

General Comments

Macro is defined as:

Club definition

Macro photography (or photomacrography^{[1][2]} or macrography,^[3] and sometimes macrophotography^[4]) is extreme [close-up](#) photography, usually of very small subjects and living organisms like insects, in which the size of the subject in the photograph is greater than life size (though *macrophotography* also refers to the art of making very large photographs).^[5] By the original definition, a macro photograph is one in which the size of the subject on the [negative](#) or [image sensor](#) is life size or greater.^[6] In some senses, however, it refers to a finished photograph of a subject that is greater than life size.^[7]

This appears to be very similar to the definition in the APJA dictionary

- **A macro image is any image where the subject ratio is between 1:1 and 5:1 on a full frame sensor camera.**
- **A macro image is any image where the subject is between life size and five times life size, on the sensor of a full frame camera.**

Phillip Island Monthly Club Competition – Judge Feedback for - April 22 - Subject - Macro - Judge – Gary Smith

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

Sequence by Title	Member No	Title	Judge Rating	EDPI
1	447	A Stripped Fly	C	A good macro where the eyes are sharp and the exposure and lighting is well handled. Using a macro lens has created a very shallow DoF and you have nailed the focal point on the eye, the DoF does drop very quickly but this is not a problem. The image tonal range could be increased to add a visual interest to the image.
2	399	Antennae		A good macro image; I can see why you titled this as antenna; they are awesome. The diagonal placement of the insect adds strength to the image but due to the limited DoF make getting the insect sharp throughout its length. Consider adding some tonal contrast as this will enhance the viewing experience allowing you to darken the pipe, which are a distraction and brighten the insect.
3	876	Baby snail	C	Compositional this is a very good macro image. I like the minimalist composition restricting distractions, although you might consider removing the black spot. You have kept the viewers eye centred on the subject by using a brighter luminance on the snail. While the shell is reasonably sharp; the eyes are not. This I think is caused by the 1/60s shutter speed and would recommend a higher shutter speed of around 1/400s.
4	770	Baxteri bud		An interesting close up imager where the lighting and exposure have been well handled. The eye is drawn into the image by a centrally placed white stem balancing the image horizontally. You have good separation from the background by a well chosen F stop. This image however is not a macro.
5	852	Bee on a Bonnet		The subject in this image has been well isolated from its background and consequently stands out very well. I like the reflection of the bee as this provides a good horizontal balance to the image. I suspect that this bee has been cut out from another image as during the editing process chromatic aberrations have crept into the image. Try using the refine hair feature in PS when selecting an object.

6	325	Bugs		I like the concept image of 5 aphids on a rose bud; one of the aphids is clearly feeding which adds interest to the image. The large bud is nicely balanced by the smaller bokeh area. The image is out of focus and this is caused by 2 things. One, you have used F22 to try and gain a good DoF but on your camera being a crop sensor a maximum of about F13 maybe F16 is the limit before lens diffraction occurs and two the shutter speed is too slow at 5s. Try using an aperture of about F8, a shutter speed of 1/400s and an ISO of about 1500.
7	852	Busy bee		An image using a complementary colour palette of red and green. The image has no major distractions and captures the bee, in some detail, going about its daily life. The image is however a little over and under exposed. Consider bringing down the highlights on the wings, increasing the brightness of the bee's body and darkening the background. Also consider cropping to place the bee on the thirds line.
8	876	Butterfly	HC	A nice macro of the butterfly showing good detail, being reasonable sharp and well exposed. I like the diagonal placement of the insect and leaf on the diagonal creating a strong image. While the insect is sharp around the eye and lower wing, the fine hairs and wing tips are blurred causing a distraction within the image. This I think was caused by the 1/60s shutter speed and suggest that a 1/400s would have given you a sharper image.
9	326	Cape weed		A pleasant floral image with well controlled exposure and sharpness. I like your placement of the subject on the thirds line to give greater prominence to the flower. I think the image is just slightly over exposed as you have some blown out highlights in the yellow petals. Consider reducing the exposure and editing to bring the colour back into the subjects. This image however is not a macro.
10	447	Close up blow fly	HC	Stunning image of a blowfly. The image is tack sharp where it needs to be and the square format helps to highlight the subject. Consider re-cropping the image to make the subject more balanced and central using the square cropping. For inspiration have a look at Alberto Panizza's images.
11	877	Daisy		A good almost abstract image using backlighting to create an attractive patterned image. The square format works well to balance the image and I like the juxtaposition of the straight contrasty pattern with the circular structured

				organic nodules. Consider lowering the exposure or highlights a little to bring back some of the detail in the petals and lift the stamin luminosity.
12	866	Damsel fly	HC	An extremely good macro image that really highlights the shallow DoF for a macro lens. The image is sharp around the eye and head but falls off slightly around the tip of the insect caused by the shallow DoF. Illumination has been well handled with the use of a ring flash. Compositionally the image is balanced between the light and dark areas and the subject has been placed so the eye falls on the Fibonacci point and the framing as a panoramic image helps to ensure the viewer travels in a horizontal direction.
13	377	Diuris corymbosa		A lovely botanical image of the common donkey orchid where the exposure, lighting, DoF and sharpness have ben well handled. When editing watch out for chromatic aberrations and sharpening halos; here I think you have globally sharpened the image as the blurring in the background shows signs of over sharpening by the noise that is being created. This image however falls outside the subject definition of macro.
14	377	Dragon fly		In this image you have some really nice texture in the wings and thorax of the dragonfly including thew eyes. The horizontal placement works well although I fine the pink flower to be over exposed and consequently provides a distraction in the image. I suspect the dragonfly was not perpendicular to the sensor as the tail of the insect is loosing focus. Watch out for details when editing as there is a black band at the top of the image.
15	869	Dragon fly	C	This is a well seen and captured image of a dragonfly. The central placement works well with the square format of the image. You have capture some fine detail in the wings though I find the tomato leaves are a little over exposed; I see that you have pulled the highlights back a long way but they can be pulled back a little more along with the exposure to eliminate the very bright leaf. I think the problem has been caused by the auto exposure mode and matrix metering mode trying to over compensate for the darker background.

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Sequence by Title	Member No	Title	Judge Rating	
16	866	Dragon fly on birch		You have done well to capture a fine image of the dragonfly using a 600mm lens. Notice the very shallow DoF of maybe 20mm. The exposure has ben well handled and you have manage to get perpendicular to the insect. Consider pulling the highlights and exposure back a little to minimise the bright areas behind the insect.
17	876	Drink up		An interesting macro capturing the fly doing something unusual. You have placed the fly in a strong position within the image and have a reasonable exposure for the image. I like the simplicity and the minimalist nature of the image. The vignette work to retain the viewers eye in the image, however the image is not sharp anywhere; this is caused by the slow shutter speed of 1/60s and suggest that a shutter speed fo around 1/400s would have been better.
18	601	What do you see		An interesting image that I think you want the main subject to be hidden or difficult to find. The small spider blends very well with the other hairs within the image. The white hairs are over exposed and I suggest that if you pull the highlight slider back you will recover the detail within this area. Consider cropping the top of the image to create a more abstract background.
19	601	Yellow		A good floral image that I think is using an off camera flash to create a side light for the flower and a dark background created by exposing for the flower. I like the position within the frame as the leaves and flower nicely balance the black background. I think the flash is a bit strong causing the image to be flat, also consider using a reflector to add a little light into the stamin to bring out some of its detail.
20	866	Fly		In this image you have placed the subject nicely off centre and diagonal both of which add interest and provides a strong image. The warm golden colour of the insect blends well with the cooler palette of the plant in the background. When taking this image you have used auto exposure mode on the evaluative setting, this has done 2 things; the evaluative setting tries to balance the exposure across the entire image resulting in some very dark areas and some

			over exposed areas; and 2 it has set the aperture to give you an ultra-small DoF of about 5 – 7 mm. To gain more DoF you need an aperture of about F8 or 9 depending on how close you are to the subject.
21	326	From the garden	Compositionally you have placed the subject in a strong position within the image and the complementary colours of the red flower works well with the green background. I suspect that this image may have been cropped from a larger image as it is severely pixelated. This image falls outside the subject definition of macro.
22	326	Fuschia	A beautifully subtle image using the warm pink tones in an almost monochromatic image. The geometric under-texture helps to highlights the painted feel to the background which highlights and compliments the organic structure of the flowers. I think the placement and orientation of the flowers and image frame is spot on. I know its an artistic decision but consider darkening the background a little as I think this makes the flowers stand out more and creates more dynamism in the background. However this falls outside the subject definition of macro.
23	326	Geranium	A lovely creative floral image using a warm palette against a complimentary cool background. The crop is too close to allow the subject to breath and this creates a tension in the image, unless this is the artistic choice. The flower has a halo around it which is distracting and I think should be removed. Have a look at the work of Hitesh Durgani or Cheryl Grepper. However this falls outside the subject definition of macro.
24	447	Green eyed insect	You have a great connection with the insect, which is sharp where it needs to be. There is enough detail in the background to add context to the image. The green of the leaf is reflected in the insects eyes. This image is currently a 3:2 ratio and your camera is a 4:3 ratio so I suspect that you have a little room to play with. Consider re-cropping the image a little larger moving the insect into a power position and placing a slight vignette around the image.
25	377	Grub	The use of the flash has allowed you to completely eliminate the background so removing any distractions and creating a vibrant image centred clearly on the caterpillar. The diagonal placement of the subject also adds strength to the image. Consider allowing more room at the bottom of the image for your subject. When moving close to a subject, as in macro photography, DoF

				becomes very short so it imperative that you try to have the camera sensor parallel to the subject plane.
26	877	High flyer		A simplistic image separating the subject from the background using a shallow DoF. The square format allows for the central placement of the subject allowing it to dominate the image. You have some great texture in the wings and the eye is sharp but it is looking away from the camera, making the tail a prominent feature which is out of focus but dominates the image. I would suggest that an F stop of around 11 would have given you a better DoF.
27	399	kiwi		An almost abstract image show a small portion of the fruit. This is a popular genre that can have stunning results, have a look at Jon Brueske's work. In this image the basic camera technique is fine with the exposure, sharpness and frame of the image being well handle. In the editing I think you need to drop the highlight, thus getting rid of the over bright spots on the pips and bring up the contrast and clarity to bring out more of the texture in the fruit. Consider backlighting the fruit to give you a different look.
28	431	Lady bugs		The good use of negative space has created a beautifully balanced image with the subject placed centrally. The image is generally well exposed, although Lady Bugs are difficult to photograph as they have a shinny body which causes the flash to bounce off and over expose point on their bodies. Areas of the leaf are tack sharp as is the back of the larger bug and the head of the smaller bug. For these photos you need either to ensure you have a parallel plane or a greater DoF.
29	876	Leaf curler	HC	A good macro showing the spider at work. The image has a good DoF and is sharp where it needs to be. I like the illumination difference within the image as this provides some visual drama and adds interest to the image. Consider brightening the spiders face to draw attention to your subject.
30	361	Lions tail pod		A good botanical study where exposure and the technical aspects have been well handled. The diagonal placement of the subject adds interest to the image as does the black background, although on a standard monitor it is not black but has some distracting splotches; you need to consider how your image is going to be displayed. Consider cropping to a square format as this will allow you to remove the distraction at the top and create a more balance image. However this falls outside the subject definition of macro.

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31	361	Lions tail Bud		Another good botanical study where the exposure has been well handled as has the technical aspects. Compositionally this is a very good image although I would suggest a slightly greater DoF to have all of the leaves in focus. When choosing plants to photograph always choose specimens that do not have blemishes or correct them via editing. However this falls outside the subject definition of macro.
32	869	Lotus head		Another good botanical image, although about ½ stop over exposed; the image has interest generated by the placement of the subject and the connect created by a good DoF. Consider lifting the shadows slightly underneath the seed head and remove the spot on the top leaf. However this falls outside the subject definition of macro.
33	361	Macro Poppy		An unusual flower study, an area that is not often thought about but can be just as beautiful and colourful as the front of the flower. I like your diagonal placemen to the subject and the colour palette placement from the cool blues through to the warm yellows and back to the cooler tones. The dark background ensures the subject is isolated and the lighting and technical details have ben handled although I would like to have seen a greater DoF for this image. This image I feel falls into the borderline of macro so I will pass the image as macro.
34	431	Making a point		The concept of this image shows plenty of imagination from the maker and I think you should explore this idea further. The exposure, sharpness and DoF have been executed well. This can be a very strong image if you crop the image to panoramic, eliminating the sides of the box and then sharpening the image.
35	431	Match up	C	Great conceptual image using a very simple subject and a great example of the effect of a shallow DoF despite an F11 aperture on a macro lens. The subjects standout as they are the only objects in focus but this is what the

			artist intended. The diagonal placement and Gestalt pattern add both strength and interest to the image. Your use of the negative space balances the image very well. Consider increasing the brightness of the two in focus match heads to make them visually different from the surrounding matches.
36	325	More bugs	An image conveying as simple story of the aphids on rosebud. The side lighting has been well used and exposed for; and you compositional placement of the subject within the frame has been carefully considered to isolate the subject. Technically the aperture of F22 is too high for this camera resulting in the image suffering lens diffraction causing loss of sharpness and the shutter speed is too long allowing the subject to move slightly further degrading the sharpness.
37	877	Munchers	It's hard enough to get an image of one grasshopper, so well done on scoring three. You have composed this image top tell a story with the inclusion of the chewed leaf and the main subjects comprising an od number. The image I think is about 1 stop over exposed. I like the use of the vignette to hold the viewers attention. The image however is not in focus and I'm not sure what has caused this; was your camera set to macro mode in which case the focal distance is about 1cm or was it set to Telephoto in which case the focal range is 2m and you were to close to the subjects.
38	770	New season	A good botanical image with plenty of foreground interest where the side lighting enhances the structure and texture of the fruit. The rule of odds has been well used here and the diagonal placement of the subjects within the frame adds further interest. Consider reducing the highlights to bring back more of the detail within the light areas on the fruit and either clone out or use a vignette to minimise the bright foreground spot. . However this image falls outside the subject definition of macro.
39	881	NOVICE_Macro 1_881_April 22	A very good floral image where your background choice complements your subject colour palette. Ass this is a still life your shallow DoF means that you could not get the stamin sharp. Consider trying to use focus stacking in these situations. However you have captured some fine detail in the flower petals; consider decreasing the highlights, increasing the contrast and adding a vignette to grab more attention for your subject. However this image falls outside the subject definition of macro.

40	881	NOVICE_Macro 2_881_April 22	<p>You have done well to isolate the subject from the background by looking for an angle to minimise distractions and so have created a pleasing composition. In addition the structural geometric background elements complement the subjects organic nature further enhancing the image. When starting out camera technique can be a mystery and we tend to use auto everything, here the evaluative auto mode has tried to even out the exposure between the dark areas of the fence and the bright flowers and has consequently over exposed the flowers. Try using manual or the semi automatic mode of aperture priority to control exposure And use spot metering to expose just for your subject. However this image falls outside the subject definition of macro.</p>
41	881	NOVICE_Macro 3_881_April 22	<p>This image has ben shot from an interesting perspective against the clear blue sky; as a consequence the warm yellow tones of the flower complement the cooler blue tones of the sky. Take a look at a colour wheel and you will observe that they are opposite colours and can produce exciting images. Most novice photographers place the subject in the middle of the view finder. I suggest that you explore compositional framing such as the rule of thirds. In this image consider cropping the left side of the image to make more of the complimentary colours. However this image falls outside the subject definition of macro.</p>
42	881	NOVICE_red flowers_881_Macro_april 22	<p>Another image shot against a clear blue sky using a complimentary colour palette and an interesting perspective. As Ansel Adams said “You don’t take a good photograph, your make one”. This means that editing is part of the image making process and that means considering the viewer and removing things that might distract the viewers attention from where you want it to be. In this image I would sugest cropping the bottom to remove the distraction there, cloning out the very bright spots and cropping out the red flower in the top left. However this image falls outside the subject definition of macro.</p>
43	787	Pink	<p>HC</p> <p>A very good floral abstract that has been well executed using a good DoF and is nicely exposed throughout the image. It has been well edited and framed with the subject placed in the right lower corner and the subdued pink stalks flowing in a diagonal upward direction. If there is anything to suggest in this image it might be to clone the bit in the top right, otherwise this is an image that I can see on the lounge room wall.</p>

44	852	Pollinating	C	<p>Normally image from the rear do not work and are often downgrade by judges; but in this case I think this image works very well as it tells the story of what the bee is all about. The image is well exposed within the flower and around the bee, although the bright spots are distracting but can be minimised by reducing the highlights and adding a vignette. The bee and flower could be a little sharper and I suggest that a shutter speed of around 1/400s would be better for this image. However this image falls outside the subject definition of macro.</p>
45	863	Pretty in Pink		<p>A floral image utilising the complimentary colours of the red flower and green background to highlight the subject which is separated from the background by a good choice of aperture. The subject has been placed centrally in the image frame, consider cropping this to a square format for a more balanced image. The image is soft throughout and without the metadata I cannot give specific advice on possible causes.</p>

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46	601	Print_Leaf curl spider		A nicely proportioned image of a leaf curl spider going about its business. The image has a well defined subject separated by the blurred background and using a simple image construction. I like the burning that is evident in the bottom of the image as this helps to control the viewers eye. The image is soft throughout and without the metadata I cannot give specific advice on possible causes.
47	601	Print_Robber		An image of a dandelion seed head that has been centrally presented in square format well balanced image with a black background. The maker has used a large DoF to produce an image that is unusual for this subject matter and showing the seed heads still attached. I suggest that editing has been a little over done as some of the seeds have a bluish tinge to them that looks unnatural, so consider looking at the white balance or colour balance of the image.
48	399	Print_Banksia	HC	A good abstract image using diagonal gestalt patterns to create an image with strong interest and overall appeal. The image is sharp and well exposed with a pleasing calming colour palette. Consider increasing the contrast a little to enhance the colour and bring more of the rich golden colour.
49	399	Print_Busy	C	A good bee image taken from the right angle to show the bee feeding and collecting pollen. The image is well balanced with a good use of negative and positive space. The bee could be a little sharper and the can be done in editing but only sharpen the bee, if you do a global sharpen you will enhance the noise in the background.
50	361	Radiccio flower		What a nice floral image where the subject stands out using the bright advancing blue colour placed on the thirds line set against a muted out of focus background. The whole is set off by good lighting and a dark

				background. This is a very good image but it does fall outside the subject macro definition.
51	877	Rat tail cactus		An interesting image that has great potential as an abstract image. The composition of the image is well done with the main subject being placed in the lower right corner and the rest of the image having a descending diagonal aspect. The DoF is very shallow causing most of the image to be soft and the red colour has bleed. This image has some pleasing colour variation so consider applying something like a Gaussian blur and turning this into an abstract.
52	770	So exquisite		I agree the image has been created using the cool colour palette of the green and blue spectrum and is a good demonstration of the Fibonacci spiral. The image is well exposed and sharp where it needs to be. Consider adding some visual interest by creating a tonal difference across the image possibly using a vignette.
53	431	Spring shower	HC	Love the concept of this simple image using a monochrome palette. The subject stand out from the muted grey background and the rain drops add drama to an otherwise dull image. The tonal difference across the image adds to the drama created by the rain. Consider cropping the left hand side to bring the onto the thirds line or the Fibonacci power point.
54	863	Stinkhorn mushroom		An interesting image. It is something that Peter Dombrovskis would have taken. The narrow cropping of the image works well to highlight the vertical nature of the subject and force the viewer to look vertically through the image. Whilst the background is blurred enough to provide context it also separates the from the subject. I suspect that the fungus was leaning toward the rear as the leaf and lower part of the fungus a sharp by the sharpness lessens as you approach the top where the fly's are. Consider using a greater DoF. This image also falls outside the subject definition.
55	863	Stinky toadies		What is a group of stinkhorn fungus called? I like the low shoot perspective that you have used in this image as it gives a more intimate view of the fungus. The DoF is very shallow and the focal plane disappears at the fungus. Consider using a smaller aperture. This image also falls outside the subject definition.

56	770	Susara		A pleasant floral image of a Protea using as warm pink palette against a colour green background. The subject has been well separated from the busy background. The tonal range of the image is limited and to make the image pop a little more consider increasing the contrast and add some dodging to create a visual difference. This image also falls outside the subject definition.
57	852	The moth	HC	A beautiful study of a moth using an analogous coloured background against a complementary foreground. The shutter speed used has enabled you to get a sharp image with both the foreground and the eye of the moth sharp. A better choice of aperture would have been F13 to get a greater DoF to capture the entire moth in sharp detail.
58	377	Thelymitra xtruncata		A beautifully presented and photographed artistic floral image where you have created interest by adding a tonal variation in the background making the subject stand out. The blurring of the petals adds an artistic flare to the image. I suggest dropping the highlights down to bring back detail in the white column. Consider using the Orton effect to enhance the detail and create an even more dynamic image. The Native Orchid Society of South Australia has a monthly photo competition and I suggest you consider entering this image. This image also falls outside the subject definition.
59	866	UFO on Rose		An interesting image where you have a dark insect juxtaposed against a lighter warm sensuous background. The leading lines of the rose petals all lead the viewer to the insect, however the large bright area in the top right tends to draw the eye away from the insect. Consider what you want to highlight and edit accordingly, for instance if it is the insect then I suggest either a vignette or dodging the corners to bring the insect to the fore.
60	325	Xmas tree		I like the diagonal placement of the subject within the frame and the use of a plain background to highlight the subject. You need to be careful with such as small DoF as most of the image is out of focus. The background being a graduated grey has suffered from banding and needs to be corrected. This image also falls outside the subject definition.