

# JUDGES REPORT

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## Theme Competition - 2018 – Yesteryear

Definition: No further definition.

Judge: - Tryg Helander  
Toowoomba

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
A		Old Spokes	A very strong and thoughtful composition. Great find and such an awesome historic piece, replete with texture and patina that ensure we are in no doubt about the connection to the set subject. The positioning of the axle from the bottom corner and retaining the shadow to fill what would otherwise be negative space at an earlier part of the day, is a winner. The use of monochromatic here is perfect.	9
A		Weathered Barn Door	Such a stunning and intimate view of a clearly antique handle, lock and fasteners on the scorched door. This has produced an image full of patina, texture, colour and plenty of yesteryear appeal. This would be a candidate for a triptych image, because I think others would also like to see some more context to this wonderful image.	8
A		My Work is Done	Rust on old machinery will always reference Yesteryear with great alacrity. The composition looks deliberately tight, as if there might be some modernity on display just above the old tractor. If this was the case, well done. The time of day has prevented the best image from being shot, too stark and could be better shot later in the golden hour, in my opinion. A lovely find for the set subject.	5
A		Someone's Sense of Humour	Although our surroundings are very dry, there seems to be a slight desaturated feel to this image, as if the imagemaker has toned down the colouration to add depth to the story. The humour adds to the image of a very early Holden ute, but I feel the equipment hiding in the long grass behind is not as important as giving some breathing room to the front of the vehicle here. The dappled shade and wire strands add measurably here.	8
A		Building of a Bygone Era	The imagemaker has ensured that a lack of modernity is evident here, which enhances this image in regard to the set subject. A great use of the window frames to reveal new views and a good light and shadow falls within the scene. Half a person is visible in the far doorway and this is the only thing that gives something away in the image. A very nice image for the set subject.	7
A		Wartime 1940's	I really enjoy vintage-esque portraiture and set-ups. This has great interplay with wartime equipment and aptly dressed models. Be careful of museum signage, which appears over her shoulder and the variance in brightness between the models. I do enjoy, however, the effect overlaid to give granularity and old-world charm to the image.	6
A		Engine from the Past	A lot of texture comes through in this image. The rust is showing many hues of reddish brown and the sky adds to the drama. There is some colour noise evident on the top of	6

			the large flywheel, possibly from ministrations of vibrancy and/or saturation in post-production. The imagemaker has done well to showcase this retired steam engine.	
<b>A</b>		<b>Fire Engine</b>	Often, we cannot ask to change the placement of historic vehicles, we are limited to where they stand. This can be a conundrum if we are trying to make them fit into their surroundings. The fire engine is a real winner, lots of bright red colour, interesting old-world coach building and an open driving position. The painted road way and modern surrounds are an unfortunate inclusion. This is a rare gem, not many Dennis trucks are around from this era, I am guessing!	<b>6</b>
<b>A</b>		<b>Nothing Like a Good Book</b>	A clever use of effect overlay, or an image of an image in this set up of pre-WW1 décor. Apart from the pocket on the lady's blouse (which was not common of the era), this scene is well crafted, and the limited highlights give an authentic feel. I cannot be 100% about how it was done, from this viewing, but I would commend the imagemaker for their creativity in this regard.	<b>8</b>
<b>A</b>		<b>Still Standing</b>	Wow, yep....sold! The imagemaker has used tone, clarity, brightness and the interplay of nature and weather against this old dwelling to the best possible effect. A truly stunning image.	<b>9</b>
<b>A</b>		<b>Farm Plough</b>	This is a sharp, crisp and clean image. The grader certainly harks back to yesteryear, but the building replete with plastic water tank and elevated solar hot water system does not. This is where angles can change to hide the modernity. Also, a slightly skewed viewpoint would keep those delicious shadows long in the composition. A very nice image.	<b>7</b>
<b>A</b>		<b>Horse Drawn Carriage</b>	A staged, stage coach! This display goes a long way to assisting any photographer to capture something that could be period correct. The bright window is a necessary evil here and the time of day makes for an overblown scene stealing distraction, but the bars across it pulls some interest back. This could be a candidate for a HDR stack or bracketing. That would ensure the highlights are kept in check. A good choice for the set subject indeed.	<b>7</b>
<b>A</b>		<b>Seen Better Days</b>	Rust has really taken a hold here and these vehicles are surely destined to be scrapped. The green background is a pleasing match for them, but I am not sold on the fairly modern colorbond in the frame. When looking to elevate the story, keep looking to remove traces of modern society from a set subject such as Yesteryear. It's those nuances that confound the story, in my opinion.	<b>5</b>
<b>A</b>		<b>The Old Bodmin Jail</b>	There is a lot to like about the tight architecture, mottled walls and greenery in this scene. The tree framing the far left perfectly leads us down the path, pity about the Ford hatchback...the one aberrance from the near perfect conglomeration of old world. That and the solar panels on the newer house atop the hill. I would suggest the use of bracketing if nothing is moving in the scene, that way the sky would have more tonal information resolved.	<b>7</b>

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

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
A		Old Spokes	The simplicity and thoughtful composition, choice of lighting and use of shadow appeals. <b>(Elsbeth Twyman)</b>

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Granddads Schooling	Mock-ups of old schools, churches and halls are very exciting and a good find for the set subject. I do enjoy seeing the poster, but the table and book are somewhat elusive in this composition. The red of the book seems to grab attention and I want to see a broader context. We do need context really, as we don't want to simply copy artwork in our images. I love that we can see the sign that says 'slate pencils' on the desk.	5
AB		Outdoors at Paronella Park	I admit to knowing nothing of this location and the internet was quickly used. A fascinating story of an immigrant's travels, unrequited love, building a dream in the early twentieth century, of loss and rebuilding. This fountain and its location seem quite apt in the set subject, but only after you know the story. On its own, this looks old, but one cannot be sure of much more. A well-executed image.	7
AB		Old Family Treasures	Simple but strong. The warm hues remind me of faded film prints and the complimentary tones sit well together in the image. I like the coloured border here too, but I wouldn't go any wider or darker. There is a faint coloured stripe at the top of the image, in a salmon pink, I am not sure how this has occurred. A fun set up.	6
AB		Well Used Utensils	This is a clever, almost commercial-like image. The overall colour of the image is warm, which may have been the imagemaker's intent here, but I think the silver needs some balancing to draw out the blues we normally see under sky or corrected light. It is not often we see sifters and mixers like this anymore, a great set-up for the set subject.	6
AB		Hand Mower	Lots of lines, both vertical and horizontal, a myriad of textures and earthy colours are in this image. A fraction more light would have been entertaining as the words cast into the steel wheel are not very visible here. I like the well thought out composition which is simple and elegant. The copper pipe coming out of the wall acts as a bit of edge-flicker and really needs more to be shown or taken out altogether. A great find for the set subject.	6
AB		Rusted Relic	Quite a strong effect with this posterization of colour. The clarity is very strong and as a result there is an abundance of pixilation on the crisp edges of all straight lines. There is also a heavy feel of clumping pixels in the sky. But, this image does smack you right in the face, such is the depth of tones from bright to dark and the limited hues on offer. A good find for the subject, but possibly needs to be a tad more judicious in the use of post-production.	5
AB		Broken	The use of fill flash here has retained a lot of colour in the sky and is an example of the importance of maintaining good metering and exposure in mixed lighting situations. The strong shadow works here but be mindful of the situation that calls for a more diffuse light. The intimacy, colour and texture is strong and purposeful.	7

			Be careful when pushing the blues in the sky, in your post-production, as some artificiality is creeping into the shot.	
AB		The Earnslaw	Apart from passengers taking images with mobile phones or automated life raft canisters, this image could be from the 1950's. It has been cleverly composed and the weather adds measurably here. I like the desaturated overall colouration and the pushing of the red hues. This is a wonderful shot given the nature of the competition. I would enjoy this on my wall at home.	9
AB		Block n Tackle	A really fun find showcasing the set subject very well. I am not sure if the imagemaker had access to the scene, but the removal of the clearly contemporary newspapers at lower left would have kept the scene even more authentic. It is exciting to see the myriad of tackle, harnesses, leather and cast iron on display.	8
AB		Ruin Temples of Ayutthaya	The imagemaker was careful with placement of the statue, keeping it confined by the building behind. Given the starkness of the sky top right, this was a clever composition, as having the statue in that starkness would essentially be an error. There would be a benefit in either bracketing or taking the image at another time of day, especially late or early, but sometimes we don't get to choose. Certainly a good choice for the set subject, perhaps a tighter crop from a front on position would have yielded different results and eliminated the issue with the sky.	5
AB		Palmer St	When viewed at 100% this image was still quite small. I generally do not zoom, as then the image falls foul to pixilation and softening. I would say that that it appears to be an image of an image, because the border is misaligned in some areas. The only trace of modernity is the vehicle in the background, but mostly hidden by the park and tree. I enjoy the image but would have been better if the occupants of the carriage had been largely facing forward. Nice using a mono treatment.	5
AB		A Wagon – Once Loved	A great choice of vehicle, setting and presentation colouration adds measurably to this scene. The only real issue here is the blowout of sky interfering with the clarity of foliage in the trees. This is another example where bracketing can make a huge difference to the output. The heavy dark shadows would be lessened too, by using this technique. Overall a very good choice.	7
AB		Ladies Afternoon Tea	A great set-up, which looks marginally tilted, but very much like yesteryear. The contorted look on the backdrop is pushed a little far and looks very unnecessary, unless the imagemaker was trying to remove something. The clear babushka container is somewhat back to the future, but the buttons within are a lovely addition.	6
AB		Old Fashioned Wind Power	This image has a lot of potential, but care is needed in presentation. The heaviness in the dark windmill tower is a fraction strong, as it the pixilation and colour noise evident in the sky. There is also a sensor spot just over the upper left windmill blade which can be easily cloned out. I will say, however, there is strength in the piece, with such a bold building, negative space supporting and the secondary buildings with are not out of character. A truly great find for the set subject.	7

AB		Once Upon a Time	A beautifully old home and great find for the set subject. Again, we cannot help what has been added to these homes, in modern times, but a digital terrestrial UHF television antenna is one of those markers of modernity. There is a strong sense of keystone here too, as the building looks to be falling away with the proximity and upward view. Although not something fixable without loss, it's often worth remembering when composing, give more space to transform into.	6
AB		Broken	A few seconds is needed to see what this item is, far is its state of decay. This old car has almost returned to the ground, but the bones of its former glory is just there. The bright sun of the day was not your friend here and has caused overexposure outside the shaded areas. Bracketed shots or a fill flash would work, as would shooting later in the day. A good find for the set subject.	5
AB		Snail-mail	The overall intentional softness to this image helps portray the story. The keystone evident is probably due to the dilapidation of the building, rather than a less-than-keen eye of the imagemaker. The old window signs add much to the set subject's harking back. I am not sure the bright glimpse of green does much, maybe if more was showing. I like your find for the competition.	6
AB		Elegance	An aptly titled shot that uses a very simple but powerful set-up to convey the meaning of the set subject. I adore the use of the mirror and reflection here. The strong light from the venetian is a minor inconvenience, but the clean setting is working so very well.	8
AB		Family Slide Night	I am thankful that my transparencies have all been scanned and I don't have to resort to this anymore, but doesn't it ever convey the set subject well. The lack of light is a tiny issue and some fill could have been employed to better effect here. The heavy noise and lack of exposure makes this a great grab shot, but won't lift it in a competitive space. Thank you for showing us a photography-related 'yesteryear' image.	5
AB		Shades of the Middle Ages	Very much of yesteryear, these buildings with stepped and castellated facades are reminiscent of buildings I have seen all over Europe; from Lisbon, to Bavaria, to Stockholm, they are unique to the antiquated period. Although a limited viewpoint, what is seen is strong in differing shape, colour and texture. A little later in the day, this image would be expected to look even more rich in colour. A good find for the set subject.	6
AB		Wheely Old	Wooden, spoked wheels, that have been coopered many years ago, would be a natural item to showcase in this competition. This one has been cropped in heavily to only give us a glimpse at it whilst showing off the heavy decay and patina. The flash is a little strong, given the dark background and needs diffusing and bounce. The tie wire is obviously necessary but takes away somewhat from authenticity. Another great find for the subject.	6
AB		Old Tractor	I was waiting for a Fordson tractor to rear itself! This is quintessentially what yesteryear screams to me. The time of day was not friendly though and a stronger colouration was probably on offer in the golden hour. The setting looks	6

			authentic and the green is greatly complimentary. A great relic for the subject.	
AB		Wool Press	The baling machine is probably the best-preserved item we are likely to see in this competition. I doubt the wood will rot, at least not that which has been in contact with wool. The settings are somewhat beautiful, and the tones of nature are mimicking colours. This is an interesting piece that I had to research to understand. A good find that piqued my interest.	7

IMAGE OF THE MONTH (ONE only for each Grade please)			
Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
AB		The Earnslaw	Has been handled well to look like a postcard from the '50s. This gave a real sense of yesteryear to me. A wonderful image. <b>(Toni Brosnan)</b>

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
B		Motor Car of not-so-long-ago	This is a good display of light painting. The background is only marginally pushing through, which could be fixed with a brush and burning in post-production, essentially dropping the brighter foliage in the background. I do think this has been done sensitively and quite well. A very earthy palette.	7
B		The Sun Goes Down on an Industry	A silhouette is at its strongest, when it is known to all and easily identifiable. I guess this is a pump, of some description, but I cannot guarantee this. The flare and strong 'contre-jour' nature of this shot is a unique and difficult method to take this image, but it has been handled with great skill here. I would also point out some sensor spots, which appear black, which could be removed in post-production and should be attended to in due course. Remember not everyone will be attuned to what you know about, so making something simple to understand is key when dealing with complex images. I applaud the imagemakers creativity here.	7
B		Give Me a Call	These antiques are brilliant finds for the competition. The light is a little soft for the shot, as the brightwork could have been illuminated somewhat more. The piece of paper under the item was a thoughtful addition, to showcase the outline and artwork on the legs. The crop is a little tight on the right-hand side, the cord leads out of the image and this could possibly have been directed inwards. The overall tint of the image is warm, and this increases the effect, but wouldn't enhance every image, use caution. This item looks in perfect condition and makes this a special image.	7
B		Nostalgic Nook	I really like the set up here, all but for the modern aluminum window and plastic window opener. Cropping down to remove said window opener would be more in keeping with the set subject, although everything else in the image has been exquisitely thought out. This stove seems to be in an exceptional state. A nicely balanced shot, which has not succumbed to the bright day outside.	6
B		A Camera for the Hobbyist	Ahhh.. the old Kodak Target Six Twenty box camera. This camera shares a birthday with my mother, circa 1946. The set-up is tight and purposeful. The addition of negatives and	8

			prints is very clever. I like the vision of the imagemaker, ever so slightly, in the camera lens. The background has been well held at bay with thoughtful use of DoF. There are a couple of annoying dust specs on the table, cloning or cleaning, could be employed here! It might seem pedantic to mention, but in setting up an image like this, you do have the time. An excellent and well-thought-out inclusion into this competition. Lovely work.	
<b>B</b>		No More Sheep	A very common sight in shearing sheds of old. The common power-take-off wheels have a very strong connection to the set subject. I have seen many in my travels and company names like "Lister" spring to mind. The sunlight hitting one foreground wheel is outstanding and even competes with the overblown doorway in a most appropriate way. The bright opening at bottom left is an area I would choose to remove via crop, if given the chance. The monochromatic treatment is perfect here. A wonderful image.	9

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<b>Grade</b>	<b>ID</b>	<b>Image Title</b>	<b>Reason for Placing</b>
<b>B</b>		No More Sheep	A strong representation of our Australian Yesteryear, handled well and is full of tone, texture and importantly, produces an underlying visceral connection to Australian forebears. <b>(Kaye Hinds)</b>