

Phillip Island Monthly Club Competition – Judge Feedback for - March 2021 - Subject - OPEN-- Judge - Theo Vandermeulen

*Please refer to Judge Instruction Letter for ratings: **HC** (Highly Commended) - **C** (Commended)*

Sequence by Title	Member No	Title	Judge Rating	EDPI
1	399	A new friend		Lovely spontaneous capture. Exposure, focus etc all good. Captured great expression on child's face. A slight vignette on this image would reduce the impact of some distracting elements near the edges.
2	487	After the rain		In this black and white landscape, the creek provides a good leading line into the scene, which is continued by the line of poles leading into the dunes. Because there is no strong central subject would suggest a linear gradient to darken the top of the image to keep the viewer's eye in the image,
3	431	Beach abstract	C	Like the technique employed here – slow shutter speed reduces the scene to a number of abstract elements of colour and shape.
4	431	Cheeky Kookaburra		Nice capture of the bird – good connection with the camera. Good exposure and colour rendition. Background blurred using DOF but still very busy. Would suggest a vignette to keep the viewer's eye in the image.
5	770	Chillin		Funny image of the sleeping bear. The animal's relaxed posture is great but would obviously have been better with the head on the viewer's side of the log. Suggest slight reduction of exposure and a vignette to minimise the impact of the cyclone fence.
6	641	Churchill road	HC	Nice moody land/seascape. The overall dark exposure works well with the interesting sky and the reflections in the water. Pano format works well here. I also liked the trees on the left in silhouette.
7	770	collection		Interesting collection of old objects/tools. Generally when photographing objects like this and timber structure it pays to wait for directional lighting which produces contrast, shadows and textures. Here the lighting is fairly flat. The bright logs on the LH edge are distracting which could be addressed in Lightroom.
8	361	Dark Lillies	HC	Beautiful dramatic image. Great composition of the flowers which are well lit and razor sharp. Water droplets are very effective as is the muted background.

9	487	Deep in Denali	C	This image features a number of interesting compositional aspects. The contrast between the rolling foreground hills and the background mountains is interesting both for shape and colour. The zigzagging road leads the eye effectively into the image. People walking would have added to image if located further up the road. In this image I would be inclined to crop or clone them out.
10	601	Angles,Arcs & Aeoplanes		This is an interesting image. Would suggest a slight crop on the left hand side to eliminate the bright upright. I think the image would be improved with a slight (0.25-0.5 stop) reduction in exposure.
11	601	Peek a Boo		Photographer did well to see the potential of this scene. A slightly lower point of view would reveal more of the subject and eliminate some of the very bright fencing. Remember the viewer's eye is attracted to the brightest part of an image.
12	601	Sherbrooke Tranquillity		Nicely composed image of the boat house at the bottom of the Alfred Nicholas Memorial Garden. I think the image could be improved with a slight (0.5 stop) reduction in exposure to create a slightly moodier picture.
13	601	Shy Duo		Same idea as an earlier image. The lower point of view is more effective. I'm wondering if waiting to get a more 'face on' view of the goats was possible – it would have produced a more engaging image.
14	431	Evening_Perfection	C	A number of elements came together here to produce a nice image. The golden hour light is lovely and the tree, the swans and poles in the water combine to provide a pleasing composition. Suggest a slight crop on top and LHS
15	326	Got You		Nice pet image – hard to resist a cute fluffy kitten with bright blue eyes. Good control of depth of field – good exposure and colours, other kitten in background is a distraction.
16	866	Grantville Sunset	HC	Lovely image with great colours. Here the central position of the jetty works well. Shot at the exact right moment to produce great colours and reflections.
17	399	grey shrike-thrush		Well captured image of this little bird. Nice catchlight in the eye of the bird. The bright timber perch is the brightest part of the image and would recommend toning it down in Lightroom or similar.

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18	361	laac Posing	C	This cat has spectacular presence and the viewers' eye is led straight to the eyes of Isaac. The maker did well to ensure the background of this image is totally devoid of any distractions. This image is totally about Isaac, and to increase impact I would suggest slight crop top and left.
19	326	Inquisitive	C	Cute kitten and the expression well captured. I would suggest a 'portrait' crop to reduce the impact of the large dark object at the right edge and some darkening of the bright cushion behind the main subject.
20	641	Just Landed	HC	Very dynamic image of the pelican. The landing pose of is great as is the exposure and the colour. Slight blur in the wings suggests movement. Good PP work to isolate the central subject.
21	866	Kilcunda Sunrise	C	Spectacular sunrise featuring dramatic colours and an interesting sky. Exposure is great and the use of a slow shutter speed has smoothed the surface of the ocean – well done.
22	377	Meerkat		Well exposed image of this cheeky fellow. Maker has captured an interesting pose and there is good contact between the camera and the subject. Good exposure and DOF. Suggest a vignette to darken the edge of the image slightly to keep the viewer's eye in the image.
23	770	nice_view		Nice compositional idea to frame the outside view with the window and the foreground silhouettes. The image looks slightly overexposed by about ½ stop. A slightly different point of view would eliminate the edge of the building protruding on LHS
24	869	Fashion Fatigue (NOVICE)	C	The combination of the model, an interesting pose and the brightly coloured background work together to produce an interesting image. The shadows

				falling on the model's face, usually a negative, in this case add to the vibe of the image. Would try a slight reduction in exposure.
25	869	Home Port (NOVICE)		The maker here has effectively captured fore, middle and background in this image. In this case though the camera has focused on the foreground and the limitations of DOF has caused the boats to be slightly soft. Also, the foreground is bright compared to the rest of the image and holds the viewer's attention.
26	863	dancing_clouds (NOVICE)		Well exposed landscape with an interesting sky. A strong central subject is needed to engage the viewer's attention.
27	863	fishing_boats (NOVICE)		A nicely composed and interesting scene. The sky suggests a fairly bright day but overall the image looks like it was taken on a dull day. Suggest increasing exposure in PP by ½ to ¾ stop. Always check edges for objects 'cut off'. Here a slight camera movement would have included all the boat on the LHS
28	863	silhouette sunset (NOVICE)		Nice panorama with dramatic sky and colours. The silhouetted trees work well but suggest some tightening of the composition by cropping the left side to eliminate the small tree, and the right side to eliminate the large tree poking in from the right edge.
29	863	uber_eats (NOVICE)		I loved the humorous element of the frogs looking in the window. The main issue here is one of focus or camera movement. The image lacks sharpness throughout.
30	487	OOPs		Love the pose and the expression. The image is sharp and well exposed. Would suggest a slight crop to create an aspect ration of 2:3 -also a slight increase in exposure and contrast.
31	862	PatchewollockPlain		Simple effective image, well exposed and sharp. Sky is featureless. Would suggest photographing again on a cloudier day.
32	862	PatchewollockPump	C	This is a strong and evocative image. It tells the story of abandonment. Love the stark colours and the dark ominous sky. I like the muted colours.

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33	862	PatchewollockSiloArt		Silos captured at golden hour producing great light and enhancing the art work. The darker building to the right produces an effective contrast to the silo. Would suggest cloning out the power lines. The image also has a slight amount of 'digital noise', probably caused by high ISO. I note the shutter speed was 1/000sec and aperture f11. Plenty of room to reduce the ISO. The use of a short focal length has created converging verticals on the buildings which contrast with the slope in the terrain. Chromatic aberration around the dark building can be removed in LR
34	862	PatchewollockStore		Another image to catch the 'former glory' of this rural town. The image is slightly soft, and would be improved with a wider lens or stepping back to create more space around the buildings.
35	399	perching		Interesting shot of the birds perching on the yacht. I can imagine the cleanup job on the boat. The second yacht in the background is somewhat distracting and could have been eliminated by moving the camera a few meters to the right.
36	377	Playing the Banjo		Musicians generally make great subjects, and here the look of concentration on the performer's face draws the viewer in. There are however two issues here. First the image has lots of digital noise which is quite intrusive, and secondly the microphone stands in front of the performer are quite distracting.
37	361	Poppies		Photographing flowers well is surprisingly difficult. There are three main challenges – first the composition or the placing of the flowers in the frame is important. Second, effective lighting will have a significant impact and third, because the camera is so close it is hard to get an adequate depth of field. In this image, two of the poppies are turned away from the camera and the lighting is quite uneven, leaving dark spots. The one bloom facing the camera is not quite sharp. Generally focus stacking is required for this type of shot

				unless all the flowers are in the same focal plane. Use of the dark background is effective.
38	326	Rag doll kitten		Well exposed portrait of the kitten. Good control of DOF isolates the subject well. Love the colours and the contrast between blue eyes and brown tones. Take care to ensure sharp focus on fur and eyes. Would like to see a bit more space to the left of the cat's head.
39	377	Round the bend		The motion of the cyclist taking the corner has been well captured. A fast shutter speed has frozen the motion well. The image is well suited to the black and white treatment. Not sure what filter was applied in post processing and I suspect it might have been a better image without it. Matter of taste.
40	476	Squawking		Well captured and sharp image of the gull. Good control of DOF to blur the background. Animal photos are always better when they capture a 'behaviour' and here the squawking motion creates a more interesting image.
41	641	Surfer Joe		Good action shot. The fast shutter (1/1600 sec) has frozen the action of both the surfer and the water. A bit more space to the left of the surfer would create a more balanced image as would a POV which showed the front and the face of the surfer
42	431	The_Unsettled_Sea		Nicely composed image – the mist over the sea and foreground creates great soft light and colours.
43	770	tranquility		Nice composition and warm light combine to produce an attractive image. Did well to get a large depth of field from foreground to background.
44	447	Unknown Flower Bud		Well lit macro shot. Did well to achieve good sharpness throughout. Hope the maker had a chance to photograph again as the flower opened revealing the internal details. Dark background effective.
45	447	Waiting For A Feed	HC	Well shot image of the pelicans. Arrangement of the two subjects creates an interesting composition. Good lighting and DOF has created great colours and textures
46	487	Waiting to Go		Nice image with a story. Well exposed and sharp and an interesting combination of the large locomotive and the tiny human.

47	377	wasp	C	Good macro image. Maker did well to get adequate DOF of the main subject. Suggest a little PP to slightly increase the exposure on the insect.
48	326	What are You Doing		Another image of this cute kitten. In this case the image is not quite sharp. The eyes particularly need to be razor sharp. Also the red area to the left draws the eyes away from the subject.

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49	866	Yacht Ramp Old Wood S		Potentially interesting image but the zone of sharp focus is very limited. As the aperture on the camera was set to f13, I assume the maker has applied some post processing to create blur in the foreground and background. Would be a better image with the wooden object in the foreground being sharp.
50				
51				