

Gladstone Judging

September 2019–

Judge; Maureen Carthy

Nature;

Mitey Snack – Highly Commended

Comments; Very good use of depth of field to ensure the background is soft and complimentary. I see a beautiful bird, which has been well captured and exposed. I would consider a tighter crop, maybe a horizontal crop would work for you. This would remove the distracting sticks in the top of the frame, some reduction in the highlights would enhance your excellent capture further.

Mr Pelican – Highly Commended

Comments; Lovely natural colours have been recorded and I am pleased you have filled the frame with the subject.

Your angle of view makes the bird's body appear smaller in comparison, to the head and neck. However shooting from this angle has ensured that the background has no distracting elements. The bird sure is a beauty, however it appears a tad soft to me.

Orange Mirror –

Comments; the subject is rather bold and it is larger than life, which gives it impact. The colours are a tad loud for me and I can see that the depth of field was shallow and therefore the flower is lacking sharpness. However this is a brilliant subject choice, for this theme.

The Dive –

Comments – Magical image. I can see digital noise in the background, but for me that gives this image texture. Sadly the bird is not sharp; if it had been, I would have expected to have seen this image in one of the interclub competitions, so keep up the good work.

Brolga – Honour

Comments – A stunning image with good eye contact, great pose with the birds head directly above its feet and the ruffled feathers are a bonus.

I would still consider a tiny crop off the bottom and about a third off the top, to stop our eye traveling there.

You should be very happy with this image.

Never Smile at a Crocodile – Honour

Comments – Talk about filling the frame for impact, well done. Are you sure it is smiling, maybe it's offering you an invitation. Great subject placement and the hint of mangrove tree growth in the foreground, works. Given the dynamic range, you have handled the shadows well.

Open;

Wonder what today will bring – Highly Commended

Comments – There is a good leading line, running into this image from the right hand corner to the boat in the centre. Tranquil colour what give a feeling of piece and quite, very calming. I am thinking a further crop, is required. I would consider removing some off the bottom (the log is a distraction) and most of the left. To put the boat in the middle, on the left hand third vertical. This placement puts more focus on the boats in the background, which are also pointing the way to this same boat and therefore giving a more balanced composition. And I hope you also caught, some great fishing time.

Eta Aquarids – Merit

Comments - We don't see this meteor shower to often, I can see that you have captured the event successfully, congratulations. Filling the frame was an excellent idea. For me I would have preferred the black to have been a tad darker and the colours more saturated, to make it pop off the screen.

My Beach Buddy – Merit

Comments – A lovely warm capture, of a beautiful young lady with great eye contact and the message Good Times. There has been intelligent use of existing light, in a complementary manner. I would suggest investigating toning down the blue in the background or maybe you could convert the background to monochrome. All the same, this is a delightful image.

Outback Sunset –

Comments – What a magical location, I hope you spent a few days here.

I have a feeling you missed the moment, or it just didn't happen the rocks are missing some warmth. Looking at the image, you have presented me the Rocks are the subject.

Consider cropping $\frac{3}{4}$ of the rock on the far right away, to stop our eye traveling there and take a little off the top. If you want to make the rocks the subject then crop most of the left away and open up the shadows some to show more detail.

Gee, I wish I had been there with you.

Pink Salt Lake –

Comments – I see an interesting s shaped line in the foreground, leading us into the image.

You have captured the lovely pinks of the clouds. I am really like the one on the right which is adding some tension, as it is very close to the ground. I am thinking the left side of this image is not complementing the right, so I would consider cropping a $\frac{1}{3}$ of the left away. You may wish to investigate adding some white to the sky, to make the sky pop a little more.

Where to go from here – Honour

Comments – good placement of the boats in the foreground and wonderfully work, recording the textures in the water. The light rays take us across the water into the background. If you put this into other competitions, consider cloning out the tip of the other boat on the right hand border. Your image has a good story and has been brilliantly captured.

The End

