

JUDGES REPORT

OPEN - August 2018

Judge: - Tina Dial

Accredited Judge

Ipswich

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
A		Looking Out	Looking through windows and holes in walls and suchlike concentrate the view on the scene. I like the scene, but I see signs of processing. I feel that the image could do with a bit of a boost in contrast, the light feels just a trifle flat. Maybe a small crop off the bottom to make the scene a bit stronger.	6
A		Queensland Bower Bird	I love our birds, and you have a nice shot, but unfortunately it is somewhat overexposed, and I feel lacks sharpness. Could be because of the crop, or the camera just didn't quite nail it. Good shallow dof. I also like that it is about to eat the fruit.	5
A		Autumn Colours	Very pretty scene and the clouds add a nice touch of mood. I suggest a small crop off the top so that the moodiest clouds are stronger in the image, and a small amount of straightening, it is just a little off kilter.	7
A		Picnic Bay Jetty	These types of images are popular, and you have done a good job. I like the light coming in from the right, good symmetry as well.	8
A		The EKKA's Scariest	A fun shot that is not easy to take! Those things move very fast, and to capture it where the main focus is sharp but showing blur of movement for the ride is tricky. You have almost nailed it. Maybe just a slightly faster shutter, but of course, following the action with the camera is also not easy! Good exposure, colours and good attempt.	5
A		The Old and the New	Well seen, and the title definitely tells the story as well. Good depth to the image, just a little overexposed, so have a play with your levels or contrast to get a bit more depth from the image.	8

IMAGE OF THE MONTH
(ONE only for each Grade please)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
A		Picnic Bay Jetty	Good exposure and symmetry, nice light. (Cecily Jones)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Bush Scene	Lovely scene, good composition and exposure. My only nitpick is that it feels a tad soft. The front tree	6

			particularly needs to be in focus as it is a main focal point in the image. Beautiful place. Love the dots of yellow flowers.	
AB		Darling Harbour Foreshore	Lovely shot, good detail throughout with lots to keep interest.	9
AB		Beautiful Lilies	They are indeed very nice lilies, and you have a nice image, good crop.	7
AB		Dawn at the Marina	Lovely light starting to creep in at the start of the day. The shadows are fairly dark though, with the dark areas quite blocked. Most of the interest is in the top half, so I think you could crop a bit more off the bottom.	5
AB		Butterfly	Very well taken image, and good clarity on the butterfly and exposure. I think you could still crop in a just a bit tighter, and maybe darken slightly on the edges.	8
AB		Flying Fox	These are funny guys, and great subjects to photograph. Unfortunately your image is overexposed. You can bring that back somewhat in processing. Also, it could do with a crop, as the right side of the image doesn't really have anything to add to the story. It's okay to have vertical crops.	4
AB		The Dancers	I like the light on these guys, it makes them stand out from the shadows, and I like the action. The image needs to be straightened though. Well taken.	7
AB		The Loom	I really like the use of shallow aperture here, it really concentrates the attention on a small part of the threads. As I said, I am a serial cropper, and I just think a small crop off the top and bottom would help emphasize the threads more.	9
AB		Lemon and Butterfly	Creative work is a lot of fun, but it's a big learning curve as well. For me, I need to see some connection between elements in the story, which I don't get here. Also watch the processing, as the butterfly body sort of disappears yet other parts of it are not blended as much, and the lemon is quite bright and overpowering. Keep playing!	4
AB		Summer Time Breakfast	Lol, this is a fun image, I like your creativity. Well shot. I just want more butter on the toast!!!	8
AB		Encore ...	Good use of negative space here. I am usually a serial cropper, but in this instance, I think it works well. Though I am itching to crop just a little bit off the left! Interesting light. Did well under difficult conditions.	7
AB		Tight Fit	How amazing that this exists. Could you imagine this in Australia? The safety people would be having kittens, and yet it works there so well. The image feels somewhat degraded though, there is pixelating happening, and the whole image is soft. Not sure why this is. Post processing or something with the camera. It is somewhat overexposed as well. Great scene though.	4

AB		Dinner Time	Good to have the Bee Eater with a prey. Good crop. The image feels slightly washed out though, and not quite sharp.	6
AB		Wedgie	Birds in flight aren't easy to catch, nice light on this guy. Image is soft overall though, could be because of a big crop. Also, some lenses are soft wide open. Bodies and lenses don't automatically shoot at their sharpest wide open.	4
AB		Antelope Canyon	Nice shot. Just toning down the edges will give more depth to the image. Even just a little bit of a play with levels or curves will give it some extra depth as well. Well taken.	7
AB		Glacial Melt	Sometimes it is more visually impactful to have less in your image. It would have been a lovely scene to behold, but I think concentrating on a smaller part of the image... the front ice in this instance, would have been stronger as all the bits of ice behind it makes the image feel a bit messy. Good exposure and love the blue hues.	6
AB		Nom Nom	Well, someone has a yummy brekky! Good capture. Even though the grub is not in focus, the kookaburra's eyes are, and that for me is more important. Good use of aperture for shallow dof.	9
AB		Wind in the Sails	Interesting beach scene, though a bit busy. The sails blowing tell the story it is windy and possibly a storm coming with the clouds building up. Light is very flat, so using your levels you can bring some pop into your image when you move the right slider.	6

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Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
AB		Darling Harbour Foreshore	Lots to hold interest and clarity throughout the image. (John Anderson)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
B		Curlew in Camouflage	Certainly is well camouflaged. Image is soft though. Make sure you choose your points, and have it on the eye, as this is the focal point of the image. It's almost there. Good exposure and crop.	5
B		Salt Lake Abstract	Pretty colours and abstract. Think it would look quite nice hanging on a wall. For me though, I prefer sharp images, and feel that it isn't quite there. Personal preference. I had a look at your exif and would like to offer that you didn't need to shoot at such high iso's (which could be why it's not quite sharp), because you could have dropped your shutter speed. High speed is good for action, but not needed for stationary subjects. This lets in more light, and so can drop the iso and increase the aperture a bit for a crisper image.	5

B		Purple Flower	I love flowers, they make great subjects. You have done well here, but the focus seems to be more on the top petals, and not so much on the stamens in the center, though are very close. This is where knowing where your focus points are focusing on is important. I rarely use all points, often one or a small selection, to make sure it is on the area that I think critical. Background is very nicely blurred out.	7
B		Storm is near	Lovely capture, the dark clouds certainly give that sense of storm and drama. Good composition and crop, though..... I would crop some off the top, as there is a fair bit of just bright grey cloud that doesn't really add anything to the image. You might then have to crop a bit off the edges to keep balance, but I think that's okay. Good clarity, well taken.	8

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B	76	Storm is near	Good scene that holds interest, clean image. (Trevor Dunstan)