

## **Nelson Camera Club**

### **Landscape July 2021**

Good evening everyone. It has been a pleasure to see your images. Well done to everyone and it is great to see prints as well as digital. I would like to congratulate you all on the presentation of your prints. All images need some sort of focal point so when taking an image this needs to be kept in mind. Think what it is about the landscape that attracts you to it and what do you want the viewers to look at. Lighting is also important in a landscape and this can be helped in editing.

#### **PRINTS**

**Foggy Start- Lake Burrumbeet** - For me this is a cohesive image where all the elements work together as a whole. The subtle colouring enhances this. The composition is well balanced between the stronger tree on the left and the trees on the right. The clouds and their reflection in the water add interesting details. A beautiful image that I would be happy to hang on my wall. Timeless. **Honours**

**Kaikoura Dawn** - The rocks draw me into this image. The slow shutter speed has created an ethereal feel to the water making it look misty. For me there is a very strong part of the image with the rocks in the foreground and then there is very little to draw me further so my eyes go back to the rocks especially the white ones right at the bottom. The image has a good sense of depth with sharpness right through it.

**Acceptance**

**Monaco Sunset** - I love the different textures and tones in the colours of the sky and the way they cast a reddish orange light on the water. The darker sky and reflection, top and bottom, hold me in the main part of the image. The silhouette of the two trees above the hills on the right I find a tad distracting because of their position. The boat tends to merge with the background but the mast, being placed on the third, is the focus point as it is striking against the sky. **Acceptance**

**Kairakau Beach** - A clear sharp image in my view that clearly shows space and place in this part of NZ. I like the aerial view of the area which I feel shows up the layering of the waves and the over all structure of the space well. For me the lines of the waves and the beach all draw me along to the headland at the end of the beach and give the image a feeling of flow. Then I come back to the lovely lacy detail in the foam of the waves. To me this has composition a cohesive composition. **Merit**

**Arthur's Pass** - I like the colour of this image which is unusual yet it works for me. The foreground is very interesting with lots of texture. For me the background and the foreground don't seem to combine and leave me feeling confused. The title does nothing to help with that. There are quite a few burnt out areas too that have no detail. I would like to understand exactly what is happening here. **Not Accepted**

**Riverton Beach** - I find this image is sharp and has a good depth of field. I do wonder what the focus is though as my eyes roam around the image and don't find a place to rest. I like that the shutter speed used allows me to see the detail in the water and the waves. For me the white cloud at the very top is a tad distracting and some burning on it would make it less prominent I feel. **Acceptance**

**Sounds Reflections** - I really like the portrait orientation of this image as it suits the subject. The black and white, I feel, draws attention to the outline of the ridges of the hills and the way they are layered, creating separation and depth in the image. The boat balances the hills with its positioning. There is a calmness about this scene for me and the little rippling on the water adds some texture. **Merit**

**Riwaka River** - From experience I know, with the bush and the river, this is not an easy shot to take so I congratulate you on the overall balance. I like the way the light has fallen on some of the bush and the river is certainly the focus with its silky smoothness due to the slow shutter speed. A well put together image.

**Honours**

**Mt Ruapehu Dawn** - It is such a beautiful light that has been captured here, very subtle and then the lovely white of the snow on the mountain that calls for my attention. The image is sharp all through and the amount of interesting textures in the foreground helps develop the depth of field. The lines in the foreground draw me along the stream and then up to the mountain. I feel this all creates a feeling of the distance to the mountain and the space of the area. It tells the story.

**Honours**

**Landscape with Cloud** - This landscape for me, is dominated by the big cloud, in my opinion. The way it is lit and all the detail in it means that, in my eyes, everything else in the image fades into the background. The details and the lines of the beach are interesting but they aren't seen unless really looked for. I like how most of the footsteps lead in the one direction and then there is one set going off on a tangent. **Not Accepted**

**Ohau Canal** - The complementary colours help to make this image stand out. I like the simplicity of the composition with strong shapes that harmonise. I suggest cropping the left side as I feel the sign and the bit of road add nothing to the image or the story. The cloud on the hills has softened them and allowed the focus to remain on the water and the hill behind. It creates a peaceful feeling for me. **Merit**

**Lake Iveary** - I've seen several images of this scene and this is one of the best I feel. The slight mistiness has created a painterly look that works well for me. The wake of the two ducks has added another dimension to the composition by cutting across the reflection thus making it unique. I would have liked to see a bit more above the tree on the left as it feels a bit cramped - not much though. Over all it is a harmonious image in my view. **Merit**

**Ben Ohau** - I like the simplicity of this image. It looks very peaceful. I feel more contrast would have shown more details. For me it is a bit flat and I would like to see more of the mountain as it is the subject. My eyes tend to drift passed the mountain and go to the distant land and clouds. Good depth of field and I like seeing the stones under the water in the foreground. **Acceptance**

**Twisted Path** - The path draws me into the image and to the shed. I like the portrait orientation for this subject and the Black and white. I suggest some cropping from the top so that there is less cloud and that then brings my attention to the shed and holds it there. An interesting subject. **Acceptance**

## **Digital Images**

**Aoraki** - I like how close the mountains are. On my screen, The foreground is very dark. I like the bright area of snow although for me, it is too close to the edge of the frame and tends to draw my eye out of the image. I feel some cropping of the sky from the top would bring more emphasis to the mountains. Good depth of field so lots of detail in the image. **Acceptance**

**Arthur's Pass** - This image is beautifully sharp right throughout showing detail in the grass, in the middle ground and in the mountains. The colours complement each other and create a layered effect that for me, makes this image interesting. I am drawn along the lines of the hills to the mountains in the background. The lighting on the mountains and the snow make them the focus. **Merit**

**Beach Walk** - I am drawn along the bottom of the cliffs yet my eyes keep going back to the white toi toi plumes, I think, in the tree and the jumble of branches. I feel if the people in the far distance were closer there would be something of interest to look at. When taking a scene it pays to think about what you want the viewer to look at. Good depth of field. **Not Accepted**

**Ben Ohau Fury** - The white clouds and the light on the mountains grab my attention as do the sun's rays. I realise the dark clouds are there to show the fury yet I feel this image would work better with most of those really dark clouds cropped. At present I feel they and the white clouds dominate so I tend to look at the clouds when the really interesting area is the mountains and the light on them. Maybe use the sliders in Lightroom or similar to take down the brightness of the white. For me, If you had enough pixels, try using the bottom right part of this image for the image.

**Accepted**

**Big Skies** - I have seen this image before I think or one like it. That time I thought the halo on the hills was from over sharpening. I know I am assuming here. What appears to be happening in this image is that the sky has been replaced because there is a light rim or halo all round the sky area. I feel the blue of the sky is out of harmony with the colouring of the rest of the image. I'm looking for the focal point and my eye keeps going to the hill on the right because it is lighter and has a lovely warm colour as does the foreground. If the hill at the back of the valley was lighter my eye would be drawn there because the lines of the hills go to that point. **Not Accepted.**

**Breaking Through** - The lighting draws my attention. I like the way it comes down in rays and across the hills. I suggest cropping tighter and focusing in on where the story is, in those mountains and the light. I feel the water at the bottom and the dark hill on the right with the blown out part with the sun add nothing to the story. The dark clouds at the top are very dominant although some of them need to remain. I love the drama of the story and I hope you have enough pixels to crop it. It has a really mystical feel for me. **Merit**

**Bush Track Ulva Island** - I like the way the track leads me into the bush. The steps make a focal point. My eyes keep being drawn up to the lighter area behind the trees at the top. I feel if there was some cropping from the top this could be a stronger image. It is sharp. I like the ferns in the foreground. **Acceptance**

**Catlins Sun Rise** - I really like the colour in this image which, to my mind, makes it look like a painting. The sheep in the foreground and the mist in the valley add interest to the many folds of the hills. I would have liked a definite focal point as my eyes tend to roam. A lovely peaceful scene in my view. **Merit**

**Contemplating Progress** - The colour of the sky is a great foil for the sea and the old wharf piles. I feel the slow shutter speed needed a longer exposure because having a shorter one has left odd looking clouds that jump along and the sea in the foreground is similar. An image like this needs to be sharp or have a longer exposure to get that smoothness. This one has fallen in between. I like the way the piles are silhouetted against the light and the gull adds a point of interest. **Not Accepted**

**Conway River** - There is sharpness through most of the image. The stones and water in the foreground are well shown. I find the blue of the sky over saturated and suggest using a selection and desaturating it in an editing programme. The bushes on the left don't look as sharp as the rest of the image - maybe because of some movement from the water. I feel more contrast and a light vignette would have concentrated my attention in the image. **Not Accepted**

**Estuary Reflections** - I like the low horizon as this seems to give the image more space and depth. The focal area of the sun and the reflection is well placed in the image so creates a strong focal point in my view. The rushes in the foreground add to the depth and also control the extent of the reflection. The clouds spreading out from the sun area both expand the image for me and also draw me back to the point of interest. **Acceptance**

**Foam Landscape** - The foam is very sharp and shows lots of detail. I like the idea although I feel the execution hasn't quite worked. I feel it needed to be cropped so that it was almost all foam. As it is, in my view, the composition lets it down as all the interest is in the foreground. The blurred branches because they contrast with the rest of the scene are a distraction to my mind. **Not Accepted**

**Hidden Worlds** - I found this a very interesting and well composed image. I feel a vignette may have toned down some of the vegetation at the sides a tad. The image is sharp throughout and I like the slow shutter speed that gives just the right amount of blur to the water yet I can still see detail and the separate parts. The way the water falls with all the different layers and then fans out towards me makes, for me, a great image. **Honours**

**High Cloud** - The title makes me think that the cloud is the focal point in this image. It is a lovely cloud yet for me the landscape below is the important part of the image and I find myself flitting between the cloud and the mountain peak with the snow. I love the way the light moves over the snow and for me that is the focal point and of far more interest. It is the author's decision of course. **Merit.**

**Hooker Glacier** - What an interesting subject. It is a pity that the glacier is in the shadow and the only light is in the top left corner which is where my eyes go. I can see lots of texture and yet it looks flat to me because it seems underexposed. I roam around the image without a place to rest my eyes. In an image like this there needs to be some feature that is the focus and then work on it in editing to make it the focus by changing the amount of light or exposure. I think there could be potential here. **Not Accepted.**

**Lake Brunner** - Well done on placing the log in such a strategic position so that it anchors the image and also directs my attention inward. The wide angle of the lens has contributed to the sense of being drawn into the image by the shape of the clouds and the land. Everything draws me to the one point. For me it is well balanced so that it can get away with having the horizon in the middle. **Merit**

**Mahuia Rapids** - I love the beautiful silky water of the Rapids. The silkiness of the water emphasises the hardness and texture of the rocks which creates a contrast in the story. The rocks in the foreground help gives the image depth. I feel that they are too dominant and maybe some burning of them would give the image a better balance than at present. I like the sharpness throughout that shows all the details especially in the lichen in the foreground. **Acceptance**

**Maruia Falls** - I love the warmth of the light in this image. Although I like the way the water fans out from the falls and the change in colour in it, I feel this image would benefit with having the right side cropped right back so that all that bank that is in bright light was left out. There is lots of detail there yet I find it pulls me away from the falls and the falls are, for me, the main story. I love the way the light hits the top of the falls and goes on to the building. The slow shutter speed has made the falls silky and I can still see this yet being in shadow they allow the rest of the image to sing. **Acceptance.**

**Motueka Inlet** - My home territory. I love the calm of the water and the reflection. The stones in the foreground anchor the image and give some depth. I'm wondering what the focal point is as I find my eyes flitting all over the image and there is no resting point unless it is the cliffs and they lead out of the image. I love the colours and the peacefulness this conveys. **Not Accepted**

**On Top of Blackbirch** - Interesting outcrop with all the different vegetation. The lightest and brightest part of this image are the clouds and I keep getting drawn to them as attention goes to the lightest part usually. I feel some burning/darkening of parts of this image would have separated the rocks from the background and made the outcrop more of a focal point. I like that the rocks are on the third. **Not Accepted**

**Our Forest Glade** - This, for me, has the look and feel of walking through the beech forest. The little patches of dappled light on the moss gives a pop of lighter green to the forest floor lighting my way along the path to an area at the end that has some light. The path starting on the side and going through on an angle gives balance with more about the trees on the left and the glade on the right. This image has good depth of field that shows the details from foreground through to the background. The subdued lighting gives an idea of the light in the forest. **Merit**

**Purakaunui Falls** - There is a lot going on in this image. I like the slow shutter speed for the water. It is the lighting and the way the white areas of water have been handled that creates, for me, a strange perspective which seems to throw the whole image. The seam like area of white across the the image near the top, because it is very bright, comes forward and distorts the perspective making it seem lacking in depth. Maybe concentrating on one aspect of the falls would have simplified this image, in my view. **Not Accepted**

**Race Day** - Although I really like the composition and the layout of this image, I feel that it is not a landscape and suggest putting it in another competition. I suggest maybe cropping to the first post on the left so that the horse isn't so central. Also there is a halo around both the woman and the horse which may be removed in an editing programme. I love the light and the sepia colour. The stance of both the horse and the woman tells a great story. **Not Accepted.**

**Reflect on this** - I like the simplicity of this image. The reflections in the calm water give me a feeling of peace and contentment. The way the bank curves gives flow and the one cattle beast on the bank adds that extra touch. Lovely lighting and good exposure. **Merit**

**Road Less Traveled** - What a lovely light that makes this image in my mind. The curve of the road takes me in to the image and I wonder what is around the corner. The colours are harmonious making the image feel cohesive. I feel that maybe the sides of the shed could be lightened a bit to make it more obvious that it is a shed and the roof darkened a tad as at first glance I couldn't work out what it was on the side of the hill. The light showing up the grass along the side of the road is a delight. **Merit**

**Sailing from Picton** - The boat immediately catches my attention. It is well placed on the third and nicely silhouetted by the lighter area behind it. I like the way the clouds reflect the layers of the hills. The darkness in the foreground going back to lighter towards the background emphasises the depth of field. I feel the left side of the dark cloud at the top is a bit heavy and maybe could be lightened a tad. I love the texture in the water in the foreground. **Merit.**

**Sand Dunes** - I don't know if these are the same sand dunes that are usually seen in images or not. The fact that these are treated differently and turned into black and white I really like. For me it shows up all the textures in the sand which I find interesting. The light area of hills in the background I feel could have been darkened as I find them a bit distracting. The ridging leads me on a journey up and down and round following the curves of light. Although there is no specific focal point I still like the way my eyes travel around this image. **Merit**

**Serenity** - The stream is very serene and I like the pop of the shag with the ripples adding interest. I feel the bushes are quite heavy and crowd the stream. Maybe some cropping from the left side would give the stream more room to breathe and thus attract more attention. The way the stream meanders and the different patches of light along it draw me through the image. **Acceptance**

**Storm Over Lake Tekapo** - This image stands out for me because it is innovative and shows a completely different aspect of Lake Tekapo. I love the colours which, for me work really well together, There is a magenta tinge right through except for the lake itself and it is all in harmony. The road adds interest as do the tantalising glimpses of the mountains. The storm clouds are in keeping with the rest of the scene. Someone once said to me "if it feels right then it is right". This one feels right to me. **Honours**

**Sunday Walkers on Kina Beach** - The warmth of the cliffs draws me into the scene. The walkers on the beach tell the story. I'm not sure about the two on the left as I feel the story would feel stronger if the left side was cropped in then that would stop my eyes wandering between the cliffs and the couple. **Acceptance**

**Tarndale** - I like how sharp this scene is with good detail in the foreground that tells me about the countryside here. The sky has a real painterly effect that I feel adds to the overall harmony of the image. I would have liked to see something for a focal point further into the image as I tend to get stuck on the tracks in the foreground and the light on the rest of the image is all so similar. Maybe some more contrast in editing would produce some variance. **Acceptance**

**Telegraph Road** - I love the way the telegraph poles lead into the image with the mistiness adding atmosphere. I find the cabbage tree while acting as a focal point of sorts also blocks my way into the rest of the image. I want to see where the road goes. I commend you on choosing a different style of landscape. I love the sparkle of the dew on the grass. **Acceptance**

**Valley of the Mists** - For me this is so typically West Coast with the bush and the low clouds and the mistiness along the river. The river winds along with interesting twists and turns that I enjoy. There is lots of atmosphere in this image and interesting layers in the hills which the mist enhances. **Merit.**

**Waikato.** I like the way the tree frames the scene so I feel like I'm looking through to the landscape. I really need some area that is different for a focal point. Changes in the lighting can do that or some contrast. **Not Accepted.**

**WaiPetone** - Although my eye goes along the path to the sea and so to the island in the distance it keeps coming back to the most dominant aspect of this scene which is the notice board. It is at odds with the rest of the image, in my view As for the rest of the image, I feel that here is a lot of space in the sky that could be cropped down and then the island would stand out more. **Not Accepted.**

**Wakefield Quay** - What a beautiful sky and I love the way the water has turned such a lovely colour too. It is quite dramatic. The light catching the front of the building makes a good focal point. I find the end of the ramp on the right bottom corner blocks my view of part of the scene and is a distraction. Maybe look for things like that next time as they are so easy to miss when you are concentrating on a beautiful sunset. **Acceptance**

**Where to** - Wow! This certainly caught my eye as it is different and give such an unusual view of this area. I find it quite dramatic and love the placement of the crossroads as to my mind it almost looks like a giant plane about to take off. The way the canal branches off feels like I am expanding into the image. The blue of the canal adds a complementary colour and contrast to all the dry grass. I suggest cropping the hills in the background as I find them more of a distraction and for me they add nothing to the story. I wonder what this would look like in black and white too. I think it could be quite striking. **Merit**