

# JUDGES REPORT

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**2021 - September – THEME – Sunrise/Sunset**

**Description: Nil**

**Judge: Ralph Brown**

**Sunshine Coast**

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
AB		Broome Sunset	A very nice sunset with vibrant colours. A slight change in composition may be a stronger image. More to the left and less on the right would bring the sun to the right third. I also suggest cropping from the bottom to move the horizon off the centre of the frame.	4
AB		Clouds at Sunset	This is a lovely scene with the light in the sky giving the image impact. There is a fair bit of noise in the blue of the sky that may be due to pushing the ISO higher than the camera's capability.	4
AB		Morning Sky Ablaze	Rich colours in the sky and good composition in this image. The foreground is a little dark and perhaps a graduated filter to lighten the bottom would bright out more detail	5
AB		Sunset on Ross River	Wonderful image of the fluffy clouds lit by the bright golden light of the setting sun. The reflection in the water is also a great part of the image. I suggest cropping the sky down to the top of the higher orange clouds and I don't think there is much interest above there.	6
AB		A Shepherds Delight	Good rich red colours in this image but the soft focus has weakened the final result. To get everything sharp, I suggest using a tripod to eliminate the handheld shake.	3
AB		Glorious Morning	This image certainly has fabulous impact as the bright sunlit area really grabs your attention. It is perhaps a little too bright and under exposing the image may have been a stronger result.	5
AB		Red Sunset in Darwin	A wonderful scene with great colour in the sky. I am not too keen on the railing in the bottom as it intrudes into the reflected light on the water. There also appears to be some noise in the sky and suggest a lower ISO and a tripod would be a stronger image.	6
AB		Sunset Airlie Beach	The image is striking but I'm not sure the over saturation has worked in this shot. The blue particularly is overdone, and we have lost detail in the boats and the jetty. I think it has potential and suggest going back to the original and try a different technique.	3
AB		Sunrise at Toomulla	This is quite a lovely scene with good interest in the foreground and sky. There seems to be a greenish colour	3

			cast in the image, but it may be just the melding of the gold and blue of the sky creating the illusion. The horizon does not look level to me and I suggest a slight clockwise rotation.	
<b>AB</b>		Sunset at Bowen	I love the way the maker has captured the sun in the valley of the mountains. The lighting and exposure of the sun and sky has been well managed considering you are shooting straight into the sun. Not sure we need all the foreground and suggest cropping out most of the pavement. Watch the water is level as it looks to be tilted down on the left.	5
<b>AB</b>		Moody Sunrise	Beautiful sunrise with good detail and colour in the clouds and I love the reflected light in the water. The central location is a good choice in this image and successfully breaks the rule of thirds	6
<b>AB</b>		Sunrise Surf	A little different to the traditional sunrise/sunset shot and although it is obviously taken early or late in the day, the set subject would normally show the sun.	3
<b>AB</b>		Idalia Sunset	I quite enjoyed this image with motion blur in the sky resulting in the leading lines that draw the viewer into the intersecting third. A little dodging to lighten through the centre would bring out more detail but this has not significantly affected the result.	7
<b>AB</b>		Toomulla Sunrise	I really enjoyed this image; the sun is off centre and not a huge bright spot and it balance with the trees on the right. Some judges may comment about unsupported trees, but I think it works here. You have also retained the detail in the foreground rocks which is excellent. Very good image, well done.	8
<b>AB</b>		Yarramin	A good image well composed with the tree on each side giving the image balance. Presenting them as a silhouette if a good choice as it really focuses the viewer into the stunning colours of the clouds and sky.	6
<b>AB</b>		Dusk Dispersal	This image as been well shot with what I assume are bats in the sky at dusk. Using a tripod to steady the camera may have resulted in a sharper image.	4
<b>AB</b>		Pine Good By	This reminds me of Norfolk Island with the sun setting over the water and the Norfolk pines silhouetted against the bright sky. A good composition and well controlled exposure and colour saturation. Not sure we need all the area in the bottom and suggest cropping up to the first branch of the pine.	5
<b>AB</b>		Out West	The light in the sky is striking and has wonderful vibrance. It took me a while to work out what the squares of light were on the right until I realise this was the reflection of a lagoon through a picket fence. A stronger image may have been over the fence, so all the water was visible.	5
<b>AB</b>		Pathways in the Sky	A good image over the water with the reflection of the sun. Great detail in the clouds. The darks areas are a	6

			little blocked out and suggest trying to lighten the blacks a little to bring out more detail	
<b>AB</b>		Western Sunset	The composition of this image has been well thought out by placing the windmill to the right of centre and making it a silhouette against the bright sky of the setting sun. Including some trees also grounds the image. Having the sun visible may suit the subject better but I did enjoy the image as presented.	8
<b>AB</b>		Sunrise	This is quite a good image and certainly the colours grab the viewer's attention. I'm not sure we need all the area in the bottom and suggest cropping about half of that out. There also appears to be dust spots in the sky so be careful to remove them in post processing.	4
<b>AB</b>		Sunset	The layers of the mountains make this a lovely scene and the colours in the sky add interest and impact. The grass in the foreground is a little distracting and a higher camera angle to eliminate it would have been stronger.	4
<b>AB</b>		The Beginning of a New Day	Well balanced image with the horizon almost centre but the sun and sky balances against the water and branches. Well exposed even though the sun is burnt out, this is to be expected. The sun in the centre works in this image which breaks all the rule. Only suggestion is to crop a little off the top but not a big issue.	7
<b>AB</b>		Winding Down	Capturing the sun's rays adds interest to an image and placing it in the gap of the rocks works well. The contrast is very high which is to be expected but I would like to see a little more detail in the foreground rock. There is information there, but it is just a touch too dark.	5

IMAGE OF THE MONTH (ONE only for each Grade in Theme and Open please)			
Grade	ID	Image Title	Reason for Placing
<b>AB</b>		Toomulla Sunrise	I thought this image encompassed all you want to see from a Sunrise photo. It portrays a beautiful mood and sense of calm and serenity. One I recommend gets printed to hang on the wall. <b>(Sharryl Whiting)</b>

Grade	ID	Image Title	Comments	Score
<b>A</b>		Beach Sunrise	This is a great scene, and the colours are excellent. There appears to have been some brush work to bring out more detail in the sky but there are some light areas left untouched that have weakened the results.	3
<b>A</b>		Bright Sunrise	This is quite a nice image and I like the way you have captured the sun's rays through the clouds. There appears to be a greenish colour cast in the image and I suggest checking the White Balance,	4
<b>A</b>		Natures Sceptre	Well seen shot using the grass tree flowers to frame the scene. Good colour reproduction with high saturation of the colours. There is a small echo of colour from the red flower in the bottom right against the reds in the sky.	5

<b>A</b>		Untamed	This is an exception image, slow shutter to add motion blur to the water, good detail in the rocks and vegetation and good colour in the sky. The maker has pushed the limit on the highlight but retained most of the detail in the water. It may be worth trying to darken the water just a little, but I think it is pretty good the way it is. The colours in the sky indicate sunrise/sunset without the harsh glare of the sun. Fantastic.	9
<b>A</b>		Tropical River Sunset	Natures artwork on display in this image. Is almost like an abstract painting with the sun shining over it. I love the sense of swirling light in the water and the exposure has been well managed to control the high contrast and bright sun.	7
<b>A</b>		Weeds at Sunset	An abstract sunset image with the light of the sun producing a silhouette of the weeds. The colours give the image impact, but I think a more interesting subject would have been stronger.	5
<b>A</b>		Sundown at Milford Sound	The stillness of the water in the image has produce an exceptional mirror reflection of the setting sun. The sun's rays add another element and impact. Stunning	8
<b>A</b>		Sunset at Strahan	This is an interesting image and a brave choice to use a vertical aspect for a landscape. There is good detail throughout and may have been a merged HDR image to get the full light range. Using a tripod and filters to slow down the shutter would add motion blur to the water and mood to the scene	6
<b>A</b>		End of Another Day in Paradise	The mood of this image is quite strong with the person enjoying the last rays of the setting sun. The soft pastel light in the image adds calm serenity to the scene. Not the strongest in the set subject as the sun is not visible.	5
<b>A</b>		Life and Death	Framing the sun in the branches of the tree is a well seen composition. The maker has managed the exposure well and retained detail in the darks of the tree. I wonder if a landscape format would have been stronger so we could see more to the left and right of this scene	6
<b>A</b>		Sunrise at Cape Hillsborough	Great colour in the sky and the Cape silhouetted in the rising sun. The real interest is in the sky and there is some reflection in the wet sand but I'm not sure we need all of it. I suggest cropping from the bottom to remove about half of the wet sand to focus the viewer more on the sky.	5
<b>A</b>		Sunrise at the Pier Townsville	Capturing the pier and the people out enjoying the sunrise really personalises the image and adds emotion. Well managed exposure to silhouette the pier against the beautiful colours of the rising sun. A tighter crop top and bottom into a panoramic may be a stronger composition.	7
<b>A</b>		Sunrise over the River	Another beautiful image of the rising sun over the river. Capturing the rowers out training adds another element and interest to the stunning colour in the sky and	6

			reflection in the water. Another time with less floating vegetation may have produced a clearer reflection.	
<b>A</b>		Sunrise Reflections	Another image of Cape Hillsborough very similar to one seen earlier. This show more of the environment of the scene and the richness of the colours in the sky and wet sand. A very strong image in this subject	8
<b>A</b>		Sunset Cruise	A beautiful scene of the boat against the setting sun. Having part of the very bright sun visible right on the edge of the frame may not be an ideal choice and perhaps with bracketing and merging you could have included more of the sun.	5
<b>A</b>		Western Sunset	The setting sun over the water is always worth seeing and this image incorporated the birds on the beach with the wonderful light of the setting sun. A tighter crop may have been stronger as there is a lot of the image without interest.	5
<b>A</b>		Amazing Clouds	There is an ethereal sense to this image that grabs your attention. The amazing colours in the clouds and the reflection draw you in for a closer look. Very pretty.	7
<b>A</b>		Early Morning on Ross River	The different layers in this image lead you through the scene. The water with the great reflection, then the banks of the river with the dark vegetation and then the low clouds followed by the sun lit higher clouds. Very effective. Only suggestion is to bring out more detail in the darks but not a big issue.	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>		Untamed	An exception image with so much to see and beautifully captured. This has to be printed and hung on the wall. <b>(Cassie McMahon)</b>