

Phillip Island Monthly Club Evaluation – Judge Feedback for – October 2025- Subject –OPEN- 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	852	1 st day on the Beach	HC	Nicely composed, technically well done. Action with front foot forward off the ground. Nice and low for engagement
2	653	At the end of the Day		A busy scene handled reasonably well. Suggestion would be to tone down saturation. Consider composition if you think that would improve to be more to the left and separate the front bush from the boat.
3	852	Bath time	C	Well placed subject in the frame with well controlled DoF. Did you take continuous burst where a better shot of head and neck to reveal more engagement with more eye?
4	862	BlueWingedKookaburraFitzroyC rossing		On the diagonal works well. Slightly out of focus, more practice will improve. A square crop would be better, removing some off the top (bright sky).
5	866	Boat ramp - ICM	C	A peaceful, tranquil minimalist image made even more tranquil by the artistic technique. There is a little squarish object mid scene that requires cloning as it distracts from the harmony. Perhaps a tad more contrast and tiny tiny increase in saturation. However that might spoil the mood, worth a try,
6	885	Bolton Abbey		Compositionally very good. There is some drama in the sky, some selective PP may bring it out, dehaze, shadows, contrast. Perhaps monochrome would portray the mood of the scene better?
7	902	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin		Depth of Field has been controlled well for the background, however focus has not fallen on the bird but we do see detail in the feathers and the gorgeous colours. Sharpness of the subject comes with practice, practice and more practice with bird photography.
8	902	Eastern Yellow Robin	C	Here we see good detail throughout the subject. Eye sharp, catch light good and branch on the angle leading in, good. A HC would come from the patience of a less of a bird on a stick image, some action in poise, food in the beak, a cocked head and so on.

9	875	Egret	C	Some in-camera or pp work or both to show black negative space that the bird is entering adds mystery, intrigue and drama. The light kept in the image in the right of frame provides the balance of a sense of space. Some highlights in feathers has lost detail, perhaps recoverable.
10	866	Evening Bay View – ICM		The ICM technique has moved the bright spot in the sky to the right of the reflection in the water. As the eye can still see enough detail in the seascape sunset, it is a bit off putting, to me anyway. A longer drag. Slightly longer shutter speed to smooth things out to be more abstract may have worked better. Subdued colour tones work well
11	885	Forgotten	C	Colour tones, textures, angle taken and detail make a great image. Compositionally very good and would jump to excellent in getting symmetry perfect. That can be achieved with a crop off the left.
12	889	Get a Room	C	Playing on the whimsy of the title, the response could be “don’t look”. Nature is nature however, so well captured. Compositional improvement, take the subjects to the left off centre, allowing room to move and a crop off the top, not much. We have sharp details in the feathers and eyes.
13	875	Heron	HC	Nothing to say here, except very good photography. The big lesson here is patience and practice combined with good light, picking a good background makes for good bird photography
14	884	Hobart Steam Crane		B&W is a good choice. Composition can be improved by more separation of the subject including the ropes (or chains?) from the building by standing more to the left. (Is that possible?) Always look to separate subjects in a scene. The building on the left edge and the buildings to the right can be cropped as they don’t add anything to compliment the subject. Well spotted and worth having a go to capture the history.
15	884	Making a splash		Great fun doing water drop splashes. The key to success is sharpness, Take many test shots to have the focus fall on the splash every time combined with a high shutter speed. Colours are great, and the light source works well. Improving technique will improve the result.

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16	885	Mateus	C	Using the trees to help frame the subject is a very good compositional approach. Take a lot of time to get the building spot on within that frame. It comes down to separation again. It's a compromise of less leading line buildings on the left and more of what's missing of the main building on the right. Walk back and forth to perfect the balance and this will improve your architectural shots. Yhe reflection is brilliant.
17	862	Mungo NP		Nice capture of the Mungo terrain, sharp throughout. The big mound d in the mid ground is a bit of a “stopper” for the eye. Suggestion would be to have seen if you can find a more interesting section.
18	862	Nankeen Ord River		interesting viewpoint as it seems softness is caused by a long lens shooting through foreground foliage and some dappled light. This does not deter from the natural beauty of the bird, however see if a cooler white balance may improve.
19	902	Ornate Sunbird		Well composed and the negative space allows the subject to pop. DoF is off slightly as the subject is soft. Contrasting colours work well
20	361	Passion fruit flower	C	Nicely composed including the lesves and tendrils to add extra dimension. The black background allows the subject to pop. Sharp on the internal flower parts, well done
21	889	Pecking Order	C	More than a bird on a wire, as we have interaction between 2 birds. Lovely colours, DoF about right but it falls off on the bird with its back to us. Not easy to do, great effort.
22	852	Playing in the Shallows		Here we see compression of a long lens, the subject appears in less water than what would be there. Not a criticism, as it brings the subject forward. Nice and sharp, good wave action. However with rapid shooting, is there one more engaging facing forward?

23	875	Spoonbill	HC	A bird in flight, wings well placed in the frame will always have interest. Lovely detail, great shot.
24	653	Sunset Colours at Ventnor		A scene worth exploring for a photograph with a warm colour pallet. Consider a square crop and much less sky to take full advantage of the colours. Not quite sharp in the foreground, Play around with fstops and maybe focus stacking. A pleasant image
25	884	Tesselated Pavement		A view with a lot to take in. Sometimes a more intimate scene, less wide will bring your intention of a focal point closer to the viewer. Not sure where we want to end up. The trees are very busy and detract from the stairs, probably the intended focal point.
26	653	The Perfect Selfie		There is 2 subjects here. Although the girls are brightly coloured and, in the foreground, our eyes are drawn to the big picture in the shop of the bloke in the glasses. Arguably more interesting than the girls. There is some overprocessing of the girls that draws us away as well. This scene has huge potential for street photography. Either hone in on the girls, or through the shop door, not both.
27	866	Winter Beach - ICM	HC	A very calm, soothing image for us to explore. Just a hint of clarity in the wave, that's a good thing. Lovely transition from cool to warm. Wonderful painterly effect, definitely the maker's intention.
28	889	Yellow Footed Antechinus	C	Beautiful warm tones throughout. Watch the white highlights, tone them down as they do distract. Just a tad off sharpness, but still a lovely image of this gorgeous little marsupial that flit about and are difficult to shoot. Well done.
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