

Nelson 3rd Open Competition. Judged by Wotton APSNZ

Judging is subjective and you are getting the opinion of just one person. Each individual here is entitled to their own opinion, which may be different to mine.

A Grade Prints:

Browsing For A Bargain.

Quite an interesting and humorous photograph. However my first impression is that the print is too big for the mat which is the opposite effect that a mat should have. A mat should enhance the print, not detract from it. The image is well exposed and sharp. The cows are looking at the photographer and it would be better if they were looking at the bike.

Accepted.

Why Does He Do It.

Another print with a smidgen of mat. I feel it would have not been as distracting if the print would have been flush mounted. (No mat) On the photograph the action has been caught just at the right moment with the person falling off the board with his eyes almost closed.

Excellent exposure and sharp with a non distracting background.

Merit.

Wellington Waterfront.

Mat colours are very much a personal taste. I feel that an off white suites this overall brown print better than the beige mat. However I have judged the print. The photographer has done very well in showing that it is Wellington Waterfront with an abstract print. The lit lamppost in the centre is dominant and my eye keeps returning to it. The background softness is excellent. Just watch the overcuts on the mat.

Merit.

Chained.

Excellent exposure with strong contrast and being very sharp this is a powerful image. Composition is excellent with the edges of the chain on the thirds. The post in the top right hand is essential to stopping my eye from wandering out of the print. A few dust spots need to be removed, particularly from the top right.

Honours.

Recession.

This simple print varies considerably in its impact between low and strong light. There is a halo effect along the top edge of the bottom ridgeline. Nicely exposed and I particularly like the lighting on the clouds.

Accepted.

Web Of Time.

Dominated by the steering wheel there is a lot to see in this print and initially I did not see the extensive cobweb. Technically this image is very good. Very sharp and excellent depth of field and exposure, but it did not excite me.

Accepted.

Matukituki Pool.

The metallic print suits this image and gives me a cold feeling. My eye is initially drawn to the lighter areas at the top (sky) and particularly bottom (sky reflections on the LH side). I would suggest to tone down these areas just a little. The view is well captured, exposure good and pin sharp.

Merit.

Blue lake.

Another metallic print which has recorded sharpness and great depth of field. The highlighted snow in the middle holds my interest. Exposure is good. The mat used has been cut for a portrait, not landscape image. It is two and a quarter inches on the LH side and three inches on the RH side. My judging was on the image.

Accepted.

Danielle.

Lovely soft lighting on a beautiful young women has made this image stand out. Narrow depth of field has focussed on the eye and lower earring. A small point. - I would crop 1 centimetre off the RH side to remove the majority of the white fringing on the edge, and clone out the remainder, as I find it a little distracting. Excellent composition, exposure and contrast.

Honours.

Jasmine.

The print is totally not sharp except for the wisps of hair over the eye on the left and a few strands on the mouth. I assume that the photographer did this intentionally. To me this has not succeeded. The eyes are usually the most important element of a person. The eye on the left has no detail and the girl could have been blind. There appears to be a dust spot on the edge which needs cloning out.

Not Awarded.

Surf Club Lyall Bay.

A well seen and captured print. All the verticals are vertical which is very important in architectural shots. A simple image nicely exposed and sharp. The plain blue sky compliments the blue coloured panels on the building. technically good but not exciting.

Accepted.

Lambton Quay - Wellington.

A very well seen and captured scene. Correction of the leaning verticals, particularly on the LH side would help although I don't find this particularly annoying - possibly because the posts are a dark colour on a dark building. The sunlight below the line of the chimneys really stand out. Excellent sharpness and exposure. I find the black mat dulls the dark building. A whitish coloured mat would have lightened the dark building and given the dull building a little more impact.

Merit.

B grade Prints:

Bidiford, Wairarapa.

A nicely exposed print, in fairly flat lighting. The horizon is in the centre of the print - The rule says it that it should be on the upper or lower third. However this does not worry me. Possibly because the building on the right side bisects the horizon. The 2 cows on the LH side are essential in keeping the eyes from wandering outside the LH side.

Accepted.

Seatoun Pier.

A nicely composed print of the pier with a small stop giving good depth of field and a good diagonal lead in from R to L. A slow shutter speed and possibly by using a neutral density filter has made the sea near the shoreline look soft and somewhat milky without overdoing it. Good exposure and sharp with the horizon exactly horizontal. The overall colour - particularly the sky appear to have a slight colour cast.

Accepted.

A Grade Projected:

Abyssinian.

The cats head is nicely positioned with plenty of space to look into. There is an overall slight purple tinge which to me lowers the impact. The eye on the left appears to have a squint. The image is sharp.

Accepted.

Leon.

A strong and appealing image. Some of the whites are almost burnt out, and the white skirting board in the background is a distraction. I suggest a small crop off the background LH side so that the dog gives the perception of having more space on the RH side. The vignette is nicely done, the lighting is good and the image is very sharp.

Accepted.

After The Rain.

There is no doubt as to what is the centre of interest. It is enhanced by using a very dull, uninteresting background. Very well exposed with a good range of contrast and very sharp. Merit.

Blue Ice.

A very simple and delicately coloured image. however I fell that the rocks are too high up and I would crop about quarter of the height off the bottom in order to deduce the perception of the rocks being too high. by doing this I am cutting off the very nice bottom bend in the stream which is possibly why the photographer captured the image as shown. The is sharp and very nicely exposed.

Accepted.

Can I Look Too.

A behind the scenes shot at the trotting stables. A very good title, but I am judging the image, which is cluttered. The head of the nearest horse is hidden by the man. The rear of the second horse is chopped off on the R edge of the image. The image is very sharp.

Not awarded.

Diner.

An appealing shot of a small bird. Although the background is well out of focus, the bright centre is distracting and draws ones eye away from the bird. I am relieved that the photographer did not title the image dinner as this could be taken two ways. Good exposure on the bird and it is very sharp.

Accepted.

Eagle Portrait.

A very strong, dynamic image. The eyes are almost hypnotic and are exactly on the thirds, both vertical and horizontal. Exposure is good and its very sharp.

Merit.

Flyaway hair. A photograph of a photograph, The black matt and the black background in the photographs accentuates the dynamic range and power of this image which the photographer has planned and created. Excellent composition and exposure and very sharp.

Honours

Go Wash off - You Stink.

Two young girls enjoying themselves. A pity about the white beam along the top. It is possible that the beam might not have been in the picture if taken half a second later as the girl would be falling and the camera tilted downwards. good exposure and sharpness.

Accepted.

A Golden glow.

A beautiful landscape. The magic lighting of the clouds as well as a full rainbow and the nice row of silhouetted tree on the skyline in the background, Beautiful exposure and very sharp. I feel that the vignette is slightly overdone on all the corners.

Honours.

Hung Out To Dry.

The black matt makes the colours stand out. Composition wise, the L and centre images go nicely together, the flow to the RH image is not as smooth either in colour or in folds of material. On the RH side edge of the centre image the white area needs to be severely toned down or cloned out.

Accepted.

Ice Abstract.

Interesting patterns in the ice. I am also curious to know what made the ice melt in a straight line from R to top L. exposure and composition good and very sharp overall. A wide range of contrast and well handled.

Accepted.

Kaka.

The kaka has been captured at a nice angle from bottom to top L. A pity that the tail has been chopped off at the bottom. The background is nicely out of focus, but its brightness lowers the impact of the bird. The image is sharp and the exposure on the Kaka is good.

Accepted.

Kellands Pond.

A tranquil probably winter scene with muted colours. I would suggest a crop off the top and bottom to substantially reduce the amount off the bright areas. This would concentrate interest onto the central area , which is the most interesting part of the image. Exposure good but the lighting is very drab.

Not Awarded.

Kevin

A very contrasty scene, with in your face black blacks and white whites. Assuming the man's name is Kevin and not the car, I take it that the photographer intended the man to be the centre of interest. For me, the centre of interest is the vintage car, which dominates the picture, which is very sharp indeed.

Accepted.

Leaf Fall

A photograph created by the photographer, rather than recording what is already there. Good creative technique has made this image. The white bursts surrounding the leaf draws the attention to the leaf. Good exposure.

Accepted.

Lost To The World Of Candy Crush.

Composition is good with the girl on the LH third and with plenty of room on the R for the girl to look into. Unfortunately the image is overall blurred which spoils its impact. A small point.- I suggest crop the LH side of the image to remove the small amount of blue/white down the side of the seat. Brighter light on the edge is usually a distraction from the main centre of interest. Exposure is good.

Not Awarded.

Maggie.

An interesting old steamroller. However I find the slightly out of focus background almost a s interesting, thus reducing the impact from the centre of interest. I feel that the steamroller should have more space in front of it than behind and would crop the LH side to just remove the white fence post to achieve this. This also reduces the amount of distracting background. Exposure is good.

Accepted.

Man Cave.

A very well lit interior image. My eye is drawn to the light yellow counter on the RH side where there is a woman with blond hair (which I thought broke Man cave rules), and draws attention away from the Man cave. Excellent exposure and sharp.

Acceptance.

Misty Inlet.

Nice to see a monochrome landscape, which simplifies the image. A very tranquil image. I would suggest cropping the small amount of land off the LH edge and a similar amount off the top. This would put the horizon on the upper thirds. Exposure is good and the image is sharp, but there is little sign of mist which would have given a better recession of planes. Not Awarded.

Reflections And Rain Drop Circles.

A well seen and interesting image. I particularly like the rain drop circles and the delicate mid tones in the bottom half of the picture. Good exposure with a wide contrast range, and it is sharp. Accepted.

A Rusting Place.

I had difficulty in detecting the rust, but the cobweb added interest. Good composition with the metal curves. Good vignette in the corners helps to keep eyes within the picture. Very good exposure and the image is sharp. Accepted.

Salt And Pepper On The Lindas.

One of my favourite photographic spots in winter. Very well taken. However I suggest cropping the LH and top to bring the interesting mountains in the background more to the LH side, and to reduce the area of blank sky at the top. This might be controversial, but I would also crop the bottom slightly so that the bottom of the upper ridgeline in the bottom RH corner just touches the bottom of the image. Excellent exposure To capture the wide contrast range. Accepted.

Sunset Over Arrow Rock.

A simple image which conveys loneliness to me. For me I find the distant clouds nicely lit by the setting sun to be the most interesting. To slightly increase interest on them I would crop 30% of the height off the bottom of the image. Exposure very good, capturing extremes of contrast. Not Awarded.

The Kaikohe.

A simple and powerful image very well composed, and making very good use of the thirds. The colours are very strong and the image is very, very sharp. The bonus is the face of the character man peering from behind a window at the top R. Excellent exposure. Technically excellent but not a strong "wow" factor. Merit.

The Sparks Fly.

Full marks for creating this interesting image. The subdued lighting on the rough hewn walls of the tunnel almost forces one to keep the eyes on the main subject in the centre of the image. The image is sharp and very well exposed with good composition. Honours.

Trying To Concentrate.

A triangle of birds. Unfortunately all three birds positions do not make an attractive composition. The bird at the rear has its legs hidden by the white bird in front, which in turn is square on to the camera and minimises the beak. The third bird is direct to the camera. There are signs of pixilation along the back of the 2 white birds. Exposure is good, as is depth of field.

Not Awarded.

Wellington Commute.

Good camera technique has conveyed the impression of shadowy commuters. I would suggest about 20% crop off the bottom so that the left brown columns rest on the slightly darker brown area across the lower part of the image, which acts as a base. It also increases the panorama format and also brings the figures and their shadows more into the picture. Good exposure.

Accepted.

Wholly Harley.

Technically a very good image, but it does not excite me. The brown coloured boot stands out against all metal parts surrounding it. I would suggest to clone out the small yellow stripe in the centre top edge of the image. Exposure is good.

Accepted.

Writing Home.

An Apt title to a very simple well composed scene. The writer is held in by the tree trunks on the LH side and centre. The RH trunk gives support to the RH side of the image. The image is sharp, exposure excellent with a good range of contrast.

Merit.

B Grade Projected.

Banjo Eyes The Apple.

The bird is very sharp, but the apple is not, although it appears to be on the same plane as the bird. Using a smaller aperture would have increased the depth of field. A general rule, which can be broken for a good reason, is to avoid having distracting small areas of brightness right on the edge of the image. There are 3 in this image. - Lower left, oval in centre bottom edge, and on lower right side. Either tone down severely or clone out. Very good exposure.

Accepted.

Exit.

The photographer has done a good job of recording a very good range of contrast from black blacks to white whites. However the clothes hanging up are jumbled (as they often are in a house) and severely reduce the appeal of this image. Good exposure and it is sharp.

Not Awarded.

Parachute Rock.

An Impressive view. There is a certain amount of haze which reduces the sharpness, contrast and impact, particularly on the distant hills. The two figures at the bottom left are unfortunately facing out of the left. Their position is good but it would be better if they had been facing to the right and into the scenery. I enjoyed looking at this scene.

Accepted.

Port Nicolson.

A nice tranquil sailing scene with the boat nicely positioned on the thirds. It is also exactly on the entrance to the harbour, and the photographer did well to wait until the boat reached this gap. We tend to look at pictures the same way that we read and write. ie from L to R. I feel that if you made a mirror image, the boat would then be moving from L to R, and make it a slightly stronger image. Exposure is very good.

Merit.

Spiders Web.

Not the easiest of subjects to photograph and an uncluttered background is generally required. The light coloured blue sky does not give sufficient contrast to make the web stand out against the sky. The spiders web is very sharp.

Accepted.

I enjoyed having the opportunity of seeing and critiquing your clubs images. Your club has a very high standard, which is why I have awarded a greater proportion than usual of Merit and Honours awards.