

JUDGES REPORT

2021 – September - Open

Judge: Ralph Brown

Sunshine Coast

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Here's Looking at You	Great image of the eagle with exception detail in the head, eye and feathers. Good lighting. As this is an open subject, I would clone out the pink flowers as they are a bit of a distraction.	7
AB		Into the Treetops	Another of the treetops and well-handled exposure to get detail in the trunk and leaves without completely burning out the sky. The intrusion of the darker branches in the top of the scene weakens the shot and a little change in position to get the top clear may be a stronger image.	5
AB		Come No Closer Please	This is a great shot of the curlew and the wings spread add extra interest to the image. Well composed and great detail in the shot.	8
AB		Feeding Time	Excellent shot of the croc in action. The image looks sharp around the eye where it is important as is the detail in the skin.	6
AB		Gushing Water	I can see what the maker is trying to capture in this image and running water is fascinating. This would do well as an overlaid texture to another image. As it is, there is no real strong point of interest.	4
AB		Light Shines Through	The back lighting of the flowers is a great method to get contrast and depth in your images. The exposure has been well handled with only a few of the tips of the petal losing detail. I may have tried to avoid the really bright background and used grass or greenery as the bright area become a distraction	6
AB		Brown Falcon	Well captured bird in flight. This image does appear to be breaking down and it may be due to tight cropping. The file size is very small and trying to view in on my monitor is affecting the quality. There is also a lot of noise in the back of the image. A good effort all the same.	5
AB		Starry Starry Sky	A very good 'astro' image of the Milky Way over the old building. The shutter speed is well chosen to eliminate the movement in the stars. The lighting on the building gives it detail as well as deep shadows. There is something in the bottom left that is a distraction and I suggest cloning it out.	7
AB		Rural Sunrise	Barbed wire silhouetted against the sun rise is a well-chosen subject. I can see where part of the wire is sharp and wonder if a smaller aperture would get more	5

			in focus. I think I would crop the dark area on the left as to reduce the distraction.	
AB		Water Lilly	A beautiful flower and very pretty colours but unfortunately the image does not appear to be sharp. It may be from cropping or slower shutter.	4
AB		Broadwater Rainforest	I applaud the maker for looking at the world from a different angle. The light in the canopy in this image is beautiful with the real point of interest the bright green treetop. An little move forward would have removed the dark leaves covering the treetop on the left.	5
AB		Palms on the Strand	The Townsville Strand is a lovely location, and the palms add to the tropical feel of the place. Well composed and exposure well handled. The inclusion of the man in the striped shirt is a nice touch as is the colourful boats.	7
AB		He Man Halo	Someone having fun with spinning steel wool very effective imagery. Of the many examples I have seen of the technique, this is one pf the best. The implied diagonal of the sparks, the guy with his sword and no shirt all adds interest and impact to the image. Very well done	9
AB		Peek a boo	Brave macro shot and well managed. Good detail in the mushroom and the DoF has been well controlled to create the soft background. This adds depth and a third dimension to the image. The heavily blurred bottom left corner does tend to draw the eye and suggest just a small crop to reduce its impact or perhaps a subtle dark vignette to focus the viewer more on the subject.	6
AB		Honey Bee	Well captured bee on the flower with good detail. It may have been heavily cropped as the file is very small and there is evidence of noise in the background. Maybe retain more of the area around the flower would help with the final result.	4
AB		Peeping Through	I love the colours in our Galahs, and they are so entertaining to watch. The maker has done very well with this image and captured the eye and feathers with good detail. I wonder what a tighter crop would look like coming in on just the head down to part way down the wing. This would eliminate most of the greenery that is hiding the bird.	6
AB		Dinner for One	Capturing birds doing something is always special and this one has been well done. The file size again is a little small and making it hard to assess the quality on my monitor.	4
AB		Exodus	Rainbow Lorikeets in flight are a great sight and having the one entering the frame to the right is a bonus.	6
AB		Flower	I love the creative effort in this image. The maker has seen the flower against the background or merged two images. It does not matter to me how It was produced; I really like the result. The light vignette may be a little overdone but not a huge impact to the results.	7

AB		Water Buffalo	A good shot of the buffalo feeding and three is the magic number. The file for this image is quite small and it starts to breakdown when trying to view on the monitor.	4
AB		The Blood Moon May 2021 Lunar Eclipse	A real challenge to get these types of images right, particularly when the eclipse makes the moon so dark. The maker of this image has done a good job to get the detail as sharp as they have. A very good effort	5
AB		Up and Ready	Egrets in action and good control of the light to get detail in the white wings. In the open subject, I would clone out the bright green spot behind the bird. There is also a bright spot on the top border that could be brushed darker.	6

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

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
AB		He Man Halo	Great image well captured under challenging conditions. Good storyline portrayed by the shot. (Iain Gordon)

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A		Just Resting	The droplets on the wings takes this image to a next level and whether it is frost or dew doesn't matter as the results are quite stunning. A little more at the bottom might be good but overall, I thought it was well done	7
A		Wildflower	The yellows in this image grab the viewers attention and the water on the petals are an added interest. The image did not appear to be as sharp as it could be and may be pushing the minimum focal length of the lens.	4
A		Harvest Moon	A lovely model and beautiful lighting on the girl. I really enjoyed the softness and pastel tones in the colours and the rear lighting is a great choice for the subject.	8
A		The Harvest	I'm guessing the same photo shoot as a previous image. I don't think this one has the same impact as a previous one. It is a nice shot but I'm unsure the hand on the shoulder is a good pose. The real bright light in the top left is a little distracting and suggest the photographer take a couple of steps to the left to keep the rear lighting without the harshness of that corner.	6
A		Desert Flight	An aerial shot of a very rugged landscape. Good reproduction of the colours and textures of the scene and the composition draws the viewer into the distance. I was undecided whether we need to sky and distant hill and suggest cropping them out to see if it makes a stronger image.	7
A		Wild Garlic	This image really appealed to me with the detail in the flowers and the leading line of the stork to the top	7

			adding dimension and interest. The second pod jus out of focus is a great echo and adds depth.	
A		Between Sets	Very good mono image and the bright highlights in the background all add interest to the image. The only one I would perhaps reduce are the bright spots on the left border. They tend to lead the viewer out of the frame.	7
A		Delicate Beauty	Artistic macro shot with good use of sharp and blur to produce an ethereal effect. Beautifully sharp in the stamin and creative blur on the edges. Well done, a very pleasing image.	8
A		Let Us Go	An action shot of the sports field and horse, the maker has captured a decisive moment and the expression of the faces. The lighting is a little flat and some editing to improve contrast/clarity and colour saturation might strengthen the image	4
A		Where is My Next Meal	The Rainbow Bee-Eater is a very pretty bird with great colours and detail in the feather. I think this image may be stronger as a square crop as I area to the top is not adding much to the image.	5
A		Green Python	I love snakes but not everyone enjoys them. This has been well captured and perhaps it was in zoo of natural display setting. Focus on the head and eye is sharp but the DoF falls away quickly. A smaller aperture may give you more in focus.	6
A		Red Hippeastrum	Lovely flowers and great colours. The water adds an extra element to the image and the close crop is a good choice. A slightly smaller aperture f16-f22 may improve the DoF.	6
A		Cobbold Gorge	A very pretty location with all the colours and textures in the rocks. The lighting and exposure have been well managed to reveal the detail in the rocks. The sky looks a little unnatural and appear to have been recoloured in post-production.	5
A		Namibian Oryx	Good shot of the African animal in what appears to be a natural environment and the photographer has gained the attention of the animal. The shadows are a little harsh and suggest lightening them a little to bring out more detail particularly over the shoulder. He is very central and maybe cropping from the right and including more on the left would be a stronger composition	5
A		Before the Storm	The lighting in the image is beautiful, the soft warm colours and the deep shadows on the hills in the background all come together to create a wonderful scene. Perhaps cropping a little off the bottom would strengthen the composition. I would also try it without the border as I don't think it is adding to the final result.	5
A		Cooling Off	Wet birds after a bath make a great subject and the colours of the lorikeets really pop. There appears to be a little over processing as parts of the image seem to be breaking down with noise of artifacts. I also suggest if	4

			you are going to use a border, do not make it lighter than the lightest part of the image as it becomes more of a distraction then adding to the image.	
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IMAGE OF THE MONTH
(ONE only for each Grade please)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
A		Harvest Moon	I really enjoyed this mood and softness of this image. Beautifully lit and well posed and composed. (Cassie McMahon)