

# JUDGES REPORT

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**2022 - November – THEME – The Rule of Odds**

**Judge: Hans Schmidt**

**Maryborough**

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
<b>A</b>		Beautiful Poppy	I like the details and exposure of the poppy flower. Being a single item, which is definitely odd, the flower is well detailed and sharp. I do question however the need to crop so tightly and there is a partial out of focus flower at the left of the image, this detracts from the main subject.	6
<b>A</b>		Three Seed Pods	I actually like the composition of the three seed pods against the poppies. We still end up with odds, What I don't like is the messiness of the left pod which still has some flower bits to dispose of. I think that cleanly detailed pods would have worked well to hold the attention.	5
<b>A</b>		Beware on the Nullabor	An interesting image for the theme, the odds are only on the top small signs, and the large distance sign would make an even number of signs. Depends on the interpretation. I think that changing the angle would have kept the road out of it creating a more focused image	5
<b>A</b>		Camels on the Beach at Sunset	Good silhouette of the camel ride. The golden light of the sunset works well behind the camel train. There is still too much noise left in the image and requires further post processing to remove it. Particularly noticeable in the sky.	5
<b>A</b>		Brown Bottle Bundle	Well controlled lighting and exposure. The composition is a nice tight assembly of glass. The image is quite dark though and the details of the left-hand bottle have disappeared, I think that bringing the brightness up to just determine the outlines of the bottle would be sufficient	8
<b>A</b>		Stack your Seashells	Nicely separated from the backdrop although the focus is a bit on the soft side. The shells look like they are going to fall at any moment	5
<b>A</b>		Dark-faced Guanacos	Well focused and detailed, the animals are detailed against the background I like the bits of grass in front of the Guanacos, makes them a part of the landscape. Again, I feel that there is too tight a crop on the animals which are almost touching the sides of the image particularly the rear animal	6
<b>A</b>		Found a Resting Place	A simple composition that meets the theme. The colour of the walls provide an even background against which	6

			the men are well differentiated. I question the necessity of the object on the wall at upper left, also a change of angle may have avoided the partial doorway in the archway.	
<b>A</b>		Alternating Callisa Flowers	Definitely works well with the rule of odds. I like the angle that the stem takes through the image however feel that the top of the flower stem is too close to the edge of the image for a good composition, also the landscape orientation makes it look fallen over. Have you given thought to try this in a portrait orientation which I feel would give the image more punch.	5
<b>A</b>		Bougainvillea Flowers & Bracts	A good macro shot showing the flowers. I think that the depth of field is too shallow for the subject which has no detail in the centre of the flowers. Some of the bracts are similarly out of focus. I don't think that such a tight crop is necessary for the image.	6
<b>A</b>		Sky of Red and White	I like the composition of the planes with the last man a catch up, however I think that you have just missed the focus as the planes are soft and lacking sharpness. Important to keep the focus on the subjects.	5
<b>A</b>		Three Water Lilies in a Row	The waterlilies stand out against the background with the vibrancy of the colour, however the choice of time of day has worked against you with lack of detail in the flowers and harshness due the light.	6
<b>A</b>		Three Friends	Well exposed image of the three cockatoos. There is good detail in the feathers of the birds, and each has a catchlight in the eye which is rather important with the black cockatoo. I would have preferred the birds' tail feathers were complete on the left. I think that would have improved the image.	7
<b>A</b>		Three's a Crowd	A good composition showing separation of the righthand puffin. The depth of field is well chosen with the background nicely out of focus. The puffins are well focused and sharply detailed. Nicely done.	7
<b>A</b>		Midnight Cactus	The focus and exposure are well controlled, and the flowers have good detail in the stamens. The whites of the petals are well detailed with no blown highlights. There is a good separation of the flowers to the background	7
<b>A</b>		Wise Birds Fence Sitting	Good separation of the birds and wire from the background. Focus is a little soft and the left bird has the foliage behind it. A change of angle may have worked to give clear background but that is easy for me to say. I think though that not having the outer birds so close to the sides of the image would have given a stronger shot.	6
<b>A</b>		Go Kart Racing	The image is well exposed and focused. I notice that there is still considerable noise in the darker tones of the image. This should be removed. It would also have the benefit of separation of the elements which could use some mid tone contrast.	6

A		Three Bearings	Beautifully crafted image with well controlled exposure. I like the colouring that you have given the image. A beautiful image	9
A		Good Friends	I like the birds sitting on the branch but feel that the close crop leaving virtually no surrounds to the birds is detrimental to a strong image. Cropping so closely would require the focus is very crisp to show the minute details.	7
A		Welcome Drink	A well exposed and focused image of the budgerigars. The green colouring isolates them well from the brown background and water. I like the three at the bottom all drinking. A lovely image.	7
A		Purple Flamingo Celosia	Nicely composed and focused to highlight the front stem of flowers. The rear stems are unfocussed but have sufficient focus to be part of the overall composition. The image works well and is compliant with the theme.	6
A		Ryoanji Temple	A very clean courtyard showing the Japanese feature rocks. I like the slight cropping to panorama to highlight the features with the smooth pebble courtyard. A feature of this is the circle surrounding the rocks and I feel that showing this would complete the scene. In this case both the circles of the front rocks are cutoff and including them would have made a stronger image.	6
A		Sandstone pillars – Monument Valley	I like panoramas and this works very well. The three monuments are nicely focused and detailed. I would have preferred to see a bit more landscape at the sides though to include some expanse of the plains leading into the monuments.	7
A		Wishing for Good Luck	An interesting image well taken with the low light. There are good details in the faces although soft, and the candle bags are well focused.	5
A		Pick a Canoe	The top-down view works well, and the exposure is well managed. The focus is slightly off, and the image has a lack of crisp detail.	8
A		Seen Better Days	Well focused and exposed, the details in the cases really show the deterioration. I don't mind the heavy crop and face on position however the partial signage in the window at left would have been better left out. Maybe a move to the left to change the angle a bit would have had the desired effect.	7

### IMAGE OF THE MONTH

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

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
A		Three Bearings	Beautifully crafted image that works well. <b>(Cecily Jones)</b>

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Three Roo's	A nice composition of the three wallabies. They are defined nicely against the background which has similar tones. The front two are nicely detailed and exposed. Well done.	8

AB		Trio of Bee-eaters	I like the capture and the bottom one has an insect in the beak. There looks to be good detail in the bodies of all 3 and some more post processing would bring that detail out. The heads are dark although there is catchlight in the eyes and the bodies look a bit on the muddy side. Brightening and noise reduction sharpening would help to lift the image.	7
AB		3 Cockatiels fly into a bar.... They all got concussion!	The image meets the theme quite well the cockatiels are well defined against a deep blue sky. There is some detail in the bodies however overall, the image presents as a little on the blocky side. I think you replaced the background with a sky which has not worked well, and a lot of the edge details are missing.	3
AB		Sitting Docked at the Bay	The image looks busy with the boats against the buildings however they fit the theme. There is good detail however the white balance is an issue with blue permeating the image. I would think the main building as well as the boats should be a brilliant white, needs some attention.	5
AB		Church Windows	Well exposed for detail, the image is however at an angle which presents the windows on a partial aspect. My attention keeps going to the half a person walking in the door which takes the attention away from the title subject. Also, there is considerable noise which can be removed in post, and this would sharpen the detail	5
AB		Deep Pink Roses	Good detail without blowing the highlights. There are good tones in the petals which would not be easy at the time of day with the harsh sunlight. They are well separated from the background by distance as well as colour. I would suggest though that you not cut off parts of the flowers when they are presented as the main subject. All 3 flowers are cut off and zooming out slightly would have avoided this	5
AB		Lawn Webs	Nicely taken, good composition, I like the detail in the webs and grass. Not a subject that most would see and take. Just needs some contrast to grab the viewers' attention.	6
AB		Leaf Trio	I like the composition and the exposure has been well controlled and whilst I also take images of deformed plant matter it has to be interesting and hold the viewers' attention. A better selection of subject matter would benefit.	5

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

Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
AB		Three Roo's	Quite a good image well composed and exposed <b>(Bob Hinds)</b>