

JUDGES REPORT

2021 - December – THEME – Scapes

Description: Nil

Judge: Gerard Saide

Toowoomba

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
A		City Scape	The impressiveness is the unusual structure of the buildings. It looks like they are preparing for the worst flood. Up the contrast a bit to give the image some drama.	5.5
A		City Scape 2	The city looks inviting. Is it a mystery as to what city this is? The smooth calmness of the waterfront contrasts with the jagged nature of the high rises.	5.5
A		After the storm	I expect there will be lots of drone shots in photo club comps in the future. I like the perpendicular aerial view here. Patterns and shapes are always interesting, and we can learn a lot from images like this. For example, look at the effect that one small projection is having on the waves. The image could be brightened a little with a small increase in contrast.	7.5
A		Misty Mornings	A pristine beach surrounded by lush green vegetation and rolling hills in the background. What else does a photographer want! A bit more mist would have been nice.	7
A		Star-shaped Oasis	A desert scape with a lake. The star shape is evident and probably the best you could get at ground level unless there was a dune just behind you. The reflection of the dune in the centre of the image nicely fills the middle of the large area covered by water.	8
A		Sunset Ridges	Sometimes the simplest images are the strongest. This image is basically an exercise in pattern, light and colour. It is uncluttered by any other detail in the surrounding landscape such as sky, clouds horizons etc. It has appeal and was well seen by the author.	8.5
A		Cape Tourville	The high angle and point of view makes an ordinary seen look impressive. The wake of the speedboat adds the point of interest the image needs.	5
A		Townsville City	Night shots are not always easy but this one makes Townsville look like the happening place. There is sufficient light in the foreground so as not to block the grass and make it appear black. Good detail and sharpness throughout.	7.5
A		Expanse	Wow. All the elements in this image have an important role. Take away any one of them (clouds, rays, waves, beach etc) and it is not as powerful. The colours and brightness and spot on. I do find the horizon on the right just a little bit sloping. Apart from that, a great image.	6.5
A		Last Rays for Lonely Sentinel	The orange hues really create a cosy mood as if to comfort the sentinel. Well composed.	6
A		Autumn is here	You have captured the beautiful colours of autumn in a well-composed image. There is a good balance in this image, and you have chosen a good viewpoint.	6

A		Winter is Coming	The cold suggested by this image is palpable. It won't be long before the stream stops flowing, and everything is white. In another century the background will look more like the foreground thanks to the effects of weathering by ice and water. The strong contrast between the brown tones and snow-covered hills foretells of a gloomy season. Great picture.	8
A		Patagonia	This is a dramatic landscape and the fact the most mountainous area is almost monochromatic enhances its dangerous appeal. I especially like looking into images like this to find different features of a glacial landscape. Aretes, glaciers, horns, cirques are all there. The green slopes add a nice contrast. I'm off to Patagonia with my hot coffee!	7.5
A		Tongariro Crossing (NZ)	There is an element of mystery in this landscape. We can feel we are at a high altitude. The water in the tarn is an unusual light blue and the mist adds atmosphere. An effective image in stimulating our senses.	8
A		Lake Agnes	The mountains seem almost human as they stretch out their arms in what looks like a protective gesture towards the Lake. Composition is balanced and the variety of colours in the foreground symbolize the gift that the lake gives back to the mountains.	7
A		Otago Peninsula	Such a beautiful landscape. Vivid greens and crystal-clear water reflecting the sky, a village snuggled on the canal. What else does a photographer want? Well, a good cup of hot coffee would go down well.	7.5

IMAGE OF THE MONTH

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
A		Sunset Ridges	A great photo to show the importance of what to leave in and what to leave out of an image. (Elsbeth Twyman)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Coast to sea	This image benefits from the vibrant colours in the landscape and the deep blues of the ocean. There is a fair bit of digital noise. What aperture were you using?	5
AB		The Olgas from the air	What a contrast of colours! Needless to say, those colours would be different depending on what time of day you were shooting. The foreground is almost a Sidney Nolan painting in terms of its colouring and is interesting in itself. The advantage of distance here is that we can see just how extensive the Olgas really are. The empty sky is also a crucial part of the story.	7
AB		South Townsville from Castle Hill	I am still out of breath from the last time I went up Castle Hill to see this view. Your image is better than anything I took. Good panorama of a not-so-crowded part of the city. The orange and yellow tones give the image a warm feel.	6.5
AB		View to Magnetic Island	This is an effective photo as the foreground which is full of interest has been used to accentuate the background which has little detail at all. It is also clever how the urban area 'points' to the island as if to say, 'If you want a break, go there!'	6

AB		Our old town common	Because we read from left to right, this image has worked. If the reverse, the hills would have 'blocked' our eye from moving into the scene. A lovely landscape. Consider cropping those few leaves on the left side.	6
AB		Townsville at Night	I can see what you are trying to do here. I think you could do it if you were set up to photograph earlier in the evening while there is still residual light from the sky. This would eliminate the many patches of black which lack any detail. Image sharpness is also a concern.	4.5
AB		Richmond Tasmania	You have chosen an excellent viewpoint to really capture the scenery in this lovely little part of Tasmania. There is an interesting contrast between the wildness of the growth on the left side of the stream and the orderliness of the paths etc on the right.	7
AB		Where does this road lead	Well, my guess is that it leads to somewhere in the north of England so I would love to know. The windy road and the hills with snow caps and the left-hand side-of-road driving are clues. It could also be NZ. It's hard to read the number plate. Good composition though there is loss of detail when enlarging to 100%.	7
AB		Salt Lake at Curtain Springs	So different from the other salt flats image. The bluish cast gives the scene an other-worldly, alien feel. The line in the flats leads us to the sun in the sky. Again, another image where the only person in the scene could have been placed where they don't get bisected by horizon lines and are a little bit more prominent in the image.	8
AB		Town Common	The overall view is embedded with some great photos if you look carefully. Before I point out a couple, the image is great but could be just as good without the rock on the left. Can you see another great photo in the reeds (right) and the smooth patch of water they sit in? Also, the small group of reeds just near the large rock on the left would also make a good photo.	6.5
AB		Alaskan glacier	The glacier is essentially the flat surface in the foreground. Would it have been possible to get a view looking up the valley in the direction the glacier is coming from? This would give us an idea of its size. The landscape here is beautiful and could be enhanced with a bit more contrast. Where is a skier in a red jacket when you want one !!	7
AB		Rocky Cascade	The author has nicely selected only what is needed in this image to create a relaxing scene of clean, cool water tumbling over rocks making us feel refreshed. The vivid greens and browns quickly take us back to nature and make us wish we could be there. I think I can even hear that water splashing!	6.5
AB		Burdekin Weir	Again, this scene has enough in it to get our interest, but it is let down by the strong light in the middle of the day. The sky is fairly empty so you could try cropping off above the horizon and increasing the contrast.	5
AB		DrinkAStubbie Downs Entrance	This quirky name is a direct invite for the photographer to do something with it. As it stands, this is just a record shot of an unusual place name. What can you add to the scene to make a story? Even someone leaning on the sign drinking bottled water would work. Better still, someone blocking the letter s in Downs.	4.5

AB		New moon at sunset	The silhouette effect works well, and the moon is just in the right spot, tiny as it is.	6
AB		Salt Flats	Love the colours. Love the reflection. The mood created is eerie and hints at the mystery of this land. Well done.	8.5
AB		Putting the common to bed	This could be the same common and if so, how different is the view from below. The light is great and has a sleepy quality that fits in with the title. I think the trees are superfluous and are actually a bit distracting because they are out of focus. It would be better if you could have got in front of the trees and shown more of the common. There is a soft, subtle pink colour in the water that adds to the scene.	7
AB		Sailing Home	Like some other images in tonight's competition, this is another one that is almost there. Just a wonderful photo with great contrast in its hues and a bit of a story. What is wrong that makes me say 'almost' ? Can you see it? (Pause) The boat is just too close to the edge of the frame. Even just a fifth of the way into the scene would have been great. There is also a spot just above the mast of the boat. This could be easily removed. Still, a beautiful image.	7.5
AB		Beyond the Shore	The composition is good and the idea of the ocean beyond is conveyed. The light is a little direct so I would try in the late afternoon to see any modeling effect it has on the arch. This looks a bit like Durdle Door on the south coast of Dorset. One of my favourite places.	6.5
AB		Hertfordshire	A pleasant rural setting in England (?) I assume. The image captures the gentle rolling hills and green fields, possibly hinting at why people love to live in or visit such places. Good use of thirds to indicate the sparseness of the area.	6
AB		London	An interesting view of London which shows how the old has merged with the new in architectural styles and of course, the significance of the river and its role in London's history. The image could be cropped so just the left half is seen. There is some interesting detail in the foreground boats.	5.5
AB		Riverscape	This rather unique shot could have stood alone even better without the background. The two main rows of boats and the few bits and pieces on either side make for an eye-grabbing shot that's a bit different from other images we have seen tonight.	7.5
AB		Hills	This Australian landscape reminds me of a Namatjira painting. The colours and tones closely resemble those of much of his work. One wonders what song lines are written into the land here.	6
AB		Sea scape	The small outcrop just off the main shore has added another dimension to a fairly standard sort of seascape. You have used it well in this image. The wave breaking on it is the key element of the photo. The light is strong, and it would be great to see this scene lit in an early morning or late afternoon light.	6.5
AB		Low Tide	This image has so much going for it. The landscape format has captured a large expanse of the shoreline and the timing late in the day has produced warm tones conducive to the reflective nature of the scene. This could have been a 9 but for the placement of the person. If possible, I would have stood in such a position that he was on the intersection of the lower right thirds in the 'empty' space or better still, I	7

			would have considered asking him to move there if I knew him. Great atmosphere.	
AB		Snowy Mountains	Solid. That's the first word that comes to mind on viewing this image. I like the way the mountains just seem to emerge from the flat foreground. Has a filter been used here? The mountains seem a little surreal. Or is possibly oversharped? Either way, the image is good.	6

IMAGE OF THE MONTH (ONE only for each Grade in Theme and Open please)			
Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
AB		Salt Flats	This image stands out and struck me on first viewing. The mood created is spooky. (Erin Woods)