

01 Robin

Super friendly little robins are a delight to photography. I like the perch this one is standing on, the mosses tell me a little about the environment the robin is in. I feel the background is noisy and this could be improved by using some noise reduction in post processing. There is lovely detail in the feathers and good catchlight in the eye. Good composition. – **Merit - Roger Ball**

02 Tui

The tui has its feathers fluffed up a bit which allows the light to show off its colours at their best. The poi feathers appear a little blown out to me. There is some noise in the lower half of the bird and in the background. In my opinion these may be improved with using a little noise reduction in post processing. I like the diagonal line of the tree branch. Nice composure – **Accepted**

03 Keel-billed Toucan

The bright colours on the toucan are delightful, and its beak reminds me of a large crab's claw! A lot of detail has been lost in the dark areas of the feathers and the eye looks a little soft to me. The plants on the perch are nicely lit and are in focus. Nice composition. - **Accepted**

04 Male Greenfinch

This image feels to me as if it has been lightened a little too much. There is a lot of noise in the birds where there should be sharp feather detail and the background detail has been totally lost. – Not Accepted

05 Tillandsia Usneides on Beach Tree

This image had been doing some research as I was unsure if it was a lichen or an air plant that was growing on the beech tree. The Spanish moss is an interesting air plant that doesn't damage its host tree at all, finding its own nutrients itself. Thank you for prompting that piece of learning. I like the composition of the image, and the clouds and mist in the background give the tree a chance to stand alone. - **Accepted**

06 Cactus Flower

A lovely white flower with lots of detail in the stamen at the centre. The outer petals are nicely lit and there is much detail to be seen. The centre of the flower where the eye is drawn to is in shade, so

not as vibrant as it could have been in my opinion. I also think the darker areas in the background are adding very little to the image and it could have been cropped in a little tighter to better showcase the flower. I like being able to see the cactus plant in the front in focus and it makes me appreciate the sharpness of the spikes. - **Accepted**

07 Natures Design

The title of this image is not descriptive of the content. I would expect something along the lines of “spider web on gorse bush” or similar. This is a requirement in nature rules. – Not accepted.

08 Against the Sky

Like the image before it, the title on this image is not descriptive of the content. – Not accepted.

09 Eye to eye with a Bengal

The tiger in this image feels to me as if it has been over processed. There are pink and blue colour casts on the legs and feet, and in most of the white areas. In my opinion the tiger appears to have some sort of filter over it that has changed the fur to a painted look. – Not accepted.

10 Emperors having a chatter

I love the colours the Emperor Penguins have, so bold and bright! These three are certainly engaged in a conversation of some kind. I would have liked to have seen their eyes and feel that the crop is a little tight on the sides. They are such majestic birds. - **Accepted**

11 Juvenile Black Shag -Phalacrocorax carbo

Shags are such obliging birds when it comes to photographing them, if they are busy drying their wings off, they will ignore the camera unless it gets too close. There is very good detail in the feathers with its wings and tail both spread. Nice soft background that isn't distracting from the bird at all, and good composition. - **Honours Caroline Foster**

12 Rifleman (Acanthisitta chloris)

This is a nicely composed image of a rifleman. The eye is sharp and has good catch light in it. The feather details around the head and down to the wing are also nice and sharp. The rest of the bird including beak and legs are very soft and noisy. In my opinion a little more depth of field would have improved this image. I like the natural perch with the mosses in focus. - **Merit Caroline Foster**

13 Birds Nest Fungi Family Nidulariaceae

A great example of a small fungi that is often completely missed. I like the glossy little pebbles in the baskets and the details of the baskets themselves. Good depth of field with the fungi and log both nicely in focus and the background soft and not distracting. The darkness in the background just adds punch to the colours of the fungi. - **Honours Dianna Hambleton**

14 Fungi Cortinarius armiae

The fungi is standing tall and proud, but the leaf litter around shows it is actually rather small. The fungi has good detail and texture and there is a good amount of the environment around it to show both size and the type of area it grows in. I would have liked the background to have been a little softer – this could be achieved by adjusting the f stop. Good composition – **Accepted**

15 Able Tasman Park

I look at this rock formation and instantly see the head of a haughty old lady in need of a hair cut. The composition is perfect with the rocks pointing to the left with plenty of room. The contrast between the water and the sky adds depth. There are some darker areas where a little more detail could be found, however I feel they are needed as they are to direct the eye to the well-lit rock face.

- Honours Margret Harris

16 Cardamine comyrbosa

Some of the flowers are in focus and others are not. My eye is constantly drifting around this image looking for somewhere to stop. The two flowers at the front of the image would be the natural place for the eye to rest, but they are soft. In my opinion the photographer has photographed these a little too close and with an adjusted f stop could have shown off the flowers better. Some of the surrounding environment to give more information about the flowers. - **Accepted**

17 Blackbilled Gulls and Chicks

A nice family group of black billed gulls. The chicks are in the shadows and there is very little detail visible for them. Adding some fill light in post processing may help with this. The adult birds are also lacking in feather detail. I believe this image was taken from a distance and has been cropped in. The white streak through the centre of the image is also very distracting. Composition is good. -

Accepted

18 Little shag Kawau-paka and chick

Looks like the parent bird has had enough of the youngster. The young chick has some lovely detail in its fluffy down and expectant face. In my opinion this image could be a little stronger if it was cropped in a little as there is a lot of space that doesn't add to the story in any way. Some more detail in the parent's body would also strengthen it. - **Accepted**

19 A-pinus precipitus/death-wish pine

Gosh that tree certainly does have a death wish, and the fresh erosion directly beneath it appears to be helping make this happen. Interesting diagonal lines through the image with the bank, and the lines in the clay. - **Accepted**

20 Schistus/Schist

This image is small, so even viewed at 100% it is not easy to see how much detail there is in the rocks. I do like the wavy lines and patterns created by the layers of schist (glad I am not having to say that, I can never get it out right). Lovely golden colours. - **Accepted**

21 Fly Agaric

A good example of this type of fungi, with the expect pine needles around it. Overall the image feels a little soft to me. That said, all the detail is there on the stem and head of the fungi. Composition works. - **Accepted**

22 Kea profile

The eye and beak of the kea appear to be the only bits in focus. Overall this image is very soft and lacking in any sharp feather detail. The background is noisy and bright, which in my opinion distracts the eye from the bird. Good attempt. – Not accepted

23 New Zealand South Island Fungai
This image is stunning. I love the colours of the bonnet on the main fungi, and the two smaller ones in the back show the different stages of the fungi. The foreground shows lovely detail of the environment that the fungi is growing in and the soft dark background works well. Great composition. - **Honours Sue Newport**

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Honours Kathy Pantling

24 Coral Fungai

Another very good image of a fungi. In this one the fungi look like a tiny forest of trees as they march through the undergrowth. The main fungi is beautifully lit and stands out well from the background. Good composition -

Merit Kathy Pantling

25 The diversity of NZ Greenhood Orchids

While I appreciate the story being told within this image, the individual images are too small to be able to determine the quality of the image. I find bottom row very distracting, two are differing sizes to the rest and the other two are not lined up with the rest within the image. In my opinion, smaller text and larger images would have improved the overall image. -

Accepted

26 Flower detail of NZ Vegetable Sheep

The story within this image is clear and the images show the differences between the various types of Vegetable Sheep. I must admit I had not heard the term before, so have done some research on them. They are fascinating little plants. I have to assess this as one image and there are some distractions. The three images are all different sizes and do not line up. If the photographer is going to the effort to display them in this way, taking care to have them presented well would improve the overall image. -

Accepted

27 Gannett with chick

I like the pose the two gannets are in, greet each other after being apart. No doubt the youngster is hungry and looking for food from the parent. There is a lacking of detail in the feathers and the eyes are very dark with a lot of noise. There is also a very bright patch on the adult bird that could be blown out. I would recommend photographing these birds at a different time of day, or on a cloudy day where the light is more even, this will allow for better feather detail and less noise in the image.

- **Accepted**

28 Feeding Kotuku

A nicely composed image of a kotuku with dinner between the beaks. In my opinion, the image feels a little flat and could have been lifted with a little fill light to brighten the eye and beak allowing the catch to be better seen. There is also a distracting dust spot at the top of the image that could have been removed. Well caught. – **Accepted**

29 Stictocarbo punctatus (spotted Shag)

A good example of a spotted shag, showing great detail in the feathers and beak, the light is good and the soft sky in the background highlights the bird well. It would have been nice to see the eye open but I can appreciate that it was nap time. - **Merit Barry Sangster**

30 Megalopsalis (Harvestmen)

This is one creepy looking spider! In my opinion the crop on the spider is a little tight, the legs are clipped on all sides. There are also some sharpening artifacts and bright areas in the background of the image that are very distracting. Well done for getting so close to such a creepy critter. - Accepted

31 Tui

Tui are such majestic birds with their iridescent colours and fancy collars. I like the sharp eye and beak of the bird, good use of depth of field. I would have liked to have seen more detail in the underbody of the tui. Nicely composed. - Accepted

32 Paradise Shelducks

There is a great story to be told within this image. I love the water drops being flicked off the wide spread wings of the drake. Beautiful detail in the feathers and good catchlight in the eye. The look on the female's face is amusing as she misses the water spray. I also like that there is enough of the environment in the image not only to tell the viewer more of where they are, but it also gives the two birds room to move. Great composition. – Honours Lisa Trusler

33 Aciphylla colensoi

The plant is lacking in detail, and in my opinion, it would have been a much stronger image if the photographer had gotten closer or used a different lens. The camera appears to have focused on the tree to the right of the frame and not on the subject of the image. – Not accepted

34 Stichaster-australis

This is a good example of a reef starfish clinging to the rockface. I like the patterns and colours on the starfish and how they stand out from the colourful rocks. Nicely seen. - **Merit Jean Willis**

35 Arctocephalus forsteri

What an adorable little fur seal pup. Great detail in the wet fur and good clear eyes. Nicely composed. Well done

- **Merit Irene Callaghan**

36 Cortinarius cardinalis

Lovely texture and colour on these fungi. I like that there is a view of both the top of the cap, and the gills underneath. The dirt still clinging to the stalk showing just how fast these fungi grow. The fungi appear to have been lit from above putting the underside into shade. In my opinion a little light from below as well would have made this a much stronger image. Well seen. – **Merit Irene Callaghan**