

Tips from competition judge Dougie Allen for good entries

- Place your title on the back of your picture in a place to show which direction you want it to be hung!
- Tell a story.
- Don't be scared to crop your picture for full impact.
- Don't place anything too close to the edge and never touch the edge.
- With animals- eyes need to be pinsharp.
- Aim for shallow depth of field in close up to blur the background.
- Snow is difficult to capture cleanly, it often appears grey- compensate in your exposure by upping it 2 stops
- A bright background and a dark foreground mean loss of detail in the foreground-it is best if light is behind you or at the side. If this is not possible, use a reflector or flash gun.
- Aim to show separation between a subject and the background.
- Use the rule of thirds to position your main point of focus.
- With water, a slow shutter speed blurs .
- Beware of black areas in the background (use a reflector or flashgun to lighten dark areas)
- Trees- have a full tree or not at all- not half a tree.
- If you take boats, those travelling to the right should be placed on the left of your picture and vice versa.
- Try to ensure verticals do not converge!

