

Gladstone Camera Club

August 2021 – Judges Comments

Sunrise / Sunset

Title (Sunrise/Sunset)	Comment	Score	
Cheers to the end of the day	Image does not meet requirement for size.	Acceptance	
Cotton candy clouds	Your composition with the inclusion of so many fine tall parallel pines stands out from the crowd. They are like arrows, pointing upwards to the heavens. The low horizon line and the small fence along the lower part of the image provides good foundation from which the pines rise into the sky. For improvement, the purples of the sky in combination with the strange coloured grass make it look as if you have made a global modification to the colour somehow. It has made it look false. Perhaps a colour change targeted just at the sky would work better.	Highly Commended	
Facing east at sunset	The detail and colour in your clouds is excellent, the muted lighting well managed, and composition with its low horizon line suits the image well. The boats seem overly bright to me, so I wonder if you may have given them a little Dodge in post production? If not, one small suggestion, take the brightness of the boats down a touch. I find I am looking at them more than at the whole composition. That means they are stealing attention from your cloud study.	Merit	
Light at Play	Your centrally placed sun and high horizon makes for a very pleasing composition. The high variation between the dazzling sun and the dark rocks of the shoreline has been very well handled, and the warm colour of the light on the water works well. The detail of the rocks in the foreground is good, and I like the arc of the line of the beach which is almost a diagonal within the composition. For improvement, read up on using the “hyperfocal distance” for choosing your focus point. If you had chosen to focus closer to your camera, the foreground rocks would have been sharper, without losing any of the focus within the rest of your image.	Highly Commended	
Photographer’s Dawn	Well done for getting a foreground, mid ground, background interest onto your landscape. I’ve heard some people say these three “interests” are	Merit	

	<p>essential for good landscape images, but I've seen lots of excellent landscapes with only one or two of them. "Rules" are meant to be broken, I say!!!</p> <p>The log in the foreground is well textured, but very dominant because of how you have managed the lighting, maybe to the point of being too bright. Now squint your eyes and look at the black areas of this image, without attending to the content of the coloured areas. See how many arcs there are in the composition where the black hits the colour. I think that is fascinating. So, my small suggestion for improvement is to remove the second central bit of driftwood, as it is not contributing to the scene's story or its composition. Photographers at the shoreline are where the story is, by the way. Well done for daring to be different.</p>		
Sunrise at Lara Wetlands	Your watery reflections at dawn are lovely. Good colour, technically proficient and the strong silhouette is working for you. A suggestion for improvement is to crop about half of the empty black at the bottom of your image. That will reframe so that the horizon is lower, and your composition will be more pleasing.	Merit	
Sunset at Willows Gemfields	That whisper of cloud behind the trees in your image is a bonus. The light flare from the sun is another bonus. The colour is pleasant, and the silhouettes of the trees frame the image well. I also like that the mountains in the distance stand out from the plains, separated by their different colour. Only one small suggestion for improvement to the composition. Crop about half of the black foreground so that your horizon is lower.	Merit	
Start of a new day	Image does not meet requirement for size.	Acceptance	
A Calm Start	WoW, what a cracker! The colour is the first thing to impress. Red, as you know, attracts the viewer's eye. Just can't help it. It's a reflex based on our distant ancestors understanding the "red for danger" signal. Next to impress is the remarkably clear detail in the boats and jetties. I'm thinking a time exposure has smoothed the water in the marina. Very well done technically, and compositionally. Love your work.	Honour	
Dawn Dreaming	This one is subtle. It is the minimalism and graphic nature of the image that appeals to me. I've seen that outback blur at the horizon, that's real, as is the strength of colour. Your composition is very pleasing, with the mesa offset to the right. See, this image has	Honour	

	no foreground or midground interest, and yet, it is a great image for other reasons. Good for you for catching this dawn.		
Fire in the sky	Gosh, they are coming thick and fast now – the excellent and impressive images. I think I recognise the Gladstone Harbour, Mt Larcom and the coal loading conveyors. Great day to stake out this view. The panorama has most of its active detail around the island in the centre, and the shoreline framing the water across the foreground. Only one small thought. Maybe a crop - half the black on the left and half the shed roof on the right - would not remove any of the colour or detail in the image. Great scene, great colour, what's not to like.	Honour	
Mt Larcom Sunset	This is an image which has hidden gems in the late afternoon shadows. The port infrastructure is just a suggestion visible in the glow of the sun as it sets. Colour is lovely, the frame of Mount Larcom against the sky and the line of the shore across the water works well. The vast sweep of empty sea and sky concentrates the viewers' attention on the story of the busy conveyor belt and stockpile off in the distance where the well-lit sky meets the dark silhouette of the sea. No suggestions for modification.	Merit	

Texture

Title (Texture Theme)	Comment	Score	
Mirror Mirror	Image does not meet the size criteria	Acceptance	
Coral like sand texture	<p>The sun has really emphasised the runnels in the sand where the water has withdrawn to the sea. What I notice most is how the lighting, playing across the grainy sand, draws attention to the contrast between the golden late afternoon light and the resulting shadows. I also appreciate the change of tempo, between the foreground dry and the background wet patterned surfaces. Technically proficient. No suggestions for change.</p>	Merit	
Corroded	<p>I see more contrast in this image. Contrast between smooth if old paint, and rough festering growths of decay and aging. The image does show roughness and smoothness, and works as a subject. For improvement, the square on composition is matter of fact, but unremarkable. Perhaps some different points of view or angles or some more creative presentation would help.</p>	Highly commended	
Spring	<p>Technically proficient, with good depth of field and lighting management. The diagonal composition works well and there is no distractions which steal away our attention. The surface is rough with rust and the pattern of the spring makes for lots of repetition. Hard to find a story because of its simplicity, but it certainly is textured.</p>	Merit	
Weathered	More advanced decrepitude. I do see a story in the	Honour	

	aging paint and running rust lines. It speaks of neglect and abandonment and a time when having a number meant there used to be a job and an identity for this boat. But not any more. I feel sad now. Well seen and well captured.		
Walk	You made me laugh. That's an emotional reaction from me, so more points for that. You also added a story, of walking (shoes), and observation (rough ground surface), and contrast (between light and shadow). Good onyer!	Merit	
Beach Ball	So, who said that texture has to be rough. Your version is smooth. That's still a texture. The image might be improved though by more attention to the capture of the image. For example, the lighting is bland, the focus is ordinary and the framing of the subject might be improved by being taken from a different point of view (higher/lower).	Highly commended	
Bracket Fungus	I'm glad you told me it is a fungus. It reminds me of honeycomb or the patterns made in limestone by water coming through the rooves of caverns. The subject has been well separated from its background through selective lighting and lots of negative space. The composition leaves the viewer with nowhere to look, other than at the subject. It is alright as an image that shows texture, but perhaps a different lighting style may make it more dynamic	Highly commended	
Paperbark	So, this image also shows texture in the form of bark. I see your shadow lines crossing the image, but other than it being a quiet and subtly coloured roughness, I struggle to find any meaning or special interest to stimulate my imagination. It is focused, it is nicely exposed and it is fairly ordinary.	Highly Commended	
Peacock	My imagination is, however, very stimulated by this image. Why? It is mysterious, and even though I quickly recognised it as a peacock feather, this photographer has pushed the image towards the realms of possibility. They have put the strands of tiny scales onto a reflecting surface so that there are sharp and detailed strands above, and blurring in the reflection. It has movement in the lines and patterns; it has selective lighting and selective depth of field that limits where the viewer's eye can wander. Whether deliberate or not, this image is manipulating me with its jewel like colours and forms. I'm impressed!	Honour	

Thin Blue Line	<p>So, this image goes beyond the superficial texture, and shows that there has been thought put into what it is and what it is saying. The bundle of rope or fibre is twisted into pleasing patterns of lines and made more valuable by the side lighting which gives the bundle not only coarse texture, but also light and shade making it three dimensional. Then, bonus, the fact that one strand is of a different colour draws the eye. That makes me wonder why is it there. Is it the tie that binds the hank? Is it the tall poppy? It is one that stands out from the crowd – it is up to us to imagine – why is it so? Story, impact, creativity and technically proficient. Works for me.</p>	Honour	
Weathered Rock	<p>I'm not quite sure where to look. This image has big bold shapes on the outside. Is that what you are intending to be the texture? Or is it the lines and patterns on the interior surfaces of the pockets that are the texture? The outer edges and deep hollows made of light and shade are strong and uniform. Being so big within the frame the honeycomb like pattern dominates the view. However when I look inside the honeycombs, I see quite a bit of texture lines on the inner surfaces, but they are subtle. So should I conclude? I need some signals from you as to where you want me to look. I look at bright bits first. Then I scan elsewhere for what you are directing me to look at. To me, the all over patterning of your image is actually a bit confusing.</p>	Highly commended	
Which Way Up	Image does not meet the size criteria	Acceptance	