

A day in the life



First Prize: Knitting Lesson by Hyun Duck Park; below from left, **Second Prize: Forgotten Forest** by Goo Tao; **Third Prize: Flying to the light** by Roy Cernohorsky; **People's Choice: Light My Fire** by Hernan Grabarnik.

Alex Robertson

A day in the life of Tāmaki Makaurau in the depths of winter is the annual challenge for Auckland photographers, part of the Auckland Festival of photography.

Now in its 18th year, Auckland Photo Day boasts limited daylight hours and, often, inclement weather bringing the focus on people and activities. And this year's winner embodies these qualities perfectly.

Hyun Duck Park's picture of a couple knitting at home was the outstanding image from hundreds of entries shot on 11 June this year.

"That day was rainy and cold so I couldn't get outside," said Park. "So I thought, okay, today we can take a picture inside and set the 10-second timer."

Park, a member of the Korean Photographic Association, is more used to landscapes, so this is a bit of a departure for him and the judges knew it was a winner from the start.

"This is such a colourful, humorous portrait, set in a winter's day at home, with resplendent woolly hats, and knitting in hand," they said.

"The image takes you into the heart of a comfy home which is full of warmth and the framing draws you into the two people sitting in their lounge learning to knit together. A wonderful image full of meaning."

Entries into the Photo Day competition cover a huge variety of topics and people from all over Auckland, from many different walks of life. The judges selected a Top 30 from which the winners were eventually chosen, and all of which can be seen online.

The general public voted to select the People's Choice Award, an image of cocktail making on Waiheke Island by Hernan Grabarnik.

The winners receive prizes from festival sponsor Fujifilm.

• The Top 30 from Auckland Photo day can be seen here photographyfestival.org.nz/



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PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Ups and downs spread throughout 25 years of getting Act together

When the Act Party meets in Wellington this weekend to reflect on its years in Parliament, members are likely to focus more on its successes than its myriad scandals.

Surviving every election is a measure of success for any small party, but it has also had some diabolical moments since former Labour Finance Minister Sir Roger Douglas and former National minister Derek Quigley formed the libertarian party in 1993.

The party conference will be held tomorrow, followed by a dinner to celebrate 25 years in Parliament, delayed because of Covid last year.

Former Act leader Richard Prebble will MC the dinner and all former leaders except Rodney Hide are expected to attend, as well as many former and current MPs.

Hide is no longer active in Act although he returned to Parliament this year to take part in the occupying anti-mandate protests.

In nine elections contested, David Seymour led it to its best result, 7.6 per cent in 2020 and 10 MPs.



Audrey Young

2005: 1.51 per cent, two MPs.
2008: 3.65 per cent, five MPs.
2011: 1.07 per cent, one MP.
2014: 0.69 per cent, one MP.
2017: 0.5 per cent, one MP.
2020: 7.6 per cent, 10 MPs.

The best of times

● **Richard Prebble's win in Wellington Central, 1996:** Not quite a beginner's luck given Prebble was a Labour MP for 18 years until he lost Auckland Central in 1993 to the Alliance's Sandra Lee. But winning an electorate seat and getting over the 5 per cent threshold at the first MMP election was a stunning result for the newly formed Act Party. He lost Wellington Central the next election but Act lifted its vote to 7.04 per cent, and again in 2002, to 7.14 per cent.

● **Rodney Hide's win in Epsom, 2005:** Hide led the party to a pitiful 1.5 per cent national mainly because Don Brash was a magnet for the centre right opposition vote that

election as Helen Clark went for a third term. But Hide kept Act on life support by winning Epsom without having an electorate deal with National. He brought in Heather Roy who later tried to roll him.

● **Charter Schools, 2011:** Act had barely campaigned on the state-funded schooling model which gave schools more freedom from the state system, but it was announced in the confidence and supply agreement between National's John Key and Act's John Banks. The schools soon became a signature policy for the party – and still are – despite being abolished by Labour in 2018.

● **Assisted Dying 2019:** Euthanasia is now legal after David Seymour took a bill through Parliament. His was pulled from the members' bills ballot in June 2017 when he was the sole Act MP, and it passed in November 2019. Strictly speaking, it was an MP's bill and a conscience vote but it sat comfortably with Act's ethos of individual liberty. Seymour formed cross-party alliances to advance it, and it was sealed with 65.91 per cent support in a public referendum.

● **Party vote, 2020:** The party went from winning one seat in 2011, 2014, and 2017, to gaining 10 in 2020. Over two terms, Seymour had made a positive profile for himself in



David Seymour led Act to its best election result in 2020. Photo / NZME

Parliament – and on *Dancing with the Stars*.

The worst of times

● **Donna Awatere Huata expelled in 2003 after SFO investigation:** Huata was first elected in 1996 on the list but was expelled from the party, and eventually Parliament, which she challenged in court. She was jailed in 2005 for stealing from the Pipi

Foundation she set up to help underprivileged children.

● **John Boscawen takes the cake 2009:** Newly elected list MP John Boscawen stood in the 2009 Mt Albert byelection after Helen Clark resigned. During a candidates' meeting, an audience member placed a lamington on his head while he was talking and he carried on without stopping. He had run a public campaign against



(Clockwise, from top, left): Prebble, Hide, Banks, Awatere Huata, Boscawen.

ministers they should pay for their spouses, but Hide used his perk for discount travel as an MP, not a minister. It did not break the formal rules but killed his reputation as Parliament's chief perk-buster.

● **David Garrett and the baby, 2010:** Garrett was a list MP and leading protagonist of the Three Strikes law when it was revealed he had an old conviction for assault in Tonga. It emerged a short time later he had once used the identity of a dead baby to obtain a false passport. In mitigation, he had been discharged without conviction on that count, but the scandal forced his resignation.

● **Don Brash and John Banks' leadership 2011:** The plan was for former National leader Don Brash and former Auckland Mayor (and ex-National MP) John Banks to rescue Act from the brand damage inflicted by the scandals of the 2008-2011 term.

Brash was leader and Banks stood in 2011. Act polled just 1.07 per cent, giving it one MP, Banks in Epsom. Brash resigns, Banks is made leader but is charged with filing a false electoral return (convicted but overturned on appeal). Jamie Whyte replaces Banks as leader in 2014 and Seymour is chosen to contest Epsom in 2014.

Labour's Electoral Finance Bill before entering Parliament, but became an object of ridicule. He later became party president and deputy leader.

● **Rodney Hide's overseas jaunt 2009:** In his first year as a minister in John Key's Government, Hide billed the taxpayer \$25,000 for his girlfriend to accompany him on a Super City-related work trip to Canada, the US and London. Key had told