



# Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	December 12 ~ 2016	<b>Print Secretary</b> <b>Brian Paatsch</b> 02 6025 2117 <a href="mailto:brianjan@dragnet.com.au">brianjan@dragnet.com.au</a>
<b>Judge:</b>	Margaret Zommers	
<b>Subject:</b>	Open	

## Colour Prints – Section 'B' (Green Dot)

1	12	Last Shine	10	pts	Place	
<p>A good composition with the setting sun off centre, as is its reflection. The shape of the lake, rimmed with trees which soften its shape, being curved, is subliminally pleasing. The detail in the sky is good. The image is dark at the top and the bottom which is good as it “closes” the image and stops the viewer’s eye leaving the frame. I wonder, but am not sure, if more detail in the shadows might work. Try increasing the shadow slider to see if you like this more.</p>						
2	27	My Best Friend	13	pts	Place	Merit
<p>The dog’s eyes, nose and jaws are what is emphasised here because of the tight head crop however one ear tip is missing and the jaw at the bottom is a bit too near the edge of the frame. Crop a more generously at the bottom and if the ear tip is missing, commit to the chopped top by doing it thoroughly, rather than just a bit which looks like a mistake. Ie. Chop MORE of the ear off. A square crop works well in such situations. A vignette would darken the top left bright corner.</p>						
3	34	Reflection of Singapore	9	pts	Place	
<p>You have caught the vibrancy of this bustling city with lovely reflections in the water against a contrasting black sky. Two issues to work on: it is not straight (<i>only a tiny bit sloping down to the right – see bottom rail</i>) which is easy to fix, but more importantly it is not sharp. Learn to do that first.</p>						
4	37	Early Days	12	pts	Place	
<p>There are some good compositional elements in this image, with the hill slope mid right down to the bottom rocks forming a V which points to the tree in the swirling water. The details in that swirling water are excellent, with another V of trees on the mid left pointing to the far distant horizon. There is interest in the sky. I think you could have given the composition more dramatic tension by changing where you stood (<i>if possible</i>) to give more prominence to the third tree at the back, or to place the one in the water more off centre. Painting with light on that tree trunk would give it more emphasis. See Serge Ramelli for on line videos of painting with light.</p>						
5	59	Yum Grevillia	13	pts	Place	Merit
<p>Lovely light on this bird’s head and detail throughout its body. Well placed in a surround of darker green which shows it off. Cropped a tiny bit short at its wing tip and with more knowledge of image editing you could have tilted this image to show the bird on a diagonal which is a more pleasing placement. A useful skill that awaits you! Its head is not sharp but its body is so perhaps that is because the bird moved. A higher shutter speed would fix that.</p>						
6	79	Sole Tree	14	pts	Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
<p>Great tuft of grass in the foreground, catching the viewer’s eye, great slope of red hillside balanced with the purple fold of hills middle distance, great clouds in the sky. The tree would be better off slightly more off centre and the green/aqua in the sky, while you may personally like it, doesn’t ring true as the right colour. The viewer will subconsciously reject a colour that appears wrong in an otherwise classic landscape. Perhaps that was its colour and the judge, as is so often the case, is wrong! But perhaps it has occurred through too much rich saturation.</p>						
7	116	Touch of Gold	14	pts	Place	Merit
<p>A beautiful flower especially as it is covered in water droplets which make it shine as with jewels. However, the crop needs re-thinking. You are cropped too tightly on top, right and bottom. You have left room on the left for the leaf so if you want to retain that, step back a little to give the flower more space round it OR crop the leaf out and turn the format into a square. Personally, I would step back but either should work.</p>						



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<b>8</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>Stirling Ranges</b>	<b>15</b>	pts	Place	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>
<p>This is lovely with its detail in the sky, loads of interest in the foreground, and subtle shapes in the middle distance. The fact that the bottom is darker than the rest 'earths' the image but a vignette at the top might help the viewer's eye from floating up and out of the frame. Always or nearly always a landscape needs to be topped and bottomed. Here you have bottomed but not topped! A graduated filter on the sky would achieve this too.</p>						
<b>9</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>Sydney Going Home</b>	<b>10</b>	pts	Place	
<p>Some strong diagonals through the image with powerful shapes of triangles and the square opening of the tunnel. Overall the image is busy and it needs some specific shape to be emphasised so as to form a main subject. Walk about till something appears which can fulfil this task.</p>						
<b>10</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>After the Rain</b>	<b>12</b>	pts	Place	
<p>The waterfall is well placed off centre, with dark rocks which are sharp forming a good foreground element. The sky is dull but you have kept it to a minimum. (<i>Perhaps a graduated filter of the sky might help with that</i>). The water is slightly milky. It could have a bit more oomph with an increase in mid-tone contrast in image editing. There is a leading line from the water bottom left up to the waterfall itself. There is a problem with the paper – a W shows through in the area of the sky.</p>						
<b>11</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>The Morning News</b>	<b>13</b>	pts	Place	<b>Merit</b>
<p>This is an excellent image from a compositional point of view as it is square and it works that way, though it is not the typical subject for a square format. The lady is off centre, the blue chair leads the eye towards her, and the large green shape on the left balances her more vertical figure. Her hat forms a dominant triangle to contrast with the otherwise busyness of the papers behind her. The image is not sharp which is a great pity. When your camera skills are as good as your compositional skills you will be a formidable photographer. It is telling a story of a relaxed worker.</p>						
<b>12</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>Polar Bear</b>	<b>11</b>	pts	Place	
<p>The animal's position highlights its shape which is very pleasing in this image. The strands of ice, rock and sky work well. The bear could have been sharper and I would have cropped a third off the left as this is dead space. Or even a tighter crop all-round the bear would make it more prominent and decrease attention on the ice and water and rocky shoreline.</p>						
<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>I am Real</b>	<b>11</b>	pts	Place	
<p>You have seized the moment to grab the shot. How wonderful to have such a beautiful insect up close and personal. The issue is that the butterfly has to compete for attention with the gold ring on its chain and the curve of the shirt. To keep the eye on the butterfly perhaps darken everything else, such as with a radial filter.</p>						



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### Colour Prints – Section 'A' (Yellow Dot)

1	113	Variegated Fairywren	14	pts	Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
<p>The wren is tack sharp, with beautiful detail throughout. Nice branch of wood for it to stand on. The background is blurred but I would have blurred it even more so that you couldn't make out the shapes there and darkened top right corner.</p>						
2	81	Reflected Taranakin	12		Place	
<p>Very rich colours in the grasses and blue sky and blue reflections. Vivid clouds. The mountain is centrally placed which is correct here as the scene is symmetrical. The mountain has a haze on it. Very strong saturation. No suggestions for this one.</p>						
3	78	Standing Proud	12	pts	Place	
<p>The tree on mid line left is very eye catching because of the light on its left trunk, and the light on the hill is too. The sky being a uniform pale blue is not the most interesting but that is what you had on that particular day. The deep shadows cause a layered effect in the foreground. The detail I would have improved is to leave more space above the tree tranches top mid left.</p>						
4	43	Lily	15	pts	Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
<p>Lily is so well placed, she has catch lights in her eyes, is pin sharp round her eyes, nose and jaw, and I love the dark vignette drawing attention to her face. The background is extremely well done with its complimentary tones.</p>						
5	14	Yanco Creek	11	pts	Place	
<p>The tree on the right is very eye catching because of the lovely textures on its bark. Its branch frames the top of the image. The reflections in the water of the creek are good. The white patch of sky could be brushed darker, but the main suggestion I would make here is that the central greenery below that patch of sky needs painting with light to give it a lift. See Serge Rameli's painting with light free videos on the internet for how to do this. It is an important skill to learn to transform otherwise flat or dull patches within an image. The light on the tree trunks bottom left are also very good.</p>						



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## Monochrome Prints

<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Working Hard</b>	<b>9</b>	pts	Place	
<p>These two wonderful animals are taken from a good perspective, to reveal their heads plus some of their backs. One being darker than the other is good contrast, with the ground and trees lighter too, to give depth. There is a general prejudice amongst judges against white vignettes though I use and like them. However here the white faded section down the left side of the image does not work, in my opinion. It looks like a mistake.</p>						
<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Mystique</b>	<b>15</b>	pts	Place	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>
<p>The placement of these lilies together with their leaves are so artistically arranged to reveal the veins in the petals and the two-tone effect in the leaves. All have soft curves and stretch upwards into the image. Lovely work.</p>						
<b>3</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>Patience</b>	<b>12</b>	pts	Place	
<p>The placement of the pug's head on an angle diagonally across the frame is good, as is the blurring out of the second dog which mirrors the first dog. Its eyes and mouth draw attention because they are rimmed with dark hair contrasting against the white of the rest of her body. Sadly, the image is not sharp. Also, it might have been more interesting to see the head turned <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> on so that we could see more of the face.</p>						
<b>4</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>On a Sunny Sunday Afternoon</b>	<b>11</b>	pts	Place	
<p>nice placement of tree on left with branches carrying the eye up into the whole image and out to its edges. nice tonal range. however, the path behind the tree is blown out and the trunk would perhaps look better if it had more shadow detail. pull back the highlights and bring up the shadow slider.</p>						
<b>5</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>Church of the Good Shepherd</b>	<b>14</b>	pts	Place	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>
<p>Wonderful tonal range from dark through to white, with much in the mid tonal range too. The sky is wonderfully detailed but too bright so needs a graduated filter on the lens or in post-production. The church is well placed in the frame with good detail in the foreground. This image has excellent impact.</p>						
<b>6</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>Black Beauty</b>	<b>13</b>	pts	Place	<b>Merit</b>
<p>It is indeed a black beauty. Wonderful highlights on all the chrome. The image is too tightly cropped on the right so always take the photo with some space all round to allow for a more generous crop. I would have taken it from a different angle, more side on. It is a touch soft.</p>						
<b>7</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>Ravages of Time</b>	<b>9</b>	pts	Place	
<p>The image maker has tried to do something different here by making the central tree, with its age damaged branches and foliage quite crisp against a background of blurred landscape and fog and misty sky. The C curve in the tree is good and its dark tone is well contrasted against the clouds. The image is dark at the top and needs to be dark at the bottom too. It is too busy in the middle to bottom sections so my suggestion would be to blur the entire middle ground out, except for the main tree – if possible.</p>						
<b>8</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>Morning Mist</b>	<b>10</b>	pts	Place	
<p>It has three distinct layers or levels, being foreground, middle ground and background with a soft, moody feel throughout. Nice framing of the tree on the right and a little hill to add detail on the left. Needs a vignette and while the whole image is soft, this adds to the mood however it needs to have a little more impact.</p>						
<b>9</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>Tulips</b>	<b>10</b>	pts	Place	
<p>The lighting is unusual as there is light from both left and right, yet the whole flower and stem are not well let, thereby giving a moody, dramatic flavour to the image. Unique, different. Dramatic. Sadly, it is not sharp.</p>						



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## EDIB Competition

<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Early</b>	<b>10</b>	pts	Place	
<p>Golden light beautifully captured. The dead tree well placed on third line and it links the foreground to the middle ground. Lovely shimmering water. This image doesn't work as a panorama as there is no interest on the far left (<i>must be interest at both ends for a panorama</i>) so crop a lot off the left.</p>						
<b>2</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>Night Garden</b>	<b>9</b>	pts	Place	
<p>Intriguing shapes and colours set against the black night sky. Interesting and unusual. Good choice to capture three of them and good placement of detail in bottom third. The settings on the camera SHOULD have made this image sharp but it is not. Perhaps camera shake as it was held for ¼ second. A tripod would prevent camera shake.</p>						
<b>3</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>It is a Lonely Place</b>	<b>14</b>	pts	Place	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>
<p>The Koala's head is well placed in top left third with eyes near the cross between thirds and body on a diagonal to bottom right. It is clinging to a beautiful branch with lovely texture in the wood and this branch is a left rising diagonal which meets the downward diagonal of the body, forming a compositional V. Very good composition. Sharp. Nice framing with leaves. In a perfect world, the koala would have had catch lights in his/her eyes. Unusual crop as it is nearly square.</p>						
<b>4</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>Love the Cyclist</b>	<b>9</b>	pts	Place	
<p>I enjoyed this image because the dissecting lines contrasting with the many vertical lines add shape and interest. The path from the bottom right leads towards the cyclist so there is somewhere for your eye to go to. I would probably have cropped it more into a vertical rectangle as it is a little too squarish and it needs straightening.</p>						
<b>5</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>Camouflage</b>	<b>11</b>	pts	Place	
<p>It sure is camouflaged! The slight diagonal of its body is good. Panorama choice unusual. Darken the rock mid left so that it is not a distraction. A vignette too would be okay. It is not sharp and the camera settings mean it should have been so I am wondering if it was shot in raw and not sharpened post processing, or shot in JPEG? If the latter your camera settings may be wrong and need to be reset because this image should have been sharp yet I was able to sharpen it on my computer.</p>						
<b>6</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>Alicha</b>	<b>15</b>	pts	Place	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>
<p>An attractive, unusual and therefore interesting portrait. There is interest throughout as there is so much detail in all the fabrics. The light falling on the right side of her face gives her catch lights. Her hair framing her face adds essential contrast to the otherwise fairly similarly toned image. A nit-picking comment is that her eyes are a tiny bit high above the top 1/3<sup>rd</sup> line.</p>						
<b>7</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>Icelandic Glacier Lake</b>	<b>12</b>	pts	Place	
<p>Good use of panorama but watch for horizons which usually don't work BEST if on the mid line. The reflections are lovely. The colour is rich and attractive. There is a dark patch of blue in the middle of the sky probably caused by using a wide-angle lens.</p>						
<b>8</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>Surrounded</b>	<b>8</b>	pts	Place	
<p>A good fun photo, with lots of energy and amusement. However, you have stood in the wrong spot to take this photo as the light from this angle does not do your subject(s) justice. The man's face is in shadow and the seagulls' bodies are blown out. Move until his face is in the light. Then you can increase the exposure without blowing out the highlights.</p>						
<b>9</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>A Room with a View</b>	<b>10</b>	Pts	Place	
<p>This is good composition in that the arch of the window frames the view. The theme of the arch is repeated in the glass of the window too. The dissecting lines of the window panes take your eye to the mountains beyond. An attractive scene with the tree off centre too. However, I think the bottom third (<i>the inside of the room is a little dark and could be lightened to show more detail</i>) and sadly, the flags outside the building are a distraction because they are so colourful.</p>						



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10	163	The Open Door	13	Pts	Place	Merit
<p>The geometric, interlocking shapes are outstanding in this image, and the rich yellow contrasted with the rich orange/red. The edges with their dark details add complexity and contrast with the plainness of the central yellow wall. It is slightly crooked, but only slightly. This can be fixed easily in Lightroom or Photoshop. The light central left area is a distraction so it should could be darkened. A graduated filter on the left edge would have fixed this.</p>						
11	168	Golden Oyster Mushrooms	12	Pts	Place	
<p>Most photographers would have chosen three mushrooms to step down diagonally from top left to bottom right so 2 is unusual. You have also cropped out two at the bottom left and two at the top left so this is a very unusual grouping but I think it works. Why? The curves in the stems and the repeat patterns of the fluted stems, together with the pale, lovely lit mushroom caps make for a delightful, unusual image. I don't know if it would have worked better with three – that is the conventional wisdom. Overall the image worked better for me exposed half a stop more to make it lighter.</p>						
12	117	Elephant Rocks	11	Pts	Place	
<p>The sky is to die for, with its subtle, yet exquisite colours. The composition with its foreground, middle ground and background is sound, with horizon on the top third. A graduated filter of the sky would have added drama as the image overall is a little drab and flat. Increasing the reds and yellows in the rocks would add impact. Such a few changes would transform this into a top image.</p>						
13	166	Water Drop	11	Pts	Place	
<p>Great name but we don't consider names when marking. A very good placement of the camera to be able to look down on such a powerful fall of water from not too far away, close enough to see the detail in the pool at its base, and it forms a wonderful stepped diagonal from top left down in a zig zag. A very definite vignette would have given this image a sense of completion as a composition.</p>						
14	148	Grampians	10	Pts	Place	
<p>Good background, middle and foreground, and an interesting sky because the clouds have stunning shape and sense of movement. The line of trees at the top edge of the bottom third softens the 'strata' effect of the composition. Yellow and blue compliment. Crop out leaves top left. For a panorama, you need interest on both sides, and that is not really so here therefore it would have worked better as a 2:3 crop or a 4:3. Try both and see what you like best.</p>						



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## EDIA Competition

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<b>1</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>The Secret Waterfall</b>	<b>11</b>	Pts	Place		
<p>The left side of this forest wall is not adding to the image and so I would crop to the Fibonacci ratio, thus giving the waterfall more emphasis. Try it and see what you think. If your club doesn't know about the Fibonacci ratio there is stuff on the internet on it. It is a subliminally perfect crop which I use whenever I can. A beautiful shot, beautifully taken. Silky water, lovely highlights on the rocks, detail in the water – all lovely. Use of inner landscape works well here. It is better overall one and a half stops more exposed so in my opinion the overall image is too dark.</p>							
<b>2</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>Left Long Ago</b>	<b>13</b>	Pts	Place	<b>Merit</b>	
<p>Judges go on endlessly about putting the subject off centre but this beautiful image would have worked even better if it had been centred as it is symmetrical. Chop some of the far right off. Lovely shapes, lovely light, lovely patterns. The image could be telling a story of the hopes and dreams of convicts fantasising about escaping out through that bright doorway. Floor well painted with light to lead up to that door.</p>							
<b>3</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>White Necked Jacobin Humming Bird</b>	<b>12</b>	Pts	Place		
<p>Capturing this bird so crisply, while in flight, doing its 'humming' is quite an achievement. The flowers too are beautifully crisp. However, two suggestions for improvement – the bird has a white halo round its wings, neck and head caused by over sharpening. Secondly the way you have presented the flowers and the bird has resulted in two subjects which really rival each other. Or the flowers steal attention away from the bird. Crop them out! Or use a radial filter to darken the background, including the flowers, to leave the bird with all the attention because it has the light.</p>							
<b>4</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>Icons</b>	<b>12</b>	Pts	Place		
<p>Such a clever name, though we don't count the name while judging. The opera house is beautifully captured – small and delicate. The skyscrapers forming the city scape are colourful and on the same scale as the opera house. Over all looms the other icon, which also has been captured excellently. However, the image has a problem. The bridge is too big and dominant for the two other smaller, delicate subjects and overpowers them. So it is not balanced, compositionally. My suggestion here is to walk round the scene exploring for an angle which put all three into a more equal relationship with each other although the bridge would always seem bigger. In my opinion you should just try to stop it being so dominant. Beautifully sharp, beautiful sky which has texture in it – not blackened out.</p>							
<b>5</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>Old Currango</b>	<b>10</b>	Pts	Place		
<p>I love to see people having a go at something different. The blue and the mustard colour complement each other, as does the green of the trees and the mustard of the ground. Personally, I feel that there is not enough along the edges of the sphere to make the image interesting. It is lacking in amount of detail.</p>							
<b>6</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>14</b>	Pts	Place	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	
<p>Atmospheric, moody shot with grasses and a couple of bushes forming a foreground to anchor the image, and the tree stump on the right connecting foreground with middle ground and background. The subtle colours in the sky formed by the sun are very beautiful. The image would benefit in my opinion with a vignette.</p>							
<b>7</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>The Day After the Rains</b>	<b>11</b>	Pts	Place		
<p>Lots to explore here. The white rushing water forms a strong diagonal from top left to bottom right, with the slate coloured wall of rock on the other bank being another complimentary diagonal from the same direction. The big boulders, being curved, contrast with the other shapes. The man in his possibly precarious position grabs the viewer's attention. There is a lot of white on the edge of the frame (<i>bottom</i>) and this needs a vignette to stop the eye slipping out of the frame. To my eye the image is a little over saturated.</p>							



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<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Lilies</b>	<b>11</b>	pts	Place	
<p>Beautifully lit, stunning against the black background and the different placements of each works. One is on a diagonal and turned slightly with the other one showing more of its centre. Most photographers aim for three of anything but the two works here because of each one's different treatment. However, it may work even better if only one flower was used. Try it and see.</p>						
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Getting the Shot</b>	<b>12</b>	pts	Place	
<p>Sky good, colour in mountains rich, leading line of the river takes viewer into the frame, the foreground from middle to left is so rich in detail it is a delight to explore. The foreground and middle ground are a little too dark and would be better exposed more but this would lighten the sky too, so that would have to be darkened a little with a graduated filter.</p>						
<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Northern Pigtailed Macaque</b>	<b>13</b>	pts	Place	<b>Merit</b>
<p>Sharp face with eyes that connect with great immediacy with the viewer. Body off centre and blurred, bringing attention to those appealing eyes. A vignette would add a sense of 'polish'. Two other suggestions, not criticisms, but ideas for you to experiment with. Crop this into a square to draw even more emphasis onto the face (cropping out the body) and see if you like that as well. Second suggestion as an alternative, not an improvement, would be to crop some of the top of the head off and crop close round just the face and see if you like that too. All three variations work so well.</p>						
<b>11</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>Pick a Box</b>	<b>9</b>	pts	Place	
<p>A great choice of subject. These shapes and colours form an attractive pattern of lines converging on a spot beyond the right middle edge. However, the first two columns on the left are too blurred. My eye instinctively screwed up to try and put them into more focus– whereas this didn't occur with the blurring on the right. When blurring, don't go too far as it frustrates the viewer. Especially the second middle yellow one which because it is the lightest yellow is probably the one that stands out the most thus making it the subject by default and it really needed to be sharp. Or dark so that it is not the subject. To fix the over blurring put the focus on the first column and from there it will progressively blur to the right, called increasing depth by blurring. What is closest to the camera should be the sharpest ideally.</p>						
<b>12</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>Bouquet of Floral Art</b>	<b>15</b>	pts	Place	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>
<p>It is not just floral art but photographic art too. Perfect, just as it is.</p>						