



Townsville Photography Club Inc.

Snap Shot

Volume 18 Number 1

January 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

From the President

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a great Christmas with family and friends, despite the weather! A couple of us went to photograph the fireworks on the Strand on New Year's Eve, some of which you can see on our Facebook page.

Have you made any New Year's resolutions? I never keep them so why bother... but I do need to become very familiar with my Olympus camera before the end of June, which is when Phensri, Marcia, Rae and myself head off to Kenya and Tanzania for our adventures! We are pretty excited! It will be interesting as we all have different brands of cameras...I may need to keep putting animal photos in Open as after July, I will have competition in that area.

Our normal summer weather is upon us, which means we avoid going outside more due to the rain and humidity.

Hopefully the Town Common will have more water, which will attract the birds, which in turn will attract us! I feel a trip out there coming on...

We usually have our annual luncheon around this time, where we watch to see if Cecily breaks out of her comfort zone, and orders something other than chips! Keep an eye out for date suggestions.

As usual, any suggestions for outings, workshops etc are greatly welcomed.

Well, short and sweet this time.

Karen Grice

From the President	Page 1
Competition Results	Page 2
Editors Thoughts	Page 3
Members Facebook Page	Page 4
Competition Closing Dates	Page 6
Judge's Feedback and Scores For January	Page 7
Tips on Photographing Lightning	Page 11

Issue VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1

Competition Results

The feedback and scores for 'Monochrome' as well as the 'Open' competition are always welcomed by our Members.

Congratulations to all who received an Honour, Merit, Highly Commended or Acceptance.

Monochrome theme —

Image of the Month - Karen Grice

Honour 9 - Karen, Marcia, Elsbeth, Ina

Honour 8 - Annette, Phensri, Marcia, Bob, Brian

Merit - Larry x2, Cecily, Annette, Lyn, Kaye, Sharryl, Ina

Highly Commended - Wayne x2, Patricia x2, Goulven x2, Karen, Lyn, Phensri, Elsbeth

Acceptance - Cecily, Kaye, Toni, Brian

Ray x2, Sharryl, Bob, Toni



The Innocence of the Young — Karen Grice

PRINT OF THE MONTH

Theme — Still Life

Destined for Passata Sauce — Sharryl Whiting



Competition Results (Continued)

Open theme -

Image of the Month – Sharryl Whiting

Honour 9 - Sharryl, Goulven

Honour 8 - Phensri x2, Annette, Marcia, Ray, Ina, Larry, Kaye, Brian

Merit - Toni x2, Cecily, Elsbeth, Lyn, Patricia, Goulven, Brian

Highly Commended - Cecily, Sharryl, Karen, Lyn, Ray, Marcia, Patricia, Ina

Acceptance - Elsbeth, Larry, Annette, Kaye, Karen

Bob x2



Dazzling Weed — Sharryl Whiting

From the Editor

Happy New Year and wishing you all a year of rewarding photography. Try to make it to our Workshops, outings and Post Processing Sessions for 2024. If there is a workshop you would like run so as to improve your skills please let one of the Committee know. If you would like to run a workshop for your fellow members we would love to hear from you.



Don't forget to support our Challenge this year. Thank you Garry for continuing to put this together for us.

'Til next month,

Lyn

Christmas Supper— and we gave a thought to those who had already left on holiday or were sick. Better 2024.

Members Facebook Page

The Townsville Photography Club have a Facebook page for members to share their images. This is just a few of the images posted by members from the New Years fireworks and on their travels.



Members Facebook Page (continued)



Competition Closing Dates

March 2024	Send 2 Marine Environment Send 2 Open	In by 12th February	Bring Print Birds	On 19th February
April 2024	Send 2 Churches Send 2 Open	In by 11th March	Bring Print Open	On 18th March
May 2024	Send 2 Minimalism Send 2 Open	In by 8th April	Bring Print Pubs	On 15th April
June 2024	Send 2 Creative Send 2 Open	In by 13th May	Bring Print Open	On 20th May

Remember – Some themes may have guidelines check on the website

Email Digital entries to – contesttpc22@gmail.com

Post Processing Sessions

We will be running these sessions on ACDSee at the Aitkenvale Library at 7.00 pm on the fourth Monday of each month, starting in January. What to bring - laptop with latest ACDSee installed. Notebook and pen if you need to take notes. Require further information - contact Cecily.

Aitkenvale Library 7.00pm January 22nd.

Photography Workshops

These are usually held on the first Monday of the month at the Oonoomba Hall at 7.00 pm. There could be some changes to these dates but you will be notified by email of any such changes. In the meantime mark your Calendar for the first workshop -

Oonoomba Hall 7.00 pm February 5th.

Judge - John Blessas - Mackay - PSQA. Theme — Monochrome

Image Title	Comments	Score
Australian Bush	Beautiful trees. Some thoughts on this image. Could you have bought more detail/contrast out in the bark? Should the incongruous steelies in the bottom left have been at least toned down? While there are several magnificent trees, which one really stands out and steals the show? A nice image with a sense of place.	6
Elegant Lillies	Nice bunch. Are they a little crowded? The outer flowers would have the same contrast as the center one but feel almost squashed by comparison. Not harmonious? An interesting image that possibly should be reshot with different arrangements to look for a more pleasant feeling image.	6
Milky Way Over the Bush	Nice image. The highlight on the tree really makes it stand out. Is the sky possibly a little bright? Would dropping the exposure a little give a stronger image? Wonderful image.	8
The Day Begins	A wonderful spot. The image feels over processed. The background inside the palm foliage actually shines. Also there is a quite visible halo around the worker, where the eye is attracted to. Consider reprocessing the image and using third party software to sharpen without these artifacts. Minor thought, the image appears to have been taken from normal standing height. Did you consider a lower angle to include the point of the pool and make the rocks more of a feature? A lovely location.	4
Chinese Lantern	A nice image. This is a story in itself. The workmanship is well caught and also the feel of the different culture. Nicely done.	7
Chuck Wagon	This is well done. By only getting part of the wagon, you have both told the whole story, but have also managed to put it in context without the buildings and smoko area around it. Incredibly well done.	9
Hammond Park	A very interesting little scene. This was a problem image. It faithfully records everything. But there is so much detail there. It is a real "considered" image. The more it is looked at the more there is. The second consideration is the background foliage. It somehow is overbearing on the image. You have recorded the scene well, but does the overall overshadow the finding of a point of interest? Would either a change of background or a detail shot of just the front of the dovecot have given a stronger image?	5
Washed Up	No longer needed. Now returning to nature over the next decade. Nice quiet story.	7
In my Window	Very nostalgic. Just enough showing to tell the story. Well done.	6
Mack	Symbol of power. Just quietly sitting on several hundred horsepower. Shot from a very good angle to just catch that little reflection.	6
Guarding the Tyres	A typical brick with legs (staffy) hard at work. The sepia treatment gives a slightly nostalgic feel to the image. Well shot and the processing fits.	6
In the Mist	Incredible tree in an ethereal landscape.	9
View From Kinka Beach Walkway	Nice. Again, it is possibly overprocessed. Halos and bright areas against the sandbanks and the gentleman look/feel out of place.	4
Yachts, Rosslyn Harbour	A really rugged scene. I sat and looked at the image as the context was out. It then dawned; you were on the breakwater to get this very different image. Very well done as it is so different.	7
Cloudy Hills	Erie image. This was looked at several times before commenting. The title refers to clouds. The cloud is not as noticeable as the bright vegetation in the foreground. Would a Curves layer (with masking) have been used to bring out the hill and cloud and make that part of the image more prominent?	4
Moody Mountain Range	Very foreboding. It is a beautiful scene. However, the first thing that attracts the eye is the road sign in the foreground. Did you consider taking the image from the other side of them? This may also have given a better lead in line of the road.	5
Dropbear Alert	A very good formal portrait.	6
Gorilla Girl	Quirky. An out there portrait.	6
Misty Morning	Wow. So much spooky feeling. Incredible image.	8
Waiting to go Out	Quirky. The story of a family with inanimate objects.	7
Insignificant Windsurfer	Well seen. This is so apt in its conception. Looking at that sky my immediate thought was how much more could you bring out the clouds and highlight the windsurfer's kite? Possibly a Levels layer using the white point eyedropper on the breaking surf and reducing the Midtones would really pop the scene. Nicely done.	7
Tourists in Town	Interesting and a whole story. One wants something from the shop. One wants to know what the statue is about. The other has a device and is happy. Dad is just puzzled. Different and well done.	6

Theme - Monochrome Continued

Abandoned Barn Brisbane Valley	A wonderful old building. The fog adds to the feeling of the image. It really adds to the feel of the image. Is the image overprocessed? There are very noticeable halos around the roof edges that draw the eye. Good processing should enhance but not be noticeable. Brilliant shot.	5
Red Flying Fox Surat	Spectacularly well shot. The processing then works to bring out the detail. Nice.	8
Dance Movement	This is wonderful. She radiates joy. Nicely shot and processed	7
Under the Cardwell Jetty	That location. We all have a shot from there. Yours is really well done. You have got the tide and outside lighting to give beautiful light and contrast. Is there a little overprocessing? Slight halos around the structure do detract a bit from the overall feel of the image.	5
Looking for Breakfast	Brilliant shot.	9
Misty Mountain	This had to be looked at a number of times before commenting. What did the artist want someone to see? The softness and dull feel of the image actually work well to convey the message. Not a pop image, but a nice considered pleasing shot.	8
Royal Guard	An interesting shot. Two points seem to stand out with the image. Is it level? The riders appear to be tilted to the left of the image. This is compounded by the lamppost and the other vertical line in the image. The second point is brightness. So much detail is blown out. This is quite evident on the saddle fleeces and the helmet badges. Please try reprocessing this in Camera RAW and try the following: reduce Highlights and Blacks, increase Whites and Shadows. This may really increase the detail without changing the effect of the image. A very nice memory shot of your trip.	4
The Monument	A nice image. But the next thought is where is the context? It has emotional significance to the photographer as they were there and took the image and so have the memories of the time and place. Does another viewer that does not know the location/item have this emotional context? A nice image but possibly one that should be used in a themed category on London Looking Up or similar.	4
Elery Creek Gorge	Bang, Australian outback summer. A story with all the feel of time and place.	7
The Eucalypt	A magnificent tree. Minor thoughts. Shoot from the left more and lower to silhouette the lower branches better? Clone out the house to add to the sense of "out there"? A really nice shot.	7
St. Paul	A very iconic shot.	6
The Grand Palace at Night	Yes! First thought was "Is the tuk tuk necessary?" Second was "Is the pedestrian count down timer and the portable fencing being obtrusive?" Or is this the context of the times? Ancient buildings and traditions co-existing with the present. Very, very well done.	8
Nom Nom Grass	Wonderful portrait.	6
The Innocence of the Young	WOW! Nothing else to say.	

Image Title	Reason for Placing
The Innocence of the Young	Impact. The simple clothing with the long light-coloured hair allows the split lighting to really bring out the girl's eyes as the only thing you look at. My congratulations to both the photographer and the model. (Karen Grice)

2024 – January - Open**Judge - John Blessas - PSQA Mackay**

Image Title	Comments	Score
Hard Day	A whole lazy story.	7
Resting	Formal portrait. Well-lit and nicely posed.	6
Norfolk Island Coast	Wonderful but menacing scene. There is so much beauty here. Then there is the dark mood of the sky as contrast. Magnificently caught. However, is the image over sharpened? There are a lot of halos and some other artifacts visible in the image. This is very noticeable with the cliff against the sea. This can be removed with a small clone brush and a paint brush, darkening in the trees. A wonderful location.	4
Spot the Photographer	Wild scene. First viewing without titles, this was puzzling. Then saw the photographer. A nicely thought-out image. There are a lot of artifacts from post processing. On the photographer there is also Chromatic Aberration. This is easily fixed in CameraRAW. See notes Norfolk Island Coast. A wonderful location.	4
Pedal Car	Well done	8
Uninvited Dinner Guest	Lovely spider. These St Andrews Cross spiders are vividly yellow and black. Could you bring this out in CameraRAW? If there is no information in the blown-out areas you could look at possibly trying the following; if using flash, dial it down to 1/16 and work from there. If in sunlight, cut the aperture right back and bring the colour out in post processing.	6
Fun on the Water	Emotion. This is an image that brings two different reactions. It is not sharp. However, how much does the emotional content override this technical fault? Possibly the out-of-focus of the little girls' face hides a lot of the story from the viewer. A really nice emotional shot.	5
Red Rose	Another flower portrait. Simply spectacular.	8
Gazelle With Oryx	An odd pairing. Nicely seen and a good well composed image. Has the post processing been overdone? The halos (particularly on the onyx's horns) are a bit detracting. Looking at the foreleg of the gazelle, is there a little pixelation? A nice memory shot of a trip.	5
Watching the Weather	A good bold image. Well composed to draw the eye to the lighthouse. Is there a different image there? Shooting from a more direct angle on the path in portrait may have given a very strong leading line with the majesty of the sky dominating the image. Well done.	7
Clouds Over the Cane	A memory image. Growing up in North Queensland this is a "we were there" image. Is the image a little flat? Possibly a Curves Layer with a nice "S" curve to brighten the sky highlights and darken the blues would bring out the sky more powerfully. Mask out the cane fields and use a levels layer to pop the brightness there (masking out the sky). The flare doesn't detract from the image. A really pleasant image.	6
Dazzling Weed	Wow. Simply brilliant shot.	9
City Lights	Different. Nicely exposed with lovely staring of the lights. The almost mono treatment is very different.	7
Reflection Puzzle	This is beautiful in its quirkiness.	7
Magnetic Attraction	Nice shot. The eye commands the viewers' attention straight away. Would judicious lightening of the eye and some of the shadowed fur bring out the eye colour and the stripped patterning in the fur? This would be easily done with the free MCP Touch of Light™ and Touch of Darkness Photoshop action. Very good image.	7
Tiny Skies & Big Heart	IMPACT! The red colour simply makes the image.	9
Flying Free	Nice shot of the Bee eater. The post processing bought the bird out well. (Although this was only looked at up to 100%, a slight missed area at the back of one wing does show.) Well done.	5
Good Catch	Very nice image.	8
Gaining Possession	Action. So much is happening here. Horse shots present a problem. Size. Shooting from normal height puts them in the background. Shooting from a low stool or crouching will lift them out of the background a bit but put their legs against the clutter of the background. This image works. Two of the three are clear against the trees and mountains with the ball also up and in plain sight. Nicely set up and shot.	6
Heading For the Sea	A simple nice story with a sense of time and place. The incredibly peaceful feel of the image works so well.	7

Issue VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1

2024 – January - Open**Judge - John Blessas - PSQA Mackay**

Image Title	Comments	Score
Heading For the Sea	A simple nice story with a sense of time and place. The incredibly peaceful feel of the image works so well.	7
Eastern Great Egret	Magnificent portrait. The light/dark contrast makes a spectacular image. Would a slight lightening of the shadowed side of the bird have lifted the image a little? Very nicely shot.	8
Notch Point Sunset	Wow. Simple and spectacular. (The possible over sharpening halo around the tree works as backlight.) Well done.	7
Night Cactus	Nice shot. This is technically a very difficult image. To get perfect. It presents the problem of depth and brightness. Depth is best handled but making it a studio shot and using an aperture of f28 or more, or focus stacking it in Photoshop. In post processing keep in mind that brightness is the enemy of detail. A good image and keep going back to it. (My record is a couple of hundred shots of a tree, a few at a time, over a few years until I got it right.)	6
The Old Saddles	A visit to a very interesting tea house. The time of day was not helpful here. Possibly fill-in flash may have allowed you to cut back the exposure on the outside of the shed. An interesting shot.	7
Looking to Land	Well shot. The Bee eater is really showing its flying ability here. The shadow is a real bonus. Interestingly the image appears to be tilted to the left. This goes through all of the background. This almost adds rather than detracts from the feel of the image. Well done.	6
Now That Was Close	A wow shot. Lightening shots are very hard to get perfect. You have a perfect lightning shot. However the only other reference in the image is the slight silhouette of a tree at the bottom of the strike. There appears to be a lot of cloud information in the image. Could this be bought out in CameraRAW or using Midtones in a Levels layer? This may give more story to the image. Spectacular image.	8
Little Pied Cormorant	Nicely shot. Would lightening the eye a little have helped the image?	6
Lorikeet	Noisy, argumentative, and aggressive, but beautiful. All this so well caught. The birds' eye is simply commanding in the image. Excellent image.	8
Grapes on the Vine	An image of questions. The tasty fruit against the gnarled bark of the vine. Technically a good image; it asks the question, what is the subject? Yes, there is the story of the old vine, the care it gets and the fruit that results. This is a nice image, and possibly should be used in a themed subject.	5
Water in Motion	An image of lots of different types of movement. Resisting the temptation to "milk" the water totally has worked well here. A lovely image.	8
Buzzing	Wow. A very hard image to capture. Getting the bee right made the whole image. The image has a very dark tone. Would a Levels Layer with the Midtones lifted to show more of the flowers behind the bee have lifted the image? Well done.	8
I'm Hungry	Every known seagull is always hungry. This one is simply letting us know the state of affairs is normal.	8
A Bit Tired After My Mud Bath	A really different image. The fairly central positioning brings the subject out well. The expression adds to the story. Possibly the focus does not quite show as much detail on the face. A very different image.	5
A Wild Hornbill in Borneo	Very nicely shot. The detail on the bird brings the eye into wonderful relief. Two minor points, could the eye have been brightened a little to show the colour there? In the post processing the whole bird has a slight halo. This is slightly distracting. (It can be removed in several ways, possibly the easiest being a small clone brush run around the outline.) Quite a magnificent bird.	6

Image Title	Reason for Placing
Dazzling Weed	Against the other choice of #33 this had a higher degree of difficulty. The snow shot is quite spectacular and of equal merit. (Sharryl Whiting)

Tips on Photographing Lightning!

Lightning Photography During the Day or Night

It is getting to that exciting time of year where we start to see storms rolling through Townsville (hopefully). There's something incredibly evocative about lightning photography. And the act of taking pictures of lightning can be thrilling. The real joy hits once you've grasped the settings and know exactly how to photograph lightning. Then you can enjoy the storm and reap the benefits of your knowledge when you review the stunning photos afterwards. If you're ready to take the plunge, read on to find out the right equipment you'll need and the best settings for lightning photography.



The Right Equipment for Lightning Photography

At a minimum you'll need:

A tripod, remote trigger (preferably with an intervalometer), rain protection for your camera, a weather radar app for your phone & of course your camera!

Tripod

Having a tripod ensures your camera remains still so you can take long exposures without capturing motion. Since you'll likely be photographing in wild conditions, it's better to invest in a heavy tripod.

Remote Trigger or Intervalometer

A remote trigger or any cable release ensures you capture the shot without jolting the camera when you press the shutter button. Wireless triggers add a bit of luxury in a storm since it means you can set up the camera outside and then capture images from the comfort and safety of your car interior.

Your Camera

A remote trigger or any cable release ensures you capture the shot without jolting the camera when you press the shutter button. Wireless triggers add a bit of luxury in a storm since it means you can set up the camera outside and then capture images from the comfort and safety of your car interior.

The Right Equipment for Lightning Photography

It's hard to pinpoint specific settings for lightning photography since a lot depends on the circumstances around your shoot. Are you shooting in the pitch dark, around city lights, or in daylight? Is the lightning close to you or further away? Are there foreground elements you want to capture? We've provided some general recommendations for settings below but once you've captured your first shot, it's best to review the photo and make sure the lightning bolt is sharp and the exposure just right. Then adjust any necessary settings for the next shot.

Shutter Speed

Most people assume you need a fast shutter speed to capture lightning but in fact the opposite is true.

To capture lightning as it happens (instead of gambling on your reflexes when you see the flash), it works to lengthen the exposure time with a long shutter speed.

Photographers often use a long exposure of between 5 and 30 seconds but of course, it's essential to have a camera that produces low noise for this to work. The longer the shutter speed, the more lit up your foreground will be so also try experimenting with shorter shutter speeds of between 1 and 3 seconds to keep the foreground darker.

Focus

It's essential to use manual focus when photographing lightning (especially if you're photographing at night) since many camera autofocus systems can't focus in the dark. Set your focus on infinity but make sure the camera lens doesn't focus beyond infinity. If you can, switch to the live view setting on your camera, use the LCD screen to zoom in on a distant light source (even the moon works) and turn the focus ring until that light is crisp.

Aperture

The aperture you use can often depend on a variety of different factors, particularly when and where you shoot. Most lightning photography benefits from a wide aperture and a shallow depth of field. But the wider your aperture is, the harder it will be to focus. If you're trying to photograph lightning at night and away from lights, try starting with an aperture of f/5.6 and check the image afterwards. If the image is too overexposed, stop down the lens to f/8 or even smaller. If it's dark but you're photographing lightning over a city, narrower

apertures are often more reliable in capturing both the city lights and the lightning. Consider using f/10 to f/16. If you're trying to photograph lightning in daylight, try stopping down to f/16 or f/22.

ISO

To avoid taking grainy photographs, try to set your camera to base ISO – that is, the lowest possible value on your camera. This could be anywhere between 64 and 200.

RAW

A trick to lightning photography is ensuring there is some texture in the foreground, so the image has more depth. Shooting your images as RAW files rather than jpegs enables you to recover foreground details much better in post-production.



Cheat Sheet!

Based on the settings we recommend above, here's our cheat sheet for photographing photography:

- Step 1:** Set up your camera on a tripod
- Step 2:** Attach an intervalometer or remote shutter to reduce camera shake.
- Step 3:** Turn off image stabilisation as it can lead to a softer image.
- Step 4:** Focus your lens to infinity.
- Step 5:** Take a photo with lightning in it and check the result to make sure the settings are right.
- Step 6:** If you have a remote or intervalometer, lock it down so the camera continuously shoots.

Ready to Photograph Lightning

Now you understand how to photograph lightning, there's nothing left but to get out there! As with all photography – but even more importantly with lightning photography – practice makes perfect. Of course, equipment helps you skill up faster. Come in and see the team at Camera House today and check out our range of tripods & remotes in store!

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GARRICKS
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