Gladstone Camera Club

Open

Award as many or as few as you like. Honour, Merit, Highly Commended and Accepted (or not) - please see Judges Guide.

Please return judging to projected@gladstonecameraclub.org.au by 1 March 2021 if possible.

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| Image | Title | Comment | Award |
|  | Alone | This image has a most apt title in the isolated tree. The mono conversion doesn’t offer enough contrast in grey scale variants to provide impact. Might I suggest the maker try the conversion again after they have addressed the contrast issue while still a colour image. Also the composition might be revisited as well to offer more compositional balance ie, less foreground to emphasize the tree and sky. The centrally positioned tree is strong and works well. | Acceptance |
|  | Lots of hot air | A very strong composition offering the viewer a front row seat to what is happening. The men are positioned well and give strength to the story. The large red balloon and flame offer impact. Well done. | Honour |
|  | Painted silos | A beautiful image. Wonderful mono conversion that has been sensitively weighted to the lighter side to enhance all the detail. Composition is completely balanced. Sharp detail. Lots of story. Very nice indeed. | Honour |
|  | Sidewalk Sales | This is a good mono conversion although the darkened right top corner does out balance the rest of the work. I liked the maker’s idea of capturing a small section of the street view. Enjoyed the line of street stones that leads the eye up the street. Central area is a little busy, so the eye travels to the three men. Travel photography sometimes required a little gumption to get the locals attention. (I usually smile, wave vigorously and yell ‘Hi’ – as if to someone behind them – and take the shot.) Good effort. | Acceptance |
|  | Swirling Scarf | Wonderful colour and texture. Love the title and the treatment. Very attractive creative/impressionist image. Well done to the maker for working in this genre. Keep it up, have fun and let your imagination run riot. | Highly Commended |
|  | Bug Bum | Poor little lady bug, not her best angle. Love the simple and limited colours. Composition is balanced. I find the image a little soft though and wonder if the maker could do a little processing magic to sharpen up *just* the Lady Bug. Such a good idea – keep the idea going and try collecting a folio of this work. | Accepted |
|  | Morning Bounty | Great composition and depth of field that leaves the focus falling away gently to almost a bokeh background. Bee is nicely positioned and leaves plenty of room for the viewer to contemplate the type of flower he is on. Bright clean colour although the green could almost be overpowering.  | Merit |
|  | Ostrich | What a Cracker!! Love it! Wouldn’t change a thing. (and you have my apologies for the very ‘un-judge-like’ comments. The impact of having this guy pop in front of me was a delight! Well done! | Honour |
|  | Peahen | Beautiful Colour and a great idea, but, *and I know we all hate ‘buts’*, if the maker has other images shot at the same time with the bird on a better angle and a little sharper, it would be well worth revisiting. What a great subject and I do enjoy the close-up idea with birds – it has the potential to offer so much ‘usually unseen’ detail. | Acceptance |
|  | Banksia | The image offers unusual and pleasing colour pallet. The maker’s choice of focal point has provided a clear view of the inner stamens while offering fascinating textures and light patterns that lead the eye to the right. The close crop highlighting the right hand side of the banksia offer some perfectly clear examples of the plants buds. Very nicely handled and presented. | Merit |
|  | Colourful Birds | Good composition and plenty of colour help to carry off this image. It appears to be quite soft of focus – possibly due to a shallow depth of field that only captures the face of one of the birds. The maker might try adjusting the sharpness to see if other areas can be enhanced. You’ll notice that those areas on the same depth as the right hand bird’s face, also seem sharp. An endearing image and a good effort. | Highly Commended |
|  | Forest Floor | A pleasing composition. Placing the toadstool on ‘the third’, with focus falling away into darkness adds atmosphere. The light is rather sharp and may have caused some bright spots in the background. Lots of detail on the hood of the toadstool. Good Effort. | Acceptance |
|  | Mulla Mulla | This botanical close up offers lots of detail and a good solid central orientation to the composition. The colour of the flowers presents well with the makers choice of treatment and the darker conditions. When offering a close up of nature make sure you’ve done all you can to get the best possible detail and sharpness that the image can offer. Great idea – keep it up. | Highly Commended |
|  | Out from the Canyon | Great layered lines and composition. Love the inclusion of the little boat to offer perspective. Some may say the sky is featureless and the grey mountains offer nothing to the colour pallet - but I would beg to differ. I particularly enjoyed the jade green of the water against the grey mountains and that the sky doesn’t compete, so that the viewer’s eye returns to the subject. Well Seen.  | Highly Commended |
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Some observations:

* Where there is a lack of – or – no provision for, a ‘story’ - go for atmosphere through lighting and let the viewer’s imagination create the story.
* Be brave – dare to be different. Even when you might have doubts about an image – enter it anyway.
* If you’ve done *your best with technique and presentation*, then *any* critique you receive will help to educate you about your work and its possibilities.
* Always run through your ‘housekeeping’ before entering an image:
* check for lens spots,
* check for level horizons,
* check for bright spots,
* check for compositional balance
* and
* check its sharp where it should be.

 *Take these out of the equation and the judge will have to think hard about the job of critiquing your best effort.*

* Step out of your safety zone – try a genre you’ve never tried before.
* Have fun!

Thank you for asking me to judge your beautiful work.

 Kind regards - Wendy