

Phillip Island Monthly Club Competition – Judge Feedback for – Feb 2023- Subject OPEN 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	870	Waterbird Rhyll		The image has a really nice reflection adding to its appeal. The depth of field gives a soft feel to the background minimising the impact and the bright white bird stands out against the dark background. The subject has been placed slightly off centre allowing for the rule of space. The image has been slightly over sharpening causing the bits in the water to stand out and distracting the viewer.
2	399	Bee Passion		A nice square format well balanced image. The petals have been placed on the baroque and sinister diagonals creating interest within the image. The image is a little under exposed which is OK for the background but the petals and especially the bee are losing their impact. When using a semi auto mode care needs to be exercised using exposure compensation.
3	852	Behind the wheel	C	A delightful portrait that every parent can relate to. You have a good connection to the child and you have managed to get the eye sharp despite the very shallow depth of field. Consider cropping the right hand side a little and the left hand side to exclude the gear lever and the top to eliminate the bright window. This will bring the child's left eye onto a thirds line allowing the back angle and nose to be on the minor diagonal. The back arm will then also be on the sinister diagonal. This will present a minimised and more powerful composition.
4	852	But Mum !		This image has a lot going for it with the story and the virtual line between mother and child. The parallel lines formed by the 3 arms add movement to the image. However all of the activity is in the centre of the image by cropping the image to a portrait format you will bring all of the arms and the woman's head into the composition making a much more powerful image.
5	641	Butterfly		A well composed butterfly image where the background is sufficiently far enough away to blur and allow the butterfly to stand out. The image is soft or out of focus. This has been caused by a number of factors; F20 is where lens diffraction will begin to occur on a crop sensor camera; an ISO of 6400 will have noise within the image and you have globally sharpened the image causing the noise to be highlighted and thereby softening the image. For this shot I

			would recommend a shutter speed of 1/400s, an F stop of around 8 and an ISO of around 2000.
6	866	Damsel fly	C This is a very nice image of a Damsel Fly. It is sharp, yet the background shows good bokeh highlighting the subject. The image is simple and straight forward; you have managed to get a good image although you need to watch the depth of field as F8 would have been better than F16. Watch for dirt spots on the lens as these detract from a good image.
7	866	Echidna	C A good Echidna image without the usual bits in front of the face, so a well done for that. The image is well exposed, and you have placed the face in a prominent position within the image. There is a good diagonal happening through the eyes which are sharp. The depth of field has been well chosen to allow so detail of the animals environment to be displayed adding to the story within the image.
8	601	Evening glow	This image has some really nice light on the tree trunk and great contrast between the sky and tree branches but you need to minimise the image. The small band of sea and hill does not need to be there and if you crop your tree to about half you bring the main trunk and diagonals onto the Baroque and minor diagonals.
9	875	Heron	C A good nature shot where the exposure and sharpness works well. The bird is placed in a dominant position within the image and you've got some great light on the birds face. The depth of field is well chosen to allow enough context to place the bird in its environment. Consider burning the background to make the subject standout a little more.
10	601	Home at last light	A busy image in a panoramic formation which encourages the viewer to look horizontally through the image. You have some interesting texture in the sky which because of the placement of the horizon is the subject of this image, although I suspect that it is the plane that you intend as the subject. When composing an image you must consider the viewer as they do not know the story of the image and so you need to make the story obvious.
11	399	Honeyeater	C You have a good connection with the bird and placement of the two branches on the Baroque diagonal coupled with the parallel lines ads movement to the image. The exposure and sharpness have all been well handled although you

			may consider cropping the image to make the bird larger and more dominant within the image.
12	431	Joy of life	You have captured a great expression on the young girl in a fun image. The shallow depth of field hands and foreground flowers are a little out of focus but as the eyes are sharp then this is not of great importance. The flowers surrounding the girl match nicely with the wallpaper behind her and the camera has done a good job of getting a reasonable exposure on her face but the bright window is dragging my eye to it away from her. When composing a shot the background needs to be considered and you may need to recompose to eliminate distractions.
13	601	King Parrot Feasting	The parrot stands out from the dried textured background aided by the complementary colours of the bird we are left in no doubt as to the subject. It appears that you have shot this from a low perspective to give us a more intimate view of the bird. You have applied the rule of space but I think there is a little too much negative space and so suggest that you crop the image a little to give the image a better balance.
14	377	Kooka 1	This is a well exposed image of the Kookaburra and is quite sharp around the eye and beak despite the slow shutter speed. The reciprocal angle between the bird and the branch was well seen and captured. The bird has been a little over sharpened; this is generally caused during editing, I suggest you reduce this a little.
15	361	Lily	A minimalist still life of a single flower. The simple black background works well to highlight and isolate the subject with the vase standing out as a major element. The underside of the petals are distracting taking away from the impact of the bright red petals and stamens. Consider what you want to show in the image and photograph for that. The underside of a flower can be very interesting but needs to be deliberately photographed.

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16	377	Lily		A well exposed floral image where you have chosen a good aperture to minimise the background highlighting the subject. The vignette helps to retain the viewer within the image. The petals appear harsh and unnatural and there is a halo around the stamin. Looking at the metadata indicates that sharpening has been applied very heavily which will cause this harshness; consider reducing the sharpness and I think you will have a very good floral image.
17	487	Look at me	C	An interesting creative image, presented in an almost square format. The original image appears to have been taken from above the cat creating a sense of superiority in the viewer and vulnerability in the subject. Consider bring some of the original colour back into the cats eye the create a juxtaposition to the brown/grey colour palette.
18	431	Macca the Alpacca		An image with good exposure and light on the head where you want it. The image has a large negative space with the animal looking out of the image and giving the impression that it is moving out of the frame. I feel that the image can be made stronger by cropping it to a portrait format minimising the image and bringing the eye into a prominent part of the image.
19	641	Meerkat		An image bordering on the chiaroscuro with a centrally place subject that appears to be looking over the photographers head. This effect certainly makes the subject stand out. When selecting a furry subject ensure that you select all of the fur otherwise the edge has an unnatural smooth appearance and any alteration does not look natural.
20	875	Nightlight		The Milky Way is always good to photograph and here you have a some good foreground interest and the light beams add direction and further interest to the image. Consider removing the wire fence in an editing program such as lightroom to minimise the image and consider using a white balance of tungsten as this will bring out the blue in the Milky way.
21	487	One, two, three		A well seen and captured nature image with the 3 birds on the Baroque diagonal. The separation of the birds adds movement to the image via Gestalt proximity. The image shows the different foraging methods of the

			birds. Consider dropping the exposure down a little as the image is slightly over exposed.
22	487	Pink Hibiscus	This warm palette floral image and subject stands out well against the cool background. The vignette helps to retain the viewer within the image. The exposure has been well handled in the bright sunlight. The front petals are soft and an F stop of 8 may have given you a greater depth of field to enable all of the flower to be sharp.
23	447	PRINT- Goanna	This image is sharp around the eye and head which is well done as you are using a macro lens which has a shallow depth of field but by using an F stop of 9 you have overcome this problem. While the image is well composed and generally it is well exposed it is a little flat but this can be rectified by decreasing the exposure increase the contrast etc. The lizards have some amazing colour which can be brought out in editing.
24	447	PRINT- Worker bee	HC A nicely composed and simple macro shot where the flash has been well handled to give a good exposed and sharp image. The white vignette works well and congratulations on having the courage to use this type of vignette; many judges tend to mark these images down.
25	870	Pyramid rock obstructed view	A busy well exposed shallow depth of field image where you have captured some really nice texture in the timber of the seat. The vertical lines create an interesting rhythm and drag the viewer's eye through the image. I suspect that a lens correction has not been applied as the fence rail is curved and the left hand frame is not vertical. This can be fixed in post and would make this a stronger image.
26	361	Red flowers	A creative type image using a monochrome background to anchor the coloured subject. The juxtaposition of the complementary colour palette works well to create a striking colour balance and focus the viewer's attention. The main subject however is soft and out of focus. With an Olympus camera consider using focus peaking to ensure your subject is in focus.
27	399	Rocks	A pleasing diagonal composition that is all about the texture and colour in the rocks. I suspect that the sun was to the upper left as the image exhibits some lens flare in that corner so consider cropping this or increasing the contrast

				just in that corner. The light is fairly flat so consider adding some shadow to bring out some of the drama in the rocks.
28	431	Sisters	HC	A delightfully well composed image using dynamic symmetry, where the older girls head has been placed centrally within the image while the younger girls head occupies the sinister diagonal and her legs follows the reciprocal diagonal as does the older girls arm. Consider using an F stop of around 7.1 to increase your depth of field to have everything in sharp detail.
29	326	Summer fun 1		I'm not sure about the fun as it looks like it might be a bitter strawberry. The girl has been well placed in the frame allowing her eyes to dominate the image but these need to be sharp. Consider lightening her face and darkening the background to gain more attention on her face. When putting images into a frame like this care must be taken to ensure that the frame is symmetrical otherwise it becomes a distraction.
30	326	Summer fun 2		The very narrow portrait format works well to highlight the vertical tension within the image but I suspect that it was more driven by the need to remove distracting background elements. The girl stands out due to her colour, especially the hair. With these images consider using a strobe (even an internal strobe) dropping your shutter speed to say 1/100s, aperture around f11. This will only then light up the girl and the background will appear black.

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31	326	Summer fun 3		A good monochrome image. You have placed the subject obeying the rule of space, it is well exposed and sharp. The person is slightly brighter than the GoKart attracting the viewers attention. Overall a good image but to take it to the next level consider using a slower shutter speed and panning. This way you will get your subject sharp by increase the sense of speed and motion by a blurred background.
32	870	Swamp Grampians		A pleasant scene giving a sense of calm and relaxation. The horizon has been placed centrally in the image, dividing attention between the reflection and the trees. The sky however drags the viewers eye away from the main point of interest, you can consider cropping most of the sky out, losing most of the tree on the right or if this was shot in Raw then you can reduce the highlights bring out the texture in the clouds eliminating this distraction.
33	361	Sweet-pea		The lighting used on this image is quite good and the plain black background ensures the subject is both isolated and almost no distractions are occurring. The placement of the subject has a nice arabesque and is compositionally well placed within the frame using the minor diagonals. The subject is unfortunately out of focus; this could be caused by lens diffraction at F20 or possibly too close to the subject. Consider using the focus peaking feature in the Olympus camera.
34	852	The Narcissist		A clever creative, sharp image using the persons reflection in the glasses. The image was taken around mid-day with the sun high and behind the subject always a difficult exposure problem. Here the glasses have caused a shadow over the face and by using an evaluation metering mode the camera has over exposed the background causing a distracting white area behind the subject. Consider burning the background to eliminate this distraction.
35	377	Wasp	C	A good creative macro. The image is simple with the bokeh eliminating background distractions, Exposure, sharpness and lighting have ben well

				<p>handled and the diagonal composition makes for an overall good image. The subject appears to have had a blurring technique applied to create a painterly effect. The fore wing appears to have had this effect applied but the far wing has not and would be better to have them both the same but the blurring on the seed pod doesn't look natural as areas before and beyond the blurred section are sharp. If an effect is applied, you need to ensure that it looks both deliberate and natural.</p>
36	866	Wattle bird bath	HC	<p>A nice action nature shot where you have used a high shutter speed to freeze the action. The image is quite sharp with the flying water splash adding to the story. The luminosity of the image is quite flat affecting the figure-ground relationship of the bird; consider burning the background to improve this relationship. The halo around the edge of the bird bath is indicating an over sharpened image; consider reducing the sharpening.</p>
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