

Cushla Moorhead - Hi everyone. I have enjoyed looking at your images and the variety was very interesting. You have some very talented and creative people in your club. Thank you for asking me to evaluate these images. Well done everyone.

Nelson B Grade Results

A Mischievous Smile - This girl captures my attention with her look and smile. I like the way she is positioned half face. For me the frame of white is too heavy for the image and I feel that the girl is crowded by it. I like the portrait of the girl. I would like to see more space around her. **Acceptance**

Favolaschia calocera - I like these fungi and the way they are shown on the tree showing their underside with all the texture. The Depth of field has been used well to blur the background. The top fungi are soft so I suggest a tighter crop to eliminate the soft fungi and the extra area to the right. I really like the bokeh in the background. **Acceptance**

Flora Creek - The waterfall pulls my attention straight into the image. The slow shutter speed has enhanced the flow of the water. I know it is not always possible to get the angle that one wishes to in a landscape. If it had been possible a step to the left and so eliminating or at least having less of the rock in the foreground would give more balance for me as it is very dominant. I love the light on the moss and lichen on the bank. **Merit Tom Young**

Its No Fun Sleeping Rough - I love the juxtaposition of the sleepers and the movie stars. It says so much to me. I feel some darkening at the top and maybe on the sides would bring the sleepers into more prominence. **Merit Carol Mitchell**

Smile Please - I love the way this dog is portrayed with his tongue hanging out looking so eager, in my opinion. Unfortunately the depth of field is too shallow and the only part of the dog that is sharp is his tongue and nose. For a shot like this I feel that the eyes need to be sharp. **NA**

Stilt Hunting in the Haven - The ripples behind the bird show its forward movement and help to add to the story. I find the stilt is sharp and well placed in the image. The white on the breast is slightly blown out in my opinion, leaving no detail. I like the colours of the sea that harmonise and emphasise the stilt. **Merit Ruth Duffield**

The Mountaineering Clown - I like the way the clown is lit which, in my opinion, helps bring my attention to him. I do have a problem that this is an ornament or piece of art work and I feel more needs to be done so that it is not just be a copy of someone else's work. The darkening round the edges brings my attention to the middle. **NA**

Tui In Fight Mode - Wow! He does look fierce to me. I like the way there is so much detail in the feathers and the way all the marking show well. It is a pity that there isn't more light on his face as it is quite dark on my monitor - maybe lightening this area in post production could have brought out more. Nevertheless it is a great image which has caught the atmosphere. **Honours Ruth Duffield**

Nelson A grade Results

A Good Old Bay - I really like the way this man is posed with his body slightly turned and his eyes looking straight at the photographer so engaging with the viewer, in my opinion. I find the piece of

wood or bar behind his head a bit disconcerting and I wish that the edges of his hat were included. With the unusual ornaments and attire he attracts and holds my attention. I feel the author has used his camera well technically to show sharpness of detail in portraying this gentleman.

Merit Sue Newport

Backcountry Hut- Landscapes need to have a foreground, a middle ground and a background and I feel that this image fulfils that easily. The foreground has lots of details and texture which shows the countryside. The hut is a great focal point which draws my eyes into the image and holds it because of its shape and colour that contrasts with the rest of the scene. As the hut is in the centre of the image I feel that some cropping at the top of the image would put the hut on the third line and give a better balance over all. **Acceptance**

Belly Dancer - What catches my eye first is the graceful stance and poise of the dancer. I feel that the image is slightly overexposed as, I feel there is a lack of contrast between the dancer and the background. I also feel with less exposure the lighting, from the window, would show her in more detail. **NA**

Big Skies - Although the title is big skies and the clouds do stand out, for me. I feel the real story is in the rest of the image, with the hills, trees and the sunbaked land. The colours of the land and the blue of the sky complement each other. There is a halo effect along the top of the hills maybe from over sharpening. I feel with some cropping from the top the composition would feel more balanced for me as the clouds are visually heavy and very dominant. I like the way the hills slope down to the peaks at the back showing perspective. The trees are positioned in a way that gives added interest. **NA**

Blue Umbrella - I like the thought and the creativity that has gone into this image. For me the different textures and the black ribs add interest as do the curved lines. I feel that overall the image lacks some cohesion and I feel that it needs a stronger focal point. **NA**

Bubble Brain - Life in Lockdown - I understand the feeling behind this and think this image expresses it well. I'm afraid my bubble brain didn't feel nearly as elegant as this one. I love the creativity and the uniqueness of this image. For me it has balance and cohesion with the darker area at the outside going into the colour in the centre. A small point - I feel an image with a black background like this needs a fine light coloured line to define the edges. **Honours Caroline Foster**

Crocodile - I wouldn't like to be this close to those sharp teeth so I hope you had a long lens. The detail is sharp and clear showing the intricacies of the crocodiles' skin. I love the flow of the water shown by the little ripples of colour. I would have liked to see more of a story such as the environment or the scale of the animal **Acceptance**

Dedication - The way this image has been handled immediately draws me to the two men and the boat. In my view it is an unusual way of portraying a topic like this and I feel that in this case it really works. The slight reflection adds just enough additional information to anchor and balance the image, in my opinion. **Merit Barry Sangster**

Enlightenment - I can feel the peacefulness of the girl sitting in the light. The lines leading from the corner bring my eye straight to her, then the light on the wall just past her leads me further on so that I am taken to the rest of the people and then back to her. A visual pathway for me. In my view some cropping at the top would give even more emphasis to the girl as I feel that area adds nothing more to the story. Lovely soft colours that harmonise. **Merit Graeme Skinner**

Hump Ridge - I love the way the path leads into the image and is such a contrast with the rest of the scenery. The clear detail and the warm colour of the foreground with the cooler colour and more indistinct hills gives the image depth and shows me the vastness of the landscape **Merit Roger Ball**

Hybrid Pigeon - The eye is definitely the focal point in this image, for me, It feels as if it is looking straight at me, very alert and demanding. The detail in the feathers with the blurred background have shown a good use of depth of field. A good portrait in my view. **Merit Sue Newport**

Hydrangea Leaves - For me this shows creativity in the handling of this subject so that they look more like pewter leaves than real ones. I feel that the post production used on them has helped the detail of the individual leaves stand out even more than they would have if they were in colour. I like the way the lighting has been used so that the image is darker round the edges and the fine line finishes it nicely in my opinion. **Merit Irene Calaghan**

Island in the Water supply - This island looks like it is floating in the sky. An unusual and interesting subject. I feel that the image is lacking in contrast and the white of the cloud near the top leads my eye away and out of the frame. Great thinking, in my opinion. **Acceptance**

Lake Rotoiti - I like the way one side of the lake is in shadow and the other in bright sunlight which shows a different aspect to this popular scene. The wood of the jetty has some very interesting detail and texture and for me the bands of shadow from the posts add another dimension. I can see halos along the top of the hills. Otherwise a well balanced image. **NA**

Maiden Voyage - This image is a bit spooky for me as at the moment of capture all the paddlers look like they are resting and yet the waka still appears to be moving quite fast - some hidden power maybe? This is a clear sharp image which does portray the movement with the wake rippling away. The reflection adds more depth to the story and the background is nicely blurred so all the attention is on the waka. **Acceptance**

Mask - This image immediately took my eye when I first saw it. I like the creativity this shows. The background and the delicate colour gives the image an ethereal feel in my view. I feel that more practise with selecting would help this image as there are patches of white round the edge of the mask that look odd to me and the light patch under the girl's chin pulls my eye as well. It does have a strong story and I suggest the author try again with this. **Acceptance**

Moeraki Glow - I love the soft colours of this image. There is a glow about it although for me it is more in the sky and the warmth in the sky tends to draw my eye there. The use of a slower shutter speed to create the softness and smoothness in the water has been well done. I feel there is something a bit off balance about the rocks. Maybe cloning out the smaller ones at the back would create more balance for me. I know that would leave an even number yet that gives it more flow in my opinion. **Acceptance**

Okarito Sunset - What dramatic clouds. I like the way they spread out and show so much texture. The way the sun catches the landscape gives an added dimension in my view. I would have liked to see a sliver more of the landscape as I think it feels like it is disappearing out of the frame. **Acceptance**

Peace &: Graffiti]- A lovely peaceful scene with colours that harmonise. I feel the boulder is well placed in the frame and the ripples lead me into it. I find the bokeh distracting and I feel that it doesn't add anything to the story. It is so definite it holds my eye so that it stops there. I love the texture on the boulder. **Acceptance**

Road to the Hills - I like the way the clouds fan out from above the rocky outcrop. They bring my attention to the rocks. I also like how the road curves around the edge as if it is containing the image. I feel the whole image is a bit flat and some contrast I feel would give it more impact. I feel the outcrop needs to stand out more to make it the focal point. I like the balance of the composition.

NA

Salisbury Falls - The Falls are the centre of attention as they should be. I like the use of the slow shutter speed to give the flow in the waterfall. It has been well done in my opinion. The foreground is sharp which in my view gives a good lead in to the image. I suggest some cropping on the left would put the falls nearer the side and give more balance and would eliminate some of the rapids at the left edge which are a distraction to me. There is a lovely range of colours in this image.

Acceptance

Squirrel Eating Banana - What a cute wee creature. I love all the detail in the squirrel especially in his tail as it shows how light and fluffy it is. I find the green background is too bright for the rest of the image and tends to take my eye from the squirrel. I like the way the background is blurred as it helps the squirrel to stand out. **NA**

St. James Walkway - I like the way the depth of field is so sharp and then fades a bit in the background which gives the images depth in my opinion. I feel the slow shutter speed has worked well, giving the water a smoother flow. I like the rock with the lichen as it gives the image a "pop" of colour different from the rest of the image. The composition gives the river room to move and anchors it with the background of bush, in my view. **Merit Roger Ball**

Star Bright - I find the way the star pattern has been repeated in different ways adds interest and brings the components of the image together. I feel that more contrast would add some depth to this image as in my view it is a bit flat. I think that if the background had been blurred then the ball with the bright star would have been more visible as the focal point giving some separation. **NA**

The Door - All the different textures of the wood and the stone in this image is intriguing to me. The part that catches my eye is the fanlight above the door. I wonder what colour the door was before it was B&W or if this is the colour, as it all tends to look similar. I feel that darkening the door and lighting the stone walls would help the door to be more prominent. In my view, that would make a stronger image. I like the way the door is framed by the stone walls. **NA**

The Face - I really like this portrait as, for me, it shows so much about this man. It is very sharp with lots of detail which portrays his expression. It looks natural to me too. I also like the way the white of his shirt is detailed in the foreground and fades away so blends in with the rest of the background. For me it is a well balanced image. **Honours Dianna Hambleton**

The homestead - There are some lovely interesting components in this scene. I feel that the lovely old homestead is dwarfed by the towering clouds especially as the clouds are so bright and that is where my eye tends to go. Maybe cropping in closer would counteract that - taking some off the top and also cropping a bit off the right hand side. That, with more contrast, I feel, would give the old homestead more weight and more visibility. **Acceptance**

The Water Horse - What a clever shot. For me it is amazing what happens with the shapes when we play with water and have a very fast shutter speed. I like how the shape stands out from the background very distinctively. The portrait aspect suits this. **Acceptance**

What are you looking at - I like the title which I feel is quirky and sets the tone. I'm sure it is tricky to get a shot like this and to get it sharp. I find the colours on the shell very interesting. There is a lot fo

detail in the head and on the limbs giving me information of their lives. The softness of the rest of the body helps bring my attention back to the head. An interesting image. **Acceptance.**

Winter View - I like the fact that the author has done something unusual with what could have been a nice snowy scene. Instead they have used imagination to create something a bit different which I really like. The iron on the left in the foreground is out of focus so I suggest cropping into the edge of the window frame as the rest is clear. In my view the reflection adds more depth to the image. The side of the shed leads me into the hills and the brighter snow in the background. There is some lightness in the sky by the roof which I'm not sure about. **Acceptance**