

# JUDGES REPORT

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**2024 - January - Monochrome**

**Judge - John Blessas - PSQA Mackay**

Image Title	Comments	Score
Australian Bush	Beautiful trees. Some thoughts on this image. Could you have bought more detail/contrast out in the bark? Should the incongruous steelies in the bottom left have been at least toned down? While there are several magnificent trees, which one really stands out and steals the show? A nice image with a sense of place.	6
Elegant Lillies	Nice bunch. Are they a little crowded? The outer flowers would have the same contrast as the center one but feel almost squashed by comparison. Not harmonious? An interesting image that possibly should be reshot with different arrangements to look for a more pleasant feeling image.	6
Milky Way Over the Bush	Nice image. The highlight on the tree really makes it stand out. Is the sky possibly a little bright? Would dropping the exposure a little give a stronger image? Wonderful image.	8
The Day Begins	A wonderful spot. The image feels over processed. The background inside the palm foliage actually shines. Also there is a quite visible halo around the worker, where the eye is attracted to. Consider reprocessing the image and using third party software to sharpen without these artifacts. Minor thought, the image appears to have been taken from normal standing height. Did you consider a lower angle to include the point of the pool and make the rocks more of a feature? A lovely location.	4
Chinese Lantern	A nice image. This is a story in itself. The workmanship is well caught and also the feel of the different culture. Nicely done.	7
Chuck Wagon	This is well done. By only getting part of the wagon, you have both told the whole story, but have also managed to put it in context without the buildings and smoko area around it. Incredibly well done.	9
Hammond Park	A very interesting little scene. This was a problem image. It faithfully records everything. But there is so much detail there. It is a real "considered" image. The more it is looked at the more there is. The second consideration is the background foliage. It somehow is overbearing on the image. You have recorded the scene well, but does the overall overshadow the finding of a point of interest? Would either a change of background or a detail shot of just the front of the dovecot have given a stronger image?	5
Washed Up	No longer needed. Now returning to nature over the next decade. Nice quiet story.	7
In my Window	Very nostalgic. Just enough showing to tell the story. Well done.	6
Mack	Symbol of power. Just quietly sitting on several hundred horsepower. Shot from a very good angle to just catch that little reflection.	6

Guarding the Tyres	A typical brick with legs (staffy) hard at work. The sepia treatment gives a slightly nostalgic feel to the image. Well shot and the processing fits.	6
In the Mist	Incredible tree in an ethereal landscape.	9
View From Kinka Beach Walkway	Nice. Again, it is possibly overprocessed. Halos and bright areas against the sandbanks and the gentleman look/feel out of place.	4
Yachts, Rosslyn Harbour	A really rugged scene. I sat and looked at the image as the context was out. It then dawned; you were on the breakwater to get this very different image. Very well done as it is so different.	7
Cloudy Hills	Erie image. This was looked at several times before commenting. The title refers to clouds. The cloud is not as noticeable as the bright vegetation in the foreground. Would a Curves layer (with masking) have been used to bring out the hill and cloud and make that part of the image more prominent?	4
Moody Mountain Range	Very foreboding. It is a beautiful scene. However, the first thing that attracts the eye is the road sign in the foreground. Did you consider taking the image from the other side of them? This may also have given a better lead in line of the road.	5
Dropbear Alert	A very good formal portrait.	6
Gorilla Girl	Quirky. An out there portrait.	6
Misty Morning	Wow. So much spooky feeling. Incredible image.	8
Waiting to go Out	Quirky. The story of a family with inanimate objects.	7
Insignificant Windsurfer	Well seen. This is so apt in its conception. Looking at that sky my immediate thought was how much more could you bring out the clouds and highlight the windsurfer's kite? Possibly a Levels layer using the white point eyedropper on the breaking surf and reducing the Midtones would really pop the scene. Nicely done.	7
Tourists in Town	Interesting and a whole story. One wants something from the shop. One wants to know what the statue is about. The other has a device and is happy. Dad is just puzzled. Different and well done.	6
Abandoned Barn Brisbane Valley	A wonderful old building. The fog adds to the feeling of the image. It really adds to the feel of the image. Is the image overprocessed? There are very noticeable halos around the roof edges that draw the eye. Good processing should enhance but not be noticeable. Brilliant shot.	5
Red Flying Fox Surat	Spectacularly well shot. The processing then works to bring out the detail. Nice.	8
Dance Movement	This is wonderful. She radiates joy. Nicely shot and processed	7
Under the Cardwell Jetty	That location. We all have a shot from there. Yours is really well done. You have got the tide and outside lighting to give beautiful light and contrast. Is there a little overprocessing? Slight halos around the structure do detract a bit from the overall feel of the image.	5
Looking for Breakfast	Brilliant shot.	9
Misty Mountain	This had to be looked at a number of times before commenting. What did the artist want someone to see? The softness and dull feel of the image actually work well to convey the message. Not a pop image, but a nice considered pleasing shot.	8
Royal Guard	An interesting shot. Two points seem to stand out with the image. Is it level? The riders appear to be tilted to the left of the image. This is compounded by the lamppost and the other vertical line in the image. The second point is brightness. So	4

	much detail is blown out. This is quite evident on the saddle fleeces and the helmet badges. Please try reprocessing this in Camera RAW and try the following: reduce Highlights and Blacks, increase Whites and Shadows. This may really increase the detail without changing the effect of the image. A very nice memory shot of your trip.	
The Monument	A nice image. But the next thought is where is the context? It has emotional significance to the photographer as they were there and took the image and so have the memories of the time and place. Does another viewer that does not know the location/item have this emotional context? A nice image but possibly one that should be used in a themed category on London Looking Up or similar.	4
Elery Creek Gorge	Bang, Australian outback summer. A story with all the feel of time and place.	7
The Eucalypt	A magnificent tree. Minor thoughts. Shoot from the left more and lower to silhouette the lower branches better? Clone out the house to add to the sense of "out there"? A really nice shot.	7
St. Paul	A very iconic shot.	6
The Grand Palace at Night	Yes! First thought was "Is the tuk tuk necessary?" Second was "Is the pedestrian count down timer and the portable fencing being obtrusive?" Or is this the context of the times? Ancient buildings and traditions co-existing with the present. Very, very well done.	8
Nom Nom Grass	Wonderful portrait.	6
The Innocence of the Young	WOW! Nothing else to say.	9

Image Title	Reason for Placing
The Innocence of the Young	Impact. The simple clothing with the long light-coloured hair allows the split lighting to really bring out the girl's eyes as the only thing you look at. My congratulations to both the photographer and the model. <b>(Karen Grice)</b>