Through the Lens: Seniors Card Photographic Competition and Exhibition

The photo competition was open to all South Australian Seniors Card members and celebrates the skills of our older population through the art of photography. More than 600 entries were received!

Through the Lens: Seniors Card Photographic Competition and Exhibition has been delivered by the Office for Ageing Well as part of this year’s International Day of Older Persons.

With such high numbers of entries consistently in the competition, Through the Lens further demonstrates that people of all ages enjoy the art of photography and that age does not limit your creativity!

Artistic photography

Winner - Peter Phillips
Iron Quartet
While visiting a friend’s farm on Eyre Peninsula in 2018, I spotted four sheets of iron with varying hues in the wall of one of the sheds. I was entranced by the symmetry and accidental beauty of the intrinsically ugly subject matter. I have enhanced the colours a bit in Lightroom.

Finalist - Chris Kirby
Which Way?
I was attracted to the linear, triangular and intersecting lines of the hedges and paths in this corner of Kew Gardens. To emphasize these features and the contrasts between dark and light I chose a Monochromatic finish.

Landscape and nature

Winner - Grant Hugo
Drones and Kites
As I was taking some photographs of the patterns ploughed into this paddock at Nildotti on the Murray River, a pair of Black Kites flew a reconnaissance and deterrence mission. I managed to keep my drone and get this photograph.

Finalist - Alan Scott
Galaxy of Stars over Coober Pedy
Taken June 2020 during a visit to Coober Pedy. The mounds of tailings are remnants from numerous exploration holes and mine shafts. The crisp, clear night provided an excellent opportunity to capture the Milky Way.

Portrait

Winner - Martin Newland
Burnt Out
This is Michelle. She has spent much of her working life out in the sun and the weather. Life has been hard for her. This coupled with her drug addiction have resulted in her “weathered” appearance. She was homeless when I found her outside this burnt out shell that she sometimes called home. I couldn’t help but think that both the lady and the building were “Burnt Out”. I am grateful that she allowed me to take her photo under such sad circumstances.

Finalist - John Kirk
Sign of the times: Dan preparing for the outside world
Daniel asked me to take some real-life portraits for use in an e-book and his website. This image was a spontaneous capture in his hallway with only the ambient light - no light modifiers. The backlit blue light from the front window lasted just a few minutes and with Dan’s dark hair, full luxuriant beard and dark clothes, I added the surgical mask to provide both a highlight for the portrait and a topical context. I also tried to catch the feeling of concern with the current pandemic.
Meaningful connections

Winner - Susan Belperio  
Easter Dancing

The energy, excitement and exuberance of our granddaughters, is evident here. It is Easter Sunday, and three generations of family are pictured. We have just come inside after our traditional Easter egg hunt. The girls are still on their sugar high, whereas the adults are happy to observe over a cup of tea. To connect further with the girls, their parents are sporting their best sets of bunny ears. This image captures one of the many classic intergenerational moments enjoyed by our extended family.

Finalist - Amanda Luker  
Sharing Memories

This photo was taken in London during a demonstration. The veterans were endeavouring to educate the public about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The two veterans in this image were engaged for a while sharing memories.

People’s Choice Award finalists

Winner - Sue Mauger  
Weddell Seal, Antarctica

After being caught up in the COVID-19 pandemic while on a boat in the Antarctic, the photos I took have become extra special. This one was one of the first I took on our landings on the South Shetland Islands. These Weddell Seals (named after British Sealing Captain James Weddell) have such large eyes and this one was particularly cute with its curly whiskers.

Finalist - David Cram  
Frosty sunrise

A winter’s frosty sunrise at Mullinger Swamp Conservation Park in the southeast of South Australia.

Finalist - Sue Mauger  
If I sit really still behind this twig, you won’t see me.

While in Borneo, I went on several boat trips along the river. Jungle surrounded us on all sides. The trees were alive with primates, and there were many baby Long Tailed Macaques, playing with each other, or just sitting on the branches watching the world go by.

Active ageing

Winner - Kay Jamieson  
Crossing the line

What’s a couple of oyster lines between friends? Especially when a breakfast of fresh seafood is on offer! A 62 year old friend manages the tricky boat-to-boat transfer under the watchful eye of Pristine Oyster Farm’s CEO, Brendan Guidera during a bespoke outing at his Coffin Bay leases in July 2020.

Finalist - Sue Mauger  
Hanging out with King Penguins, South Georgia Islands

Beautiful South Georgia Islands are home to huge numbers of King Penguins, one colony having over 200,000 pairs. Thankfully I was able to take a selfie with my curious new friends before this trip of a lifetime, on the bucket list of many seniors, was cut short two days later when the world shut down. Then began our frantic race against time to catch a flight home. I feel very fortunate to have seen this amazing part of the world.

For more information about Through the Lens  
Visit www.sa.gov.au/seniorscard/photo or contact the Seniors Card Unit on 1800 819 961