

A grade prints

41 Anistome imbricata var.prostrata

Acc

A pleasant nature study complete with well positioned ladybird and rock. I felt this image would be stronger in an open comp if the left hand lower area of shingle was cropped out as this helps push the viewers eye to the rock and ladybird in the upper third. There is a nice scattering of lighter coloured foliage which helps lead the eye around the frame although it is getting borderline to being overexposed. Good choice of focus to maintain good detail in plant life throughout. I consider this image would fair far better in a natural history competition to convey the overall environment of these plants as the ladybird and rock are not very strong pictorially nor do they invoke an emotional reaction both of which would be needed to lift the image to merit.

42 Cape Foulwind

Acc

The light has been very kind to you and you have exposed your image well. I felt however trying to include the entire bay has not worked well for you as there is a strong lead in from the right which carries the eye around the bay but then takes you straight out of the scene again on the upper right edge. The light on the rocky outcrop in the middle of the image has not been strong enough to keep the eye in the frame and the white surf is not far enough to the right to achieve this either. Additionally the lighter area of sky on the right side also helps pull the viewer out. Focusing your camera on a smaller portion of the scene may have been more successful. Technically you have done everything very nicely but the composition has not quite come together.

43 Colourburst

Acc

A nicely cropped image which is primarily graphical in nature. The 3 main areas of colour hang together quite well and are balanced in the frame. The central orange area works to give the eye somewhere to rest and the strobe effect leads the eye to this spot. I felt this image may have been more successful as a digital image rather than a print as the vibrancy of the colours would have been stronger if viewed on a screen rather than as a print. As the image is primarily graphical I also found it hard to find an emotional or story telling connection to the print which would ultimately limit the viewers attention to it. Nice use of a black background to help the colours pop.

44 Let's Try Tai Chi

Acc

A nicely exposed image with some interesting action going on. The faces of the people add some interesting diversity to the image as does the graffiti background. I felt that the main front four people tell a very strong story on their own but there are quite a few distractions in this image which ultimately hold it back and distract from the main group. The children fighting in the foreground and the lady writing the graffiti do add a sense of environment but are also visually distracting and not part of the Tai Chi group. The lady in striped T shirt has most of her face obscured which becomes somewhat frustrating after a while. The lady at the stand in the background is less visible but may have been better completely obscured. Although the man at the back of the group is part of the action I felt his body position works against the main 4 coming together as a group. If this last man alone is cropped out I felt the other individuals mentioned above become less of a

distraction and the image is stronger overall and would likely have received a merit award. The graffiti works very well to make the Tai Chi group pop and this is a very good choice of background.

45 Monarch larva N/A

The choice of white background in this image has worked against you and particularly because the Monarch larva is only lit on its outer edge and most of its body is quite dark compared to the surroundings. I felt the larva needed to have its head section in the light and the background needed to be darker so as to keep your attention on the larva rather than being drawn towards the lightest part of the frame i.e. the background. In addition the image has a slight pixelated look to it which may mean it has been blown up a bit too large. The focus on the larva is good and the exposure on the green leaf has been handled well.

46 New Brighton Pier Merit Tom Young

The soft moody light in this image to me, creates a sense of desolation and loneliness which is subtly broken up by the gentle reflections of lights on the shore. The subtle undulations in the foreground sand add interest to the image. The sky is also moody enough that it doesn't draw the eye away from the main scene. The angle of the pier creates a nice lead in and adds a strong sense of depth to the image. Effective use of exposure to add mood and good choice of depth of field throughout.

47 Northern giant petrel Merit Margaret Harris

A lovely full on action shot of the petrels fighting. Well exposed and lovely catch light in the main birds eye and also the upper bird on the left. The 3 birds in the background create a nice frame around the arguing two, although the image would be lifted to the next level if the middle top birds head was fully in the shot. Excellent focus on all the key areas and certainly communicates the emotion of the moment.

48 On Lake Mahinapua Merit Roger Ball

This image comes together primarily due to the mist on the upper area of bush and due to the brightness of the yellow and red kayaks. The image has been nicely exposed to maintain visible detail in the bush clad hills but maintain the deep green of our NZ bush colour. Keeping the cloud within the edge of the frame also helps the viewer to journey within the frame rather than simply exit out of the top. Nicely composed and thoughtful image which although simple in nature, has a very strong feel to it. The reflections in the foreground add additional interest to what may have been an otherwise bland area.

49 Otago Boys High N/A

A very detailed and interesting old building which I felt given the sky you had to work with, may have worked better in colour rather than black and white. The exposure on the building has made the Oamaru stone lose all detail and detail is also missing from the clouds. To me this has resulted in the building becoming lost in a large amount of black and white bits and pieces and resulted in the lovely architecture being diminished as a result. Including the foreground bank has also meant the front steps of the building have disappeared which has cut off the base of the building. In addition the print is not mounted quite level either which combined with the slope on the bank, makes the whole image appear on a bit of a lean. You have cropped the image well to avoid distractions around the edges and there is good sharpness throughout

- 50 Rose Acc
- Good exposure and a nice choice of focal depth and point of focus in this image. I felt the extreme number of water droplets works against this image as they distract the viewer from the lovely curves of the petals. In addition they create a slight look of pixilation even though the image is not actually pixilated. I enjoyed the drop off in focus from the outer petals to centre of the bloom but felt that the centre may have been better positioned a bit more toward the upper right third so the petals on the left side acted as a stronger lead in. At present the rose is very central and has somewhat of a bulls eye effect. The low light levels have allowed good clarity across the image but I felt some variation in light across the bloom would add some more interest to it and also aid the visual journey around the frame by creating subtle highlights the eye could then follow.
- 51 Sentinel N/A
- The background area of this image has been exposed well and the bright areas of cloud give the sky area a sense of light and therefore life. The exposure on the shag unfortunately has gone quite a bit over on the face area and there is no feather detail remaining. On both the left and right side there are also distractions i.e. on the left there is a kayaker in the water and on the right a leaning post/tree and a second post on the shore. Neither of these things adds anything to the main image and I felt would be better cropped out. The alignment of the boats works well as does the placement of the shags head between two of them.
- 52 Spirits Honours Roger Ball
- A very interesting and creative image which breaks a few rules of thumb and works anyway. There is a very strong brightly lit vertical central element in this frame which should drag the eye straight out of the frame but the lit arches on both left and right sides grab the viewers attention and keep the eye within the frame. The abstract people in the image then grab your attention and bring you back to centre. There is plenty to view in this image and on each trip around the frame you see something new. Exposure is perfect to avoid too many burnt out highlights and allow the edges to remain dark and mysterious and also maintain vivid colour in the central region. Extremely well put together image.
- 53 The angler N/A
- The exposure of this image has been handled reasonably well however the image itself is very pixilated which unfortunately doesn't work well with the subject of the picture. You have done well to keep the river flowing on an angle as this adds a sense of depth to the image. I felt that taking a few paces to the left so that the anglers rod was against the sky would have helped it stand out more as at present it has become somewhat lost in the trees. You have done well to crop this so that the angler is the main centre of interest.
- 54 Winter Evening on Ohau Honours Caroline Foster
- A wonderfully emotive shot which feels both warm and cold at the same time. Very nicely composed as the light on the water leads the eye to the sun and mountains in the back of the image. The grasses and stones in the foreground area provide lovely points of interest and give the viewer somewhere to stand. The darker right side helps keep the viewers eye within the frame and the duck has positioned itself very nicely within your frame. An excellent image.
- 56 Winter Leaf Honours Irene Callaghan
- Superb lighting brings this leaf to life and accentuates the beautiful autumn colours. The

curl on the leaf and small water droplets add interest to both the leaf and also emphasise the quality of the lighting. The black background is ideal to add saturation to the colours and the image has been beautifully cropped to allow the leaf to own the frame. Beautifully sharp throughout so great choice of F stop to enable the viewer to enjoy every morcel.

57 Winter's Bare Soul

Merit Caroline Foster

An interesting and restful image with some lovely shades of colour in the lower reflections in the water. I felt the image would be lifted higher if the large white trunked tree on the left edge was excluded as this trunk pulls the eye out of the left side. If it is cropped the larger bunch of foreground trunks holds the viewers eye within the frame and allows it to follow the light trunks across to the right side. I also felt a bit more of a trim down from the top would make the image feel slightly less symmetrical and also allow the viewer to enjoy more of the lovely colours in the lower third. As it is though, it is reasonably well balanced and has lovely sharpness throughout. Given the distance of the trees from the shore, I am not sure if the reflection was real or has been added but if it has been added you have done so very convincingly and created a very enjoyable image.