



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

Meeting Date:	8th January, 2018	Print Secretary Brian Paatsch 02 6025 2117 brianian@dragnet.com.au
Judge:	Darryl Whitaker	
Subject:	Flora	

Colour Prints – Section 'B' (Yellow Dot)

1	37	Hot	10	pts	Place	
<p>A beautiful Waratah in full bloom. You have the flower on the top left rule of thirds which is a great composition tool. Two things to be mindful of, where have you focused? The very top of the flower is in focus but the parts of the flower which are closer to us are not. Watch for distractions, the lighter coloured flower at the bottom left is a taking my eye away from the main subject.</p>						
2	59	Scotch Thistle	11	pts	Place	
<p>A very interesting flower and the bee is an added bonus. These are often spur of the moment shots, the bee doesn't stay still for very long, you have the flower in excellent focus but the bee is not, I suspect the speed of his movement was too fast for your shutter speed. Your composition could be improved by losing some of the empty space on the right, It's not adding anything to the image.</p>						
3	64	Lily	11	pts	Place	
<p>Lily's offer us great camera fodder, I especially like the curled tip of this flower, well spotted. You have the whole flower in focus and nothing else, well done. Please watch your lighting, highlights where the sun pokes through all fall on a small part of you subject or background can undo a lot of your hard work. The sun hitting the bottom of the flower, is a distraction, you could have just shaded it or if you had a friend with you ask them to shade for you, it's the little things</p>						
4	79	Crowning Cactus	10	pts	Place	
<p>The angle you have chosen really shows off the flower, all those stamens add great character. Your lighting is very even, maybe a bit too even, adding some extra light from either side would add some contrast given us more depth and interest. If you use Lightroom and small twerk with the Dehaze tool could give us a bit more pop.</p>						
5	117	Brilliant Blooms	11	pts	Place	
<p>Stunning blooms, 3 is a great number for composition. The fern at the bottom acts as a leading line towards the main flower, well composed. The front rose is very sharp. The table doesn't do the flowers justice, the leading line fern is a touch bright for the rest of the image, a soft dark vignette would help, we have to be careful with the colour re, it's very easy to overdo the saturation or vibrance just making things look a little unnatural.</p>						
6	125	Play Boy	12	pts	Place	Merit
<p>Good composition, the heart of the flower is beautifully sharp, not sure what the 2 black things are, (flies?) The white highlights on the leaves are distracting, a polarising filter would have cut through that leaving the leaves a lovely green. Polarising filters are a great asset for flora and landscape photography.</p>						
7	173	Sundew	14	pts	Place	2nd Place
<p>This is beautiful. The main flower is lovely and sharp, perfect exposure, I like the composition, here the negative space on the right works, some will argue is it too much? the soft treatment and tones are perfect. I'd like to see more like this, you have a great feel for the image. The parts of the other flower coming in at the bottom could be left in or left out, either works, you have chosen to leave them in, that's fine. A really nice image, well done.</p>						
8	175	Spun Gold	9	pts	Place	
<p>Good use of the lovely morning light. Gives all the buds a beautiful golden glow. The top right-hand corner has some background stems could be removed. I'm also struggling to find any part of the image which is really in sharp focus</p>						
9	176	Bonsai	9	pts	Place	
<p>This tree has great character. Well worth a shot, but to do it justice we need to find the best angle, somewhere we can get rid of any distractions, <i>(the large building on the bottom right and to a lesser extent the one near the base of the tree. Is this the best light we could have shot this in, could there be a better time of day)?</i> Is it worth going back and having another go, <i>(I don't know where the tree is)</i> but if you could have another go ask yourself, what the best angle, what's the best time of day.</p>						



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10	179	Clivia	11	pts	Place	
Beautiful colours, This is an interesting composition, we have 3 main flowers which is a good number, they are cropped fairly tight which cuts off the top and bottom of the flowers which can be very effective, definitely worth a try. The backgrounds good, I'm just struggling to find enough of sharp focus, my eyes keep wandering around looking for something to lock onto.						
11	116	Lemon Delight	15	pts	Place	1st Place
Lovely, you've filled the frame beautifully, wonderful exposure, the centre is lovely and sharp with focus just dropping away as you move out. Excellent image, well done.						
12	54	Patterson Curse	7	pts	Place	
It can be a very pretty flower, especially on mass, pity it's such a pest. Your composition is quite good having the flower off centre. But I struggle to find anything that's in focus, I know it's a noxious weed but it still deserves to be in focus.						
13	12	Little	13	pts	Place	Merit
A really good composition, you have plenty of the main flower in focus with the 2 other buds out of focus in the background make a really interesting image. The only thing that's gone against you is the lighting. The main flower needs a bit more light on it to make it pop. Not a lot, even a l.e.d. torch would have done. This does show a good eye for composition.						

Colour Prints – Section 'A' (Green Dot)

1	163	Slow Blooming	9	pts	Place	
Good exposure, tough conditions between whites and darks. Background flowers make good leading lines bringing your eyes into the centre where the sharpest part of the image is. Depth of field is very shallow. A little too shallow for my liking. Not enough of the image is sharp. Bring the f-stop up from 2.8 or 4 to 8 or 11						
2	161	Pink	12	pts	Place	
Good composition with the orchid the only thing to look at in the frame. This is an excellent example of separating your subject from the background, one of the key features to good flora photography. The bottom petals which are closest to the camera are just out of focus. I would like to see all the flowers in focus. You have good separation from the back ground so this could be achieved, a bit higher f-stop or even focus stacking. Focus stacking would let you keep the background as out of focus as you would like						
3	148	Raindrops amidst the Folds	14	pts	Place	1st Place
Good depth of field, great sharpness, great exposure, and really good lighting. The droplets often lift a flower image to the next level, giving us something else to look at you've done it really well. It doesn't matter if it's shot just after the rain or you carry a spray bottle with you, it's the end result that matters, well done.						
4	129	Cherry Blossom Time	9	pts	Place	
One of the hardest things with floral photography is deciding what to leave in and what to leave out, do you go in close or stay out wide. Here your caught in between, If we go tighter we get rid of distracting backgrounds, here we have very bright areas and dark branches competing for our attention. If we zoom out we can show flowers on mass which can be just as beautiful to the viewer as a single flower.						
5	119	Pretty in Pink	11	pts	Place	
You have a great quality print, the petals in the bottom centre are superbly reproduced, beautiful focus and exposure especially on the left and in the centre, but on the right, we lose focus, as in the previous print are we too close or too wide?						
6	78	Desert Growth	11	pts	Place	
I love the colours, the green of the bush against the red of the outback. Good composition having the branch on the diagonal. Depth of field is very shallow, again as the branch is the centre of interest in the image I would like to have more of it in focus, you could do this and still keep the background soft we a higher f stop.						
7	14	Green n Gold	12	pts	Place	
I really like your subject, I have never seen this plant, what a great thing to photograph. I could spend hours playing around with this, and that's key to good flora photography, take your time, experiment, try different things. You've done a pretty good job here, there's good separation, so your eye settles on the golden flowers, for me the hero is the shape of the green leaves, they create a lovely pattern, if you framed the bottom 2 and a half golden flowers out the shape and composition change. The depth of field falling off as the plant falls away in this case work, it adds more interest. Well spotted.						



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8	43	Agapanthus Bloom	12	pts	Place	
The dark out of focus background is perfect, good depth of field from the centre all the way to the front. Unfortunately, the lighting has let you down. The bright harsh sunlight on the right and the shadows on the left don't blend well. All sun or all shadow would have been better, even use the sun as a backlight can create an interesting effect						
9	81	Going to Seed	13	pts	Place	2nd Place
Beautiful colours and tones. Good use of the diagonal, there's enough sharpness in key areas of the image, a touch darker vignette would help to pull down the brighter areas of the top right and bottom left. A very pleasing image, well done.						

Monochrome Prints

1	173	Rainy Geranium	11	pts	Place	
Drops of water on the flower does add interest to an image, exposure is good, focus is good. Lighting is quit flat giving us very contrast within the flower, just a touch more which would add extra interest. The top and bottom are cropped a little too tight.						
2	161	Dahlia	14	pts	Place	2nd Place
Excellent composition, putting the heart of the flower on the intersecting rule of thirds works well, and adding that negative space on the bottom right sets it off perfectly. You don't have to show the whole flower to do it justice. Perfect focus just tops it off.						
3	148	Soft White Petals	11	pts	Place	
Good sharp focus right across the centre stamens and buds. You've handled a tricky exposure very well, white on dark. It is very busy, hard for the eye to settle on anything in particular.						
4	129	Life a Struggle	12	pts	Place	
You have told the story of the tree well. I love the angle you've chosen, and having the extra space below the tree certainly shows off how it's clinging to the environment. All the elements of the tree are perfectly sharp and having that mist hill behind adds another element.						
5	119	Weaving Magic	14	pts	Place	1st Place
Beautifully handled, a really interesting subject, the heavy vignette works perfectly to eliminate the background. It works just as well in portrait mode as landscapes. Great focus exactly where it needs to be.						
6	116	White Charm	12	pts	Place	
A very good attempt, you've separated the flower from the background perfectly, your eye gets drawn right into eh centre of the flower which is good, as you scan around the image you see a few drops of water on the petals, well done. Please watch your highlights, the top right-hand pets have lost all detail which unfortunately lets the image down just a touch. Keep trying						
7	117	Roses in Bloom	10	pts	Place	
I like the wider composition flowers on mass are very impressive. Unfortunately, you have some areas which are dark and empty, one being right in the centre and the other lower to the left. I would really like the see this with those areas full of blooms. If you had lowered the camera and moved slightly to the right you could have used that collection of flowers to fill your frame making the image more pleasing. Also watch your cropping, you have just cut off one bud on the top.						
8	79	Ghost Gum	12	pts	Place	
Good composition, showing the whole tree towering above it's environment and the tree certainly stands alone. I'd to suggest that if you ever get the opportunity to photograph this tree again or a similar one the use of a polarising filter to darken the blues in the sky would help the tree pop even more, you may even be able to do this in Lightroom with B&W sliders, dragging the blue slider down would also help, not too much, just a touch.						
9	78	Dry Season Boab	10	pts	Place	
One of Australia's most fascinating trees. Using a tree with nothing too close to it is a great way to separate our subject, this is really important with trees, that way we focus only on the tree, although this is harder with trees than flowers there are some things which can help. 1. a f-stop as wide open as you can get, f4 or f2.8 even a 50mm lens which may have f1.8. Where possible using a 70-200 lens and moving further away from the subject and still using a large aperture can make a big difference. Time of day is important also even in black and white, before the sun rises or just after it has set we get a much more even light still with direct to give us softer shadows.						



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10	64	Holly	10	pts	Place	
I like your composition, although the tips are just missing, (<i>this may be the matt</i>) but still it's important if your wanting to show the whole subject, do so, if not go in closer. You've done well softening of and darkening the background. The biggest challenge you faced with this image is the lighting. Full sunlight gives us burnt out areas, try a polarising filter or a diffusion, some old fly wire screen held above the subject would really soften the light off a lot. Please try it next time.						
11	14	Californian Redwoods	12	pts	Place	
A wonderful location to photograph, if you get the chance please get there, and when you do give yourself lots of time, make it a day trip, not an hour. You've done this really well, difficult conditions the trees often have little light on them and the background often has plenty. Everything is lovely and sharp, in the perfect world you could have someone in the frame to give us a sense of scale, (<i>young child would be perfect</i>). Have a look at Lars van de Goor on 500px to see how he handles these conditions, keep at it.						
12	37	Just a bit Battered	9	pts	Place	
Your choice of title fits well. You've done a great job having the three battered flowers in focus and the background soft. There is a lot of empty negative space which in this case I don't think helps the overall image. I like the small bugs, could going in tight on the top flower been a better choice, still would have told the same story.						
13	43	Push It Up	12	pts	Place	
Well done for getting down and dirty to get this angle, the different heights of the mushrooms are excellent. Great focusing. I like the pile of soil onto of the bottom mushy, it adds to tell the story of the mushy pushing up. Little bit of gardening could have helped, the small blade of grass in front of the smallest mushroom (<i>I wish it wasn't there</i>).						
14	12	Iris	13	pts	Place	Merit
Great quality print, everything is so sharp you feel as if you can touch the petals. Well done						
15	81	Starry Beauty	13	pts	Place	Merit
This works well, good composition having the flower just off centre, excellent exposure, nothing is over exposed, it's clean and simple, gorgeous.						
16	54	Orchid	11	pts	Place	
Another good composition having the centre of the orchid on the bottom left third. Good exposure unfortunately there is very little sharpness in the image. Some the tips of the petals are sharp but little else. A slight dark vignette would help separate the main subject a touch more.						

EDIB Competition

1	36	Red Attraction	12	pts	Place	
Lovely colours, the bright red on the green background. Having the buds about to open gives is a sense of anticipation and the bee in the centre is an added bonus.						
2	37	Dont Shoot	13	pts	Place	Merit
Excellent composition, the simplicity of the single stem and a very clean background. I do like the bugs on the flower.						
3	59	Reflective Flora	12	pts	Place	
Interesting approach. Certainly, gives you something else to think about. Either you have photographed it through a textured piece of glass or and effect in post, it looks quite effective, good on you for trying something different.						
4	64	Poppy	14	pts	Place	2nd Place
A lovely capture, ticks a lot of boxes and the bee sets it off perfectly. Well done						
5	79	Floral Walk	11	pts	Place	
A nice attempt at showing something a little unusual in this category. If you had presented this image without the lady walking towards us the first thing I would have said is (<i>it would have been nice to have someone walking through</i>) so well done for that. Did you think of getting much closer to the flowers and focusing close to the camera, this way the lady would have been out of focus making the shape and colours the hero of the image, as it is there is a lot of competition, planter boxes, buildings behind, street signs.						



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6	116	Hibiscus	11	pts	Place	
A really good attempt to highlight the flower, well exposed and great focus, "The background" not sure if it was already there or you put it there to help keep the point of interest on the flower but either way the texture in the background doesn't help at all, it certainly detracts from the flower.						
7	117	Blooming Tulips	14	pts	Place	Merit
Bright, colourful, very pretty, you have used a shallow depth of field to its best effect, keeping the foreground tulip sharp and the rest falling off as they go further back. Plus, the in-focus tulip is situated on the bottom right rule of thirds, great stuff.						
8	125	Golden Lady	10	pts	Place	
They're big large petals and they look very soft and flimsy so you've done well keeping them in focus. The colours are great and the flowers have good superheating from the background. I'm not sure how many flowers are open, it may be just one but it very busy, I'd like to see inside the flower a bit more, keep at it.						
9	167	From the Garden	13	pts	Place	Merit
Very nice light on the subject, no highlights taking our eyes away from the subject. The background is excellent, you've handled that really well. I'd like to see a little bit cropped off the top and touch cropped off the right, this would put the flower onto the top right line of thirds. Apart from that great effort.						
10	173	Burchardia Umbellata	12	pts	Place	
I like your colours, they balance well, the creams and the browns of the flowers blend well with the background which is well out of focus. Some vignetting would darken off all the surrounds and give the main subject a bit more pop.						
11	175	Black Pine Bonsai Trees	12	pts	Place	
Great effort, the trees are the heroes and the building certainly suggest were in Japan or somewhere similar. I wonder if a portrait mode would have allowed you to use a touch more of the lake at the bottom and take off a bit of the left of frame, but what you've presented still works well.						
12	176	A Splash of Green	11	pts	Place	
It's great to see trees in the middle of cities, these 2 have lots of character, it's very busy behind the trees and that's what a city is so it tells the story well.						
13	179	Waratah	10	pts	Place	
The Waratah are stunning flowers and this one no different. I think it's a touch over exposed, and we certainly need to darken of the background a bit, adding a vignette would help this a lot.						
14	12	In the Middle	15	pts	Place	1st Place
Ladies and gentle, we have a winner. I love the extreme close up, and your sharpness if spot on. Congratulations this is wonderful						

EDIA Competition

1	163	Desert Daisy	11	pts	Place	
I love the use of the shadow, and the exposure is spot on. I would like to have seen you clean up just a little, remove a few twigs, so the only thing in the background is the shadow.						
2	161	Last Poppy	14	pts	Place	1st Place
Another great use of minimal depth of field, compositions really nice, and the centre is perfectly focused. I would like to see a little less brightness on the petals in the background and lowering the front petal would give us a touch more of the centre. You're on the right track.						
3	148	Ruffles	13	pts	Place	2nd Place
Gorgeous, lovely soft tones, just enough light inside the flower and great water droplets. The use of a white vignette is interesting, you don't see this used very often, here it's not too bad. Well done.						
4	129	Tiptoe Through the Tulips	12	pts	Place	
4. Tiptoe through the tulips, everything is beautiful and sharp, using the piece of artwork as a point of interest is a good way of giving the image a bit more interest.						
5	119	Native Beauty	13	pts	Place	Merit
Yes, it is. You've handled this beautifully, nothing to distractive, the important parts are in focus, perfect exposure, well done.						



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6	113	Eastern Mantis Orchid	12	pts	Place	
The flowers are perfectly exposed and well focused, I'd like to see less of the background, you could have darkened it off by adding a little bit of light to the flowers and not letting to fall onto the background darken it off, or placed a dark background in.						
7	27	Beautiful Iris	11	pts	Place	
Lovely flower, nice soft colours, I would like to see the main Iris separated from the one behind it at the bottom, they tend to blend into each other, by altering your framing either to the left or the right even got a fraction lower would give us that separation.						
8	1	Flying Ducks	12	pts	Place	
Great example of focusing on your main subject and nothing else. The orchids are perfectly sharp. You have the right angle to show the duck appearance of the orchids. You have put an interesting frame around the image, A touch more light on your subjects would lift them just a bit more from the background. It would only need a small amount of light from the right or the left hitting the orchid and not the background.						
9	14	Native Hibiscus	11	pts	Place	
Backlighting a delicate flower such as this can be very effective, the idea is good but we need to pay a touch more attention to the technical elements, please try something like this again and get in closer to your subject, fill the frame and the most important element is expose for the brighter parts of the image. Please give it a try.						
10	78	Flowering Aloe	12	pts	Place	
A striking flower, Lovely colours, the red on green work well. you've got good exposure and good focus.						
11	43	Naked Ladies	12	pts	Place	
A beautiful image, the flowers are shown off really well, nice lighting, love the water droplets, the dark background with just a hint of interest is great, please be mindful of your exposure, your nearly one full stop over exposed. In Lightroom if you pulled the highlights down 50% to 100% you can see there's a lot more detail on those petals. It still a nice effort, keep at it.						
12	81	Poppy Buds	12	pts	Place	
The poppies have great character and you have just enough separation from the background, the composition looks a little crowded on the left. An odd number of poppies may have worked better, even just the one on the right framed tighter and just moving the left one out of the way so it's not in frame, there's great detail and the shape of the poppies would work well on its own.						