

# JUDGES REPORT

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**OPEN - December 2018**

**Judge: John Lomas**

**Accredited Judge**

**Brisbane**

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
<b>A</b>		Barrel Racing	This is quite a good moment. There is a narrative. It has interest. You can feel the concentration of both the rider and the horse as they start this turn. The second barrel in the background adds to the context of this event. I can also see the context of the Emergency Medical Services tent in the far background. However, if you put your hand over that red tent to block it out, the horse and rider are stronger. Now, it may not be possible, but this shot taken using a telephoto and a wider aperture from further back would isolate the main subject by blurring out the far background. Also, just a tick more sharpness on the rider and horse would help. The focus seems to be spot on for the "donohues" name on the barrel. Perhaps use a faster shutter speed for action rodeo work. I'm told that 1/1000 sec is a baseline speed used by many rodeo photographers.	5
<b>A</b>		Brown Honeyeater	Very good. It tells the viewer a lot about the Brown Honeyeater, for example, the yellow on the wing. The inclusion of the red bottle brush is appropriate. It is a food source for the bird but also adds a ton of visual impact with the red/green complementary colours. The bird is nicely isolated against a blurred background from using a telephoto lens. The eye highlight is a plus. The lighting is hard but effective. The diagonal line of the bird is a good graphic. The edges of the image are darker and this keeps the viewer in the image and with the bird. I'd like to see the bird just a tad sharper around the head and eyes. But, all in all, rather good and is surely publishable work.	7
<b>A</b>		Circles	A very interesting image. A good graphic. I wonder what it is. Bubbles? The second circle from the top took my interest perhaps because it reminds me of a button. But it is a tad soft. Maybe this is a macro shot with very minimum depth of field. I like how the triangle of circles grows from the bottom and I like the transition to the bluish part circle at the top. The little circles add interest. An enjoyable image.	6
<b>A</b>		Muscle Power	This is another rodeo shot taken at Bartlett Park. It is a rather high energy shot. It is sharp where it needs to be. The muscle definition on the horse is excellent. A fast shutter speed has frozen the action. The flying	6

			mane and soil add to the story. This shot, compared to the previous rodeo image, has been taken from another viewpoint. The background is more subdued here and this arguably keeps a stronger interest on the horse and rider. Both rodeo shots are well handled particularly given that the shadows indicate it is the difficult lighting of near noon.	
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**IMAGE OF THE MONTH**  
(ONE only for each Grade please)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
<b>A</b>		Brown Honeyeater	The image takes the viewer into the world of this bird. Tough subject matter that is well captured. <b>(Lyn Hastings)</b>

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
<b>AB</b>		Accessing Spectacular Scenery	The key compositional element here is the lead in line of the bridge. It leads the viewer to the midground trees and background mountains. As we read images, like text, from left to right, you might like to try a horizontal flip for this one. That will put the lead in of the bridge on the left. Just a thought. The people dotted along the bridge and on the far side add some points of interest though perhaps just a single person with a higher visual profile would be better. An OK pictorial.	5
<b>AB</b>		Rocky Bay	I assume that this is Rocky Bay on Magnetic Island. It is pleasant enough. The composition is quite good with a 1/3 to 2/3 divide between sky and land. The rocky outcrop is nicely placed on the left. The whites on the breaking waves are blown out and it might pay to check your original RAW file to see if any detail can be retrieved. Some more sky detail would help.	4
<b>AB</b>		Beautiful Lotus	These strong hot colours really grab our attention. The colours jump off the screen. It is a good example of how black backgrounds and black borders intensify the colours that they surround. I'd suggest a bit more depth of field as the foreground is losing a bit of sharpness. Nevertheless, a high impact image.	6
<b>AB</b>		Restless Before the Storm	Well, I like the light skimming over the water. I'm not keen on the burnt out patch of sky. I'll suggest that you crop down from the top to remove that hot patch but leave in the red sky that is particularly strong on the top right. I'll also suggest cropping out that black strip on the bottom.	4
<b>AB</b>		Golden Orb	I don't mind the background highlights blur apart perhaps for the strong highlights on the top left edge. The red pedipalps on the spider are a good centre of interest. One leg on the left is just copped off. This	5

			leads to a suggestion – crop in even closer to have the spider’s head on the top right third and have the legs as chopped off radiating lines. Mind you, I’m OK with this image as is.	
<b>AB</b>		Tropical Flora	The orange colour is pleasing and the implied diagonal of the two blooms adds interest. I’d like to see the flowers take up a bit more space in the frame and I’d tone down the green leaves a bit. The big technical issue is that I feel it needs to be sharper. Maybe you are photographing in fairly subdued light here and the shutter speed is too slow.	4
<b>AB</b>		Morning Exercise	I like this. It almost gives the illusion that the bird is flying even though it is not. You could actually crop it to strengthen this illusion. In fact, I assume it is about to take off. I feel the image is sharp enough given that a long lens must have been used. The mud flats add to the narrative of where the bird lives. Perhaps a bit more space on the right would help. Competent work.	7
<b>AB</b>		Morning Patrol	I like this one too. A dotterel? There is lots of good detail here as well as information on the bird’s environment. I like how the muddy foot is raised indicating movement. I like the viewpoint – we are down at shorebird level. I can make out a halo around the bird so I expect some burning/dodging is happening but that doesn’t really detract. The bird is nicely placed in the frame. This ticks a lot of boxes – very good.	8
<b>AB</b>		St Basil’s Cathedral	There is a sense of place here. As presented, it is all about this famous landmark and the hordes of people likely to be in Red Square on any day. I notice it has been toned down in areas, particularly the bottom left and the sky looks like it has been tweaked...but the net effect is to keep viewer interest on St Basil’s. If you wanted to go for a non-people option, I’d suggest going down to that statue in front of St Basil’s and using that statue as a strong foreground element. The graphics of St Basil’s or even just part of St Basil’s would be the background. You could even try a vertical option. Maybe we don’t need that part building on the left – looks like that famous department store. Nevertheless, the image has interest.	4
<b>AB</b>		Lion on the Move	You are really quite close here and I’ll assume that you are secure in the safari vehicle. I like the eye that is lit. The lighting from this time of day is interesting. I know from the title “Lion on the move” that you want to keep the legs in the picture. Cropping will give you a head and shoulders option if you wanted.	4
<b>AB</b>		Yala, Shades of Blue	An interesting place. And, yes, I like the blue feel to this. There is a desolate feel with what appears to be half submerged trees/bushes. The background of mountains and clouds adds to the feel. You may want to explore cropping options that takes us away from the current 50/50 divide. I prefer to keep the desolate	5

			foreground so perhaps a trim downwards on the sky. Purely on the what if side of things, what if a solitary water bird was present in the bottom left. There is a case for an additional element/centre of interest for this image. The mood from this early morning light is good.	
<b>AB</b>		Monkey Business	These look like macaques. I wouldn't be surprised if we are at a temple in India or Sri Lanka. The monkeys are sharp enough. I'd like to see the branches in the background a bit fuzzier. The male monkey has a bored look and the female is looking away. But, then again, maybe there is some monkey business brewing. You realize I'm skirting around things here.	5

IMAGE OF THE MONTH (ONE only for each Grade please)			
Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
<b>AB</b>		Morning Patrol	Superior work in a tough genre. <b>(Ray Sutton)</b>

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
<b>B</b>		Sunset over a Dam	The sunset has created a good mood. Silhouettes can be a great graphic tool. You know the sort of thing – the silhouette of a windmill in a landscape for example. It is best if the silhouettes are clearly recognizable shapes and there not be too many. Minimalism helps. I feel that this one would work better if there were just one or two trees as opposed to lots of trees. The reflection in the dam is good. I can see an image that focuses more on that and forget about the sky. You could even go in closer and lower and make those grasses on the side of the dam more prominent. Good potential here.	5
<b>B</b>		Who's the Dominant Emu	I would say to the maker here that emus are very difficult and uncooperative subject matter. They would just as soon peck your eyes out than pose for a shot. I did have a bad emu experience. I'm thinking we need to get closer (lens wise that is) and isolate a smaller subset of this image. Notice, for example, how the three heads of the emus in the middle form a good upwards line leading to the top emu – the dominant one. By the way, three of something is considered a good thing. Then a bit more critical sharpness to pick up the emu detail and we'd have a winner. By focusing on heads and upper bodies we can avoid jarring leg amputations. Tough subject matter.	4
<b>B</b>		Deep Blue Sea	I praise the maker for having a go at a panorama. Panoramas can be most eye catching and are particularly suitable for landscapes/seascapes like this. You have a big colour advantage here with the blue and orange type colours dominating. They are complementary colours on the colour wheel and are	7

			<p>guaranteed to create viewer interest. I think I can see stitching from the photomerge but I could be wrong. I like the footsteps in the sand. On the what if side of things, a solitary person on the beach or something else to become a centre of interest would be of benefit. Nevertheless, I do like this. The blue sea is inviting. Our eyes can't see panoramas like this and that makes them all the more desirable. Good work.</p>	
<b>B</b>		White Xmas	<p>This is growing on me. We normally say that "dead centre is dead wrong" compositionally. For whatever reason however, this centrally placed tree seems to work. Post production wise, I'll suggest you extract a bit more detail from the background mountains. You may know of a software program called Nik. Nik includes monochrome conversions using Silver Efex. One of the monochrome conversions in Silver Efex is High Structure and I feel if you were to use that, this image would explode off the screen. Lots of potential here. Shades of Ansel Adams.</p>	6

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<b>Grade</b>	<b>ID</b>	<b>Image Title</b>	<b>Reason for Placing</b>
<b>B</b>		Deep Blue Sea	A very suitable scene for a panorama. Strong colour impact. It works. <b>(Trevor Dunstan)</b>