Phillip Island Monthly Club Evaluation – Judge Feedback for – Nov 2026 - Subject –Mammal Portraits- Judge – Sally Rule

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

Sequence by Title	Member No	Title	Judge Rating	EDPI
1	911	**Angry monkey**		The monkey has good eye contact, with catchlights evident in both eyes. Yellow is a dominant colour, and with the green pole as well the monkey is somewhat overpowered by its surroundings. Cropping to bring the animal further into the frame would increase the portrait value of the image, however the story would be lost if you take too much. Adjusting the tonal sliders, and exposure in post will give this image greater impact.
2	906	**Bronte**	C	I found this well-made image quite disturbing. The old dog, with his woeful expression, is framed between dark shadows, against a grungy wall, giving the image a sombre mood. We can't see whatever he is staring at, but the pose and stare add to the mood. Exposure and DoF well managed. The dark shadow behind Bronte could be removed with use of mask and brush in post.
3	906	**Carly**	C	An interesting silhouette. Light through the glasses is balanced by the rim lighting on her hair. The mage is well posed, the head turned so we can see part profile and with her eyelashes and glasses becoming the PoF.
4	896	**Drop bear**		This is an interesting capture and well seen. Hard to tell if the Koala is asleep. Close inspection shows his eye partially open with a small catchlight visible. As this is a portrait a slightly tighter crop would benefit the image. There is sufficient detail in the fur, and the crossed branches make a natural frame. Increasing the exposure and adjusting the contrast, highlights and shadows will give the image greater impact.
5	902	**Eastern Grey Kangaroo**		The kangaroo appears to have turned its head to see the photographer. Had you been able to focus on the eye this would be a much stronger image. Rim lighting defines the animal. The very bright foreground and background take the viewers attention from the animal. Using a mask to isolate these areas, and backing the exposure off considerably gives the roo the attention it deserves.
6	882	**Good dog**	HC	A well composed animal portrait, you have positioned the dog well in the frame, just slightly off centre. Eye contact is direct with a good catchlight. Every facial feature is sharp; the healthy shiny coat has good detail. Focus drops a little on

				the shoulders, which is not a problem, the image is sharp where it needs to be. Well exposed.
And c7	882	**Good dog 2**		Same dog but a very different image. The eye contact is there but the eyes are out of focus and the animal soft. The image is well exposed. Including some of the background adds context, however there is a lot of unnecessary real estate which takes the image from portrait to picture.
8	875	**I'm watching**	C	This image would have scored highly if the maker had noticed all the spots and removed them in post. The monkey is posing nicely, partly framed by the plant, with direct eye contact, which helps to keep the viewers' attention on the subject. Exposure and DoF all well-handled. Colour appears natural in the monkey's coat, with detail showing in the fur. For an easy fix to the bright and distracting areas in the background try cropping from top left.
9	889	**Just Hangin'**		Sunlight behind mother emphasises the length of her coat. Highlights are well contained except for a small area on the top of her head. The image appears to have been made from a distance and the faces are a llttle soft. Not sure where the PoF is in this shot, the mother is looking which makes it difficult as mPoF.
10	326	**Koala**	C	Pinsharp detail throughout in this portrait of a koala enjoying its meal. The eye is well captured, with good detail in the fur. The harsh white stripe down its back, as a result of blown highlights, detracts from the image. Blown highlights occur when there is no detail to recover in post. Using the blinkies in camera will alert you to the problem areas before you make the shot.
11	875	**Looking at you**	HC	You have captured this image at just the right moment, and with appropriate settings. The expression on the infants face is delightful, and mothers caring pose adds to the story. There are some very small spots which can easily be removed in post. The subject is well placed within the frame, a lovely portrait of mother and child.
12	885	**Me and my shadow**		You have captured the little Rock Wallaby in its natural environment, but he is somewhat overpowered by the dark shadow behind, and the shadowed rock on the lower right. The simplest way to give him more impact is masking, inverting the mask and working on the shadows. Sharp where it needs to be, and well exposed.

13	906	**Miriam**		Miriam is silhouetted against the waves, with her head turned to the right so we get a glimpse of her profile. Monochrome works. In this case the composition weakens the image. A portrait is a representation of the individual's likeness, typically emphasising face and head. This image may do better in a monochrome competition.
14	875	**Misha**	C	A well captured action shot of a determined little dog. Mischa is well placed in the frame, with 'room to move' in front. Settings used have frozen the action and caught the ball in just the right place. The light under her tail, with the addition of the red leaf, is distracting and very easily removed in post. Using a mask and brush it's also possible to tone down the brightness. The lightest area always attracts the viewers' attention.
15	911	**Monkey looking**	C	A charming image with the monkey engrossed in its treat, oblivious to the camera. Because of the activity we can overlook the lack of eye contact. The image is well exposed with the subject well removed from the background bokeh. Try using a mask and brush to tone down the blown highlights behind the monkey head.

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16	911	**Monkey peeling**	HC	You have captured this monkey in a lovely natural pose as it sits relaxed on the bar, nonchalantly peeling a piece of fruit. Direct eye contact, sharp detail and natural colour. Being picky, the blown highlights in the background could easily be toned down in post. Composition is good, the animal slightly off centre, well placed within the frame and nicely removed from the soft background.

17	885	**Nap Time**		No shortage of koalas for the members to photograph. This one, in typical koala pose, is nicely placed within the frame. Exposure and DoF well managed.
18	896	**Nose licking good**	HC	The simplicity of this portrait, and the regal stare of the lion, and the angle of its profile, gives this image its strength. There are no distracting elements, exposure, DoF and placement within the frame all work. The dark background suits the portrait definition.The rather whimsical nose lick adds an element of fun.
19	885	**Pete**		Although suitably soft the tin roof and struts behind Pete tend to distract. A tighter crop removes the problem. Pete has good catchlight in the visible eye, and a typical relaxed and masculine pose with hand on chin. Possibly something from the roof, but the half circle object in his lower left lens is a distraction which a mask and brush in post would make short work of.
20	889	**Polar bear**	C	Having never had the opportunity to photograph a polar bear, I'm not sure if the colours are natural, or due to the light. Research shows me some do tend to have a creamy tone. The image is sharp, detail in the fur shows up well, and the eye is the focal point. Perhaps a little less real estate in front of the animal, while still giving it the obligatory room to move would bring the animal further into the frame.
21	884	**PRINT – Sienna and the snax**	HC	Use of a flash has effectively stilled the motion, leaving the viewer with no idea of the trajectory of the snack, which appears to be above and behind Siennas head. Did she manage the catch? Every detail is pin sharp, there is a catchlight in one eye, reflected from the flash. The glossy coat has good colour and shows every detail, including fine threads of saliva and a fine whisker across her right eye. The viewers eye comes to rest on the lower jaw, where the light is strongest and the sharp teeth frame the gaping mouth. The furniture on the right of the image is the only distraction.
22	884	**PRINT – The Koala**		This mono image of the koala is well exposed, with good DoF and tonal range. The animal stands out from the background bokeh. The image has been carefully composed, with the twig underlining the chin. The downside is its central position which tends to divide the image in two. If this were my image, for an open competition I would be toning down what appears to be

				two plugs of mucus in the koala's nostrils, which catch the viewers' attention and curiosity.
23	884	**PRINT – The old Photographer**		Lots of detail in this self-portrait. Care has been taken with processing, keeping the clothing coloured against a sepia background. Lowering the blinds would have achieved a less cluttered effect.
24	326	**Quokka Tickle**		It could be said we have two mammals in this image; however, the quokka is the assumed subject. Mono works, details are sharp and the tonal range good. The hand, being the lightest part of the image, takes the viewers' attention from the animal. Focussing more on the animal and less on the hand would have made a stronger portrait. Cropping from the left, so only part of the hand is visible will have the same effect.
25	896	**Scary face Baboon**	HC	We naturally read from left to right, so this image gives the viewer the impression they could walk into that gaping mouth. I like the tension created. The image is sharp where it needs to be, good Dof and exposure.
26	902	**Southern Brown Bandicoot**		Captured in its normal habitat, this little mammal has good detail, well captured eye, and natural colour. For a portrait image much of the real estate surrounding the wombat could be cropped, bringing it further into the frame. The rich colour of the coat shows up well in the soft light.
27	889	**Squirrel**	C	The rather bulbous eyes capture the viewers attention. Detail is sharp, the animal stands out from the beautifully lit background bokeh.
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