

Burnside Church

What is the story here? Is it about the church and its setting, or is it about the overlay and presumably intentional blur to invoke an emotional element to an otherwise quite static image? Lovely, muted colours. A trim off the right may improve compositional balance and the non-horizontal fence in the foreground is distracting.

Acceptance

Close your eyes and dance

Enigmatic title and nuddy grey tonal range with no real blacks or whites Not

Accepted

Kereru srcumping mulberries

Title mis-match. At the time of exposure - he wasn't! Overexposed, washing out colour in the feathers Not

Accepted

Ruby and ted

Lovely capture of a spontaneous moment, with almost symmetrical composition. This adds information about the toy that is difficult to deduce from the image itself. Side lighting and fill well handled, but focus is slightly soft. Compressed tonal range – no real white or black.

Accepted

Begonia Triptych

Great subject for a triptych. The life to death progression is a story well told and the dark background throws the blooms into stark relief with great impact. The background is a little messy in some places and perhaps the third image should be flipped horizontally so that it hangs from the left hand side like the other two?

Honours: Irene Callaghan

Southern scape

A classic landscape with foreground, middle, and background interest. Sky could be darkened little to help the snowclad mountains stand out a little more

Honours: Irene Callaghan

Canola field

Nice use of the farm track as a leading line to the viewers eye into the picture. A slight trim off the right-hand side to remove the distracting flower heads at bottom right, may also strengthen the leading line. The soft overcast lighting, while good for the detail of the track, has dulled the intensity of the yellow flowers

Merit: Roger Ball

Lake Rotoaira

Interesting T-shaped composition featuring lovely detail in the old jetty. Sharp, with a pleasing colour palette.

Merit: Roger Ball

Consider the lilies

Lively woodland scene reminiscent of Chris Frosts 2020 Landscape Photographer of the year winning shot with lillies instead of wild garlic and fog. Sound composition and great detail in the life cycle of the lillies. Colours and tonal ranges well handled.

Honours: Barry Doig

Skyburst

Wow, what a shy! Well seen and captured. Enhanced by monochrome treatment, good full range of tones. All lines lead the eye into the middle distance

Honours: Barry Doig

Recycling

Sometimes less is more, and the background here is distracting and detracts from the story. Cropping just to the left hand tree, headstone and railings may focus the viewer on the title story in a more powerful way

Acceptance

Broadgreen house

Annoyingly off centre for a subject that has symmetry as a major element. Taken from a position left of the centre line, the symmetry cannot be compensated for by skewing the camera to the right. Lovely lighting, tonal range, muted colour palette and reflections in the pond.

Accepted

NZ Kea

Nice Kea portrait showing the elusive under wing colour. Sharp and detailed around the head, beak and breast feathers, but contrast a bit high blocking shadow detail.

Merit: Lisa Trusler

Purple Beauty

A lovely flower study , although the dark hole at the left is a bit distracting, and could be cropped off without altering the story. The petals are not quite sharp in places, and a slight lift in brightness may give the print a bit more life?

Acceptance

B Grade

Holding on

Nice commentary on the resilience of nature. A little more fill light in the shadows may help draw out a little more detail in the tree trunk and ease the canopy shadows. Quite nicely composed but a slight trim off the RH side may improve the overall balance

Merit: Tom Young

Motutohe Island

Excellent colour and tonal range. Classic landscape with foreground, middle and background, although the wave draws attention to the foreground rocks rather than the island of the title.

Merit: Tom Young