

JUDGES REPORT

Theme Competition – September 2018 – Landscape

Definition: No additional definition

Judge: Victoria Purdie AFIAP AAPS PSAQ

Accredited Judge

Brisbane

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
A		Distant Peaks	Not a bad image. Interesting sky. Just lots of boring foreground but I like the layers of depth leading to the mountains.	6
A		Treeless	Not a bad landscape. But not a lot to hold your interest for too long compared to some of the others in this grade section but it does have a nice feeling.	7
A		Autumn at Lake Wanaka	Love this. The exposure has been handled so well especially in the bright trees at left. Good placement of the famous Wanaka Tree. Great sky too.	8
A		Looking Over Hooker Valley	Another great image from this photographer and well handled in cold conditions. Water and snow is beautiful. Love it. Couldn't improve on this at all.	8
A		The Pinnacles at Sunset	Lovely image. Great colours. Good detail and sharpness throughout. Sky is nice too.	7
A		The Quiet Life	What a great place to visit. Could crop in a little but I think you've chosen this wide angle to give a feeling of isolation and you've done well. Nice saturation and sharpness too.	8

IMAGE OF THE MONTH

(ONE only for each Grade please)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
A		Looking Over Hooker Valley	Great image and something different, remote and pleasant to view. Exposure on all that snow and cloud has been well handled. Would look great as an art piece on a wall. (Cecily Jones)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Lake District NZ	Great location and beautiful water. Been there too so I know it's really that colour and not edited in post-production. Can see a dust spot top left in your sky and one on the mountain top left. They tend to show up more in landscapes when photographing lots of sky. Worth a sensor clean because your landscapes are lovely.	7
AB		Peaceful Scene	Has that old world postcard look to it. Wonder if it was shot on film and then scanned to become digital. Bit	6

			bright on some of the whites so you might be able to recover some of that detail in post-production. It affects some of the buildings at left and the boats at right. But good landscape image with lots to look at.	
AB		Beautiful New Zealand	Interesting panorama shape. Sort of looks like two images competing for attention here. The subjects on the right and then the half lake on the left which draws your eye away from the right side of the image. But good to try something different by shooting a panorama.	7
AB		Stunning View of Wanaka	Great view of Wanaka. Little bit close at the front of the image. Nice mountains. Has an old world postcard look.	6
AB		Changed Land	Not a bad location but not as interesting as some of the images in this category. Layers of red dirt are nice. Taken in bright light but sometimes that's all your travel schedule will allow. Good composition.	7
AB		Oyster Rocks	Good panorama. Would probably look more dramatic with different lighting and cropping off that last rock on the left which will get rid of that land in the background too and just concentrate on the rocks and the mountains in the background.	6
AB		Blue Mountains	A nice image but not dramatic that makes me enjoy it for too long. Lots of sky doing not much. Layers of green are good and I like the foreground trees at right.	7
AB		Rocky Outcrop	This is quite sharp and nicely taken. Pity the sky is washed out mostly but not much you can do about that. You have kept it to a minimum in your landscape image so that is good. Your subject has been well photographed.	6
AB		Mists of Punakha	Fantastic image. The lighting really makes it. Black and white is also a great idea for this. I like those trees anchoring the bottom left of the image coming out of the mist. Excellent work.	9
AB		Sunset over Loch Ard Gorge	I've been there and it's a great place. You've got some nice lighting happening there. Very burnt out in the centre but again it's hard to do much about that unless you used a neutral density filter to hold back some of the sky from overexposure and then shoot the foreground and merged the two together in post-production later, but sometimes you just have to get the shot. I like your panorama shape too.	7
AB		Rainforest Cool	A smaller file than the rest of the images so watch your sizing. It looks a little noisy and grainy and your bright spots in the centre of the image are distracting. Probably needs some editing too on the original sized file but a nice scene.	5
AB		Tranquility	Another file that is smaller than the rest by the same photographer but I like this one better. It's more interesting and makes me feel emotion and imagine being there. Little bright on the rock so you could tone	7

			that done in post-production but aside from that and the bright reflections at the front of the image, this is lovely and restful.	
AB		Ancient Turkey	Great location. Interesting unique foreground. Good sky and clouds. Some of those bushes there block the lovely mountains but aside from carrying a chain saw with you there's not much you can do except see if there's a better less obstructed view to the right or left. But nice landscape.	7
AB		Silence	I like the title but the image needs a lift in post-production. Some contrast and saturation. It's quite flat.	5
AB		Location, Location	Another great location and this is nicely captured. The sky might be a bit overcooked in post-production and I can see two dust spots on your sensor showing up here which can be easily cloned out. Top left and far right in the middle at the edge of the frame. I like your pathway and the cow too.	7
AB		The Leap	Good panorama shaped image. I like how all the land is at one side and it leads out into the ocean. Just feel like it's leaning to the right so if you fix that it will be a much better image as everything else about it is lovely. Subtle vignette works well too.	7
AB		Sossusvlei Desert	This is quite interesting and I wonder what it is that makes that line of shadow stop where it does. I like the background lighting on the dunes better than the foreground lighting. Composition is not bad.	7
AB		Sossusvlei Dunes	I like this one better of your two. It's subtle and quite nice. Lots to look at.	7
AB		North Cornwall Coast	What a fantastic place. I can see lots of landscape opportunities in that scene so hope you explored it thoroughly with your camera. Nice sky here and sharp. Good colour. Nice scene.	7
AB		Perspective on an Alpine Landscape	I like this. Great leading lines with the cliffs and walls going into the image which leads to the mountains. Bit bright on some of that snow there which has no detail in it but apart from that, it's a very nice landscape.	7

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Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
AB		Mists of Punakha	Stand out image due to the unique lighting and mood evoking layers in this landscape. (Deanne Fowke)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
B		Lake Amadeus from the Air	This is excellent for a B grader especially. Probably a little overcooked in saturation but I like that in this instance that it's taken on an art piece look that would go well on a wall to bring colour to a room. Excellent work.	8

B		Salt Lake	This is pretty dramatic and I like how you've shot into the sun extremely successfully. I think the person out on the salt lake is an addition to the image but their placement is right through the land at the back. If they were a bit further back to the front of the image it might be better. If you have Photoshop skills you could try lassoing them and see if it works better moving them.	8
B		Big Country	Nice scene and great sky for a landscape but I feel your image needs some editing to make it interesting. Bit of saturation, contrast, maybe a gradient on the sky to give it some drama. It's a little flat but keep practicing.	5
B		Porcupine Gorge	Nice landscape but again could use a little editing to bring some punch to it but better than your previous image.	7
B		Grey Skies, Wind and Waves	This has better contrast and colour. I like your foreground. Would have looked better maybe without the dead stick on the left. You could crop it out and see if your image looks stronger and less cluttered. Quite bright in the waves and water too so maybe some recovery of highlights in Lightroom or Photoshop would help this out.	6
B		The Crater	Another landscape that is pleasant but not that interesting to hold your interest for too long.	5
B		Track to the Sea	This one is better as it's brighter and more interesting to look at. May be slightly leaning to the right so a quick straighten will fix that.	7

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Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
B		Lake Amadeus from the Air	Really great work. Brave shot from up high and excellent work particularly for a B grader. (Kaye Hinds)