

## **To NELSON CAMERA CLUB.**

May I take this time to thank you very much for the opportunity to critique your images. This helps me to progress my studies in becoming an Accredited Photographic judge for the PSNZ.

I get rather excited when the new images arrive in my Inbox. Its almost like you have sent me a present and I get quite excited to open it.

Well, I was not disappointed.

A wee word about myself: I have been a Ceramic Artist for forty years now. My need to learn how to create good images of my work for exhibitions and competitions encouraged me to study and earn a Diploma in Freelance Photography.

Then I found a whole new world out there through my lens, my next new lens and then another new lens. I am sure you all know that story.

Flowers are my preferred subject, they are compliant, I need no model release forms, they are many and varied and I can produce my own subjects.

My preferred lens is my Lensbaby Velvet 56mm f 1.6 followed by my Composer Pro II Sweet 50mm Optic.

They were a big learning curve, but the results please me immensely.

I have also created decals from my photographs and have fired them onto my pottery. I find that I can now blend my Art (photography)and my Craft (pottery) into one. That pleases me.

Again, many thanks for allowing me this privilege,

Marilyn Wheeler

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## **Nelson Camera Club A GRADE**

01: Battle Ready: I find this image to be gorgeous from an animal lovers' point of view. The image is rather busy, yet it shows a situation. I do find the number 22 in the background to be slightly detracting as with the white spot above it. The black and white rendition covers all tones and the subject himself is quite handsome. **MERIT**  
**John Olsen**

02: Circles of Life: I am enjoying the reflection of the bird and the drips onto the water. The exposure is reasonably handled and yet I would like to see more light in the bird's eye. This image seems balanced to me with just enough of the bird in the scene. Circles of life for the bird, yet I suspect circles of demise for the fish whom I suspect is going down the bird's throat, judging by that lump. A nice story. **MERIT** **Rosie Ross**

03: Estuary: I see a lot of sky in this image which takes up the majority of the space. May I suggest a good crop down from the top yet not too much to leave the horizon on the centre line. The reflection on the water will balance this out. The exposure is nicely handled. **ACCEPTANCE**

04: Gold Finger: The colours in this image match very well, they are harmonious and pleasing to the eye. I find that the light either on or behind the leaf is so bright that we lose some detail in the leaf. The patterns in the background add interest and show movement, yet my eye keeps being captured by the brightness of the leaf. A nice idea. **MERIT** **Dianna Hambleton**

05: Golden Oldie: I enjoy the descriptive title. I feel there is a layer or filter over this image which to me seems to flatten the image. Lovely warm colours. **ACCEPTANCE**

06: Jumper: I am enjoying the clarity in this image which is presented very well in black and white. I particularly enjoy the concentration of both horse and rider working together. The depth of field allows the horse and rider to stand out and to also allow enough background information to give a sense of place. A very well seen action shot. **HONOURS** **Irene Callaghan**

07: The Last Swim of Summer: I am enjoying the silhouette of the trees against the summer sky due to the bright lighting from behind. I find this image is coming across a little dark and I would suggest a slower shutter speed, with a tripod also, to keep the image clear and in focus. And always check for a balanced horizon line. A nice attempt. **ACCEPTANCE**

08: Losing Touch: I find this image disturbing and compelling. It brings forth feelings of fear, the horror movie type of fear. The side lighting adds to the drama. I find the hand seems unclear and grainy. A great idea that has been very well thought out and I hope will be taken further. **MERIT** **Roger Ball**

09: Lunch is Nearly Ready: I can almost smell the food cooking from this image. For me, I feel this image is too busy for this style of photography and find there is too much to take in. Great colours and a great story and I would have liked to see this as a straight image. **ACCEPTANCE**

10: Man on Top of His Job: This image is aptly named. I find it reassuring to note the safety harness in use. The lighting is strong which has created shadows over the man and his face. I feel the main focus has settled on the silhouette of the branch in the front. The exposure seems fine so maybe a slower shutter speed could lighten up the shadows, or lift the shadows up in post processing. ACCEPTANCE

11: Me: I like this image because it challenges me. The title says Me yet I see three people behind a semi opaque layer and that gets me thinking what this image is saying. It is creative, very emotional and original. The lighting on the three faces differs which I find gives each Me a different personality. In my mind, this is an intriguing image which keeps drawing me back to view it. HONOURS Caroline Foster

12: New Brighton Pier: I get a sense of peace and serenity when I look into this image. The beautiful pastel colouring is mimicked in the wet sand and the slow shutter speed gives the water a soft appearance. I like how the bottom of the image gives a connection to land. Lovely colours, and very clear. HONOURS Roger Ball

13: Not Me Mum, honestly: Oh, that look! I enjoy how the focus is on the eyes and then it falls away. I would like to have seen the author get down closer to the dog's level then the animal would seem less distorted. The eyes are looking up at Mum, hoping for approval. A nice emotional image. MERIT Sue Newport

14: Octopus: I think this is a great view point from above. This image is clear with a good exposure. I am seeing a whole array of patterns, shapes and textures in this image and the light vignette and the tentacle of roads leads you into the centre of the image. MERIT Barry Doig

15: Poppy Field: The contrast between the red of the poppies and the green of the background trees is nice to view. Due to the poppies being out of focus, my eye keeps travelling up to the distant ridge line. Possibly cropping down from the top to the closest trees could keep the interest on the subject and leave the viewer with just the two complimentary colours in the image, red and green. A lovely subject choice. ACCEPTANCE

16: Row by Row: The depth of field in this image is spot on. The man and tractor are very clear, the close plants are also. Then the background quietly fades away giving us a sense of place but not intruding. I find the image over exposed and also a little pale in colour strength. May I suggest adding a little contrast to give this image some punch. A nice rural scene. ACCEPTANCE

17: Sadly Lost: Here I see a very dark grainy and sombre image. I feel a lot of detail is lost in the dark shadows and the vignette is quite strong. I appreciate the title and the emphasis is on loss and sadness yet my eye only wants to rest on the cross. The framing of this image is nicely applied. ACCEPTANCE

18: Snowy Egret on Nest: This image is sharp and clear with the focus on the eyes of the bird as he stares back at us. The depth of field has been handled very well. I

appreciate that there are no visual distractions, just the titled subject. **HONOURS**  
**Kathy Pantling**

19: Stumped: I like how the smooth stump has been slowly sanded down over time by the ebb and flow of the water cascading over it. I find that the slow shutter speed supports this feeling. The stump could be more in focus as this is the subject of the image. The exposure is well handled. **MERIT Rosie Ross**

20: Te Puka Tavern: A typically iconic image of old New Zealand. To me this image seems dark and old like a historical shot from years ago. The range of tones is well covered in this black and white image and is reasonably well focused. It is a record shot which could become more valuable as time passes by. **ACCEPTANCE**

21: The Bookworm: the author has shown great imagination. I do love how the face in the book is clear and the remainder of him out of focus slightly which makes me feel he is the story. What a clever idea. The black and white has been very well executed covering all of the tones. Well thought out. **HONOURS Graeme Skinner**

22: The Window View: The backlighting has turned the peoples into silhouette shapes yet I am finding the foreground of the image is quite dark. Possibly a slower shutter speed to allow more light to enter into the image or increase the exposure. Maybe if the author wished to crop up to the side pillars and up to the men's feet, the window could become more of a focal point. I like the effect that is on this window, and your attempt to capture this. A nice effort. **ACCEPTANCE**

23: Tri-Coloured Heron-Egretta tricolor: I feel this is a very nice study of the Heron in his environment. The subject is sharp and clear. There are bright portions on his beak and back of head feathers with some brighter parts to the birds left which I feel could be dealt with by a crop in from the right which would not impede the bird's point of view. Just something to think about. **MERIT Kathy Pantling**

24: Uluru Sunrise: The collaboration of colours is very pleasing in this image. I enjoy how the author has created this image from a low perspective which adds even more interest. The fingers of cloud and sunlight reaching out from behind the rock create some drama to the scene. This scene portrays a good exposure and is well focused. Well photographed. **HONOURS. Brian Dean**

25: Watching and waiting: I interpret these birds as being cheeky opportunists. I find having the main focus more to the back window and wall of this image leaves the lady, dog and sparrows slightly unclear. Maybe a different point of view could omit the rubbish bin (which does not add to this image) without losing the dogs tail. I feel the dog is also watching and waiting as well. **ACCEPTANCE**

26: White Bellied Sea Eagle: I like how the bird has room to fly into. The good use of depth of field has separated the Eagle from the background. Unfortunately, I see fringing around the bird which is distracting and the bird itself is not very sharp. I suspect this image has been very cropped which could cause these problems. Hopefully the photographer comes across this bird for another try. **ACCEPTANCE.**

27: Bleriot: There seems to be enough room for the plane to move into with a very good shutter speed that keeps the plane in focus. I feel the tree on the left is a distraction for me and would suggest a crop in from the left and possibly consider cloning out the white square which catches my eye. The background forest is clear enough to create a sense of place without competing with the subject. **MERIT. Jean Willis**

28: Charlotte's Web: I find this image to be interesting and creative yet it puzzles me. It is a great idea, yet I find the lighting and colouring very bold. I am enjoying how her face is veiled by the web and the coincidence of the drops of moisture (which seem to resemble tears) is placed on her lower eyelid. The background is cluttered on one side and very bright on the other. Nicely captured. **MERIT Helen Howie**

29: Morning Coffee: This image is very different and creative. I get the feeling the coffee table and cup are a reflection, due to the angle of the table top. I see other small soft light shapes in the image that could have been removed in post processing. There is a strong textural contrast between the lush busy greenery and the softness of the table and cup. **ACCEPTANCE.**

30: Nelson Sunset: The colour of this image tells me this evenings temperature is low and cold. The horizon line shows to be in the center of the image and maybe a crop from either top or bottom would remedy that issue. The subject is sunset, so cropping up from the bottom, which is not totally focused, could be an ideal suggestion. The boat on the left should either be all in or all out of the image. I enjoy the colour and the reflection of colour in the water. **ACCEPTANCE**

31: Sand Dunes Farewell Spit: I like that you have only included the dunes with the emphasis on the lines, shapes and texture. Together these form an artistically pleasing image. The darker blue adds the shape and takes my eye through the image like a wavy leading line. I am enjoying the creative use of colour. **HONOURS. Rebecca Bowater**

32: Shag Pt: I enjoy how this image is very clear with a level horizon line. We have the grasses in the foreground which gives us a standpoint, the water, the hills, the sky and the clouds. I feel the top layer of sky above the clouds is one layer too many and may I suggest a crop into the cloud layer. **MERIT. Jean Willis**

33: Sunsetting in the Nelson Fires: I feel I am looking at another form of art work, a vibrant abstract one. I enjoy the juxtaposition of shapes with the spherical moon and the water colour effect from the intense heat and flame. You could view this image as is, portrait and even upside down and it still works. Well captured. **HONOURS. Rebecca Bowater**

34: Teapot Valley: The long shadows are telling me this image was possibly taken when the sun was low. The image is clear though I do see a series of identical imperfections in the sky which should have been removed in post processing. There is a halo that follows the ridge line where the land meets the sky possibly due to chromatic aberration. Lovely country scene. **ACCEPTANCE.**

## Nelson Camera Club B Grade

01: Drink with a Twist: Such a clever idea. I am enjoying the strong complementary colours which are creating maximum contrast and maximum energy. The perceived movement adds some theatrical fun with the subject nicely placed sliding from left to right as we read an image. I feel the removal of the small reflection would add some drama with the glass floating. An engaging image. **MERIT Sheree Davidson**

02: Fishing: I see a clear image showing a seascape with an interesting sky which attracts my eye the most. The play of light behind the clouds is more interesting than the fishing boat which is so small and almost insignificant. Maybe a small crop down from the top to the small bright cloud would remove the unnecessary small grey cloud. Please take care of your title. The image is clear with pleasant colouring. **MERIT Stephen Bridgeman**

03: Grand Ma's Chair: The feeling I get from this image is one of nostalgia, of yesteryear and times and people past. Beautifully focused and the side lighting adds to the feeling. Even the darkness at the base and behind the chair evokes memories of my Grand Ma's house. They always seemed to be poorly lit. This is a very comfortable image in more ways than one. **HONOURS Sheree Davidson**

04: Smart Tui: I too, find these birds to be very smart. The depth of field separates the bird from the background which is nice to see. I feel we would see more definition in the feathers with a faster shutter speed. An increase in contrast would also favour an improvement in colour as I see it. A wonderful subject matter which could become a body of work. **MERIT. Stephen Bridgeman**

05: Whisper Falls: I am enjoying the different perspective with this image. It allows the water trickles to be shown beautifully and the slower shutter speed supports that. The variation of colours in the moss is pleasant and we could possibly see more with a higher exposure. **MERIT. Chris Tews**

06: Do Not Disturb: NO! I would not disturb this fella. This is very well focused from two points of view. The image is well focused and the subject is well focused on the photographer with his one eye open. The exposure is lovely and there is enough background to show his resting place. **HONOURS. Helen Atkinson**

07: Japanese Anemone: Flowers make such wonderful subjects to photograph and no model release forms. I do feel that the main point of focus is on the right-hand side of the orange stamens so always check where your point of focus should be or your metering decision. I enjoy how these two secondary

colours (orange and green) are nestled onto a slightly soft silky background of white petals. **MERIT Ruth Duffield**

08: South African Hornbill: The strong side lighting on this bird creates a sense of drama. Being such a high contrast image, some of the detail has been lost in the deep

shadows and down below his feet. He is well focused which allows me to enjoy the ominous stare from a very clear eye. **MERIT Ruth Duffield**

09: Summers Over: The days of splendour are over and so the flower must demise. Such sadness and the use of black and white has picked up on that. I feel if the author lowered the highlights on the stem just above the seed head more texture would be visible. The depth of field is well handled though I find the background is a little too strong. Adding a little contrast to the image could separate the subject from the background more and more tones would be introduced into image. The actual subject is very well focused with an acceptable composition. **MERIT Helen Akinson**

## **Nelson Camera Club PRINTS**

ROSE HIP: This is a gorgeous image, it appeals to my sense of balance, my sense of colour, my sense of Art. It is clear where it should be clear, and textured where it should be so. I could ask the artist if he/she ever considered presenting it in a portrait format. My feeling is portrait, but the decision is not mine. This image works extremely well both ways. **HONOURS Irene Callaghan**

SIMPLE CURVES: This image is interesting to me because the simple curves are open to personal interpretation. The image seems to work in in both portrait and landscape format. There is a lot of empty background space which adds to the simplicity of this image. The colours are pleasant and the artistic fading curve on the right creates interest. I could ponder on this image for a long time, it does please from an artistic point of view. **HONOURS. Irene Callaghan**

NELSON SKY: The subject takes up two thirds of this image and is very interesting with a lot of variation of shapes and patterns. The foreground interest with the boat and shoreline prevent any boredom. I see the tonal variation from white to black is very well covered. Due to the amount of sky, I wonder if this was presented in colour would the scene be more captivating. Enjoyable. **MERIT Barry Doig**

MORNING FOG: What stands out for me the most are the different textures of the trees in the image. The backlighting creates a silhouette and casts an ethereal glow through the front tree showing the shafts of light shining through. I do find the backlighting does create some dark shadows with little detail which could be improved

upon post processing. There is an atmospheric and dreamy quality to this photograph which seems to be all in focus. **MERIT Barry Doig**

MR & MRS: I feel this is such a lovely concept of love and time. The feeling of old-fashioned values speaks very well with this image. Old and new ideas and innovative techniques blend very well. The lighting is perfect, the technique used compliments the story. Absolutely beautiful. **HONOURS Caroline Foster**

EBB & FLOW: I am enjoying this different point of view. The seemingly cascading lines of the foam create a textural interest for me. We have three integrated lines in this image. The sea to the foam to the shore and they all blend well together. I find a small bright spot to the top right above the foam which is distracting and could have been cloned out. A lovely image. **MERIT Caroline Foster**

PRUES GARDEN: I enjoy the play of light coming from the right-hand side of the image which creates some drama for me. We normally read an image from left to right and this change of lighting angle adds a little drama. The image is sharp, it is balanced with a good depth of field. I do feel the dark background is slightly overpowering and this does not feel normal in nature for me. A nice image all the same. **MERIT Helen Howie**

EVENING RIVERTON BEACH: This image is nicely balanced with the dog on the left walking into the image and following the people on the right. The fore ground rocks are too dark and need a higher exposure or lightening in post processing to show the shapes and textures on them. A nice clear image and I feel more could be made of this in post processing. **ACCEPTANCE**

AT THE INTERSECTION: A very busy interpretation of this subject and a very colourful one. My eye keeps wandering aimlessly around this image from one person to another trying to find somewhere to settle. The lighting seems uneven with some patches lighter than others. This is such a great idea, yet I feel that a simple image can convey this style to its benefit. **ACCEPTANCE**

ISLAND BAY II: I am enjoying the colours where the flowers mimic the white on the rocks and the houses on the hill, the brown flax leaves blend with the shoreline rocks. It is a lovely calendar shot, very beautiful and very focused with a lot to take in. Unfortunately, the photograph has moved under the matt, which is a possible problem when needing to transport photographs. **MERIT Roger Ball**

RAINBOW BEE EATER CATCHING BEE: This image is colourful, sharp and clear with the only sign of movement being the bee, of course. The concentration of the bird on his meal is engaging. The depth of field is very well executed. The colours are divine, great exposure. **HONOURS Brian Dean**

GREAT EGRET IN GATTON QLD: This is a very nice portrait of this beautiful bird in his environment. The backlighting showing through his tail feathers creates a golden glow. I feel if the exposure was reduced a little, then the blown out area on the birds back should show more detail. I enjoy the delicacy of the fanned feathers and of the foliage creating a verdant vignette around him. **MERIT Brian Dean**

IN NEED OF A PAINT JOB: I enjoy the green border creating a semi frame around the bird painting with the condition of the building supporting the title. The exposure seems fine yet the image feels flat with no depth. Maybe the much needed paint job could revitalise this subject. **ACCEPTANCE**

SILVER FERN: The image is very well focused all over with its repetitive patterns of shapes. The subject stands out from the background and the colours of green and purple secondary colours work well. I am intrigued with the little colourful background spots at top left. They kind of fascinate me. Nice exposure. **MERIT Sue Newport**