

# JUDGES REPORT

---

**July 2021 - Open**

**Judge: Daryl Fisher**

**Brisbane**

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Man of Fire	Better blow hard, me thinks. The burst of flame really adds to the drama of this shot that you must get it right first time. The explosion of flame is highlighted with the streams of fluid maybe coming out of the flame itself. Maybe, he should be wearing a shirt.	5
AB		Sea Eagle Swooping	Good capture of the eagle but you had better duck. Caught well coming in at you at speed. Slight diagonal suggests bird is checking out prey as it gets closer. Good compositionally as there is plenty of space for the bird to fly into in front of it.	8
AB		Breath of Fire	What a mouthful! Wouldn't want to hic-cup. Image has been well caught at the right moment. No background detail has highlighted the man and the fire. Compositionally, the diagonal line of the flame going up is caught well. Not sure about the colour, have not seen this in real life, so can't say.	5.5
AB		Dance of the Bee Eaters	Preening time for the Bee-Eaters, good capture of these two birds of having a cleanup, maybe, after having a feed of bees. To get both birds preening at the same time has been well seen and caught. Colour and focus on the birds and sitting in the tree, in their environment is good. Well done.	8.5
AB		What a Load of Old Bullocks!	Are you being watched? Good colouring on the animal and also in the grass. Little bit of vignetting in the corners really highlights the animal out in the paddock. How would this image look without the one in the background not being there? Something to try.	6
AB		Country Scene	Someone's backyard maybe. Or in a rural type setting. Good colour on the trees and the sky. Would suggest maybe the windmill needs a bit of work on the blades. Feel this image would be better if the maker took a couple of steps to the left and include the whole head of the windmill in the image. The tree is hiding part of the windmill, obviously.	5
AB		Saddles in a Row	Saddles, saddles and more saddles. These have been well ridden and possibly seen a few horses in their time. I feel improvement in this image can be done by removing items on the left-hand side behind, move your camera angle a little to the right and/or take a step to the left to get more of the saddles in the image. There is good repetition in the number of saddles and the	6

			converging lines of the seats of the saddles. Just little things to improve.	
AB		Coming into Land	Good capture of the bird landing. Colours and exposure are really good. with the detail in the feathers can be seen clearly. The white area at the top could be cropped out or maybe even darkened and would highlight the bird more. Diffused background is good highlighting the bird even more so.	7.5
AB		Is that a Fish	Here comes dinner. Good capture of the eagle and a slight diagonal line. Compositionally, the image is good by having space under the bird to highlight what it is doing or about to do. Exposure is a bit on the bright side as the head of the eagle and its tail has lost detail in the image. Again, almost a good image for a bird book. Just drop the brightness down a little.	7
AB		Partial Eclipse	Great capture of the moon. Good detail to see all the craters on the surface. Focus is nice and sharp. Being a partial eclipse has been caught well.	7.5
AB		Sawn Rocks	An early capture of the sawn rocks with some mist hanging around. Colour on the rocks and the trees has come up well. Hardest part with an image as this one, is trying to capture detail in the sky, looks like overcast day, good for photography at times, but hard for sky detail. Is it possible to get closer to the rocks for maybe a better image and not so much sky? Might be easier said than done. Good effort.	5.5
AB		Early Morning Sun Rays and Mist, Millstream River	Good capture of the sunrays coming through the trees without getting overexposure from the light of the sun. Good angle to not get the sun and to highlight the sun's rays. Just be careful, colour looks a little too warm, maybe dropping down the contrast may have helped a bit better and a slight lift in levels to brighten the whole scene.	6
AB		Reflections, Millstream River	Reflections in this image, I feel, need to be more concentrated on and not so much background, although there are reflections in the middle right hand side. Suggest trying to zoom into centre part of image and crop some reflections there or get closer to the bank and increase the reflections in your lens. Can see what you are trying to achieve and good effort.	6
AB		Lunch Time	Glad the shark got "Lunch " and not me. Good fast action shutter speed and exposure on this demon from the depths. A good portrait shot is that you get the eyes in focus, well how close do you want to go to check it out? This will do, thanks.	6
AB		Sunset Palms	The sun is warming up the trunks of the palms at the end of the day. Good warming colour there and also in the fronds. There is too much sky in this this image and would be better being cropped just above the tops of the palms. Compositionally, you have seven palms there, good, always try for an odd number as 1, 3 or 5 or 7 numbers in an image. In this image, try for the three on the left.	5

AB		Meet Me at the Crossroads	Crossroads to where? Like this image, a story could be read into this image, where did the setting come from? Who put it there? Where is it? No arguments here, no one to argue with. Well seen image and the setting off slightly to one side, I like it. Mid-morning or mid-afternoon with the shadows to travel to this site is well away from anyone. Very thought-provoking image, would be good on a wall.	9
AB		Taking Off	Good capture of takeoff leaving the branch. Image looks soft and not sharp enough. Focus may be out a little, almost there. Good action shot and would leave the tree branch there as the title suggests, instead of no branch at all. Good lighting under the bird and not too dark in the shaded area.	6
AB		Crested Pidgeon	A crested pigeon? Good capture on the bird with the eye in focus and the little highlight in the eye works well. Colour on the bird and in the wing is good. Don't mind the empty sky as it shows the bird is, maybe, on top of a branch somewhere, looking at the area below. Would be a good image for a bird book.	8
AB		Egret	Good capture of the bird in flight. Compositionally, caught well with room in front of the bird to fly into. Focus and exposure is good to capture the bird flying past and the background just diffused enough to bring the bird forward in the image. Good lighting on the wings to give detail in the feathers and good exposure on the face of the bird.	7.5
AB		Gum Nuts	Yes, sure is "Gumnuts ". On my screen, there may have been some vignetting done around the borders, GOOD, it highlights the nuts themselves. colour and lighting is good, especially back up into the middle of the nut. Maybe, in the background, have a go at removing the branch and leaves and see what the image looks like then.	8
AB		Jess at Play	Great shot of mum and the little puppy. Exposure on the eyes is good and you can see the detail in its eyes with the highlight. Mum in the background is probably teaching the puppy some life habits. Mum is diffused enough to highlight the puppy as the title of this image is, of course, Jess. Good light and focus on the puppy.	8
AB		Rainbow Bee-Eater	Well done on this image. The Bee eater has good colour in the feathers and lighting has been well caught also. Good diagonal line into the image with the tree branch coming up to support the bird. Image on my screen may have vignetting done and has worked well. Feel this bird is too high in the image with negative space underneath it, more sky on the top of the image would improve no end. Wonderfully seen and well captured image.	8.5
AB		The Pattern of the Sea	No worries with others pinching his spot. A good image to depict " Negative Space" and has been well caught, graduated sky falling down to the horizon is well done. The patterns in/on the water really highlights the movement way out there. The man standing up in his tinny gives wonderful perspective to the image to	9

			provide the existence of an empty space out there. Another good image for a wall somewhere.	
--	--	--	--	--

IMAGE OF THE MONTH (ONE only for each Grade please)				
Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing	
AB		Meet me at the Crossroads	Nice simple image. Thought provoking. (Annette Sutton)	

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
A		Friendly Bull Play	OOhhhh !! Isn't love grand? Good colour on the elephants and detail and texture has been well caught in the skin folds on both animals. Composition of the two animals up close tells a story without the whole body of both elephants being in the image. Well Caught on this one. The piece missing out of the right-hand animal's ear tells he may have been in a confrontation to get his partner to " Come on over ".	8
A		Water for Dry Land	Definitely some dry land in the background and a bit of land in the middle that looks like it has had a good drink. A nice reflection image in the water with possibility of some snow on the higher ground. Good definition of depth of field from front to back in this image.	8.5
A		Beached	A piece of broken coral on a lonely deserted beach somewhere. On close inspection, this image seems not have a sharp point of focus. Would suggest maybe needs the camera on a mini tripod for this shot and/or a deeper depth of field to capture the branches of this coral. Can't seem to find a point of focus even on the sand.	5
A		Tree in the Basalt	Green colour on the shrub tells the tree is progressing well in a harsh spot among the rocks. My suggestion to lose the top of the image and come in close, in portrait mode, on the shrub and leave out the skyline at the top of the image. Detail in this has gone, suggest that this image has been caught in some rain as there seems to be striation marks that are slightly highlighted in front of the rocks that are rain droplets,	6
A		Coming into the Straight	Good capture of horse racing at this speed to get all in focus and even coming head on to you. A fast shutter speed has caught the dirt flying. Optical illusion, but the second horse on the left, "Has he got three riders?" The fence on the left-hand side not worried as it shows the race is on a course somewhere and all the horses are fighting for a place. Good colour and exposure in the image has been well taken.	9
A		Noisy Minor	These little fellows seem to be everywhere, and they can be heard as well. Good detail in the feathers and the eye has been well caught in focus. The out of focus background highlights the bird in the image, The out of focus bloom in the foreground tells you it is likely looking for some blossom to feed on. Maybe, a suggestion that you try a little vignetting in the corners and would highlight the bird even more so.	7.5

<b>A</b>		Autumn Colours	Possibly mid-Autumn time with the trees almost the same color. Angle of the tree line has a good diagonal line leading the eye from mid left to the upper right-hand side. Snow covered mountains in this image help to balance the composition otherwise would be heavy on one side with an empty sky. Good exposure right throughout the image.	7
<b>A</b>		Pink Lilly	Wonderfully caught image of a lily. Depth of field front to back has been caught well, the exposure on the petals has been caught well with the light section of the petals not blown out. A small hint, that if this image was to be mounted, give the bottom of the image a bit more room so that it fills the mount without disappearing.	8
<b>A</b>		What's for Dinner	Looks like a bit of a fluff ball hiding in the greenery. Just enough light on this bird that is not blowing out with the lighter colours. Good exposure on the bird and detail of the feathers has been caught well. Being framed with greenery suggests it is hiding out of the road of some predators, or it is just simply waiting for mum to come back with some morsel for the tummy.	8
<b>A</b>		Wild Norfolk	No swimming today. That does certainly give the impression of some wild weather. Good capture of the water streaming off the top of the wave and leads to some rough weather coming in. Just a thought, does so much of the cliff in the background need to be there? What about cropping some of the rock off and pano the image even more so and maybe also some foreground. Not sure how it would look.	7

### IMAGE OF THE MONTH

(ONE only for each Grade please)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
A		Coming into the Straight	Good capture of horse racing at this speed to get all in focus and even coming head on to you. <b>(Lyn Hastings)</b>