

**Nelson Camera Club
August comp (A-grade Print)**

	Generally, the standard of presentation is very high, a valuable part as for me prints are the 'final step' in the process	
Title	Comments	Result
Anthers and Sigma	Vibrant colours and a really effective depth of field suck me into this image. The composition is simple and effective, the detail in the stamen make them stand out very well against the complementary colours of the background petals. Very nicely lit with no excessively bright spots. I like the double mat, it works really well with this image	merit
Arums on a cloudy day	An artistic creation with a strong central subject that draws me in with the fingery branches, then down to the carpet of beautiful lilies that all seem to be directing us back up. I like the strong vignette that has been used here - I think it suits the circular shape and complements the artistic feel of the post-processing. There is a lot of noise starting to creep in to the clouds, possibly from over-sharpening, I would suggest toning this back a little as it is a minor distraction for me.	merit
Delaware Bay Fishers	The bright but lightly diffused sunlight has highlighted the fishers as they head off across the shoreline. My eye follows them into the image and toward the distant headland, creating a calm scene. The rocky foreshore occupies a over a third of the image and whilst a hint of it provides context, I feel here it uses a lot of space that doesn't contribute to the story - removing some of this might also help accentuate the shore line as an additional lead into the frame	not accepted
Kaimanawa Grey Mare and Foal	This is a lovely interaction between these majestic creatures. There is an odd green colour-cast across the foal, which feels a little uncomfortable in the scene. The smooth paper is nice, but in this instance I think that perhaps the low D-max and more limited gamut of matt papers hasn't helped with colour and tone reproduction, resulting in some areas of crushed colours. The detail that has been captured is very enjoyable, especially the fine textures in the mare's coat and muscle tone, and the low viewpoint works really well to give the horses a sense of grandeur	accepted
Kapiti Coast	I like the warm tones in this scene. I like the view of the bach, and the sea-haze softened far hills makes a nice background. The busy driftwood and flotsam-strewn beach makes my eye keep bouncing around, instead of exploring deeper. The large tree on the left holds a lot of visual weight, especially as it breaks the top of the frame, adding a bit of space above this would allow it to work more as an anchor in the image than a distraction pulling me out. The lighting in the scene is well worth working with, and I think re-framing it slightly to reduce the foreground and allow a bit of space at the top would create a stronger story. There is a lot of vertical banding throughout the print.	not accepted

Lake Ohau	The stormy hues of this image help create a sense of drama in the mountains. The foreground shoreline leads my eye into the image, and balances against the brightness of Ben Ohau, but the stony shore and the lake are large areas that don't add to the story of 'dramatic weather' - the interesting area for me is the top third of the image. The light on the mountain and the stormy clouds are very nicely captured, a little work on composition might help create a stronger, more cohesive image.	accepted
Ngaire	This lovely lady looks very happy to be celebrating - perhaps another lap of the sun completed? The backlighting has made her hair shine nicely, but left her face quite shadowed - I would love to see a little more light, especially a catch-light in her eyes, to let me engage with her on more personal terms. I'm not sure why the background has been replaced - perhaps it was a bit busy and distracting? The plain colour used has made masking her hair very difficult, and perhaps a more mottled texture would help hide some of the more tricky areas. I'm sure Ngaire and her family will love this image.	not accepted
Okarito Scene	The contrasting colours of the rich podocarp forest set against the high alpine greys and blues draw my eye smoothly through the scene. I like the base reflection that grounds the image, and the detail throughout is excellent. The symmetrical feel is reinforced by the central tongue of the glacier that holds my eye neatly in the centre of the frame. the two brighter tree trunks in the bottom right do draw my eye a little and for an open comp one might consider removing these, but it's a very minor consideration	honours
Overflow	There are some interesting shapes and contrasts in this semi-abstract composition. I like the diagonal highlight coming in from the top right, and the blocky shapes created by the dark and white water area. The choice of shutter speed is a little uncomfortable for me - the water is all slightly blurred, and I think the focus point is in the top area of water, resulting in the pipes being slightly soft. Trying different shutter speeds (faster and slower) might have been able to make a more compelling study of shape and texture.	not accepted
The Chasm	This abstracted landscape image has created an engrossing, imaginative scene that I really enjoyed exploring. The textures, patterns and the implied arc created through multiple exposures leads me in toward the brighter central area of the river, or chasm, or whatever your imagination wants it to be! Beautifully printed on matt paper perfectly finishes this lovely piece of photographic art.	honours
War Remnants - Godley Head	Nice textures though it feels a little over-processed, with some areas appearing overly dodged and burned. I feel there are several areas competing for my attention - the culvert patterns in the floor are interesting, likewise the view through the doorway and window to the peninsula in the background, then the vents and textures hinted at along the top of the frame. All together I feel there's a lot of elements calling for my attention.	accepted

Washed Up	This simple, wide view of a coastal scene was quite a captivating view, I like the fine-art feel and monochrome processing. There is a lot of over-sharpening throughout the image, especially in the lighter parts of the clouds and the breaking wave on the left, plus dust spots (top centre and upper left) that significantly detract from the scene. With the nice leading lines of the clouds and footprints towards the central sun, and the symmetrical anchor of the tree stump, this is a powerful image that should be revisited, but as presented the technical issues need to be resolved to allow this image to shine.	not accepted
Whataroa Valley	A very pleasant scene, looking up the wide river valley towards an imposing range of mountains. The bright, overhead sunlight makes it harder to enjoy the depth of this image - more angled lighting may have helped create some more texture and layering across the spurs. I like the high cumulus clouds spilling over the peaks and the depth of field has kept everything acceptably sharp throughout	accepted