

MAY 2025 – NATURE

(NOTES TAKEN BY Pam Milliken – apologies for any mistakes – I did the best I could on the night!)

Judge: Lyn Haywood

ADVANCED EDI COLOUR

Petrified - 10

A different crop perhaps. More space too. Composition could be improved. Increase shadows and contrast. Review shutter speed at capture.

Drying Time Again - 11

Lovely detail in the wings but less so on the body. Slightly under expose to get more detail in the white body to work with post-processing. Good catch-light in the eye. It is very central (*symmetrical works only if the subject was looking at the viewer*) - needs more space.

Hello - 12

Great crop. Very engaging - it is looking right at you. More separation from background would be better. Sharp and good diagonal.

Eastern Rosella - 13

Good composition. Darken the background a bit to make the bird pop. – adjust levels or curves.

Entoloma hochsteteri - 13

Darken background / pull down shadows to help isolate the subject. Good composition.

Toorong River - 12

Pull down the exposure to reduce the green which is distracting as it doesn't harmonize with other colours. Change ISO to 100.

The Rock

Colours of the bush and patterns work well. Rock being positioned in the centre doesn't work quite so well, crop from Right for better balance.

LBB Little Brown Bird - 13

Lovely diagonal, good composition, strong vignette. A little more sharpening needed. Lens compression isolates the subject. Adjust shutter speed to obtain detail.

Red Squirrel - 14

Good composition and eye catch-light. The lightness of the rock draws the eye away somewhat.

Scorching Pins - 10

A bit soft, well isolated from background. A bit too tight a crop – needs more room around it.

Just Lion Around - 13

Good composition and feel to image, colour contrast. More detail needed perhaps with a higher shutter speed or post-production; also, more sharpening. Trees fill up the space well.

Rotate – 14

Well caught. Head and body are sharp and detailed, wings less so due to movement – so perhaps a faster shutter speed needed. Portrait crop may have been better with more space at top.

Australian Wood Duck - 13

Wonderful colour. Lens compression helps isolate the subject. Bright sparkling eyes. More detail required. Birds a little soft.

Up in the Clouds - 10

interest was the top right corner. Crop with the cloud on the thirds: crop some of the bottom and the Left.

Native Yellow Rush Lily - 11

Nice diagonal. Good composition. Leaves and insect looked a little soft. Adjust shutter speed.

Where is Everyone - 9

Crop and perspective are good. The bird is in the shade. Fill-in flash may have helped. Find a way to isolate the bird with a wider aperture at capture.

Surveying the Savannah 13

Crop from the Left and add a bit more space on the Right for the subject to look out into. Also try a faster shutter speed.

Under the Willow - 14

Beautiful light creating a feeling of tranquillity. Wonderful colours and composition. Bring down the blue sky which is a distraction.

Tucker Time - 11

The image is a bit busy. It may have lent itself better to Monochrome – with more contrast.

Ice Crystal Decorations - 12

Nice 'abstract'. However, the green is distracting – try desaturating the green a little. May be better as a Monochrome.

Lonely Walk – 15 First Place – Malcolm Godde

Great wild life image – action. Well set in its environment.

Blue Banded Bee – 15 Merit – Glenda Black

Great image – sharp and detailed. Capture and post-production very good. Maybe the foreground could be a little softer to separate the sharpness of the bee.

Spinning – 14 Merit – Patsy Cleverly

Nice and sharp. Diagonals – good composition. Analogous colour scheme (from the colour wheel). Slightly narrower aperture might have worked to get more detail – i.e. an increased depth of field to have more in focus.

Swift Parrot – Here I Come – 15 Second Place – David Woolcock

Good sharpness, colour. Very good shutter speed. Maybe crop to a different ratio – take a little of from the Right.

PHOTOGRAPHER EDI COLOUR

Nip Nip Reflections - 12

Low perspective. Good reflections. In the upper Right, the lone bird is distracting.

Summer - 12

Looks great. Well captured image. Maybe a little more contrast or sharpening. Maybe crop some of the foreground as the action is at the top.

Small-leafed Parrot-pea – 11

Beautiful colours: the complementary colour scheme has impact. Good detail. Maybe crop a bit of the Right as the green is distracting.

Backyard Blitz - 10

Bird is very bright and there is lost detail on the Right shoulder: under expose to get detail.

Rock Stacks - 10

The light on the Left draws the eye out of the image. Try Monochrome with some contrast and crop to remove the highlight.

You Decide - 11

Good composition - Rule of thirds. Nice colours. Kangaroos not sharp. Square crop may be better.

Gifts of Our Heaven - 10

Lovely colours and textures and repetition of patterns. The blue is distracting. Walk around to get a different perspective. A bit too busy.

Resting Not Nesting - 10

Bird sharp. Nice sparkle in eye catch-light. Subject needs more space. The wire is not useful.

Calmness of Hume - 12

Great light creating a feeling of peace and tranquillity. Beautiful hills and very interesting sky. But need to make a choice as there is too much to look at. Some of the foreground not necessary: crop foreground so the horizon is on one of the thirds. But there could be other crop options: could choose to crop some of the top.

What's for Smoko – 15 First Place – Jessica Wells

Nice and sharp. Lovely image. Great bokeh using long lens compression. Rectangle crop would have worked.

Diving In – 13 – Merit – Chrissi Miles

Good composition – the subject has room to move. The light on the rock is distracting. Need to separate the bird from background. Maybe try Monochrome.

NowWhat – 14 – Second Place – John Robertson

Closer crop bottom and right. And perhaps remove tree on the right.

ADVANCED EDI MONOCHROME

Togetherness - 10

Good repetition of shape. Needs more sharpening and is a tad under exposed so not getting full tonal range.

Turbulent Weather - 12

Good composition. The eye is drawn to the contrast in the foreground which works well. The shutter speed needs to be faster to get more detail.

Gray Slaty Flowerpiercer - 14

Great crop. Good composition. Subject well separated from the background. Great detail in the feathers but not so much in the flowers. There is a slight halo around the bird from over-sharpening?

Chilled - 9

Got the diagonals and composition is interesting but the bird is soft. Focal length 500 at 1/20 – a tripod would have been needed.

Kooka - 10

The portrait crop works. A bit over-sharpened - sharpness needs pulling back to bring down the brightness/highlights/whites. The eye pops. Needs a bit more space on the Right.

Desert Sands - 12

High key with a full dynamic range. Try a little contrast. Minimalist image but the photo seems to be on a slope – straighten the grass.

Feeding Time - 14

Great movement and composition. Lovely B&W - full dynamic range. Good lens compression - *bokeh* - to isolate the background. Beautifully cropped. Needs a little more detail in the feathers.

Lift Off - 14

Great capture – very different from the usual: great perspective, particularly re the paws. It is a huge bird, so it needs more space. Lots of detail and movement. Crop the Left a tad more.

Steppe Mouse - 14

Great capture. The square crop works well. Good dynamic range. Good composition. Maybe a little more space in the Right to make room for the whiskers.

The Pair - 13

The square crop is good. Two birds - Rule of Evens. The feathers have texture but tail of Left bird has lost detail. Great highlight in the eyes.

Longing for the Rain - 11

The name is not helpful. Nice pattern in the landscape. Try a square crop coming in from the Left.

Reflections - 13

The reflection appears darker than the actual subject which doesn't seem right. Composition is symmetrical but the side bits draw the eye out; so perhaps crop these. Try a little contrast.

Shoebill - 12

Good capture of the movement. The bird needs a bit more room on the Left to move into. Need a bit more detail in the whites (*faster shutter speed?*). Could adjust curves in post-production to improve contrast.

Let's Dance - 11

An interesting image. The shape is lovely. Detail has been lost in the feathers. Maybe decrease exposure also.

The Endangered Tarsier

Image is very busy: soften the background to isolate the subject more. Crop from Right and bottom so the subject is not as central.

Oceans Might - 10

The image shows the power of the ocean. The whites need a bit more exposure or brightness to get the full dynamic range: the whites are not white. Use a higher ISO also.

Charlie - 9

The square crop is good. The histogram is up on both sides: try shooting to under expose slightly. A wider aperture would have helped in order to blur the background. For Needs more space.

Relaxing - 13

The subject needs a bit more separation from the surroundings. Maybe a square crop would be better.

From a Crevice - 12

Vignette works well – it is effective in focussing the viewer. Patterns and repetition of shapes works well. The white frame less so (*it is distracting, drawing the eye out*): a black one may have been better.

Watching - 11

Good detail in the blacks but detail lost in the whites. The square crop makes this image too central - needs space to look out on.

Ice Crystals Decorating Nature - 13

Beautiful detail in the pattern. The B&W works well – needs a little more contrast. Turn it around to get the best orientation: with an 'abstract' such as this, don't be limited with how the image comes out of camera.

Good Morning Magpie – 15 – First Place – Glenn Rose

Stunning B&W image - effective use of low key. Crop works although a tad more room near the tail would be good. The white frame works so the viewer knows where the image ends.

Feed Time – 15 – Merit – Michael Black

Good action and composition. Good foreground, middle and background.

Sculpted Ice – 15 – Second Place – Patsy Cleverly

Good foreground, middle and background. Great composition – square crop works well. Diagonals work well. Try experimenting with slight under exposure to get more detail in the whites. Great image.

PHOTOGRAPHER EDI MONOCHROME

Bitterang Black Box - 10

The tree is not making an impact. Maybe crop it.

A Kettle of Kites - 11

Great composition. Birds are soft, needs more detail: maybe use higher shutter speed (*when using a large lens*).

Bush Stone Curlew - 12

The background texture makes it hard to separate it from the birds - try a wider aperture to blur.

Backyard Bliss - 10

Detail is lost in the white feathers so slightly under expose and use a higher shutter speed.

You Better Get My Good Side - 9

This image has been taken in captivity. Great dynamic range and nice composition. The Right eye looks unnatural.

Cape Buffalo - 12

The negative space is too big so this puts the image out of balance – try a 5:4 ratio crop.

You Have to Learn - 13

The grass at the bottom corner needs darkening as it is distracting. Nice composition.

Proud Pelican - 11

The pelican needs a bit more room. Also, a bit more detail in the feathers would have been good. Have the shutter speed at least as long as the lens – e.g. 800 lens / shutter 1/800

Sossusvlei Namibia – 15 – First Place – Chrissi Miles

Great composition: image has foreground, middle, and background. Good use of shade. Good dynamic range.

Reflections of Hume – 14 – Merit – Yves Mounir

Lovely calm scene. Contrast in pattern. Some of the foreground not necessary: crop from bottom, increase brightness-ISO.

Twisted Ways of Life – 14 – Second Place – Michael Klusacek

Excellent tonal range, detail and composition. Watch the highlights - maybe pull them down a bit.