



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

Meeting Date:	13 ~ 02 ~ 2017	Print Secretary Brian Paatsch 02 6025 2117 brianjan@dragnet.com.au
Judge:	Jen Fawkes	
Subject:	Open	

Colour Prints – Section 'B' (Yellow Dot)

1	163	The Incense Burners	14	pts	Place	1 st Place
<p>This is a lovely still life that is both sharp and interesting. You have done well to capture all the pots with room around the edge, as well as a number of other features to add to the story, such as the red carved pole to the right. There are some elements in the background that potentially could be distracting but you have done well to tone them down making the incense sticks and pots the main feature. While the presentation plays no part in the scoring, I do like the small black line around the edge that keeps the white areas within the frame. Well done on a nice composition and a sharp image. This is a great subject where you could experiment with different formats such as having all pots on a horizontal plane, or using a shallower depth of field focussing on the second pot.</p>						
2	161	Dandelion Seeds	12	pts	Place	Merit
<p>A very pretty image with some lovely colors and a touch of whimsy. It's good to see a sunset that's 'outside' the box. There is really good use of depth of field with the front 2 stems sharp, and the others gradually becoming softer and I like how the sharp stems overlap the black base to stand out even more. I'm not sure about that white sun shape which leaps out of the image and the first thing that I saw, and I wonder if this image would be stronger by taking a big step to the left and eliminating both the sun and those branches at the top left. None the less a lovely and clever image.</p>						
3	148	Between Two Boats	10	pts	Place	
<p>You have done well to spot these boats as well as be patient enough to wait for a subject to walk between them. They are interesting shapes and really stand out in the sunset. I do feel that there are 2 images here, and the real photo you wanted is in the right 2/3. A crop of the sun (<i>which is too bright</i>) and the left side of the left boat would tell the story better - perhaps even make it a square. I can see you have used a flash, and this has made the boats overly bright meaning that your subject is lost between them. By turning the flash strength down (<i>or covering the flash with some tissue</i>) you may have captured more of your man and the boats wouldn't be quite so dazzling.</p> <p>I hope you also got some silhouette shots of that bridge and the people on it as a separate image, the waves on the water and the shapes on the poles are really interesting but be careful that the white sun doesn't overtake the image.</p>						
4	129	Girl on a Bridge	11	pts	Place	
<p>This is a nicely spotted and well composed image that draws you into the photo by the shape of the bridge and that lovely texture in the brickwork. I feel that the real story here should be the woman and her umbrella walking on the bridge, but unfortunately, she gets lost firstly as she is in shadow and thus dark, and secondly that the bridge is so overwhelming with its color and texture that you don't actually see the woman until you look harder. I'm not sure about the soft areas under the bridge and particularly the white area that draws the eye in, and I would like to see this with a shallower depth of field to blur this area more. It's a shame that you couldn't get higher to take this image, but you have to take what you see, and you have done a good job within these constraints.</p>						
5	117	Mt Buffalo	9	pts	Place	
<p>I love Mt Buffalo, with its big boulders, cool streams and amazing views. It's a photographer's paradise if you catch the right light and become patient about your technique. This is a beautiful stream that is compositionally excellent. I can see that you have 'seen' what is a good photo but technical elements have let you down. Firstly, any landscape needs a large depth of field (a small aperture or a large f-stop number). That way more of your image will be sharp and we will see those large boulders in the background much clearer. Secondly if you want blurred water you need a slow shutter speed and to get this you need stability - a tripod. That way the camera will remain still for as long as you want it to. The relationship between aperture, shutter and ISO is a complicated one, but is the key to getting a good image. Don't give up, there is a really good image here, you just need to understand your camera to get the best out of what you see.</p>						



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

6	116	The Gloom of Eilean Donan Castle	13	pts	Place	2nd Place
<p>What a delightful, moody, cold, damp landscape. This image really sent a chill down my back and as such gets points for creating emotion. The castle is both very sharp and well placed in the frame with the bridge acting as a leading line into the grassed area in the centre. You have done really well to capture so much detail with that challenging white sky, which is probably the only real concern in the photo. Having said that, again while presentation should not be taken into consideration at club judging, the addition of the gold frame helps to keep the image inside the borders and adds to the grandeur of the castle. An excellent composition for a lovely sharp image.</p>						
7	79	A Wary Eye	10	pts	Place	
<p>What a cute little fellow who really does look a little wary. There are some lovely textures in the rabbit's fur and the side lighting has helped to illuminate the animal's face. Compositionally I'd like to suggest a few things. Firstly, the rabbit seems 'plonked' into the middle of the frame although I do note that you have given the animal space all around. If you gave the rabbit more space to move into (on the left) and placed the ears on the 1/3 vertical line and his eye on the 1/3 horizontal line it would feel less 'staged'. There is good depth of field ensuring that the background is well separated from the animal. When shooting animals, the eye must always be the sharpest point as this is what is looked for but in this case the eye is a little soft and the sharpest plane is parallel with the back of the head. I like that you have got down low, but next time try lots of vantage points, and even lower can give some wonderful results. A light vignetter would also help to keep the animal within the frame and not lead you out with some distracting blurred vegetation such as at the front.</p>						
8	37	Day 1	8	pts	Place	
<p>This is an image that reminds me of my childhood summers. It has the potential to be a lovely image that conjures memories, but something has gone wrong with your printing leaving the sky 3 different shades of blue, which sadly spoils a compositionally good image. Firstly, you need to straighten that horizon, something judges will notice very quickly. You can do this in-camera, by engaging the grid on your screen, or in post production by using a simple tool. Secondly, I'd crop the top and make it more of a panorama which will move the horizon to the upper 1/3 line and remove a lot of dead sky. There is a lovely story to tell here, get your printer fixed so that you can showcase your work.</p>						
9	125	Surrounded	10	pts	Place	
<p>We've all been in this situation, surrounded by seagulls aiming to get your lunch. There is a terrific story here that is helped by the eye contact between subject and seagull and the patiently waiting gulls to the right. This is hard light to work with bright sunshine making one seagull too bright, and as such losing detail, and shadow areas that have helped to show the details of the gulls. I like the expression on the subject face. This is a much stronger image if you cropped 1/3 off the left side and about 3-4 cms off the top. That way the subject is sitting on the 1/3 line and looking into the image. This also helps to remove the bright areas at the edge as well as those gulls that are lacking any definition. A vignette would then help to keep the story within the frame.</p>						
10	12	Santa	12	pts	Place	Merit
<p>A beautiful, whimsical image that has many good elements. I love the coloring and both the super -sharp and super- blurred fronds that suggest a good choice for depth of field. I also like that the main subject sits to the left lower quadrant and away from the centre. I do think that the large blurred area is the main concern with this image as it dominates being lighter, and it's difficult to distinguish the finer hairs on the front of it without a closer look. I don't get the title, but then a title should never help a judge in their scoring. A lovely image that would fit really well in a contemporary themed competition.</p>						
11	4	Harpooned	9	pts	Place	
<p>This is another image that reminds me of summer holidays down in the Mornington Peninsula with sweeping tides and sandy feet. I like the story here, it feels like a hot summer day and yet the boat is full of water. Compositionally this is well done, with the boat well placed in the frame acting as a leading line into the image. Technically there are a few faults, the first being a crooked horizon, a fault any judge will pick up on, and mark down for. You have taken the image in harsh daytime light, which means the colors are faded and washed out and the shadows harsh. This would be a terrific image if taken in early light or late afternoon light (which ever gives you the light in the best position) and perhaps drop down a little lower to capture more detail in the boat itself. A vignette would also help to keep the eyes on the boat rather than wandering off the image to the lighter areas.</p>						



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

Colour Prints – Section 'A' (*Green Dot*)

1	146	Fire in the Sky	10	pts	Place	
<p>There are some beautiful colors in this image and certainly some photographers dream to photograph, particularly with a nice reflection to boot. Unfortunately, I find the mountain and its reflection very dark and without detail. I feel that this image needs more in the foreground, with something that will lead you into the image, perhaps step a couple of meters to the right and bob down and include some of those rocks in the reflected color. Images such as this can also do well as a panorama so maybe lighten up the middle and crop a little from top.</p>						
2	119	Tenacity	11	pts	Place	
<p>My first reaction to this image was 'I want to go there', and sit on those rocks and watch the sunset. I like the light, the clouds and the colors in this image. I wondered what the main story was behind this image - that gnarled tree that unfortunately starts to blend into the blue sky and has lost detail in the bark, the detail in the rocks or the suggestion of a beautiful vista. Whatever was your intention, none of these actually stand out and leaves this image without a story to tell. So, I've given good marks for a technically sound image, but you might want to think about what you could add or do to give it some 'wow' factor.</p>						
3	113	Azure Kingfisher	12	pts	Place	Merit
<p>A beautiful bird that has been well spotted and well presented. I can see a sharp eye and beak with a hint of catchlight and the colors are beautiful. I do wonder if the image is over sharpened as I can see a white line around the head, back and beak of the bird which can make the bird stand out, but does make it look a little unnatural. Having said that the bird is well positioned in the image, the background is well blurred and the bird has lots of space to look into, which matches its long beak.</p>						
4	81	Spring Creek	14	pts	Place	1st Place
<p>Beautiful colours and a well executed slow shutter speed to create a dreamy and interesting image. This is a good example of a closed landscape, where there is no sky showing and in this case the sky is unnecessary. The colors in the rocks are beautiful and reminiscent of the outback and the diagonal line of the waters bring you through the image. In particular, I like the silky cascade of the waterfall in the top right side. Well done and a first place</p>						
5	10	Mystified	9	pts	Place	
<p>I really liked the concept of this image, it's both clever and creative, but for me there is just too much white. I like that the image is grounded with the darker rocky area at the bottom, and this is the only part of the image that makes me feel that we are looking into mist. The boat feels a long way away, and in such a mist would we not be able to see such detail. I felt that the boat and the rocks in the foreground need to stand out a little more, and there be a little less white at the top with a good crop that still has the boat mast on the 1/3 lines.</p>						
6	78	Rainforest Stairway	13	pts	Place	2nd Place
<p>An absolutely crystal sharp image of a very cool and inviting place. This image is sharp from front to back of the stairway with beautiful definition around the larger leaves. The touch of red makes the image more inviting. My preference would be to crop off a little from the left-hand side to make the stairwell a little more 'off centre' and maybe a small vignette to prevent those bright areas on the edges, particularly across the top, from drawing the eye away from the main subject. A well spotted and well taken image.</p>						
7	68	ET	10	pts	Place	
<p>Well spotted with an amusing title (<i>which was what I thought when I first saw it</i>). I feel this image would do better in an abstract rather than open. I had to spend too long working out what was happening and when I did most of the action was off to the left and almost out of the image. I found the lights too bright, particularly the right one, which appears as a white blob. Having said that the exposure and the colors are nice, it has good sharpness where you need it and the image is intriguing.</p>						
8	43	The Arch	8	pts	Place	
<p>A beautiful landmark with interesting rock formations and the potential for beautiful colors. Unfortunately, I think the light has let you down here and some lightening and brightening would really help here. You have done well to get the rocks so sharp both at the front of the image right through to the edge of the arch. I did wonder if this image would look better with a longer exposure to smooth out that angry water, which seems to compete with the rocks as the main subject. I like that you have not included the sky which has allowed the focus to remain on the arch itself.</p>						



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

9	1	Risky Business	12	pts	Place	Merit
<p>I loved the social commentary of this image, and you have done well to be in the right place at the right time. I checked that the tyre of the bike is indeed completely captured in the image and a better placing in the frame would have included this. I do find the greenery a bit distracting and a slightly higher perspective might have eliminated this (but I do understand that you don't get images like this very often). I love the expression of the little girl who has no concept of the danger she might be in. The bike and the riders are nice and sharp with good blur in the background. Well spotted and well captured.</p>						

Monochrome Prints

1	163	Going Home	9	pts	Place	
<p>There is a really interesting story here to tell, but the light here has really let you down. The dynamic range (<i>from black to white</i>) is enormous and has meant that your 'black' areas such as the face of the sitting woman are too black and do not give any detail, and your 'white' areas are so bright that we lose the face of your main subject. The most interesting part of the image is in the bottom 1/3 where the water is producing interesting shapes and the boat has some details of the texture. Remember, that your eyes will be drawn to the lighter areas of the image, and in this case the white sky and the white corner at the bottom left. Both draw the eye away from the centre of the image. Well spotted for a good story and an image that is sharp.</p>						

2	161	Before the Performance	10	pts	Place	
<p>This is an interesting portrait both in its simplicity and the mood of your subject. While it is not important to always have eye contact, it is important to have the eyes sharp, and in this case the eyes are a little soft, while part of the hand is actually the sharpest part of the image. I would be tempted to crop away that bright white and it draws away the eye from the subject or move position to capture that light amongst your models hair. You have captured some nice skin tones and I do like the shadow of the brush against her face.</p>						

3	146	Stormy Peak	11	pts	Place	
<p>I looked at this image long and hard, and the real story for me here is that snow clad peak with the misty clouds and that amazingly ominous sky - they make a great subject. I like that you have captured the foreground and while it has good detail the lighter areas of the bottom 1/3 has meant that the mountains themselves have lost detail. My feeling is that the water is 'dirty' with bits of weed and objects that detract from the magnificent mountains. While the boats give the image perspective, they area white and draw the eye off to the right of the picture. To give you a couple of suggestions, perhaps use a longer shutter speed to smooth out the water a little, and maybe bob down and take the image from lower to the ground to reduce the amount of white water.</p>						

4	10	Mosaicked	14	pts	Place	1st Place
<p>There are so many good things to say about this image, firstly it has a 'wow' factor, I wanted to look further and around the image and it kept my attention. I felt cold looking at it, thinking that if I were looking at the scene I would know to get indoors soon. I really like the placement of horizon, which is nice and straight, but it also allows the image to be divided into 3 (<i>foreground rocks, mid-ground water and background mountains</i>). The tonal range is excellent and the bright areas are central, thus drawing you into the picture. The placement of the rocks, almost an arrow also draws us into the picture. This is a wonderful image, sharp throughout and well processed. It scored my first place.</p>						

5	129	Stony Creek Trestle Bridge	10	pts	Place	
<p>This is a really good example of perspective that allows us to see both the size and the length of the bridge. It is well taken, it's nice and sharp, and has a good range of tonal detail. It also has a nice amount of contrast to give some detail to the woodwork although some detail is lots in the top timbers. The problem for me is that my eye wanders around the image, not able to settle on something that would give the subject the 'wow' factor. It's a great subject to convert to a mono, but the whiteness of the sky draws the eye away from the bridge and a small vignette would not go astray. You also need to remove the foliage from the left side.</p>						

6	119	Out of My Way Sonny	10	pts	Place	
<p>I just love the textures of an elephant's skin, and a mono conversion with good contrast will show it up. The old fellow is wonderful, with his grey whiskers and dirty forehead. But, the image would be stronger if you stepped a little back and included more of the elephant, then added a vignette to keep the eye on the main subject. It would be nice to see both ears and all of that drooping mouth. Unfortunately, the eye of the older elephant is in shade, and closed thus losing the opportunity of making the eyes the feature. However, the elephants</p>						



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

themselves are nice and sharp and the background nicely blurred and you have really brought out the textures of the elephant skins.

7	116	Footprint Identikit	9	pts	Place	
----------	------------	----------------------------	----------	-----	-------	--

A really interesting subject, with some great textures and a nice tonal range. As a subject, it doesn't do much for me and I felt that a tighter crop with a light vignette would make this image a strong abstract. The background has some distracting elements that could easily be cloned out. I also felt that you could have 'tidied' up some of the small black items to give it a much cleaner feel.

8	81	Dunedin Railway Station Platform	12	pts	Place	Merit
----------	-----------	---	-----------	-----	-------	--------------

This is a terrific subject full of interest and detail, and a lovely example of perspective. The image is well balanced with the point of convergence on the R 1/3 line and it is sharp from the front to the back of the image. I like the single figure which adds to a story, but I would prefer him to be larger in the picture and perhaps a little to the right as I find his upper body starts to blend into the brickwork. (*'Excuse me sir, could you walk down there again, and a little to your right'!!!*) This is a strong subject for a monochrome conversion, and a great place to plan for some 'set up shots'.

9	79	Across the Range	10	pts	Place	
----------	-----------	-------------------------	-----------	-----	-------	--

This image brought back memories of my bushwalking days, across the high country of Victoria, that I last visited in January 2011, witnessing the destruction caused by the bushfires. These trees make good subjects for a mono conversion and I like that you have reduced the skyline, eliminating too much white sky. Compositionally this image is lacking, with one leading line (*the left tree*) leading the eye out of the image and no fixed point of interest. The background mountain is not sharp, suggesting that a smaller aperture is required, or a larger aperture to focus on the foreground trees. I do like the detail in both the foreground and the mid-ground and the contrast of white wood against black burnt wood. This is a good example where you could take several images from different places and perspectives that may place those trees in a better position, or make one of them the feature.

10	68	Days Gone By	13	pts	Place	2nd Place
-----------	-----------	---------------------	-----------	-----	-------	-----------------------------

This is a wonderful image, full of history and interest. It is sharp throughout, making both the building and the car points of interest, and they are both well placed on the upper L 1/3 line and lower R 1/3 lines, thus balancing the image. While I can see, the image was taken in bright sunlight, this has enhanced the shadows, and you have still managed to get detail in the brick work of the building, but perhaps lost a little detail in the front of the car. If anything, I would crop a bit off the top to reduce the empty sky and it wouldn't hurt to take a little off the bottom, making it more of a panorama which would accentuate the wide-open space that these gems are found in.

11	1	Royal Spoonbill	9	pts	Place	
-----------	----------	------------------------	----------	-----	-------	--

What a crazy, funky little bird that looks like he's just stepped out of the hairdresser! You have certainly picked a terrific subject but one that is really challenging to photograph - given that the bird is white and the beak is black. The bird is nice and sharp, the feathers have good detail and the position of the bird is good. What has let you down is that the bird should white, not grey as you depict and as such he blends into the background. Also, you have lost any detail in the face and eyes, although I can see a little catchlight, that judges always like to see. The background to the right is lovely and blurred but to the left, while blurred, is quite distracting. Have another go at checking the levels and add some whites, should the beak become too grey, then just run a burn tool down along it. You could crop a little off the right side as in this case the rule of 1/3s need not apply.

12	148	Lone Seagull	11	pts	Place	
-----------	------------	---------------------	-----------	-----	-------	--

There is so much to like about this image that conjures up the perfect beach, with no other people and a threatening storm approaching from the right. There are details in the image that you can find when you look closely (*such as the bird prints t the bottom left*) however you need to remember that in higher levels competitions the judge will have only 8 second to look at your image, and will probably not see this detail. I believe that this image would be much stronger if you made it into a panorama, cropping the bottom up to the edge of the foam to the left, and making the horizon less on the centre line. Also, the horizon is not straight (not much but I noticed it). Still a great subject that has been well converted to mono and I hope you stayed to see that storm come!

13	37	Day 2	7	pts	Place	
-----------	-----------	--------------	----------	-----	-------	--



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

This photo reminds me of an old mono - print film image taken on holidays. While the subject has great potential (*that is sea, sky, surf, rocks*), in this case the mono conversion has not helped, making the sky a vast expanse of one color that has merged into the sea and because there is so much pale sky, the rocks are dark and lack detail. The horizon here is very crooked, and is the first thing that any judge will notice. These kinds of images do well in panorama, cutting out much of the sky (*unless the sky is really interesting*) and adding a little more of the shore line - but first you must learn to straighten that horizon either in camera (by putting the grid on the screen) or post processing. I would also check your printer as the image appears quite muddy.

14	43	The Ring Tree	8	pts	Place	
-----------	-----------	----------------------	----------	-----	-------	--

What an amazing, gnarled, textured tree you have captured, and a heart shaped ring to boot. While I agree that this is a great subject for a mono conversion, I do feel that you have over processed it, creating something that almost feels a little gothic. I can tell that you have sharpened (*over-sharpened*) by the white lines that outline the tree and too much contrast means you have lost detail in the bark while making the sky looks quite unnatural. I do like the foreground, netting and fences and would like to see more detail in these features. Compositionally this is a good photo, just pull back a bit on the post processing.

15	125	Waiting for Dinner	9	pts	Place	
-----------	------------	---------------------------	----------	-----	-------	--

A lovely, moody, late afternoon image that suggests a hot, lazy, summer fishing from the rocks. Looking into the sun, you have done well to place the subject so that the white of the sun is not overwhelming but still catches the light on the waves. I would like to see more of the subject as a silhouette as he sits very close to the edge. The addition of the seagull is nice, but it doesn't feel an integral part of the story being so close to the edge of the frame. You might have a stronger image by being further away, having the rocks, person and fishing rods all as a silhouette along the bottom, with more space at the person's back.

16	12	Waiting	12	pts	Place	Merit
-----------	-----------	----------------	-----------	-----	-------	--------------

I really like this image for a number of reasons, firstly it was 'different', and sat outside the usual monochrome images presented in competition and as such caught my eye, and secondly because you have taken some risks in the processing of the image, which I believe have worked well. It's a nice subject that suggests time has slowed. The grainy texture adds to make some dreamy water shapes as well as unusual reflections on the boat and the placement of the subject and poles works well. If I'm going to be picky I would like to see the right-hand pole have a little more space and I'd like to see a little more detail in the front of the boat. I thought your presentation could have been better with more care taken to fit the image on the back board. Having said that I think this would be a wonderful image printed onto an aluminium or glass background.

EDIB Competition

1	163	Burning a Prayer	12	pts	Place	Merit
----------	------------	-------------------------	-----------	-----	-------	--------------

I found this an interesting image and spent a little time trying to work out what it was. My first reaction was that it looked like a mosquito coil but the title gave it away as something more religious. I like the format that includes more of the coils but found the smoke a little distracting, as though I thought it shouldn't be part of the image. Without the smoke and with a vignette it makes a nice abstract. The image is well taken, technically correct with a good exposure, good sharpness and a non-distracting background. To make the image an 'open' rather than purely abstract, I feel that you need to make something really stand out, so that is what we will see first. Perhaps trying a narrower depth of field to make the lower 3 pop forward. Well spotted and scored a merit.

2	161	Sundew	14	pts	Place	1st Place
----------	------------	---------------	-----------	-----	-------	-----------------------------

A beautiful ethereal image, that is both well executed and very pleasing to look at. An aperture of f5 is great choice here as it has given you enough depth of field without blurring the plant stems too much and leaves enough of the plant sharp. The totally blurred background really makes this image with its dreamy colors that do not compete with the flower. Compositionally you have also done really well, with a suggestion of a diagonal all within in the frame. Interestingly I turned the image to a landscape format and it made a completely different image that I would have scored much lower!

3	148	Along the Beach	10	pts	Place	
----------	------------	------------------------	-----------	-----	-------	--

I loved the colours and the feel of this image, and how blessed we are to see such places empty of other people. Having said that there is a need of some post processing to make this a great image. Firstly, a horizon must be straight and you will always be marked down unless it is obvious that it was meant to be intentional. Secondly that sun flair that sits in a large 'dead' space of sand. I would suggest that you crop the image to a panorama (after straightening the horizon) by cropping a touch off the top and the sand up to the edge of the



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

water on the right. This gives you both the drag in the sand and the edge of the foam that both lead you into the image. With your permission, I have applied these changes to demonstrate how you can turn a good image into a great one!

4	129	Riverina Bluebells	11	pts	Place	
<p>Riverina Bluebells, also known as Patterson's Curse draws 2 strong feelings - what an amazing color and disgust at the extent of the weed. I like what you have done here, placing the tractor in the upper left quadrant surrounded by the bluebells. I felt this image would be even stronger as a square, and brighten up the tractor a little to make it stand out even more. But it has been well spotted and well executed.</p>						
5	120	Shoe Cycle	9	pts	Place	
<p>There is always a danger with taking pictures of other people's art work, and not doing something that makes it an original image. While the art work is quite exceptional, and you have taken a technically correct image with good sharpness and color and a nice frame, you do need to think beyond the artwork itself. Perhaps a child looking up, a bicycle standing against it, some shoes lined up to be part of the image, or some feet without shoes. But just photographing another person's art work is good if that is what the artist wants to showcase his work, but not considered ethical to use a competition image.</p>						
6	117	Dusk	10	pts	Place	
<p>Another beautiful image that reminds us why Australia is such a good place to live. Such lovely colors and the feeling of playing on a warm sunny day. This is another image that I feel would be stronger presented as a panorama, cropping a little from the top, and quite a bit from the bottom that would remove a lot of that dark foreground. This way the silhouette grass stems and the children actually stand out more. I also suggest that you remove some of the bright spots (<i>sun shining on the grass</i>) in the dark foreground area as they are a little distracting and easy to remove. Again, with your permission, I have cropped this image to demonstrate how this image can be converted to a great image.</p>						
7	116	Durantium	11	pts	Place	
<p>Another beautiful dreamy macro shot, but in this case I feel it is not as strong as the first one presented. While the colors are beautiful and the composition is excellent with the broad part of the plant sitting in the bottom right corner, giving a nice diagonal across the image, the focal point selected is probably not the best choice for this image. The sharpest parts are the stems rising rather than the curly head in the top left hand quadrant. I note that you have used an aperture of f3.3 which is quite small and means that too much of the image is not sharp. A greater depth of field would mean both the head and the stems could be sharp on a beautiful soft background. I would also suggest that you place something black behind the flower such as black cardstock or material to avoid that white area to the top right. You have done well to keep the focus in by placing a vignette around the flower, but it would be stronger to not have the white area altogether.</p>						
8	79	Mothers Rest	13	pts	Place	2nd Place
<p>There is a lovely story here with a mother and joey. For me the real story here is the mother's face, looking straight at the camera, with clean sparkling eyes. Having the joey is just a bonus. There is not much that I could add to improve the image. Compositionally it sits well with the face on the upper left 1/3 line and the joey on the lower right 1/3 line, which makes it really balanced. The depth of field is a good choice but the eyes are slightly softer than the nose and the eyes need to be your focal point. The background is nicely blurred and not at all distracting. You've taken this in good light so that there are no distracting shadows but it is bright enough for a clear image. If anything, I would add a little saturation to distinguish the animal a little more from the background and use the sponge tool around her ears to make her face stand out even more. Well done on a lovely photo.</p>						
9	37	To Slow	8	pts	Place	
<p>You have done well to capture such a fast-moving creature and the setting on the lichen is a nice background. Unfortunately, the lizard is positioned on the black part of the tree and as such gets lost. The lizard is not the sharpest part of the image, but the lichen just behind it. The camera cannot see the lizard and does not know that is what you want in focus so it will just take an average of what is in front of it. Try to focus on the thing you want sharp, half press the shutter and then recompose your image. This way the lizard would have become the main subject. I note that there is no EXIF date attached to the image, so I cannot comment on the camera settings you have selected but I would suggest an aperture of around f5.6 and put the main focus point on the eye of the lizard.</p>						



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

10	125	Dancer	10	pts	Place	
<p>What a great subject you have found, and you have done well to capture her in a great stance with an interesting expression. Also, you have managed a dark, non-distracting background. Compositionally you have done really well, with the positioning of the dancer in the frame. I feel that you have over-saturated this image making the skin tones a bit too orange. By pulling back on the colors and adding a bit of contrast you get nice muscle definition with a more realistic skin color. You can always spot saturate the beadwork afterwards using the sponge tool. Also, remember that the golden rule of portraits is to focus on the eyes, and here I find the beadwork sharp, but the face a little soft. As with the previous image, assuming you have a centre-weighted metering system on, try to focus on the face, half press the shutter and then recompose before fully pressing the shutter.</p>						
11	12	This Way	9	pts	Place	
<p>I can see you are having fun with some artistic filters and have created something different. I'm not sure that this image fits in well to an open them, but rather an abstract or contemporary theme, where creativity is encouraged, but personal preferences are more important. Compositionally I find that my eye wanders away from the centre both in the upper right (<i>where the items sweep out</i>), and by having the arrow pointing downwards. While there are some nice lines, curves and artificially created textures here I want to know a little more about what I'm looking at.</p>						
12	59	Where is the Rider	10	pts	Place	
<p>There is an interesting story here and this image could conjure up a number of scenarios. Where is the rider? Has he jumped, broken down, got stuck or is fishing? What is good about this image is the how the red wheels of the bike really stand out against the grey background and where it is placed in the frame. As it's a grey, drab day, try cropping some of that sky off, and the top bar of the fence leaving just a hint of sky. This gives is a feel of being caged and can add another dimension to the story. I feel I want to know a little more, perhaps some more props, but as it is, it feels like a bike on a bridge.</p>						

EDIA Competition

1	156	Dads Foot	12	pts	Place	Merit
<p>What a gorgeous face and a lovely story to tell. To me it tells the story about loyalty. You have achieved lovely eye contact with the dog, great depth of field with your foreground sharp but a nice non-distracting background, and good color. My only problem is that foot, it tends to dominate the picture and it's not the most attractive or cleanest foot around. But well taken, and well composed.</p>						
3	113	Regent Honeyeater	9	pts	Place	
<p>A cute little bird taken at a nice angle to showcase his plumage. Unfortunately, the bird gets a little lost in that foliage because he is not quite sharp and the whole image is a little bright in particular the leaves to the front of him. Try this as a portrait format, but keeping the dimensions. This will remove those distracting blurred trees to the left and right but will keep that nicely blurred background behind the bird. I can see that the bird has been tagged, and this would go against you in a higher-level nature competition. It does detract a little from the bird itself. Remember, focus on the eye to get the sharpest image.</p>						
4	81	Flinders Ranges and Ruin	10	pts	Place	
<p>I went to the Flinders ranges last year, and yes, it's a amazing place rich with the colors of the outback that we all know so well. I like that you have converted this to a panorama, that highlights both the mountains and the ruins and gives the image a feeling of space. I do find that ruins a little close to the edge making if feel that it is an addition rather than part of your story. I found the picture quite dark, and checking the levels I found that the it was easy to improve the lighting by correcting the levels and adding a bit of contrast and saturation. Again, with your permission, I will demonstrate this.</p>						
5	119	Beauty is only Skin Deep	12	pts	Place	2nd Place
<p>I laughed long and hard seeing this one, and it immediately caught my attention -for me the WOW factor. I like that you have made this square, with the face and all its detail the showpiece. It's beautiful and sharp with a catchlight in the eye, and sharp elsewhere where it needs to be My only comment is that area of blue sky to the upper right, that detracts from the face and could very easily be removed with a clone tool. But a great image of a very quirky creature.</p>						



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

6	78	Harsh Country	14	pts	Place	1st Place
<p>Another striking image of the outback that showcases the amazing colors and diversity of our country. There is a lot to like about this image, the colors are beautiful, and taken in good lighting conditions, it's nicely balanced with the larger tree to one side and a branch leading you into the photo. If I am to be a little picky, I felt that the image was a little crooked, and while you don't have a horizon I would be tempted to lift the image a little on the right. I like the panorama as I feel it highlights the vastness of both the soil and that strong sky, but it is a shame that it meant you lost a little from the top of the tree. Still, a wonderful image that I would put on my wall.</p>						
7	68	Outback Ruins	9	pts	Place	
<p>OK, now I am jealous that so many of you get to go to the outback! Another interesting image, but in this case the lighting has let you down. The textures of the brick work and the framing of the tree tells me you thought about this image and how best to shoot the scene. I can see sharpness throughout which suggests a small aperture. Another that I have checked the levels and with a small correction to add some light the image starts pop. A little saturation makes the brickwork texture stand out as well as the foliage, and a small vignette will make the framing the centrepiece of the image on a nice textured brickwork. Ask someone to show you how to correct your levels and your work will take a big step forward.</p>						
8	152	Pair of Rainbow Beaters at Sunrise	12	pts	Place	Merit
<p>I have to admit that I got a little stuck on this one, and sought some assistance via APJA. I can't fault that this is a beautiful image, the colors are gorgeous, the composition excellent and the birds are both sharp - but perhaps a little too sharp as on my screen there is a definite white line that runs around both the birds and the branches. Given the lighting source from the right, this is not backlighting, but possibly suggestive of a heavy handed sharpening tool or of a background that has been dropped in. In spite of this I can see that the camera craft and the composition are beautiful and have given it a merit.</p>						
9	10	Reflective	11	pts	Place	
<p>A beautiful scene that is given justice by a panorama presentation. This is a strong image that is well taken, with good choice of aperture, nice colors and a very tranquil feel. It's nice also that the horizon sits on the half way mark. While the scene itself has a very WOW factor, the post processing could be stronger as the mountains appear a little bland. Try a little more contrast and a sponge tool to add some color in those beautiful mountains.</p>						
10	146	Tunnel Vision	10	pts	Place	
<p>I spent quite some time trying to get a similar image while on holidays recently. I think that you did better than I did. There are 3 things I really like about this image, the first is that you have got the symmetry right, with the furthest point almost dead centre. Secondly the aperture selected has enabled enough sharpness to showcase the texture of the weathered wooden pylons. And finally, the colour is nice. Compositionally this is a strong image with good details. At a higher level of competition, they would be expecting something more, and I would suggest that you try with a longer shutter speed to calm down the water and bring out the colors of the water. Another point of focus, such as a bird's nest or a hanging rope would also add a little interest.</p>						
11	1	Northern Pigtailed Macaque	9	pts	Place	
<p>This is a lovely image of a macaque, with a delightful, but wistful expression on its face. While some would say that there needs to be eye contact with the subject, this does not always have to be, and in this case probably doesn't detract from the images. The monkey's face and eyes are nice and sharp and you have captured a catchlight in the eyes, the positioning of the monkey is good and I do like the square format. The problem for me here is in both the coloring of the image and the background, which I find quite distracting. The overall appearance of the image is quite green, possibly reflected green from the foliage but it unfortunately it leaves the face a rather strange color. Both the red area and the white areas to the top draw the eye away from the subject and need a little work to remove them. A small vignette would help, but it would be better to remove the white altogether. In a true Nature competition, you would not be able to do this kind of work to enter an image. so, if you wish to move on to a higher level of competition, you need to read the rules very carefully.</p>						
12	43	Praying to the Apostles	9	pts	Place	
<p>I laughed at your title, but I did think it was someone who forgot their tripod. I'm not sure what is the real story here. Is it the beautiful light on the 12 apostles - you have picked the right time of day to take this image, particularly on the most foremost rock structure. Or is the story really someone praying, and then you need to make that more evident, by seeing hand or a side on shot. Without knowing this, I still like the image. I can feel that barely warm late afternoon sunshine, the power of the sea and the magnificence of those cliffs. Your subject is well placed and contained in the image and both the colors and the aperture choice good. I would like to see this image taken from higher, with more of the vista and less of the fence.</p>						