

JUDGES REPORT

2021 – October - Open

Judge: Graham Harris

Toowoomba

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
A		Portrait of a Mother	A lovely image which has captured the beauty of the mother to be. The composition is great as too is the shallow depth of field which has nicely blurred the background.	8
A		Tenderness	The positioning of the model and overall composition works well. I feel I would have liked to see a version of this image where the photographer is more at eye level rather than looking down on the subject.	7
A		Docked at Hobart	I like the repetition created by the three boats in the foreground and their reflection. The comparison of these with the ship at top right also makes an interesting story from this image.	7
A		On the Edge of the Southern Ocean	Another good example where complimentary colours (orange and blue in this case) have been used to produce great impact on first viewing of the image. There is good use of layering in this image with the orange rocks in the foreground, the midground water froth and the background wave surge – well seen and executes image.	7
A		Be Patient – Your Turn will Come	The idea behind this image is a good one – trying to capture the story line of the opening flower and the one that is still a little way off. There are quite a few distracting reflections in the water which are competing with the two main subjects in my opinion.	5
A		Right Place, Right Time	I like the way the photographer has cropped in tight to eliminate distractions and focus in on the rainbow and the two vertical masts, and the use of the horizontal building elements to ground the image. You have clearly thought through how to simplify to achieve greatest impact.	7
A		Awaiting the End of Day	Nice capture of this scene and good balance between the mountain range at right and the boat in the water at left. I also like the well-lit tree at left as a framing element.	6
A		You Cannot See Me	You have captured good detail here in this Australasian Figbird. Unfortunately, there are a lot of competing distractions with the background foliage and many branches in the image.	5
A		Massive Roots on the Old Tree	The buttress roots of this tree are very interesting and I like the placement of the tree with the roadway leading	6

			your eye into the frame. You have handled the strong contrast in light really well – I do wonder if this image is a good candidate for a monochrome conversion.	
A		Sunrise Over the Pier	Beautiful lighting condition captured here and the pier and people on it makes a strong silhouette that really works.	8
A		Bruny Island Cruise	Great balance and impact achieved in this somewhat symmetrical image. Well seen and executed although there is a colour caste that might be worth tweaking – assuming this image was taken as a RAW file.	7
A		Country Retreat	Good use of the complimentary colours of red and green in this image – a pity the sheep were more interested in feeding than facing you – more interest by them might have resulted in a stronger image.	5
A		Impending Storm	I like the detail capture here in the foreboding sky and the waves and rocks. It might be worthwhile pulling out a little more detail in the shadows of the rocks and using clarity/dehaze to emphasize the detail there also.	6
A		On Golden Pond	This is an excellent image of a Pacific Black duck gliding on a highly impactful golden pond. Great lighting and detail.	8

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

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
A		Portrait of a Mother	This was a difficult choice, but I feel this image has more emotional impact for me than the other two contenders. The technique used is great and the post-processing well done. (Cassie McMahon)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Fungi in the Forrest	These bracket fungi are an interesting subject and I like the way you have used the branch on which they are located as a diagonal. There is a lot of information here and perhaps an even tighter focus on the fungi on one side of the branch might have made simpler composition. There also is a quite strong light vignette here which is also distracting form the main subject.	5
AB		Paddle Boards Ready, where are the Paddlers	Good use of repetition here with the various paddle boards/kayaks lined up at the water's edge and drawing my eye into the frame. There is a lot of information to digest in this image – sometimes we need to work at simplifying a subject in order to have more impact for the viewer.	5
AB		Dancing Curlew	Good positioning of the curlew in the frame with good space in front of it at left. I do think a lower angle of view might have strengthened the image further – the current angle is looking down of the main subject a little. Perhaps you could open up the shadows a little to bring out more detail in the curlew's body.	5
AB		Milky Way	A good capture of the Milky Way and I like the light painting used to provide detail in the abandoned house at the bottom right of the frame. For me this image implies the transient nature of our building efforts in comparison with the timelessness of the galaxy in which we live.	8
AB		Church on the Hill	Good detail captured in the church building and a nice use of the bell at left as a balancing element. I feel that you might have cropped the image a little too tightly – more of the building at the right of the frame might have enhanced the image further. You are also dealing with quite flat lighting conditions at the time of day this image was taken.	5
AB		Mining over the Hill	There are some foreground, midground and background elements captured here. The lighting conditions are quite harsh, and the mining structure is quite small and relatively insignificant in the frame.	4
AB		Anthurium	There is good detail captured here in the Anthurium leaf. You have focused in on a single subject well which has made for a relatively simple and non-distracting composition. I find the positioning of the subject lying on its side quite static – perhaps an image of the plant arranged more diagonally in the frame could strengthen the image further.	5
AB		My Reflection and Me	Again great detail captured here in this white faced heron and in its reflection. The composition works very well in my opinion.	8
AB		Orchid Flower Amongst Aralia Leaves	An interesting arrangement created here, and I like the illustrative nature of this image. To me the orchid flower does not seem as sharp as the leaves.	6

AB		Twirly Whirlies	Another artistic foliage image which is well balanced and interesting. Perhaps a little more light on the foreground berries would make for an even stronger image in my opinion.	6
AB		Green Door	You have used simplicity as a strong compositional element to minimize distractions. This doorway seems out of place with the building it is part of – this is not a bad thing and actually adds to the storyline of the image.	6
AB		Starry Night	Another Milky Way image where the author has included a tree and road as foreground elements. Foreground elements are quite important in these Milky Way shots. I feel a little more detail in the road – perhaps even taking the image from a lower angle might lift image impact and some further post-processing needed to darken the sky a little is needed – it would be worthwhile having a look at some of the night sky work of Erik Kuna or Jennifer Wu for inspiration.	6
AB		Quiet Moment	Good use of the plant as a diagonal element which adds to image impact. And also, good use of shallow depth of field to minimize background distractions. I like the detail in the honeyeater and the catchlight you have captured as well.	7
AB		Serene	A really nice image with good positioning of the water lily flowers and their reflections, and the three lily pads. I like the way you have gotten down low to photograph the main subject. There is a bit of distracting debris in the water which could be removed in post-production readily – in an open competition that is definitely allowed (but not if entering this image in a nature category)	7
AB		Attack	Good detail and positioning of the main subject – with space to move to the left of the frame. A good catchlight in the eye of the main subject also.	7
AB		Free as a Bird	Good positioning of the seagull with nice space for it to move into the right of the frame. There does appear to be some significant posterization banding in the blue sky throughout the image which is a bit distracting for me.	4
AB		Flower	There is a good symmetry captured here in this subject. The detail is also very well captured. The main subject is very central – this is a little bit of an issue but could be readily dealt with by use of a square crop which would further emphasize the symmetry of the image.	5
AB		Lady in Red	Good detail captured here not only in the main subject but also in the surrounding architecture. Because the subject is looking to the right of the frame, I think there might be a stronger image if she was less centrally placed in the frame. It might be worth trying some cropping of the left of the frame to see if produces a	5

			more pleasing composition in your opinion.	
AB		Male Crimson Finch	Good detail captured here in this Crimson Finch, and I like the way you have used shallow depth of field to minimize background distractions. You have also positioned the subject well in the frame with it looking to the right – a classic use of the rule-of-thirds compositional approach.	7
AB		Tropical Rainforest	Photographing in the rainforest on a sunny day is a real challenge because of the strong contrast in light and shadow that you are trying to deal with. Personally, I like the pattern of shadow and light you have captured here. Inclusion of the sun was an interesting choice and a good one if only it had been a little more hidden by a tree trunk so that there is even more of a starburst effect rather than blowing out so much.	6

IMAGE OF THE MONTH (ONE only for each Grade please)			
Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
AB		Milky Way	An excellent image which combines good technique with an interesting story for me – as mentioned in the comments I like the way this image implies the timelessness of the galaxy with the transient nature of our building efforts. (Gaye Higgins)