

JUDGES REPORT

2022 – July - Open

Judge: Victoria Purdie
Brisbane

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
A		Fun in the Surf	Another nice shot taken at the beach. Level horizon and I like the addition of the kids to give the shot from extra life.	8
A		Safe Landing	Nice clear and sharp shot. Good save action. Well done.	8
A		Coming through the grass trees	When I zoom in on this one it doesn't appear the man in the frame is very sharp and I think he ruins the shot as your eye wants to wander down the brown pathway but is blocked by the guy staring at the viewer. If he was facing away from the camera walking away it would have been better or shoot the scene without him in it. The trees are nice but it's lacking a bit of sharpness overall.	6
A		Knotted roots	Not a bad shot just not that interesting for a competition as there's no special lighting or action happening but okay as a record shot of nature.	7
A		Book Worm	A lovely portrait. You've just scraped in there getting separate from her brown hair colour and the dark background. Lightening up your shadows in post-production would give you more separation so she doesn't blend in so much. Nice catchlights in her eyes and a good pose that suits the title.	8
A		Down on the farm	I love this one. So restful to look at. Sky is amazing too. I like your composition that isn't too close so we can feel a sense of restfulness gazing at this image. Makes you wonder if anyone lives there or once did. Nice landscape. Great effort.	9
A		Free as a Bird	You certainly got lots of birds in this one shot. Nice level horizon. Bird at the bottom of the frame is half in and out and is overexposing on his white feathers, so just watch that and step one step back if you can get more completely in. Nice water and overall, a pretty good shot.	8
A		Grand Canal Venice	I was just there last week in Venice, and it is amazing. This is a fantastic shot. You've got even cropping on the left, nice clouds with both stormy drama and sunset colour and a gondola in the frame showing some action. Beautiful shot. One for the wall.	9
A		Three Mums in the Rain	Interesting you've gone for the backs of the flowers instead of the fronts for something different. I like the trio of three. Cropping is good and even all around.	9

			Nice addition of the water drops. Could have a little more even space around all three but that's a minor issue. The flowers themselves are nice and sharp and presented well.	
A		Xanthostemon Chrysanthus flowers	I like this colour version much more than the black and white version as you can see more detail in the centre flowers. Nice composition. The white background isn't very white, but it can be hard to photograph white as it often comes out grey unless it's lit separately to keep it really white or fixed in post-production.	8
A		Keeping Watch	This one is more cropped in but a little too heavy. Needs a bit more space around the tail feathers and top of the head. The bird itself it posed nicely but it just feels too squashed in the frame.	7
A		Mates	Nice clear shot of a Pelican and his mates. Some of them have their heads or bodies blocked but it's hard to organize them into a clear formation. Well done to get the scene before they all departed. Nice cropping and a good sharp shot.	8
A		Early Morning visitor	This is lovely. Great colours and action captured. Nice work on a white flower which can often overexpose showing no detail in the whites. You have handled this well. You could crop in a bit heavier and focus right on that bee to see how that would look, but it's nice as it is too.	9
A		I am Just Looking for Food	Interesting bird and good pose with the red framed eye turned towards the camera. Gets a little lost in the branches so cropping in could help the viewer appreciate the bird easier. But nice shot of the bird. Sharp and clear.	8
A		Bees on a Waterlily	Wonderful flower study with the bees in there both flying and resting on the petals. Great colours and good composition. Nice lighting too which is gentle and not harsh.	9
A		Look at Me	Nice clear shot with good composition and action captured. I bet you were pleased when the bird spread their wings right in front of you. Lighting is pretty nice too. No harsh shadows or overexposed parts. Nicely done shot.	9
A		Caspian Tern	Great bird study. Nice sky, pose and catchlight in the bird's eye.	9
A		Golden Kite	A well composed bird shot. You certainly know how to capture birds in flight. Nice use of space in the frame and a catchlight in the eye.	9
A		The Tool Team	Not a terribly exciting subject but maybe that's because I'm a female judge ha-ha. I would have gone for the ones on the left and skipped the ones on the right as they are very close to the edge of the frame and there's a little shadow creeping in there. Focusing on the left ones and cropping evenly would make for a stronger	7

			image. Could look more interesting and dramatic in black and white.	
A		Windmill Needing Work	I like this version better than the heavily cropped silhouette version. The composition is much more relaxing with lots of open space to enjoy. Colours are nice.	8
A		Bridges	Interesting scene but I think you should have included a bit more of the floor area with the people as they look a bit cut off. Either include them all or exclude them all rather than part of them and half bodies. Nice architecture to photograph but just watch your framing a bit more.	7
A		Low tide	I see what you were trying to do here putting the rock on the thirds, but I just find it rather uninteresting and a barrier to enjoying the nice light at the top on the scene.	7
A		She Loves the Water	Children images tend to look like snapshots in photography competitions and even though this is well done it does tend to look that way. Nicely exposed, good action captured though and a clear sharp image. Just the foot posing above the head is a bit distracting and would look better if the foot was down. I'm sure she would be happy to pose for you again. As a family record shot for her baby album, it's great.	7
A		Sunrise Paddle	I like how you've broken the supposed photography rules of not putting your subject in the centre. In this case it works well. I love your square shape and the way the water reflects at the bottom and moves at the top with some wave action caught by the paddle. Nice example of a silhouette. Just a couple of dark spots in the water far right you could tidy up to make it even more perfect.	9

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

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
A		Grand Venice Canal	Beautiful image, well composed with action and interesting clouds. Knowing how crowded it is there, I feel you positioned yourself perfectly for this shot and nailed it at the right time of day. (Elsbeth Twyman)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Emu needs a comb	This is a great shot. You've deliberately focused on his head for a portrait, and I love portraits that are horizontal giving him space to gaze into. The background of blue, green and orange tones is nice too and out of focus as it should be to make the Emu shine. Bit of digital noise in there showing up on the background but overall, a great shot.	9

AB		Skink of the Brigalow Belt	Nice and sharp where it counts and that's on the Skinks eye. Bit of a harsh shadow up above but that's to be expected shooting in bright light. Bit of foliage at the front to overcome but you've done well to get the subject sharp and shoot over the foliage.	7
AB		Batty Kinda Morning	I've always wanted to shoot these guys but haven't managed to find any, so you have done well here. The composition against the blue sky is nice. The only thing is the lighting was quite bright it seems, so the bats faces are in shade on their right-hand sides. In post-production you could see if you could lighten the shadows to bring out more detail so we can see their cute little faces. Worth spending more time with these guys in different lighting scenarios if you are able and see what else you can capture.	8
AB		Water filled Bromeliad	Nicely composed shot with your subject being dead in the centre which works for a shot like this. Some of the red is very saturated meaning it loses detail in it. I don't know if that was done in post-production or at the time. Bit of a smudge on the red to the right as well which could be a cloning issue or maybe it was there at the time. Not a bad effort overall.	6
AB		Playing in the Sand	Interesting subject. Would have been great if he was standing alone without the other one behind him crowding his space, but you have to get what you can get when shooting in places like this. Could crop a bit off the top too to get rid of the wire fence post there. Nice even lighting and good colour and sharpness.	7
AB		Walking into the Garden	Not a bad shot. Nice and sharp. Subject isn't terribly interesting, but you've done a good job on it.	6
AB		Peli and friends	Just missed the feet on this guy. I like shooting Pelicans too as they are big to get focus on and not small and fast like some other birds. Stepping back a little would have gotten the Pelicans feet all in and that bird top right who is missing a head. Good to have all the birds in or out of the frame but not half and half. The black guys are lacking detail in some parts, but you were shooting both black and white in the same bright light so to be expected.	6
AB		Pheasant coucal	What a cool bird to shoot. Just missed the bottom of the tail feathers so you could crop it deliberately right up to just under where the wing starts and focus in on that eye which is a great part of the image. I like how it is posing for you and the exposure has been well handled with a catch light in the bird's eye which is always necessary.	7
AB		Freshie	This guy just entered the sun as you took the shot, and his face is blown out on the right-hand side and is lacking detail there. Be better if he was all in the shade. Looks a little out of focus from his middle towards his tail too so a bigger F stop would give you more depth of	5

			field to get him more in focus. Good attempt but just watch your subjects and how the light is falling on them before you click the shutter. A good thing to do for all portraits or photographic subjects is to practice how the light is falling or if it's casting shadows or overexposing. Get used to seeing it with your eyes then when you have a camera in your hand, you will naturally see how the light is falling.	
AB		Pretty in pink	A pretty subject and you've chosen a good specimen to shoot. The cropping is a little uneven. It's okay to be different on each side but it has to work with the eye. I probably would have composed it with a bit more space at the bottom and a touch less on the right-hand side effectively putting it into a nice off-centre space. Colours are good though.	7

IMAGE OF THE MONTH (ONE only for each Grade please)			
Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
AB		Emu Needs a Comb	Nice portrait and great lighting (Bob Hinds)