



## Comments report for May 2024 Nature - Pelican Award

### Advanced EDI Colour - Nature - 19 entries



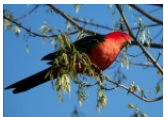
#### 19 - Urana by Debbie Shepherd - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - The background river and reflections certainly feels like Nature, but it is somewhat let down by the trimmed ("cultivated") lawn in the foreground. But the pano composition does help lead the eye along the river and into the background.



#### 18 - Geological Treasure by Wendy Stanford - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - There seem 3 main points of interest: the peak of the hill, the bird at the top of the tree, and the boulder in the ground at the base of the right-most tree. I do wonder how an image taken from a bit to the right would work: it might open up the visual path to the peak a little more, and separate that white branch from the bare rock behind it.



#### 17 - Just a nibble by Sharon Alston - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - The darkness over much of the bird contrasts with the light on its chest (including the top of the face seeming to be in shadow) but it still works quite well.



#### 16 - Nature's Blend by Vicki Cain - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - Good work keeping the face visually separated from the background. It's interesting how that outstretched leg grabs our attention, but it doesn't ruin the image.



#### 15 - Ecological Succession Near Corryong by Win van Oosterwijck - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - Simple and effective composition. The splashes of new-life colour really stand out in scenes like this.



#### 14 - Splish Splash by Garry Pearce - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - Family interactions are always interesting, although the perspective does set it as more of "looking down" on the animals (shallower angles can help enlarge them against the background and give a more "immersive" viewing experience. But it looks as though the available shooting locations may have been limited.



#### 13 - Rock Pool Refuge by William Cleverly - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - We're left imagining where the water level is. Nothing necessarily wrong with that, but it can be worth being aware of when assessing the impact of your image. Certainly an interesting illustration of the octopus!



#### 12 - Albatross Colony by Malcolm Godde - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - Lovely birds. There's some great interaction between the centre birds, but they do blend into the background birds a bit. Slightly more contrast to the image (it's slightly washed out?) may help too.



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### 11 - NZ Robin Heaphy Track by Pamela Milliken - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - We do wish the face area wasn't quite so dark, and looking down on the bird does make it feel like we've taken that from a standing position. Nothing wrong with that, but usually a lower perspective can give a more compelling visual interaction with the bird.



### 10 - A Taste of Honey by David Skinner - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - Good work keeping the important areas in focus.



### 9 - Colourfull Visitor by Geoff Bayes - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - Overall the composition and sharpness works well, but the brightness of the butterfly makes it feel washed out. It can be a challenge to capture those plus the contrasting black areas.



### 8 - Early Bird catches the Bug by Kaye Kennedy - Merit

Judges Comment: David Burren - An animal where we can see the face: check. An animal DOING something: check! We wish the leaf didn't obscure part of the tail, but great regardless.



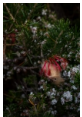
### 7 - In the button grass by Jill Hancock - Merit

Judges Comment: David Burren - An evocative scene. Immediately took me back 25 years to trekking in Tasmania. The composition leads us up and into the scene. Well done.



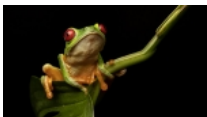
### 6 - Cradle Of Light by Mark Slater - Merit

Judges Comment: David Burren - Well done. Pillars and all!



### 5 - Rapid Tongue Action by Wendy Slater - Merit

Judges Comment: David Burren - The splash of colour does help lead our attention to the action (which due to the blur is quite subtle).



### 4 - Red Eyed Tree Frog by David Woolcock - Merit

Judges Comment: David Burren - It's visually intriguing because at first glance we're not necessarily sure if the branch leading up to the right is part of the frog.

It is a shame the shape of the light source makes this look like it could have been taken in a studio rather than in Nature, but that's not definitive and just can affect impressions about which images feel more "Nature" than others. Overall it's well done.



### 3 - Creature From The Black Lagoon by David Willis - Merit

Judges Comment: David Burren - Dragons often seem to have attitude!



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### **2 - Sand Trails by Patsy Cleverly - Second Place**

Judges Comment: David Burren - We lose a sense of scale, which does add to the visual intrigue. It held my attention for a while!



### **1 - Superb Fairy-wren by Neville Bartlett - First Place**

Judges Comment: David Burren - Crisp and compelling. The OOF branch stop obscuring the bird's taws is probably the only distractions.



## Comments report for May 2024 Nature - Pelican Award

# Photographer EDI Colour - Nature - 8 entries



### 8 - There It Is by Judy Hofmeyer - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - It's a shame the beak tip hides behind that branch. Also be careful about overexposing the beak/neck.



### 7 - Juvenile Wattle Bird by Glenn Rose - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - We often struggle to find a great image with these angles. The unusual perspective only goes so far, and we have a lot of out of focus tail/etc to look past before we get to the head which might want to be crisper. The twigs poking in from the left and top of the frame draw our attention away from the bird a bit instead of providing any sort of "frame".



### 6 - Carnarvon Gorge-Moss Garden by Pauline Todd - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - I got an impression of a calm, serene,(and possibly cool) scene.

Seems to have a very slight tilt to the left (look at the water dripping off the cliff) which adds a little uneasiness.

Be careful about artifacts like the white line on the left. Sometimes this happens due to things like slip-ups in layer handling in Photoshop.



### 5 - Bumblebee by Rhonda Hansen - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - There's a visual competition going on here, between the dark shape of the bee on the right and the bright, textured, and apparently-closer blossom on the left.



### 4 - Worshipping the Sun by Bill Thompson - Merit

Judges Comment: David Burren - Well exposed on the bird, and the background sets an ethereal impression. I think the colour on the wing makes up for the bird looking away from us, although if the bird's head happened to be angled a bit more towards its left the clearer view of its face might be even stronger.



### 3 - Nature's Window by Joanna Rath - Merit

Judges Comment: David Burren - An often-photographed location (which does add some pressure to find a unique "edge" to the illustration). The lighting balance is good.



### 2 - Apostle Bird Central West by Leanne Wheaton - Second Place

Judges Comment: David Burren - A busy scene with all those branches (especially the one just above the bird's head) but the bird is crisply focussed and compelling. I wonder if a little more space in front of the face might help it feel less cramped?



### 1 - Wren by Allen Skilton - First Place

Judges Comment: David Burren - She (?) really stands out from the OOF background, and seems to have some "attitude" in the pose. Nicely done!



## Comments report for May 2024 Nature - Pelican Award

### Advanced EDI Monochrome - Nature - 18 entries



#### 18 - Natures Solace by Wendy Stanford - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - Having taken away the colour, it felt less "solace" to me than a threatening "black lagoon". The contrast between the vertical reflections and the horizontal details (shadows?) on the water surface do add a little intrigue.



#### 17 - Trying to hide by Sharon Alston - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - This tells a story (without showing what actually happened next) while being visually interesting and being a scene familiar to many people who've actually seen these animals in the wild.

The bright twig near the goanna is slightly distracting, but hard to do anything about.



#### 16 - Mates by Kaye Kennedy - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - Interactions between animals add a lot of interest to images. Even though they're small in the frame there's an apparent interaction which helps a lot. Well done.



#### 15 - Arachnophobia by Mark Slater - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - The spider stands out very cleanly here.



#### 14 - Delicate by Wendy Slater - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - The juxtaposition of the tiny orchid with its shadow works well.



#### 13 - Patiently Waiting by Neville Bartlett - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - It's always a challenge to pick the thing we want in focus. Here the young bird is obviously the visual target. If the parent was just a little more out of focus (but still able to make out what they were holding) that might have strengthened this.

The white napes do lack a little bit of texture (and being white really grab our attention). Being careful with the exposure to preserve the highlights can help.



#### 12 - Mother and Child by Garry Pearce - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - The repeated faces do add some interest. The pale foliage looks like an infrared shot?



#### 11 - Rock Pool Corner by William Cleverly - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - Very much a rectilinear corner. Visually it seems more about the anemone than the corner, but that is mainly just about the choice of title. Be aware that shooting through the surface of water like this usually robs the image of a lot of contrast (which can be restored digitally in processing).



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### 10 - Think We Are In the Wrong Neighbour by Win van Oosterwijck - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - It's a messy beach, and the rightmost pelican seems to be doing its best to fit in!



### 9 - Muehlenberg's Centaury by Pamela Milliken - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - An intriguing flower, although the image struggles a bit with the shadows and the low shutter speed resulting in some blur.



### 8 - Friendly Dispute by Geoff Bayes - Accepted

Judges Comment: David Burren - A great action shot, but the high noise/grain level does let it down a bit. Be aware that pale vignettes usually work best in print (on pale backgrounds) rather than in digital contexts where the surround is usually black.



### 7 - Im Watching You by Debbie Shepherd - Merit

Judges Comment: David Burren - There's a bit of a "what are you looking at?" impression here: your title works well. The way the legs blend into the foreground grasses is slightly visually confusing, but that's not a deep flaw. Well done.



### 6 - Japanese macaque by Jill Hancock - Merit

Judges Comment: David Burren - A pleasing portrait of a distracted animal isolated against a familiar background. It works well.



### 5 - Fast Water by Patsy Cleverly - Merit

Judges Comment: David Burren - Reminiscent of a fan or flipper, this image works well.



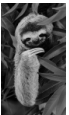
### 4 - A giant of Buffalo by David Skinner - Merit

Judges Comment: David Burren - Showing just enough of the tree to imply that it's a =giant above us works well, and the tilt doesn't hurt either. Well done.



### 3 - Light In The Reeds by David Willis - Merit

Judges Comment: David Burren - Simple and very "graphic". Nicely done. The choice of blue makes it very "cool" too.



### 2 - Three toed Sloth by David Woolcock - Second Place

Judges Comment: David Burren - It almost seems to be gesturing to the photographer. An intriguing image that keeps us looking for a while.



### 1 - Saying Hello by Malcolm Godde - First Place

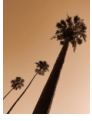
Judges Comment: David Burren - Well done! Well separated from the background, and really concentrates our attention on their interaction. The central bird adds a little bit of whimsy too.





## Comments report for May 2024 Nature - Pelican Award

# Photographer EDI Monochrome - Nature - 9 entries



### **9 - High and Higher by Michael Klusacek - Accepted**

Judges Comment: David Burren - The diagonal flow does draw us in and up to the right-most tree. But the "Nature" context of these plants (which do seem cultivated even though it's hard to be sure) doesn't seem strong.



### **8 - Roo loose in the top paddock by Bill Thompson - Accepted**

Judges Comment: David Burren - Possibly a bit more contrast would help. Maybe adjust the sharpening around the face? Without colour the roo is tending to blend with the background a bit.



### **7 - 8 week old Raccoon by Judy Hofmeyer - Accepted**

Judges Comment: David Burren - We're drawn to the face, but then it's overexposed which is very distracting.



### **6 - Glasswing Butterfly-Small Greasy by Pauline Todd - Accepted**

Judges Comment: David Burren - It's intriguing how the butterfly doesn't seem to be standing on anything. If it was taking off that might explain why the head area was dropping out of focus. But the body and wings present lots of texture that draws the eye.



### **5 - Legs by Rhonda Hansen - Accepted**

Judges Comment: David Burren - The shape of the spider draws us to look at it, but it's out of focus. Focus is locked on the web closer to us, but that wasn't the thing "dragging" me to look at it.



### **4 - Vision is Secondary by Leanne Wheaton - Merit**

Judges Comment: David Burren - Intriguing patterns and texture. The sides of the trunk are where we visually start, but when we follow it we're drawn to the prehensile tip, which has gone out of focus so it loses impact.



### **3 - Great Eastern Egret by Allen Skilton - Merit**

Judges Comment: David Burren - The way the head is facing towards you slightly shortens the apparent beak length, and this plays into the bird looking very tall and thin!

Decent compositional balance!



### **2 - Morning Magpie by Glenn Rose - Second Place**

Judges Comment: David Burren - 3 things of note. The eye is crisp and grabs our attention. The white mark up near the top left of the chest does attract our attention: it stands out as being different. The nape is possibly just a bit too bright as it's lost most of its texture so looks like a gap.



### **1 - Down To The River To Drink by Joanna Rath - First Place**

Judges Comment: David Burren - The choice of crop works well (there are lots of other options that could work too) including the foreground river. Plenty of different actions going on here!