

JUDGES REPORT

2024 November - Open

Judge - Hans Schmidt - Maryborough

ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
8	Backlit Flower	This is a lovely effect; the black background is perfectly suited to this and the lighting adds a glow to the flowers. Compositionally I think I would have left it to forward facing flowers only. The sideways flower at the left looks out of place; also, with a set piece like this I would suggest the highest fstop to give maximum depth of field to have all the flower petals in focus.	6
8	Pounding Waves	I like the panoramic format; the exposure is well handled with good tonal range. The focus is rather soft on the opposite headland with the people. The focus seems to have been placed on the nearer headland which is quite crisply detailed. Whilst I normally also don't like unassociated branches intruding into the image, in this case the branches at the right actually provide a lead for the viewer's attention onto the headland with people, it is unfortunate that they are unfocussed.	5
9	From the Gully to the Light	An interesting landscape with varied exposure requirements, not an easy scene to get right. It would have been preferable to expose for the highlight and open the shadows in post process. There is a lack of sharp focus on the scene and the bright unfocused areas tend to draw the attention.	4
9	Park With Stream in Autumn	A lovely peaceful scene which has been well captured however your processing has been over saturated, the old adage of a little bit goes a long way is worth applying.	4
12	Giant Mushroom	Good bit of costuming and the exposure control has ensured no blown highlights. Focus is rather soft.	6
12	Suh-car-da or Si-kay-da	Quite a good closeup of the grasshopper, the image has been well exposed so there are no blown highlights. The focus is a bit soft and it looks like the point of focus is on the body between the legs. The depth of field would seem to be very shallow and the head looks quite soft as is the end of the wing.	6
16	Lighting the Fire	Well captured image of the farmer against the cane fire. The exposure is a little bit over with the white sections of the flame lacking detail. The focus looks to have been placed on the left of the image which has softened the	7

		silhouette of the farmer and the rest of the image to the right. I like the bits of ash flying away.	
16	Milky Way Over the Bridges	Quite an effective image although I think the bridges are too close and they exhibit a lot of noise in the shadow areas. The milky way looks to be well processed.	6
18	Waterlily 1	Good control with a well-placed focus point. The flowers are well placed in the composition and covered by the depth of field. The lily on the right looks crisply detailed and the nearly monochrome colour of the pads make the flowers stand out well	6
18	Waterlily 2	A nice study of the lily, focus has been well placed on the centre of the flower which is crisply detailed. I like that you have parts of the lily reflection under the pads.	8
22	Grand Canal Venice	A nice memory of a visit. The scene gives a sweeping view of the city; however I think the dome in the foreground grabbed the cameras focus and left the rest of the image soft. In this sort of situation switching to manual focus or focus locking would be a definite advantage.	6
22	Red Rocks of Kangaroo Island	A rather interesting rock feature. The image is well controlled and has good focus throughout. The repetitious feature leads the eye along to the right which looks like the main rock is about to bite the smaller rock. I would have preferred a bit more landscape at the right, for me it is too tight to the edge of the frame, since the eye lands at that point.	7
23	In a Reflective Mood	Interesting composition to have the spider's reflection as well. It makes for a bit of close inspection by the viewer. There is good focus on the eyes however the exposure has blown the highlights of the spider's hairs which now overshadow the details	4
23	Past My Prime but Still Hanging in There	A lovely capture of the passionfruit flower, good exposure and focus, with detail all the way from the anther through to the rear and the stem. Lovely image	9
27	A Bunch of Beauties	A nice cluster of frangipanis, A little uneven with the lighting, there is good detail in the flowers although the lower flowers are soft probably due to the depth of field being a bit shallow. I would also suggest the leaf section at the left could be carefully removed, best done when taking the image.	7
27	Get Outa my Face	I like the angle of the image taking a building from a low angle. The building has good detail although quite noisy as is the black backdrop. I don't think the low cloud really works in this; gives the impression the building should be on a mountain. The palm fronds on the right don't really work for me.	5
33	A Tasty Morsel	A lovely shot of the cockatoo. The background bokeh frames the head beautifully which is sharp and focused.	8

		The exposure is a touch on the high side with some of the claw being a bit over however this is relatively minor. I would suggest a small crop upwards to remove the blurry piece of plant still leaving the heel of the claw in place.	
33	Not Sleepy	One of the better poses by a Koala, at least the eyes are showing. I like the backlighting which gives it more interest although there is a loss of detail in the fur at the edges. The focus is a bit soft and it looks like there is a considerable bit of noise visible on the nose. This should be addressed in post processing.	6
42	Courtship	Lovely pose of the birds on the branch. The branch looks somewhat overprocessed particularly the lower right section which is lacking detail. The birds are very noisy with lack of sharpness which is quite different to the blue-sky background. Also looking closely at the edges of the birds there is a line of green surrounding them indicative of a cutout.	4
42	Watching	Well captured image of the bird, the bird's head is well detailed although the focus is soft. The exposure has been well controlled although I think that depth of field is too shallow which would account for the soft focus.	6
47	Dragonfly	Well captured dragonfly, the background serves to highlight it well. The focus is a little on the soft side. A higher fstop would likely have helped to increase the depth of field to cover more of the wings.	6
47	Heading for the Barrel	Well focused and exposed image of the girl and horse. There is good detail in the girl and the horse and they stand out well from the background. The barrel section at the left of the image provides the reason for the ride and there is good detail in the dust kicking up. Lovely image.	8
50	Brown Falcon Landing	An interesting grab with the falcon and the handler well framed against the green background. The main issue with the composite is the cutting out of the man and the falcon. Looking at the edges of the subjects, there are clear areas of the previous background and parts of the falcon's tail feathers are missing.	4
50	Metal Magpie Can't Be Shooed	A great composition with the swooping magpie. The exposure on the main image has been well controlled albeit the focus is a bit soft. The swooping magpie has good detail in the body and wing; however the original background is still there around the edges, masking needs to be very carefully done to integrate effectively.	4
56	Anemone on the Reef	Interesting image, the lighting is always an issue in the aquariums, you get that purplish light on the background. The front part of the anemone has been	5

		well focused and is sharp and detailed whilst the fish and the left section has a rapid drop-off of focus.	
56	Water Lily in a Pond	Quite a nicely detailed image of the lily. The exposure is well controlled so that all the yellow stamens are individually detailed. The blue of the petals makes for an effective background to highlight the central part of the flower.	7
60	Always Alert	Nicely captured in situ with the landscape stretching beyond. the focus looks a little on the soft side with particularly on the head of the giraffe.	6
60	Black Rhinos	A lovely detailed nature shot of the Rhinos. The exposure is well controlled and the focus is well placed from the foreground to past the animals. Only criticism I have is the close cropping has put both their faces virtually at the sides of the image so the viewer's attention is split between them, not always possible to get the pose you want.	7
66	Hungry Mouths	A lovely image of the mother feeding her baby. The exposure has been well handled with focus on the eye of both birds. There is good detail on the body of the mother and the head of the infant. My only criticism is the noise in the background.	8
66	Singing His Heart Out	A well exposed image with good focus and detail on the bird's body. The focus is well placed on the eye which is quite sharp and has a nice catchlight. Depth of field could be a bit larger to bring the lower twig into better focus. The even blue background makes the twig stand out and draws some of the viewers' attention away from the subject.	7
128	At Chinese New Year	A lovely model dressed for the part. I like the pose with the fan just covering a small part of her face. The focus on the face is soft and the lighting uneven with the left side a bit too shadowed. My main concern is the lampshade behind her looks like it is enveloping her head which is unfortunate. It is always worth checking the background particularly in portraiture.	5.5
128	On Alert	Nice image of the cheetahs in the wild. Exposure looks well controlled and I like the positioning of the cats to the left of centre. Depth of field is very evident with the band of focus across the middle. I would suggest a crop up from the bottom to eliminate most of the out of focus foreground.	6
138	Lipth, What Lipth	Good funny nature shot, well controlled exposure and staying parallel has ensured that most of the body is in focus. The focus has been placed on the nose and tongue so that there is a slight drop off in focus going back to the body. Well done.	7

138	Striding With Purpose	Well taken image with the focus nicely placed on the leopard's face, whilst the focus point isn't the eye they are detailed and have sufficient focus. The depth of field covers the cat very well and the background is nicely blurred to isolate the cat.	7
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Image of the Month

ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
23	Past My Prime but Still Hanging in There	Very well taken image. Deserving of the score. (Sharryl Whiting)