

# Gladstone Camera Club

## July 2021 – Judges Comments

### Bokeh

Title	Comment	Score	
Forest Delight	This image has great colours. The sharp and beautiful red leaves are backed by golden orbs – excellent bokeh. The lighting on the leaves is beautiful, although the image as a whole could be lightened a little to give it a lift. There is a dark area running down the left which needs to be left there so the end of the branch remains in the image. If you use post processing this could easily be dealt with by cloning just a few of the duller orbs into that area to break it up a little. It's a very good image – well done.	Highly Commended	
Golden-headed Cisticola	This is a beautifully done image – the bird is sharply in focus and composition is excellent, as are the soft background colours. There is a suggestion of points of light in the background but it is so subtle it is almost unnoticeable.	Merit	
Kingfisher	This little bird has been 'cut and pasted' into this image. The bird is very blue and the saturation could be cut back just a little. There are soft circular highlights in this background so you have chosen well.	Acceptance	
Two's Company	This is an absolutely stunning image. The background is beautifully blurred and there is very subtle bokeh, almost unnoticeable but still there. My only suggestion is to crop a little at the bottom to balance it a little more.	Honour	
Drying Out	What a find – a dragonfly covered in what I'm assuming is dew. There is background bokeh providing a nice contrast to the white and red of the dragonfly. There is an unusually shaped object in the lower right corner which, although soft, does catch the eye and	Highly Commended	

	<p>this would be better cloned out. You have used a very shallow depth of field to achieve the bokeh effect and this has resulted in a very sharp head but a soft abdomen. Using a higher f-stop would help with this, but could decrease the bokeh effect – you would have to test this as there are several factors involved such as distance from the subject to the background. An alternative is to change the angle of your camera so the dragonfly is parallel to your sensor.</p>		
Light the Way	<p>This old lantern has been taken from an unusual angle and is sharp and well exposed. The warm light from the lantern is lovely and the circular bokeh with its varied colours is well done. There is a small orange light above the lantern but it is soft and non intrusive. Good work.</p>	Highly Commended	
Indy	<p>The circular bokeh in this image is great. You have done well to deal with the high contrast between the dog and bright sky, although there is loss of definition in the ears. The sky is bright but not blown out, and it suits this image.</p>	Highly Commended	
Busy Bee	<p>The light on the background flowers and foliage has created lovely circular bokeh in this image. The bee is sharp although the shallow depth of field has resulted in parts of the flower being soft. The colours are soft and attractive and it is a pleasing image.</p>	Highly Commended	
Grass seedhead	<p>There is fascinating bokeh in this image but there is not a lot of context – the seed head appears as if it is being held up against the background. It is sharp and even has a little insect on it; one of the fronds is blown out. This would have been taken in daylight so altering the angle of the seed head could help; alternatively you could use a diffuser to soften the light. Composition would be improved if there was more room at the top to balance the image.</p>	Acceptance	
Pathway	<p>What a great idea for an image! The</p>	Merit	

	near end of the dog is soft – you could crop a little off the bottom to decrease the out of focus area, but not eliminate it altogether because doing this would detract enormously from the image. It is very well thought out and executed.		
Resting Dragonfly	This is a great image – the background is blurred with great circular bokeh, the dragonfly is sharp, composition is good and the colours are lovely. Well done.	Honour	

### Scapes

Title	Comment	Score	
Framed by Rocks	This is a great seascape which is indeed framed by rocks. It is well composed with the foreground rocks almost looking 3-D. The moody sky adds atmosphere. Monochrome suits this image. This is excellent work.	Honour	
Grave View	The colours in this image are very attractive. The gravestones provide good leading lines although the thick green hedge does create a visual block to these; however the hedge is picked up by the coastline further in the image and so continues to lead the eye in. Thought could be given to cropping at the bottom to remove a third to a half of the grass – this will bring the viewer closer to the image.	Highly Commended	
Rugged Coastline	This is a lovely image – a rugged coastline, fascinating water and a beautiful sky with soft lighting. Composition and exposure are good and the colours are very attractive. Great work.	Highly Commended	
South-West Coast	This is a great coastal scene with an interesting coastline and fluffy clouds. The action in the rolling waves is fascinating, as are the different colours in the water. Colour, composition and exposure are good, and the image is nicely balanced. Well done.	Merit	
Melting Moonlight	This image beautifully demonstrates the 'Belt of Venus' - an astronomical	Merit	

	<p>phenomenon visible when the sun is just below the horizon, either just before sunrise or just after sunset. To see it you have to turn your back to the sun, so instead of photographing the sunrise or sunset you can get spectacular skies like this one. This image is striking, with the factory, the full moon and that beautiful sky. The moon is ragged on one side, presumably from the chimney discharge. Taking a step to one side would have placed the moon away from the chimney and avoided this. There is a hint of banding in the sky indicating that the colours have almost been pushed to their limit. The image needs to be cropped at the bottom to remove what looks like a wall. However in spite of these minor issues it is an excellent image. Well done.</p>		
Morning on Lake Matheson	<p>This is a beautiful, tranquil scene that has all the features needed to create a strong image – clouds, perfect reflections, lovely colours. There is one sensor spot in the middle of the sky which needs to be removed. It is a stunning image.</p>	Honour	
Emanate	<p>There is a lot of contrast in this image and this has resulted in a very bright sky and very dark earth. Balancing the lighting would soften the sky and lift the ground, which would bring out more definition in both, and improve the image significantly. There appears to be a body of water in the background on the left and if this is so the horizon dips to the right. A few minor modifications would make this image much stronger.</p>	Acceptance	
Lone in the Vast	<p>This is an expansive view taken from a unusual perspective. One could argue that the lone tree is a dominant feature but as it is in the foreground and used more as a framing element it isn't part of the landscape and the eye is drawn right past it. The bottom half of this image is a little too heavy and would be better lightened. The tree on the left would be a good feature if it was there in entirety as it would create a frame within a frame; as it is it creates a distraction and would be better not there.</p>	Highly Commended	

	<p>There is a sensor spot in the top centre of the image that needs to be removed. It is obviously a very attractive area and you were lucky to be there on a lovely day so you could take this image.</p>		
Country Gold	<p>This is a lovely image of the outback that would make a great subject for a painting, with the old house and the horses. The magnificent sky and the lovely gold of the grass complement each other. The trees, mountains and the foreground shadow are too dark and lose a lot of detail because of this – selectively lightening them would lift the image and take it to another level.</p>	Highly Commended	
Hay Maker	<p>This is a great shot of the Milky Way and you have used light to add interest to the foreground, which has been desaturated. There is a large amount of magenta noise in the sky, which extends down to the distant bales of hay. This usually comes from lightening underexposed dark areas. Shooting the Milky Way can be a challenge, especially with a bright foreground, because the longer exposure required for the sky will blow out the foreground – so to avoid this the shorter exposure used results in a darker sky. Looking at the hard shadows from the hay bales I suspect that there was constant lighting such as from headlights; light painting can give a better result because the amount (and direction) of the light can be controlled. Another thing to keep an eye on with night photography is focus – this image is soft throughout. It looks like a great area to do night photography so going back and experimenting could result in some very good images.</p>	Accepted	
New Day	<p>Sunflowers always make a great subject and these are no exception, even looking at them from behind as they face the rising sun. The foreground flowers are sharply in focus; the foliage could be lightened just a little to bring them to life. There is magenta colour noise in the haze from the sun and the light area in the left upper corner ?cloud is distracting. The background hills are a little washed out and judicious use of dehaze in post processing would give them</p>	Acceptance	

	a little more depth. One thing to note when photographing flowers – if it is possible pick a really healthy and unblemished specimen.		
Sunday Drive	It would be a lovely drive on a Sunday afternoon – peaceful and relaxed as you have well depicted in the image. The trees reflect the gentle curve of the road which leads the viewer through the image, and the few clouds in the sky add interest as clouds always do. There is a dark area in the trees on the left and if possible it would be good to lighten it just a fraction – even highlighting the trunks that are already partially lit would add more life to it and break it up a little. It is a lovely forest scene and you have captured it well.	Highly Commended	