

## NATURAL HISTORY NOTES.

Natural History competitions are conducted under rules that differ from Open competition. It is important to use the link on the “competitions” page of the website to become familiar with the rules. The rules are detailed, and if you do not fully understand them, please email Georgie McKie at [mckiepic@paradise.net.nz](mailto:mckiepic@paradise.net.nz) for clarification. Simply, entries must not be of subjects which are restrained in any way, such as a zoo animal. They cannot be of domesticated subject material which covers all flora and fauna. But this can be a matter of interpretation .....a rose in a garden does not qualify, but a bumblebee gathering pollen from a garden plant will qualify if the bee is the major part of the image and your title refers to the bee and its activity.

Titles are important, and provide an opportunity to broaden your knowledge. Among popular subjects are red-billed gulls, various types of shags and monarch butterflies. If you plan to enter a “common” subject think hard about the title. It is acceptable to use a common name, but preferable to use the scientific name, and if it is a common subject, perhaps you should also include something relating to the behaviour the subject is showing. A title including these points is infinitely more interesting than Red-billed Gull, (numbers 1-6 having to be added by the secretary). Use the library or the internet to research and identify your subject. Several of our judges have researched entries in the past where they have not had the instant knowledge. If judges can research an entry, he/she will expect you to have made the effort also. Use some of the club experts to help identify material. “CUTE” titles have no place in Natural History.

Natural History Prints need to be submitted in packaging that shows clearly the ID number, the competition code and the title. The print itself does not need your ID number on it. Because this is a multiple entry competition and I would prefer the judges not to be aware that any two images belong to the same author. Some judges have been known to share awards around rather than give one author two honours. If the ID number is included on the back of the print, it will be “whited out” to make the print anonymous. Doing this with the prints ensures that they go to the judge in the same condition as PIs are sent out. The PI competition has the ID number and the meta data stripped from the file. Only titles go to judges.

A JPG copy of the NH print needs to be uploaded using the entry link associated with the competition and accessed in the members area of the CPS web site.

Please remember that 2 images may be entered in each of the Projected and Print categories of the Natural History Competitions.

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