

Greymouth Camera Club Competitions

May 2010

Judge: Peter Wise FPSNZ

Natural History - Projected Images

A-Grade

104 *Nestor notabilis* Detail

Good feather and eye detail. The out of focus highlights on the left are distracting. As you are not allowed to Photoshop out those sorts of details in a Natural History competition, extra care needs to be taken in positioning yourself or the camera, paying attention to any possible background annoyances that could detract from the photo.

Merit

116 Fantail, *Rhipidura fuliginosa*, with Prey

These little fellows are hard to get a photograph off anytime so you have done well getting one with some food on its beak. I don't think it matters that the tail is out of focus as the fly on the birds beak at the other end of the photo compensates.

Honours

117 Southern Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus australis*)

A good study of a Southern Crested Grebe. Just a little more cropping would have emphasised the bird a little more.

Merit

131 Beech Forest Fungi, *Artomyces* and *Cortinaris* (2)

Good lighting and composition but a little gardening before the photo was taken would have tidied up the image a little. Removing those few sticks lying on the greenery would have removed some distractions.

Merit

131 *Hypholoma brunneum*

Taken from a little lower position and we would have been able to see the gills of the fungi. Nicely cropped and good exposure.

Accepted

140 Chamois, *Rupicapra rupicapra*

A good portrait study with good lighting. The only distraction are the sticks in the background placed right between the Chamois's antlers.

Merit

B-Grade

136 *Entoloma hochstetteri*

An excellent study with no distracting background detail.

Honours

136 White Heron - Kotuku Preening

While this might not be the prettiest picture of a White heron I have seen, it is an interesting study of the bird preening itself. The blue background is ideal for such a white bird with an orange beak.

Honours

C-Grade

138 Topical Blues

Well photographed but this image does need to be cropped closer to eliminate some of the highlights on the surrounding flax leaves.

Merit

151 Glow Worms

You are too far away. With plenty of practice and patients you should be able to get a lot closer for a more detailed image.

Accepted

153 Fern

Remember the eye is attracted to highlights first - where ever they might be. Here they are on the leaves in the background. Darken them and the viewers attention will shift to the fern first. You can do this in the field with the use of a piece of card shading the leaves from the light, much the same as you would use a reflector to light up an object but in reverse.

Accepted

Open - Projected Images

A-Grade

101 Aputilon Bud + Aphid

Cropping the sides of this image making it a vertical picture may have given it more impact.

Accepted

116 Fern Fantasy

The black gives good colour saturation to the green.

Accepted

117 ANZAC Day Racer

Well composed with good lighting and action.

Merit

140 Least we Forget!

This would be better presented as a horizontal image cropping off the bottom just below the soldiers' feet and the top just above the soldiers' head. The rest of the monument above the head is drawing the viewers attention away from the two soldiers which are the central point of the image. The bottom third is not adding anything to the picture so it should go also. As this is an "open" section, toning down the bright building structure on the left would have helped also.

Accepted

B-Grade

149 Golden Glory

Too much yellow all over the picture. Only the flower in the bottom right is sharp but it is competing for attention with the large area of out of focus yellow flowers.

Not Accepted

149 Noeline Waits

Too much of everything in this scene. Look for a smaller area that has interesting lines, contrasts, colours and / or angles. This would also eliminate a lot of unwanted background detail.

Accepted

C-Grade

113 Orange Coat Man

Lighting is excellent but there is too much orange. The real interest is the man's face but it is being over shadowed by the orange. Whenever you have a face in the picture, the face will be the attraction for the viewer of the image regardless of what else is in the scene. Here the orange is a distraction to the face. The face needs to be bigger in area than the orange to correct this. You can do that by positioning the shoulders end on to the camera.

Accepted

113 Stockton Mine

Cropping off the top and the right side of this image would have taken out the highlight in the top left hand corner and some of the unneeded image on the right.

Accepted

125 Cabbage Tree

The midday sun gives this scene a flat look. Try again very late in the day when the sun is low in the sky for some very dynamic lighting. Composition is good.

Accepted

125 Lake Mahinapua

Crop the blue reflection off along the bottom of the picture and rest of the scene will become stronger.

Accepted

134 ANZAC Sentry Duty 2010

If you moved a little to the left and a little lower, this soldier's head and hat would have hidden the straight piece of highlight going down the back of the head on the right. Otherwise nicely composed

Merit

134 Knotty Swing

You must isolate the swing from other objects in the picture if that is what the photo is about. To do that the background needs to be a little out of focus and the foreground at the bottom needs to be cropped out of the picture. Yellow is the most eye catching of all colours and here there is a yellow post in the water to the left of the swing. It needs to be eliminated as it's a distraction.

Accepted

138 Mirror Reflection

Crop some of the left side off the picture It will cut down on some of the bright area of the scene and move the cloud into one of the "Thirds" of the image.

Accepted

151 Franz Joseph Glacier

A person in the scene would have given a sense of scale.

Accepted

153 Tessa

The lighting is ideal for this little girl. It's soft and shows her hair and facial features well. The black & white style also suits as it helps hide unwanted background detail.

Merit

155 R.I.P.

Too much detail all over the picture. The eye tends to wander. I think it is the dried fern leaves causing the problem. A vertical black & white scene might have worked better as it would have eliminated a lot of the leaves and the shades of grey would have simplified what was left of the picture.

Accepted

Junior

147 Gran and I Were Baking

Rearrange the scene with just three muffins in the picture and none of the background items. Right next to the muffins on one side put a knife in the picture with some butter on the end. Set the scene up on a table outside so the background can be a long way away and so right out of focus. These muffins look delicious. I wish I could pick one out of the screen of my computer and eat it!

Merit

Landscape - Projected Images

A-Grade

101 Down by the Sea

Some judges might not consider this image to be a landscape as the building takes up the larger area of this scene and is the dominant feature. I think taking the photo from a little further back and having one or two farm animals in the foreground and a little less sea would have made a better image.

Accepted

104 Akaroa Dawn

There appears to be a conflict of interest between the highlight on the hill tops and the reflection of the same in the water at the bottom of the picture. One needs to go. Try taking out the reflection at the bottom. The reflection does look attractive but it's easier for the viewer of the image if there is only one highlight to look at.

Accepted

117 Sawcut Gorge

Backlighting through this gorge at the right time of the day can create a dramatic image and a little bit of greenery adds a little colour.

Merit

131 Cave Creek - Paparoa National Park

This image is lacking a strong centre point on which to focus the viewer's attention.

Accepted

140 Fire in the Sky

Nicely exposed and the silhouette frames the bottom and left side of the image well

Merit

B-Grade

136 Lake Lanthe

Crop the sky off so that the row of trees form a dark border along the top of the image. The reflection of the sky in the water is all you need of the sky. Your picture will become a lot more dramatic.

Accepted

149 Rapahoe Rocks

The mid sun is lighting up too many other things as well as the rocks. Wait until later in the day when the sun is lower and a lot more selective in what it lights up for you.

Accepted

C- Grade

113 Sunset Motueka

You have some poles in the scene so you should make a feature of them or leave them out all together. I would have gone closer to the one with the "t" bar on the top on the left and had it go all the way up the side of the image drawing the viewer's eye into the sunset. The lighter blue sky is a distraction from the sunset so the pole could counter that effect if used right.

Merit

125 Frosty Cass Dawn

The top of the hill on the right is just in from the edge of the image so it slopes down again before reaching the border. Bringing the border in a little to the left of the knob presents a neater exit of landscape on the right just like it is on the left. The real focus of attention is the read in the sky and the central dip in the landscape.

Merit

134 Lake Brunner in Autumn

Crop the right third off this image say from the end of the little bit of land sticking out into the water. The trees and their surroundings are enough on their own to make a picture.

Merit

138 Harbour Sunset

The posts being big and in the centre of the picture are competing for attention with the sunset on the right. Often it's better not to include the sunset in the picture but instead make a picture from the effects of the setting sun on other objects. You can see in this

picture that while the viewers' eye is attracted to the setting sun, there is in fact nothing there.

Accepted

151 Grey Dredge Panorama

Like a previous image in this competition, this picture is predominately of a building and may not be thought of as a landscape as the building is the main feature.

Accepted

153 Glimmer of Hope

Tilt the camera down a little to crop out some of the highlights in the sky and introduce some more water and land silhouettes angles in the foreground . The silhouettes will be dark so they will be just subtle.

Merit

Open - Prints

A-Grade

104 Paparoa Creek Waterfall

The wet misty weather is ideal for a photograph of this type. The subdued lighting brings up all the detail which is otherwise lost on bright sunny days. While the waterfall, being the brightest part of the print, is the first area to attract the viewers eye, the more subdued rock in the bottom right corner brings the viewers attention along the river and across to the right of the image. This print is nicely presented.

Merit

112 Speed

Good use of a slow shutter speed. Although this image is well cropped I would have also cropped off the grass area at the bottom.

Merit

112 We Made It!

An excellent image. Shows plenty of action and detail. While the bow is shown clearly on the upper, the water on the foredeck indicates that the bow was very much in the lower a moment before. The wave breaking on the end on the breakwater add to the wild scene.

Honours