

Nelson Camera Club

Competition: May 2020 - Digital

Critiqued by Buller Camera Club Panel

A- Grade	Comments	H	M	A	NA
A Pipe Dream	Well seen with lovely colour in the highlights. Converging verticals introduce a distraction at top right. Overall the image is very static, and a bit dull. A good Acceptance.			✓	
Aged Begonia	We like this. Good lighting and colour, although the visual weight of the dark corner at bottom right needs balancing on the left. Merit Irene Callaghan		✓		
Airport Bling	We quite like this image. A little busy but well seen; eyes are drawn inwards to the kids at the centre of the X. May benefit from a slight lift in brightness and contrast? A good Merit Sue Newport		✓		
At Cape Foulwind	Well seen. We like the leading line in the foreground sand. A crop off the right hand side may strengthen attention on the arch and provide better visual balance? Overall colour is a bit dull, Acceptance			✓	
Autumn Walk in Saxton	A nicely seen and inviting garden path. Cropping the left hand side would remove the distracting bright leaves while preserving the story. Autumn colours are a bit dull. Perhaps needs a person or animal in the middle distance to provide a focus? Not accepted				✓
Black-mandibled Toucan	Well seen and captured. Feather detail could be teased out a little, especially in the black? Acceptance			✓	
Blades	Careful with leading titles. This is a well seen abstract/impressionist image unfortunately let down by the title and the bright areas at bottom left and top right which draw the eye and compete for attention. Not accepted				✓
Blue Lake 2	Lovely shot of an iconic scene. May benefit from a lift in detail in the shadows at top left? Otherwise nicely seen and captured. Merit. Irene Callaghan		✓		

Cuz	A nice environmental portrait that ticks a lot of boxes. Unfortunately the lack of eye contact and the somewhat awkward and ambiguous pose is a bit distracting, Nice lighting and detail. Acceptance				✓	
D'Urville Island	Should the title be "The View from D'Urville"? There is a really good landscape in the top half of this image but the bottom half adds little to the story. Not accepted					✓
Fireside	Lovely tones and lighting here. The left hand edge is very distracting and could be easily cropped. Nice detail in the fireplace and mantle. Acceptance				✓	
Front Approaching	Great sky, weight of cloud well balanced with tree on left. We like it. A good Merit. Barry Doig			✓		
Gates of Hell	Title? A nice idea not quite realised. Not accepted					✓
Girl on a Train	A little overexposed and washed out perhaps? Nice reflections in the window, although the bright overlay on the subject's forehead is distracting. Without the title, the image has no sense of "Train"; it could be any window. Not accepted					✓
Hideaway in the Sounds	We quite like this; a well seen and captured image. It could be cropped a bit tighter without losing the message perhaps? Caravan is a bit over exposed. Acceptance				✓	
High and Dry	A nice story captured here but we think the bird on right is unnecessary and competes for attention. Not accepted					✓
Kingfisher	Lovely pose struck by the Kingfisher. Too much trees and too little bird? Although the image is probably at its limits of resolution to crop any more - feather detail appears to be breaking up. Not accepted					✓

Lockdown	We really like this; a complex idea expressed with power and clarity. Well conceived and well executed. Honours Graeme Skinner		✓			
Mating Daddy Longlegs	One of life's defining moments reduced to a tangle of long, hairy, translucent legs. Helped by the limited tonal range and reduced colour palette, and marred only by the weight of the out-of-focus background at left. Acceptance				✓	

Middle of Nowhere	Great potential here with lovely sky and leading lines aplenty. Let down a bit by the flat lighting and the compositional ambiguity of the horizon through the centre. Not accepted					✓
Moeraki Sunrise	WOW, Ticks all the boxes well done. Honours Caroline Foster		✓			
Moscow Circus	A creative image that invites the question "How did you do it?" Could be enhanced by a little less blank sky at the top perhaps? Merit Sharee Davidson			✓		
Mountain Lady	Soft lighting captures impressive detail. May be enhanced by a slight boost in contrast? A nice story well told. Merit Brian Dowling			✓		
Mrs Grebe and Junior	Nicely posed mother and chick and good nest detail. . A little over exposed on the white feathers. A good Acceptance				✓	
My Bubble	Well seen and nicely framed by foreground bubbles. Bottom could be cropped for better balance perhaps? A very good Merit Dianna Hambleton			✓		
North to Westport	Aerial viewpoint nicely captures the leading lines of surf, sand, road and powerlines that define this part of the Coast. A slight lift in saturation and contrast would bring this image to life. Not accepted					✓

Nostalgia Kingston Flyer	The desaturated treatment here was a good idea that maybe went a little too far. The brighter greens in front of the engine and the dipping horizon are very distracting. Not accepted.					✓
Ostrich	Nice textural and tonal treatment enhances this image. Might benefit from a little more headroom at top? Merit. Kathy Pantling			✓		
Pigs	Reminds us of the old paintings we used to see. Good use of vignette to direct the viewer's attention the subject. Acceptance				✓	
Protecting her Young	Nice soft light for feather detail works well with muted colour palette. Contrast and saturation could be lifted, and crop tightened slightly? The title clarifies what the story is - it's not a six-legged banded dotterel! Acceptance.				✓	

Reflection	High key treatment emphasises the delicate nature of the flower but a square cropping would reduce the white space on either side. Acceptance.				✓	
Revenge	A nice grab-shot but the in-focus background detracts from the story, especially the tree growing up from the subject's shoulder. Not accepted					✓
River Beauty	A lovely idea let down by the lens flare and colour caste in the rapids. Cropping out the top and right hand side to tighten up on the girl, bush and rapids would eliminate most distracting elements and still powerfully tell the story. Not accepted					✓
Roof Top	Sharp throughout the scene, this image highlights a dilemma - is it a pattern shot of tiles or is it a record shot of the structure of the roof or can it be both? Either way it appears slightly under exposed and in need of a lift in saturation. Not accepted					✓
Siwa Oasis	An interesting shot - why wheel a bike through a large body of water? The main subject, the girl with the bike, is looking back towards the centre so the image could be cropped on the left for better balance. However nothing in the image is pin sharp. Not accepted					✓

Speeding Home	A brave image that succeeds in simulating the notion of speed but fails in the notion of home. Likely to polarise viewers for and against the technique. Could be cropped quite tightly to the centre without losing the message. Not accepted					✓
Swamp Harrier Laughing	Nice and sharp; perhaps improved by a tighter cropping around the head to minimize the distraction of the lower folded wing? Great lighting for feather detail. Merit Rebecca Bowater			✓		
The Kiss	This image runs the risk of being a photograph of someone else's art and if so needs a significant extra contribution by the photographer to portray it in a unique way. Not accepted					✓
There's more than one style of beauty	This image ticks all our boxes. Light and shadow works well, muted colours work well with the red linking the portraits. Excellent work. Honours Graeme Skinner		✓			
B- Grade	Comments		H	M	A	NA
Anna2	Nice impressionist treatment here. Perhaps a trim off the left hand side to eliminate the eyecatching white areas? Acceptance				✓	

Daily visitor in my garden	Lovely feather detail in this image. For better visual balance try a crop off the right hand side to reduce the weight of that branch? Merit. Paula Fearn			✓		
Good Luck Kiss	A poignant moment captured well. Perhaps a trim off the left hand side to focus attention more on the kissing couple? Not quite pin sharp. Acceptance				✓	
Into the enchanted forest	Nice idea and great treatment of lighting effects, although perhaps a shade too light? Merit. Carol Mitchell			✓		
Isle Park delight	Generall good sharpness and exposure. The two buds are a distraction and the lower one could be easily cropped. Acceptance				✓	

<p>Mantis</p>	<p>At first glance it looks good but on closer examination the focus on the body is not sharp. Great lighting, and exposure. Try cropping a little tighter? Not accepted.</p>					<p>✓</p>
<p>Sea Lines</p>	<p>Nice light and great treatment. Paradoxically we wondered if a vertical slice might work as well, or even better? Well spotted. Acceptance.</p>				<p>✓</p>	
<p>Vervet Monkey in Kruger National Park</p>	<p>Good exposure in flat lighting gives excellent fur detail. Cropping a little off the left and right might draw attention more to the monkey? There is more detail in the face that could be drawn out. Merit. Ruth Duffield</p>			<p>✓</p>		