

Phillip Island Monthly Club Competition – Judge Feedback for - August 2022 - Subject – Negative space - Judge – David Skinner

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

Sequence by Title	Member No	Title	Judge Rating	EDPI
1	431	Afternoon_Tranquility		Meets the brief well, some items take away from the neg space impact – land post bird. Try cloning out them out and see if impact improves.
2	431	And_We're_Off_		The neg space has texture and detail – that's fine in this instance as it is consistent. The subject is well spaced within. Try a pano crop, less wake
3	487	Around the Bend		The gravel edge and road are a nice LL. The posts seem to be the subject, but the general scene is in conflict with the neg space brief. Try getting closer to a post right up on a third line, make the road the neg space.
4	869	Beach fishing		The subject is obviously the fisherman. It is also obvious what the negative space is, however, there is some conflict with the bands of colour and texture within that space. A different angle would be better, moving right over to the right and have the neg space of sea, no rocks required.
5	883	Beautiful		A beautiful seascape capturing drama in the seathere is not enough interest in the subject for the negative space to draw the viewer in. Watch for level horizons
6	886	Bees 1	C	In most cases, not always, the more minimal the neg space is, the better it will highlight the subject, as it does with this image. Very difficult to get moving bees in focus, nearly but not quite, still, well done
7	431	Cocktail	C	Neg space is striking in colour and simplicity to feature the highlights of the glass with its red coloured contents. Does it need the vertical structure above the glass, probably not. It goes behind the glass and confuses the viewer.
8	377	Churchill Island sheep		Exceptionally fine detail in the subject. Some colourization in the subject sheep, or dulling down of the foreground sheep together with the v-shape formed provides the focal point. Arguably the foreground sheep provide the negative space, but is it texture and shade that provide the impact to the subject? Good use of DOF.

9	399	eggs	C	Well handled light to provide form in the subject, well placed and good choice to use a red cup. This makes the black neg space striking and draws the viewer to the subject. Well done
10	399	Flying	HC	How dose one effectively make a boring blue sky work to advantage? Take a photo of a pelican in the bottom left-hand corner from underneath, spread winged that leads us into that blue space, that's how. Try evening up the LH side with the space of the wing to match the bottom of the frame.
11	361	Glassy		Wonderful colours complimented by the black background. Good lighting to highlight form. The reflection works well, however, for a more striking image to emphasise neg space, try a little more space from a more front on angle including the top of the vase and neg space above it.
12	487	Go get em		Very good use of the golden light and sea foam to frame the subject. In this instance there is some conflict on what is negative space as the figure is pointing to the lumps of seaweed, so it is a little confusing as to what is the main subject, and whether neg space is secondary. Check for oversharpenibg with ghostly edges
13	876	Gull	C	Beautifully sharp subject where it needs to be with added interest of the action in landing, maybe take-off. Neg space done well, although it contains tecture, form and detail, it is consistent with nothing else to compete, so we are led to the subject. Panning the bird may have improved the background even more as it would be OOF and streaked
14	876	Half moon bay		The neg space is definitely represented in this image, however, we need to be led to something of interest. Here we wander along the horizon looking for it, but we aren't sure. We do end up on the bright green. If you had a longer lens, that would be the point of interest, focusing much closer, including the pyramid shaped object in focus. The idea is there, compositional execution to work on. Keep at it please
15	876	Jetty Hut		Here we have to areas of brightness; above the jetty and reflected light water on the sand across the bottom right. This forms a V that leads us out of the image, but does pull us in too, along the jetty. That sort of comes as a secondary reaction to explore more. In this instance, the subject is drawn in by light and texture, not necessarily in the form of negative space.

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16	787	Lindis Pass		Quite a good landscape of two peaks, triangular shapes, diagonals and layers of colour contribute to the composition, however the concept of negative space does not quite work work. There is neg space in the sky, but not enough to hold the viewer's attention. The foreground is too detailed and in contrast to the sky.
17	431	Moon_Over_Devil's_Marbles_Camp		Here we see good use of negative space oin the sky with the bright moon as the subject. However, there is a secondary point of interest of the marbles formation and row of caravans. The moon is the stronger subject and the neg space would have more impact if taken from a different angle, no caravans, but with the marbles still included.
18	361	Mouldy Orange		Great idea with a sole rotting piece of fruit in the still life format. The lighting has let this image down unfortunately. The dark olive green background, as the negative space would have worked brilliantly as it is a tremendous contrast in colour to the subject, but the shadow formations in the left side of the image is a distraction, even though the orange is brighter and contains interesting detail.
19	866	Native Bee	C	An extremely difficult shot to capture of a bee in flight, with detail lost in post processing. However the concept of neg space has been in the maker's forefront, and therefore it has been awarded today albeit some aspects of the subject in some ways has been let down by the technical difficulty in sharpnes and detail, but the impact of the stark black background does counterbalance somewhat.
20	883	Never ending		Here we have a pleasant seascape vista with some foreground interest. There is a lack of focal point. The mid ground outcrop is not impacted enough in the

				neg space of the sky and sea, mainly due to the flatness and lack of depth. Harsh light does not help. Watch for level horizons
21	866	New Holland honey eater	HC	A small negative to this image is the only flaw. That being the bright grass to the left. However it does provide a sense of space and scale to the subject, captured nigh on perfectly. Neg space makes the image, draws you to the subject
22	487	On the Sand Bar, Bribie Island		The maker has made a good attempt at negative space with the subject in silhouette against a basically grey background. A polarising filter to reduce the sunlight sparkling off the water would help a lot.
23	377	PRINT – Lonely Road		Great colours of an Australian landscape. What is the subject though, the post or the road leading the viewer to the never never? The shadow acts as a barrier. The road and sky in this instance do not portray negative space.
24	377	PRINT - Moorings		Lovely sharp subject matter, with the water reflecting on the hulls to add a point of interest. The maker has attempted neg space by the use of the monotonal grey held in by a vignette to lead us to the subject. More impact to highlight the subject would be adjustments of contrast and luminosity, particularly in the tree tops, however this would not be neg space.
25	866	Scallop Shell	C	Nicely done in placement of the shell in the composition and the surrounding sand that provides neg space and draws us to the subject. There has been some sharpening issues in post that does distract. A suggestion would be a tripod and focus stack, and if the light was correct, that is subdued light to have taken the subject straight down which would improve the plane of focus to maintain detail in the shell
26	361	Shapely		Very interesting subject, in silhouette and a true contrasting background that provides negative space and holds us in to the subject. A much stronger image would be to not include the angular shape on the left. In this instance, it takes us away from the simplicity of the curves that work for this image.
27	399	Stilt		Placement of the lone stilt on the bottom right thirds leaving the non-distracting sea as the neg space works fine. However, when the brief has been met, the rest of the image, in this case the main subject needs to be doing something of interest, a bit of action would help immensely.

28	399	Surfers		Here, the surfers are the subject, no doubt and well placed in the frame. The two diagonal lines above and below the subject help frame and hold our interest. However, to give the viewer some wow, the subject needs to be sharp. Just wait for the moment when both heads are looking forward as well. Practice and depth of field choice will improve this style of image.
29	361	Tedwina Travelling	C	Lovely still life with a cutesy subject that catches our imagination. Negative space is the black, not the red. The red provides a place for the subject to rest on. Perhaps darkening it down a little may help as it is red after all and pulls our eyes down. Nicely handled depth of field.
30	787	Tenacity B&W	C	Here, the maker has used texture and triangles to take us to the subject to great effect. Good tonal range, perhaps a tad mor contrast to enhance the blacks. The neg space is the sky and the lighter tones of the foreground hill. Tone down the vignette a little. A good vignette is one we don't notice.

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31	876	The Marker	C	What wonderful colours and the long exposure has flattened out the water to enhance the neg space. There is some conflict however, which such a beautiful sky as a secondary subject. See how the sky left of the marker has less of the warmth, more to the tones of the sea. Perhaps moving position to put the marker on the right third and use the bright warmth in the clouds as leading lines, the sky to the left would have added to the neg spac effect.
32	866	Tidal tree	HC	Here the tree and mangrove is surrounded by cool blue and whites of the cloud. The sky and tree reflections add to the neg space effect. Notice there is no harshness from the transition of sky to sea, the slither of land is also in the same tonal range. That is using negative space where it is not all of the same colour or tone well. Perhaps a tad more room for the tree on the RHS.
33	787	Wanaka tree		Great shot of this iconic location. Cannot fault it as a beautiful landscape, the silhouetted trunk and green leaves in perfect contrast to the cool blues and whites behind. However, the mountain range breaks up the lack of neg space for neg space to be the springboard to success for this image. The first lot of comments make this image a very good one. A long exposure to smooth out the water could make a different story.
34	869	Westernport	C	We are torn between two points of interest, the beautiful sky, and the equally beautiful foreground interest. The negative space in between leaves us wanting, even though this image is pleasing to the eye, it would be compositionally better, with negative space to have centred the cloud formation, eliminating the bright side. Maybe that would have worked.
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