



## Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	March 9 <sup>th</sup> 2020	<b>Print Secretary</b> <b>Brian Paatsch</b> 02 6025 2117 <a href="mailto:brianjan@dragnet.com.au">brianjan@dragnet.com.au</a>
<b>Judge:</b>	David Sumner FAPS	
<b>Subject:</b>	Nature	

<u>Colour Print B</u>					
No	Mem	Title	Comment	Score	Place
1	37	Shedding	The first comment I want to make here is about the mount and whilst the mount doesn't get scored it does affect how the judge looks at an image. Here the mount is a distraction and the marble effect and colours don't compliment the image at all. Take my advice and use white or off-white mounts. With regards to the image, there is a nice story showing how the tree that has been burnt in a bush fire, is just shedding away the burnt bark. A very apt and relevant story for the current climate. I like how you've got right into your subject minimising the background distractions etc. Where the image is let down is in sharpness, the image is just not sharp at all. This is a shame because it was heading in the right direction. The tree is well lit but, perhaps a better point of view would have worked better, maybe lower down looking up etc. Just try to make your shots a little different from what everyone else would do and get them sharp and you'll do a whole lot better.	10	
2	194	Growing Together	I like this image a lot and you've just missed its potential to do well and I'll explain why in a moment. You've got the composition spot on with the moss and toadstools very prominent in the image. You've got in really close and that along with the subdued light and out of focus background, have created a very moody image. The light on the toadstools is lovely and I get the story where they are fighting to get to the light. However, one thing is that the image is very right side heavy with all the action being over on the right. Given there is a bright highlight in the bottom left, don't be afraid to crop off the left side and have this image in square format. If you left it like this to fit the mat then shame on you, go buy or cut some square mats. However, the main issue is the depth of field, it just isn't enough and the front and back of the toadstools are soft. If you have a smartphone, download a depth of field calculator app and get that depth of field right and if you can't then learn how to focus stack. Another suggestion would be to try fine art matt or satin paper and not glossy for this image, I suspect this is an Officeworks print. I would go back and try to get this shot again with more in focus and print it on better paper. A really nice try and still worthy of a place, well done.	13	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
3	116	Kooky	I've never thought that Laughing Kookaburra's were very photogenic however, you've not made a bad effort here with this one. Unfortunately, there isn't much story to tell here and many judges have a term 'Record Shot' for such images. I don't use those terms (I just did) but maybe try a little more environment because the bird seems trapped in the tightly cropped frame. The image seems to be printed well although there is some blue tinges in the birds breast and I'm unsure if it is on the bird or a printing error. A nice image, cropped a little too tightly for me and needs a story.	11	
4	79	Eye on the Prize	What a great title and did you use a go Pro strapped to another Echidna to get in so close to the action? All I can say is well done for getting right into the action here however, again it is very tightly cropped and although I don't get the same trapped feeling as with the previous image, I think a little more of the lady Echidna might have been a more pleasing composition. I want to like this image so much; you don't often get to see Echidnas faces like this and let alone in hot pursuit of another Echidna. It really is right in on the action but, you've missed the focus and that is so much of a shame. The Echidnas Spines are sharp but its face and nose are not and they needed to be much more than the spines. I realise that this might have been a moment that you had to react quickly but you need to master that focus and get it right. It is still a great image and I still like it a lot but, I can't give it top marks when you've missed the focus like this.	12	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place



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5	54	Just Waiting	Okay, I'm going to go on about titles again because here the title is telling me what the image is about. Now imagine what someone who hasn't read the title might think this is about? Yes, it is just a cobweb on an old bit of machinery and for there to be a justification for the 'Just Waiting' title, there needs to be a spider in the shot. If there is a spider, I have missed it completely. You've done a good job with the cobweb and I think that the central composition works well in this case. However, the image must tell the story and you can't tell a story that isn't really there with the title. I can see why you took this image and I think it would have worked a lot better with the spider in there too.	10	
6	04	Perfect	In this case I'm not sure what 'Perfect' refers to but one thing, it isn't referring to the mat. Please use white or off white because the red / terracotta colour here is very distracting and doesn't compliment your image. I have no idea what type of flowers these are but, I am assuming that the 'Perfect' is referring to them. They are quite an eye-catching flower however, all your efforts to shoot sharp and with a good depth of field are wasted because you've photographed them in very neutral light which has made the image flat and hasn't done them any justice. Also, whilst one flower is at the front, there isn't really any defined main point of interest here and the background is distracting having the iron fence in it. What you need to do here is a little preparation work before shooting an image like this. Take time to define a single main point of interest, move other flowers out of the way if required. Watch your background, if it looks bad when you look at the scene then it will look bad in your photograph. However, the most important tip of all is get the light right.	10	

Colour Print A					
No	Mem	Title	Comment	Score	Place
1	113	Great Crested Grebes	This is quite a nice image with a pair of Grebe's in what looks like a courtship routine. The image is composed well with some nice exposure and the two birds being on the same plane are both sharp. Unfortunately, as with many wildlife shots, the light is not complimenting these birds with their faces being in shade however, it has provided nice light on the right birds back however, there is a little bit of overexposure on the left bird's neck. The fairly tight crop isn't restricting the birds and works well and there is some light in the eyes and you can definitely see definition and colour in them. Unfortunately, there seems to be a glow around the edges of the birds. At first, I thought it was backlight but, that can't be as the light is coming from the right so, my guess is a little over-sharpening. Still a nice image, just watch the post processing especially with sharpening, don't take it too far.	12	Merit
2	119	Carefully Watching	In the case of most Kangaroos, carefully straining rather than carefully watching as their eyesight isn't their best feature. I have seen and photographed thousands of Kangaroos in the past and I have to say this is one of the better shots I've seen. The composition is great with the Kangaroo in a great pose on the right third and filling the frame top to bottom. The foreground grass really makes the shot because it gives the whole image a feel of wilderness and yet gives us plenty of openings through to what is the main subject. Speaking of main subjects, it is sharp and whether by design or look, the depth of field has been handled really well. I think this is a masterfully captured image and to those people who think this is a just another shot of a Kangaroo, I challenge you to shoot one as well as this. A great image and well taken and this time I think the gloss paper works okay.	15	1st Place
3	78	Looking for Mum	Koalas are another difficult subject to get right and here you've done an excellent job. The title is trying to tell a story that doesn't need to be told, we can make our own story up for the image. I love the composition of the Koala; I like the light and the exposure and the fact that we can see the Koala's eye clearly. It is sharp with great background trees apart from the blue sky which I know you cannot control. I don't know whether this was taken in a Zoo or a sanctuary or in the wild, it really doesn't matter, what does matter is the fact that you cannot tell and I am left to try and decide if it was or wasn't, that makes me look at your image more. The image for me isn't quite as strong as the previous Kangaroo shot but, it is a great shot of an iconic Australian animal, well done.	13	Merit



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4	01	Elegug Stacks	<p>Wow, what an eye catcher this scene is, a beautiful seascape image of what we are told is Elegug Stacks. The image has nice foreground interest with the eroded soil leading us down to a very rocky beach and guided by the rock faces left and right through to the stacks. Compositionally, in regards to the main part of the image, I don't think you could really have improved on this shot. The image is sharp from foreground through to the rocks with the sea having been smoothed out through a long exposure. It is a very nice image with very nice natural colours which you haven't been tempted to enhance with saturation which a lot of people do and ruin their images. If I was to be picky, there are a couple of points I would make, first of which are compositional. The rock in the water on the left side that just touches the cliffs grabs my attention all the time, it needs some separation from the cliff and the horizon line is level with the cliff top on the right side which bugs me as well. However, the biggest problem for me is the curve in the horizon and the lack of sharpness probably caused by the lens and the longer exposure but, it seems to rise towards the left side.</p>	14	Merit
5	146	Fussy Eater	<p>Looking at this image creates a dilemma for me, I cannot understand why there are so many fish on this rock. The reason that I have a dilemma is because if this Bear was in its natural surroundings and catching fish, why would it just keep catching them and not eat them? Animals in the wild just don't waste energy like that so, this leads me to thinking it is in a Zoo. However, that poses the question, which Zoo would just keep giving food to a Bear that wasn't eating it so that doesn't make sense either. Now I'm not a Bear expert however, I have never seen bears climbing around on rocks like this except in Zoos so I have decided that this is a captive animal. That does not matter as there are no man-made items visible in the scene and the APS Nature definition allows for captive animals. The Bear is nicely positioned on the third lines and the image is sharp with plenty of depth of field. The bear doesn't really stand out from its surroundings but you can't really control that here so you wouldn't have had much choice. The image is exposed nicely and you've managed the colours well but, it just lacks that little bit of oomph that images need to stand out from the rest. It is a great effort but, time needs to be spent waiting for the right moment.</p>	12	
6	10	Wild Rivers	<p>This shot has impact and it has a dynamic element with that wild rushing water. The photographer either by choice or luck has chosen not to take a longer exposure here and I think it works well, I certainly cannot argue that I can almost hear that water rushing through that ravine. The exposure is good with plenty of detail in the shadows whilst retaining the detail in the sky and yet the white in the water is still white. The leading line of the water takes us through the image to the hill in the background and we are entertained by the details in the trees on the way. I also like the fact that you've kept that small tree/bush in the foreground and the rock you are standing on grounds the image. I would like to have seen the water start off a little more central in the image however, it still works okay like this. The biggest disappointment for me is the use of metallic paper to print this image, it just isn't necessary and it ruins the blacks. I think it would have been better on fine art paper, still it is a great effort, well done.</p>	13	Merit



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7	68	Last Waterhole	<p>What a difficult situation you have put yourself in when capturing this image and I guess for a single image; you've done as best as you could. I wouldn't enter a shot like this into a nature/wildlife competition because of the restrictions on editing and the fact that you cannot get a shot like this without some under or overexposure. Here, you have captured the scene as best as you could but, my suggestion is to pick your battles. You've chosen to include the sky in this shot and in an attempt to expose the darker rocks, it was inevitable that the sky would be completely blown out as is the sand on the left where the light is hitting it. On the flip side you have managed to get some lovely light into what would have been shadow areas and we can see all of the details and colour in the rocks. Unfortunately, images like these need a lot of thought and planning and you seem to have not done that because of the sky and its reflection on the water dominate the image along with the bright sand. Shots like this need multiple exposures so you can pick out elements that work and that post processing negates the nature element of the scene. You do have a good depth of field and you seem to have the rocks nice and sharp however, the one technical issue that really bothers me the most is that the image is not level and is leaning to the right. Sometimes less is more and I would have tried to get into a position where the sky is hidden, get in closer and do not include elements that are not adding to the scene and you'll have a better result. However, you must have your images level as there is an inferred level horizon even if we cannot see it. Also, I don't think the high gloss paper has done this image any justice and satin paper would work much better.</p>	10	
8	179	Eurobin Creek	<p>I think you could have dropped the last 4 words from your title and it would have still worked, locations aren't always necessary. The image itself is very well handled, you have lovely movement in the water and it appears sharp throughout. I like the inclusion of the rocks in the foreground and the trees make a lovely backdrop with the creek providing some nice middle ground interest. The colours are lovely and you've resisted the temptation to add too much saturation so it looks natural. It truly is a well taken and well-handled image of what is a lovely scene in an Australian national park. However, to quote Thomas Heaton, a British landscape photographer, "not every beautiful scene makes a great image" and I think that you have that here. It is a beautiful scene and a very nice image but it needs a little more to give some story and something to call a main point of interest and inevitably a great image.</p>	13	Merit
9	152	Pink Robin	<p>Being a wildlife photographer myself, I can see why you would enter a shot like this. Pink Robins are not that common and you've captured this really well indeed. Yes, it is what some judges would call a record shot but, these birds are so hard to capture, in my opinion it is wonderful. The bird is lovely and sharp, the background is completely out of focus and the branch nicely diagonally dissects the image. I cannot fault the image at all with the exception that there isn't much story in this image. Having said that, I am drawn to the two lumps that the bird appears to have on its feet, they look like growths which is a shame. That said, it is a very well taken bird shot and I like it a lot.</p>	14	2nd Place
10	148	Robin	<p>Two Robins in a row and this one is just as sharp and simple an image as the last. Again, all the same things apply to this image as they did with the last and even down to the fact there still isn't much of a story. However, this image I have to label with a "that'll do" stigma, it is a great shame but the tail is off the right side of the frame. In reality, the tail is there but, has been lost in the mounting of the print. I can never fathom why anyone would go to the lengths of photographing a bird like this and this well, only to ruin the image by a 'that'll do' mount. Please please please do yourself a favour, if you want to do well in competitions, give the image plenty of space and cut mats to fit the print, not fit the print to a spare mat. The mats do not count for the judging score but, cutting of the bird's tail does. I would have given you the same score as the previous image had it been mounted correctly.</p>	13	



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11	163	Shadows on the Desert	Again, like the other image, I am wondering whether I am looking at a drone/aircraft shot or a lot of small plants from head height. If I look at this from a drone perspective the image has a story where the desert sand meets the trees. It could be a beach or in the middle of the country I don't know and that is the main issue I have with the image, there isn't really a point of reference for me to identify what I am looking at. Compositionally, if the shadows are the main point of the image and the title tells me they are, the sand area is a lot more dominant than the trees or the shadows. I think the image would benefit from having the shadows diagonally from corner to corner and therefore have slightly less sand? The image is nice and sharp and depth of field works because everything is on the same focal plane. The shadow area in the trees is a little dark for me and the blacks are what is called 'blocked up' as there is no detail in them at all. I like the concept of this shot but, I think it needs some identifying detail to help bring it along.	12	
12	81	Fringe Lily	Oh boy, you've challenged yourself here but, to the most part I think you've managed okay. The problem is with shots like this is always going to be depth of field and you can see that in this image. The issue with flowers is they are rarely flat so which part do you concentrate on getting sharp. Usually it is the stamen however, the stamen usually protrudes and often are longer than the depth of field. Having said all of that, you've done well here to minimise the out of focus parts and you handled the background really well. As opposed to the other flower shot, we saw earlier, this one the flowers are isolated and we are in no doubt as to the main subject with very little distractions. The water droplets bring the image on and whilst this is a very well handled and well composed image, there isn't really a story to be had in the shot much like the previous bird shots. Please remember that the definition states " <i>The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality</i> ". This is still a great shot and well done	13	Merit
13	43	Lightning Strike	There is some definite initial impact here with the destroyed tree being the main subject in the image. I like how you've filled the frame with the tree getting as much into the frame as you could, it stands out from the background so I think you've done well. There is plenty of colour and detail in the scene and yet you've managed to not blow out the sky whilst retaining that detail. Then we must discuss sharpness and depth of field, yes, the depth of field works well and the tree is very sharp. That leads me onto my very first impression when I looked at this, it is way too over sharpened and even if you were careful, it still appears to be too sharp and has taken on a stencil drawing like effect. If you have sharpened this, I would suggest trying a little less sharpening and if you haven't then this may be a rare case where an image needs to be softened slightly. Personally, I would attempt to sharpen the main tree trunk and soften the other trees, this can be done using High Pass filter and a layer mask. This image does have great potential and it is very well taken, just watch the sharpening.	13	Merit

Mono Print					
No	Mem	Title	Comment	Score	Place
1	81	Bee on Stamen	I'm unsure which way to view this image as it doesn't have a title on the back however, I have used the number sticker as reference and I hope that is correct. A lovely macro/close up shot of a Bee on the stamen of a flower. The image shows all of the difficulties with depth of field in a shot like this and the eye appears to be just about sharp although I do think that the Spiracle or Abdomen seems a little sharper. The image has been printed quite well and the black & white conversion seems to have generated some good blacks along with good tonal range. The composition is good with everything nice and close and filling the frame although the story element here is a little lost on me. A nice image all the same and well done.	13	Merit



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2	194	Water Conquers All	Quite a statement in the title of this nicely composed waterfall scene. The image has been taken at a longer shutter speed which I fear is just a little too long and has turned the water to milk with an inherent loss of detail in the overexposed areas because of that. In this case, I like the central position of the waterfall, it seems to work and you've tried to exclude as much sky as is possible and that works as well. Now onto the parts I don't think have worked and that is the metallic type-high gloss paper which I don't think has worked well at all, I would think that a finer art style paper would have worked better. With regards to the tonal range, there are some nice blacks and whites in the image but as is quite often the case with these high gloss papers, the blacks are blocked up in the shadows and this means there are no details or tones in the darker areas just black which sort of spoils the image for me. It is a good attempt but, I would try this with a shorter shutter speed and print it on better paper to get better results.	12	
3	116	Ali Gator	This image has been printed on nice satin paper; it seems to have handled the tonal range quite well. The Alligator itself is nice and sharp although it is a very tight crop and I feel that there is no space for the animal to move into. The story telling aspect of the image isn't really there and again this would be regarded by some as a record shot however, the biggest problem for me is the fact that there is very little separation of the Alligator from the background with them both being a very similar colour and texture. I think in colour, this likely wasn't the case and the similarity has been created by the black & white conversion. Try adjusting the tones in Photoshop and you may get a better separation from the background.	12	
4	01	Crested Pigeon	A nice simple shot of a Pigeon that is sharp and composed very well with the bird seemingly having space to fly off into although there is a slight over-sharpening halo around the bird. Again, the satin paper seems good although this image doesn't have a huge tonal range and lacks any lighter tones. Compositionally, I would have cropped this slightly higher to remove the distracting tree branch from the bottom right of the image. The problem with the image is that the tones on the bird are almost identical to the background and this looks like an image that has been desaturated to achieve the black & white look. You need to make sure that after the conversion, your subject doesn't blend into the background by adjusting the colour sliders after you converted it to B&W. Again, the image has very little story to tell.	12	
5	179	Alpine Flora, Los Galciaras	Again, the title could be 5 words shorter, giving a location is not really required. Okay, there may be a story here of a plant's struggle to survive in the cold and the snow. However, that always depends on the location and you've used the title to tell us it is an Alpine plant whereas a little more environment would probably have allowed the image to tell that itself. Whilst there are good tones from black to white here, the high gloss of the paper is not doing anything for the image and this time we have over exposed whites with no detail in them. With regards to the subject, is the flora the grass, the rock plant or both? The rock plant isn't very dominant in the scene and is quite dark whereas in contrast the grass is quite bright and is noticed straight away. I think maybe choosing one or the other and cropping one out might be a better option in this case, personally I would have cropped the bottom half right up to the bottom of the grass to get rid of that bright snow highlight. I can see the attraction of the shot but, more environment and a better-defined subject would have been a better image.	11	
6	146	Head of the Dragon	My initial impression of this image was that it is on metallic paper and that has taken away its initial overall impact for me because the blacks appear matt. The lizard itself is nice and sharp and you've got in close and composed the image well although I might have liked to see its front feet. The Lizard stands out from its background mainly due to the bokeh effect but, I just cannot get past the fact that had it been printed on a better paper it would have been a much better image.	11	





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7	152	Russell Falls	Now this image has some initial impact and the tones are really good and there are no blocked-up blacks in there which is nice. The paper choice is still a bit too glossy for an image like this and I think that I would have even considered a matt paper in this case. The overall scene is lovely and you've managed to make the sky fairly neutral although it is still a little too bright, I might have cropped the sky out of the shot. With regards to the water, there is still some detail in it but, again I think a slightly less shutter speed might have worked a little better. I do like how you've kept some of the debris in the foreground which adds to the scene. The image is sharp and has a great depth of field although I'm constantly thinking it may well have been better in landscape mode and gotten a little more of those right-hand falls in too, much better than the sky. Still a great attempt, just experiment with paper choices.	13	Merit
8	10	Relaxing	Is it relaxing, or is it stopping itself from sliding down the slope? This is a nice portrait of a bear which for all intents and purposes looks like it is in the wild. You've got the Bear sharp and it is nicely posed and as it is looking over its shoulder doesn't need space to move into. With regards to the composition, I like the fact you've cropped in here but for me there is too much bright background and I would crop the top down to reduce it a little. The tonal range is good with minimal blocked up blacks in the shadows and with detail in the fur. Again, this is very high gloss paper and I think that an image like this would be better printed on satin or even matt paper.	12	
9	9	Koala with Joey	I was once out walking in Jack Smith's Game Reserve and there was a huge clatter in the undergrowth and up popped a Koala with Joey rushing up a tree for protection and this reminds me exactly of that scenario. Here, you have done a great job of capturing what was happening and the eye contact is just spot on. You've got the eyes sharp too and the detail in the trees works as well. What doesn't work for me is the composition having the Koalas in the middle like that, I would have cropped off the left side up to the third tree in and got the Koalas into the left side. If you do that, we still have environment on the right and we can see that you've captured these Koalas in the wild. With regards to the print, there is really good tonal range all the way from black to white and the satin style paper works well. A really nicely taken and well printed image.	14	Merit
10	14	Tranquil	At last, someone who knows of the merits of printing on matt fine art paper. The tonal range here is lovely although there are a few blocked up blacks. However, given the circumstances of the shot, I think I can excuse those in this case. I must say that this a lovely rainforest scene that I see so much but never capture and yet here you have done just that. Yes, the image is very busy, there is a lot in this scene but it invokes memories for me and I could look at this all day. Okay, I get that a scene like this isn't for everyone but, it is such an iconic Aussie rainforest scene that I think it works on all levels for me. Given the printing and paper choice plus the iconic scene, I have to say that you've done a great job. Now your task is to show the rest of your club the merits of matt and fine art printing and get them off that glossy paper.	14	1st Place
11	78	Wetland Edge	Again, the tonal range and paper choice here is excellent, there are some lovely tones in this image. I like how you've filled the scene with your subject trees creating a visual block to the background and that bland sky. Those tree roots tell the story of how the trees have to extend them to the bank so that they can survive even when they've been waterlogged as the water rises, this is a good example of nature at work. There is good depth of field and sharpness throughout the scene and the only real issue is the sky which is very bland. However, if we can see past that then this is a very competent and well printed image, well done.	13	Merit
12	163	Matchsticks in the Mountains	I've seen some very good images over the years of these wonderful remains of trees, some good and some not so good. Here you've done okay although I have to say that your title has to tell us what we are looking at. I do like how you've filled the entire frame with your subjects however, a little more environment to show it is a mountain may have helped here. The focus and depth of field all seem pretty good and the tonal range, although quite small is also good. However, again, this image isn't really suited to high gloss paper and I think a more subdued paper would have worked better because there are some almost blocked up blacks in the bottom half of the scene.	12	



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13	79	Spotted Quoll	<p>Here the title has allowed me to make the decision that this Quoll was not in captivity which is great at least I think it wasn't. I love that you've captured a wild animal because that really is what nature photography is all about, wild untouched things. Here the Quoll looks a little startled and if it was a wild animal, I can see why that would be the case. Unfortunately, there are a couple of issues with the shot and the first is that the Quoll is just not sharp at all. The leaves and tree root are a lot sharper. The second is that the image has very little tonal range and everything is an overall grey although the paper choice is good being a satin effect. The last is that the tail is off the edge of the frame which is such a shame and I realise that in the moment it is an easy thing to miss but, you need to have the tail in shot too. Overall, this was a great opportunity and you took it however, you need to work on those finer details to make your images stand out a little more.</p>	11	
14	148	Plenty of Room	<p>I'm wondering what to say about this image when I read the title. I thought that a potential male was hassling a female for attention but, the title insinuates that it was trying to get rid of the other bird. Now, I view each print on its own stood up against a wall next to my desk and some movement caught my eye, it was the print slowly working its way down inside the mount. Also, the masking tape on the back is coming off and is sticking to the packaging. This can damage other people's prints; my suggestion is to use gummed paper instead of masking tape. The mounting issues don't affect the score but, please ensure your prints are secure. Now on to the print, what a nicely printed image on very nice satin paper, the tonal range is very good and I don't even mind the black edge to the mount in this case. The image itself is very simple with lovely bokeh which is sharp enough to show some environment. The subjects in the shot are well defined against that bokeh rich background and they seem lovely and sharp. There is definitely a story here even if the real one was different to what I was thinking. This is a well taken, well printed image, well done.</p>	14	<b>2nd Place</b>
15	68	Looking for a Feed	<p>I was out shooting these beautiful birds just yesterday. Your tonal range is excellent with white whites and black blacks and I can see this was quite a difficult shot to capture. However, the Egret seems hemmed in to me with no space to do any of that feeding your title suggests and you've cropped off its lower legs and feet essentially taking away the story element from the image i.e. the food source. The sharpness is good with the depth of field working really well here and there is some lovely detail in the bird's feathers although they are borderline overexposed but not quite. Again, you've used really high gloss paper and I don't think this image suits that paper either, I suggest trying a satin effect or even matt for this image. It is a great effort to shoot an Egret in its natural surroundings however, keep the feet in where possible and allow a little more space.</p>	12	
16	119	Summer Bark, Shedding	<p>I have to note that the saying "if you think you're close then get closer" has really worked for you here. You have filled the entire frame with tree bark and whilst the title states 'shedding', I don't see shedding going on. Perhaps just Summer Bark would suffice. The detail in the bark is great and there is reasonable sharpness throughout with only a minimal drop off of depth of field. The tones in the image are really nice and there is detail even in the darker areas of the scene. This is a nice simple image that works well on all but one level for me, glossy paper again. I don't really do not know what the attraction of glossy paper is but again this image would have been much better with matt paper.</p>	13	<b>Merit</b>
17	37	We will Survive	<p>Well I'm going to earn my money here because I do not know where to start but, it isn't going to be with glossy paper this time. This is the most unique print I have ever judged and I really love that you've tried to do something different, this crop and print format really works with trees. The image itself is very soft although the tonal range isn't too bad. The problem I have here isn't with the format of the print, no it is the title and the subject. Had this been a really well-defined sharp tree trunk with lots of detail and some evidence of bush fire, it might have worked better. But I'm left looking at the image and thinking is it underexposed or are they burnt and I have to rely on the title to find out. I'm sorry to be negative because I like this idea and I think it would work well, just get a better more defined subject and you'll do a lot better I think.</p>	11	





## Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

18	43	In Times of Bushfire	Here the title tells me that there is bushfire and there may well be, the image has been given a sepia effect which I think is supposed to represent smoke but, where is the fire and where are the burnt trees? Yes, I see that you may be inferring bushfire but, I need to see the bushfire and all I see is two trees converted to sepia in an area where there is very little bush. Unfortunately, and I really hope I am wrong but, this looks like a foggy morning shot that has been turned to sepia to create a bushfire effect. It still qualifies as a nature shot however, I need to see for myself what the title has inferred and I just don't. Also, we have that high gloss paper again and here it really doesn't do justice to the image. I'm really sorry to be so negative but, I need to give feedback that you can work with and that is how the image comes across to me.	10	
<b><u>EDI</u></b>					
No	Mem	Title	Comment	Score	Place
1	79	Dragonfly	Okay, lucky first image. What a lovely close up of what the title says it is, a Dragonfly. The golden colours are lovely and the composition works well with the entire Dragonfly captured. The background is nice and blurred so it doesn't intrude and there isn't anything obvious trying to grab our attention. I have no doubt that this is a real Dragonfly and I have respect to the photographer because I know how hard these little blighters can be to photograph. Unfortunately, this is where the good stops and I have to mention a couple of issues first and foremost being that the focus was missed. The eye is not sharp and that is the one thing that needs to be sharp in a shot with such a narrow depth of field. It looks like you made the classic mistake that many people make and either have used the wrong focus mode (multipoint) or you have focussed on the centre of the image which is the Dragonfly's wings near their base. The latter seems to be the case and the DOF isn't enough to capture the eye sharp. Also, it seems that you have either cropped into a much wider shot or you had your ISO too high because the image is quite noisy and the former seems to be the case here. The last point is that there are a few overexposed areas in the shot on the stalk the Dragonfly is attached to and on its tail etc.	10	
2	194	Natures Worker	Not a bad title for this image that is a nicely presented shot of a Bee gathering nectar from the flower. Here, you have the focus almost as good as it could have been given the circumstances so well done there especially given the narrow depth of field. Initially I liked this image however, the more I looked at it the more uncomfortable I got and I couldn't quite put my finger on it but, I think it is the fact that the Bee is what we call facing out of the image and all of the action i.e. all of the things that are important are in the right half of the image and the left side is white and adds nothing to the scene. There are no rules about the sizes of the image however, I would crop it by half right down the middle and discard the left half. I tried this and it transformed the image for me. Still a great shot, just remember that less is more often than not, more.	13	1st Place
3	27	Rain on the Rock	Now, regarding the title, 'the Rock' are you talking about Uluru here? If this is Uluru, I can see why you took this shot, I know people travel from all over Australia to Ayers Rock Resort to capture Uluru in the heavy rain and yet, you've seen fit to snap a shot from what looks like a passing vehicle with a mobile phone. I don't understand why you wouldn't stop and photograph the rock in the rain. If I was on a coach tour I'd hijack the driver and make them stop if I saw this and yet only the title tells us that it might be Uluru. The image is blurred and looks like it has been jarred if you zoom in to it and it isn't sharp and it isn't really that good of a composition either. The image is also a little bit flat and lifeless and could have been so much more. I really apologise for being so harsh and I do hope that I'm wrong but, you must see why I think this was such a missed opportunity. If it is raining then get wet but, never miss an opportunity like this and the best advice I can give is you might only get this opportunity once, so photograph it well.	9	



## Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

4	86	Barkout	<p>I can really see what the appeal of this bark was although I don't really get the title of the image. The colours in the bark are just amazing and I really quiet like the Lichen too. The subject seems sharp where it needs to be and depth of field is good. The background is nicely blurred but, it is a little distracting which brings me onto the issue I am struggling with, why the two images? The image on the left isn't bad, it gets the point across nicely and the background is okay with only a minor few distractions. However, this is in stark contrast to the image on the right which appears to be the same tree with the perspective shifted around to the left a little but with a dark but awfully distracting background full of bright sunlit objects and dark underexposed areas on the tree. Unless you were trying to show good and bad, I would have stuck to the left-hand image only and cropped the sides to make the background less of a distraction. Sometimes with photographs "less is more" and in this case I think getting in closer to that Lichen with some of those colours around it might have made a much stronger image. Also, the border around the two images is too prominent and the hearing aid beige colour doesn't enhance the images at all. Best to keep the border thinner and neutral and that way it won't compete for attention plus, you must ensure that your images are the same size, here the right image is slightly bigger than the left one.</p>	10	
5	188	Water Looks Cold	<p>I realise that titles aren't part of the judging but, here your title is trying to tell the story where the image must tell the story on its own merit especially in Nature and Wildlife photography. I like your composition; you've got in nice and tight and you've retained the bird within the frame so that works well. There is some space to the right so the bird doesn't look to be too trapped by the frame which also works okay. Your exposure on the bird is good with a slightly overexposed but nicely blurred background. Unfortunately, the bird isn't sharp and here I'm unsure why because the exif data is missing. It isn't missed focus because there is nothing sharp in this image and I feel it might cropped in from a much larger shot. The biggest issue is nicely explained by the definition "<i>The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality</i>" and here there just isn't any story regardless of what the title tries to state. Often judges never hear the title, so the image must stand on its own merit.</p>	10	
6	36	Where's my Family	<p>Upon initial inspection, I liked this image. What attracted me was the white Cockatoo in contrast to the burnt bush behind it which makes it a very good environmental image. Again, the title is trying to create the story by trying to tell me what the bird is thinking however, the question "where's my Family" can be answered by adding "behind the tree in the bottom left corner". You have to be so careful when presenting images and trying to create a story with a title because you create a situation that might not have been there if the title was "Life Amongst the Devastation". Here the bright white Cockatoo against the dark burnt background works really well and creates a story on its own. the bird is sharp and are most of the trees along that focal plane. The background does start to lose focus as we move out of the depth of field but, it is still visible enough to not be of too much of an issue. The Cockatoo is a very central in the image and possible I would have considered cropping some from the left side to remove the other Cockatoo which doesn't really need to be there.</p>	12	2nd Place



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7	116	Family Tree	<p>This image has a great title and these I think are Apostle birds which I know like to be in family groups. I like that you've cropped in close and you've framed this well. Focus looks good as does the depth of field however, I am distracted a lot by the digital noise in the birds tails which made me think that this may have been taken with a very bright background however, an ISO of 400 and a shutter speed of 1/320th second at f/4.9 makes me think that the tails were in shadow and the noise is from being lightened too much in post-production. I do like this image, it tells a story and is well presented however, the process used to turn this to B&amp;W is the images biggest let down. There aren't any whites or blacks in the image and everything is a shade of grey with a slight green tinge to it. I suspect that this was either shot as a B&amp;W JPEG in camera or the photographer has just de-saturated the colours to make it B&amp;W, neither of which are a suitable method of creating a B&amp;W image. A great effort, keep your ISO as low as you can and get your exposure right then convert to a B&amp;W image using Silver Efex or something along those lines.</p>	10	
8	187	Catch of the Day	<p>I'm going to start by apologising to the photographer, I know that the definition states that the pictorial element is more important than the technical one but, there still has to be a basic technical level for an image and this unfortunately does not have that. I know that this was taken with a 16-megapixel point and shoot camera and 16 megapixels is a lot however, the sensor size on this type of camera limits the images ability to be manipulated in post-production and likely the photographer started with a JPEG. I suspect that this was cropped from a much larger image because at full screen the image is just too low quality. It is a shame because the composition is lovely and the seagull is eating which gives us a story but the image is just too poor quality for me to judge fairly. I'm really sorry but, I have to be fair to you and to everyone else.</p>	9	
9	59	Paddy's Falls	<p>I've never visited or seen an image of Paddy's Falls so this is a new for me. The image itself is taken from a very different perspective than normal, usually we see falls straight on and this isn't and I like that. I also like the fact that you have included the river as it flows away from the falls. There is plenty of action happening here and a lot to look at but my attention seems to stay on the white water so that is good. You've created a closed landscape by not including the sky and I think that has worked for you in the fact that the light is very neutral so the sky is likely grey and cloudy. Focus seems good and the depth of field is good for this type of image and I like the strip of wet rocks at the bottom to ground the image. The problems with the image is with the light, it is very flat and the image needs a lot of contrast adding to give some life to the scene and probably a boost of colour and the rules state that you can manipulate the image to get the scene back to what you saw with your eyes. There is a little bit of overexposure in the white water but, I think that this is acceptable given the circumstances. A nice image that just really needs some better light to bring it to life.</p>	12	Merit
10	37	Rejuvenation	<p>As a judge we see a lot of these images especially after the bushfire season and 2019/20 is definitely no exception to that. The problem is when you get a lot of a certain type of image, you have to do something different to stand out a bit more and this for me just lacks a little bit of imagination. I love to see that growth on the burnt trees and that is what this image is about and the green makes it stand out well. I like that you've got a little more context in the image but, as usual, there is a problem. The image just isn't sharp at all, I cannot find anything sharp in the image and at least the tree that is the main subject needs to be sharp. Also, there is quite a bit of chromatic aberration which you can see as colours at the edges of the tree trunks, especially at the base of them, orange/yellow on the right side and green/blue on the left. You can easily remove aberration in either ACR or Lightroom but, I think you need to have a better-defined main subject as well.</p>	10	



## Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

<u>EDIA</u>					
No	Mem	Title	Comment	Score	Place
1	129	Never Smile at a Crocodile	Definitely a Crocodile and I really don't think it cares if I smile or not. It seems sharp with good depth of field and the B&W treatment isn't too bad although the croc does blend into the water a little. There isn't much of a story going on here and I wonder if you used a polariser on that water to reduce the glare as it does seem to be quite bright which takes away attention from those teeth. I like that you've got in a little closer to the Crocodile but you need a little more space on the right for the croc to swim into but apart from that this is a solid nature image that needs a bit more of a story.	11	
2	10	Two's Company	These are Lynx and they seem quite at home sitting here looking at the potential photographers. Looking at the trees, I suspect that these are Eurasian Lynx or this is a European wildlife park because they look like silver birch trees in the background. The image has me wondering whether they were captive or not so the photographer has done a great job if they were captive because I cannot see anything man made in the scene. I like that you have captured the pair of them in the shot and I think you've done a good job seeing you used a 24-105mm lens at 70mm to get these which makes me suspect they are captive animals and you are safely behind a fence. The animals are as sharp as you would have been able to get them and what a shame that the plant stalk was in the way, it would have been a lot nicer had you been able to move right or left to eliminate that. Besides this, I like that you have environment in the scene even if the depth of field is quite narrow, it is expected in a shot like this and here the blurred background is still recognisable giving us some environment to see.	13	Merit
3	195	Grasshopper	When I first get images to judge, I always look through to see if there are any stand out shots and this was one of them and it is in fact my favourite image. This could be a wild shot or it could be a setup shot but that does not matter because this is Nature and setup shots are allowed. I do like the fact that you have some backlight on that leaf and that is what really makes this shot work. Combine that with the detail on the grasshopper and you have achieved a superb close up nature shot. The focus is exactly where it should be and the depth of field works well along with a good exposure making this image an excellent effort. I'm sure I'll see this image in national Nature comps in the future.	15	1st Place
4	119	I Can do that Too	You've really given yourself a challenge here, not because Pelicans are hard to photograph, they aren't but, they are very hard to get interesting shots of. Pelicans can be excellent subjects but more often they are not that photogenic but, here you seem to have managed to get somewhere in between. The Pelicans are in an interesting pose, both of them preening their feathers however, your title tries to insert an element of copycat behaviour that isn't really there. You've framed this nicely and have the shot nice and tight and with both birds along the same focal plane so you don't have any focus or depth of field issues here. I think that the main issue with the image is that the background appears better lit and is brighter than the birds and that is unfortunate because it drags our attention away a little bit. However, you've done well here but, the shot just needs a little bit more story and a little better light on the subjects.	13	Merit



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5	191	Ghost Fungi	I have heard a lot about Ghost Fungi but, I never managed to even see any never mind get to photograph any yet but, I can see from your image, what the attraction is. I love your composition, right in close and to the point but, I'm not sure I would have included the Fungi on the right and likely would have cropped square and removed the distracting sky as well. The dark subdued light sets the scene for this shot and the moist debris on the ground makes me think Rainforest so the exposure works well. However, there is one thing that spoils this shot and that is that the image just isn't sharp. Looking at the exif data, you used ISO 400 at f/2.8 with a shutter speed of 899? Well, I'm unsure as to what the 899 means, surely that wasn't 899 seconds. Whatever it was, ISO 100, f/11 and a shutter speed of whatever with the camera on a tripod was the way to go here and if the shutter speed was 899 seconds then the best thing is to introduce a small amount of light. A very interesting shot that just needs that little bit more care.	12	
6	01	Carnaby's Black Cockatoo	This is an endangered bird from Western Australia and judging by this shot, this is a wild bird so well done in capturing it. Yes, you have a blank grey sky but, you can't really do anything about that. The Banksia tree makes up for the bland sky with its contrasty red flowers and green foliage. The bird is obviously flying so, you've done a sterling job in getting it as sharp as you have and I love how you've filled the frame with the bird and still left space on the right for it to fly into. Unfortunately, there isn't much of a story here but, it is still a nice capture of what is an endangered bird so well done.	13	Merit
7	146	On Golden Pond	I have never seen the movie but, I suspect its title came from the same sort of scene as this and I suspect that this is likely to be 'On Golden Lake Mulwala'. The colours of this what I suspect is a winter sunrise are just stunning and the dead trees are just so Aussie. The reeds in the foreground work really well and they are sort of balanced out by the piece of wood floating in the water, or whatever it is. The image is lovely and sharp and the depth of field is really good, the horizon is nicely on the upper third and the silhouettes work really well. An iconic Australian sunrise, taken well and well thought out.	13	Merit
8	152	Red Tail Black Cockatoo	An iconic shot of an iconic bird that is mainly found in the north of Australia. Whilst there isn't really a story with this shot, you've done well capturing details and sharpness in the bird itself. Again, this is quite a tight crop for a bird shot but here it doesn't really need space to move into because it isn't moving. The bird's pose works really well, looking behind to see what is going on back there. The inclusion of the branches works well and the bird almost mirrors the angles of those. The background is nicely blurred and the exposure, colours, focus point and depth of field are all spot on. A great shot that just needs some story to improve it nonetheless, still a great image.	13	Merit
9	179	Hare, Torres del Paine	The title of this image is what is called a name dropper, 'I've been to Patagonia' and is about 5 words too long, a simple 'Hare' would have sufficed as there is no additional credit for providing a location. Nevertheless, it is not a subject that we see a lot of here in Australia so well done there. Again, we have a very tightly cropped frame but, in this case, I think the Hare looks trapped and needs a little more space on the right side. The image is nicely exposed however, there isn't really any story here and the focus has been missed and the Hare isn't sharp enough. Did you know a Hare cannot see directly behind so you can almost walk right up to them if you are quiet and downwind.	11	
10	81	Banksia Trio	This is a nicely exposed image with an odd numbered subject which is aesthetically pleasing. The subjects seem to be sharp enough however, there is some blur around the edge of the nearest flower which doesn't correspond with the depth of field because the other two flowers appear sharp but are further away than the nearest one with the blurred area in between them. I can only assume that this has been caused by some post production work unless there was some focus stacking going on and it hasn't quite worked. The colours are really nice with red and yellow complimenting each other. Other than the focus issue, I would have considered moving the other plants parts out of the way for the shot especially the one at the bottom of the main flower and the blade of grass sitting between the two flowers. To meet the definition, you cannot edit these out but you can remove them before taking the image.	11	





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11	163	Ancient Desert	The title of this image is inferring something that cannot be seen, yes, it is desert but what makes it ancient? You see a lot of aerial shots of the desert taken from drones or aircraft however, in this scene I'm struggling a little bit. The reason is that I cannot fathom whether this is a shot of small plants in the sand taken from head height or they are trees taken from high above as there is no reference point. Whilst the image has nice light, there isn't really a subject in the image where I can focus on so I'm looking about all over the image. Also, there isn't really any story here either. This a great attempt at an aerial type shot but, it just needs a focal point and something to give it scale. Remember that the viewer wasn't there so doesn't know how the image was taken, visual clues often get around that hurdle.	11	
12	14	Jabiru	The Black-necked Stork is sometimes referred to as a Jabiru but, contrary to common belief, Jabiru is not an Aboriginal name but a name that originates in the Americas. The light in this image is lovely and the dark stork contrasts against the yellow background nicely making it stand out well. The composition is very nice with the stork on the thirds with the background and water showing us the environment well. There isn't much of a story here however, the image works well as a nature shot showing us a bird that we don't often see at the bottom of Australia. I like this image however; it has a slight niggle in the fact that the stork is soft and could be a little sharper. Still a great environmental nature shot and well worth a merit.	13	Merit
13	148	Winged Beauty	The thing that grabs me here is the composition with the butterfly in the lower left third and the stalk going nicely into the top corner of the image. The Butterfly is lovely and sharp and the angle has meant that the focal plane has allowed all of the butterfly to be sharp. The exposure is good with the butterfly's eyes being clear and the colours on the wings are excellent. What lets this image down are the leaves that are obscuring the stalk of the plant and they are well outside of the depth of field making them very blurred. Also, the leaf on the far-left edge of the frame is a distraction when seen and should have been cropped out. Having said those, it is still very well taken and I would be happy with this image.	13	Merit
14	68	Hungry Emu	Again, we have an image where the title is trying to tell the story yet the image tells the story itself. The one thing that is very hard to capture with Emu's is their eyes, getting them well-lit and here you have managed to get some light into its eye. I like how you've filled the frame with just the Emu's head and the depth of field almost worked with just a little focus tailing off towards the end of its nose. The colours are quite muted with the green foliage on its nose breaking up the brown and there is some nice light on the head and dark foreboding clouds in the background. A nice simple image that has a little story and some light in the Emu's eyes.	12	
15	113	Orange Bellied Parrot	It is extremely unfortunate that the vast majority of people will have no idea how hard it is to capture an image of a wild Orange Bellied Parrot. I can only assume that this was taken at the Water Treatment Plant or actually in Tasmania although they have been seen in South Australia and inland areas of Victoria. If it was taken in captivity, well done because I'm fooled. For those who don't know, the OBP only breeds in Tasmania and it is estimated that there are less than 50 birds left in the wild so, if this is a wild bird, very well done. The image is sharp with a lovely Bokeh, there isn't much story but the rarity of this bird makes up for that. The bird is too central in the scene and I understand that you were probably more bothered about capturing the bird over the composition. However, I would crop off the right side to get the bird on the third line for a more aesthetically pleasing image. I do hope this is a wild bird but, either way it is a great image.	14	2nd Place



## Wodonga / Albury Camera Club

16	78	Alpine View	This is a hard image to judge, not because it isn't a nice image but I wanted to see so much more. I bush camp and I drive a 4WD in the High Country and these views are so common to me. Technically the image is good, it has great exposure, it is sharp with a great depth of field however, the problem for me is that there is no story and no main point of focus. I can see the appeal of the trees with the Alpine landscape behind them but, it is just a very busy image with no one focal point to stop me wandering around the image. Remember that great views don't always make great photographs and try and get a story into the scene.	12	
17	43	Lizzy	Upon the initial look at 'Lizzy', it looked like a very pleasing image and often Lizards heads are very interesting. The colours here are lovely with blues, yellows and red eyes with browns in the background. I am suspicious about those colours in this image as they seem a little too enhanced however, I'll let it slide as this is at club level. However, the image wasn't as pleasing when I looked at it full screen and there was a lot of noise and the edges of Lizzy were degraded. This has the hallmarks of an image that has been cropped from a much larger scene, the ISO of 100 gives it away. It is a shame about this because at icon size in Bridge, the image looks great and at that size I would have given this a better score however, in an equal world, I have to judge the images at the same size, sorry. If you cannot crop in that far, consider a wider shot with some environment as well and remember the definition, you cannot change the pictorial elements of the scene.	11	