

Nelson Camera Club

Competition 2

Judge Craig Philips LPSNZ

A grade Digital entries

<i>Title</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Judges comment</i>
001-A-abandoned.	Honours Barry Sangster	I felt a sad emotion when viewing this image. I wondered why someone would leave this ruined device for someone else to clean up. For me, the image is an interesting and profound commentary on humanity's disrespect for our environment. I felt the black and white treatment emphasises the derelict state of the object and the disrespectful feeling toward the history it gives me. I enjoyed the way the fog helps isolate the subject.
002-A-Always-got-her-head	Accepted	This image reminded me of a time in my younger days when I had my nose buried in the Encyclopaedia Britannica. The image speaks to me of a bygone time as access to the internet has largely made such resources redundant in today's era. Perhaps the photographer is suggesting that the past has some useful lessons, but I wasn't entirely sure as the brightness of the woman's face on the cover suggested this might be the subject and so I felt the image was ambiguous, leaving me unsure what the story being presented was.
003-A-At-The-Head-of-Lake	Not awarded	I liked the line of the road that takes my eye to the lake, and the warmth of the grass hues that provide supporting lines. My eye was drawn from the lake to the background hills and sky. As the sky was extremely bright, perhaps blown out my eye, I found my eye continually drawn to the sky area and the background hills rather than the grasses and the lake. Perhaps a balancing of the tones with a neutral gradient filter on camera or in lightroom would help reduce the bright tones in the upper thirds of the image.

Title	Award	Judges comment
004-A-Autumnal-Leaf.	A	The golden tones of autumn in New Zealand - this reminds me of my youthful days in Christchurch and the change of season with the oak trees planted throughout three of the four avenues surrounding Christchurch central. I enjoyed the textures of the leaf and the natural wood in the background. I liked the tonal contrast as I brought out the leaf textures. Nice peaceful image.
005-A-Back-Country-Hut.	Accepted	My attention is drawn to the hut by the light toned vignette and the dark tones on the front of the hut. I wondered if the hut was still used as a drover's bunkhouse. My view of the hut was somewhat distracted by a large clump of grass. Visually, I felt ambiguity as the light tones on the background hill suggested snow had fallen so I was unsure whether the story was about a harsh weather setting or about a peaceful place to while away time. I wondered if the vignette were not so prominent whether the peaceful elements I saw in the image might become more dominant.
006-A-Bluebell-Woods.	Merit Sue Newport	I like the impressionistic sense given by the saturation effects in the trees – the image reminds me a little of the landscape art works of Pissaro, Sisley and especially Monet's work which contains highly saturated reds oranges blues and purples. I felt very much at peace when viewing this image and felt invited to wander through a sea of tranquillity among the trees. I felt that if the bright patches on the right trees and the centre trees were toned down a little, I would have rated the image more highly.
007-A-Colour-Crunch.	Accepted.	I felt a great sense of energy in this image, created by the bright colours, the motion blur and the zooming effect of the lens. The image made me feel like I could be there joining in with others to have a great time. I did find the letters to be a distraction from the energy created by the people, as for me their placement overshadowed the human elements in the image. In my opinion, merging multiple images in a shot can work very well when the multiple images complement each other well.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Judges comment</i>
008-A-Ebb-Tide	Merit Eric Donaldson	For me an interesting study of the forces of nature at work to create interesting patterns and lines and textures. I never cease to be amazed at the beauty and wonder of our natural world. In particular I loved the way the birdlife fits easily and gracefully into the lines and shapes. My eyes just could not stop looking around this image – for me a credit to the composition. For me, if the darker areas in the centre and right of the image were brightened a little, I would have had a stronger emotional response.
009-A-Entry-Point.	Accepted	I found this image to be an interesting perspective on a familiar building in Central Wellington – the stairs that lead to nowhere and go to nowhere. Nicely seen, well composed, and well lit. I did find the bright cloud top right to be a distraction. I would have rated this image more highly had this bright area been cloned out (removed from the image).
010-A-explosive.	Accepted	I got an insight into the way aerial bombing may have occurred in the first world war. I liked the balance struck between the explosion cloud and the biplane. This balance created a connection for me between the explosion and the aerial pass by. A nice sense of drama for me in this image.
011-A-Haast-Torrents.	Merit Caroline Foster	Having visited this area when the Haast river was high, it can be a frightening scene. The image reminds of this time and the times when this area has brought disaster to travellers in times of bad weather. I enjoyed the misty spray of the waterfall which added to the intensity of the emotion I felt.
012-A-Hot Stuff.	Honours John Olsen	I was fascinated by the composition which shows four people intent on something that can't be seen by me the viewer. I get a sense of a high level of interest – maybe it is where fuel is being added to the fire to make the stove hot. I remember well the camp ovens we created at scout camps, and this oven resembled one of the ovens built. For me it shows the resourceful nature of some who can get by cooking without electricity. My aunt cooked over a coal stove until she died in the early 2000's and she always preferred that to using electric stoves (which she experienced in motels on holidays)

<i>Title</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Judges comment</i>
013-A-Ice-Patterns.	Accepted	I enjoyed the look at the extreme conditions faced by people living or holidaying in this rea. I liked the story of the self-contained nature of the cabin with its water collection, firewood, and outhouse. For me, the cottage rather than the ice is the dominant element of the image and the story is centred on this rather than the ice on the lake. The title suggests the photographer intends that the ice patterns be the subject of the photo. To achieve this, I suggest the crop of the picture be revisited to give greater weight to the ice and its patterns.
014-A-Kaikoura-Sunrise.	Accepted	The warm tones on the white rocks make this image for me. I feel a sense of coolness with the sea mist hanging over the water yet for me the warm tones bring to my mind a promise of a beautiful day. I found my eyes were held by the white rocks and warm tones at the lower quarter the of the image. This gave a feeling of imbalance which contrasts with my thoughts about the composition, which suggests peacefulness and serenity.
016-A-Lily.	Not awarded	Lilies are one of my favourite flowers. I felt the image was underexposed and quite busy with many elements competing for the viewers attention. I felt the image would have created more impact for me if it had cropped more tightly in on the single open lily and added light to the tones of the petals. I suggest give this a try as I feel that creating more contrast would give more “pop” to the petals and their textures.
017-A-Mirror-Image.	Accepted	A creative look at winter fun. I liked the way the starburst draws my eye to the figures in the reflection. I wondered if the image might have more impact if cropped up from the bottom to remove some of the white jacket – I found the jacket to be a distraction from the reflection and if this distraction were minimised I would have rated the image more highly.
018-A-Mischief-at-Work.	Merit Ian Grant	This reminds me of the story Charlie the cheeky kea – a bedtime story my children loved as they grew up. I am drawn to the eye and the precise way the kea can dig into close areas with their beak– something they are famous for. I thought the depth of field selected supported the story very well.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Judges comment</i>
019-A-Morning-Calm.	Accepted	The bird on the edge of the shoreline captured my attention. The shoreline took my eye to the edge of the image and out of the image. I also thought that the amount of sky included competed for my attention because I found the cloud patterns interesting suggesting a front might be on the way. I wondered whether the idea of calm suggested in the title might be emphasised more if a crop was applied to give a more panoramic feel -with less sky and less of the foreground water.
020-A-Morning-Mist.	Merit Barry Doig	I liked the spooky feeling I got when viewing the image – I kept looking into the background imagining that something sinister was about to appear. Nicely seen and simply composed.
021-A-Morrie-Heaven	Not awarded	I felt the use of multiple exposure distracted me from enjoying the qualities and characteristics of the Morris (it looks like one) – I used to own one (many years ago) and still think they have many appealing visual qualities.
022-A-Mussels-On-The-Rock.	Merit Kathy Pantling	I liked the emphasis given to the cluster of mussels by the monochromatic nature of the image. I did wonder if all the space above and below the rock enhanced the subject matter. I felt with less negative space the mussels would really impact the viewer.
023-A-Narrow-Boat-on-the canal	Accepted	I enjoyed this look at a lifestyle that is not greatly enjoyed in New Zealand – meandering through the countryside in a narrow boat enjoying the differences in housing, stopping at country pubs. I felt the cars in centre left distracted from the main story and suggest that the image would be create more impact for me without them, either by a painstaking clone-out or a use of blur to reduce their competition for attention.
025-A-Natures-Melting-Pot...	Honours Diana Hambleton	This multi-exposure has really worked for me. The textures of the secondary image really emphasise and complement the textures of the rusty bonnet.
026-A-No-Effort-Required.	Not awarded	I like the isolation of the person to show their connection to the traveller and the movement from one area to another. For me the light on the main subject reduces its emotional impact. I would have rated this image more highly had the tones on the person showed more of their clothes and facial expression.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Judges comment</i>
027-A-Patchwork.	Accepted	For me the abstract nature of the image needed to emphasis more of the textures and patterns to create a connection for me. The hues and saturation are interesting for me to look at.
028-A-Praying-Mantis.	Merit Roger Ball	My first reaction was wow. An incredibly powerful image showing the power of the jaws of this insect. If the light on the head and jaw areas was little brighter, I would have rated this image more highly. The tones in this area could be brightened with a brush in Lightroom or Photoshop
029-A-Preparation.	Merit Kathy Pantling	For me, the use of a multi-exposure is an interesting way of presenting the different facets of getting ready for a practice or a performance. In my opinion, the picture would have created a stronger impact on me if it had more contrast. I thought the idea was quite innovative
030-A-So-much-sand-so-little time	Merit Denis La Touche	The title suggested to me that the story was about no matter how many sandcastles we build, the tide will always come in and take them away. In some respects, I felt the image reflects the daily life in which we have only so much time to achieve goals and targets. I thought that the image might have given more impact if it had presented using a portrait orientation with a little less of the stony foreground – in my opinion that would have emphasised the daily movement of the tides.
031-A-solitude.	Honours Barry Sangster	I like the way the rural setting created a sense of mystery in me – the choice of a black and white presentation allowed my eye to travel down the road to the misty mountains – which created a stopping point for my eye. I also liked the way the flow of the cloud lines complemented the line of the road.
032-A-Stormy-Evening.	Accepted	The remaining piles suggest to me that there might have been some significant storm damage in the past and that storms might be a regular incident here. The sombre tones of the horizon area with the sunburst creates an interesting contrast in the story for me – it suggested to me that all storms come to an end and better times are not far away.

Title	Award	Judges comment
033-A-Street-Walker.	Honours Diana Hambleton	I liked the tension and a sense of humour I felt in this image in the ability of the man to walk through a construction site, when the safety parameters in New Zealand would require this area to be cordoned off. In particular, I was concerned that the man might sink into the pit of gravel given that seemed to be the fate of what looks like a wheelbarrow. The dark tones suggest to me that something adverse might be about to happen.
034-A-The-joys-of-childhood...	Merit Lisa Trusler	I loved the sense of enjoyment of life a child has when they are happy. I also liked the way the tones and the depth of field chosen emphasised for me the facial expression and the wide smile.
035-A-The-Seat.	Not awarded	In my opinion the multi-exposure creates elements that compete for attention instead of emphasising the subject matter of the seat. I suggest take care with multi-exposures to ensure the secondary image complements and supports the story of the image.
036-A-Those-falls.	Accepted	This looks like the Purakaunui falls in the Catlins and if so, I have never seen the water flow so low. For me the image presents a commentary on the overuse of water. Nicely seen and composed with good light in a very dark spot.
037-A-Water-abstract-Lady...	Merit Eric Donaldson	For me, I liked the dark circle in the centre of the image, as the abstractions and textures have been emphasised by including this in the image. In my opinion, the image shows qualities of nature that are unable to be replicated by man – demonstrating the power and beauty of nature.
038-A-WATER-BABES.eg	Merit Lisa Trusler	I found the eyes quite compelling – they drew me into the image and left me wondering about the nymph like poses – it reminded me a little of the story of the Lorelei by Heinrich Heine – in which sirens (nymphs) sitting on a rock in the Rhine river led water-travellers to their destruction on the Lorelei rock. I thought the lighting and depth of field was well selected to emphasise the story of the image.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Judges comment</i>
039-A-Generations-Work Abandoned	Merit Brian Dean	I liked the way the image shows the dilapidation and loss of a way of life – which I took to be a reference to the increasing urban drift which pulls people away from a rural living. In my opinion, the lighting – the red sky and dark clouds and dark tones around the dilapidation added to that story. I felt the darkness in the sky and the rich redness competed a little for attention and for me the image would have been rated more highly had the sky tones been not quite so saturated.
040-A-Whistling-Kite.	Honours Brian Dean	For me, this is an absolutely beautiful portrait of a raptor. The lighting emphasises the beak, the eye, the textures and nature of the feathers. I especially liked the way the background tones through the trees were dampened down to ensure that my eye was not distracted from the bird.

Print entries

<i>Title</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Judges comment</i>
001 A-Cradle- Mountain-Tasmania	Merit Brian Dean	I liked the placement of the hills and their reflection in the lake, as I found that the foreground created a series of lines that led me to look at the lines of the hills around the rear of the lake. I felt a sense of peacefulness, like a place to go to refresh the soul.
002 A-Daisy-Zoe	Accepted	I thought this was a very nice portrait of the two girls and showed how well presented they were for a special occasion. The light on the faces showed me a lot of the character in their expressions.
003 A-Froth-and-Flow	Merit Barry Doig	I am drawn to the flow of the river – sometimes it is slow and gentle, other times it is fast and furious, kind of like our lives and the different paces that we experience as we travel through life. I thought the balance of dark and light was excellent, and this was complemented by a good contrast of tones.

Title	Award	Judges comment
004 A-Ghost-Rider	Merit Irene Calaghan	For me, the image speaks of the rocking horse and similar ride-on devices that are used by children in learning to develop their balance, their legs, and their inner core strength. I found the image very intriguing and could not discern how the title relates to the image.
005 A-Skybird	Merit Barry Doig	The grace of flight is presented beautifully. The image reminds me of the story of flight in Johnathan Livingstone Seagull. In my opinion, if the bird were a little lighter in the face and chest, I would have rated the image more highly.
006 A-Some-Autumn-Leaves	acceptance	This print has really made the textures and shape of the leaves stand out for me. A nice clean simple composition proves to be very effective in my opinion.
007 A-Stairwell	Merit Roger Ball	I enjoyed how mankind's use of curves and angles can be used in such a simple fashion to create a flowing stairway. I was particularly attracted to the artistic use of lines, rectangles, squares and ovals to make an interesting construction. The photographer has shown many of these aspects well, using good lighting to bring out the variety of shapes in the design of the stairwell area.
008 A-Tasman-Bay	Acceptance	I like the way the composition and creation of the image gives a strong sense of fast flowing movement in a yacht race, yet at the same time presenting a non-literal interpretation of the race and the contestant yachts. The lighting and placement of the subject matter within what I think is intentional camera movement, really holds my attention.
009 A-The-Pinnacles-West-...	Merit Brian Dean	For me the photographer shows me a landscape that has some interesting rock formations. I like the way the hole in the central rock is used to frame the light of the setting sun. The image gave me a sense of calm and peace, with no human disturbance likely.
010 A-Thistle-Flower.	Accepted	In my opinion, the photographer has taken great care to make the delicate nature of the thistle and the internal structure of the flower enticing to my eye. I would have rated this image a little more highly if the thistle flower had a little more space to the left and right of the image.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Judges comment</i>
012 A-Wild-Wakatipu	Accepted	This image reminds me a little of the impressionist style of Monet's art. I really liked the way the light beams have been toned in the print to give an impressionistic effect. The moody nature of Lake Wakatipu region is demonstrated nicely in the image. I felt the image needed lighter tonality in the hills running down to the lake edge for me to rate the image more highly
013 A-Yellow-Daisy	Merit Irene Calaghan	I felt compelled to examine the lines and textures in the petals of this image. The depth of field and the light all pointed me to thee petals on the viewing side of the flower. Enjoyed the way the yellow hue was emphasised and supported by the brown centre and the desaturation of the green stem. I sense a lot of thought went into making tis print and I really felt drawn to it