

## **Greymouth Photography Club April Competitions**

Judge: Shona Kebble APSNZ

### **Natural History**

NHA 104 Raoulia sp. – Nice detail in the image. The plant looks to be in bud – it is a shame the flowers are not in bloom as this can help to identify the plant further. Compositionally I would like to have seen more room above the plant and a little less room below it.

Merit

NHA 116 Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa lapponica* – Good use of shallow depth of field which makes the bird pop out from the background. Nice detail in the feathers. Good off centre composition and the overcast lighting is ideal for the subject.

Merit

NHA 116 White Heron In Flight #2 – Very well captured. I like the fact that you have photographed the bird in flight. The composition is very good and there is reasonably good sharpness in the bird.

Honours

NHA 117 Egretta alba modesta #2 – It is good that you have photographed the pair interacting with each other as this shows the behavior of the birds. Good composition and well handled exposure.

Honours

NHB 136 Banded Dotterel – This image also has made good use of shallow depth of field. There is plenty of detail showing in the birds feathers. As a natural history image it is a pity that the feet are not visible – as least one foot should ideally be showing.

Merit

NHB 136 Spur Winged Plover – This image is interesting as the wings are outstretched which shows us the structure of them. I like seeing the reflection as it creates a more interesting composition. Again the feet are not visible so we cannot identify what type of feet the bird has.

Merit

NHC 113 Tui With Dreadlocks – Quite an amusing title. It is very hard to photograph tui's and you have chosen a reasonable composition here. The difficulty though is that you have chosen a sunny day to capture the bird and this has resulted in the black feathers having no detail. If you had taken the photo on an overcast day you would have not only seen more detail but all the subtle colours in the feathers.

Acceptance

NHC 134 Yellow Mellow – Good idea but again as in the previous image you have chosen a sunny day which has resulted in blowing out the highlights. I think also that a different viewpoint would help – maybe trying to isolate one insect against a plain colour background.

Acceptance

NHC 138 New Life – I like the composition of this and you have tried to get a shallow depth of field. Always be aware of your backgrounds. They can make or break an image. This one is quite cluttered and even less depth of field may have thrown this more out of focus. The colour saturation has been overdone, or maybe the camera was exposing for the shadows, and has resulted in the colours looking quite unnatural.

Acceptance

NHC 138 Winter Morning – I can see how all that mist has attracted you to this scene. In this case the reflection is not doing much for the image and would be better cropped right out. As a natural history image the mist is the important part of the image. A little better light may have lifted the image a bit more.

Acceptance

## Open

OPA 104 Parawai Creek Waterfall – I like the way you have gone in nice and close and filled the frame with only what you want us to see. I also like the long shutter speed blurring the water. It gives the feeling of the water rushing by and you can almost hear the sound.

Honours

OPA 140 Coke Adds Life – The diagonal created with the can leading to the girls face is good but I would have liked to see your get down to the child's level for a more flattering view.

Acceptance

OPA 140 Ye Old Coach's! – You have successfully managed to convey the feel of olden times and the black and white treatment helps with this. Try to look for more creative ways of taking the image by searching for an unusual angle.

Merit

OPA 141 Welcome To A New Day – This image has a nice peaceful feeling to it. The colour of the mist adds to this feeling. I like the crop, composition and the atmosphere you have captured.

Honours

OPA 117 Barrel Racer – The action has been very well caught. The dust flying around draws you into the image. The lady rider is totally focused on what she is doing. Although the overcast day has been great for capturing detail the white sky is a bit distracting. With a bit of cloning you could have filled in the background with trees for an uncluttered look.

Merit

OPC 125 Buccaneer Buoys – These buoys present us with a riot of colour but to me you have given us too much in the image. There is a lot to look at and my eye keeps coming back to the one white buoy. Simplify the image by isolating a small part.

Acceptance

OPC 125 Ivan Talley Leaving Port – This image breaks the rule of leaving room for something to move into. Having said that I think it has been broken successfully. I like the way the boat's wake connects the two sides of the image. The mood created by the fog adds a bit of mystery. The only thing that would improve this is to straighten the horizon. This would give the boat wake a better diagonal appearance which would make the image stronger.

Merit

OPC 134 New Beginnings – This is a very touching image showing a lot of feeling. The hands are well placed and look very natural. I find, though, that the hand in the top left corner to be distracting and could easily be cloned out.

Merit

OPC 138 Who's Coming Aboard – What a lovely peaceful place to be. The image conveys what it is like to be in the tropics. To get a bit more creative I would like to have seen you get closer and lower with a wide angle lens to fill the image with the boat which will make the island in the background a lot smaller. As it is the island is competing for attention with the boat.

Merit

OPC 151 Wanganui River – I like foggy days on the river. This image has lots of potential. Instead of standing on the river bank try to find an interesting foreground, like the logs on the sand and feature them at the base of the image. Cropping off the top third would also improve the composition.

Acceptance

### **SET SUBJECT – Photo Journalism**

SSA 104 Fall From Grace – This tells a sad but delightful story and you can feel the pain of the child. I like the triptych showing the progression of events.

Honours

SSA 140 Stripped and Burned – A good story is being told in this image. It makes you wonder why it was burned. I like the policeman in the background gathering information. It just completes the scene

Merit

SSA 117 A Decisive Moment – Ouch! I would love to have seen what happened next. A good image captured at exactly the right moment. It is a shame that the feet of the rider are chopped off a bit but it does not interfere with the story.

Honours

SSB 136 Face Painting At Waitangi Day Picnic – This is a reasonably good study of the face being painted. I would like to have seen a lower angle but the background may have been a problem. As it is the camera has exposed for the shadow under the tent and the sunny parts outside are very overexposed. I like the half seen girl behind. You can imagine her watching without us seeing her face.

Acceptance

SSC 112 Dredge On The Move – The story is a good one of special interest to the local community. The image is overexposed. Check your histogram on the back of the camera when taking photos in the sunlight. Using Levels or Curves in your editing program may have fixed this too.

Acceptance

SSC 113 Japanese Historical Parade – I really like the story this image tells. It is interesting and gives me all the information I need to imagine what is going on. Nice simple composition.

Honours

SSC 134 The Balloon-A-Box – Nice colourful image but as a photojournalism shot I would like to have seen more of what is going on around. Perhaps show us some of the spectators look up at the balloon.

Acceptance

SSC 151 Train and Spectators at Stillwater – Steam trains usually make good subjects. I like the row of spectators on the bridge who are all interested in what is going on. It shows us that the community is interested in the event.

Merit