

# JUDGES REPORT

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**2021 - August – THEME – Macro/Close-Up**

**Description: Nil**

**Judge: Simon Cox**

**Rockhampton**

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
A		Pretty Feather	I have always found that shooting a peacock feather quite a challenge because of the colours in the feather with its iridescent quality and fine hairs. The stem on this one is a bit lost, but we know it is there.	5
A		Elegant Weed	I like the composition of this image. It shows the 3 stages of the flower in one shot. Great lighting and well captured.	7
A		Little Garden Helper	Excellent image of this bee seeking out the pollen from the flower. The body is almost lost in the background. You may have been able to remedy this by adjusting your dark/black slider in Lightroom or Photoshop.	6
A		Make a Wish	An interesting image in Black & White. Would have liked to have seen a bit more dark around the top as it seems to be cut off. I think the depth of field could have been just a bit better. As the centre of the seeds seems out of focus and blown out.	5
A		Steam Train Wheel	I like the colour in this image. I like the central horizontal line going through from the centre of the wheel. Good use of its colour and position. Once again with the border, not acceptable in competitions, but this has not altered my mark.	5
A		Two Mythical Creatures	I love the textures that are found on trees. The colours and shapes that one sees. This is an interesting shot with some lovely textures.	5
A		Kitty Kat	Great shot, I love the reflection in the cat's eye. Good detail in the eye and fur.	5
A		X Bug	A good image of this insect. I like the water on the leaves. Did you spray those on yourself? Is that as it was? No matter, just an old trick of macro photographers to carry around a water spray bottle. I was wondering if this image would be better on the vertical rather than the horizontal.	7
A		Natures Detail	Great detail in this Black & White image. Has a material type effect with the texturing of the leaf. Well seen and captured.	7
A		Twins	Great colour. Looks like material or paper, the way these flowers have been captured. I like the sparkle that appears on the petals. I wonder how this image	5

			would look in Black & White.	
<b>A</b>		Christmas Bauble	Good depth of field and well taken. Unfortunately, not all of the flower is there. There is a top and bottom stamen cut off. It just required a bit more room for these.	5
<b>A</b>		Swamp Tiger	A lovely shot of the butterfly. A bit of loss in definition on the left wing. I would expect this butterfly to pop, but it doesn't. Due to the enhancing in Photoshop or Lightroom there is a ghosting effect on all the leaves.	5
<b>A</b>		I See you	I love Ellies. I like that you have gone in close to reveal the eye, which is red as it should be. Most of the time you just don't see them as they are hidden by the eyelashes. The texture of the skin is great.	6
<b>A</b>		Pretty Gerbera	An interesting image. I'm not so sure about the pink border around it. The flower being red does not require it. The image is sharp and I like the water droplets on it. Once again a bordered image would not be considered in a National or International competition.	6
<b>A</b>		Soaking up the Sun Close-Up	Great shot. Beautiful colour and pretty much sharp all the way through. I don't think you needed the second cut off flower in this image.	5
<b>A</b>		When Drops Collide	Love this image. Well taken. You just never know what you are going to get with splash photography. The droplets on the right almost look like a figure running away. A good sharp image. Well taken.	8
<b>A</b>		A Dandy Dandelion	Fantastic image. I love the depth of this photograph; it gives a 3D look. Well taken and seen. Just a point though. If this was entered into a National or International competition it would be discounted immediately. You should never put a frame around an image for a competition.	6
<b>A</b>		Stable View	Clever image. Love the reflection of the photographer in the eye. Good detail and depth of field.	6

### IMAGE OF THE MONTH

(ONE only for each Grade in Theme and Open please)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
<b>A</b>		When drops collide	A fantastic image. Takes a lot of time and patience to set up and get the timing right for this type of image. <b>(Marcia Bacon)</b>

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
<b>AB</b>		Bleached Coral	An interesting piece of coral. I like all the fine detail. However it does seem just a bit blown out with the whites. Perhaps some adjustment in the tonal sliders could fix this.	5
<b>AB</b>		Coral on the Beach	I love the different colours that are found in this image of the coral. Good depth of field. Well taken.	6
<b>AB</b>		In Full Bloom	Beautiful shot of the flowers well captured and great depth of field. I love how the petals all stand out. Question is, did you use focus stacking in taking this	8

			image. Well done all the same.	
<b>AB</b>		Passion Flower	I like this image a lot. Not sure how you got the ghosting on the white string bits. This image has an almost 3D effect because of it.	7
<b>AB</b>		A Close Rose Pose	This image makes the rose seem unreal, like it was incased in plastic. I love how you have captured this. I love the detail with the water. Well done.	7
<b>AB</b>		Broken Coral Pieces	Almost looks like bones. Personally I would have gotten rid of the piece of coral at the back giving the diagonal line. It does nothing for the image.	5
<b>AB</b>		Tiny Water Flower and Insect	Interesting shot of the insect diving into the flower. The whites seem a little blown out. However you maybe able to correct this in Photoshop or Lightroom.	5
<b>AB</b>		I'm Looking at You	I like the shot of the eye. However it seems a bit bright and out of focus. I think you could have improved on this image.	5
<b>AB</b>		Patterns in the Bark	I nice texture image but no real centre of interest. I was hoping for a camouflaged insect or something on the bark.	5
<b>AB</b>		On Alert	A little bit too dark in the body. Shame that the wings are so out of focus. A different angle may have been better suited to the subject.	5
<b>AB</b>		Orb Builder	Macro shots of insects are hard to do. It is better to try and match the angle of the insect to take advantage of the depth of field to keep things in focus. The other method is to use focus stacking, so that everything within the focal distance come out nice and sharp.	5
<b>AB</b>		Bulbophyllum Lepidum	I like this image. I would have cropped it in a bit so the flower fills the frame more. Great colours and contrast against the leaves in the background.	5
<b>AB</b>		Hermit Crab	Different view of a hermit crab being taken from underneath. Not sure about the fingers being in the photo.	5
<b>AB</b>		Ant on Concorde Plane	I like the composition of this image. I like the leading line to the ant. Your eyes are carried along the flower to the stamens. Well seen and captured. The whites are just a fraction blown out on the stamens, but not enough to bother me. A slight adjustment in Lightroom may fix this.	6
<b>AB</b>		X Marks the Spot	This Golden Orb spider is a different angle for this type of shot. I like how the body is in focus as are the front legs. I'm not sure if cropping the top and right and part left would improve this image. You do not have to have the whole spider in the shot.	5
<b>AB</b>		The Painter	Not a bad effort with miniature people. However the flower being closer and in focus would have made this image receive a much a higher score.	5
<b>AB</b>		Unfurling	Great idea for a photo. While the composition is not bad, it may have been better taken on the vertical.	5
<b>AB</b>		Cycle of Life	Great shot. Well seen and captured. I love the detail on the insects. The eyes especially.	7

AB		Equine Eye	A good shot of the eye. Nice clear reflection. Reasonable depth of field.	5
AB		Tea-Time Cookies	An interesting image. As it is a still life, your depth of field could have been much greater and had gotten all the cookies in focus. You could have also re-arranged them so that they are not cropped on both sides. I like the concept of the image.	5
AB		Water Droplets	I like the concept of the image. Good dark background against the light-colored leaf. I like the star effect on the droplets.	6
AB		Come into my Parlour	Interesting shot of the spider taken from underneath. Good detail and positioning.	7
AB		Varied Eggfly	Good shot of the butterfly. Stands out well against the leaves.	6
AB		Green Butterfly	Sharp shot of the butterfly. I find the right side of the image a bit cluttered and distracting. Not sure if you had move yourself around to the right more you could have gotten rid of some of that foliage.	6
AB		Nectar Snack	I like the shot of the bee. However the dish or bowl in the background is a bit distracting. The white flowers are blown out around the bee and there is some movement in the bee itself.	5
AB		Parrot	Interesting shot. I am not sure how you have taken this image. A friend of mine used to use a macro lens attached to a phone to achieve this and sometimes on the end spotter scope. I like the image and it s well done.	6
AB		Spikes	Fantastic shot. However I would have liked to have seen the whole flower even though some of it would be out of focus. The top Stamens have been cut off, as are the bottom ones.	6
AB		Spikey	I like this image. You could almost crop of the top part and just have the bottom 2/3 as the image.	6
AB		White Lipped	A good shot of the frog. I just feel the depth of field could have been more, as a fair bit of the body is out of focus. The eye is great, and this what you should focus on.	5

### IMAGE OF THE MONTH

(ONE only for each Grade in Theme and Open please)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
AB		In Full Bloom	The focusing of this image is just superb. Composition is excellent. <b>(Gaye Higgins)</b>