music, feel the beat the rythmn of his music. Then open your eyes, don't be afraid to use all of your senses when you photograph. If you go into a busy market place, first close your eyes, what do you smell, hear, feel, open your eyes then focus on what your drawn to. Tell a story with your pictures. Run through what angle try fom low, higher. Can I zoom in, try to tilt the camera, allow movement using a slower shutter speed. Then I can feel l'm there in the moment - his hands moving to the strumming of the banjo.	
Only one sol	Lovely travel portrait and use of depth of field.	Highly Commended
Perfect	Great moment - the arms are distracting.	Merit
Picnic Portrait	I would have like to have seen some strong emotional connection captured between this couple. The scarf over her face is hiding her face too much. The simple clean background works well.	Merit
Polly	Lovely soft light - please watch things like pipes coming out of the corner of the image, work to engage your subject in more connection.	Merit
Polocrosse team player	You have captured the moment well. Try experimenting with shooting sport with a narrower depth of field.	Highly Commended
Shane on the mountain	Lovely adventure portrait and backdrop. I would be great to see you go into the image and using adjustment curves layers (hide mask) and using brushes bring more balanced tones in areas, like the face and the background.	Highly Commended
Well groomed	Interesting subject would like to see more focus on his personality. Think different angles to shoot from. What is the subject (his hair is incredible) zoom in on this, is he an conductor? Show the energy and passion of him mid flight doing this.	Merit