



Wodonga / Albury Camera Club Inc

Meeting Date:	May 2021	Print Secretary Brian Paatsch 02 6025 2117 brianian@iinet.net.au
Judge:	Theo Van der Meulen	
Subject:	Nature	

EDI Colour (EDI) – (Section 'B')

1	37	Enjoying the Breeze	13	pts	Place	Merit
Sharp, well exposed image of the flower. Good colours and background blur separates the subject from its surroundings. Would suggest a square crop to eliminate the negative space on the left.						
2	27	Rocky Way	11	pts	Place	
The flowing creek and the interesting rock formation would certainly provide a number of photo opportunities. Here it appears that a fairly long focal length was used which has compressed the image perspective and rendered it somewhat two dimensional. If shot from a closer point of view with a wider zoom setting the viewer would get a better perspective of the relationship between the creek and the rocks. It would also render the creek as a stronger feature and leading line.						
3	59	Undisturbed	11	pts	Place	
I like the colours in this image, particularly the rocks in the foreground and the reflections in the water. Depth of field has been well managed. Light on the creek bank is quite harsh and this area is slightly overexposed. The scene looks interesting and I think it would be worth looking around to find a vantage point which provides a stronger point of interest.						
4	31	Colours of the Season	11	pts	Place	
The use of contrasting reds and greens is effective in this image. The light here is quite harsh though and I think photographing this scene in softer light would produce a stronger image.						
5	189	Eastern Water Dragon	12	pts	Place	
The lizard here has been well photographed. Focus on head and shoulders is great and the exposure is very good. Depth of field was well controlled to focus the viewer's attention on the head. The bright area behind the reptile is quite distracting and could be toned down somewhat in post-production. Ideally a slightly lower position of the head would have shown more of face and both eyes, but with animal photos you don't always get what you want.						
6	193	Tranquillity	9	pts	Place	
This certainly looks like a tranquil scene and I can see why the maker would want to photograph it. However, there are some technical issues which have resulted in the tranquillity not being communicated to the viewer. The light is very harsh, and this combined with overexposure has produced a bright and contrasty image. This image did not contain Exif data so I'm unable to comment on possible reasons for quite degraded image quality.						
7	201	Huon Reserve	14	pts	Place	2nd Place
I liked the composition of this image. The trees and the pelican in the distance, and the cloudy sky all work together to create an interesting image. Use of a wide-angle lens has enabled the depth of field to extend all the way from foreground to background. Overall, the image is a bit bright and I found that a reduction in brightness (<i>Photoshop</i>) of -26 made a significant improvement. Nice image though and easily improved.						
8	79	Twin Falls	12	pts	Place	
Rocks and falling water create an interesting scene. Overall, the image has been well exposed. Not sure if the maker meant to freeze the water or blur it but here, we've landed in between. If the aim was to freeze a faster shutter speed was required but if the aim was to blur a longer exposure (<i>and possibly an ND filter</i>) was required. Love the colours in this image.						
9	196	Nature	15	pts	Place	1st Place
There are many 'layers' in this image – geese, lake, forest, cloud and mountains all combine to provide a strong composition. Reflections in the water are also very effective. The image is well exposed and sharp throughout. My only suggestion for improving the image is to 'clone' out the two geese facing away from the camera, but this requires well developed editing skills.						
10	54	Huon Hill Rocks	11	pts	Place	
Exposure and focus both good in this image. The rocks are the primary subject here, but the lighting is very flat. Generally, when photographing stone, timber and old structures a more dramatic image (more texture and colour) can be achieved by side lighting. It is good practice to observe these (<i>even without a camera</i>) in early morning or late afternoon light and to note the much stronger textures and colours which emerge.						
11	4	Coastal Scene	10	pts	Place	
I liked this composition and the interesting sky. Here the camera has focused on the water's edge in the foreground, and the chosen lens aperture has not been adequate to render the rest of the image in sharp focus. Don't know the equipment or the settings used here but to successfully capture this image would require focusing on the middle distance (first whitecaps for example) and an aperture of f11 – f16						



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EDI Monochrome (EDIM) – (Section 'B')							
1	37	Prickly		12	pts	Place	2nd Place
<p>The main subject of this close-up image is very sharp which is quite important for this type of subject. The shallow depth of field has blurred the background which isolates the subject. Overall, the image is quite underexposed. Raising the overall exposure would not address this issue because it would also brighten the background and introduce some distracting elements there. A local adjustment to brighten only the central subject would make this a stronger image. I would also suggest cropping out a lot of the negative space (left and right). I found the dark stalks on each side somewhat distracting – these would be easily removed in Photoshop using Content Aware Fill.</p>							
2	189	Wedgetail over Rand		10	pts	Place	
<p>The position of the bird in full flight is very effective as is the cloudy background. Unfortunately, the image is not sharp, which is essential for this type of image. As a shutter speed of 1/4000 was used the issue is not motion blur. In this case the lens had not adequately focused on the bird at the moment of capture. This type of 'in flight' image is hard to capture well. The odds can be improved by using a wide focus area, follow focus, and shooting in burst mode.</p>							
3	193	At rest		10	pts	Place	
<p>There was no Exif file with this image so it difficult to analyse or make useful suggestions. The high contrast here has resulted in scarce detail in both the shadows and the highlights. I'm not able to tell whether this is a function of the exposure settings on the camera or a result of the monochrome conversion.</p>							
4	201	Phillip Island		14	pts	Place	1st Place
<p>This image is an example of what to aim for in a black and white image. We see a good range of tones (<i>black-grey-white</i>) which gives shape to the trees and the clouds. The image is sharp throughout the composition is interesting – strong image.</p>							
5	31	Angel Clouds		10	pts	Place	
<p>Monochrome is not the same as Black and White. This image features the colour blue but it does push the boundaries of what is acceptable in this category. To qualify as Monochrome the image can contain only shades of one colour (blue in this case). I've not taken this into account in my score and evaluation. The type of cloud seen here is certainly interesting and has been well captured. As an image I feel it needs more to make it a strong image – a foreground silhouette for example.</p>							
6	79	Ghost Gum		11	pts	Place	
<p>This interesting tree has been well captured. It is sharp and the light coming from the left of frame has created a nice rim light on the trunk of the tree. I think the image would be stronger without the sepia toning and with a reduction of -20 in brightness (Photoshop)</p>							
7	54	Nearly Gone		10	pts	Place	
<p>Remnant of an old tree stump. Here the bright areas of grass all around the main subject draw the eye away. The overall tone of the image is quite flat with little contrast. I think that an image of a once living organism pushes the boundaries of what would be considered nature photography. A photo of a dead bird for example would stretch this definition.</p>							
8	4	Final Flourish		10	pts	Place	
<p>This image of an uprooted tree while telling the story of the cycle of life and death, is pushing the definition of 'nature' photography. A photo of a dead bird for example would also stretch this definition. As a visual communication I found the light somewhat flat.</p>							



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EDI Colour (EDIA) – (Section 'A')						
1	148	Bee ware of Webs	12	pts	Place	
Maker did well to capture the web, spider and bee. Difficult shot to get – slightly different point of view (lower and to the left) would have eliminated the bright green area behind the central subject. Shallow depth of field has rendered parts of the web and the spider blurred.						
2	194	The Lady's Bath	12	pts	Place	
Lovely capture of this natural scene. Well exposed and good colours. Slow shutter used effectively to get a blurred effect of the water. Nice reflection in pool.						
3	198	On the Way to the Top	10	pts	Place	
Good attempt here to isolate the subject from the background. The main subject here is the insect crawling up the stem. Photographing it from the other side so that we see the top and it is not obscured by the stem would have produced a stronger image, as would a closer point of view.						
4	163	Remnants of a Wave	15	pts	Place	1st Place
Dramatic show of nature here. Good composition and exposure has rendered a dramatic image with great colours. The movement of the water has been well captured here using a long exposure.						
5	129	Nature's Table	12	pts	Place	
Good use of depth of field here to isolate the berries from the background. Image is sharp where it needs to be – it is well exposed with good colours.						
6	43	On Watch	12	pts	Place	
Excellent capture of this beautiful kingfisher. There is a lot of negative space in this image and the bright stump in the foreground also distracts somewhat from the overall impact. I would suggest a 'portrait' crop placing the bird on the right 'rule of thirds' line, eliminating the tree trunk on the right and the wasted space on the left. A slight darkening of the remaining stump in the foreground would combine with the cropped image to produce an excellent study of the bird which is well exposed and features wonderful colours.						
7	152	Blue Dragonfly	14	pts	Place	2nd Place
Excellent macro image of this spectacular insect. Blurred background provides great separation for the main subject. Exposure is spot on and the image is sharp where it needs to be. Great colours.						
8	14	Twisted Branches	11	pts	Place	
Great warm light used to capture this image. Nice reflections in the water and the trees on the left provide a frame for the view beyond. A central subject in the middle distance would have resulted in a stronger image.						
9	195	Having a Whale of a Time	13	pts	Place	Merit
The timing of this shot is perfect. We see a dramatic capture of the whale out of the water. Exposure is perfect and a fast shutter speed has resulted frozen spray around the whale adding to the drama of the image. Images is well exposed and sharp where it needs to be.						
10	68	Nature's Window	12	pts	Place	
The rock window here provides an effective frame for the river scene beyond. Exposure on the rock is good, but the scene beyond looks about ¼ of stop overexposed to me. The image is slightly soft throughout and particularly on the rock foreground because it is so prominent.						
11	179	Morning Glory	13	pts	Place	Merit
Lovely image of the ivy shoot emerging through the rocks. Great light, coming from the side has produced wonderful colours and textures. A simple and beautiful image.						
12	199	Frightened Frill Neck	12	pts	Place	
Nice close-up of the lizard. The area around the eyes is sharp, but the animal's snout is quite blurred which is distracting. Would suggest a tighter crop and perhaps a vignette to reduce areas of distraction to the left and right of the main subject.						
13	146	Ladybird, Ladybird Fly Away Home	13	pts	Place	Merit
Lovely image of the flowers and the insect. Great light producing wonderful warm tones. Good use of depth of field to isolate the main flower and the insect.						
14	10	Stranded	11	pts	Place	
Stranded jellyfish on the beach. Nice colours and a dramatic sky. The tentacle on the sand makes for an interesting composition.						
15	01	In My Glory	13	pts	Place	Merit
Good portrait of this spectacular bird. Image is well exposed and perfectly sharp which is important for bird images. The subject features spectacular colours which are well captured here. I think a slight crop may improve the impact somewhat.						
16	119	Waiting in the Grass	13	pts	Place	Merit



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Comments: Excellent image of the snake. Shallow depth of field has focused the viewer's attention on the head and the eyes which are razor sharp. Exposure and colours are great. Would suggest trying a 'portrait' or 'square' crop eliminating areas to the left and right would result in a more dramatic image.

17	113	Swift Parrot		pts	Place	
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EDI Monochrome (EDIMA) – (Section 'A')

1	148	Kookaburra Catch	13	pts	Place	Merit
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Well exposed, sharp images of the kookaburra and its prey. Good detail in the feathers and nice catchlight in the eye. Nice use of depth of field to blur the background. Good mono tones.

2	194	Bee in the Moment	13	pts	Place	Merit
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Maker did well to catch a sharp image of the bee on the flower. Would suggest a tighter crop to eliminate some of the brighter and blurrier areas around the edge. Then a vignette would increase the viewer's attention on the bee.

3	198	Morning Glory	12	pts	Place	
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In this image the early morning light has created an interesting interplay of light and shade. Silhouette of the trees against the early morning sky works well. Good mono tones.

4	163	The Magic of Nature	9	pts	Place	
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I'm afraid this image left me wondering what I was looking at. I concluded it was erosion in a sand dune, but I believe most viewers would need more information to understand the story of this image.

5	129	Blowing in the Wind	12	pts	Place	
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Nicely detailed image of the dandelion. Well exposed and sharp. The blurred background is effective.

6	43	All Lean to the Left	11	pts	Place	
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Well captured view of this bush setting. There is a suggestion of a path running from the bottom right-hand corner through the trees. It would be interesting to see this emphasised in Lightroom or similar to create a more pronounced leading line.

7	152	Royal Spoonbill with Chicks	13	pts	Place	Merit
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Very nice image of the spoonbill in its nest looking after the chicks. Image is sharp and well exposed, and the blurred background is very effective – well done.

8	14	From the Highest Branch	11	pts	Place	
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This tree/plant has an interesting shape. Exposure and focus are good. From a composition point of view, it would have been useful to explore other points of view to try to separate it from the background distractions. A lower vantage point and looking up would eliminate some of the background and create a more powerful image.

9	195	Just Hanging Around	12	pts	Place	
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This is an interesting image of the animal relaxing in the tree. Exposure is good as is the composition. The main issue here is the image is quite small (600x900) and when viewed at the usual magnification for evaluation it looked quite soft.

10	68	Looking for a Feed	10	pts	Place	
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Nice closeup of the cockatoo. Background blur has produced an image without distractions and engagement with the camera is good as is the catchlight in the eye. Image is sharp around beak and eyes. Two areas to watch – the crop here is very tight especially at the top. Leaving a bit of negative space around the head would improve the composition. Also, not sure how the monochrome conversion was done but it has resulted in a very flat tonal range making the image look predominantly grey. It is important at the time of conversion to adjust contrast, brightness and shadow to produce a good range of tones between black and white.

11	179	Jamison Creek	13	pts	Place	Merit
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Nice image of the creek. Long exposure has captured the movement of the water well. Good exposure and well composed. Good mono conversion retaining a good range of tones.

12	199	Quietness Swim	12	pts	Place	
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Nice tranquil image. In my view the image is slightly underexposed (3/4 stop). From a composition point of view the main subject is about to depart the scene so perhaps moving the camera to the right would have produced a more balanced image.

13	146	Contemplation	13	pts	Place	Merit
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Good capture of this beautiful bear. The use of a long lens has enabled a close up view of this impressive animal which does indeed look like it is in deep thought. Exposure is spot on and good focus shows great detail in the fur and at the same time has blurred the background. The composition with the bear on the line of thirds has produced a pleasing image.



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14	10	Radiance	15	pts	Place	1st Place
<p>This is a beautiful black and white image. The magnificent scenery, the dynamic sky and the reflections in the water have been well captured. Black and white conversion has been well managed with a good range of tones. Well done.</p>						
15	01	Yanerie Sands	12	pts	Place	
<p>I liked the composition of this image. The lines and patterns in the sand dunes is interesting as is the contrasting patterns of light and shade. Overall, the tonal range is bit flat and I would recommend experimenting with contrast and/or clarity in Lightroom or similar. I evaluated the image in Photoshop and found that even a modest increase in contrast made it a stronger image.</p>						
16	119	Quiet Reflection	14	pts	Place	2nd Place
<p>The impact of this image is mainly due to the expression on the animal's face which has been captured perfectly here. The composition is good and there is nothing distracting the viewer away from the main subject. Sharp focus on the face and good catchlight are great. The pose with the extended right arm has also contributed to a well composed image.</p>						