

## Open Theme

Image Title	Judges Comments	Result
My Star	This is a lovely image of a young girl and her violin. It is a great family shot but technically could be stronger. It is slightly out of focus and the exposure could be improved by turning her a little to her right to decrease the highlights on her left side. It would also be a good idea to get her to hold the bow so it isn't in front of her face. Another thing to remember with portrait photography is that you will always have a stronger image if the subject is made to stand out by softening the background using depth of field. However it is a lovely memento and one that will bring a happy smile when you look back at it in the future.	Acceptance
Billabong Sunset	This is a lovely sunset and these colours in the water always make an attractive image. It is very simple with no clouds and good reflections. The orange colour is perhaps a little oversaturated but it is effective. There is an even number of trees and you could try cropping out the one on the left with corresponding cropping at the top and bottom. This would bring the viewer closer in to the image, but it may also take away from the open feeling in the image. It is worth a try to see what you think, but overall this is a relaxing and attractive image to look at, so well done.	Merit
Galata Bridge	This is an excellent image. The leading line of the bridge takes us right into the image, but the bridge itself is the dominant feature. The shadow under the bridge combines well with the dark areas in that fascinating sky. Great work!	Honour
I'm Watching You	These birds make great subjects as they always seem to have a lot of character – not something one would normally say about a wild bird. This one is sharp and is also standing out against the soft background. There is enough detail in the background to give some context to the image and to add balance. Composition is very good. Reducing the exposure a little would have avoided the areas on the 'neck' and left leg from losing a little detail. It's a great opportunistic shot.	Highly Commended
Tannum Shell	This is a lovely image – simple yet fascinating, with a lot to look at. Depth of field has been well used and draws the eye straight to the white stone in the near aspect of the shell. Great work.	Merit
The Offices	These buildings complement each other beautifully to make this a strong image. One building is light and airy while the other is dark and looming with reflections of the lighter building in its windows. The darker building is a little too dark at the bottom and has lost definition in the shadows so it would be worth lifting this in post processing. There is some keystone on the left and correcting this would remove it as a distraction and make it a stronger image.	Merit

The Road In	This is beautiful image depicts the typical Australian outback. It has been very well done and deserves its award.	Honour
Waiting to Land	This action shot is excellent. Good composition and exposure, good delineation of the subject. Great work.	Honour
Chive Flowers	These are attractive flowers and this one has been presented in a soft and dreamy way. Focus is intentionally soft. The colour of the flower is good but the background colour is a little murky and doesn't suit the flower. The stem is ever so slightly crooked and in a simple image like this it is better to be either symmetrical or obviously deliberately angled, so cropping to make the stem vertical would strengthen the image.	Highly Commended
Fairy Wrens	These two wrens have been beautifully captured and are extremely sharp. Composition is the only thing that could be improved – they are a little too high in the image, so cropping would fix this. However because they are so sharp significant cropping could be done to make them stand out as the stars, so this would be worth a try. Well done.	Merit
Serrated Edges	Succulents taken from this angle always create a great image. This one is sharp enough to easily see the small serrations on the edges of the leaves, but the depth of field is not great enough to capture the closest leaves clearly. This is an image you can take again so increase the depth of field to keep the entire plant sharp and it will be stronger. Also – for a very symmetrical image like this keep the centre of the flower exactly in the centre of the image.	Highly Commended
Wilmots Lagoon	The composition of this image is good, allowing the viewer to go past the picnic table to the lagoon then across into the bush. There are a lot of areas in this image that appear to be smudged or softened, and in the bottom right corner there is some duplication in the grass. Initially I thought this may have been motion from wind but it appears to be too random for this so I can only assume it has been done in post processing, although I am not sure why. If this is the case when using post processing in an image like this make sure your work is invisible to the viewer.	Acceptance
Champagne Pools	This is an attractive scene that has the potential to be a good image, but there are some technical issues here that are a problem. The most important is the crooked horizon, so always check this. The sky and the waves are overexposed on the right – this would no doubt be related to the lighting conditions on the day, which can be difficult to deal with unless filters or exposure bracketing are used. I'm assuming this has been done by a novice photographer who does not have access to post processing programs to correct some of these issues, and if this is the case getting it right in camera is important.	Acceptance
Drops Collide	These are always spectacular photos when you get it right, as can be seen here. To get colliding water droplets without the use of special equipment such as the Pluto system is extremely difficult.	Merit

	This is a great image – my only suggestion now you have mastered the colliding droplet stage is to play with the settings to try to get the entire water ‘mushroom’ pin sharp. Great work.	
Ready to Jump	This is a great image of a jumping spider, which are very small as can be seen by its size relative to the leaves. This spider is so sharp the image could easily be cropped to allow the viewer to see it up closer. This would also make it stand out a lot more as the subject as in this image it is a little lost. Lifting the shadows just a little if you use post processing will lighten up the spider so more detail can be seen. Although shooting insects is often opportunistic and you do not get a chance to ‘set the stage’, if you can move your camera just a tiny bit so your angle of view changes you can often eliminate things that may be in the way such as the leaf in front of this spider. Well done for capturing this – I do a lot of macro / close up photography and it is not as easy as it may seem to get a sharp image such as this.	Highly Commended
Growing	This is a very interesting image and most of us don’t ever get close enough to a water lily to see it in this way. The detail on the undersurface of the lily leaves is amazing, as is the way they poke out of the water and unfurl. These four leaves and the flower are the stars in this image, so cropping out some of the unnecessary background will bring them closer to the viewer and allow the detail to be seen. There is also the opportunity to make a vertical format image out of the two larger leaves and the flower, as they are sharp enough to do this. Great work for seeing this.	Highly Commended
Winding Track	This is a restful image of presumably a park garden. It is sharp and well composed in that the path leads the viewer in to the garden, but there is no specific point of interest in the image. It is always worth aiming to get this as without it the eye wanders around with nothing specific to look at. In a situation such as this framing would be another way to strengthen the image.	Acceptance
Stand of Time	This old wreck is a good subject and this image show the bones of the structure quite well against the ocean behind it. The wreck is slightly soft so having a sharper image would show the detail better. There is a lot of foreground in the image and cropping some of this would make the viewer feel closer to the wreck. There are many photo opportunities here that you could take advantage of – getting up close and using the wreck as a frame or taking it from different angles are a couple. There are a lot of interesting patterns you could utilize; and there is always the lighting to consider. Taking this at dawn or dusk would add a whole new dimension. If you have the opportunity it would be worth going back and trying a few things to see what you can achieve.	Acceptance