

JUDGES REPORT

2022 - July – THEME – Silhouette

Judge: Victoria Purdie

Brisbane

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
A		Casting for Fish	Pretty good image. Nice water and colour on the water. Maybe could have waited a few more seconds until the net was cast over the water but before it hit the water to capture the action better.	6
A		Feeding Time Soon	I like the colours in this one. I think it's a bit lacking in interesting subject matter but if you had birds feeding in there or flying in and out with their shapes showing up as silhouettes it would be better.	6
A		Grass Tree	Nicely captured. Looks a little soft on the right-hand side where the sun is behind the tree. Reframing your composition at the time you might have been able to get the sun more behind the grass tree itself and keep the composition simple rather than having that extra tree to the right in there. The file itself is nice and sharp and clear.	7
A		Hungry Cocky	Good subject matter and you've caught the Cocky with just enough space between the claw and beak with the food. There's a black shape top left that my eye keeps going to which is distracting. You could crop it into a portrait shape to concentrate more on the cocky and less on the surrounding trees. Background is a little dull in colour, but good subject captured.	6
A		Sleepy sunflowers	Great subjects. Nice background. Some of the flowers aren't as pronounced above the foliage line as others but not a bad effort.	7
A		Sunset at the dam	This is a lovely serene image. You've just missed a bit of the main subject tree to the left, but I love your colour toning and the image is very clear and crisp.	8
A		Fisherman	This is a great image. I love your use of toning in the image to compliment all the black silhouette shapes. Nicely done. Sharp and clear too.	8
A		Pandanus Characters	Lovely colours in this sunset but lots of black in the centre which overshadows the nice spikey leaves of the Pandanus. Look for a simpler tree outline if you are able.	7
A		Pandanus spiders in the clouds	This is a better tree outline for this subject. Little bit cropped off the top leaves. The previous image had a nicer sunset background, so if you combined these two images, it would make for a striking image.	7

A		Xanthostemon Chrysanthus silhouette	Looks like it could be a drawing. Little bit tight on the top edge and quite stark but fits the set subject.	7
A		Bird in the trees	Easily identifiable bird which is big, so you've chosen well in that respect. Little bit heavy on the bottom black area that lends not much to the overall image, so I'd be inclined to crop some of that off.	6
A		Sunset palm tree	A nice image but not quite silhouette as there's lots of green in the image subject. Lovely sunset though.	6
A		Day's End	I like what you tried to do here but I find it very busy with both the trees and the people in there. I'd be inclined to go with just the people enjoying the days end in various poses i.e., talking to each other, looking at the sunset, taking pictures, rather than having them blocked by the trees.	6
A		Through the smoke	This is gorgeous. Love it. The use of space is beautiful leading your eye upwards to the moon. The trees all seem to work together in this one. Nice work.	9
A		Greeting the New Day	Nice colours. I like the tree on the far left better than the big one in the centre, but you've just missed part of it. Should really be either in the frame or out of the frame as it competes for attention with your subject which is the big tree in this case. Kind of outshines it a little.	7
A		Rock Fishing	I like this one. Good separation of the subjects working together but not merged into blackness. I like the moonlight on the water at the front and to the left. Nicely seen and captured.	8
A		On Norfolk Island	Nice colours but the black shape that is on the right is very dominating in the image and takes up roughly a quarter of the image. Be better to photograph the tree on its own with space around it to appreciate the sunset better than blocking it so heavily with black.	6
A		Palm Trees Silhouetted	Not a bad image. Nice sunset colours. Probably a bit too many trees in the image that compete against each other. You've got the palm trees and the other trees at the bottom. Simpler images work better with silhouettes.	7
A		Cranes	This feels like a really old file that lacks clarity and sharpness. Maybe that's the intentional look you were going for, but I find it a bit hard to look at for too long compared to some of the other images that have sharp areas you can rest your eye on. It's all a bit murky.	5
A		Flying Home	Quite nice. I like the extra trees bottom right to anchor the image there and add some extra interest. Well captured.	7
A		Lighthouse at Sunset	Quite nicely done. I can still see some detail in the lighthouse so not fully in silhouette mode. I could crop on the left-hand side to get rid of that tree as I don't think it adds much to the image. Makes the lighthouse a stronger subject.	7

A		Welcoming the Morning	Another lovely image. Great colours and you've controlled the exposure well especially where it gets bright, but you've handled it so it's not overly bright in the yellow and white area. Good you got all the tree into the image and not missing any of it. Nice work.	9
A		Trees	Quite an interesting image mixing silhouettes with the ambient light. I like the surfer in there.	7
A		Walking at Sunset	Lovely image. Beautiful colours. Addition of the tree and person in there make the image even better. Nice clear image too. I like it.	9
A		Just Weed!	I like your title and subject matter. Well captured. The line at the bottom is nice and straight. Feels a little close to the viewer though so stepping back a few steps would give more breathing room to enjoy the moment.	7
A		Stilt Fishing	These guys are pretty cool. I love the tone of the image. You can still see some blue in one of the guy's t-shirts so not quite fully silhouette unless you darkened it in post-production. Nice wave action caught at the back too.	8

IMAGE OF THE MONTH

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

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
A		Though the Smoke	A beautiful image worthy of hanging on the wall (Annette Sutton)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Camel ride at dusk	Nice shapes although they look a little fuzzy. Maybe a faster shutter speed would have captured them a bit sharper as they are moving subjects. Also, a bit more space around the camels would be good to give a sense of space rather than being too close.	6
AB		Looking West	Not quite a silhouette as the subject still has colour and isn't black. Be careful photographing the sun as you can damage your camera's sensor as it's like an eye and can't handle the direct sun. You can see lots of noise in the image too and sun flares on your subject. Nice idea but needed to be later in the day when the sun was further down to fit the set subject.	5
AB		Light Woman	A pretty clever image for AB grade. Nicely done.	9
AB		Windmill	This is not too bad though would probably look a bit better if you had stood further back to give more breathing space to the image or shot it as a full panoramic landscape showing the desert country. Nice orange colour though.	6
AB		Passengers waiting for the plane	This is an interesting image. I love what you have captured here. Its silhouettes mixed with ambient light. That addition of the baby crawling far left is great. Well done on seeing and capturing something	9

			different which makes the viewer look for longer to see what's going on.	
AB		Silhouette against the bay	I don't believe this is a silhouette, but it could be if you waited a few more hours until sunset. Still lots of light around and the iron sculptures are easily identifiable as being brown iron colour and not black against the sky. Little bit tight on the bottom of the paddle on the right-hand side too. Bit more breathing space for subjects like this is good.	5
AB		Spangled Drongo	I don't think this is really a silhouette as you can see lots of green colour in the leaves. If you darkened it down in post-production, it might be but hard to say without trying it. If you lightened up the shadows in post-production, it might be an ok image for the Open section as the bird itself has a nice pose as you can see the eye.	5
AB		Sunrise through the Trees	Quite pretty and you've captured everything nicely to create a silhouette.	8
AB		Sky Ladder	Quite nicely done but stepping back a little would be good as it's very close to the viewer. More space is more relaxing in an image like this. Nice clean background though, free of digital noise and good colours.	7
AB		Welcome to the dawn	I like this one. Lovely colours graduated. Some noise in the sky but not too bad. Pose is ok and the addition of the trees in the bottom edge of the frame is nice too.	8

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Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
AB		Passengers Waiting for a Plane	Interesting image mixing silhouette and ambient light so well (Sue Tardiani)