



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

Meeting Date:	December 10th, 2018	Print Secretary Brian Paatsch 02 6025 2117 brianjan@dragnet.com.au
Judge:	David Belcher	
Subject:	Open	

Colour Prints – Section 'B' (Red Dot)					Place
1	36	Rays of Sunshine over Queenstown	11	pts	
<p>Lovely landscape photo showing the hills and countryside around Queenstown. The sky adds drama to the scene and is probably helping to provide those nice areas of light and shade in the landscape. The image is sharp and full of detail. Generally speaking, it is not a good idea to put the horizon on the centre line of the image as this tends to split the image in half and is generally less appealing to the human eye. Try cropping some of those clouds out even if it means losing the nice black one in top right and see if that improves the image.</p>					
2	37	City at Night	10	pts	
<p>The lower half of this image shows us a wonderful night time scene along the river in a major city. It contains several bridges and some lovely light reflections in the water and captures some of that magic feeling that such cities can take on after dark. The upper half of the image contains a black sky with no detail and forms a large negative space that adds little to the scene. Night Photography adds several complexities that the photographer must deal with that are so much easier during the day and generally, these have been handled well. You have done a great job in spotting the scene and the interest in those reflections and I would strongly encourage you to have another go.</p>					
3	79	Dawn	14	pts	Merit
<p>Lovely ethereal feel to this image. That mix of trees, fog and early morning light is quite magical and you have done a great job in capturing those. Well Done.</p>					
4	116	Fountains Abbey	14	pts	2 nd Place
<p>It never ceases to amaze me just how many of these old buildings there are in England. It seems like you are stumbling across these sorts of ruins around every corner. I have never seen this particular one myself but having seen this image it will be on my to do list the next time I visit the UK. You have captured the Abbey superbly showing us this magnificent structure in its beautiful surrounds. The detail in the image takes you back to a time when the world was a whole lot simpler than it is today. The blue sky complements the browns of the Abbey itself and the greens of the grass and trees that surround it. The image is bright, sharp and well composed. You have done a great job with this one.</p>					
5	117	Gobi Desert Mongolia	13	pts	
<p>Gosh, you guys certainly get about a bit. Here you have caught an image of some interesting camels in their natural environment in the Gobi Dessert. The camels have clearly headed for the food source. In the background, you show us something of what this desert is really like with the vast plains and hazy mountain areas in the distance. It looks like this image has been taken in the evening as you have a much softer and nicer light than you would have had in the middle of the day. When we are taking images in foreign lands where everything is very different to what we are used too, there is a tendency to get a bit carried away and try and fit too much into the scene (<i>I am guilty of this</i>) and I think that is the case here. I think that what caught your attention was those camels and this was intended to be your main subject. Whilst environmental context is very important in an image like this, I think that the environment is tending to take over a bit and taking the attention away from the subject. Try playing around with this image bringing those camels to the fore and see if this improves things. All told, I like this image and you certainly have something interesting to remember this exotic country by.</p>					
6	173	Bonza Aussie Bloke	15	pts	1 st Place
<p>This is a lovely portrait of what I suspect is a sheep farmer with one of his young lambs. The detail is superb and the image is nice and sharp. Those bright bits in the background and the sky are causing the eye to wonder and are just letting this picture down a little. If you can manage to tone those down a touch you will have a real beauty here. Well done.</p>					
7	175	Freshly Squeezed	13	pts	
<p>Very well caught. This is a lovely detailed image of the bird eating the Orange and holding it in one claw as well. The image is beautifully sharp with detail even in those white feathers. This is a nice capture. Cropping the top and left-hand side may help the bird to fill the frame.</p>					



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8	179	Irish Dusk by the Sea	13	pts	
A superb scene that has been well captured. The clouds in that sky add a nice touch of colour and almost an unreal feel to the scene whilst the sleepy Irish village contrasts with the drama from above. The village and right bank might benefit from a little more light so that we can pick out more of the detail here. This image nice and sharp and has been well composed in the frame.					
9	187	Myrtleford Magic	12	pts	
Nice colour, lovely detail that has been enhanced by filling the frame with your subject. Well done.					
10	189	Practice Makes Perfect	11	pts	
I assume that the Photographer intended to show movement blur in this vehicle and this can often work well. When it does, there is usually something sharp in the image (roadway, sign, people) that gives the contrast with the vehicle and clearly establishes the movement. Unfortunately, I don't think this quite works in this case. I can see the movement in the wheels and I can see a lot of interest in the car itself but for me, it's not there yet. I hope you can have another go at this because there is potential with this car and you are definitely thinking along the right lines you just need the right shot.					
11	54	The Gorge	13	pts	
Beautiful image, lovely detail here in the rocks and also with the water rushing over them. You can see the wet rocks glistening in the sunlight. It's unfortunate that we have that twiggy bush on the right-hand side. You don't see it at first but once you do it seems to grab your attention. It would be a lot of work in Photoshop to remove this but I think it might be possible and I think this image would benefit from the effort. Otherwise you could minimise its impact by cropping the left edge or maybe a combination of the two. Either way, this is a lovely spot and you have captured it well.					



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Colour Prints – Section 'A' (Yellow Dot)					Place
1	1	Major Mitchell Cockatoo	13	pts	
<p>What a beautiful coloured bird which you have captured well. The reds and yellows and pinks of its upper body are nicely reflected in the water as it takes a drink. You have displayed a lot of skill getting this bird so clearly. There are two blurry wooden bits sticking up out of the water centre stage which are distracting and partially obscuring the subject, spoiling what is otherwise a superb image. These sorts of wild life shots are extremely difficult to get and it is frustrating when you get so close only to find something like this in the way however you clearly have the skills needed and I strongly advise you to keep trying.</p>					
2	10	Cascades	15	pts	1st Place
<p>Is this Kirkufell? This is a beautiful scene showing the waterfall cascading down against the browns and yellows of Autumn. The old bridge over the waterfall adds a clear point of interest whilst the mountainous background with its pockets of snow provides a perfect backdrop. You have gone for a fast shutter speed for this shot which is probably the best way given the volume of water cascading down at this time. A nice image and a well-executed shot.</p>					
3	78	Sculpted Tree	14	pts	Merit
<p>I don't know about a sculptured tree it's a bit all over the place giving one a feeling of being entangled in its branches just looking at it. The tree dominates the frame leaving the viewer in no doubt what this image is about. The dramatic sky and rust tones in the grass bottom left provide background drama to the scene. This subject has been well spotted and the image taking has been well executed by the photographer.</p>					
4	81	Autumn Mountain	13	pts	
<p>Lovely scene showing a mountain with a river or lake in front. The Autumn feel is provided by part of a tree to the left of the image displaying beautiful golden, red and brown tones. The contrast with the greenery of the hillside is quite stark whilst the threatening clouds in the sky add drama. The image is well taken and clearly conveys its intended message.</p>					
5	119	Still a Way to Go	12	pts	
<p>A very interesting image. I was trying to guess where this place was, possibly in Europe somewhere? The rugged landscape is complemented by the fast-flowing stream in the foreground and a nice stone bridge that leads the eye through the image to the hill in the distance. The cloud formation in the sky adds further drama to the scene.</p>					
6	129	Muscit	13	pts	
<p>This is a beautiful image of a very interesting building. I really like this image and you have used the plants in the foreground well. Only fault is that you have clipped the very top of the spire in the central column. With this exception, you have an excellent image here.</p>					
7	146	Making Do	12	pts	
<p>A nice image of a country fence where available resources have been used to make the uprights. Nice warm colours in the soil contrast strongly with the deep blue of the sky. The image is nice and sharp with good composition and the use of light.</p>					



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8	148	Early Light	14	pts	Merit
<p>And early light it is with wonderful colours from the sky reflecting off the water and giving the whole scene a nice warm feel. The colours and detail in those rocks in the foreground is a real delight. The small huts on the island in the middle add a nice touch of interest in the scene. A well-executed image.</p>					
9	168	Miners Cottage	14	pts	2nd Place
<p>I like the way you have placed your subject low down in the image and used its surrounds to tell the story about how small and insignificant this cottage really is. It is well framed with lots of detail. This is an instance where the environment is an integral part of and central to the story being told. Well Done.</p>					
10	43	The Smithy's Closed	13	pts	
<p>That certainly looks closed to me. A first glance, this is an unassuming simple image of an old wooden door but that belies its subtle colouring, lovely textures and fine detail. A very well taken shot.</p>					



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Monochrome Prints					Place
1	187	Fog over Frost	11	pts	
<p>This image certainly has a cold wintery feel to it and a feeling of it being an old-style photograph at the same time. Evidence of the fog can be seen from the tree in the background in the far left of the image. There is some mark of some type to the right of the large tree in the foreground and I am not sure if this is a paper or printing fault or something else entirely. An ethereal image that succeeds in delivering a shiver.</p>					
2	179	Shadows and Empty Chairs	13	pts	
<p>A nice monochrome image showing the long shadows from the bench seat at this time of day. An interesting composition style that works well in this instance. Nice background adds context to the scene.</p>					
3	176	Stone Pass	13	pts	
<p>Not the rocky canyon pass that I was expecting from the title but a nice paved pathway bounded by high stone walls. The textures in the different shades in the stone walls themselves add further interest. Nice B/W, well done.</p>					
4	168	History	13	pts	
<p>Certainly, looks like there is some history to whatever went on in this place. Lying dormant here, the factory and its various constructions are nicely reflected in the still waters the grassy areas to the right are a bit messy and serve as a distraction to the main and important part of the image. The factory itself is detailed, sharp and very interesting.</p>					
5	148	Chop Chop	14	pts	
<p>Nice detailed close up shot that fills the frame. There is a good range of tones here with nice textures and a clear sense of action. There is one very bright area top right under the man's arm which draws the eye away from the action and is possibly blown out. If you can get rid of that (<i>by cropping if need be</i>), you will have a very good image here.</p>					
6	146	Meander	14	pts	
<p>A fairly common Australian river scene such as you might see on the Murray in many places in Victoria (<i>apologies if it isn't the Murray</i>). That does not detract from this as an image and indeed, many of our common river images do well in International Competitions because they are very different to the scenes foreign judges are used to seeing. This one is lovely and sharp with a good range of tones across the spectrum. One or two stray branches intrude into the top of the scene but these are not a major cause for concern.</p>					
7	129	Morning Rest	13	pts	
<p>This is a lovely scene that shows the beauty that can sometimes exist in chaos. The positioning of a person sitting on a fallen log completes the scene. I did wonder if the maker had placed this girl in the scene in post-production as she seems a little small compared to her surroundings. That does not detract from the image overall which is sharp where it needs to be and again shows a full range of tones.</p>					
8	119	Once there was a Army	11	pts	
<p>I had a mix of emotions when I first viewed this image which shows the remains of a fortified building of the type that can be seen throughout Europe. In front of this building is a field where I presume some battle was once fought and hence the title of the piece. To the right is another ruined building and, in the bottom, left is a wooden structure which I take to be a gate or part of an entrance way particularly as the image shows a path running from it to the building. Unfortunately, this image is a little soft with the gate in the bottom left seemingly the area most in focus. I would have liked to have seen more of that gate and the pathway as that leading line from the gate to the building has significant potential.</p>					
9	117	A Study in Geometrics	12	pts	
<p>I am a big fan of images showing strong geometric lines particularly in buildings and modern buildings seem to have these in abundance. In this image, you have spotted these wonderful patterns with stairs and columns and light windows so well done for that. The subject seems to lend itself to a black and white conversion as there are plenty of light and dark areas in the scene. The front of the image is lovely and sharp but unfortunately this seems to fall off quite quickly. Try using a larger depth of field and focus 1/3 into the scene to ensure maximum sharpness throughout. Also consider putting a person in the scene as a soft point of contrast to those hard-geometric shapes can often enhance an image like this significantly. Keep up this line of work as you certainly have the eye and a little stronger technique will see the winners emerge.</p>					



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10	116	Westminster	14	pts	2nd Place
<p>Very well spotted. You have taken an image of an iconic building which is photographed thousands of time a year and you have produced something very different indeed. This is the sign of someone who is thinking as a photographer and not being swept up by the crowd. The dark solid hard structure of the railing's contrasts nicely with the intricacy of the building itself. The bright area of the sky tends to pull the eye away from the lovely detail of the building which is a bit of a shame otherwise this is a very good image indeed.</p>					
11	81	Tarn at Sunrise	13	pts	
<p>A nice sharp landscape image showing a wee tarn and a lone tree. The light in the sky suggests that this image was taken at sunset. The foreground and middle ground are wonderfully sharp and have plenty of detail. There is some acceptable softness in the far distance. The image shows a nice range of tones.</p>					
12	79	Flight	11	pts	
<p>Congratulations on capturing these birds with the light on them like that. All too often we see images like this where the detail is all in shade. I suspect you have used a long lens to capture this scene which combined with the movement of the birds has made the conditions difficult for you and resulted in a little softness in the image.</p>					
13	78	Selfie	14	pts	Merit
<p>Ah the "selfie" obsession, better not to get me started. This image is different though, it shows a couple seemingly in the process of taking their own selfie in a busy arcade area. I particularly like the fact that all of the shoppers in the scene are walking away from the subject leaving them isolated in their own activity. The two men on ladders don't contribute much to the scene but I don't find them a problem either possibly adding to the story of this being a busy place? The image is sharp with a good range of tones and is a nice capture.</p>					
14	43	In Times of Drought	15	pts	1st Place
<p>I like this image a lot. It tells the story of drought and the devastation it causes to the land. That row of stumps adds a lot of interest to the scene and leads the eye through the image to the tree skeletons and that tank structure just off centre. The sky is very interesting in its own right and contains lots of detail however I always feel that one needs to be careful that the image doesn't become about the sky rather than the subject. A nice range of tones makes this image a very good subject for black and white conversion.</p>					
15	37	What Will We Find	11	pts	
<p>Another good Australian bush scene with a nice roadway taking you through the image. You could well imagine some surprise just up around the bend. Nice detail in the wooded areas but possibly lacks some central point of interest such as a person, animal or maybe an old cart on that road just to hold the attention in the scene.</p>					
16	36	Hard Life in Queenstown	11	pts	
<p>Interesting image. Has the feel of an old-time photograph possibly from the 50s or 60s showing a row of what I assume to be workers houses and showing the difficult circumstances of everyday life in this area. Above the houses shows a mountainous landscape a little of the sky above that. There are some grainy lines visible in the scene particularly in the sky area. An atmospheric photograph that certainly delivers its message of harsher times in days gone by.</p>					
17	1	The Cathedral	13	pts	
<p>A nice landscape showing a large rocky hill (<i>presumably called the Cathedral</i>) with lower grassy and rock formations in the foreground. There is a lot of cloud interest in the sky which provides a good backdrop to the scene. The image has lots of fine detail and the back and white conversion has been well handled.</p>					
18	54	The Gorge 1	11	pts	
<p>A rocky outcrop provides the background for this waterfall scene. There is lots of detail in this image at the maker has used this to fill the frame. The top half of the image is reasonably sharp but the lower half of the image is a little soft. There is a very bright area in the water in the centre of the image which grabs the attention and is a distraction from the lovely detail in the rocks and the water just above it.</p>					



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EDIB Competition					Place
1	189	Moon over Mulwala	11	pts	
An interesting and unusual image. It's a nice and original idea with the tree limbs silhouetted against the sky and with a very colourful moon to their right. Although silhouetted, you have managed to retain some detail in these wooden remnants. The two birds add interest and balance the moon in the frame nicely. The tree remnants are haloed and a little blocky possibly due to an initial low-resolution image or over processing in post which is a real shame as this is a nice and original idea.					
2	179	Folk Dancers Croatia	12	pts	
This is a very nice documentary style travel shot. The lady in the centre and the man on the left have their backs to us which is a pity as a frontal view would have added a great deal of extra interest to the scene and I would have loved to have seen the fronts of their costumes. The lady's scarf has wonderful warm colours and the image contains lots of detail. A good image that will no doubt stir the memories for years to come.					
3	176	The Brotherhood	15	pts	1st Place
Good and unusual shot of these Buddhist monks all sat in a row posing for you. I love the contrast between their very colourful but ancient traditional dress against the subdued modern background. I wondered if a severe crop to the bottom of the image to just under the central monk's feet would make them even more prominent in the frame. It might be worth trying and it would have the benefit of removing that annoying white plastic cup (<i>bottom left</i>). All told, a very nice image so well done.					
4	175	Mountain in the Mist	13	pts	
Very nice image of what looks like a mountain somewhere in Asia emerging above what looks like fog or possibly low cloud. I love the red foliage in the foreground as this is adding a richness to the image but I wonder if there is too much of it? I also found the branch at top left a distraction from the central theme of the image which is that wonderful mountain emerging from the mist. I like this image and I think a little judicious cropping could improve it tremendously.					
5	173	Lost in Thought	14	pts	2nd Place
This image is of a young girl who is very clearly lost in a world of her own thoughts. It is always very powerful when you can capture emotion (<i>if this can be called an emotion</i>) in someone like this. The girl is beautifully lit by the evening sun. Well done.					
6	125	Spring	12	pts	
Wisteria is certainly a clear sign of spring and you have caught this one in all of its glory. The red roof of the gazebo makes a nice contrast to the purple of the flowers and the green of the grass. I find the blue sky to the right of the wisteria a little distracting and cropping that right-hand edge might improve this image in my view. Nice and sharp throughout, this is a well taken image.					
7	117	Boys Best Friend	13	pts	
You can never beat kids and animals and you have captured this scene well with great timing that conveys the bond between this boy and his dog. Unfortunately, the light hasn't done you any favours casting some very strong shadows and putting the young boy's face in the shade. Having said that, you sometimes have to seize the moment particularly with something like this and you have certainly done that. Consider a heavy crop top and bottom to make the subject even more prominent.					
8	116	Abalone	13	pts	
Beautiful image, wonderful colours and very fine detail. You have done a very good job with this Abalone. Whilst the black background does enhance the subject by focusing our attention but also makes it a little documentary in style and the sort of image you might see in a text book or encyclopedia. There are a couple of very bright white spots on the right which might need a little attention. This is a very well taken image that really shows off the best features of this Abalone.					
9	79	Nesting	12	pts	
Birds in trees and particularly in nests are always very difficult subjects to take. You need long lenses and the patience of Job to get just the shot you want. Here you have a very nice clear image of this young bird sticking its head out to observe the world. The bird is sharp and the light is really working for you here. There is a great deal of clutter (branches, leaves etc) which is pulling the viewers eye away from your main subject and rather spoiling the scene a little. This happens all too often and can be deeply frustrating when you have captured a great moment such as this. You have done well in spotting your subject and in executing your photography skills to capture him and you are clearly going down the right path.					



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10	37	Slalom Course	12	pts	
<p>A very unusual scene showing lines and poles in a fast-flowing river. The framing of the image using the arched bridge has been well executed. The turbulence in the water and the deep contrasting colour add real drama to the scene. Watch out for those very bright areas which can be distracting. The image is sharp and the image has been well executed.</p>					
11	36	All is Possible	12	pts	
<p>This image made me smile and any image that can provoke a reaction in the viewer is off to a good start. This is a typical travel type image that records things that can often look quite bizarre or out of place even if that item is entirely practical and sensible. Here you have caught a long walkway stretching out along the side of a mountain apparently coming from nothing and going nowhere. The subject is well spotted and the image has been competently taken. Well Done.</p>					
12	59	Safe Landing	13	pts	
<p>A very nice shot of the action here with the horse and rider just having landed after going over the jump. The image is nice and sharp and the reds of the jumps balance nicely with the deep blue sky. This image has been very well captured from the position you found yourself in. It would have been even better if you had been able to catch this from the other side of the jumps where the light would have shown us much more detail in both horse and rider. Watching for the light is a key attribute of any photographer and the ability to see the light is what distinguishes the great from the good.</p>					



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EDIA Competition					Place
1	1	Spiny cheeked Honeyeater	13	pts	
Lovely image of this difficult to capture subject. The bird is nice and sharp whilst the background has been thrown nicely out of focus giving good separation between the subject and its environment.					
2	148	Boathouse	13	pts	
Nice capture of this boat house scene at sunset. Possibly a little too much post processing is stretching the image a little otherwise this is a very nice image.					
3	129	A Bouquet of Roses	14	pts	2 nd Place
There is something about a collection of things tightly bunched up and taken so they fill the frame. Here you have applied this technique to a bunch of roses and what beautiful specimens they are. Well Spotted.					
4	119	A Perspective in Pine	13	pts	
The old shooting up at a tree trick. Sometimes these work and sometimes they don't but in this case you have found a delightful specimen and taken this image as the evening sunlight makes all the difference to those pine needles. Very well spotted and executed.					
5	92	Smoky High Kicks	15	pts	1 st Place
What a lovely moody image of this dancer performing. The smoke from that candle really adds to the mood. This image is lovely and sharp with plenty of detail. A really lovely image.					
6	168	Sunrise	12	pts	
Classic sunrise / sunset shot over water. There are some facilitating details and shapes in some of those clouds. I feel that the foreground could have done with something in it to add further interest. Also, as with any seascape, you need to watch that the horizon is straight.					
7	10	Primordial	14	pts	Merit
One of those very simple images that contains very little but says a whole lot. This is a beautiful image that I can well see as a large panoramic on some office wall. Well done.					
8	81	Cathedral Range Sunrise	14	pts	Merit
A very interesting landscape. You have done well to see this and to wait for that magic time when the light is just right. Good sharpness and detail even in the very dark areas. A very good capture.					
9	78	After the Storm	13	pts	
What a strange sky particularly one that has a rainbow in it. The foreground has a simple working farm shed and tanks in it but is there really just to add context to that sky. Well spotted and taken.					
10	61	Dolls	13	pts	
Spooky. There is something quite frightening about these old-style china dolls and the maker of this image has enhanced this effect resulting a very good if disturbing image.					
11	43	Sunset on the Farm	12	pts	
Definitely sunset with a deep red sky and black silhouetted trees. The wind pump on the right tends to qualify that this is indeed a farm. It also adds a very nice foil to the natural feel of the scene. The sun can just be seen through the trees as it sets. A well put together image.					