

JUDGES REPORT

2022 - June – THEME – Long Exposure

Description: Longer than 2 seconds

Judge: Roberta Edwards

Toowoomba

Grade	ID	Image Title		Score
A		Peaceful Mooring	Very peaceful scene. Nice sharp detail in the subject, good depth of field. Lovely reflection in the water. The sky needs some interest, as it is just plain black with only a couple of stars. Perhaps the moon, or some clouds, or an aeroplane flying across the sky would add that interest. The side of the boat is very bright and really catches the eye and holds it there preventing movement thorough out the image. Perhaps toning it down in post would help.	6
A		Waterfall at night	The water is soft and silky. There appears to be some camera movement in the image. Was the tripod bumped accidentally during the image capture? A good sturdy heavy duty tripod and a remote shutter release would help eliminate the possibility of accidental movement when taking a long exposure image such as this. Using the self-timer would also help eliminate this accidental movement. Try again next time you are at Paronella Park, you may be pleasantly surprised.	6
A		Reflections on the water	Good sharp image. Nice colours. Nice light trails. The long exposure has brought out the colours in the reflections in the smooth water nicely. The bottom third of the reflection could be cropped off as I feel we don't need it all to tell the story here. And perhaps cropping the light on the far left to get it off the edge of the image would also help.	7
A		Waterfall	Lovely silky waterfall flowing into the smooth silky pond below. The story is the waterfall and the bridge, the dark rocks to the right could be cropped to the crack above the dark shadow at the water line. Alternatively, a few steps to the right may have given a better vantage point so the foliage on the far left of the image could have been eliminated. Lighting is good, focus is sharp and clear throughout.	7

A		Celestial Bodies	The Tessellated Pavement is another place to go on my bucket list, hopefully in the not too distance future. The long exposure has created some lovely smooth water in the ocean. There is some slight movement in the stars, lovely reflections in the water in the foreground. The horizon curves up at the right. This should be easily correctable in post. There is quite a bit of noise in this image which can be reduced in post.	7
A		Solace	Lovely image of this hidden waterfall. The leaf at the bottom is a little soft and the rock has some bright specular return. The lower section of the rock walls is quite dark. Perhaps bracketing to get the full dynamic range and bring out some of the detail in the darker sections of the rock wall may have improved this image. Doing this may even produce some more interesting swirls in the pond below the waterfall.	7
A		Our Pond	A lovely pond it is. I feel the story here is the fountain and the water in the pond. Cropping the left side of the foliage to put the fountain on the left thirds line and cropping the top down to just above the top of the waterspout could make this a stronger image. Maybe even getting down and shooting from side on could also have helped. The water is nice and silky smooth. The foliage is nice and sharp with lovely detail.	6
A		Time for Bed Rather than Partying	Nice image of the city. However, for a long exposure I would expect to see more movement in the image. There is a very small amount of light trails in the bottom right corner. Would a better vantage point have given the opportunity to capture more of the light trails? The star bursts in the streetlights are good. Overall, the image is nicely focused and sharp.	6
A		Ellinjaa Falls	Beautiful silky water, lovely colours and detail in the rocks. I feel cool and refreshed while viewing this image on what could have possibly been an otherwise hot and humid day. There is some light mist from the waterfall spray on the right. Focus and depth of field are good. The colours are also quite good. The bright leaves on the lower left edge and the bright rock in the lower left corner, are the only distractions from this lovely scene.	8
A		Marina at night	Lovely reflections in the water. Brightly lit scene, maybe too bright. Perhaps a shorter exposure or lower ISO to prevent the lights blowing out so much would have made for a better image. The brightness of the scene has made the colours a bit flat. Increasing the contrast may have improved the image also. Nice cloud movement in the sky. You did well to get very little movement in the boats, it must have been a very calm evening. Lots of good sharp detail in the foreground rocks and the boats.	6

A		26-sec Car Dashboard Drive	I love this technique. I have even tried it myself, but not with as much abstractification as this. The colours are lovely and bright. Although some of the brighter lights do seem a little blown out. Perhaps adjusting the setting to allow less light into the camera, such as ISO and/or aperture may help this. Kudos for creativity.	8
A		Working through the Night	Nice image of this ship lit up at night. The starbursts from the lights are nice, although a bit fuzzy. Was there a bit of mist that night? The ship seems to be cut off on the right. The boat deck is well lit. Overall, this image seems a little soft. For the long exposure subject, I would expect to see evidence of more movement in the image other than the reflections in the smooth water.	6
A		Townsville at Night	Lovely night-time image of The Strand jetty. The shade structure at the end of the jetty is clear and sharp. All the lights are rather blown out at their centres. Perhaps a narrower aperture and longer exposure would have produced smoother, silkier water. The background is quite soft and there is no interest in the sky.	6
A		Almost a Halo	This is always a fun activity to photograph. Quite spectacular. This man looks as though he has no shirt on, that's either very brave or very foolish. Looks like you managed to capture another person on the far left and on the bottom left of the image. These could be either cloned or cropped out. Focus is good, lighting is bright.	7
A		Reach for the Sky	Beautiful image. Well lit, lovely clouds streaking across the sky. Nice starbursts in the lights. The river looks nice and smooth reflecting the bridge and the city. The purple lighting under the bridge really makes this image. More contrast in the buildings and the foreshore, as they look a tad flat, would have gained this image a higher score. Lovely detail and nice sharp image.	8
A		Cardwell Pier	This is a lovely image of underneath the pier. Lovely textures in the concrete of the pier. I feel as though I am about to travel through a vortex into another world. Maybe a few seconds longer for the exposure would have really smoothed out the water to a very silky consistency. Focus is good, horizon is level, Hinchinbrook and Gould Islands can be seen clearly in the distance. The cloudy sky adds to the dreaminess of the image.	8
A		Paronella Park Waterfall	This is a beautifully relaxing place to visit, and this image portrays that feeling really well. Lovely smooth silky water in the waterfall, and lovely mottled movement in the pond surface. The lighting is good, lovely detail in the trees and the rocks. Everything that needs to be is sharp and in focus. My eye keeps going to the small white splash on the lower right that seems to be there for no reason. Perhaps either cropping or cloning it out would eliminate the distraction of an otherwise beautiful image.	8

A		Blue on Blue	Quite spectacular. Very cleverly thought out and executed. The splash of water from the light beam moving through the water adds to the story and gives the image that bit extra WOW factor. Do we really need the large dark rock in the foreground? The horizon line behind the feature, once seen, cannot be unseen. I like the streaks in the light and the movement of the splashes give the direction of movement. You will have to tell me how you did this.	8
A		Night-time Hi-jinks	I love it 😊 I have always wanted to capture ghost images in the cemetery, well done! A creative and original idea for long exposure. The mono treatment has eliminated any distracting colouration and brought out the contrast nicely. The use of a textured overlay and inverting to a negative has also added to the spookiness and drama of this image.	9
A		Brisbane by Night	Nice reflection of the city light in the river. The sky is quite dark with no real interest for the viewer. Maybe earlier in the evening to get some cloud definition in the sky or catching the light trail of a plane flying through would have been more interesting. The long exposure has smoothed out the water, but more ferry light trails along the river would have also given more interest to hold the viewer's attention. Perhaps moving to a different position so the tree just right of centre wasn't blocking the view would have made it possible to capture more light trails on the river and improved this image.	7
A		Night Out	Nice depth of field. The image feels a little soft as the focus is on the vehicles in the foreground. Perhaps waiting until the lights changed and a much longer exposure would have captured more light trails from these vehicles as they moved off, maybe even captured multiple colours in the traffic lights. A major portion of the image, centre top is quite dark. Earlier in the evening would have captured some interest in the sky such as cloud movement.	6
A		Streetlights	The lighting in this lovely image has been handled well. Lovely light trails and star bursts in the streetlights. I feel correcting the perspective to eliminate the key stoning would have improved this image, as would some interest in the sky, such as cloud movement. The story here is activity in the lower right of the image. Cropping to the top and left side of the clock tower and up a little from the bottom would have given this image a higher score.	7

A		Sunset at Toomulla Beach	A lovely sunset image. However, being a long exposure, I would expect to see more movement in the clouds and the water a lot smoother and silkier. Perhaps cropping 2/3 of the sky to keep the focus on the water would have been better. That being said, the colours are rich and bold. The image has sharp focus throughout. Lovely reflections in the water. The bottom right corner is quite dark and could be lightened up just a fraction. The contre jour has also been handled well.	7
A		Fun on the Ferris Wheel	Nicely captured. Colours are lovely and bold. The centre of the Ferris Wheel is a little blown out, as are the lights at the bottom of the tower behind the wheel. I wonder, would there have been a better vantage point to get more of the wheel in view? What is not in motion is nicely in focus and lighting has been handled quite well.	7
A		Raining Fire	Spectacular capture of the fire raining down on the beach. The image is sharp and in focus with a good depth of field. The lights in the background to the right are a bit distracting. Perhaps if you were a few paces to the left these would have been hidden by the action, or a few paces to the right, they could have been cropped out.	8

IMAGE OF THE MONTH

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

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
A		Night-time Hi-Jinks	I love the creativity that went into the making of this image. The time and effort of the people involved to stage this scene should be commended. The execution of putting this composite together was exceptional. (Marcia Bacon)

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Across the Bridge to the Corner	Nice view of the town and the bridge over the river. Nice starburst in the streetlights. I feel this image could have been improved with a longer exposure and a smaller aperture to get more movement in the water and light trails from the traffic. I would suggest trying this again with the longer exposure and trying to time it so you also get all three colours in the traffic lights as they change. The image is sharp and clear. Great effort, keep practising.	7
AB		Through the City into the Sunset	This is a very nice image of the sunset sky through the city. The lighting is handled well, there is nice movement in the clouds. The lights have the nice starburst without being overly bright. Clear and sharp throughout the image from the well-chosen depth of field.	9

AB		City Lights go by so Slow	Nice take using the portrait orientation. Lovely star bursts in the lights and lovely light trails. I'd like to have seen more movement in the clouds. I feel there is an excess of foreground and half of the road below the light trails could be cropped out without losing anything from the story. The image is sharp and clear with a lovely depth of field.	8
AB		Starry, starry night by an old shack	Love the old shack. Well-lit as is the whole foreground. There is some movement in the stars. If your intent is to have an image of the stars as sharp points, a shorter exposure would achieve this. Alternatively, a longer exposure would give star trails. The reflection from the windmill flag plate really stands out above the tree. This would be a wonderful spot to revisit to try for some star trails using multiple images and stacking them in a program like StarStax or Sequator. This is quite a lovely image.	7
AB		Pathway of lights	Please take my comments as helpful as this is my intent here. This is a lovely attempt at long exposure, and I commend your effort. I can see you were on a bridge to take this image. There is quite a bit of camera movement in this image. Can I assume a tripod was used? Was there a lot of traffic passing by as this image was taken? Was the stabilisation on the camera and/or lens switch off? When shooting long exposures on a tripod, it is best to switch off the stabilisation as the camera will try to 'stabilise' the image. And no matter how solid the bridge is, any traffic will cause some movement in the bridge. Perhaps a weight on the tripod would help alleviate this movement. I do like that you have caught some good light trails and cloud movement, but I'd also watch out for dust the spots especially in the sky. I would very much like to see this image retaken.	6
AB		Reflections	Nice light trails. There is a lot of movement in this image. Was the camera bumped accidentally while taking this image or was it intentional to give the image the ICM (intentional camera movement) look. ICM is a legitimate creative technique which can produce some wonderful abstract images. As all the action is in the lower two thirds, perhaps cropping at the treetops would give this image better balance.	6

IMAGE OF THE MONTH

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Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
AB		Through the City into the Sunset	This has all the hallmarks of a well thought out and executed long exposure image. Cloud movement, silky water, sharp focus, and balanced lighting throughout the image. (Bob Hinds)