

JUDGES REPORT

2024 –April - Open

Judge: Graham Harris - Toowoomba

Image Title	Comments	Score
Bright and Beautiful	The idea here is very good with the three bright flowers (fitting the compositional rule-of-odds) providing a leading diagonal through the frame. You have done well to minimize background distracting elements. I'd avoid using a border other than a neutral grey one as it tends to distract from the image content in my opinion.	7
Interesting Coastline	The inclusion of the rockface in the foreground at left adds some depth to the image, with the ocean filling the midground and the clouds in the sky the background. The image is nicely exposed. I feel it needs some other element to add to the story – for example a fisherman or someone walking along the beach to lift it to the next level.	5
Preserving Memories	This is a strong subject which would be improved with more favourable lighting conditions and removal of the sign at the bottom left of the frame. Could you have moved a little more to the left to eliminate the sign? The success of this would depend on what was sitting to the right of the existing edge of the photo.	5
Rail Bridge to Where	Nice lighting conditions here when this image was taken. The sky is blank and there is little to focus the eye on in the frame – I wonder whether a monochrome conversion would produce a stronger image. This might be worth trying.	5
Don't Ruffle My Feathers	A nice tight view of this magpie with few distracting elements. A lower point of view might help this image and I'd take care with sharpening – I feel this image has been over-sharpened so taking it down notch might help.	5
They Call Me Mellow Cello	A creative image with the sufficient detail in the three cellos. There has been some loss of detail in the highlights, particularly in the cello at left. I would have preferred a cleaner cutout of the elements in the image but the idea is worth pursuing – there is a real graphic quality to this image.	5
Autumn Leaf	Lovely detail in this nicely light image of the autumn leaf. This is a good example of how the simplest of subjects	8

	(often right at our feet) can make for a strong photograph. The shallow depth of field works well as does the low angle of view used to take the photograph. The only improvement might be the addition of a 2-pixel neutral grey border to separate the image from a dark projected background.	
Footsteps in the Sand	Lovely lighting in this image and the footsteps in the sand form a great leading line into the image. This is a good example where a portrait orientation for a landscape works very well.	7
Among the Pinnacles	Nice lighting conditions in this image with the golden colours of the pinnacles complimented by the violet colouration in the sky. There is a nice C curve in this composition with my eye traveling diagonally from the pinnacle at bottom right to the mid-point of the left frame, and then proceeding right along the horizon line back to the imposing pinnacle at right. Well seen and executed.	7
Curves in Water Tunnel	A well seen image with a nice use of repetition created by the curved wall repeated in the water reflection. The opening in the tunnel at top right draws my eye into the image and this is further supported by the light reflected in the water in the foreground.	7
A Peek at Cardwell Jetty	A clever use of the foreground tree as a framing element for the Cardwell jetty at left of the frame. The shoreline provides a nice leading line to the jetty. The tree is a little messy but there is little you can do about that – you have handled the possible distraction of it well.	6
Three Dancing Lady Orchid Flowers	An impactful capture of the three flowers (rule of odds again as a compositional approach) which contrast well with the black background – again a grey pixel border would compete less with the image than the yellow one chosen.	7
High Sea Meal	Great nature storytelling here with the tern providing its catch to the juvenile. The wing position of the adult tern is excellent and you have even managed to get a catch light in the eye of the adult and the juvenile. The two birds produce a nice diagonal composition which fills the frame nicely. The kelp also provides further context for the story. As with some earlier images I feel a neutral grey border would be a better choice than a coloured one.	8
All to Myself	A good idea using a minimalist approach with the falcon very small in the frame and the image dominated by the clear blue sky and the roof. If you have sufficient pixels a tighter crop with the falcon larger in the frame and	5

	placed more to the left might strengthen the image further.	
Nature's Fire	An interesting capture of this orange flower which contrasts nicely with the green foliage of the plant. I do feel there is an even stronger image here with cropping of some of the left of the frame – perhaps a square crop might work well.	5
Dancing Spirit at Cathedral Gorge	An interesting concept with the dancing spirit nicely positioned in the image. I feel you need to complete the image by creating a reflection of the dancing spirit in the water – this could be achieved using Photoshop.	5
Dry Day at Katherine Gorge	I nice landscape image where the maker has minimized the amount of sky in the image so the focus is on the rocky landscape with the stream leading my eye from left to right into the frame. The lighting is reasonable and there is good exposure in the darkest shadows and on the sunlit rocks in the foreground.	6
Green Turtle	Good detail in the green turtle, including that part which is under the water. I am assuming you have used a polarizing filter so that the detail under the water is visible. Images of animals are best shot at eye level rather than looking down on the subject. The crop is very tight meaning the subject fills the frame – a little more space in front of the turtle might aid the image as well.	5
Upside Down	An interesting positioning of the main subject here which is a little soft in the body- possibly a little motion blur here. The blue sky in the background (although out of focus) competes with the main subject.	7
Let's Go	A nice capture of this young barrel racing competitor – what a great facial expression. The horse and rider are a little wide of the barrel – this is a pity as it is needed to add context to the story.	5
Picture of Tranquility	A good capture of this house which is supported by an interesting sky and foreground foliage. Perhaps a more panoramic crop removing a little of the sky at top and plants at bottom of the frame might produce a still stronger image.	6
Milky Way Motor	A good Milky Way image with nice light painting of the old car to add an interesting foreground element to the image. I also like the silhouettes of the trees separating the car from the Milky Way capture.	7
A Beautiful Rose	A sunning capture of this rose with lovely lighting and an appropriate vignette for the subject to reduce any distraction of background foliage. The only possible improvement would be the addition of a 2pixel grey	8

	border to separate the image from the background when view on a projected screen.	
A Struggle to Survive	A strong image which implies the story of survival by this tree in a harsh environment. The tree is positioned nicely in the frame (using the traditional rule of thirds) and you have used an angle of view which ensures the tree does not hide the background landscape.	7
Light Painting	A nice image of the patterns created by the light painting wand – it has nicely lit the foreground beach scene and rocks. A nice execution.	6
Wetlands	An interesting scene with the repetition of the many dead trees working well. There is an apparent slanting of the image from left to right as shown by the background brighter water. This may well be an optical illusion but correcting this would produce an even stronger image in my opinion.	6
Hungry Bub	Adult birds feeding their young in a nest is a fairly traditional nature subject – care needs to be taken in not disturbing the adults or making the nest location known to predators. Here you have captured in image showing the adult and young bird in a diagonal position in the frame – this adds to the dynamic nature of the image. The juvenile bird is nice and sharp but the adult is a little soft.	5
Take Off	A nice capture of this pelican in flight having just taken off – you have left space to the right which is a great idea for anything in motion so that there is “space” for it to move into. Nicely captured at eye level also.	6
Hibiscus Flower	Red is a difficult colour to capture well in a digital image. You have done well here with reasonable detail in the red which is complimented nicely by the dark green foliage of the hibiscus. Great visual impact on first viewing the image.	6
Water Jug	This is a nice ‘found’ still life with the colour of the jug and tap nicely complimenting the blue and white tiles in the background. The wire attached to the jug handle and hanging down is a little bit distracting – removing this before photographing would have produced a stronger result.	7
Life at the Mekong River	A nice sunset image with excellent colours captured in the sky and reflected in the river. The lone figure on the boat provides a nice anchor point for the image, together with the buildings at bottom left of the frame – this makes for a nice balance overall in the image I feel.	7
Red	A very strong image – the detail is excellent and there are nice catchlights in the eyes of the woman. I like the	9

	way the fingers are pointing to the face of the woman and the red of the fans are an excellent framing element.	
Cranes in Sync	A nice image captured of these gray crowned cranes on the hunt for food. The detail is good and you have achieved a relatively low point of view which is a good idea with nature photographs. You have also minimized background distracting elements well.	7
Sunset in the Serengeti	This is a fine sunset image with strong silhouettes of the local vegetation together with the vulture perched at the top of the dead tree. Placement of the sun on the frame works well as does the background landscape which has some colour left in it. Well seen and executed.	8

IMAGE OF THE MONTH

(ONE only for each Grade please)

Image Title	Reason for Placing
Red	A highly impactful image with no obvious improvements that can be made. The maker has done an excellent job in taking the image and handling the red colours with good detail captured. (Phensri Rutledge)