

Phillip Island Monthly Club Competition – Judge Feedback for - Jan 2022 - Subject – OPEN - Judge - Theo

*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 big family	C	Nice capture of this family of ducks. Image is sharp and well exposed. Nice catchlights in the eyes. I like the fact that the two ducks are looking in opposite directions.
2	770	After the rain		Nice colours with the gum flowers contrasting well with the leaves. Rain adds another level of interest. As it stands all the interest in this image is in the bottom right hand quarter, and I would recommend cropping in on this area. The honeyeater and the flowers would have been the basis for a great shot if the camera was lowered and zoomed in.
3	487	Bird of Paradise		This interesting flower has been photographed in a way that simplifies both the colours and composition. Don't know the process used but it has produced an image which is also an abstraction of the original subject. Interesting treatment but I think a more traditional capture of this beautiful flower would have worked better.
4	399	Bottlebrush rainbow	HC	Classic capture of this iconic Australian native – the bird and the bottlebrush. Sharp and well exposed and the diagonal branch is the basis for a sound composition. The featureless sky ensures there is nothing distracting from this nice image.
5	431	Christmas Fairy	C	Well captured image of the little girl who is a great subject. The smile is priceless. As it stands this is a great family photo. To elevate it to the next level requires attention to the background which is somewhat distracting at the moment. Isolating the subject by cropping the boxes to the right and a vignette would achieve this.
6	770	Churchill beach		There are several ingredients of an interesting image here. The interesting vegetation and the rocks and branches in the foreground combined with what I imagine was great light would certainly provide photo opportunities. From a composition point of view I think a move to the left and concentrating on the contrast between the foreground and the trees would have produced a more balanced composition. Finally the colours look oversaturated to me.

7	862	Devils marbles NT	C	Beautiful light behind the silhouetted rocks has produced a very moody image. Compositionally I think this is one of those examples where there is a better image within the one presented here. I found that applying a 2:3 (portrait) crop placing the rock on the left and bottom third intersection produced quite a dramatic image.
8	601	Beautiful old brick house	HC	Sharp and well exposed image. Shooting building to expose both the front and the side of a building is a good composition technique. Here the vantage point allows the inclusion of the fence which has strengthened the composition. Just enough interest in the sky and very good mono conversion.
9	601	Drying out	HC	The subject has been beautifully captured here. Simple profile pose works well, and I like the detail in the eye. The background is relatively simple, and the muted, warm colours work well. Exposure and focus well managed. Beautiful image.
10	601	Reflections	C	Beautiful delicate image. Still water has allowed the sky and the reeds to be reflected perfectly. Great light has produced wonderful colours. Very simple effective image.
11	601	Tranquillity		This image is well composed with an interesting foreground provided by the rocks leading to the river beyond. Image is a bit flat in terms of dynamic range and colour – try an increase in both contrast and saturation
12	866	Fishing boats	C	Beautiful light to capture this tranquil maritime image. Exposure is great producing vivid colours. The still water has allowed great reflections to be captured. Interesting sky has added impact to the image.
13	770	Gorgeous gumnut		This closeup image of the gumnut has captured some beautiful detail. Very shallow depth of field has blurred the background and a fair bit of the subject. Slightly smaller aperture would have rendered more of the subject in focus. The crop here is very tight – a bit more room around the subject would improve the image.
14	641	Ground beetle		Regardless of the actual position of the beetle, the composition works much better if the image is rotated 90 deg clockwise, which would then have the insect climbing up the stalk. Try it. Here the camera's auto focus has chosen to focus on the stalk in the bottom right hand corner, which has resulted in the

			subject itself being out of focus. I've found with close up images like this it is important to use spot focus and to ensure the focus is on the head and eye.
15	487	Hanging on	C Here the beautiful bird feeding on the flower has been very well captured. Exposure is spot on and the bird and the flower are pin sharp – well done. The bright areas in the background are distracting. As a minimum I would suggest adding a vignette and it would not be too difficult to darken these areas in PS.

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16	431	Kakadu dawn		Beautiful light in this image has created beautiful colours, particularly in the sky which is then reflected in the water. A strong central subject is needed to create more viewer interest.
17	862	Kings Canyon NT		I like the composition here and the interesting sky and the figure in the foreground both contribute to that. Two issue to watch here – first the image is not really sharp and second the colours are oversaturated giving the image a slightly unreal feel.
18	487	Lavender Garden	C	Seeing this is an open competition, anything is fair game and here the maker has used a post processing technique to produce a very interesting image. The clean lines and limited colour palette have created a simple but elegant image. Well done.
19	875	Lochsport	HC	Here the maker has managed to render a beautiful image under difficult circumstances. The challenge was to capture the beautiful sky, to render the trees as silhouettes and yet retain some detail in the foreground. Love the colours in the water and overall composition. Well done
20	326	Mauve rose bud		Flowers are a great subject to develop photography skills. They are readily available, and they don't move much which provides an opportunity to

			experiment with camera settings and lighting. This rose is a beautiful colour and it has been photographed in soft light. However the image is not quite sharp where it needs to be. I think the camera on autofocus has chosen the very left edge whereas ideally the centre of the photo should be sharp. Also suggest darkening some of the brighter areas in the background.
21	876	Misty morning	HC The wonderful light and the fog have combined with the landscape to produce a beautiful image. Great sky too. I found that increasing the exposure by about ½ stop made the image really pop – give it a try and enter it in a landscape comp.
22	866	Moonshine over Woolamai	C Wonderful moonlit scene. I like the interesting sky and the reflected moonlight on the water and the foreground, City lights in the background also add interest. I would suggest an increase in exposure of 1 full stop but watch you don't blow out the moon.
23	876	Morning magic	C Beautiful morning light has created a wonderful sky which in turn is reflected in the water. Technically fine but the image needs a point of interest to hold the viewers' interest.
24	431	Newhaven Koala	C The koala has been well captured because it appears to be in motion which is always more interesting than static animal images. Exposure and focus are both great and I love the catchlight in the eye. The sky in the background is a bit distracting. With the new masking tools in LR this is easily adjusted.
25	876	Nothing else matters	C Well taken street image and black and white works well here. Well exposed and sharp. Would like to have seen the camera raised slight to create more room above the heads. This could also be achieved using a Content Aware crop in PS. The floor tiles in the foreground really add to the composition.
26	875	On the prowl	C Beautiful capture of this predator in action. Only way to improve this image would be a more interesting sky.
27	326	Pansies	C Good image of these attractive flowers. Well exposed creating great colours. Suggest darkening the out of focus flower in the background.

28	447	PRINT – Chinese lantern	C	Another interesting flower. Well captured here – good exposure and sharp focus. Great colours. Suggest applying a vignette to darken the background details and also found the image was more effective if rotated 180 deg.
29	447	PRINT – Corinella foreshore ferry terminal		This image is well exposed and the maker has achieved good depth of field. I think this image should have been part of a larger image where the row of posts provide a leading line to a point of interest beyond.
30	869	PRINT – Kilcunda Sunrise	HC	Beautiful capture of this well known landmark. Gorgeous colours in the sky add a glow to the foreground rocks and the water. Exposure is spot on and focus and depth of field are both excellent.

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31	869	PRINT – Kilcunda Trestle bridge	C	Good depth of field achieved here through use of a small aperture. Interesting colours in the foreground and a hint of colour in the sky. Main issue here is the image is not level creating leaning verticals. When there is a large horizontal object in the image, such as the bridge here, it is important to get it level either in camera or in post.
32	641	Rainbow bee eaters		This image was captured with a long telephoto lens. Capturing the bird with wings extended is well done, but the image is quite blurry probably due to camera movement. With an equivalent focal length of 900mm the shutter speed needs to be 1/1000 second or shorter.
33	326	Redyellow rose		Well exposed and sharp. As the flowers are pointing downward a lower point of view and pointing the camera up into the blooms would have improved the composition and eliminated more of the background which competes for attention.
34	770	Rock pool		The interesting colours and patterns in the rock here have produced an almost abstract image. I found the colours somewhat over saturated and would also suggest a reduction in contrast. The patterns in the rocks contain a lot of detail which is not quite captured here as the image is actually quite soft.
35	876	Salt lake sunrise	HC	Beautiful tranquil scene. The orange in the sky and the mauve tones in the water combined with the placid surface of the water have created a beautiful scene here. The leading lines produced in the water are very effective, and are made more prominent with a 20% crop from the left and a slight crop from the top creating a standard 3:2 aspect ratio.
36	326	St Andrews cross spider		The image of the spider is well exposed rendering good colour in the insect. Although there is a hint of a web, the bright background has almost obscured it. There is a lot of negative space in this image – a ‘portrait’ crop would correct this. Close up and macro images of critters need to be pin sharp. Here

				the camera has focused on the lower left arm of the cross leaving the spider a bit soft.
37	431	The secret	HC	Lovely image of the girls sharing a secret. Beautiful soft light suits the subject. Couple of suggestions – cropping in a bit more produces a feeling the viewer is sharing the secret and applying a fairly strong vignette further enhances this feeling. Both also eliminate some of the distracting background. In terms of timing the shot it would be great if we could see just a little more of the face of the girl at the back. Lovely image.
38	866	Top of the Trestle	HC	Beautiful sky and great light. The trestle is a great compositional device, and I love the way the light has outlined the structure. I found that increasing the exposure by about 0.8 of a stop added a lot of impact to the image.
39	862	Towershill sentinel Qld		The wallaby is nicely posed on the rock here. I found a 'portrait' crop produced a stronger composition. The camera has focused on the rock in the foreground and on the left leg, which has left the main subject quite soft. Auto exposure has rendered the subject a bit dark probably due to the bright sky and rocks
40	399	Trenavin Chapel		Good use of a telephoto lens here to compress this scene. The image is well exposed. The image is soft probably due to camera movement.
41	487	What have you found	C	From an exposure point of view the maker of this image has done well to capture the extreme dynamic range of this scene. Depth of field has also been handled well. Compositionally the strong geometry of the jetty pylons competes with the foreground figures for the viewers' attention. There are literally two images here. I found that a 'portrait' 2x3 crop from left and top, focused more on the figures while retaining most of the interesting background.
42	862	Winton Qld	C	Quite an effective drone image. The foreground figure and the rocks lead to the vast emptiness beyond and to an interesting cloud formation. As shown by the shadow in the foreground the image is backlit and quite bright. This has led to overexposure in the clouds. Nevertheless I found that a few small LR adjustments (contrast and linear gradient over the clouds) produced a very nice travel image.

