

JUDGES REPORT

Theme Competition – August 2019 – Mode of Transport

Definition: No additional definition

Judge: Cheryl ROBERTSON

Townsville

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
A		Deep in Africa	A very competently captured scene, which does depict a mode of transport. Good composition with nice lines formed by the grassy valley and the track in the FG, and all sharp. For A Graders competence is expected, but to interpret a theme for competition requires a little extra. Instead of a static 'pose', perhaps taking off, landing, or warming up. Some action, dust flying, pilot checking the prop or kicking the tyres, for example.	6.5
A		Up in the Sky	This image is an interesting one giving us two modes of transport in one. There is good sharpness in all of the rocky cliffs, but I would have liked to see this one zoomed in more on the cars for an interpretation of the theme, because as it is, the image is really a scenery image.	6.5
A		Diamond Princess Awaiting Passengers	Another competent exposure, and the line of seagulls is quite comical, perhaps also waiting to board? A higher f/stop, closer to f/22 for example, would have made the image sharper towards the stern. Some subtle PP could have deepened the blue of the sky, giving the overall scene more punch.	6.5
A		Skyrail	I am giving this one 7 because it has more interest than the standard static 'portrait' of a bus/train/car/boat/plane. It would be nice to have sharper faces in the gondola, but that is probably not possible through the Perspex. However, looking at the metadata, I see this was taken at f/8. There was plenty of scope to have used maybe f/11 at least, which would have given sharper focus through the image. Some PP to improve contrast would help this image.	7
A		Horseback	Another image succeeding in portraying the sense of motion involved in this mode of transport. The same sort of capture but with the face of the horse and/or rider would have given it more drama, with the expressions. In this type of location, it is not always possible.	7
A		Off Road Transport	Certainly OFF road and not too sure if it is territorial transport or aviation!! Well captured. I hope the buggy didn't come down on the photographer just after this.	8

7		Enjoying the Ride	Panning to give this image a sense of motion, gives it more interest than a static capture of the rider and his bike would have done.	7
A		Feet in the Street	Definitely a mode of transport although not one I'd like on a day the bitumen is hot! Again, a sense of the motion involved has given this image more interest.	7
A		Fiordland Highway	A scene very familiar to me in my travels. It does make an interesting take on modes of transport, with cars and boats, and it is an interesting view, rather than a side of capture of a ferry going past.	7
A		Polar Expeditioner	A very pleasing scene and good that there is some human activity happening. This was taken at ISO100, shutter 1/320s and I am wondering why, unless it was on Auto mode. A higher ISO and aperture would still have allowed a fast enough shutter speed for this stationery subject, and the result would have been overall better sharpness. Again, for the purpose of interpreting this theme, it would have had stronger impact if zoomed in, for example, on the zodiac loading up beside the ship, rather than a full 'portrait' of the ship.	6.5
A		The Simple Things	Well seen as an opportunity to create an outstanding image of such a simple subject. The shapes, lines, good compositional placement, and limited palette of just three colours makes this a winner. Which just goes to show that even a static 'portrait' of a mode of transport can be an outstanding image if done with imagination. By using this viewpoint and excluding other parts of the scene such as pier or other boats, the photographer had made the most of a simple subject to demonstrate the competition theme.	8.5
A		To Market, To Market	I can't imagine this chap actually riding with so much cargo! It tells a story and the intense concentration on the man's face adds impact. A slight crop from the L and more from the R to eliminate most of the grill gate would improve the composition. In this case having the bike moving out of frame would not detract from the image's impact. The man is not moving past the camera, but almost towards the photographer and that makes the difference. If the shadow had been a more distinct shape it might have been worthy of being part of the composition.	7.5

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

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
A		The Simple Things	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looking down, instead of a full side on view, gives us the different interior colours as well as interesting lines made by the stanchions/seats. 2. The limited colour palette of red/green/blue has more impact than a busy clutter of colours.

3. The composition using simple elements has dramatic visual effect. **(Karen Grice)**

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Entering Port	This is well captured and it does show us an aspect of Townsville life that revolves around this mode of transport. Obviously coming in empty to load – Nickel perhaps? Sugar probably.	7.5
AB		Many Boats	This is a very pleasing scene, which I can't score higher because of the sky. I suspect the image was captured on an automatic setting; The aperture could have been higher instead of f/3.2, and the ISO could have been ISO200 instead of 320. The shutter speed was 1/640s which is much faster than needed for a subject that is not moving. So a lower ISO, higher f/stop and slower shutter would have capture the boats nicely and not blown out the sky.	6
AB		Fishing Tinny	I am sad to have to give this a low score because it is a good attempt to capture a nice little slice of life. However, it is all too soft, and lacking contrast. No metadata so I can't comment on the capture. The only real focus is the side of the tinny. Perhaps some adjustment in LR or similar software would bring this image up to potential.	5
AB		Take Your Pick-nic	A lot of judges might score this highly because it shows a lot of modes of transport, as well as a slice of life based around transport, and that is certainly in its favour. I would too but I find myself wanting all the horizontal and vertical lines to be straightened, because that spoils the effect. This is also an occasion when a vertical composition would have been stronger. It would have captured the Bug, the whole picnic basket, and the whole of the bike on top. It would be worth more points IMO.	6.5
AB		Carriage to the Royal Oak Hotel	Although this is a static capture, it succeeds because of the close-cropped composition which provides some visual impact, and the old sign gives it some context and hint of a story. The limited colour palette and range of textures is also very attractive.	7.5
AB		Old Wreck Graveyard	This image has interest and visual appeal. It is like a time capsule of vehicles from quite a long time ago up to not so long back.	7
AB		Travelling Light	Lovely monochrome image, very reminiscent of Ansell Adams. So much going for this image and the only reason I am not scoring it higher is that the overall image impact loses the transport theme a little.	7.5
AB		Tuk Tuk	This one is a good example of making an interesting image out of an unlikely object – the back of someone's head. It is a good choice for interpreting this theme, but it could have been done a little differently.	7

			Because the photographer must have been sitting there and the man was not really moving, a shutter speed than 1/320s, and higher f/stop, would have made the head and interior overall sharper, and blurred the street scene a little. The overall result would have been even more interesting and artistic.	
AB		Army Exercise	Quite a good capture in challenging conditions, and a good interpretation of the theme seeing we are a garrison city used to these exercises happening overhead.	7
AB		Rushour – in Townsville	Haha. Good one. I really like what the photographer is doing here although I suspect the vantage point used is possibly 'out of bounds'???. The shutter speed could have been slower to get more visual interest in the composition with its great curves. A slower shutter would have provided nice light trails, but I suspect this had to be a handheld grab rather than a tripod set up.	7.5
AB		Oops	Oops indeed. Quite pleasing composition. I'd like to see a version of this taken with an even wider aperture, if the lens allowed, focus point on the first wheel and allowing most of the rest to blur. Just because I like to approach a subject looking for all the capture possibilities.	7
AB		Waiting to Go	Interesting composition because of the use of repetition. The limited palette of red and mainly black emphasizes the repetition very well. I suggest trying a crop from the top to eliminate all the seats and a little from the right, to make it almost an abstract which would be another good composition from this one image. As it is though, it does tell the story suggested by the title.	7.5
AB		The World Never Stops Moving	An imaginative capture which interprets the theme in a different way.	7.5
AB		Yesteryear's Semi-Trailer	These certainly were the olden days semi-trailers! Sorry to say it again but this is a 'record' capture and one that is a little lacking impact for competition purposes. (Virtually the same image is all over the place on the internet). It was obviously a day with soft light, but a stationary subject does not need a shutter speed as fast as 1/320s. A slower shutter and higher f/stop would have made it overall sharper (so that the information in the sign could be easily read). However to make this a competition image, the photographer could have stood at angle (instead of square on), then could have chosen an area to focus on, (such as that forward axle) using a much wider aperture making that area the sharp point of interest while the rest was a little blurred.	6
AB		Crossing the Water	Although this image is reminiscent of another travel photo in this competition, it has a lot more giving it visual impact, largely because the passengers are more visible them enjoying the ride.	7

AB		The Slow Lane	Very nice scene and nicely captured for a holiday memory. However for competition purposes, it could have been more interesting if the ISO was lower, the shutter speed as slow as you can hold steady (certainly slower than 1/2000s) and the aperture higher, but keeping focus on the lady. This would have given the image some movement blur which would be an artistic capture of this subject.	6.5
AB		Going Down the River	Very interesting mode of transport and well captured. Some PP in LR or similar would have brought this image up to potential and perhaps a higher mark.	7.5
AB		Red Rattler	I hope that the trams in Austria don't actually rattle 😊 . Well chosen vantage point to capture a tram coming around the corner instead of just a straight side on view. For this image, the light looks good enough to have used ISO200, instead of ISO100, and still have a shutter speed fast enough to freeze a relatively slow moving subject such as a tram slowing round a corner, and have a higher f/stop to make the interesting background even sharper. The vertical lines could do with a slight adjustment to straighten them in LR or similar.	7.5

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

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
AB		Going Down the River	This image has good composition; interesting lines with the man and his pole. The subject is also an interesting slice of life in a very different way of life than ours. The actual bamboo raft is not overwhelmed by the man because each is so much part of the other. (Trevor Dunstan)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
B		Helicopter Landing Uluru	The thing that helps give this image some interest so that it is not just a run-of-the-mill helicopter 'portrait', is the passenger 'shooting' back. Some PP could have darkened the blue sky, just subtly, which would give the image more oomph. In this case it may have been impossible, but when taking an image, you may wish to use in a competition, it is a good idea to look for an angle or viewpoint that will make your image different. I note that the ISO was 500 which seems too high for such a bright morning or afternoon. Guessing the photographer wanted to freeze the action of the chopper landing and the blades, but in fact a slightly slower shutter allowing the blades to blur a little, would have given it more visual impact.	5.5
B		New Life for Old Mode of Transport	Great sentiment in the title and overall an interesting scene. The sky has areas of strong colour aberration around trees, which could have been improved in PP.	5.5

			For a competition image, if possible in the location, it would have been better to either choose a different place to take the image from, or zoom in to just one boat against the old structure. Remember when on holiday, to look at your subjects with two different sets of eyes, one for image you want as a memento in your holiday photo book, and one that analyses the scene with competition standard in mind.	
B		Singapore Duck	Not easy to choose a different viewpoint in this situation. Quite a good capture of the moment. Some PP would have given the sky more oomph.	6
B		Steam Train	A very nice capture of this train as it is, although for competition, it would have more punch with a crop.	7
B		Coming into the Station	Candid captures like these are always a challenge, but this would have been a good interpretation of the theme. However the subject, the train, is all a little soft. The shutter speed of 1/100s was not really fast enough for this subject, and it was taken at ISO 80 which is too low for the shady conditions of the location, and the aperture of f/3.5 was too shallow to help with getting good sharp focus. A higher ISO of at least 400, would have allowed a better aperture setting and still a fast shutter speed.	5.5
B		Old Smokey	This has potential. As it is it is a nice holiday or day out. The main subject is nice and sharp and nicely 'posed' that his coming forward with some of the carriages and steam trailing. The thing that would make it a standout shot worth another point or two, would be a closer crop. Sometimes we forget that we don't need the whole object to tell the viewer what something is and to interpret the theme.	6.5
B		Timeless Travel Amongst Ancient Monument	Nicely composed, captured with the main subject against the pyramids as a backdrop and the people add interest and balance in the composition. Some PP would have lightened the people in the buggy to give them a little detail and the sky could be improved by Post Processing.	7.5

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Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
B		Timeless Travel Amongst Ancient Monuments	Good composition, an uncluttered background which provides context and interest, while still celebrating the main subject. (Phensri Rutledge)