

CAPTURING THE HEART OF TASMANIA—ONE PHOTO AT A TIME

Local photographers let their lenses lead the way, discovering the breathtaking stories of our historic heart

NORTHERN MIDLANDS CAPTURED THROUGH THE LENS: CHOOSE THE SCENIC ROUTE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2025 CELEBRATES LOCAL TALENT

The Northern Midlands has never looked more breathtaking. Over 140 photographs poured in for the Northern Midlands Council's 2025 Choose the Scenic Route photography competition, each image telling its own story of sweeping landscapes, charming townships, and the quiet beauty of everyday life in Tasmania's historic heart.. On Friday, October 17, three judges gathered for the daunting task of selecting just two winners—one for the Open Category and one for the Junior Division.

After more than four hours of deliberation, the panel, including judge Tracey Mallet CEO of Visit Northern Tasmania, praised the "incredibly high standard" of entries. "Shortlisting was incredibly tough because the standard was so high," Mallet said. "We looked closely at composition, sharpness, tone, lighting, and how each image spoke to the theme. The finalists have produced photographs that are both technically strong and emotionally resonant."

The Choose the Scenic Route 2025 photography competition was honoured to have a distinguished judging panel:

- **Scott Bennett** is an award-winning visual artist based in Ross, Tasmania. Renowned for his night sky and Aurora Australis photography, Scott has been a finalist in major art prizes including The Bridge Art Prize 2025 and the Glover Prize and has published a book on night skies.
- **Dr Rodney (Rod) Oliver** is President of the Northern Tasmanian Camera Club, Australia's third oldest camera club. With decades of experience in photography and community leadership, Rod has a special interest in photojournalism, heritage architecture, and the Tamar Wetlands.
- **Tracey Mallet**, CEO of Visit Northern Tasmania, brings extensive experience in local government across Victoria and Tasmania. Since 2023, Tracey has led the region's tourism organisation, providing industry development and regional leadership. Her passion for Tasmania's natural beauty and collaborative tourism sector has deepened since moving to the state in 2017.

From misty mornings on country roads to vibrant sunsets over rolling hills, the variety was astounding. Each photograph captured the essence of "Choose the Scenic Route," inviting viewers to see the region anew.

To honour this creativity, the Council will host an exhibition of the finalists' works at the Campbell Town Recreation Ground from Saturday, January 10 to Tuesday, January 27, 2026. Visitors will not only enjoy the stunning display but also have the chance to vote for the People's Choice Award. "The response has been outstanding—more than 140 entries that capture the spirit, beauty and character of our Northern Midlands," said Mayor Mary Knowles OAM. "I encourage everyone to visit the exhibition, cast a vote for the People's Choice Award, and join us on Australia Day as we celebrate our talented photographers. Our thanks and gratitude to all our contributors who participated."



1 Roy Tan – Crimson leaves blaze in front of Christ Church – Longford in autumn splendour



2 Gabi Dunn – Highland Cows at Cressy District High School



3 Lucia Vaca – A fiery Longford sunset blazes behind a charming old shed – rural Tasmania at its most dramatic

4 Paul Schwamm – Penny Farthing Races in Evandale
paulschwammphotography@yahoo.com.au



SPOTLIGHT ON THE OPEN WINNER: MARCUS RODRIGUES

The Open Category was fiercely contested, with entries that showcased technical mastery and deep emotional resonance. Emerging at the top was Marcus Rodrigues, whose winning photograph of heavy snow fall in Ross captivated the judges with its artistry and storytelling. The black and white image showed fantastic sharpness and excellent composition. Marcus's image had excellent composition and in terms of monochrome showed a beautiful range of greys to black and white.



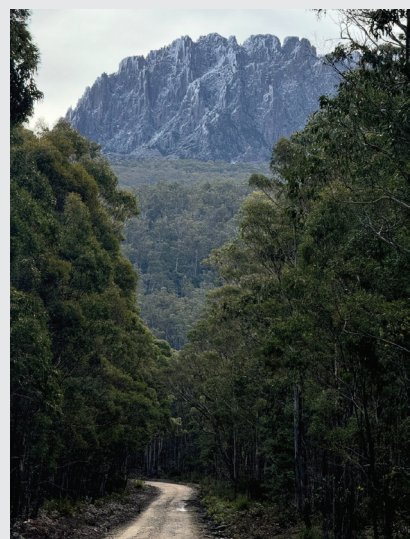
Marcus Rodrigues – Snow falls at Ross

SPOTLIGHT ON THE JUNIOR WINNER: ISAAC CHAPMAN

Among the standout entries, one image captured hearts and the top prize in the Junior category: a view of snow-covered Stacks Bluff on Ben Lomond, taken from Storys Creek Road by young photographer Isaac Chapman. From the Junior entries, Isaac's photograph was selected for its compelling composition, confident use of light and colour, and its evocative connection to the competition's theme..

Isaac will receive his award during Council's Australia Day proceedings on Monday, January 26, 2026, at the Campbell Town Recreation Ground. His winning photograph will also be featured in the finalists' exhibition, where the community can vote for their favourite image.

Isaac Chapman – Snow topped Stacks Bluff taken from Storys Creek Road, Rossarden



A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

The winners of the Open and Junior categories will be awarded during the Australia Day event—a fitting occasion to celebrate creativity and community pride. The exhibition will showcase all 25 finalist entries, offering a visual feast for residents and visitors alike.

So, mark your calendars. Take the scenic route to Campbell Town this January, immerse yourself in the artistry of local photographers, and help choose the image that speaks to you. To see all the finalist and winning entries, visit the Council's website: www.northernmidlands.com.au

For further information, contact Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Northern Midlands Council.

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OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:45am - 4:30pm

