



HONOURS INFORMATION – 8 ADVICE TO APPLICANTS

PSSA does not prescribe to applicants how a panel should be compiled but rather makes recommendations.

Good presentation will always help to make a good impression on the judges. Entries should be neatly and uniformly mounted/framed and should be free of dust and other marks. The images are viewed individually and as a panel and it is therefore important that they hang together as a panel as well as being individually good pictures.

A single image of a different subject in an application is not a good idea. A panel should be balanced in terms of subject matter and techniques used.

One should consider technique as an integral part of the picture. In an Honours application, one's technique should be impeccable. A picture well-handled should hardly need to be considered for technique. If the image is not technically correct the subject matter is unlikely to be considered unless the picture is exceptional.

What is technique? It is the orthodox/correct use of exposure, focus, composition, lighting etc. Bear in mind that unorthodox technique is very effective in many instances, particularly in creative work. Sloppy technique however e.g. poor focus, bad lighting etc. is not acceptable.

We can ask ourselves if there are any technical faults which detract from the picture and whether the technique has enhanced the picture or was it merely used as a gimmick.

The difference between the different levels of application is not just an increase in the number of images required. A wider understanding and mastering of technique, treatment and artistry will be required as the applicant moves through the various levels.

Both general and specialist panels may be entered and an applicant may apply for more than one honour of the same level using different specialist subjects. These honours may count towards the versatility awards.

A Specialist Panel refers to the concept of focusing on a single theme, subject or aspect and could include a single subject or a specific photographic technique.