



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club Inc

Meeting Date:	May 2023					Print Secretary Brian Paatsch 02 6025 2117 brianjan@iinet.net.au		
Judge:	David Norris							
Subject:	Nature							
EDI Colour (EDI) – (Section 'B')								
1	211	Little River Falls Victoria	11		pts	Place		
<p>There is a lot to be said about this image. Firstly, whether consciously or not, there is a wonderful s-curve throughout this image. The slowest shutter speed has softened the water ever so subtly, creating a good point for the eye to start the journey through the image.</p> <p>Now for the other bits. I'm guessing, you hand held this image and consequently the image is blurry, AKA not as sharp as it should be for an image taken at this time of day.</p> <p>I'm going to state the obvious: Slow shutter speed photography is great, with a tripod. You must have a sharp base image to work from. This eases the mind of the viewer in relation to image competence (<i>your skill</i>). We can discuss this more on the night of the judging if it's possible.</p>								
2	206	Just Friends	12		pts	Place	Merit	
<p>Good subject material with a potential for good story telling. I imagine this scene happened quite quickly and there wasn't a lot of time to react. Choosing the focus point here was obviously hard and at the spur of the moment. Truthfully, I would have liked the kookaburra to be a little sharper as it is the lightest subject. Otherwise, you have captured two distinct subjects engaged in natural behaviour.</p>								
3	37	Juvenile Gentoo	15		pts	Place	1st Place	
<p>Obviously, some lovely light on this subject, great low-down close-up presence. Using the square crop has helped create a good composition. Across my 3 separate monitors I did notice some of the white areas a little over done, I felt there was room in the highlights to bring these whites down a little, just so we could see the feather detail in those areas. Here's a little trick to help trick the judge for next time. One, darken down the highlighted area on the head, and two, lighten the face of the subject. In this way the attention is drawn away from the perceived problem area and drawn to the subject's face/eye. You're welcome.</p>								
4	4	Stick Insect	11		pts	Place		
<p>Great subject, however very difficult to master the focus. Here I can see you missed the focus slightly; the reasons can be numerous from shutter speed to hand shake or the fear of the insect jumping on you. The most important point is to slow down, steady yourself, be aware of shutter speed and the available light, if necessary, increase ISO. Remember subjects like this tend to be slow, so you can take your time.</p>								
5	54	Shredding of the Bark	11		pts	Place		
<p>A simple study of texture with light and shadows. This is a static subject, it important to get this absolutely perfect. The only way to highlight the texture and fine detail is to get a perfectly crisp image. Don't forget with these types of images it's important to consider composition. Here the central placement suggests you captured a snap not an expression of art. Please use these comments not as a criticism but as a way to improve what is potentially a wonderful study and subject. Google "Ansel Adams Silver birch" to appreciate what I mean</p>								
6	205	Bay of Islands	12		pts	Place	2nd Place	
<p>Lovely overview of these various Apostles. The slow shutter speed technique is nicely use here. Without knowing for certain I feel the wind might have had a hand in the image not being as sharp as it could be. Don't be put off by increasing the sharpness of an image, it can be said, every image needs some additional sharpening.</p>								
7	208	Blue Lilies	NA		pts	Place		
<p>Be aware that cultivated flowers/plants are not allowed in nature competitions.</p>								
8	31	Tough Life	11		pts	Place		
<p>Yes, it's a tough life, however gum trees find a way and here's proof. Good diagonal line to create a little interest in the composition. Watch the focus as were not so interested in the stones and rocks but the leaves.</p>								



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EDI Colour (EDIA) – (Section 'A')

1	152	Bee Line Straight to the Flower	13	pts	Place	Merit
Lovely capture, great sense of movement in a simple composition. The light is working well as is the bokeh to isolate the subjects.						
2	10	Wattle Seeds are Tasty	12	pts	Place	
Nice capture with the natural setting to frame the subject. Lovely rich tones highlighting the subject's normally protective camouflage. Image is sufficiently sharp and well-lit for a normally hard time of day for light.						
3	113	Swift Parrot	12	pts	Place	
Nice tight image of the acrobatic parrot, sharp for the most part with good details and colour.						
4	179	Delatite River Flora	13	pts	Place	Merit
I feel the tightness of this image is a good choice. The dark vignette emphasises the white and subtle yellows. The almost central diagonal composition works well.						
5	79	It's Natural	13	pts	Place	
A classic tale of the birds and the bee's or the demise of the drone. Good image with good colour representation, sharp and well composed. Overall, a good capture.						
6	119	Leave Now Please	12	pts	Place	
Like the previous image a good capture, good story telling, good colour, sharp and well composed.						
7	195	Pink Lake	11	pts	Place	
Good overview of the lake, good use of the wider end of the lens. I particularly enjoy the textures of the salt, reflection and sky. These elements work well together in terms of tone.						
8	43	Two of a Kind	12	pts	Place	
Nicely captured pair of swans. Crop works well to highlight the subjects. Good exposure and processing to get the most from the blacks and reds. Good effort.						
9	01	Purple-throated Carib	13	pts	Place	Merit
Well composed image, I love the fortuitous nature of the background, providing a lovely diagonal line and triangle structure to feature this beautiful bird. Overall, a sharp image with good emphasis on colour to highlight the detail of the bird.						
10	198	Sweeter than Blood	11	pts	Place	
A soft image with lovely tonal qualities. Some areas of the flower are acceptably sharp. The hint of water on the petals adds interest. Only a small area of the mosquito is sharp, which I feel is the main subject. It must be said that the subject material is one that is extremely difficult to photograph and get perfect. It's important to remember that perfection is not mandatory, compromise what needs to be sharp and what doesn't will win the day in the end. Finding that compromise is the challenge.						
11	81	Mushroom Trio	12	pts	Place	
Lovely simple composition. Working in these dark forest situations is always tough, use whatever available light you have is always challenging. Here I feel you made the most of the situation and captured a lovely little scene with this fungi trio. My only suggestion for post processing would be to try and increase the exposure on the trio a little, but importantly not lose the subtle backlight you have on the lower fungi.						
12	78	Tawney Frogmouth	10	pts	Place	
Who doesn't love a Tawney, in general terms I feel you have captured a lovely image. Technically, I feel there is room for improvement, important note, you may not have been in control of all these elements and simply captured your image quickly as proof you saw your subject. I feel the light on the subject is way too strong, in fact engulfing the bird and a fair bit of the surrounding trees. Solution: Crop to remove what is not necessary, redirect light for a more pleasing effect. Lens choice to create tighter final image.						
13	201	Dragonfly and Friend	11	pts	Place	
Good diagonal composition, good complimenting colours within the square crop. I like the connection with the dragonfly and friend.						
14	163	Forest Dragon	12	pts	Place	
Good detail and texture. Very interesting colours for this forest dragon. I feel a little extra selective exposure on the dragon would help bring some additional detail subtlety out of the tonal range, for a little extra pop. For clarification don't overdo these types of edits in this particular Nature category. However, some minor retouching must not alter the context.						



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15	148	Drying Our Wings	15	pts	Place	1st Place
Very well composed image showing of the backlit wing of these birds. Beautiful warm light to create a wonderful sense of the time of day. I feel you've handled the exposure well and in addition recovered the whites in the bird's bodies effectively to create a good sense of balance in the exposure. Overall, a well-crafted image, with balance, strong subject matter in a well composed framework.						
16	68	Just Having a Nibble	12	pts	Place	
Nice sharp image offering loads of detail, good eye contact and contrast against the background.						
17	202	Everlasting	12	pts	Place	
Good colour palette and detail for this warm trio of flowers.						
18	12	I See Ya	11	pts	Place	
Nice close-up image, sufficiently sharp providing a deep look into the eye and feathery detail of this unique bird.						
19	146	Tyrrell	12	pts	Place	
Wonderful reflective scene of this unique lake. Lovely warm to cool colour gradient.						
20	196	Crystal Brook Falls	12	pts	Place	
A particularly interesting image in terms of colour or lack of it, but that's a part of the charm. The desaturated nature, offering only hints of colour here and then creates a lovely atmospheric element. The cloudy/misty environment offers glimpses of the distant views which for me adds to the mystery. I do feel that to take this image to another level sharpness in the foreground rocks is paramount.						
21	14	Little Details	14	pts	Place	2nd Place
Lovely tight close up with good natural complimentary colours. Sharp with good detail in the flower head. I feel this is a well composed image with a well-used vignette.						

EDI Monochrome (EDIM) – (Section 'B')

1	31	High Sky	11	pts	Place	
Simple sky image, nice balanced foreground to sky ratio. With these simple types of images, exposure balance is a must. Also watch the extreme highlights.						
2	205	Drying Water Dragon	14	pts	Place	1st Place
Good diagonal profile. Image appears sharp and within a good composition. Watch the exposure, I feel a little less highlights and open up the shadows. Good image nonetheless.						
3	37	Pure Luck	12	pts	Place	Merit
Nice capture, image appears sharp, high-lighting much of the detail. Tough time of day in terms of light but nonetheless you captured what I think is an armadillo.						



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EDI Monochrome (EDIMA) – (Section 'A')

1	113	Patience	11	pts	Place	
Well defined subjects and story. B&W subjects stand out well against the soft background. Watch the highlights, however the blacks appear to have a good range of tones throughout. Overall, the B&W works well in the is square crop.						
2	163	Petrified Gatekeeper	11	pts	Place	
I always find it fascinating that we as humans can always find a face in something somewhere. I feel a little extra dodging and burning would add would further add to the contrast. Well observed with good texture and detail.						
3	202	Made Myself at Home	10	pts	Place	
A nice close up, I feel with a bit more processing, e.g., sharpening, exposure control, more detail could be revealed in the petals. Overall good contrast and I feel this is a good subject candidate for B&W conversion.						
4	01	Atlantic Puffin – Inner Farne Island	15	pts	Place	1st Place
Good use of the tight crop revealing all the facial expression and detail of this subject. Well-chosen aspect ratio, highlighting an excellent example and use of the rule of thirds. Excellent tonal range and an excellent candidate for a national competition. If considering for National, pay extra attention to the highlight areas between the beak and eye.						
5	146	Meandering	11	pts	Place	
Tranquil scene with a great leading line, highlighted by the slow shutter speed used.						
6	119	Leave Me Alone	14	pts	Place	2nd Place
Lovely uncluttered portrait. Good detail within this simple composition. Good eye contact, shape and form. Another good B&W subject selection. As per Atlantic Puffin image. Excellent candidate for a national competition. If considering for National, pay extra attention to the highlight areas to ensure contrast and good detail in the very white areas.						
7	12	Up	11	pts	Place	
Strong perspective with the diagonal aspect. The B&W option simplifies the image to strong lines and radiating canopy. Image is sufficiently sharp with good texture and contrast. This image may or may not be eligible for a serious nature competition (Cultivated Plant). I would stand corrected, if necessary.						
8	179	Delatite Deluge	11	pts	Place	
Good example of slow shutter speed photography, I like the diagonal flow of water. I feel you have stuck a great balance in movement and still providing texture in the water. Good balance of blacks and whites, I would have liked to have seen a little more textured detail in some of the rocks, particularly in the centre of the scene. Overall, a good image and well suited to B&W						
9	79	Red Tailed Black	11	pts	Place	
Nicely composed image fits well into the square crop. Great detail around the face, breast and crest. On a more critical note, it appears the processing of the image has left behind some halos and masking artifacts. Examine the underlying noise levels near the subject's beak and as it radiates away to the right of the subject.						
10		Image Withdrawn.	NA	pts	Place	
11	148	Follow the Leader	12	pts	Place	Merit
The first thing that strikes me with this image is the well-chosen aspect ratio, so well suited to the subjects. Lovely tonal range, with good control of the whites, the darker tones helping pop the whites even further. Watch the masking as it is clearly evident at the tip of the first subject's wings. Overall, a pleasing image.						
12	10	Canopy	13	pts	Place	Merit
A lovely dynamic image with great texture and detail. I appreciate the difficulty in shooting what is normally a very high contrast scene. I feel you have compromised well to capture the extremes of the tonal range. I also like the semi mirrored feel to each side of the image, leading from left to right.						
13	68	Enjoying a Little Sun	11	pts	Place	
Nice capture, image appears sharp, although DOF does feel a little shallow. I appreciate that Goanna's don't tend to stick around waiting for photographers to get the camera setting to there liking. Overall a opportunistic full body capture, providing lots of details.						



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14	201	Beetle Enjoying the Rain	12	pts	Place	
Image is sufficiently sharp with good detail on the insect. Over the whole image good texture, contrast and I like the tighter framing which allows the least amount of peripheral distraction. This image may or may not be eligible for a serious nature competition (<i>Cultivated Plant</i>). I would stand corrected, if necessary.						
15	78	Kelp and Shells	10	pts	Place	
I feel most of the interest here is in the bottom right of image. The central area dominates the image and doesn't provide sufficient interest to warrant such attention. The square format works only enhances this premiss (<i>in context to the whole image</i>). I feel I appreciate the concept and what the maker might have been trying to accomplish, however I feel I'm fighting with my mind to view the light area, which for me has all the detail and interest. On a more positive note: I feel the exposure and contrast is good and certainly the shells are sufficiently sharp.						
16	81	Intermediate Egret	10	pts	Place	
Well balanced and composed image. Around the neck of the subject there does appear to be some strange artifacts, possibly masking or brush marks. Otherwise, the image appears well exposed with a good tonal range.						
17	43	Itsy Bitsy Spider	11	pts	Place	
Good subject material, set within the rule off thirds. Nice blurred background which still offers some environmental context. The light is offering up hints of the web and contrast against the legs. Of course, it would be good to see a little more of the spider's head, but I feel no context has been lost and we can all appreciate this nature image.						
18	195	Fruit	13	pts	Place	Merit
Soft tonal range of greys highlighting the soft texture of this fruit. Sharp with soft background. This image may or may not be eligible for a serious nature competition (<i>Cultivated Plant</i>). I would stand corrected, if necessary. I understand the Woody Pear if this is what this image is. Is generally not considered cultivated.						

Dear Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to critic your images. I think I have judged here at WACC three or four times now and the standard is good, in fact a couple images could easily be considered for national awards and others acceptances.

Please remember that my comments are just one person's opinion, others may see things very differently.

My aim is to help improve your photography. Discussion of fundamentals is important at club level. Fundamentals such as the exposure triangle, compositional rules and sharpness. I believe these fundamentals are the corner stone to all club members understanding of photography. Breaking these fundamentals only comes when you understand the fundamental framework of what makes a good image, only then can we push these photography boundaries and break the so-called rules.

I have tried to provide feedback in a constructive way, by helpful and encouraging critic. I haven't spoken about all image's pros and cons, just what I felt is necessary for each image. Dotted throughout all my comments is a variety of concepts that can be useful to all members, in one form or another.

Listen to these comments of your images not with an emotional mind set, but with an open mind as if it is not even your image. Free yourself from the emotional attachment for just a few moments to listen with your ears and not your heart (*a comment that is easier said than done*).

Most importantly take images for yourself, not for others.

Kind regards

David Norris *FAPS, EFIAP/b, AAPJA*