

# Toowoomba Photographic Society Inc

## Judging Criteria January 2010



There are two competitive grades in our Club,

- **A grade** for more accomplished or advanced photographers
- **B grade** for beginners and those who have not yet reached A grade proficiency.

B graders should therefore be judged more leniently than A graders.

The awards given in these grades count towards a number of annual aggregate competitions.

There is also an encouragement **Novice** grade for new starters who may not necessarily wish to compete. Novice entries are commented on by the judge and given an indicative award, but this doesn't count towards an aggregate score.

The judge is asked to provide a brief comment on each image entered. Comments should generally be positive and encouraging, particularly for the Novice entries.

We allocate awards according to the individual merit of each image rather than giving first, second and third place.

The awards go from **GOLD** to **ENTRY** as follows:

**GOLD** is the highest possible award and indicates that the work is of an exceptionally high standard and is free of technical faults. **A GOLD award is rarely given as it indicates the image is virtually one of perfection!**

**SILVER** is given to entries that are of a high standard but don't quite merit gold.

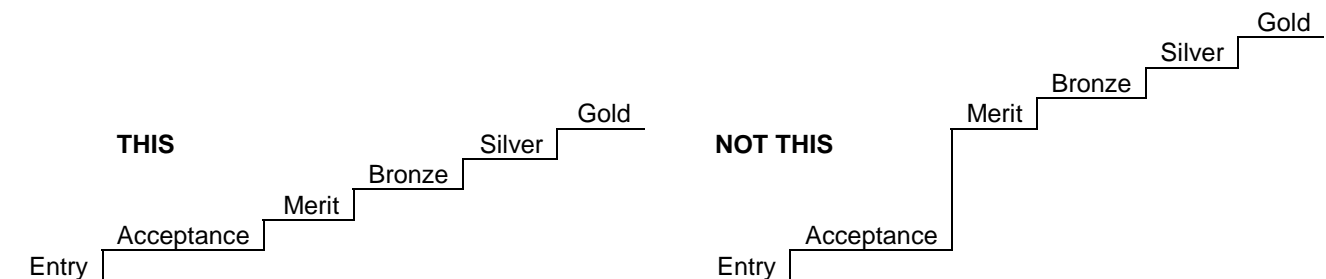
**BRONZE** is given to very good images that have one or two defects that rule them out of a higher award.

**MERIT** is awarded to above average images that demonstrate some competence on the part of the photographer.

**ACCEPTANCE** is for images that have either some technical accuracy or artistic merit but have little else to commend them.

**ENTRY** is the lowest award and indicates that the photograph does not meet basic photographic criteria. **This award is seldom given.**

The intention of the award system is to value the steps between each award evenly.



]The best photo in a particular category may not necessarily be worth a gold or silver award.

In your judging you should consider the following points:

- Composition
- Technical proficiency
- Impact
- Aesthetic appeal
- Any other aspects

e.g. presentation: this is a minor consideration because mounting is not mandatory. However, images should be clean and free of dust and marks.

**Titles:** While image titles may direct the judge as to the intention of the author, *the judge should not consider the title as part of the image* and subsequently affect the award given to the image. However the judge may still comment on the appropriateness of the title.

We ask all entrants to provide a meaningful title for cataloguing and archiving purposes ("Untitled" and "Image001" will not be accepted). Titles are important when the category being judged is *Social Documentary*. In this case, the title must be mentioned while the image is being judged.

Each month, the judge is also to choose an **"IMAGE OF THE NIGHT"** from any of the images submitted. This will go into an end of year competition for the "Alice Black Memorial Trophy".