

Prints

Coral Fungi Ramaria

I like the bright colour of the coral fungi as it rises towards the light. The fungi is the focal point of the image and is supported by the log with a few other small species of fungi. In my opinion the area to the right in the print adds very little and could be cropped. The leading line of the log draws the eye nicely towards the fungi, the leaves draw the eye out of the image. Nicely presented. - Accepted

Laccaria glabripes Ag

I feel the fungi are lost in this image, the mosses and grasses dominate the print and my eye is drawn to them more so than the tiny fungi. The colours of the print are lovely and I like the lighting, I just wish I could see more of the fungi. Well presented. - Accepted

Aseroe rubra stinkhorn fungi

This is a nicely composed print showing the stink horn fungi in several stages of growth. I feel that perhaps the colour is lacking a little depth and could be improved with a little added contrast. The print sits nicely in the black mat. - Accepted

Blue Bottle Jellyfish

The blue bottle jelly fish is such a pretty colour, yet packs a mean sting. The colours in this print are vibrant and show off the jellyfish at its best. There is a small blown out white spot on the right side of the jelly fish that lets the image down. The tail of the jellyfish also appears to be clipped at the top of the image. Presentation is good. – Accepted.

Chroicocephalus bulleri

This print is nicely composed with the adult gull looking at one of its youngsters. The chick is in focus and has lovely texture and detail in its fluffy down. There is a patch on the adult's head that appears to me to be blown out, otherwise I would have scored this image higher. -

Merit Barry Sangster

Comparison of four Montia species

Looking at this as a single image, there is a good story being shared by the photographer. The different species of the flower all have their similarities yet are obviously different. I like how

the four images are nicely lined up and are large enough to see the detail in each one, right down to the insect inside one of the flowers. Personally I would have liked the text to be smaller but that is nit picking. -

Merit Don Pitman

Cortinarus species

These fungi appear to be bursting forth from the damp ground and leaf litter. At first I thought they were covered with gel but on further inspection I noticed the wet ground so have decided it must be water that is dripping off them. I love the little water drops and the shine the water gives to the fungi. I applaud the photographer for having the dedication to go on a fungi hunt in the rain! Great composition and nicely presented. –

Honours Helen Howie

Crepidotus sp.

Lovely golden colours in this print, showing the underside of the fungi. In my opinion this image could be stronger if the three fungi on the left of the image were cropped off. The darker area adds nothing, yet draws the eye away from the main fungi. Presentation is good. - Accepted

Laccaria lilacina

I love this print, it is stunning. The delicate details of the fungi sharp where it is needed and soft where it is not. The mosses below providing a wispy magical look to the image. The background is beautifully soft yet loaded with supporting colours. Well done! -

Honours Irene Callaghan

Male Rifleman with insect

Lovely soft colour pallet in this print. I like the composition with the bird to the right of the image, facing left. The insect is fully in focus as is the beak and eye of the bird. The rest of the bird feels soft and lacks in feather detail particularly on the breast area. Nicely presented with the black mat working well. -

Merit - Rebecca Bowater

New Zealand dotterel with wasp

The dotterel is nicely in focus with a nice soft background. Good feather detail and nice catchlight in the eye – which is not always easy with dotterels. Always happy to see the demise of another wasp! I do feel that perhaps the bird is too centred in the image and a small crop off the right side might make the image a bit stronger. Overall a well presented image. –

Merit Caroline Foster

NZ Bearded Orchids – Calochilus species

A beautiful tryptic of orchids, clearly showing the differences between the three species. We presented. Lovely colours and textures in all of the three images. - **Honours -Don Pitham**

Oyster Catcher

The oyster catcher appears to be in a hurry to move away, the back of the bird is nicely lit by the sun, showing nice feather detail. The front of the bird is completely lacking in feather detail. The eye is sharp as is the beak and the bird sits well within the frame. - Accepted

Petroica australis (South Island Robin)

I think there is a possibility that this little bird has been identified incorrectly. Looking at the colour of the feet I would be more inclined to think it is a South Island tomtit. The bird is nicely perched with lots of feather detail and sharp eye. There are a few highlighted areas that I believe would be better if they weren't so bright. There looks to be a little white in the wing that is visible and a little in the tail, which lends more towards it being a tomtit. Regardless it is a lovely image overall that has been well presented. -

Merit Barry Sangster

Remnants of podocarp forest Lake Brunner shoreline

This is one of those images where at first look I see a lovely landscape with reflections in the lake, nicely framed by the tree trunk on the left. Then the title has me looking for the remnants of trees along the shoreline, most of which are blocked by the large tree trunk. There are some good textures in the front tree and the root structure gives the impression of the tree hanging on to the solid ground while it can. I would have liked to have seen more of the trees along the shoreline, however it appears to achieve that, the photographer would need to be in the water. - Accepted

Southern Black-backed Gull with Juvenile

This is an image I am sure many of us can relate to. Trying to ignore a hungry youngster. The adult gull is standing strong and apparently oblivious to the demanding chick. In my opinion the image could be a little stronger if there was some of the water cropped off the right side of the image to move the gulls from being so centred. Overall a nicely presented print. - Accepted

Speargrass *Aciphylla dobsonii*

The plant is nestled well and is nicely framed among the rocks. The flowers are full of texture and detail. The lines and colours in the rocks also add interest to the print. Nicely presented. -

Merit Rebecca Bowater

Takahe

A lovely print of the takahe in the grass, doing what takahe do – eating grass. Beautiful vibrant colours on the back of the bird, and the texture and detail of the feathers in those areas is also good. I would have liked to have seen a little more detail in the underside of the takahe, this could possibly be achieved by reducing the shadows in post processing. Nicely presented. –

Merit Roger Ball

Tuatara (*Sphenodon punctatus*)

I love the colours on the tuatara's body. The eye is clear and sharp as are the spikes on the back of its head. It is a little softer on the under side of the head. While I am a fan of square crops, I think this one is a little tight at the top. Tuatara's can move fast when they want to, so I feel there needs to be some room for it to move into. - Accepted

Tui

This is a classic tui pose on a flax flower. The eye is sharp and the whole bird is nicely in focus. I would have liked to see more of the detail in the darker areas where it is totally black. The tui is nicely contrasted against the bright flax background and overall is well presented. - Accepted