

JUDGES REPORT

Theme Competition – December 2018 – Tropical Qld

Definition: (illustrate what we each love about living in Nth Qld)

Judge: John Lomas

Accredited Judge

Brisbane

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
A		Golden Morning in North Qld	This is a nice place to be. There is a tranquility about this. The silhouettes really emphasize the shapes. The art piece cover at the end of the Strand Pier is particularly strong and classically placed on the third. The compositional divide between water and sky is good. The paddle boat near the left third is a masterstroke as this leads the viewer into the image. The golden glow gains our immediate attention. Well done.	8
A		North Qld Tranquility	I've probably looked at this image longer than any other in this competition. Maybe I'm hypnotized by that red boat. It has my attention. I like strong foreground elements and particularly hot coloured foreground elements. Colour Theory tells us that hot colours advance and cold colours recede. When you have a hot coloured foreground centre of interest and a cold coloured background you greatly emphasize the illusion of depth. I like the blue coloured water as a background. At the risk of sounding like a cropaholic, I'll suggest you crop out the sky and green hills to just have the blue water background. I feel this increases the visual impact. The placement of the figure is good. The branch and leaves lead us towards this figure. There may be other times of day where the lighting will create more mood, but I'd be keen not to lose the blue colour of that water.	5
A		Sunrise on the Strand	This is similar to the "Golden Morning" image. This too has a lot going for it with the mood created from the colours at this time of day. This is a bigger view and looks more wide angle. It doesn't have the advantage of the paddle boat that the other image has. I'd be inclined to trim a bit of water from the base to break the 50/50 divide of water/sky.	5

IMAGE OF THE MONTH

(ONE only for each Grade please)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
A		Golden Morning in North Qld	A pleasing pictorial with great mood and composition. (Lyn Hastings)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Majestic Tropical Rainforest	There is no doubting the visual power of the S curve in composition. I feel the maximum S curve effect here is achieved by a significant crop to put the disappearing point of the S curve path on the top left third. But this reduces the amount of rain forest and in particular removes the tree on the left. Going back to the as presented image, the two trees are a useful framing mechanism. I would suggest a sliver off at the bottom to remove the green foliage at bottom left. I'd darken the foliage a bit at the top. The exposure is well handled given the subdued light in this environment.	4
AB		Tropical Welcome	There are palm trees everywhere to indicate the tropical setting. It looks like a tropical resort. I'll guess that the viewpoint is from an apartment. I want to get over that green foreground and latch on to an interesting point but I'm struggling. The overall scene has interest. Maybe, however, we need another viewpoint to get the best from this scene. I notice that the tops of some mountains and trees are noticeably darker and this may be the result of burning in the sky a bit.	4
AB		Serene and Welcoming Whitsundays	I like the far background boat that is heading towards the background island. That helps the story. In some ways, the line of foreground rocks and the small tree on the left give the image a base. There may be another option where the rectangle you put around this scene is just the boats and the island. On the technical side of things, the whites on the boats look a bit overexposed.	4
AB		Tropical Beach at Sunrise	The sky colour is good and the palms drive home the tropical feel. The really great element is the tiny silhouetted person on the far-left edge. This proves the "law" that if a person is in an image, then irrespective of how small that person is in the frame, they automatically become a centre of interest. No doubting the appeal of this image.	6
AB		Colourful Orchids	The colour is strong. We have complementary colours working for us. The touches of yellow add to the colour and are arguably the centres of interest. The depth of field/sharpness is OK. I'd suggest that the green could be toned down a bit. Some parts of the orchid are amputated by the edges of the frame. It would be a bit neater without this.	5
AB		Green Tree Frogs	I like the sharpness of the frog and the green feel of the image. The frog belongs here. The graphic of the dark circular eye is a key element. As a thought, you could have the eye exactly on the top right third by cropping from the top and a bit from the right.	5

			I'm OK with the blotches of background highlights as it is a check on the image being totally green.	
AB		Peaceful Boat Harbour	This is a moody image. I don't mind the 50/50 divide here. The boats form two pleasing diagonal lines. I feel that there is a nice balance between the foreground boats and the background mountains and sky. On the what if side of things, wouldn't it be great if there was a boat in the midground with a wake behind it as it was entering or leaving the harbor. The odd man out effect. I'd like to see the shiny thing on the far mid right toned down. Pleasing image.	6
AB		Sunset by the Sea	We have a good sense of scale here. The mood is good. There is no doubting the centre of interest. The sailing boat is quite literally the dead centre of interest. I'm in two minds about the part trees that are framing the boat on either side. There is a concept called unsupported mass and the tree at top right is very much an unsupported mass. We wonder what is holding it up. Of course, we know, but we tend to think about it. I'm wondering if there is a viewpoint/lens combination that allows you to go a bit closer and then frame this as a horizontal with the boat off centre.	4
AB		Aplins Weir	I like the movement of the water over the weir as opposed to and counter balanced by the tranquility of the water in the pond behind the weir. This is an interesting contrast. I'm not as keen however on the bridge on the far right and the picnic park/sky in the background. I would argue that they can be cropped out. Alternatively, at the time of taking this image move a little more to the right to eliminate them.	5
AB		Townsville Icons	This says a lot about Townsville. It has definite postcard potential. There is good use of foreground, midground and background. The lines of boats with their colours, the buildings and Castle Hill surrounded by clouds nicely come together. A nice place to live. Quite good.	7
AB		Cooling Down in Tropics	There is the Rarity factor here. I can't recall having seen a butterfly in a sink. This is a minimalistic style image. The graphics of the sink hole and the colours on the butterfly are interesting. The position of the butterfly and the diagonal it forms adds to the composition. I'd crop a bit off the left to remove the highlight on the bottom left or consider cloning it out. Definitely different.	6
AB		Tropical Pudding	These hot/cold colours really hit the viewer. You have our immediate attention. Perhaps if a piece of pineapple was removed and placed on the fork, then that would help the story. I'm also wondering if you are going to cut in a tropical background using a green screen app as you have this seamless green background. If you are going to do this, I'd have more green space, shoot at a bit lower viewpoint and use a higher aperture for more depth of field.	4

AB		Tropical Riches	Now this is excellent. The peek a boo surprised look of the lorikeet is to die for. The colour is eye-catching. The technical finish is very good.. A superior image!!	9
AB		Ulysses	The Ulysses butterfly is a North Queensland butterfly so marks for being in category. There is strong colour impact and the composition has merit. I'd like to see more sharpness over the total wingspan.	5
AB		Reef Critters	I'm sure there is a high skill level in taking good underwater shots like this. This Butterfly Cod is a magnificent tropical reef fish. The fish fills the frame, the coral adds to the setting, the lighting (flash?) brings out the colours – all an all, quite good.	7
AB		The Local Wildlife	Another interesting image. One wonders what a kangaroo is doing on a beach at the break of dawn. The mood from the lighting is good. The placement of the kangaroo and the turn of its head back to the empty left work quite well. I know the lighting is very subdued at sunrise, but I'd see if you can tweak a tick more brightness into the images using Curves. Good appeal here.	7
AB		A Refreshing Playground	I don't mind the visual clutter and overall chaos of this image. If that is your intent, you have succeeded. All systems move towards maximum disorder. There are lots of shapes, colours, water everywhere and people. Actually, there are shades of William Eggleston's work here. Look him up. A lot of his work has strong colours with subject matter that is chaotic and mundane. He is a major artist. This image also makes a lifestyle statement. You can cool down at The Strand Water Park. I'll accept this one as is.	5
AB		A Tropical Hazard	I know the Set Theme definition is to show "what we love about living in North Queensland". Let's say we love the biological diversity of the place and that includes crocs. I like the curve formed by the body. The leg is raised and there is water swirl around the tail. It is about to enter the slimy water. Yes, there is a story here. OK work.	5
AB		Fun in the Sun	The expression on their faces is the key here. You can't fake this spontaneity. The cool shapes of those frozen water blobs are appealing and indicate action. I don't mind the anonymous child on the right. I know the legs are amputated but you can't really crop out the water slide as that is important to the story. I'd even argue for a bit more space at the top so that viewers know that she is still hanging on and hasn't let go. Good story. Real world photography.	5
AB		Tropical Sunrise	The early morning light is used to good advantage. I particularly like how it is skimming over the foreground sand. The dark rocks are stepping stones for the viewer	5

			to go from foreground to background. The foreground reflection has interest. I can see a more panoramic option for this image by cropping from the top down to above the breaking sun.	
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IMAGE OF THE MONTH (ONE only for each Grade please)			
Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
AB		Tropical Riches	A great lorikeet moment. Colours, composition and technical quality are excellent. (Ray Sutton)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
B		Colours at Dawn	The mood of the dawn light really captures our attention. The sky is quite awesome. I like the breaking light burst from the sun. The water stillness has created a good reflection. On the right is a good lead line of posts into the image. We know that people live or holiday here. There is a good sense of place. I'd be inclined to crop a bit off the bottom. All in all though, this picture works.	6
B		Floral Beauty	This is quite a powerful floral visual display beside the road. Including the road, cars and some suburbia adds to the sense of place. People live here. I wonder how long you would have to wait to have a red and white car in the background to match the colors of the bougainvillea. Mirror effects like that become powerful graphic elements. The hot foreground reds are used to good advantage here.	5
B		Getting Close to the Wildlife	Remind me to come back as a rock wallaby on Magnetic Island in another life. They are doing it tough. There is a good story in this picture. It has emotional impact. You have put a good rectangle around things here. I like how the photographer on the left is really on the edge of the frame and is intently looking at the wallaby. There is a good diagonal joining them. The colour of the granite rocks matches the wallaby and that is good. Whatever the wallaby is eating stands out dramatically and that is good. Gee, that's not a high cholesterol chip – it won't be. Anyway, a good story that is well told with minimal elements. It is even therapeutic looking at it.	8
B		Peaceful Surroundings	A good pictorial. The Little Crystal Creek Bridge is great subject matter. It is much photographed. You have a good viewpoint here. I like how the concrete arch bridge looms large in the upper frame. This is a result of the low viewpoint. The waterfall has nicely blurred from the slow shutter speed. I have seen other shots of this where there is more water in the waterfall probably because it is the wet season.	7

			Longer exposure of several seconds can also add to the volume of water in the waterfall but you may need neutral density filters to get an exposure. A very pleasant image.	
B		Blue Butterfly	I like the interesting design on the butterfly. There may be a better viewpoint that surrounded the butterfly with just green. There is a thing called analogous colour harmony and green/blue are commonly used for this effect. We have a lot of hot spots that we would rather not have. The bottom left is very noticeable as are some of the whites on the butterfly. I like to see more sharpness on the butterfly.	4
B		In Your Face	The biggest challenge when photographing someone else's art is to somehow put a creative spin on it and make it your own. But how? I can't suggest a lot here other than to suggest exploring the viewpoint, lens and time of day (i.e. the lighting) options. There may be something else nearby that can become an interesting foreground or background element. I'm not sure if the sculptor is making an environmental statement with all the material under the turtle. If allowable, there could be something that you can place under the turtle to make a statement. As presented the image boldly fills the frame. I'd be inclined to darken the image down a bit.	4

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Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
B		Getting Close to the Wildlife	Everything earns its keep in this image. Good story. (Kaye Hinds)