

Gladstone Camera Club June 2017

Overall comments: Thank you for this opportunity to critique your images. There are just a couple of comments, I believe could be helpful.

1 Most judges tend to suggest to bring out as much detail as possible in your images, and I usually am of the same mindset. However, when we do that and make the image washed out (grey looking), we have lost the power of the image. A number of images here are too light and then don't have the nuances of dark and light. Please, take the time to look closely at your image, and for your own satisfaction, try increasing the Black point only in your Levels or darkening the midtones in Curves, and see what a difference it can make.

2. I'm not sure whether there is a set sizing for your images, however it is quite disconcerting to have the images ranging in size from straight out of the camera to reasonable projector sizing. It makes it quite difficult to view them all equally and critique them accordingly.

Colour - Minimalism

Code	Title	Result	Comments
C01	Daisy Daisy	Highly Commended	As a minimalist image this works quite well. The composition is good and the softness of the image works. If this was my image, I would probably have tried to create just a little more separation between the subject and background, by perhaps darkening the background slightly (subtle use of a vignette perhaps). Good effort for this subject.
C02	Dawn	Honour	Really appreciate the colours here and the simplicity of the image. If this was my image, the only thing I would do, would be to crop the couple of darker waves from the bottom of the image. The softness, brightness, and rich colours work very well. Certainly covers the topic very well.
C03	Dusk	Highly Commended	I adore the soft pastels of this image and the dreamy quality created with the slow shutter speed. If this was my image, I believe I would crop the empty section of sky from just below the dust spot in the left upper quadrant. This would then become stronger by only including contributing interesting areas of the image. I might even try boosting the vibrance and saturation a little.
C04	Follow the track	Highly Commended	The story with the cart and the track for me is the image, and I really enjoyed the way you have framed this image. Again though, if this was my image, I would probably want to enhance the beautiful textures here by darkening the midtones, which should also enrich the colours and create a little more dynamic image. I would probably also crop the darker area at the top out, to make this more of a panorama style image. This image is a little soft, but works well for this topic.
C05	Glass minimalist colour 2	Merit	I liked the overall impression of this image and particularly the glass itself, which I believe you've captured quite well. The background for me was a little disappointing, because of all the highlights competing for attention, though I do understand the blending of the subject and background created by the light, and appreciate the significance for this topic. I also like the way you have framed this to isolate your subject.
C06	Island at dusk	Honour	Another soft ethereal style image, which works very well. This is quite a mesmerising image, though I believe more appeal could be achieved perhaps with slight darkening of the midtones, so that it adds more depth and feeling to it. I believe it may also offer a little more detail and enrich the colours.
C07	Lake Awoonga	Highly Commended	This is a great moody image, and the blues enhance that feeling of cool isolation, which is quite attractive. I just feel that with the image being lightened as much as it has, this has detracted from the full potential of this image. If this was mine, I would darken the midtones and possibly crop some off the left side of the image, to create a little more dynamic to the tree. For this topic, minimalism, the framing and sizing of the subject has been well done.
C08	Looking down from the sundeck	Highly Commended	Nice colours, and I like the shapes and textures within the bow of the boat. Just to throw a spanner in the works, and really make me sit up, if this was mine, I'd perhaps try flipping the image vertically. I believe this might really grab our attention.
C09	Soaring	Honour	A fantastic image, which has been well conceived and executed. The contrast between the soft ethereal pastel background and the bright sharply focused bird has worked extremely well. Great image.
C10	Window minimalist colour 1	Merit	A simple image with good texture within the dome walls, and the intriguing configuration of the dome covering. This image showed a fair amount of noise, which I believe most would be eliminated if it was sized to about 1500 pixels wide. If the midtones were darkened, I believe it would enrich the colour of the stone wall and really make this image pop. I also believe for this topic, the bottom of the image competes a little too much with the dome.

Mono - Open

Code	Title	Result	Comments
M01	Ballooning	Highly Commended	A unique look with the use of Infrared, though, if this was my image, there are perhaps a few things I would try. 1. I'm not sure the words on the side of the balloon were necessary. 2. There appears to be too much in the image, and I would crop off the top of the image under the two balloons, and even crop the bottom off just above the smoke. I believe this image has great potential.
M02	Letting the light in	Highly Commended	An intriguing image, which has been handled deftly. I appreciate the curves of the and lines here, which compel you to want to follow around the bend to see more. If this were mine though, I would crop the image on the right to remove the first few high rise buildings as they tended to draw my attention away. A good image.
M03	Skylights minimalist colour 1	Merit	I liked the shapes and interaction of the lines here. My first impression from this colouring was severe chromatic aberration. I think this image would have more impact as a straight black and white. The strenght of this image is in the focus of lines in the top left of the image, so I would probably crop about a third off the bottom and right, to strengthen that impact. Definite possibilities.
M04	Bare hills scapes BnW1	Merit	This image has strenght in the layering of the hills and would be even more impactfull if the blacks were increased. This would then increase the separation of the layering. An appealing image which I think could have lots of potential.
M05	Concentration	Honour	Great image with a good story, which has been captured well. The only thing I might suggest, is increasing the blacks very slightly, to add a little more contrast. Well done.
M06	Death at Awoonga	Merit	Quite a poignant image. In trying to isolate the most detail from the image though, it has lost some of it's contrast making it more a grey tone image. I believe this would have much more impact if either the blacks or contast were increased. Definite potential.
M07	Flying ship	Honour	Beautifully exposed image, cropped well, and contrast handled very astutely. Take note of the depth of the blacks and the fabulous detail.
M08	Jagged peaks scapes BnW1	Merit	I could not find any apparent focal point in this image, as it all appears to be rather soft focused, and it really needs the black levels or contrast increased. If the contrast was increased about 100%, I believe the image will appear sharper, create more detail, and increase interest.
M09	Mountain scapes BnW2	Merit	Always a difficult image, when there are such high contrast areas within it. This image similar to the other two mountain images, could use an increase or darkening of the midtones to enhance some of the detail in the lighter areas. If you can do it, sometimes it is worth taking two or more images at different exposures and then blending the best parts of each of them (HDR but done discretely).
M10	Pelican in flight	Merit	As an impressionist image, this seems to work. For me though, I believe this style of image seems to have more impact when done in colour, which adds another dimension and softening to an image. Moonochromes have their most impact due to the contrasts created, and even though you have achieved it here with the white pelican, I still believe the colour version would possibly be better.
M11	Repetition	Highly Commended	This image appears to be focused quite well and taken at a good time of the day. For me though, the image is a little busy, with too much repetition and no real resting point. I believe it could be much stronger reduced to just 4 to 6 balconies, and darkening the midtones. If this was mine, I'd probably just use the 4 balconies in the left bottom corner. With architectural images it is also important to ensure vertical lines, if used, are vertical throughout the image.
M12	Valley scapes BnW2	Highly Commended	The curve of the river works well, and the inclusion of a foreground, which has some great detail, to compliment the midground and background, ties everything together extremely well. I know some people like sun flares in their images, however for me, I feel they detract from the image, and try to compete for attention. I also believe this image will have more impact with the midtones darkened a little, and I'm not sure that all of the blank sky area is necessary, as it really isn't adding to the story.
M13	Wild Cattle Island	Honour	I really appreciated this image, it's perspective, and enjoyed the interacting lines and the intrigue they created. Pesonally, I would darken the midtones a little, and perhaps crop out some of the blank sky. Well done.