

Dear Judge,

The Toowoomba Photographic Society wishes to thank you for considering to judge for us. Below you will find some information about our society and judging for us.

Please ensure you familiarise yourself with the set subject guidelines the Toowoomba Managing Committee has set for each month. Members have entered images based on these guidelines.

You can find the guidelines that the Toowoomba Photographic Society have given to members for the set subjects using the link below:

<https://tpsi.org.au/2023-set-subjects/>

The Toowoomba Photographic Society requests that judges commence judging from the B Grade images and work their way up to the Salon Grade. This ensures grading is performed fairly for our newest members.

There are three competitive grades in our Club:

- **B grade** – inexperienced, beginner photographers or new members to the club.
This grade should be judged with care, be provided with the most feedback and be performed more lenient.
- **A grade** – Intermediate or accomplished photographers who have either moved from B Grade or we graded upon joining.
This grade should be judged to a higher standard than that of B Grade, be provided with reasonable feedback.
- **Salon grade** – our most advanced photographers
This grade should be judged to the highest standard with comments as necessary. Technical errors must decrease the score assigned to an image.

Please note, the Toowoomba Photographic Society has NO limits on awards given out. Do not artificially mark images down to hit an arbitrary percentage of “top marks”. We prefer that images are marked fairly and that if an image deserves an honour, that it is awarded as such.

The awards range from **Out of Category** to **Honours**.
Guidelines for our award system are provided below :

Please click on the image below to make it fullscreen.

Salon Grade	6 - Honour	4-Merit	3- Highly Commended	2- Commended	0- Out of category
A Grade	6 - Honour	4- Merit	3- Highly Commended	2- Commended	0- Out of category
B Grade	6 - Honour	4- Merit	3- Highly Commended	2- Commended	0- Out of category
	The image has a strong emotional influence, visual impact or creativity and narrative content. The image is exceptional and worthy of special recognition.	The image is well handed technically all or most of the image aspects is above average. It shows some aspects of emotion, impact, creativity or story in its presentation.	The image has been reasonably well produced. Technical aspects and image content have been competently handled, and it shows one aspect of emotion, impact, creativity or story for the viewer.	The image is acceptable in most respects (E.g. Technical, content, composition, etc.) and creates some interest for the viewer. The score could be raised by some small improvements (indicated by the judge.)	The image does not have significant technical defects or noteworthy shortcomings in image content. However there may be evidence that composition, lighting, etc, has not been well controlled.
					Use this score to disqualify an entry. An image may be disqualified if: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is considered not to fit the definition of the Set Subject• It clearly infringes on another artist's copyright or contains material of an inappropriate nature.

How to use a sliding scale:

Take note of the grade you are scoring, the coloured sections are broken up into blocks and shows the score that should be assigned to an image based on the

description below it. In some cases an award may encompass several sections below.

For example:

B Grade, an honour should be assigned to an image that fits the descriptions of any of the first three boxes from the left of the table.

A Grade, an honour should be assigned to an image that fits the descriptions of any of the first two boxes from the left of the table.

Salon grade, an honour should be assigned to an image that fits the description of the first box from the left of the table only.

Extra Awards

The Toowoomba Photographic Society has TWO extra awards each month.

These can be awarded from ANY grade of ANY score, it does not necessarily have to be the “highest awarded” image.

We ask you as the judge to choose two images which you feel is deserving of either the following:

1. Graham Burstow Award – Judges Choice – Mono Image of the Month
2. Alice Black Award – Judges Choice – Colour Image of the Month.

Please use the following form to submit your awards:

<https://tpsi.org.au/monthly-image-awards/>

Feedback to our members:

Judges are asked to provide a brief comment on the night. Comments should generally be positive and encouraging (particularly for B grade entries) and provide constructive feedback. Please ensure that you include in your feedback your reasons why the image did not get a higher mark so that members can learn from you.

Each month there are a number of categories members can submit images to within their grade.

Set Subject (Colour or Mono)

Open (Colour or Mono)

Creative

Set Subject Photography Set subject photography relates to a predefined theme for our members to submit images. Images entered here should relate to the topic and guidelines in some way, but should be judged predominantly on photographic skill, NOTE: Our subject guidelines have been written in a way that allows creative freedom for our members.

The suggested guidelines for our set subjects can be found here:

<https://tpsi.org.au/2023-set-subjects-definitions/>

Open Photography Open Photography has no predefined subject and allows for images of any nature.

Creative Photography Creative Photography is an extension of conventional photography into a creative work. Its purpose is to stimulate creative thoughts and encourage experimentation with new ideas going beyond a simple photograph. There should be a significant photographic content and inclusion of mixed media of any kind (copy, paint, transfer, digital etc.) is welcome. It can be a collage or a montage. The result must be all the photographers own work, including the original image.

Note: Only assess prints using the physical print but submit your scores and comments using the digital thumbnail that appears in the on-line Print sections.

Once all images have been judged and commented on please notify the committee by e-mail (**committee@tpsi.org.au**) to finalise the competition. Your awards and comments will not be visible until after the competition is published (following your judging at our club meeting).

Overall, judging should be performed to the PSQ Judges Manual standard:

https://www.psq.org.au/uploads/9/2/9/2/92924276/2020-11-26_psq_judges_manual.pdf

Particular section of Note:

On Page 3 we read (excerpt from page)

As skills improve, some people then want to test their skills against other photographers. It can be within the club, or at state, national and international competitions.

It is important for judges to understand the purpose of monthly competitions and how their decisions and comments influence club members.

Above all, we encourage our judges to be respectful and considerate of our members when critiquing images for our clubs. Our objective is to enthuse and inspire our photographers to improve their skills and inspire them to produce better images.