

	<b>Whanganui Camera Club</b>			
	<b>My Home Town (DPI)</b>		<b>8 Feb 2017</b>	<b>Results 8 March 2017</b>
	<b>Judge(s): Brian Harmer (and John Boyd)</b>			
Grade	Title	Set/Open?	Grade	Feedback
	<b>A Grade Open</b>			
A	2001 a Space Hilary	open	Accepted	I like this quirky image. I wonder whether this image was made with this result in mind, or whether it is a clever way of retrieving something from an image that didn't work as originally conceived. I ask this because I find the diagonal white object reflected in the left hand lens is unduly dominant, and perhaps getting the subject to turn her head slightly might have produced a different result. I am also distracted by the letters of the truncated brand on the right hand edge. The reference in the title to the famous book and film eludes me but perhaps that's where it is open to many interpretations. Despite my quibbles I think the photographer has something here, and I hope this avenue will be explored further.
A	Landlubber to Starboard	open	Not accepted	This is a well seen idea with an amusing title. However, it would have been more successful had the pirate been in focus. You have the landlubber tack sharp, and quite a bit of the foreground cobblestones, but the pirate is far out of focus. I wonder if you could have managed the depth of field better to get both figures sharp. Perhaps a trim off the left hand edge to take out the blue posts would also get rid of the distraction of the silver lock box behind the pirate. It was a good idea.
A	Sunrise	open	Accepted	Who doesn't love a glorious sunset? The light and the colour in this image are lovely and the silhouettes are nicely sharp. There are nice patterns in the cloud, and yet my eye didn't settle anywhere. Though it lacks a clear focal point, I think this is a nice try.
A	The dead	open	Merit	These dead bodies tell an interesting story. I like the "grunge" treatment and the drama in the sky. If I wanted to be picky, I would suggest dimming the highlights on what I take to be a broken headlight in the grass in front of the central car, and perhaps see if you can lighten the black patch of cloud above and to the right of the bus. Nevertheless this is a satisfying image.

A	Tui in the flax	open	Accepted	You have caught the tui well, with the orange pollen on its forehead and nice catchlights in the eyes. Lighting is nice, and the bird is well placed in the frame. The image would have rated more highly with me if it were not for the very heavy branch dominating the right hand side of the picture. It is a pleasing image.
A	Twilight Rapids	open	Accepted	The twilight rapids is a nice idea and I imagine that the low light was sufficient on its own to allow a long exposure giving the creamy flow in the water without need of ND filters. I like the sharpness of the rocks in the middle of the stream and in the background, but if I were attempting such an image I would prefer to sacrifice some of the background sharpness to make the foreground sharper. Or perhaps I am being misled by water distortion. This is an idea worth persisting with.
<b>A Grade Set Subject</b>				
A	A Red Wanganui	set	Merit	How beautifully the photographer has caught the mood of the river and the sky . The image is well exposed and overall is very pleasing. I don't know whether the photographer was using a zoom lens or prime, but perhaps a slightly shorter focal length might have allowed the City Bridge to land on the Southern shore of the river. It seems to me that the story is in the river, the city and the clouds, so I am struggling with the distraction of that almost luminous blue roof in the lower left foreground. Perhaps a little localised reduction of the saturation would make a difference? Despite those quibbles it is a very nice picture of your home town.
A	Along The Avenue	set	Not accepted	The view along Victoria Avenue is very familiar to me so I congratulate the photographer on finding an unfamiliar perspective. However I was troubled by the contrived blurring at top and bottom. I am guessing a bit of Vaseline on a filter, but however it was done, I think the photographer needed to have more control of the effect. The car approaching, for example is sharp on the roof, but the grille disappears into the blur. Likewise I can think of no reason why the two arches would be sharp at the bottom and blurred at their peak. I like the idea and urge the photographer to persist, but with more awareness of where the blur is taking effect. Otherwise, I find this a very attractive view up the Avenue.
A	Awa Jumping	set	Highly commended	This image really appeals to me. I suspect from the (almost) synchronized launch, that this jump was organized by or for the photographer and it tells a

				great story of fun on the awa. I have two quibbles. The choice of shutter speed has frozen the divers in space with the exception of the one who jumped early and is hitting the water already. I wonder if a slightly slower shutter speed might have conveyed more sense of motion. The other quibble is the spectator who is a minor distraction to the right. Perhaps some way might have been found to take the person out of the picture. Nevertheless it is a great capture of young people having fun.
A	Boardwalk ball	set	Merit	This is one of those images that makes me think "I wish I had thought of that". It is a good idea, well executed. The photographer has stayed far enough away from the reflecting ball that their own reflection is not a problem. Would the image be improved by the elimination of the intruding tail light and perhaps the vertical neon tube on the right hand edge. I have to wonder what someone who is unfamiliar with the stainless steel art work would make of this image. The photographer has done well with such a long exposure (see the blur on the vessel moving at its moorings") to avoid star trails.
A	Boat Club facilities Wanganui	set	Not Accepted	This image captures the view from somewhere up on Bastia Hill across the river to the boat sheds and Pakaitore/Moutua Gardens. It would serve a real estate agent well as an illustration of the the view from a property. However, in an advanced entry, I am troubled by the horizon sloping upwards to the right and by what I regard as the flat lighting. I am sure there is a picture to be had from this position, but I urge the photographer to try again, to capture the sparkle and the pop that can be had from the river in windless conditions like this.
A	Cameron blockhouse	set	Merit	The photographer has chosen a lovely time of day to capture this interesting historic place. The bright patch at the far end of the long wall suggests to me that the sun is setting somewhere out to the right of this image, and that raises questions for me about the vignetting in the upper right corner. Surely if the sun is to the right the darkest area in the sky will be to the left? Despite that concern, it is a nice presentation of what is basically a fairly ordinary looking building.
A	Cooling Off	set	Accepted	The image has a story to tell, but I am a little unsure what is happening. What are they waiting for? The boys have obviously been in the water already, so what is it down there that is holding them back from jumping again? The photographer has framed the image nicely, and it is very sharp where it should be sharp. but to my eye, it is a static image. I am unsure of the colour balance

				and saturation in the houses on Durie Hill.
A	Evening downtown	set	Merit	This has the makings of a really good image. Clearly the intended subject of the image is the couple at the table. Unfortunately the empty table and chairs to their left steals the attention away from the couple having a conversation over their coffee. Likewise, the burnt-out areas by the entrance are a distraction. If this were my image I would be tempted to use some digital trickery to lighten them a little to bring the attention where it is supposed to be. I would also be tempted to remove the two outermost orange chairs. Great depth of field. Lovely atmosphere, well caught.
A	Home Town Band	set	Accepted	This image catches the home town band. The tarnished tuba, the patched and battered drum and the inserted "H" all speak of the character of the band. The lighting catches the inflated cheeks and florid complexion that seems to go with the larger brass instruments. Unless the photographer made just one shot, I would have liked to see the drummer's arm and drumstick swinging because otherwise I can't tell that he is participating in this piece. I am not a strict adherent of the rule of thirds, and I don't know what was immediately in front of them, but I would like our two musicians to be less central. Nevertheless it is a picture that captures a nice moment in time.
A	I will be back	set	Not accepted	The photographer clearly saw something here. Care was taken to get the lock and the pipe very sharp and the depth of field was chosen to throw the river and city well out of focus. I am certain that the choice of monochrome, the angle of the horizon and the placement of the lock was deliberate, and I like the well-placed sun sparkling on the edge of the pipe. For all that, this picture eludes me. Another judge might have a different view.
A	Kids at Kowhai Park	set	Merit	What a happy capture of children having fun. Somewhere in my own family album, I have images of my own kids enjoying this very park back in the 80s. I like the placement of the subjects so that the swing has room to move back into the picture, and to my eye, the yellow arches balance the image. The lighting is interesting and I rather like the sun flares above the children. I think the use of flash is a bit too obvious, and slightly overpowering. I am sure this is an image that will be treasured by the family for years to come.
A	Ohakune afternoon	set	Honours	This image takes my breath away. It makes me want to revisit Ohakune. The photographer has given us a crisp sparkling sharp image from the foreground houses to the uppermost peaks of Ruapehu. The sky is beautiful. The

				reservation I have is the density of the shadow areas in the bush behind the house and in the bottom corners. I don't want to lose the lovely contrast but wonder if a small adjustment to the shadow slider might just restore some detail to those very black areas. I like this very much.
A	People Make The Town	set	Highly commended	People make the town is the appropriate title for this image. Given the Canon strap around his neck, I wonder if the subject is a member of this club and perhaps here tonight. He is nicely placed in the shot, and I like the reflections in his glasses. What should I make of his pose and hand gesture? Is he hailing a cab, or an old friend, or perhaps trying to distract a parking warden? I don't know, and it probably doesn't matter. It is a well caught moment. I could wish for a little more light and sparkle on the telephone box and the umbrellas, but not so much as to divert attention from the main subject. I like this image.
A	Post Office Verandah	set	Not accepted	The photographer is interested in architectural detail and the shapes and textures to be found in the city's buildings. I regret that I am unable to connect with what the photographer saw in this image. Perhaps cropping from the top and the right to focus on the triangle of the verandah might give a different result, and a more pleasing composition. I am unsure of the material pictured, and whether this is spilled paint on wood, or perhaps oxidised copper. Would a little more saturation help clarify the issue?
A	Ran out of petrol	set	Accepted	A nice piece of photojournalism in an unmistakable location. The people at the back are giving it their all, and I am amazed that the young man with bare feet is able to lean in so strongly while still clutching his guitar in the other hand. The image captures the car nicely in the frame and the exposure is appropriate for the dull overcast sky. I suspect that there is more drama to be had from that sky. But the moment is well caught.
A	Street Rock'n Roll	set	Merit	A moment nicely caught , with the dress flaring , hair flying and a lovely smile from both dancers. The photographer has chosen to use a shutter speed that has frozen the dancers in place, and chosen not to allow movement blur to convey their speed. I find that my eye is inevitably drawn to text in an image so the slogan on top of the tent distracts me from the rock and roll. Retaining it may of course enhance the chances of getting it published in the Chronicle, but if that were not an issue , I wonder if a small crop from the top would allow the viewers to focus on the action. Well done.
A	The Last Pub in Town	set	Highly commended	I really like this image. It captures well the essence of a disappearing style of pub. Though I hardly ever shoot monochrome myself, this is undeniably best in

				monochrome. The deliberate angle works well . I love the faraway expression on the face of the man in the checked shirt. As I said in an earlier image, my eye is drawn to text, and the less said about the joke on the chalkboard, the better. It is clearly that kind of pub, and the photographer has caught it beautifully. I might have leaned towards honours but for the blown highlights in the left hand upper window.
A	The Red Lion Inn	Set	Merit	The colours, the state of the water make it hard not to like this image. The photographer has captured one of the many opportunities that the boardwalk gives you. Somehow, I wanted more. Perhaps a similar attempt when the water is even calmer, or the light is stronger. Would a light vignetting add to the impact of the image. Well done.
A	The Sarjeant	set	Merit	A nice image of this unmistakable icon of Whanganui. The superimposed texture gives life to what otherwise might have been a mere record shot, though it might have been better to manipulate the texture to avoid the almost white patch on the left hand edge. My other quibble is the cutting off of the lamp post. If you are going to do this I suggest you do it deliberately. As it stands, the lamp is so close to being in the image that the cut off looks as if it were accidental. Despite those things, the light is lovely and I enjoyed this image.
A	Twin Tubs	set	Highly commended	This picture makes me want to know more. At first I wondered whether the curved sheet of iron sitting on the pot bellied stove would somehow channel hot water into the tubs for filling them simultaneously. Perhaps I suffer from OCD, but somehow I wanted the weatherboards on the wall to be horizontal. I realise that this image may well be taken in the photographer's home town, but it gives nothing away about where that hometown is, and in my opinion comes dangerously close to being off-topic. However, the image tells stories and asks questions and I like it a lot.
	Water tower and environs	set	Merit	I have a weakness for misty shots, and the water tower adds to the drama in this case. The photographer has taken advantage of an opportunity and produced a nice image. I don't know what was below the current frame, but I wonder if the top of the tower might have come closer to the top of the frame. A nice moody shot
A	Whanganui Vintage Weekend	set	Merit	What a handsome set of spoked wheels, and how beautifully each of the old cars is presented. The photographer has captured the spirit of the event very nicely , but left me wondering why the tails were chosen rather than the front

				of the cars. Nevertheless this is the picture presented and I like it a lot. Perhaps a minor improvement would be to rush up to the blue car at the end and slide that plastic road cone out of view for the duration of the picture. Well seen.
A	Young Love Kai Iwi beach	set	Highly commended	What beautiful light, and nicely weighted silhouettes. Though I refuse to be bound by the so-called rule of thirds, I think I would have liked the image even more if the young couple were a little more to the left of centre. I can't help wondering if these are models posed by the photographer, or just a lucky capture. If they were a little less "at arms length" the notion of young love might have been better expressed, but each of us sees an image like this from our own perspective. I think it is a really nice image.
	<b>B Grade Open</b>			
B	Wisteria	open	Highly commended	Beautifully exposed, very sharp and I love the choice of the very light background. When we are presented with an image we can't tell what the photographer saw outside the frame. I don't know if there was a problem to prevent a slightly wider view , but I would love to have seen the whole cluster of flower without the truncation of the two stalks. A very nice image anyway.
	<b>B Grade Set Subject</b>			
B	Art of Great Bearing	set	Merit	This is a nice image of a lovely part of the city at night. It seems to me that the photographer was unsure of what to use as a reference for horizontal. Neither the edge of the boardwalk nor the edge of Anzac Parade across the water are horizontal. I suggest that whatever you choose as a reference should still result in verticals being vertical, and unfortunately, the light poles and the Durie Hill War Memorial tower are both leaning distinctly to the left. May I also suggest avoiding bright distractions on the edges,. A small trim off both sides would avoid these issues. The image does speak beautifully of this place ... well done.
B	Dublin street bridge	set	Merit	Wow! I have spent time trying to figure out exactly how this was done. However it was done, it is very clever, and to my eye, quite attractive. I can think of no meaningful suggestions as to how it might be improved because I think the process is such that you take what you get. I like it.
B	Rangitoto Auckland	set	Accepted	Rangitoto, water and boats are always worth a try. I am seeing two different images here. Rangitoto and the clouds is one possibility, and the mud flats and Rangitoto is another, but as a whole I am left wondering where to look. I

				suspect that this image is straight out of camera, and perhaps the photographer did not have access to post processing tools. I would recommend straightening the horizon, and bringing out some of the drama of the clouds. It is already there in your image and just needs a little work to extract it.
B	Sailing The River	set	Accepted	This image captures the pleasure of sailing in a stiff breeze and the expression and posture of the nearest sailor suggests that it is quite chilly. Like the previous image, this one includes a distant waterline that is not horizontal. You can sometimes get away with sloping horizons if you do it deliberately, but I suggest you should not let it appear accidental as it does here. You have, nevertheless told a good story.
B	Shelly Beach	set	Merit.	This is a nice view of Rangitoto, and a decaying (or vandalized) structure on the Beach. It is well exposed with no blown highlights or blocked shadows, and it is well composed with the overhanging branch providing some balance to the shed. There is a little drama in the sky and the slop on the water is caught nicely. A good shot.
B	Sunrise over the river	set	Accepted	The photographer has caught the perfect stillness and the emerging colour of the start of a new day. While I agree that this is an image of day emerging from darkness, I wonder if this would be a better image if the shadows were lifted just sufficiently to unblock the extensive areas of blackness. I don't mean to turn night into day, but rather, just enough that some detail or texture be discernible in the blocked shadow areas. You might consider whether or not to crop the left hand edge to remove the light area to the left of the tree trunk. As it is, it is a nice image of a beautiful morning.
B	Tony Rees	set	Merit	This image is sharp, and well exposed. I suspect it would be a better image if you had left more room at the front of the image and a little less behind the bike. I think a shutter speed slow enough to blur the background as you swing the camera to follow the bike and keep it in focus would also help. As it is, this champion rider and his 1000 cc bike are frozen on the corner with every spoke sharply visible. Panning takes practice but it pays off. This is a nice memory of what I presume to be the Boxing Day event.
B	View from Fitzroy Beach	set	Highly commended	I like this image a lot. It has a wow factor. However, I am not sure what I am looking at in terms of the sky. Is it a thundery sky giving us that very dark blue colour, or has the photographer simply overdone the saturation? I will take the advancing cloud line and the deep green of the sea to suggest it is the

				former. I am a bit ambivalent about the kite surfer near the horizon. The colour and contrast tell a story in their own right, but it is a distraction from the main story which is happening on the beach and in the first row of waves. Like some other images this evening, the horizon is a little off level, though only a few degrees in this case. I really like this.
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