

Christchurch Photographic Society – Opening Comments

Both Doug and I would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to assess your Club's images.

We found it a difficult task in that many of the images were very near Acceptance level, but not quite making it when a comparison was made with the others. In the Honours section also some great images, and very difficult to put into an order.

Of course, the successful images are just our personal opinions. What we like, you might not, and what we don't like, maybe you would say - that's a winner! That's judging...

Always remember 'The judge is always entitled to his/her ridiculous opinions'!!

Congratulations to the successful entrants.

Jean & Doug Moulin

	Title	Comments	Award	Entrant	Dist.	G
01	Abstract in yellow	An interesting abstract image showing nice shapes and forms. However, the image is let down somewhat by its flat lighting. Light from another source would have produced more modeling.				
02	Busy in Burano	Sharp image displaying the attractive colours of Burano. The white framing and the woman walking out of the picture on the drawers the viewer's eyes away from the center of interest.				
03	Catching the Sun	A good attempt at macro photography. There is a lot of negative space in this image, especially on the left side. I feel if the photographer had zoomed in and focused on the remaining shapes, this would have made the image more interesting and dynamic.				
04	Cavalcade	A very sharp image with nice lighting. There is a lot going on in this image and the area which draws the eye, that being the winding roads, could have been made the main center of interest and thereby creating a more successful image.				
05	Close Inspection	An image that tells a story and a subject that is quite different. I would have liked to have seen more of the 'inspector's face' Had the photographer taken this image from a lower viewpoint and slightly more to the left the viewer would have been able to feel and see more of what was going on.				
06	Cloudy Dawn	Full marks to the photographer who rises at dawn! The image is well composed, but the foreground lighting is a little flat. The use of the dodge tool to lighten the handrail and other light areas would create depth therefore creating a more interesting image.				
07	Coopers lagoon outlet	This image became very close to being Accepted. The very dark central elements compete with the spectacular breaking water on the right. Had the waves been breaking evenly right across the image, it would have worked				
08	Country Road	In this image the very dark tree on the left is lost in the dark sky. Maybe it would have been more successful being a colour image. The composition is very good with the lines of clouds, road etc. leading into the center..				
09	Delicate mauve	Some part of the image needs to be sharp for the eye to settle on, in this case the center of the flower would probably be best. Nice colour and composition.				
10	Drummed into	The idea of photographing the piper through the drum is very creative, but the image is let down by the drummer out of focus and the distracting elements around the edges that could have been cloned out or toned down.				

11	Fast flight	The slow shutter speed showing movement in the wings is a good technique but the eyes and head need to be sharp. This is easier said than done but there are plenty of good examples of where this has been achieved.	
12	Feeding Time	The bird is sharp but tends to get lost in all the foliage. Cropping the image so that the bird is the dominant feature would improve this image greatly.	
13	Get out of my space	A good sharp natural history shot showing the seal's environment well but could have been improved by taking it earlier or later in the day. Cropping of some of the sea would improve the image.	
14	Guarded veil	The exposure for this image has been handled reasonably well with the extremes of lighting existing. The image seems to be a little unbalanced with too much rock and not enough of the waterfall.	
15	Going Going Geese	The geese are well captured but the out of focus plant on the left adds nothing to the picture. Severe cropping down to have more sky in front of the birds than behind would make a better image	
16	Grooming Swan	A sharp image showing lovely texture and form in the feathers. It is unfortunate that the head of the swan is in so much shade making it difficult to see the eye. Cropping slightly on the right side would be beneficial to the image.	
17	Guess What	A very interesting concept showing good imagination. The rounded subject is pleasing to the eye but the straight line in the center of the image tends to stop the feel of the circular movement thereby creating a disjointed image.	
18	Handcraft Stall, Patahuasi, Peru	A shopper's delight! A well exposed colourful image. The image would have been improved by coming in much closer with the camera and concentrating on just one part making for a more dynamic photograph. The mountain in the background competes for attention.	
19	Hanging with Grandad and his Sony	The depth of field has been well handled as the boy is sharp and the camera less sharp so that it does not compete with the boy. The background is completely out of focus, which is also good. Unfortunately there are some very bright white bits in the background that draw the viewer's eye away from the subject. Try cloning these out.	
20	Hanoi Flower Man	The flower man was well caught using a slow shutter speed to blur the background and the wheels. We like the fact that you have given extra space in front for the cyclist to ride into. However the cyclist himself is a little soft and he tends to get lost in the background. If those flowers had been razor sharp he would have popped out from the background.	
21	Icecream stop	The pleasure of a summers day at the beach with an icecream is all there on the little girls face. The tight cropping and composition work very well. The image is over exposed, leaving some of the flesh tones almost pure white	

22	In the beginning	The poppy buds are lovely and sharp – however the out of focus poppy in the background competes and demands attention. I would have liked to have seen the buds isolated this is where the interest is.	
23	Innocence	We found this image difficult to assess. The image and title have a rather disturbing feel which is why we found it difficult to understand what the photographer is trying to relate. For all that, it is well exposed and balanced.. A minus is the little girl tending to get lost amongst the flowers behind her.	
24	It is going to look cool	This could have been a very engaging photo, but too much of the girls face is covered. If the photographer had moved to the right and captured most of the girls face, and less of the painter's head and arm, this image would have come off.	
25	Lake Pearson	A sharp, attractive landscape I feel it is slightly underexposed in that there is a lack of tonality. Increasing the exposure would have made for a brighter image and perhaps some dodging and burning would have made it more successful.	
26	Land AND... Long white clouds	Good composition. Placing the landscape right at the bottom of the picture gives the sky full dominance. However in this case the sky is so dominant it completely overpowers the land below and doesn't quiet come off. This is often the case with dramatic skies.	
27	Mary	A nice study of a young girl. I would have liked to see more expression on her face so that it engages the viewer. Cutting down the exposure slightly and some cropping top and bottom would make for a stronger image.	
28	Old But Beautiful	We like the treatment that the photographer has given this image but feel it is too tightly cropped and too central to do this lovely old shed justice. It needs a few other elements such as people or a tree, so that it is not quite so much on its own.	
29	Paihia Dawn	Whilst the image is reasonably well composed, the photographer has set themselves an impossible task to try and capture this scene with one exposure. There are too many completely black areas in the land and blown out areas in the sky. Cropping out the sky to just above the flagpole, still doesn't rescue this shot. Next time, bracket the exposure, two stops under, two stops over and one in the middle. Then you can combine the three shots in Photoshop. I'm sure a senior club member will show you how	
30	Paris Street Chic	An interesting subject with very nice lighting. It is a pity there are so many distracting bits and pieces around the chair and through the door on the left. Try toning these down so they do not distract from the subject.	
31	Pocahontas	The photographer has tried something different here and needs to be commended for it. For this image to work, the girl's head needs to be the feature in the frame, and some cropping needed, both top and sides. The very white area in the center needs to be toned down so is not competing.	

32	Princess Rissborough Windmill	Nice lighting and good composition. It is unfortunate that the tree behind the windmill is so dominate the shape and form of the windmill gets a little lost. I like the way the photographer has used the fence and the road as a lead-in for the eye into the image. A recommendation would be to clone out the lamp post thereby omitting a distraction.	
33	Putting Some Oompah Into It	Good colourful shot telling a story. The image is cropped too much on the left, it would have been much better to see all of the musical instruments and on the right side, cropping to almost to the edge of the instrument, would have given the image more impact. The out of focus background is good in that the viewer's eyes are not distracted.	
34	Raspberry Ripple West Coast	Lots of lovely colours and shapes which I'm sure has attracted the photographer. Perhaps by going in closer and focusing more on a smaller portion of the image there would have been a more interesting image.	
35	Red Sky	Lovely sunset/sunrise with beautiful colours in the sky and the mountains but we feel the photographer has not added anything of himself to it. A little foreground interest, eg. rocks, shoreline, shrubbery etc. would have added more depth.	
36	Reed Bed At Early Morn	Lovely colours, reflections of clouds, and attractive shapes of reeds. The elements are there to make a successful image but is let down by the unattractive growth on the left side. If these trees were to be cropped right out and the remaining part being 'the image', this would be a vast improvement.	
37	Rose's eye	A good effort in macro photography. . The composition and the tight cropping is good, but the image has no area that is in focus. This unfortunately, has let the image down.	
38	Storm approaching	Photography is all about light and the lighting in this image is beautiful. The light on the hills in the foreground plus the light coming thru the clouds is great but unfortunately there is a huge white burnt out in the sea where there is no detail at all. This has a detrimental effect on the image.	
39	Storm over Tekapo	The composition in this image is very good, and suits a monochrome approach. The image tends to be too contrasty, and too many mid tones have been lost. We feel this image has potential for a great image.	
40	This Smells Funny	A humorous image telling a story. I like the way the photographer has tightly cropped the image and put the background out of focus. As the image has been taken on a bright sunny day it has resulted in being overexposed. Cutting down the exposure would be recommended.	
41	Three in a row	I feel this image is too busy with the three birds getting lost in the background. Also the treatment the photographer has given the image, is interesting but is not, we feel, suitable in this instance.	

42	Tussock and Willows	Beautiful colours, and a nice sharp image. The composition lets this image down somewhat. There are a lot of distracting elements in this image and the viewer's eyes tend to roam instead of settling on a center of interest.				
43	We love those buskers	The onlookers are definitely enjoying the entertainment. It is telling a story and rather a snapshot, but with really zooming in on just some of the crowd, creates an image with more impact.				
44	Wetlands walkway	A pleasant, well exposed shot taken in a park, walkway or similar, showing attractive flora and fauna. The track is nicely placed in the image leading the viewer's eye into the image. Some cropping on the right side to the edge of the curve and a little at the top, makes for an improved image.				
45	A Wet Camera for Your Gold	A striking image, good composition, lighting. and colour. Nice mood.	Accepted	Jeffrey Mahn	LPSNZ	A
46	Right Hook	An image well suited to monochrome. The expressions on the faces of the boxers have been captured well.. There is movement visible in one of the boxer's arms but capturing the contact of the punch would have been more dynamic. A small bright highlight near the attacking boxer's mouth could have been cloned out.	Accepted	David Slaten	LPSNZ	A
47	Rhythm and moves	A differing approach to the capturing of live music and its atmosphere has resulted in a successful image. The slow shutter speed used by the photographer has conveyed to the viewer that there is plenty of action going on. The red box situated between the two musicians is bright and distracting and could have been toned down.	Accepted	Graeme Hobbs		A
48	Sale yard 2	The technique used is a very interesting concept but in this case has made the image very busy and causing the focal point to be somewhat lost. Maybe the darkening of the door at the end of the alleyway, would have helped.	Accepted	Witta Priester	APSNZ	A
49	Red Checkers	An excellent action shot caught at just the right time. Well exposed. Slight cropping, top and bottom of the image would be an improvement.	Accepted	John Miller		C
50	In Flight Experience	A good sharp action image capturing concentration on the handglider's face. Good exposure and well placed in the frame.	Accepted	Vicki Slade		C
51	Good Morning	Rather unusual subject material. Nice sidelighting, excellent colour saturation and good composition.	Accepted	Doug Johns		A
52	Swans in flight	A successful abstract image of swans in flight nicely cropped in to a panoramic format. The sloping white lines at the bottom of the image tend to be a distraction, a little straightening would help.	Accepted	John Stewart	LPSNZ	A
53	When the fog cleared	A lovely serene image, well composed with beautiful lighting on the cliff faces. The image appears to be a little too dark and we feel by lightening it slightly and dodging and burning in different areas would definitely elevate the image.	Accepted	Bevan Tulett	FPSNZ	A
54	Twenty Year Storm	Great atmosphere. The photographer has captured the scene well for the viewer to feel involved and to be part of it. The soaring birds add to the action.	Accepted	Nigel Spiers		C

55	Wellington Dawn	A well executed pictorial landscape taken at a perfect time of the day in which to capture detail in the sky and attractive colour saturation. Beautiful reflections of the lights of the city in the water and nice lighting on the buildings.	Accepted	Ron McKie	FPSNZ, ARPS	A
56	Sydney Rain	Well captured, well exposed atmospheric image with good composition. One can almost feel the dampness. The figure with the red umbrella has added the necessary colour to a bleak day.	Accepted	John Thornton		C
57	Rainman	This blended image has worked well and tells a story. Good colour saturation. Because of the large vacant area on the left side, a slight cropping would be of an advantage.	Accepted	Ron Willems	FPSNZ, ARPS, AFIAP, AAPS	A
58	Sea Dog	A nice sharp image, well exposed and good colour saturation. Good catchlights in the dog's eyes and one can see the enjoyment on the dog's face having fun on the beach.	Accepted	Somdech Ngarmkam		A
59	Welcome	An excellent title which conveys just that. Lovely lighting and the colours are great. The composition, although very symmetric, works well.	Accepted	Newell Grenfell	Hon PSNZ, FPSNZ, FNPSNZ	A
60	Kaikoura Mists	Atmospheric and moody. The receding layers reveal great depth to the image. Good composition and lighting.	Accepted	Philip Schroeder	APSNZ	A
61	Tashi	Very good lighting on the boy's face and excellent tight cropping which makes for compelling viewing. The light area in the background in front of the boy's face could be darkened down further, as it is quite distracting.	Accepted	Patti Madsen		A
62	Beyond	A moody image with great colours and the light caught on the mountains in the background adds an extra dimension.	Accepted	Jacob McNeill		C
63	Morning Joy	Lovely image which could hang well on any wall. Lighting in the sky is beautiful and is reflected on to the sea and sand. Well exposed.	Accepted	Nola Sumner		A
64	Forward Momentum	An excellent action shot. The blurring effects have created a strong feeling of movement. Exposure very good.	Honours	Fergus Campbell	LPSNZ	A
65	Honky Tonk Echoes	This image is very emotive and has an oldie world feel about it due to the colouring and surroundings.	Honours	Harry Ruffell		A
66	U Should be Dancing	Another well-seen, well-executed image. Colour is great and the composition, just excellent.	Honours	Heidi Anderson		C
67	Light up the old girl	Great image. Excellent composition and exposure. The desaturation of colour suits the image well and makes for a very successful photograph.	Honours	Simon Jefferson		C
68	Inside out	An extremely clever image, well seen. Excellent composition.	Honours	John Suckling		A
69	Crazy staircase	A lovely creative image with great composition. The style in which the effects are used are not only artistic but also very successful.	Honours	Annette Preen	APSNZ	A
70	Gannets	Lovely textures, colours and composition and perfect exposure. The interaction captured between the two birds is excellent.	Honours	Carolyn Green	LPSNZ	A
71	Aging Austin	Excellent image. Great lighting, composition, superb colours and textures.	Honours	Georgie McKie	FPSNZ	A

72	The Dream Dress	Love the way the photographer has captured this image. With it being slightly blurred it evokes this dream-like emotion, Composition, lighting, exposure, all is excellent.	Honours	Pam Cumming	APSNZ	A
73	In the Gallery pointing	Another very good image. Excellent lighting and well-balanced composition.	Honours	Michael Molloy		B
74	Oswald	Fantastic lighting, exposure and composition. Excellent image.	Honours	Carol Campbell		A

Entries:	74	
Awards:	25.7%	19 Accepted
	14.9%	11 Honours
	40.5%	30 Total awards