

JUDGES REPORT

2024 September - Open
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Image Title	Comments	Score
Budding Beauty	Simple, stark and superb.	7
Colourful Flower	Spectacular colour. Would bringing out the blue part of the flower have added to the image. (Add a Brightness layer. Overdo the brightness to really bring out the stamen. Paint the entire layer mask black to remove the effect. Then using a small 25% white brush bring out the blue stamen. If the effect is too much, lessen it with the opacity slider.) Nicely shot.	6
Last Sun at Lake Wanaka	A different view of the famous tree. This is very well thought out. The bold processing is interesting. Possibly a bit of over sharpening shows on the bottom of the tree against the blues. But effect is so different to the normal.	5
Terns at Breakfast Time	Beautiful. First thought, the chick hasn't got its mouth open begging. Is it swallowing the first snack? The parent is beautifully shot.	8
Catch Me if You Can	Different. The grungy effect of the overlay does suit the image well. Thoughtfully processed.	6
End of the Line at Poppet Head	A nostalgic story. The close in shot feels slightly tight. Would having given space at the end of the trackway on the left have made the image feel more complete?	5
Milky Way at Deep Creek	Nicely shot. This demonstrates very good technique.	7
Sunrise at Deep Creek	A very pretty image. It catches the time of day nicely.	5
Morning Fog in the Bay	A feeling of loneliness. The eye is drawn through the image wondering where the gentleman is going. Would this feeling have been much, much, stronger if the second figure had been cloned out? A powerful image.	8
Not Moo-vin Far	Beautiful. A feel of peace. A very relaxed image.	7
Alpine Flower in Frost	Simply spectacular. Caught at the right time.	9
Morning mist Along Magnetic Island	A nice shot, radiating a feel of a relaxed peaceful morning.	6
A New Day at Woodleigh Station	The image has that feel of morning. You could almost imagine the sound of the dawn chorus of the birds starting their day. Has the image been a little over sharpened? Looking inside the trees against the sky, particularly on the left, there are very bright artifacts. This may be lessened by using two layers with the sharpened layer masked out in these areas or by adding a layer and running over it with a grey brush, A nice image.	4

Eye See You	He looks to be making a statement of claim to this area. You have captured the rooster hard at work, simply being a rooster.	7
A Sad Sight Now	Pathos. The problem of a large country where we have loved ones scattered about and aren't there to look after their resting places. Would dropping the brightness slightly to compensate for the harsh light have brought out more detail in the grass and fence? A nice social documentary.	7
Keep It Simple	Very minimalistic. This was looked at several times before commenting. Both the "noise" and the border lift it and really add to the whole image.	8
Close Encounter of the Shark Kind	A different image. The expressions are a little puzzle. Is it a case of "This is how I look frozen?" Well thought out to go the monochrome as it highlights the sharks nicely. Lovely family image.	5
Family Time Out	Wow. Both the subjects and the light. Simply magnificent image.	8
Filling the Larder	The classic puffin image. Possibly lightening the eyes a little to bring out the colour there may help. Very well seen and shot.	7
Royal Spoonbill	Beautifully shot.	7
Not a Place to Be	Well titled. The image has set the story up perfectly. He's down. The bull is still bucking and, luckily, isn't really interested in the rider. And then the clown on his way to make it all safe. The whole story. The image shows the power of the bull, the skill of the clowns and the atmosphere. Excellent.	7
Striving to Win	Good action shot. The rider hanging on the inside stirrup, then catching both front hooves off the ground and the power of the turning horse lifting the dust sets the story. Would a bit of judicious lightening and darkening have added to the story? Darken the light showing through the hessian and lighten the horse's face. Really well-timed shot.	6
Hervey Range Milky Way	Wow. Nicely set up and well executed image.	8
Townsville Sunset	Mind blowing colour and light.	9
A Gathering of Pelicans	A nicely bunched group. An image of colours and shapes. The different angles on the bills and the different colorings give a lot of different points of interest. A good image.	5
Lake Wanaka in Autumn	A good blend of the autumn colour and the tree. The rugged hills in the background add the final splash with that little sunlit area. An image of contrasts. Nicely shot.	7
Great White Pelican	Well caught. The colours on the bird are incredible. The sheer size of the wingspan is evident and the water weed adds context. Wonderful shot.	7
Sea Cliff Jetty	Simple. Just shoot a timed image. This has been done perfectly. It captures a lazy relaxed time.	8

Airborne	Nice shot of the bee-eater. Overall the image feels a little soft. Was it cropped out of a larger image? The colours are quite superb and the form of the bird is good. A nice image.	4
Breakfast	A wonderfully timed shot. Add the coloration on the bird and it lifts the image to another level. Excellent.	9
Cape Leeuwin WA	A calm bay for the location. The layering in the image is well done, giving a good focus on the center where the waves are breaking. Some halo is visible along the horizon. This could be cloned out using a 3 or 4 pixel clone brush. Would a Levels layer with the Midtones darkened have popped the foreground rocks more. A good travel memory.	4
Wave Rock	Nice travel shot.	6
Full Spread	Power and control. This is one of the best angles to catch a raptor flying. Looking at the white areas, there is some detail, but it is mostly blown out. Consider reprocessing and in CameraRAW lower the Highlights and increase the Whites, this should restore detail in the feathers without dropping the brilliant whites. There is a little halo evident around the pinion feathers at the end of the wings. Possibly sharpen a bit less or clone this out with a very small brush. Captured majesty.	5
Mt Cook	A very strong bold image of the skyline. The mountain really dominates, particularly with its brightness. A wonderful travel image to remember the trip.	5
Cheetah Brothers on the Lookout	Nice. Well shot, capturing the sheer concentration of the cats. The light is not kind here. Would a Curves layer with the line pulled down from about 1/3 of the along have darkened the image, added colour and popped the cats out of the background? (Light is the enemy of colour. Often reducing light lifts colour and perceived detail) A nice shot	8
The Start of the Migration	Quirky and different.	8

Image of the Month

Image Title	Reason for Placing
Townsville Sunset	On the first flick through this image popped out. Then on subsequent closer looking at the image, it was the way the whole image fits together. The sky, Castle Hill and the buildings compliment each other. (Brian Dean)