



# Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	January 20th, 2020	<b>Print Secretary</b> <b>Brian Paatsch</b> <b>02 6025 2117</b> <a href="mailto:brianjan@dragnet.com.au">brianjan@dragnet.com.au</a>
<b>Judge:</b>	Merri Lyn Clark	
<b>Subject:</b>	Still Life	

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

1	81	Door Handle	12	pts	Place
<p>This is well composed with the main point of interest being placed on the right third. The spoon is well-defined and sharp and the woodgrain in the background is sharp and crisp to bring out its lovely texture and the tips of the nails add extra interest. The lighting is excellent with no blown-out areas and the tonal range is very good. Well done, a simple yet very effective image.</p>					
2	119	The Pomegranate	12	pts	Place
<p>This is lovely and sharp and the colours are soft and blend together well. It is a little too busy with lots of shapes and textures to attract the eye. The pomegranate blends into the colours in the background and although interesting does not stand out as the main focal point. The white lace doily with the red beads captures the eye and tends to become the main point of interest. The lines of the timber are a little distracting and lead the eye out of the image. Altogether though it is well put together with good lighting and very well exposed.</p>					
3	163	Beauty in Imperfection	13	pts	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
<p>The rule of odds works very well here as does the stem on the middle pomegranate which gives a good point of focus. The lighting is excellent and brings out the texture and colours in the fruit. The reflection is subtle enough to add another dimension without being overpowering. The image is sharp and crisp and the composition does the fruit justice. A very well composed image. Congratulations on second place.</p>					
4	173	Roses and Candle	12	pts	Place
<p>A classic composition for Still Life. Red objects, especially flowers, are renowned for being difficult to capture plenty of detail and you have achieved this quite well. The shape of the vase balances the arrangement of the flowers giving a figure of eight shape to the composition. The Velvet material in the foreground gives another point of interest and adds highlights to the dark surround. The candle seems a bit superfluous as the lighting used has washed out the glow from the flame. When using an artificial light source, it should be the main direction of the lighting and in this case the other light sources used have taken away the shadows which would have given the illusion of being lit by the candle. The image seems slightly crooked which is a small distraction but overall it is well balanced and a good image.</p>					
5	179	OOH, Pucker Up!	11	pts	Place
<p>This image is very sharp with good depth of field and has plenty of colour. It is very busy and the eye does not know what to focus on and there is nothing that holds the eye for any length of time. The image has several leading lines which are a bit of a distraction as they all lead in different directions - the patterns on the background material create leading lines that lead the eye to the top and out of the image; the knife leads to the rim of the plate; the stems lead at right angles to one another; the chopping board provides another set of lines and the angle of the cut lemon effectively creates another right angle – which, all combined together lead the eye all over the image. A plainer background would have helped to keep the focus on the cut lemons and a few less components – remove the knife, have a few less leaves, stems and lemons would have kept it simpler. A good effort but remember that less is sometimes more effective.</p>					
6	43	Through the Crystal Ball	14	pts	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
<p>This is an interesting image which shows good creativity. The natural lighting provides a lovely even glow through the room and a good lustre to the timber of the pews. The stained-glass windows give a good closing point to the leading line created by the image in the ball. It is a very good image but to be a great image with a composition such as this, everything needs to be symmetrical especially the placement of the ball. As I have mentioned in other comments, the brain registers very quickly when something is not quite right, not balanced, not the correct lighting or colour etc. It is still a good image but a little more attention to the finer details would have helped. Congratulations on first place.</p>					



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

1	37	20 Years Later	10	pts	Place	
<p>This is well constructed but cropped a little tight. I would prefer to see the entire glass that the rose is sitting in. The lighting is interesting but gives an almost hazy glow to the image making the image appear soft overall. You have some good detail in the rose which is always difficult to achieve with solid red flowers. The rose is the most dominant point of interest and detracts from the bottle and the glass. The one dot of reflected light on the bottle is a definite eye catcher and is out of place with the remainder of the lighting direction. The depth of field needs to be reduced to blur the background to remove the texture as it is not needed and just gives another point to look at. Overall a good try</p>						
2	117	Granma's Pearls	10	pts	Place	
<p>The sharpness of this image is not enough as all elements are slightly blurred. The lighting on the pearls is a little harsh and each pearl has a hot spot that takes away from their lovely shape and natural lustre. The dark blobs on each side of the image are a severe distraction and should have been removed. I feel the jewellery and the crystal ball are unnecessary items which are a distraction from the pearls and the interesting little jewellery box. A good try at still life but needs a little more planning.</p>						
3	192	Royal Icing	10	pts	Place	
<p>This image is also cropped a little too tight. If you are going to have an interesting dish like this then it needs some space around it. I find the foreground blur to be a distraction and rather than taking the emphasis away from the diamantes it tends to accentuate them making them a little too noticeable. The lines in the background capture the eye but tend to lead you out of the image instead of being leading lines to the main point of focus. The cupcake is quite sharp but to me the main point of focus is the left-hand side of the dish with its lovely twisted handle and nice lighting. The tone of this image is quite flat with only a smidgeon of white and almost no blacks with the majority mid-range tones. Although the icing is coloured it is still a mid-tone therefore despite the colour it does not provide the necessary contrast. Quite a good attempt at still life but the components do not really complement one another.</p>						
4	194	Eggscutioners Plank	15	pts	Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
<p>A well-constructed image with a lot of creativity and humour. The lighting is eggcellent especially on the fork and the serrations of the knife. The leading lines created by the fork, knife and edge of plank have been put to good use by leading directly to the main point of interest. The image tells a story which is quite easy to discern from the elements and their position to the egg. The composition is good, lighting and tonal are well defined and it fits the topic. Well done an eggseptionally good image. Congratulations on first place.</p>						
5	54	Fruit	12	pts	Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
<p>The image is cropped a little too tight, either less of the banana needs to be seen or all of it. The softness of the image accentuates the shapes of the fruit and blends the colours. The lovely line of the pear stem frames the apple and adds a contrast to the foreground but doesn't lead the eye to anything in particular. The lighting is a little too harsh causing the blown out light reflection on the apple which catches the eye. Overall a well-presented image and congratulations on second place</p>						



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## Monochrome Prints

<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Spring Bulbs</b>	<b>15</b>	pts	Place	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>
<p>The tonal range in this image ranges through from black to ample mid tones to white and from this perspective is well balanced. The composition works with the vase being slightly off centre balanced by the small posy of blooms in the bottom left. The silky material against the rough timber gives a range of textures that is very appealing. The flowers are a trifle overblown but taking white flowers is always very difficult to get the balance perfect. The matt finish was a good choice of paper as it makes the elements stand out and yet blend together in harmony. A very good image with plenty of appeal – well done on receiving first place.</p>						
<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>Difficult</b>	<b>11</b>	pts	Place	
<p>An interesting statue with plenty of sharp detail. The tonal range in this image is very narrow being predominately mid-range grey which makes for a “flat” monochromatic effect. The intentional blurring makes the statue stand out from the background which is good, but it is too sharp a distinction between the edges of the statue and the Gaussian blur. As I have stated in other comments this leads the brain to note that something is not quite “natural” with this image. There is a small section above the shoulder of the man on the right which has not been cloned out successfully and this is eye catching and distracting. Overall a good attempt at an interesting but difficult subject material.</p>						
<b>3</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>Waiting to be Fitted</b>	<b>12</b>	pts	Place	
<p>Simple subject material that has been caught well. There is a very good balance of tone from white through to black. The composition works well with the different patterns in the tyres adding interest to the stack. The tyre on the angle provides a good leading line to the silver object which becomes the main point of focus. The background is patterned enough to give some interest without being invasive or overpowering. I like the subtle washed out corners at the top but would have liked there to be a very small amount of vignetting in the bottom corners to balance this out and to help frame the image. My only nit-pick is the tube in the top centre which leads the eye out of the image. Well done, a good sharp image that has been presented well.</p>						
<b>4</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>Then There were Three</b>	<b>14</b>	pts	Place	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>
<p>This image has excellent tonal range with just the right balance of black, white and mid tones which gives great contrast. The bottles are crisp and sharp which is contrasted nicely by the out of focus background. Unfortunately, the main point of focus is split between the bottles and the lovely dappled effect at the top of the image - the eye is constantly being drawn from one point to the other. The placement of the frames of the window on the thirds is good and provides a lovely even frame but in essence it doesn't actually frame anything. Again, the eye is drawn to this area only to be disappointed because there is nothing of interest to focus on. The reflections in the window sill give another dimension and help lead the eye to the bottles. Overall, this is a very well executed image with regard to lighting, depth of field and clarity however, I feel the composition lets it down a little. Perhaps if it were taken from a lower angle so more of the sill and reflections could be seen and the bottles taking up more of the central part of the framing it would place more emphasis on the bottles which are the more interesting of the subject matter. Well done on being placed equal second</p>						
<b>5</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>Beauty in Imperfection</b>	<b>11</b>	pts	Place	
<p>Quite an interesting composition and subject material. The lighting is bright enough, and on a good angle to produce curiously shaped shadows which give another point of interest without detracting from the actual subject. The fruit is sharp with an intriguing texture. The reflections are well defined yet subtle and lead the eye back to the fruit. I feel it needs a small amount of reflected light on the right side of the pear to help alleviate the black blob in the centre of the image. A slight lapse in attention to detail has produced a horizon line that is slightly angled and too central thereby cutting the image almost in half. As there is roughly the same amount of darker tones as lighter tones with very limited middle ground this produces only a small amount of contrast. Despite these small issues it is still a good image – Well done.</p>						



## Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

6	173	Glasses	14	pts	Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
<p>A very simple image but quite appealing in its simplicity. The glasses are a smidgeon soft but this does not detract from the overall appeal. The angle works well to give an interesting shadow. The eye focuses on the lovely curved shape of the top of the shadow then follows the leading lines back through the glasses to the curve of the arms. Despite there only being a small amount of white there is a good tonal range with a little bit of white, some black and mostly mid-range. The gradation of light across the image from left to right also tracks the eyes across the subject material. The texture in the background is subtle and even with little distractions. Overall a very good image that works well. Congratulations on achieving equal second.</p>						
7	179	Old Farm Ledgers	11	pts	Place	
<p>The composition is quite good with the box and books being placed on an angle. The image is busy with several different points to look at but nothing that is a main focal point that stands out from the rest. The tonal range is quite limited tending towards the mid to darker range with only a miniscule amount of white and light areas. It is interesting that this small amount of white (the pages on the top book) is what captures the eye. The image is generally sharp and clear but lacks a WOW factor.</p>						
8	194	Warped Gravity	13	pts	Place	
<p>Interesting concept that is designed to make the viewer take a second look as the brain picks up the anomaly in the containers. The tonal range is quite good with the dark areas creating the main point of focus. The containers are well placed and the lighting is subtle enough that the shadows are not a distraction. One of the general rules of photography is the "Rule of Odds" where the eye tends to be more comfortable with images that contain an odd number of elements rather than an even number. The reason for this is that the human eye will naturally wander towards the centre of a group. Perhaps the composition could have been improved by having an odd number of containers. A very creative concept that has been executed to produce a very pleasing result.</p>						
9	43	A Monochromatic Ball	13	pts	Place	
<p>This image has excellent contrast and is definitely a "black &amp; white" image. It is very eye-catching but has several aspects that challenge the viewers understanding - this is not a bad thing as it engages one's curiosity. An abstract concept like this needs to be perfectly symmetrical to have the most impact, cropping a small amount from the left would balance the image somewhat but the forks and the ball should have been placed to be central between the stripes. The forks are very sharp and the reflection is well done. Overall an intriguing image – Well done.</p>						



# Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

## EDIA Competition

<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Simply Spring</b>	<b>10</b>	pts	Place	
<p>The arrangement is quite well balanced to create an interesting image. The colours work well together and the texture in the timber base is eye catching. The lighting is a bit harsh and has caused some blown out areas on the flowers on the left and at the bottom of the image. The reflected light on the vase also causes the eye to wander to this area rather than remain on the arrangement. The black background outlines the arrangement well but, in this case, I feel it is a bit too intense which, again, is caused by the brightness of the lighting. The composition is good with several points of interest. Perhaps a light diffuser would have given a softer light to remove the overblown areas. Well done, quite an appealing image.</p>						
<b>2</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>Nuts and Bolts</b>	<b>13</b>	pts	Place	<b>Merit</b>
<p>This image works very well. The pieces have been placed well to give a leading line from bottom left to upper right. The texture has been well captured and the image is sharp with good depth of field. The silver nut in the centre is a good point of focus and the draws the eye. Overall a good composition, lovely soft lighting, and the components of the image work well.</p>						
<b>3</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>Homage to Cezanne</b>	<b>11</b>	pts	Place	
<p>An interesting composition with lots of angles, however it is a little too busy with no real point of focus. The leading line of the image leads to the back corner but as the two reflections aren't symmetrical the images in the mirrors do not hold the eye. Working with mirrors is not an easy concept and reflections need balance and symmetry to be effective. The lighting is lovely and soft giving a range of soft shadows and definition to the objects. This was a good attempt and worth pursuing.</p>						
<b>4</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>Grevillia Glow</b>	<b>10</b>	pts	Place	
<p>The brightness of the foliage is very intense and there is little in the rest of the image to give some contrast. The background is blown out and the slight outline of the mug and the ruffle of the material in the foreground is too washed out for interest therefore it becomes a distraction. The foliage is well placed in the arrangement which distributes the colour well but I am not sure that the chocolates add anything to the composition. The image needs more detail in the white areas to give some balance between the light areas and dark areas of the image.</p>						
<b>5</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>Macaroons</b>	<b>15</b>	pts	Place	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>
<p>A very well-balanced image with great reflections. It is well exposed with a good range of colours and no distractions. It is clear and sharp and the composition works well. It is simple yet very effective reinforcing the concept that less can produce more. Well done and congratulations on first place.</p>						
<b>6</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>Venetian Mask</b>	<b>12</b>	pts	Place	
<p>Interesting subject material and the image is crisp and sharp. The lighting on the mask is soft and even which produces a lovely glow on the surface. The composition is well placed in the centre of the image however the image lacks a focal point, that something that takes it from being a good representation of the mask to something of interest. As with any representation of a face, the eyes are generally the focal point but in this image they are flat. Perhaps something as simple as a diamante in the eye sockets could have picked up some light and given the mask some life. There is a slight discolouration at the bottom of the image which could have been cropped. Overall a good image of the mask but it lacks the WOW factor.</p>						
<b>7</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>Light My Fire</b>	<b>12</b>	pts	Place	
<p>A busy image which portrays lots of texture. The colour range is excellent and the clarity and depth of field are very good. The image is quite busy and it seems the eye is drawn to the area of grating in the right corner as the main point of focus which unfortunately detracts from the lovely textures of the timber. Perhaps to keep the eye in the centre of the image a wisp of smoke or a small flame could have become the point of focus. Overall a well exposed image with plenty of detail, well done.</p>						
<b>8</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Bird's Nest Soup</b>	<b>14</b>	pts	Place	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>
<p>This has been well captured. The blend of colours, textures and shapes work well together. The lighting brings out the wispieness of the bird's nest while at the same time highlighting the lumpy texture of the soup. Shows good imagination. The image is crisp and sharp with good depth of field. The spotty texture of the bowl has been chosen well to stand out a little from the dark background without being overpowering and taking away from the nest and soup. My only small nit-pick and it is very minor, is the small section of "handle" on the right side of the bowl. As this is an anomaly to the smooth lines of the bowl, I find that the eye is drawn to this and so poses a slight distraction. However, it does not detract overly from the overall quality of the image. Well done on second place.</p>						





## Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

9	43	A Screwdriver	10	pts	Place	
<p>I found this image a little hard to judge and came back to it several times. I hope that you do not see my comments as criticism as this was not my intention but I would like them to be constructive so you can learn from the experience of what I see and teach in my Photoshop classes. When judging a “created” image it helps to understand what the artist was trying to achieve. Was it to be something completely abstract or something realistic with a quirky aspect to it?? Looking at the components that have been grouped together I concluded that the creator was after something realistic with the quiriness of the juice coming from the can tops in the oranges. Therefore, the components were selected and then placed on the canvas. In this case the selection process has been handled very neatly and the components have been grouped to form a fair composition (although a little too central – needs some cropping from the bottom to place the line on the bottom third). However, to achieve some semblance of realism we need to give the image the detail which adds depth and substance. Looking at this image it is very flat – the components look to be flat pieces of paper stuck on a page, there is no 3<sup>rd</sup> dimension to give it depth -there are no shadows to show that these objects are actually more substantial than a flat piece of paper. The human brain is very good at noticing when something does not look quite right; we may not be able to distinguish what is wrong straight away but we sense that something is amiss. Just to give a couple of examples – the orange at the bottom has reflected light between the can and the lemon indicating that the light source would be coming from in front of the orange, however, the orange at the top does not have this same illumination; the glass does not have any reflected light at all whereas the bottle has quite a lot. The direction of light and shadow is one thing, that although can be very subtle, is something that the brain picks up on quite quickly. Another thing is perspective – when looking through curved glass objects we expect that there is usually some slight distortion, when this doesn’t happen we note that something is not quite right– the line running through the glass and bottle remains perfectly straight, again, something that the brain will note without being aware of what it is that makes it seem odd. The rim where the juice is pouring into the glass is also perfectly straight giving the impression that the juice is behind the glass at this point. Many photographers fall into the trap when adding things to their images that they do not pay enough attention to the fine detail which then causes a slight oddity which in many instances the viewer cannot pinpoint exactly but they do know that something is not quite right. I once judged an image from a very talented photographer/Photoshopper who had presented a farm paddock scene with the shadow of a windmill positioned in the foreground. Although you could not actually see the windmill in the image you knew that for the shadow to be where it was the windmill would have to be behind the photographer and slightly to the left with the sun behind the windmill. It looked quite a stunning image but there was something not quite right. I puzzled over this for several days and went outside and observed shadows of windmills from different angles and in different light and at different times of the day. The first conclusion I came to was that the shadow was too representative of the shape of the windmill – there was no elongation of the shadow. To get a shadow this perfect the sun would have to be directly overhead and the windmill would have had to be horizontal above the ground – something that could not happen unless the windmill was floating. Another thing that was the deciding factor was the position of the other shadows in the image which were indicating that the light source was definitely coming from the right-hand side and not from behind the photographer. When I commented that the shadow of the windmill had been placed in the image the photographer denied it quite vehemently and was very annoyed. Afterwards, (in private) she asked me how I knew as she had thought she had done a great job. When I pointed out the angle of the shadows did not match, she was quite stunned that something so simple could have been overlooked. Getting back to your image, please keep on being creative, your idea was interesting but you need to really research your light sources, shadows and perspectives to get the best from your creativity.</p>						



# Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

## EDI Competition

EDI Competition					
<b>1</b>		<b>Hard Times</b>	<b>13</b>	pts	Place
<p>In our present climate this, unfortunately, is a common scene. The leading lines created by the fence frame the skull well. The angle of the skull creates its own leading line from the curve of the horn to the top of the head and then the shape creating a lovely triangle. The colour is good but the overall image is a little too busy, some of the grass creates lines than lead the eye all over the place. The composition is good with the skull being well placed is definitely the main focal point but perhaps a little less grass. A good image, well done.</p>					
<b>2</b>		<b>Find My Eye</b>	<b>11</b>	pts	
<p>The leading lines created by the stick are well placed and provide an excellent diagonal. The image is very over-exposed causing the main subject to washed out and lacking detail. It is difficult to take images, especially of white objects, in the midday sun. A light diffuser would have helped to soften the light giving back detail. I know it was probably on opportune shot but if possible, I would have chosen a darker and not so textured background to accentuate the shape of the stump. The composition is good but the overall exposure lets it down.</p>					
<b>3</b>		<b>Hot Chocolate</b>	<b>12</b>	pts	Place
<p>A lovely image with good placement of the elements. The raised pattern on the jug gives a lot of interest and detail but the chocolate in the froth on the cup is what grabs the eye. I would crop a small amount from the top to remove the orange spot which takes the eye up and out of the image. The depth of field has been well chosen to blur the background and remove most distractions. It is unfortunate that you had to use a flash for lighting as you have the some blown out areas on the cup and other items. Overall a good composition with lots of detail.</p>					
<b>4</b>		<b>Early Crop</b>	<b>14</b>	pts	Place
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>					
<p>Although this image is quite harshly lit it suits the subject material well and the photographer has captured the fruit with very few blown out areas. The shadows add another dimension to the composition that gives further interest and plenty of depth. I generally advocate on the rule of odds but this composition works well with four pieces of fruit I believe because it is a three and one aspect. The colour is good and the texture in the centre of the cut fruit holds the eye and helps to focus on this as the main point of interest. A very good image and well done on achieving second place.</p>					
<b>5</b>		<b>Smiling Truffles</b>	<b>11</b>	pts	Place
<p>This has a very narrow depth of field which usually helps to isolate the main point of interest but the smiley face is very subtle as it is brown on brown, doesn't really stand out despite being sharp. The tonal range of this image appears quite flat therefore the thing that becomes the most eye-catching is the truffles because of their brown on white contrast. The lines of the edge of the bowl lead the up and out of the image and not down towards the smiley face. An interesting image but needs a little work on the composition.</p>					
<b>6</b>		<b>Story of Life</b>	<b>15</b>	pts	Place
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>					
<p>This is a very interesting image that depicts the "Story of Life" in an imaginative way – simple yet effective. The lighting has been well chosen and although there are blown areas on the spoons it helps to define the rounded shape and smooth texture. The melon was a good choice and the spoons have been placed well to create leading lines to direct the eye to the melon. My only nit-pick is the direction created by the image. In general, western cultures have been ingrained to read from left to right therefore patterns that flow from left to right seem more natural as does placing things slightly off centre. When composing this image, I would have placed the melon towards the top right corner and had the spoons placed going towards the melon as you have. Overall a creative image that works very well. Congratulations on first place.</p>					