

"June Colour"

1. "Aquatic -Goodbye" Subject is sharp. Being in centre of frame works well. Flesh tone colours are good though almost overexposed (loses 1-point). Subject well thought out. Background slightly out of focus to the degree that it 'feels' wet! Good play. Well done. There's a 'story' here. (And we would all write our own in response to how it makes us feel on viewing this beautiful image. Such images often need a number of 'takes') **Score 13.5 Honour**
2. "First light catch" First impressions are that the bird is a bit "big" for the frameit **just** fits-in corner to corner. The subject is much better with a bit more space around it (1-pt) and even flying into (or out of) the space (1-pt) is better. This does not take away from your good 'capture' (of the shot, not the bird) & that it's sharp. Notice how the photographer has captured the play of the sun through the feathers (especially RHS) almost magically **Score 11 H/Commended**
3. "Sitting at the yacht club" You've tried for 'effect' with a wide-angle lens but the subject only emphasises the lensatic/spheric distortion, especially with the masts far left so that the viewer feels uncomfortable (loses 2-pts)... Maybe it might be better if you cropped L of the rightmost mast & cropped 1/7 width on the left hand side? Colours otherwise are dramatic, even 'arty'. You are on the right track. In this shot the sky's the main feature & is dramatic. **Score 10**
4. "French River" The big plus is the panoramic format, but like so many European and British images, the weather owes you a favour or two. Imagine this same shot under full sun (or even hazy sun). Unfortunately it appears "muddy" & not very inviting. As a positive, your image has a good line-in from bott-left up-to mid right **Score 9**
5. "Edge of the desert" So simple this image. It tells a story. One cannot but help to have an emotional response to this, only bettered by (say) a scavenging bird on that horizontal branch, or a lizard adjacent, or tracks leading off to top right. Very good colour, composition (even pink cloud hovering top left!). Sharp. Well seen & well taken. As a comment about the composition, maybe if the knarled roots were a tad further left (i.e.crop tad left?) would improve the image. This is one of those much pictorialised "calendar" shots **Score 13 Honour**
6. "Pink Salt Lake" Great harmony of pinks, purples & lilacs. The tree is on meeting of the thirds, all good positives; but we'd like to see a bit more 'brightness' (The sun is out ... see shadow) to add a point or two **Score 12 Merit**
7. "Saltbush Plain" You certainly captured some great variation in natural colour. We now better appreciate the out-back "wilderness plains". I'm not too sure about the angled 'striations' to the clouds. Is this an applied post-production effect or filter? Unfortunately looks a bit artificial, but granted that you might have been striving for an artistic effect. If so, ok. Image might be helped by darkening/burning foreground to help "depth" & add 2-pts. Chimney location is ok. **Score 10.5**
8. "Territorial dispute" A shot 0.5/1 sec earlier or later may have put the 'aggressor' in a better position photographically & not give us a complication of wings & legs. Just the luck of the draw, but always be sure to run off a succession of 5-10 shots in such situations... or did you, and this was the best? At least the image is well toned & sharp **Score 10**
9. " There is a whole ocean out there" Subtle tonal play in the background looks natural & is good. But as a viewer, I find my eye wandering & it's because I want it to settle on the fish, but the paraphernalia at the bottom competes for our attention. Crop as much as you dare & make a better shot & add maybe 2-pts **Score 9.5**
10. "Sunset on the Lake" Overall colour harmony is great. Sun & the specular effect is natural & effective. It imparts mood. Who is not affected emotionally by such an "end of day" image? 3-trees is a good choice but I wonder if you'd earn a point more if you 'burned'-in the shaded areas left & right? Again, a great "calendar" shot **Score 13 Honour**

"After dark"

01. "2018 Boyne Tannum Sands Hookup Fireworks" Good "exposure" control (ISO, aperture, timing) gives you a satisfying result. Overall sharpness & colour. Composition within frame couldn't be better, though some would argue that, due to the multicoloured mass on left, a bit of the "negative space" far R should 'go' (& add 1pt). This shot would not look out of place on a calendar, in my opinion. **Score 13 Honour**

02. "Night Shift" Unusual. Good pano. Gradated sky colour at twilight is good. Sharp. Some might say that there's no particular point for one's eyes to rest on. (One could say the same with landscape). Would sit well on a wall in some CEO's office in an industrial setup. I might've cropped a tad off right to bring tower into the 'thirds'? Picky! **Score 12.5 Honour**

03. "Canoe Point" "Spooky" but wondrous image this one. Wide angle shot. Good 'time-exposure' control (ISO, aperture, timing). Good balance of colours. The only criticism might be that maybe one should try for a bit better tonal separation between sand and sky. (Try the "squint test" to see what I mean). So, why not play with post production brightness/contrast" control **carefully** & maybe add even one more point? Great shot. Marvellous patience! **Score 13.5 Honour**

04. "Fire and Stars" Good try & very effective. A hard subject. The contrast of the white-dark is a bit too much (lost 1-pt) but maybe at this time of day you had no choice. If you crop off 1/6 width (right) you'll cut off "negative space" & place the subject better within the frame & gain 1-pt or 2. **Score 11 H/Commended**

05. "Marina at night" Great harmonious lilacs, blue-purples are restful & bind the shot together. The brightness of the lighting on the boat on the far right makes it difficult for our eye to rest. We can't shift this boat (high brightness ratio) so instead we might either tone down the lights or maybe trim 1/7th of the right side?? (& add 1 pt.). Having said that, it is a restful, sharp image.....and maybe there is a "Story" here. Anyway it is 'relaxing'. **Score 11.5 H/Commended**

06. "Smoky Cape lighthouse" Successful time exposure at dusk. Good timing (exposure time, aperture, ISO) even getting the stars! But do watch overexposure of the lighthouse-light itself (1-pt) which is always a challenge in "after dark" photography. Some judges would say that the light "house" itself could stand a short shift to the left away from the centre of the frame. Pleasant image. Again, and image of the 'calendar' type. **Score 12 Merit**

07. "Dealing with Life" The idea was good but in an endeavour to "tell a story" the background objects on right might appear to be a bit 'contrived', even messy? Think of a way to 're-do' this a tad better & add few pts. **Score 9**

08. "When the sun goes down at QAL" The specular effects lift this from the doldrums. but if there'd been clouds, it might have helped the image immensely. Maybe if the shot were taken slightly later? (...15mins?). **Score 10**

09. "Sideshow fun" Smoke here "makes the mood". The viewer gets the feeling of 'fun'. You've done well to keep the image sharp. Not easy this time of day but maybe you had sideshow-alley lights to help? Fairly "flat" image. Little (if any) depth or foreground to help. But well seen & captured anyway. Surprisingly good as a mono. **Score 10.5**