

**Theme – Open (colour or mono). Fran McFadzen March 2024**

Image Title	Judge Comments	Result
Dragon Landing	The camera settings you chose have given you a great plain green background to the dragonfly. Depth of field could have been a little greater though, to bring the wings more into focus. Composition is excellent.	Merit
Follow the Track	Good placement within the composition of the sculpture on the left (is it a sculpture or a ruin) and the abandoned house on the right. For improvement, some post processing will help. You have mentioned the track, but it is not as obvious as it could be. If you use Photoshop, try the Dodge Brush set to Midtones at 25% and run over the ochre part of the path. Then choose Shadows at 25% and run over the vegetation between where the path turns on each side of the image. The result will emphasise the zig-zag of the path, making it a lot more prominent.	Highly Commended
Beautiful in death	The golden glow of sunset has been well exposed with its sentinel tree standing tall against the distant hills. Colours are excellent, but the composition would be more pleasing if the tree were further off centre. If you have no impediments to the left or right of the tree in your original, the square crop might be best changed to a landscape aspect.	Highly Commended
City lights	Ooo look, more complimentary colours. The strong dark purple of the water and sky really magnifies the light yellow lighting shining forth from the high rises and boats. The long exposure has been well controlled. The composition pleasing as the 'horizon' line of the water has fallen onto the thirds line and your early evening timing for the blue hour works well. No suggestions for improvement.	Merit
Storm Clouds	The low horizon line accentuates the vastness of the sky, and the unusual lighting. What a weird puce colour those clouds are. To me, the clouds being thin and fairly flat actually look more like a sunset than a threatening storm. If you have post processing software, the sky may be able to be made look more menacing.	Highly Commended
Tassie Devil	This little devil looks like a juvenile. He is being busy doing devilish things, so that is good for an animal image. There are a few things to try for you to improve this shot. In Photoshop, select Filter/Camera Raw Filter (or open in Lightroom) choose the "Auto" Button at the top of the panel on the right. With a single click, Auto chooses what the software thinks are the best settings. Sometimes the result is good; sometimes not. You can accept or reject its result.  In my opinion, as it is, your image is overexposed, and could be cropped closer so that the animal fills the frame. Your depth of field is very wide, so the sharpness of the grass in the background has become a distraction. What I do love though is how the light is shining through that devilish ear, and how the red colour really draws the eye so that we notice it more.	Highly Commended

Who's Following	I wonder who was more surprised, you or the deer? She looks a bit nervous, so maybe not you with your camera up and good to go. The image has potential, but could be improved with the Auto button, previously mentioned if you have post processing software. The path has added perspective and leading lines to the image, but these features serve to take the viewer out of the frame and away from the deer. If you crop the image on the right side so that the deer is on the right thirds line, the distraction of the path is greatly reduced.	Highly Commended
Gum Trees	Intentional Camera Movement works well if it is done well. This one is good because it has included the bottoms of two of the trees, making it more realistic. Then the ochre colour change in the background, suggests a path. Rule of Odds is invoked by the number of foreground trees, and their texture has been captured as striations on the bark. Not bad!	Merit
Magnolia	This one ticks lots of boxes. It has impact, being so carefully captured so that only some petals are sharp. The soft yellowish glow from behind the flower is sparse, but effective as it illuminates the texture of that foreground petal beautifully. Colours are subdued; composition strong and the camera settings demonstrate technical proficiency. Love your work!	Honour
Bird at the pool	What a beauty! You have filled the frame with the subject - so good composition. If I was going to get picky though, I might ask for a little more looking room on the right for the beak. Exposure, depth of field and lighting are all well controlled.	Merit
Free as a Bird	The egret on the wing is good behaviour image for a critter image. Check how the wing dips into the water as it passes. It can be difficult to capture good detail in the feathers of a white bird, but yours is fine. Best of all is that beautifully sharp eye. Technically, the image has been well produced and is pleasing to the eye.	Merit