



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

Meeting Date:	August 12th. 2019	Print Secretary Brian Paatsch 02 6025 2117 brianjan@dragnet.com.au
Judge:	Marg Huxtable	
Subject:	OPEN189	

Colour Prints – Section 'B' (Red Dot)

1	189	A Shortcut to Mushrooms	14	pts	Place	1st Place
This lovely landscape was taken at the right time of day. The lovely warm tones in the foreground are set against the distant blues. The road leads me through to the rolling hills and the layered moody sky. To improve this image, the foreground on the LHS needs to be sharper.						
2	37	Out of the Rot	9	pts	Place	
Fungi photography is quite challenging. Usually the lighting conditions are quite low in a forest or there are highlights across part of the subject in more open environments. Depth of field also creates its challenges. Here the photographer has focused on the centre of the fungi. For this to work, I suggest a vignette to eliminate distracting lighter and messy backgrounds. To increase the depth of field without adding background distractions, try focus stacking. This can be done either in camera with certain cameras or by using focus stacking software.						
3	117	Emu Family in the Wild	13	pts	Place	2nd Place
Being there is the first step to capturing great photos of nature and the photographer has certainly been in the right spot to capture this family of emus. But to maximise the image there is a lot to get right. Is your camera ready? Is the shutter speed fast enough for your subject? What about the lighting conditions? Do you need exposure compensation? Will the composition work or is there a better position to take the image without scaring off the subject? There is so much to think about to get the most from the opportunity of being in the right spot at the right time. The photographer has covered most of these issues. The composition is fine, the depth of field softens the background and the focus on the adult emu shows lovely detail in its feathers. But the light sky has created a big issue with the emu's head. It has virtually become a silhouette.						
4	79	Girls on a Seat	10	pts	Place	
Photographing people is quite a challenge. Do you use a zoom lens from a distance and get a candid shot or do you ask permission and engage the subjects? Personally, I like to get eye contact and engage the people in some way. I think by doing this their personality has more chance of being revealed. In this image, one girl is aware of being photographed and the other two look as if they are trying to ignore the photographer. So the message I'm getting is one of unease with the subjects. The technical elements of this image are fine – composition, exposure, focus etc. which is great. Now concentrate on the human element. A bit of humour re the bear may have enlivened the girls and the resulting image/s may have revealed more of their characters.						
5	27	Rainy Night	12	pts	Place	Merit
Laneway photography at night in the rain. What more could you ask for? Reflections in the wet paving, there's even a chap standing in a doorway. The photographer has composed a pleasing image by using the wet street paving and awnings on the buildings as diagonal leading lines to draw the eye through the image. However, watch the exposure on white lights. Both the lights and the reflected light on the pavement have been burnt out.						

Colour Prints – Section 'A' (Yellow Dot)

1	191	Rupanyup Railway Station	14	pts	Place	2nd Place
There is so much detail in this image of the lovely old railway station. It has been well composed with an interesting sky. I can see that the maker has worked hard to get detail in the shadows but maybe at the expense of the over-exposed sun. It's a shame when these lovely buildings are neglected. Some are lucky to be repurposed as art galleries and cafes, so hopefully Rupanyup will have a new life too. PS. Be careful with the matting of the print - one edge of the print catches on the mat.						
2	10	Edge of the Mundi Mundi	11	pts	Place	
I love the colours in this landscape. They really reflect the colours of the outback. The rich red of the rocky ground, the yellow tones of the drying grass and the purples hues of the sky as the sun sets. This image shows the great expanse of the outback but I find the foreground rocks are not of great interest to provide a strong focal point.						



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3	119	Leaking Life	13	pts	Place	Merit
<p>I love the story I'm getting from this image. The water tank in the dry landscape, the stains dripping down the mural and the promise of rain from the heavens above. But the sun is straining to break through the cloud mass and rays of light are managing to shine through. What will happen? Will it rain and replenish the tank or will the land dry out more if the sun breaks through? The image is well composed but be careful with the exposure on the clouds. These tend to burn out if over-exposed.</p>						
4	78	Sunset at Lake Hume	9	pts	Place	
<p>This image has a tranquil feeling about it. The lone pelican gliding across the water, the subdued colours of the sky and reflection of the sky in the water. The panorama style suits this image as more sky or water would not add to the image. But I feel the image is underexposed. The lighting is too low and the pelican is almost a silhouette without much detail.</p>						
5	146	Autumn Cometh	13	pts	Place	Merit
<p>The photographer has spotted something that a lot of people would pass by and not notice. The autumn leaf has fallen onto a ledge or rock where the lichen is growing. It makes me wonder about the environment where this happened. Is it a raging river or a quiet pond? I like images that make me wonder and pose questions without necessarily giving me answers. The colours are strong, the background mysterious due to the tight cropping. Well seen.</p>						
6	161	Lowering Clouds on the Riverina	10	pts	Place	
<p>This image certainly has a dramatic cloudscape in this rural setting but in trying to get detail out of the whites in the sky I feel it has been over processed. I would probably crop off the blue sky at the top of the image and just concentrate on the drama of the clouds.</p>						
7	14	Bush Collection	9	pts	Place	
<p>When photographing still life, the arranged items need to tell a story and I don't think those chosen for this image provide a strong story. What's the relationship between the books, the bottle and the seedpods? However, the lighting, composition and technical aspects of the image are fine.</p>						
8	148	Early Morning Catch	15	pts	Place	1st Place
<p>Lovely nature image of the wren with the remains of an insect in its beak. The image has been well composed with a beautifully diffused background. There are no distracting elements in this image. There are even some spider's threads attached to the branch where the bird is perched. Well done.</p>						
9	163	What can I Get for a Durham	9	pts	Place	
<p>This travel image tells a story of a different culture even though some of the items for sale in the cluttered shop are identifiable around the world. There is a human element in this image but it could have been stronger. The story of the cluttered shop could still be seen but, by zooming in, moving closer or by cropping, the interaction between the chap and the boys would be of more interest.</p>						
10	12	In the Park	13	pts	Place	Merit
<p>This image brought out the child in me. I wanted to walk through those autumn leaves kicking and throwing them into the air. I love the warm colour palette with the yellowy/orange leaves still on the trees and the rusty colour of the leaves that have fallen to the ground. There is strength in the composition with the trees creating a strong diagonal line. This image has worked for me as it has created such a strong personal reaction. Well done.</p>						
11	179	Loading Zone	9	pts	Place	
<p>I wasn't sure what the story was in this image. Is it the bike chained to the No Standing sign? Or the reflections in the windows? Or the peeling paint and graffiti on the building? The story is not strong enough for me and doesn't hold my interest. However, the image has been well exposed and printed.</p>						
12	43	Shanae	11	pts	Place	
<p>When photographing people, I like the person's personality to be revealed. This young lady looks fun loving and has a beautiful smile but I feel she is posing for someone else. I'd like to see the photographer engage the model. With the subject looking at the camera and the photographer, it enables the viewer to also engage with the subject. The textured background is a matter of personal choice.</p>						
13	173	Yellow Rosella	12	pts	Place	
<p>There are quite a few species of rosellas in Australia. They vary in colour and slightly in size and these differences are used to identify the breed and where they can be found in Australia. This image would easily enable identification. So well done in capturing this rosella in such a challenging environment. There is even a catch light in its eye. However, the background is distracting and the image is a bit soft. This is probably due to the resolution resulting from the required camera settings – fast shutter speed, high ISO.</p>						



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Monochrome Prints

1	10	Hidden Gem	15	pts	Place	1st Place
Well composed and printed landscape. It has enlivened my senses. I can hear the water as it rushes through the forest. I can smell the dampness of the forest. I can feel the softness of the mosses growing on the rocks. And my sight is taking in all the detail of my surroundings. I just have to find some magic mushrooms to taste, or maybe not.						
2	179	Oh Dear	11	pts	Place	
This is a good environmental image with a strong story. It is an important story. It highlights the issues facing the world re the amount of waste the human race is generating daily. Without these photos being taken and shown to the general public, authorities may turn a blind eye and avoid finding viable solutions. But it also makes those viewing the image think about the amount of waste they themselves are contributing to the world's waste and how they can reduce their own pile. It has also been well printed with a good tonal range.						
3	12	Thorns	9	pts	Place	
This is a very prickly subject. My eye is drawn to the water droplet hanging off one of the thorns but it is very small in the image. I don't think it is strong enough to hold my interest. Maybe crop off the bottom half of the image so that the droplet becomes more dominant. This will remove more of the out of focus foreground. Try experimenting with your aperture so that the depth of field and composition work well together.						
4	173	The Path	10	pts	Place	
I'd love to go a wandering along this path too. The blossom on the trees, probably wattle, and the lovely light makes me think that spring is on its way. An image that evokes an emotion or strong feeling means that the image has worked for the viewer. The composition works well too. However, even though the chap has space to move into, I find the back of a person not as interesting as being able to see his face.						
5	161	The Chef	9	pts	Place	
Environmental portraiture, for me, tells me more about a person than just a straight portrait. The photographer has captured this image of a chef at work but I don't think the photographer has nailed it. The chef is rolling a ball, maybe meat or something else, but the bottom hand has been cropped off. Her face lacks expression. Maybe this was a grab shot. To let her personality shine through and to achieve a better result, I suggest you engage her. Ask her a question; get her to show off her tattoos, ask her to move to a position where the lighting is better as there are distracting shafts of light across her white uniform.						
6	37	Sad	9	pts	Place	
This image really shows how expressive dog's eyes can be. They are so engaging with highlights in both eyes and I can understand why the photographer took this image. However, I hope the dog didn't have bad breath or slobber on your camera as the cropping near its nose and mouth is very tight. Also, watch the exposure. The blacks have been handled well but the whites along part of its face and chest have been blown out. Always a problem with subjects that are black and white.						
7	148	Worried Expression	13	pts	Place	2nd Place
Well seen and taken image of a mother and child. The background is well handled so that the focus is concentrated on the people. The tonal range is good from black through to white so the exposure has been spot on. I love eye contact with people so it's a shame that the photographer has not been able to engage either the mother or child. Maybe a long lens was used. Just a brief comment on cropping – I suggest cropping a bit off the top and mat the image so that the fingers are not cropped.						
8	14	Howlong Before the Fog Lifts	12	pts	Place	Merit
Lovely soft moody landscape. I love the simplicity of composition that the photographer, and fog, has given this image. The paper selection also suits the image. Is it my imagination that there is a hint of the image tilting down to the RHS or maybe it's an illusion created by the tree line?						
9	146	Mountain Moods	12	pts	Place	Merit
A very different landscape to the foggy one. This one has more drama - the rugged mountain range with the threatening clouds in the background, the hardness of the lichen-covered boulders in the foreground. You can see that it's a harsh environment. Just watch the post-processing. When darkening the sky ensure the selection does not include the edge of the mountain range. It's not too bad and you don't want the other extreme of a white halo along the edge.						
10	119	Roman Glory Past	10	pts	Place	
Friends, Romans, countrymen lend me your ears. So what's in that bag? Ears. Sorry for that old joke but that was my first thought when I saw this image. It reminded me of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar which I studied at						



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school. Mark Antony's speech outside the forum after Caesar has been knifed in the back by several senators, including the honourable Brutus. E tu Brute.

So, this story telling image has really worked for me. It was probably taken in the Roman Baths in Bath, England judging by the architecture. Maybe crop some of the sky as it doesn't add to the image and be careful when mounting the image. It doesn't quite fit the mat.

11	78	Cloudy Day	12	pts	Place	Merit
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This landscape tells a story of stormy weather, not just by the clouds but also by the choppy water whipped up by the wind and the little waves breaking on the shore. It looks as if it has already rained as the sand is pitted and the distant slopes are glistening with water. By choosing which elements to include in the composition, the photographer has created more than a landscape with a leading line to skeleton trees. He/she has created a mood too.

12	43	When Waters are Low	11	pts	Place	
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There is a lovely leading line that meanders through this landscape from the bottom left hand corner to the distant trees and hills in the background. The tree skeletons tell a story of a land that has been flooded but are now above the water line due to drought. The image has been well printed but I feel it that the top of the image could be cropped to the top of the billowy clouds to turn the image into a panorama. I don't feel the expanse of sky really adds to the image as the real interest is in the land and low water.

EDIB Competition

1	189	Somewhere	14	pts	Place	1st Place
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There is drama in this image. There is rain in the distance, the threatening sky is foreboding but the rainbow indicates that the storm is passing and the sun is trying to shine through. The arches of the bridge mimic the arch of the rainbow, so well seen. A great moment to capture. Re the composition, check the edges of your image for distractions – there are some small branches in the top left that could have been eliminated either in camera by changing your position before taking the image or by removing them in post-processing.

2	36	Intsy Bitsy Spider	11	pts	Place	
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This is a good nature shot. The spider has been well seen, composed and photographed. However, it is a bit overexposed. Even though the background is nicely blurred, in an open competition, the subject needs to stand out more from the background.

3	187	Wild Fire	9	pts	Place	
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Using filters or software to create an image can be quite effective at times. In this case, the photographer has used strong colours in the creation of this image. However, whether it is the subject matter or technique, the overall effect doesn't work for me.

4	37	Not Sharing	9	pts	Place	
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Pelicans can be great birds to photograph. You have got in close and there is lovely detail in the feathers and wings. However, the composition lets it down. While showing only part of a bird can work at times, showing parts of several birds with bits cut off and no definite focal point does not create a pleasing composition for me. The sharing part of the image is not visible either. What are they haggling over? Simplicity probably would have worked better.

5	173	Prospero	11	pts	Place	
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Light painting can be fun and I can see that the photographer is having fun with the source of light as well as the person in the image, maybe a self portrait? The pattern created by the light source gives depth to the image but I would have liked the person to be more in focus or completely out of focus. Also, the loss of one hand in darkness makes the pose less effective.

6	79	Pelicans	9	pts	Place	
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I used to get frustrated with my bird photography because the birds were too small in the frame. They were sharp but too small. This image suffers from that too. The subjects are too far away for the lens being used. Also, check around the edges of your image for distractions. Even though trees can be used to frame an image, the branches at the top and on the right are distracting. If you can't eliminate them by recomposing in camera or repositioning yourself before taking the image, they can be removed in post-processing by cloning or, if entering in a Nature competition, by cropping. Time of day has also made the light quite harsh with dark shadows.



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7	116	Ssh It's a Secret	12	pts	Place	Merit
<p>This is a good story telling image of human behaviour. These three girls are oblivious to the fact that they are being photographed and the cropping focuses solely on them. They are in a world of their own and they don't want others to know. Their colourful clothing gives an indication of culture but the tight cropping limits any more information. It made me wonder whether it was taken overseas in South America or a cultural festival closer to home. They say 'less is more' but sometimes 'more is better' as it adds to the story. Great interaction between the girls without a mobile in sight! But what were they up to? Why the Ssh!</p>						
8	86	Darksided	12	pts	Place	Merit
<p>A well posed image of a young lady. The skin toning has been well handled, the jewellery is not distracting, nor is the selection of clothing. However, watch the piping around the top of the clothing on her right shoulder; it seems to be bunched under. The make-up on the lighter side is well done but I find the lack of light on the other side, even though there is some detail, makes the make-up look as if she has a black eye. A slight change of direction or strength of the light source to reduce the shadow under her eyes and below her cheek may have minimised this effect.</p>						
9	59	The Lone Bird	10	pts	Place	
<p>Lovely light on the water, so good time of day for photography in this setting. The photographer has used a tree to frame the image and this is a good approach to help contain the eye to the main subject. But the bird is too far away. Also, the light trunks on the trees in the top right takes my eye out of the image. Maybe this is where the real interest is – the different trees and colours reflected in the water.</p>						
10	175	The Eavesdropper	13	pts	Place	2nd Place
<p>I know it would be nice to have the kookaburras sitting in an old gum tree but they have adapted to their environment and found a man-made branch. The image has been well exposed and composed, the focus is sharp on the eyes and there is detail in the feathers. There is even a catch light in the eye of each of the birds. Two's company but three is a perfect number for photographers.</p>						



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EDIA Competition

1	191	Lake Mulwala Hot Rod Run	15	pts	Place	1st Place
<p>The lighting, colour and composition of this image have created a very pleasing result. The warm afternoon light is lovely and the hot rod seems to glow. The row of cars in the background adds to the story. However, watch your post-processing – there seems to be haloing around the tree and buildings and some banding in the sky.</p>						
2	10	The Obelisk	13	pts	Place	Merit
<p>The technique used by the photographer to capture this image has resulted in a very pleasing image. The shutter speed has created lovely movement in the water, the colour palette and time of day has allowed the orange cliff face to really contrast with the cooler blue colours of the sky and water and the composition lets the viewer see beyond the cliffs to the lighthouse and beyond to the horizon. This gives more depth to the scene.</p>						
3	179	Tower, Croatia	10	pts	Place	
<p>A well composed and exposed image of architecture of a bygone era. The photographer has concentrated on some strong geometrical shapes using both the actual building and the triangular shaped shadows that create a V shape at the base of the building. It is a structure that I'd like to explore and makes me wonder what could be seen after I had climbed the steps to the tower.</p>						
4	12	Low Water	9	pts	Place	
<p>This is a good story telling image of low rainfall leading to drought conditions. The water level has been a lot higher as seen by the footprints but the level has dropped quite quickly as the mud is not yet dry but is still soft with minimal cracking. So the story is well documented but the flat lighting conditions, when the image was taken, let it down. I would probably have cropped a bit off the bottom too to remove the half footprint. Maybe go back when lighting conditions add more texture to the mud and use the footprints as a leading line to the low water level.</p>						
5	163	Pigments of Morocco	10	pts	Place	
<p>I see what attracted you to take this image. The colour is so vibrant. All those different coloured pots of dye. This image would probably be great in a photo book about your trip. Did you also take other images showing different compositions, depths of field and colour combinations?</p>						
6	14	Elegant	9	pts	Place	
<p>Gum trees make great photographic subjects. Their size, shape and muted colours can really affect the mood of a location. They can dominate by their sheer majesty. This tree has been well photographed to show these qualities but watch the vignetting. It is a little too obvious.</p>						
7	161	Wabi Sabi Pier	9	pts	Place	
<p>The colours in this image are quite lovely - the rusty oranges of the pylons, the turquoise green of the water. The pylons lead my eye down to the figure in the water however the depth of field reduces the significance of this person. Was that was the intention of the photographer? In fact, quite a lot of this image is soft in focus, both in the foreground and background with only a few pylons actually in focus. I feel that this image would have benefitted from a smaller aperture so that more would have been in focus.</p>						
8	148	From the Cliff Top	12	pts	Place	
<p>The colour palette in this image is lovely, the soft mauves, the aquamarine of the waves, and the golden glow from the setting sun. However, I think there is too much room between the interesting elements – the pagoda on the cliff top and the sun, which are both close to the edges of the image. Maybe there are two images here – a vertical on the RHS showing the cliff, the storm in the background and the breaking waves in the foreground and the cloudscape and setting sun on the LHS. Also, watch the exposure on the clouds.</p>						
9	61	Delicate as Lace	11	pts	Place	
<p>The photographer has gone beyond the straight portrait of this lovely young woman. Lace has been used as a textured layer to create a bit of mystery about her. Is she a dress maker or does she enjoy making lace? The soft vignette and the use of desaturation of the whole image make the eyes more compelling. However, I think I would have preferred the face to be free of the lace texture.</p>						



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10	146	Dainty	11	pts	Place	
<p>Photographing fungi is not easy. Getting down and dirty is only a small part of the issues facing the photographer. Consideration needs to be given to the depth of field, any distracting elements in the background, low light conditions as well as composition. The photographer has certainly demonstrated skill in controlling these issues. However, sometimes a distracting background cannot be avoided because of the position of the fungi. Maybe changing position or using focus stacking may help as I find the dark purple element in the background distracting.</p>						
11	129	The Wanaka Tree	13	pts	Place	Merit
<p>A moody image of a famous tree. The atmospheric conditions have enabled the photographer to capture this landscape with a feeling of desolation. It makes me feel cold and alone. How does this lone tree survive in such an environment? I like the use of a slow shutter speed to show softness in the water but watch the exposure of the clouds and sky. Maybe crop out the top part of the sky.</p>						
12	119	Where are You Taking Me	14	pts	Place	2nd Place
<p>This image is an exercise in perspective and leading lines. The scale of the light circles diminishes as your eye is led down the image with the hand rail guiding the eye as well. Well seen, composed and photographed.</p>						
13	81	Mt Sonder at Sunrise	13	pts	Place	Merit
<p>The colours of the Australian outback are so strong that unless seen with your own eyes can often lead to disbelief. The red earth just glows especially in the mountain in the background. I feel that perhaps the light on the grasses in the foreground is distracting as there is competition as to where to look. I want to take in the expanse, folds and colour of the mountain but my eye keeps going back to the grasses. I feel that, by cropping out the foreground grasses and turning the image into a panorama, focus would be on the mountain. However, to do this, the mountain would need to be sharper.</p>						
14	78	The Sun Breaks Through	11	pts	Place	
<p>Lovely early morning moody image with autumn tones. I love the shaft of light coming through but I wonder whether this image would have been stronger if the photographer had concentrated on the RHS and cropped out the trees on the left. I find the trees are competing with that shaft of light. But not sure whether there is enough interest if you do this. Still undecided.</p>						

15	43	The Vacant Chair	11	pts	Place	
<p>I had to have a second look at this image. I find it refreshing to see someone trying something different. But has the image worked? I find the bottom hand, without any connection to the person, disconcerting. Do you need it? The sticks could have been held by invisible string to add to the mystery. Why the sunglasses? Do they add to the image or are they being used for disguise? The elements within the image still need to be relevant to create an interesting image. Keep experimenting with your photography but keep in mind the final presentation.</p>						
16	176	Umberumberka Moon	10	pts	Place	
<p>You've done well to photograph the moon without blowing it out. There is even detail in the surface and the sky is quite clear without digital noise but overall I find the image lacking sharpness. The vegetation in the foreground is quite soft which may have resulted from a breeze but the rocky ground is also soft. Was a tripod used? Usually for night or dusk photography it is essential to use a tripod to reduce camera shake unless you increase the ISO to get a faster shutter speed that can be hand held. But then the resolution may result in too much noise.</p>						