

Victoria Camera Club Competitions: 2011-2012

The VCC Competitions Committee, with the support of the Club Executive created a very successful two-tier monthly competition last year that achieved its primary objective of encouraging more members to participate. Club members with less experience are now more comfortable entering competitions. These changes make for exciting competitions.

This year three new and challenging categories have been added and one regrettably deleted. The new Novice Print categories (open and nature) will allow novices to compete against others of similar ability to again encourage more entries.

The new "Creative" (open) category will focus on the creative aspects of image manipulation to produce "photo-based art". Creative may be defined as 'altered reality'. Images entered in the Creative category should reflect the creative use of line, form, and color, expressing the photographer's ideas and/or feelings in a non-traditional style and should be distorted or otherwise modified by the use of nonstandard techniques.

The film slide category did not receive sufficient entries last year and has little prospect of this increasing in the future so we have decided to remove this as an independent category. Film slides and negatives can be scanned and entered in all other appropriate categories.

There are many varied opportunities for members to be involved in the 12 image categories available.

Image Categories

The image categories have changed from last year and are as follows:

	Open	Nature	Theme
Senior Print	X	X	
Novice Print	X	X	
Monochrome Print	X		
Senior Digital Slide	X	X	X
Novice Digital Slide	X	X	X
Creative Digital Slide	X		

Selection of Levels

Members who sell images (i.e. cards, calendars, run websites offering images for sale, etc.) or who are, or have been, professional photographers (earning income from photography even if only "part time") are required to enter the Senior level. Members who have received two or more Honorable Mentions or better in monthly competitions within a year are required to enter the Senior level.

If a member qualifies for the Senior Level in any category, or combination of categories, then all entries for the year in all categories must be at that level.

Members in their first year of competitions will be assigned to the Novice or Senior level by the Competitions Committee using the following Criteria:

1. Have you had 'winning images' in another camera club?
2. Do you sell images?
3. Have you had an image accepted in a juried show?

Any member who is unsure of their appropriate level is encouraged to discuss this with the competitions committee during any club meeting or by emailing competitions@victoriacameraclub.org

Theme Competition Topics

September - 'Extraordinary in the Ordinary'

October - 'Art in Recycled Objects'

November - CAPA – TBA

January - 'Long Exposure'

February - 'Shadows'

March - 'Emotion'

Theme Definitions

Extraordinary in the Ordinary: Finding something extraordinary in everyday ordinary subjects; images of ordinary subjects presented 'outside the box'.

Art in Recycled Objects: Photographs of discarded or recyclable objects either made into works of art or artistic in their own right.

Long Exposure: using a long duration shutter speed to capture stationary elements of an image while blurring, smearing or obscuring its moving elements; depicting the "passage" of time; night photography; light painting; water shots.

Shadows: a region of darkness where light is blocked – 'let the shadows in your image become the main story'.

Emotion: emotions – anger, fear, sadness, revulsion and happiness cause physiological arousal and expressive behaviours – let your camera capture such a moment and show it to us!

Competition Details

Each member may submit 1 (one) image for each eligible category each month to a maximum 7 (seven). All submitted images and prints must have been taken *within the past 2 years with the exception of images which are entered into the Creative category.*

An image, once submitted, cannot be re-submitted in any format. For example, if you submitted an image in the digital category one month, you cannot submit the same image as a print in another month. Definition - "same image" means the same, or virtually the same, original image with the same or similar treatment (includes different cropping, post-processing etc.) but see the year-end regulations for an exception to this rule.

An entry is considered the same as another if it was produced from the same original image or one substantially the same notwithstanding that it's overall appearance may differ considerably. An image submitted as colour or monochrome cannot be resubmitted in the other category.

Monochrome is an accepted medium for all digital categories.

Conversion of film slides and negatives to digital images is allowed for all categories.

For a category to be submitted to a judge, it must include a minimum of 5 images. If the category does not have the minimum number of images, those images will be held over to the next month and merged with that month's submissions.

If any category fails to have 30 images submitted to it over the course of the six monthly competitions, it may be removed as a category the following year.

Open and Nature: There will be a clear separation of the Open and Nature categories. Images that meet the CAPA criteria for nature (see below) cannot be submitted in the Open Colour Print and Open Digital Slide categories. Images submitted to the Nature categories must meet the CAPA definition of nature images. Images not meeting that definition must be entered in the Open category. The Monochrome Print media is Open, in that case including Nature subjects.

Nature Definition and Rules

Definition - VCC, along with CAPA, has adopted the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP) nature definition as follows:

Nature photography depicts living, untamed animals and uncultivated plants in a natural habitat, geology and the wide diversity of natural phenomena, from insects to icebergs.

Photographs of animals that are domesticated, caged, or under any form of restraint, as well as photographs of cultivated plants are ineligible. Minimal evidence of humans is acceptable for nature subjects, such as barn owls or storks, adapting to an environment modified by humans, or natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves, reclaiming it.

Any manipulation or modification to the original image is limited to minor retouching of blemishes and must not alter the content of the original scene. Manipulation or processing that alters the intrinsic natural content of the images by adding or deleting objects which were not present in the original scene is not allowed.

After satisfying the above requirements, every effort should be made to use the highest level of artistic skill in all nature photographs.

Exception: **for club competitions only**, HDR, Panorama, Focus Stacking and Cropping which deal with technical issues will be accepted in the Nature Category so long as the image is presented in a natural manner.

Submission Requirements

All entries should be submitted using the clubs web-based competitions application that will check image sizes and format, as well as enter the required information in the competitions database. Please see <victoriacameraclub.org/pages/programs-competitions.html#Programs> for details of using the system. All images must be uploaded prior to midnight Pacific Time on competition night.

For print entries you must still use the competitions application and should submit a digital slide version for projection with the results. Prints must be received at the Competitions Night meeting, or earlier by arrangement with the Competitions Committee.

Anyone with an internet connection will be required to use this software. Those members without internet access may submit via USB stick or CD on or before the close of the competitions night meeting (See <[victoriacameraclub.org/pdfdocs/VCC Upload Procedure 2011.pdf](http://victoriacameraclub.org/pdfdocs/VCC%20Upload%20Procedure%202011.pdf)> for details on how to prepare the files).

Digital Image size

The maximum image size for Club competitions is now 1400 pixels wide by 1050 pixels high. Wherever possible images should meet one of these dimensions and must not exceed the other. Please see <[victoriacameraclub.org/pdfdocs/VCC Crop and Resize 2011.pdf](http://victoriacameraclub.org/pdfdocs/VCC%20Crop%20and%20Resize%202011.pdf)> for guidance on image resizing.

Website and Close-Up images sizing

Winning (1/2/3 and HM) images for posting on the website should be 900 x 600 max in jpg format. Please e-mail to the webmaster within 7 days of the announcement of winners.

Winning images (1st place only) for publication in Close-Up should be full size as cropped; preferably PSD/TIF formats with layers intact (not flattened) and unsharpened. (This means your edited image before you resized it and converted to jpg for submission to the competition.) If the

original image was shot as a jpg only and is unedited, a full size jpg is acceptable. This is to give us the maximum achievable image quality in Close-Up. A section of the web-based competitions application will accommodate these images. If you do not have internet access, please contact the Editor. Please upload these images within 7 days of the announcement of winners.

Print Preparation

Minimum print size is 5 x 7 inches (or 35 square inches).

Maximum print size is 16 x 20 inches including mat for senior categories and 8.5 x 11 inches for the novice categories (the mat may be up to 11 x 14 inches for the novice categories).

Mount on 4-ply mat board with a full size and firmly attached backing. Single window mats in neutral tones (white, grey or black) only are permitted.

Label the back with image title, competition date (month), category, your name and your address. No identifying information may appear on the front of the mat or image. Place an orientation arrow on the back pointing to the top of the image. The use of clear plastic sleeves or envelopes is recommended.

Determination of the Aggregate Winners in Each Category

A member's aggregate score shall be the sum of the five highest scores in each category. This will allow members to miss one month of competition and still be able to compete for the aggregate.

Aggregate Awards: 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category based on aggregate scores in each category. There is no aggregate category for Novice competitions.

Annual Year-end Competition

The Year-End Competition deadline for submission is April 5th, 2012. All 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place entries from each monthly competition can be entered in the year-end competition. In addition, each member can enter one additional image in each category.

The additional entry may include any previously entered non-placing image as long as that image has not been submitted to an earlier year-end competition.

Awards: 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category for individual images as selected by the panel of judges.

Annual Comp Categories:

Senior: Open and Nature Colour Prints,

Novice: Open and Nature Colour Prints

Monochrome Prints,

Creative Digital Slides

Senior: Open, Nature and Theme Digital Slides

Novice: Open, Nature and Theme Digital Slides.

Judging Guidelines

Our judges have been given the guidelines noted below. We encourage the judges to follow these guidelines, but cannot enforce them.

Images in the Novice categories are judged on two criteria.

- (1) The subject of the image must be **properly focused** and **correctly exposed**. The exposure must be neither too light (over-exposed) nor too dark (under-exposed). Modern cameras with automatic features make it easier for photographers to meet these criteria. A subject lit from the front may appear “flat”; an image lit from the side will reveal more of the subject’s contours and textures. Please take the photographer’s use of lighting into account in this criterion.
- (2) The image must be **well composed**. Composition deals with the arrangement of various parts of the image within the frame. Also watch for trees growing out of a person’s head, distracting backgrounds, portraits of persons with limbs cut off by the edge of the frame etc..

In the Novice print categories “printing quality” and presentation is not to be considered.

Images in the Senior categories are judged on the following criteria.

- (1) The two Novice criteria described above and
- (2) The image must have **impact**. When you view the image it must make you say “wow!” Pictures with impact are memorable.
- (3) The image should **convey a message**. The image should show what the photographer was thinking or feeling when they captured it

With these criteria as your guide for evaluating the images in your category please use the following scoring system. Each image should receive a score between 3 and 10 points. Most images in the past have typically scored between 5 and 8.5 points.

3- 4 points: Poor with major faults. It is reasonable to assume that scores in this range are rarely used.

5 points: Fair, with generally minor faults.

6-7 points: Good, average technical qualities and impact.

8 points: Excellent, above average in technical qualities and impact.

9-10 points: Exceptionally good, very high technical qualities and very high impact. The VCC Competitions Committee prefers that this point score range be reserved, if possible, for the images awarded “placings”: 1st (10 points); 2nd (9.5 points); 3rd (9 points); Honourable Mentions (8.5 points).

We are enthusiastically looking forward to your participation!

The Competition Committee