



Wodonga/Albury & Benalla Camera Clubs The Paatsch Shield Challenge



Meeting Date:	13th August 2017	Ken Jenkins 1/33 Walker St Benalla 3672 0401306384 kenjenkinsmobile@gmail.com
Judge:	David Norris	
Subject:	Open Subject	
<i>Autumn in Wandiligong</i>		

Dear Members,

Thank you for kindly asking me to be your judge for the Wodonga/Albury & Benalla Camera Clubs - Paatsch Shield Challenge. I had the privilege of being invited to judge one of WACC's monthly open competitions back in December 2015. I received some wonderful feedback which was very encouraging and supportive. I had only just begun judging on a broader scale that very same year,

I hope I've done a similar, if not better job, I look forward to your feedback. I was very encouraged to see a diverse array of images. Yes, there were a couple of the same ie: Bennetts Store however Wandiligong has a population of less than 300, therefore some cross over was inevitable.

Autumn colour was the dominating theme and you all captured that in unique and creative ways. As most of you would know providing a critique of an image is difficult, many factors come into play.

We don't always agree on those factors, sometimes we don't even notice one or two of them. Sharpness is an important factor, many other elements can, but not always do override the sharpness of an image. A judge can sometimes forgive the sharpness element if other factors can give the image more strength ie: emotion, mood or storytelling content.

I would point out the technical elements are always something to strive for, but not the be all and end all in good storytelling.

For those who didn't get an award, don't despair, your images were chosen to represent your club and that in itself is an important next step in competition. Whether you agree or not, try to take onboard the comments, not only of your own images, but others. Listening and taking on these lessons will only make you a better image maker.

As a member of the Australian Photographic Judges Association (APJA), I understand the difficulties country clubs have in obtaining the services of a variety of judges. I hope my efforts tonight contribute to the diversity of judging and varying styles every club and member deserves. I trust APJA is working hard to meet the needs of country clubs but importantly listening to those needs via representatives such as myself and others closer to home.

I know that some of you have attended APJA judging workshops in the past, I would encourage you to continue learning and participating. I hope to see some of you presenting around the traps in the near future.

Kind Regards

David Norris AAPS, AFIAP, LAPJA
Berwick Viewfinders Camera Club



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<i>Autumn in Wandiligong</i>				
1	Wandiligong - Brian Paatsch - WACC	pts	10	Place
<p>A wonderful collection of Autumn leaves with vibrant colours and texture. Quite a busy image and very shallow depth of field, particularly in the right hand third of the image. I feel more strength would come from the image if focused on several leaves as opposed to hundreds. Overall you have showcased mother nature in all her deciduous glory.</p>				
2	The Gate into Autumn - Jeanette Beattie - BCC	pts	11	Place
<p>Inviting old worldly gate opening to the wonderfully coordinated colours of Autumn. The narrow depth of field does diminish the sharpness in the middle ground. Increasing the aperture to a suggested f/11 would help strengthen the middle ground trees and help draw the eye further through the image. Watch the contrast and chromic aberration between the sky and foliage. Overall a pleasant image.</p>				
3	Handle with Care - Eric Bocquet - WACC	pts	10	Place
<p>A nice still life of the chestnuts providing a good overview of the burr and fruit/nuts. The image is sufficiently sharp and provides enough depth of field to highlight the lovely colours and various textures and shapes of the chestnuts.</p>				
4	Fire - John Barry - BCC	pts	10	Place
<p>Nicely exposed for the mid tones & highlights. Shadows are very dark, obviously a product of the time of day nonetheless a little shadow recovery would remove the harshness of the blacks. Overall rich colours capturing the spirit of Autumn and set subject.</p>				
5	Beyond the Bend - Graeme Milsome - WACC	pts	10	Place
<p>Good subject and composition, strong leading line with a sense of movement. However, given the set subject I'm not sure the image truly captures the essence of Autumn, it is more about the car than Autumn. The image was captured in Autumn however we need to see more of the Autumn to capture the emotion and mood of the season. Possible Improvements: When using a long lens such as the 300mm never let the shutter speed drop below 1/300s of a second. Ideally an increase in ISO.</p>				
6	Bennetts Store - Nigel Bowen - BCC	pts	11	Place
<p>Good subject, composition and sense of nostalgia. With hints of Autumn and complimenting colours of the season. Sufficiently sharp clearly evident from reading the signage throughout. Well balanced with strong leading lines, bold reds as points of interest. Watch the contrast and chromic aberration between the sky and foliage. Pleasant image with good depth of field.</p>				
7	C-H-E-S-N-U-T - Robin Elliot - WACC	pts	11	Place
<p>Good texture in the wood grain which is well suited to the chestnut theme. Be careful with the sharpness however I understand the challenges you obviously faced with the setting evident in the images exif data. Finally watch the exposure levels as you can no doubt see from the highlights on the left of every nut. Good concept and use of the panoramic format.</p>				



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8	Sky leaves - Noel Baumgarten - BCC	pts	12	Place	Merit
Great point of view highlighting shape, texture and colour. Reflecting the feel of Autumn, with detail and changing of colour.					
9	Pomegranate - Attilia Heath - WACC	pts	12	Place	Merit
Nice simple image, bold colour, contrasting well against the out of focus background. Good use of Rule of Thirds, with the dark corners areas acting as a natural vignette. Depth of field within the fruit appears shallow resulting in a mix of sharpness across the main subject.					
10	Water Wheel - Cathy Duncombe - BCC	pts	12	Place	Merit
Nice landscape, strong features, leading lines and well balanced across the image. Subtle hint of the turning Autumn colours against the cloudy sky.					
11	Chestnut - Jill Hancock - WACC	pts	12	Place	
Nice close up image of the chestnut nestled and wrapped in its former protective housing. Shows off texture, detail and the warmth of Autumn hues. Good light and shadow detail inside the burr offering a glimpse of the seed pods interior.					
12	Autumn Exercise - Judy Barry - BCC	pts	11	Place	
The unmistakable reds certainly captures our attention. Apart from the image title it's hard to tell if its Autumn or not. However, the image is sharp and is telling a story.					
13	With Autumn Comes the Gang Gangs - Sean King - WACC	pts	11	Place	
Good pose and complimentary angles, there appears to be a slight green cast across the image, easily corrected through a white balance correction. Overall a busy image punctuated with the birds red head drawing the viewer into the camouflaged environment.					
14	Over the fence - Sylvia Baumgarten - BCC	pts	10	Place	
Lovely scene with lots of detail in the old railway sleepers and foreground. Details fall off quickly towards the tree foliage however the Autumn colours are complimented by the rust in the sleepers and is a nice balance.					
15	Fairies live here - Monika King - WACC	pts	14	Place	2nd Place
Well-lit forest fungi, good colour and details. The depth of field has been handled well with good sharpness from front to back of the fungi. The very sharp blade of grass in the foreground is a good example of a distraction as are the two hot spots at top left of image. Overall lovely balance of earthy colours in a nice tight composed image.					
16	Autumn colours - Jeanette Beattie - BCC	pts	12	Place	Merit
Strong leading line with strong Autumn colours. White cloud is bright and could benefit from a curves adjustment on that specific area. Overall a pleasant Autumn image.					
17	Zooming Fruits - Sue Zimmer - WACC	pts	11	Place	
Good use of a technique not often used. The very centre of the image doesn't appear to have a main focal point. A strong sharp piece of fruit in the middle of the image would make the perfect grounding/focal point with radiating lines further strengthening the clever technique used on this particular subject.					



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18	Old Sheds - Ken Jenkins - BCC	pts	13	Place	3rd Place
Lovely rural scene ideal for the panoramic format. Overall nicely handled.					
19	Bennetts Store - David Willis - WACC	pts	10	Place	
Good subject material, with some strong contrast. Sharpness is clearly evident by reading the signage. Watch the contrast between sky and foliage. Perhaps trim the road at the bottom of the image, otherwise a pleasant image documenting the old store.					
20	The Police House - Mike O'Connor - BCC	pts	10	Place	
Good concept with some strong compositional elements which include leading lines and framing. The large post divides the image, then the bright green grass far right draws the eye across and out of frame. The white elements on the grass in the foreground are also a distraction, easily cloned out or simply picked up and removed. Having said that "The Police House" is a pleasant image reflecting the mood of the Autumn subject.					
21	Orchards - Sharon Alston - WACC	pts	15	Place	1st Place
Picturesque Autumn scene with lovely colours and a layered effect across the scene. The colour certainly adds interest as does the smoke, helping to draw the eye away from the harvested hillside. The main area of the scene might have done with a little extra exposure further drawing the eye towards the centre of the image. The inclusion of a vignette certainly wouldn't hurt to soften the bright area top left. Overall a lovely image.					
22	Collecting - Rose Hutchins - BCC	pts	11	Place	
Good concept, certainly different from all the other images and well within the set subject. Nicely composed albeit centrally placed. The background is nicely out of focus obscuring most of the distracting elements. Using the fill in flash provided additional light to create some exposure in the high contrast environment. The bonus is the catch lights providing some life to the inanimate object.					
23	Changes - Bill Cleverly - WACC	pts	11	Place	
The main subject is quite sharp from front to back providing lots of detailed texture. Nice balance of Autumn colours and heavily contrasted against the dark background. Compositionally a hard subject to photograph due to the branches, clutter, and contrast. Nonetheless a good example of getting sharpness in your subject from front to back.					
24	Leaves - Sue Thompson - BCC	pts	10	Place	
Good Autumn colour, the fiery red provides a good vignette/window to the distant hills and forest. Sharpness is a mixed bag with a significant amount tending to the lower left of the image. Overall a good story and one worth refining.					

Individual Placing's

Scores: WACC 137 / Benalla 133

Best Image	Orchards - Sharon Alston - WACC	pts	15
2nd Place	Fairies live here - Monika King - WACC	pts	14
3rd Place	Old Sheds Old Sheds - Ken Jenkins - BCC	pts	13
Merit	Sky leaves - Noel Baumgarten - BCC	pts	12
Merit	Pomegranate - Attilia Heath - WACC	pts	12
Merit	Water Wheel - Cathy Duncombe - BCC	pts	12
Merit	Autumn colours - Jeanette Beattie - BCC	pts	12