

# JUDGES REPORT

2022 – June - Open

Judge: Roberta Edwards

Toowoomba

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
A		Mushrooms	Lovely textures in the mushrooms. The focus is on the centre left white mushroom leaving the front of the larger one and the rear of the smaller white one a tad soft. With 3 mushrooms down the left side in size order and the extra 2 tucked in beside them creates a nice triangular shape to the composition. I feel that cropping half the grass off the right side may improve the composition to gain a higher score. The early morning dew in the grass adds that little extra to the story. Nicely seen and captured.	7
A		Pretty Flowers	Lovely flowers, gorgeous colours, beautifully sharp image. There are a couple of bright patches, one at the base of the yellow flower and the other between the yellow flower's stem and the pink flower on the right. These could easily be corrected in post. As could the small feathery patch on the right of the top petal on the right flower. I like the rule of odds or rule of threes in play here. The light has been handled well and the leaves are nicely subdued to give the subjects centre stage.	8
A		Airlie Beach	Lovely relaxing scene. The horizon is not quite straight. Nice rich colours, although some detail has been lost in the blacks. I have been told, 'if it's not moving – bracket' to get the full dynamic range to keep detail in the darks and highlights. The image is sharp and clear. Perhaps cropping the foreground by about half would improve the composition of this image.	6
A		City at Night	Lovely night scape of Townsville. Nice view from the bottom of Castle Hill through to the docks. The image is well focused with good detail in the lighter buildings and streets. Lovely starbursts in the streetlights. The buildings on the left look to be leaning slightly out of the image, whereas the tall building on the right looks vertical. Perhaps some perspective correction would help here. Maybe a slightly longer exposure would also bring back some of the detail in the darker areas.	7

A		Gateway	Gateway to where? Makes you wonder... Lovely textures in the rocks. The inner sanctum is quite dark and much of the lovely detail in the rocks has been lost. The image is a bit soft and grainy and the sky at the other end is quite bright. With the black and white treatment of this image, toning down the bright sky would not stand out as much as it would in a colour image. I am wondering if the image has a lean to the right or is that just the impression from the sloping rock formations. From the footprints in the sand, this looks like a well-trodden path through the gateway.	7
A		Untamed	Wild and untamed indeed. Lovely detail in the foliage, lovely textures in the wooden shack. The story is the foliage and the shack. Half of the sky could be cropped as it is not adding to the story. Perhaps a square crop with the shack on the upper right power intersection would make this a stronger image. Sharp throughout, good depth of field.	7
A		Calligraphy in the Making	Calligraphy is an art and requires a steady hand and concentration and this gentleman's face says it all. Lovely sharp image, nice colours, and great detail throughout.	9
A		Life in Concrete	I like the triangular composition with the green shoot placed on the top right power intersection. Lots of texture in the concrete. Looking at it I can feel every single bump and divot on the soles of my feet. The image is sharp, the concrete is nicely lit, which shows the crack between the two slabs as a deep dark chasm where anything could live. Well seen and I like the out of the box thinking here.	8
A		Approaching Storm	Beautiful colours, clear sharp image. Those clouds currently give me the feeling of dread as we have had so much rain lately, I am starting to get cabin fever. The bright red and orange foliage at the front right is a little soft, possibly from movement in the breeze. The two tiny bright spots on the upper right edge could have easily been cloned or cropped out.	6
A		Palmetum Waterlily	Lovely vibrant colours on the flower and the leaves. I love the sneak peek of the new flower emerging from the bud on the left. The bees collecting the pollen from the open flower is a beautiful addition to the story. However, the low ceiling to the image gives me a claustrophobic feeling. I think it needs a little more breathing room above the blossom. The flower is clear and in focus and the not so blurred background give context to the scene. I like the addition of the third bud just poking out of the water to show three stages of growth in the waterlily.	8

A		Some Might Argue These Are Too Late	The wind turbines are nicely placed on the left thirds line for a classic composition. I like the grainy overlay. It tells the story of a wasted and polluted world that needs help to restore it to its former glory. The colour of the sky has been chosen well to portray this. The grainy overlay gives the image an overall consistent hue and texture and brings the image together.	9
A		Surely Was a Lot of Water!	This is a good documentary image of the aftermath of the floods depicting a 44-gallon drum so high in the tree, which itself is high above the river below. The tree on the left with the darker foliage and the thick branch crossing the corner aren't doing the image any favours. I wonder if a portrait mode centring on the drum and the river would make for a stronger image, as it is currently somewhat lost in amongst the foliage of the tree. Perhaps even trying some selective colouring to have the coloured drum stand out from the muted foliage. The focus and depth of field are good. The image is sharp throughout.	6
A		Contemplating	The eye is sharp with lovely catchlight. There is some loss of detail in the blacks of this bird. The highlights in the background could have been toned down so as not to be quite so distracting. Perhaps there could have been a little more room on the right as that is where the bird is looking.	6
A		Little Kingfisher	What a sweet little kingfisher. Eye is sharp and clear with a lovely catchlight. Background is delightfully blurred, but the highlights are just a bit bright and tend to distract from the subject a little. Perhaps toning them down in post would alleviate this. Lovely detail in the bird's feathers, and nice textures in the branch.	8
A		Black Swan Swimming	Swans are quite graceful birds, and this black swan does not disappoint. The lighting is good, revealing lots of detail in the feather. The eye is nice and sharp as is the whole bird. The ripples in the water are a lovely touch and definitely add to the story of the swan swimming around the pond. The bright spot in the reflection behind the swan could have been cloned out and the leaf poking down from the top centre is a bit of a distraction and could possibly be either cropped or cloned out. Both adjustments would have added to the score.	7
A		Jostling for Position	I have never watched a game of polocrosse, but I imagine it would be very fast paced and exciting. The subjects are clear and focused, lots of detail in the horses and the players. The crop feels a bit too restrictive as the horse on the right is up against the side of the image. Perhaps leaving a bit more room around the action to give them room to manoeuvre would have improved this image. Good depth of field and the colours could do with a little boost in vibrance and contrast.	7

A		Mitre Peak Milford Sound	Beautiful colours with the pink glow of the sunrise or sunset in the clouds. This is another place to go on my bucket list. The clouds give the viewer a sense of scale to these mountain peaks. The focus is on the central mountains bringing out the nice detail in the foliage. The story in this image is Mitre Peak and the pink sky. So, I am wondering if cropping the mountain and the valley on the left to bring main subject to the thirds line would emphasise the majesty of Mitre Peak and the pink glow in the clouds and the reflection in the water.	7
A		News on the Computer	Not something I would expect to see, but I suppose it is rarer not to see computers these days. Lovely sharp image, lots of textures and detail and lovely colours. All three gentlemen are totally engrossed in what is on the screen. The perspective in this image feels a little off. The brick column on the right is nicely vertical, but the columns to the left look as though they are leaning away from the centre of the image. This can be easily corrected in post.	7
A		Fly Past	The eye has a lovely catchlight. The bird seems a bit soft overall, but you did manage to get some good detail in its feathers, especially the tail feathers. When photographing animals, birds' insects etc it is very important that the eyes are sharply focused. I am not sure if this was panned or captured as a fly-by. Either way, I understand the difficulty of capturing this image. If this was a fly-by capture, perhaps trying a panning shot even at a high shutter speed may have helped with the focus.	7
A		Welcome Swallow	Such a cute little bird. The eye is nicely sharp with a little catchlight. The back of the bird is quite dark and there is some loss of detail on the back of the neck and head. Nice detail in the rest of the feathers. Perhaps narrowing the aperture a little to get a deeper depth of field would get more of the swallow in focus. The background highlights are distracting. Lovely rich colours and plenty of room for the bird to move into.	7
A		Fruit Bat Falls	One day, I will get up to the cape. I will definitely put this on my list of places to go. Nice image of the river and the waterfall. Nice detail in the water below the falls. Some of the detail in the dark patch in the centre could have been brought back in post. The image seems to be well focused. Shame the trees are blocking some of the view.	6

<b>A</b>		Isolated Mangrove	Lovely colours, nice detail and nice textures. I feel the image is ever so slightly soft, especially in the tree, but I imagine it was probably quite windy. Mangroves are strange creature in that they have roots coming from all parts of the tree. You have managed to capture a lot of detail in the roots. The placement of the horizon has defined the point between the top of the tree and the trunk and root system. I imagine this point on the trunk to be the high tide point for the tree. Take care to get the tree, especially the roots, sharply in focus next time.	6
<b>A</b>		Heading Home	Lovely perspective of this lady walking home across the bridge. Lovely splash of blue from the umbrella in an otherwise cold and dreary scene. The leading lines of the railings along the sides and the line up the centre of the bridge take the viewer's focus directly to the lady and the blue umbrella. The continuation of the railings over the hump of the bridge has the viewer asking what is on the other side. We can see a mobile tower and a tree, but what else is there? The image is sharp and clear. With this scene the loss of detail in her black jacket is not a problem.	9
<b>A</b>		That's Hilarious!	Quite hilarious indeed. The focus is on the pelican at the back with his beak up in the air and open while the other bird is a little soft. Is the pelican waiting for a fish to drop out of the sky for his lunch or is he in the process of swallowing his catch? The eye is sharp and the colours are good. There is little to no detail in the black feather of either bird, but the rest of the feather detail is good. The hero of the story is definitely the pelican in the rear as the rocks on the right are sloping up towards him as are the row of dots along the upper left and the front pelican seems to be looking at him as well.	7

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

<b>Grade</b>	<b>ID</b>	<b>Image Title</b>	<b>Reason for Placing</b>
<b>A</b>		Heading Home	I like the symmetry, the leading lines and the splash of colour the stands out, all playing their part to grab the attention of the viewer. <b>(Karen Grice)</b>

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
-------	----	-------------	----------	-------

AB		A Nice Drop of Water	Nice waterfall image. I like the slow shutter to get the silky water. Good detail and textures in the moss and lichen on the rocks. I feel the debris dead centre on the rock detracts from the image. Perhaps this could have been removed from the spot before taking the image. The tree branch poking in from the right side also detracts from the soothing feel of the running water. There could even be two images here; the top part from just below the central rock and above, and the bottom part from the top of the central rock and below. I do like the dark rock at the top right – it looks like the face of a dog or a bear leaning in looking for a drink.	7
AB		Rainforest Light and Shade	Lovely cool relaxing place to be. Plenty of detail and textures in the rocks and bridge on the right side of the image, but this has been lost in the shadows on the left. Beautiful cool colours in the water. Perhaps revisiting this place at a different time of day (if possible) would give a very different feel to this image with the different light. The very large rock bottom right is quite bright on the top and tends to block the view of the lovely colours in the water.	8
AB		Ooo Cheeky! No, it's not a Mullet	Lovely catchlight in the eye. The focus seems to be centred on the neck leaving the rest of him a little soft. Try not to have a horizontal line crossing through behind the subject, especially near the head or face, as to tends to cut the subject. He seems quite curious as to what the photographer is doing. Nicely framed off centre giving him room, as I feel he might be about to move to the left to get a better look at what is going on.	7
AB		Who, What, When, Why – War!	This looks like a display in a museum. Usually taking photos of another person's work is a no-no in competitions. Is the green lighting/colouring representative of night vision? Nice detail in the soldier's uniform and equipment vest. It is hard to tell if the background was already soft and grainy or if the depth of field and low light has made it look like that. I do like the splash of red in the background to break up all the green.	6
AB		Jugs from the Past	I think I recognise a couple of these jugs from my childhood. It certainly brings back memories of having to change the element in the one we had. Nicely arranged eclectic collection. It would have been nice to see the jug out of the box at the back left. Please be mindful of your focal points. The centre front 2 jugs are focused but the side and rear jugs are a little soft. If you can adjust the focal points in your camera, for an image like this you should use as many focal points as possible – the little squares that appear in the view finder as you press the shutter to focus and take the image. The lighting seems a little flat, possibly from using a flash.	6

AB		Visit to the Book Shop	Lovely image of what looks to be a small country or suburban book shop. You don't often see such lovely tiling on a footpath anymore. Nicely focused getting the subject sharp. Good depth of field. The bike looks like it isn't going anywhere in a hurry as the tyres look flat. The crop could have been brought out a fraction on the left side and the bottom as the bike has lost the end of the mud guard and the back tyre is sitting on the edge of the image. I feel it needs a little more room, not much, perhaps just another inch or two. This image gives lovely relaxing feeling of spending hours browsing through the book shop.	9
AB		Floral Cascade	This is a lovely cascade of what looks like Jasmine, but I could be wrong. Your choice of aperture is good as it has the whole cascade in focus while blurring out the background. The bright stick in the background could be darkened down a little as it tends to stand out, as could the brighter greenery across the bottom. The two leaves at the top in front of the flowers could have been tucked behind to get a better view of the flowers, or perhaps you could have moved around to the right a bit.	7
AB		Waterlily	Beautiful image of a waterlily. Great detail in both the lily and the wasp. The background looks a bit busy as it could have been blurred a little more with a shallower depth of field. Lovely colours in the lavender petals and the yellow centre. The subject is sharp and well placed in the image.	8
AB		Looking at You	Such a cute creature. But I wouldn't want to get on his bad side. Nicely framed, well focused to get good detail in the hair, except on the right side of the nose where it is very bright and blown out. The eyes are nice and sharp with a very subtle catchlight. The vignetting is a bit too defined around the edge. There are a couple of ways to do this more effectively. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drop the opacity and increase the feathering,</li> <li>2. Use the oval marquee tool over the animal and darken and feather outside the oval with a very low opacity to give a subtle highlight to the Alpaca.</li> </ol> Keep in mind; subtlety is your friend.	7
AB		Sweet Little Bird	Beautifully captured image of a sparrow. Nice and sharp, lovely catchlight in the eye. The background is beautifully blurred. The slant of the background and the post are quite distracting and are easily straightened in post by a slight rotation of the image to the right. You could try a square crop to feature the bird and the post more prominently as the extra space to the sides are not adding to the story here. Keep the post central so the bird is off centre and has room to fly into.	8

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

<b>Grade</b>	<b>ID</b>	<b>Image Title</b>	<b>Reason for Placing</b>
<b>AB</b>	14	Visit to the Book Shop	I feel this image gives the viewer a sense of calm and relaxation, of being in the space and about to go into the book shop to browse. <b>(Sue Tardiani)</b>