



Making photography fun

Phillip Island Monthly Club Competition Judge Feedback for May/June 2022 Subject OPEN

Judges: Alan and Marg Lacey.

Alan's comments are first, followed by Marg's (in italics). Comments are a compilation of written comments the judges provided along with comments provided at the meeting on 6th June.

Sequence	Member number	Title	Judge rating	Comments
1	487	Fishing boats, Coffs Harbour	C	Colours are great, image fills the frame, nice reflections. <i>I like the soft reflections and colours. Very pleasant image.</i>
2	487	Golden sunset	C	Difficult backlighting. Good recession. It is difficult to do this. <i>Very unusual and original. Loved the recession and feeling this image creates.</i>
3	487	Grass reeds	HC	This image has good possibilities – it could be divided into several parts to form different images. There's good saturation of colour. The side lighting provides good contrast. <i>I like the soft grass against rugged background. However, the image could do with some cropping.</i>
4	487	Let's have some fun		What is the subject here? The dogs or the child? Suggest that the maker could just focus on the dogs. <i>Fun holiday image.</i>
5	870	Aware		It's unusual to have this amount of vignette. Vignette emphasizes the animals. Log in foreground could be removed; not sure of its purpose. Image is not that sharp. However, it is original. <i>Well titled, very original. I like the position of the framing. I prefer the image with the log in the foreground.</i>
6	399	Bath time	HC	Well seen, I like that the drops of water appear to be frozen; you've used a suitable shutter speed. The picture says it all.

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				Personally, I'd prefer to see the front of the bird. <i>Very attractive image. I love the water droplets and the position of the bird's head.</i>
7	431	Bent wire bicycle	C	Good contrast in this black and white image. You have chosen an unusual subject. It's a good record shot. <i>Original and different.</i>
8	863	Big skys		There's too much sea in the foreground. More contrast is needed in the cloud. Image would benefit from cropping particularly on the right-hand side. <i>Beautiful cloud and reflection. You could create a wow effect if this was a portrait shot.</i>
9	863	Bird perch		Suggest you fill frame with the subject; the bird perch is so small that it gets lost in its surroundings and is hard to see. Good sky. This image has good potential. <i>Love the sky – bird perch larger on the left.</i>
10	870	Birds		Fill frame with subject (birds) as the cows bottoms tend to dominate this image. This should be done in the viewfinder. Good sky gradation. <i>Nice contrast of colours. Zoom in on birds.</i>
11	325	Coast		There doesn't seem to be a focal point in this image. Good recession. <i>Great soft recession. More contrast in the sky/clouds needed as it's a bit bland. This image could be cropped for a focal point.</i>
12	377	Dahlia	C	Well seen. There's a black dot on the petal that could be removed through editing. <i>Very well done.</i>
13	431	Dinghy dock		A tighter portrait crop is needed. <i>I like the reflections. A tighter crop around the dinghy may benefit this image.</i>
14	881	Distance		It's unfortunate that there's a sloping horizon in this image. Would suggest you take a look through the viewfinder to ensure you are in the best position. I feel the dead flowers/stalks detract from this image. There's a loss of contrast in the background. <i>I like the contrast in the foreground of the foliage against the horizon. However, more tones in the foreground could give this image a wow factor. This image has a soft background. It could however benefit from cropping on the right-hand side to the upright foliage piece.</i>
15	866	Drops on birch		Good shot but the main branch could be on more of a slope (achieved by moving the camera). Nice orange glow; good bokeh in

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				the background, although some is a bit too bright. <i>Very original, image could be cropped and based around the three droplets on the right-hand side.</i>
16	601	Courting	C	Not sure if the subjects are courting or fighting? Image is well captured. A tighter crop may improve the image. Good bokeh. <i>Great action in flight. Well captured.</i>
17	601	Guluyambi	HC	Record shot of a peaceful scene – the subject is well framed, but is a bit too distant and nearly out of the picture, so could have a tighter crop. <i>Romantic image framing with foliage. Boat could be more in the frame.</i>
18	601	Marina		Record shot. Could be cropped more on the left-hand side of the image. Zoom in on the reflections. <i>Good recession. Nice holiday image but cropping would make it a stronger image.</i>
19	869	Forgotten Dinghies	HC	Record shot, with good reflections. This could be made into two images. The sky is a bit bland. <i>Very appealing image. The aged dinghies give the image a romantic feel.</i>
20	431	Geranium Buds	HC	Tighter crop could help this image. I like the side lighting. Good bokeh. Buds are nice and sharp. <i>Like the colour contrast - well done.</i>
21	399	Grommet	C	Figure is sharp and the splashes are well seen. This type of image is difficult to capture and a long lens would have been required. <i>Great action; foam of the water is very appealing. I like the position of the young surfer.</i>
22	884	Highland cattle		The photographer could have repositioned themselves to avoid the dark band at the top of the image. It is a good record shot, coat of the cattle is sharp. <i>Depicts the softness of the cattle's magnificent coat against the rugged horns.</i>
23	447	Huntsman		The huntsman is on the ceiling line – well seen. In this shot all the legs are included. I compared this image with the PRINT by the photographer. (No. 46) <i>Good specimen shot placed well.</i>
24	870	I see you	C	Well titled – shows an intimacy with the subject. <i>Great title, makes me smile. Shows personality.</i>

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25	377	Karajini Gum		Cropping could be tighter and closer to the tree. Tree stands out...good colour contrast with the red cliff. <i>Good colour contrast of rock, tree and spinifex.</i>
26	884	Lawn mower racing		Converts well to B/W image. Tighten the crop. Good action in this image. <i>Very original. Image works well in black and white.</i>
27	325	Let it flow		Foreground rock is a bit out of focus. Image is a bit busy. Good depiction of a rugged bush scene. <i>Depicts the softness of the bush against the movement of the river. Very attractive.</i>
28	884	Lonely dog walker		Figure placement: walker needs to be a bit closer, shadows are quite dramatic and there's a soft moody sky. <i>Well titled, moody sky, shadows create a feeling of loneliness. I like the position of the walker.</i>
29	399	Long billed corellas		The birds are not particularly sharp and the tree could be cropped a bit. Could have stronger contrast. Birds look like they are plotting to get up to some mischief. <i>This image makes me smile. What can we get up to next? I love the light on the tree.</i>
30	870	Maintain distance		Unsure of the intention of this image. Does the art work have some sort of message about COVID? Soft busy. A thought-provoking image. Unsure whether the spacing of the cars is intentional. <i>Very original image depicting distance.</i>
31	431	Mr Fixit		Good contrast, showing possibly a clock maker or mechanic. Taking two steps to the right could eliminate the background bits and pieces. <i>Good contrast, well titled. A good portrait shot.</i>
32	866	Newhaven Marina Moonrise	HC	Well seen and well timed – soft reflections. <i>Beautiful soft light, great image. Nice placement of the moon.</i>
33	377	NM Railway sketch	C	Unusual, novel approach, bass relief, digital filter. <i>Very original.</i>
34	326	Norah Heads Lighthouse		Good record shot, nice contrasts, bland sky. <i>Like the lighthouse against the moody sky. Very interesting shot.</i>
35	881	Ocean power		Well titled, sharp back to front. Well seen action shot. <i>Good directional wave to focal point Horizon line. Could be cropped on the right side.</i>

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36	399	Old timer		RH side could be cropped. A good record of an old building. Sky is a bit bland. Consider editing out wire in the corner. <i>Very attractive image. I like the beautiful brickwork and fence posts.</i>
37	866	Old fishing boat		Could be tighter framed. Boat is too far away. <i>Very peaceful scene both sides could be cropped to enhance the image.</i>
38	787	One million stars		Highlight main interest – for example a torch could be used to light the pinnacles to better show their form. The main image doesn't jump out at you. <i>This image has potential to have the wow factor. Fascinating image but needs more light.</i>
39	325	Own website		Well seen web. The leaf bunch could be cropped out. <i>Beautiful contrasting colours. This image could be 2 pictures.</i>
40	863	Paper dasey	C	A bit of touching up could improve this image. Give attention to detail. <i>Soft contrasting colour, original.</i>
41	326	Paw Patrol Birthday		Fun record shot, busy background – take 2 steps to the left. There are sloping verticals in this image. <i>Great fun shot. Great colours.</i>
42	377	Peaceful dove		Foreshortened overall. Nothing appears to be sharp. Good background, but dove is pointing out of the picture. <i>Subtle colours in the feathers, showing blue around eye.</i>
43	876	Perfume	HC	Could have a tighter crop. Interesting background. Nice contrasting colours. I like the reflection. <i>Very original, I like the reflection and space. The background reminds me of the sea.</i>
44	361	Poppies	C	Subtle coloured flower – the background is a bit intrusive. Container could be improved – it looks like a jar. <i>Composition is great. I like the tinges of colour.</i>
45	326	Potters Hill Road Beach	C	This does not look like a beach as I can't see any sand. Shadows are a bit soft on the rugged rocks. I feel there is something wrong with the colours. <i>I like the rugged rocks and colours of sea and rocks. Foreground is very attractive.</i>
46	447	PRINT – Closeup of Huntsman	C	I feel this is a better composition than the non-print image (No. 23) even though the legs are cut off. <i>The photographer is very brave. Well done.</i>

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47	447	Everlasting Daisy	C	This image could be tidied up. The subject could be sharper. Good bokeh. <i>I like the dark background; it makes the flower pop out – highlights the daisy.</i>
48	361	Protea		Flower sharp but the cloth in the background spoils the image. Suggest use of a plain background. <i>Colour contrast and sharpness make this an attractive image. However, there needs to be a tighter crop around the subject.</i>
49	876	Rays of light	C	Tighter crop on rays in this panorama – cut in half to focus on the middle section of the image. <i>I really like the dark trees against the light sky.</i>
50	876	Roos in the mist	C	Atmospheric image. There could be a tighter crop around the roos. <i>Beautiful atmospheric image. The two roos could be a bit sharper.</i>
51	863	Sand highway		Panorama crop – too much water, doesn't add to the image. A bit too soft. Needs to be a panorama. <i>Panorama cropping of the sea would look great.</i>
52	869	Sunrise at Lakes Entrance		This image is a wee bit busy. It may work best as a portrait – warm colours – soft – rope. Sky is a bit bland. <i>Beautiful soft colour contrast – portrait cropped (on right hand side) would give this image the wow factor. Has a lot of potential.</i>
53	866	Sunset Riverdance		Eerie light. Soft record panorama – good reflections. <i>Great reflections. Very gentle, well titled. Could be cropped a bit.</i>
54	876	The Landing	C	Capturing two insects in the one image is difficult to do! However, they are a little soft – out of focus. <i>Very attractive. Hard to capture two. Well done. Great colours and composition.</i>
55	884	The old blow lamp		Record shot, blown out background – symbolic old/new. You've even captured some cobwebs. <i>Historical. I like the colours in the old blow lamp. The old blow lamp would make a good portrait on its own.</i>
56	869	View from the Sandridge Lookout		Record panorama of a cityscape – could include less of the sea and sky. <i>Great as a panorama format.</i>
57	325	Who me		A good yachty shot in motion; it is sharp. Vertical crop would enhance this image. doesn't need upper section (the land).

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				<i>Love the colours of the sails against a soft sea. Colours are beautiful. Suggest the right-hand side is cropped.</i>
58	326	Young v old		There's a missed opportunity in this image. Suggest you could have taken 2 steps to the left – tree background more out of focus. Use a much tighter crop. <i>Great title. Beautiful child against old gnarled tree trunk. Table needs to be cropped out.</i>

Definition of Open topic

This familiar topic allows members to continue developing their skills and extending the range of photographic styles that they attempt. Members may consider revisiting previous topics; re-working an earlier image, implementing acquired knowledge; trying new photographic genres; using topics of their choice; or experimenting with aspect ratios, colour or monochrome or HDR treatments. The variety produced under this topic will assist with the choice of images for VAPS.