

Whanganui Camera Club

Landscape Print Competition February 2017. Judged by Tim Bond

Number	Title	Result	Feedback
A Grade set subject			
A 1	Ailsa Mountains from Key Summit	Highly Commended	A wonderful scene with nice sharp details but the clouds are ever so slightly overexposed – maybe a bit more contrast in the darker parts of the clouds would have made them pop a bit more and make that a bit less noticeable and also the lake in the foreground is leading my out out of the frame to the right into nothingness, its just a shame the end of the lake has been cropped off which could have helped to anchor the eye within the frame. Also the small dark rocky peak poking through the clouds draws the eye straight to it and probably could have been cloned out.
A 2	Fiery Nightfall	Highly Commended	Beautiful colours in this shot and I love the seagull (which is nice and sharp – well done!) which gives the image a subject where otherwise it would have been just another generic beach sunset shot. There are two areas in the image where the noise/grain is quite obvious, in the clouds in the top left corner which could have been delt to by a light vignette and also the light shining off the sandbar is quite grainy as well, a little bit of selective didging could have fixed that up and made this a much better image..
A 3	Great Ocean Road	Highly Commended	Very nice image, I'm loving the colour in the sky. The sea stacks are nice and sharp. The only downside I can see for this image is quite a bit of dead space at the bottom of the frame, I think it could have been cropped so the sea stacks are in the lower third of the frame, otherwise a very nice image. A high gloss metallic paper would have suited this image as well and really made it pop. The matting is also a bit rough where the window has been cut out.
A 4	Hawkes Bay Midday	Merit	Midday light is notoriously difficult to shoot in and this image could have had a lot more impact if it was shot in the golden hour with shadows stretching out from the hills giving them more definition. The over darkened sky is a bit of a distraction considering the rest of the image is so bright. I also think this would have worked better on glossy paper rather than matte.

A 5	In the evening	Highly Commended	A well balanced image with fantastic light, but the focus is just a touch too soft, I would have liked the trees in the sunlight to be a little sharper. The printing on this one leaves a little bit to be desired with some obvious banding in the sky which is a shame because if it wasn't for those two minor faults this would have been an honour.
A 6	Lake Wanaka	Accepted	A nice scene, but unfortunately it has been overexposed blowing out the mountains and sky in the background. Also the willow tree is dominating the frame which makes it look quite messy. A different composition and better exposure control could have resulted in a much better outcome.
A 7	Limestone Cliffs	Highly Commended	Nice composition and framing on this one, however it could have done with the lower 10-15mm cropped out, the footprint in the lower right corner and the soft out of focus rock on the left is distracting. I also would have liked a little bit more contrast in the sky and cliff in the background. Also could have done with a touch more sharpness overall.
A 8	Mount Ruapehu from Tongariro Alpine Crossing Track	Honours	Not sure if printing onto board and mounting onto foamcore meets the brief of a matted print so I will let that slide on this one. Nice balance between foreground, background and clouds creating distinct layers. Nice processing and clouds, and I think the crop works very well for this image.
A 9	Mount Taranaki from Tongariro Alpine Crossing Track	Highly Commended	Not sure if printing onto board and mounting onto foamcore meets the brief of a matted print so I will let that slide on this one. Fantastic composition and nice muted colour palette. I like the layers created by the clouds and hills. I think this would look fantastic printed on high gloss metallic paper.
A 10	Parapara Afternoon	Merit	A little bit heavy handed on the contrast and saturation on this one and the tree on the left looks a bit messy, if it was composed without that tree in the frame and a little bit lighter on the processing it would have looked a lot better. The print also looks too large for the mat size.
A 11	Ploughlines	Merit	Interesting subject that works well in black and white, but background hills are too dark with no detail in them at all, I think it would have worked much better with less contrast in the hills and the grasses right at the bottom of the image. The crop works well and is nicely framed within the matting.
A 12	Raining Soon	Merit	Nice and moody sky and nice cloud tones in the water. Just a shame the white water on the right is a bit overexposed and there is a large dust spot in the sky just left of center. The use of an ND filter here would have been good to increase

			the exposure time to capture more movement in the water. The mounting of this one is not too great with the print having "bubbles" under it.
A 13	Shadowlands	Accepted	Interesting subject but there are a few flaws in this one. 1 -The top of the tree in the middle has been cut off. 2 – The entire image looks a bit soft and slightly out of focus. 3 – there is an obvious smudge mark on the hills between the centremost trees which I am assuming is the result of the clone or spot removal tool. Also the mounting on this one is not too great with "bubbles" under the print.
A 14	South Beach Whanganui	Honours	Very nice image that works very well in monotone. Well composed with fantastic sharpness. Nice moody subject and it looks very good on high gloss paper and the black frame works well. The only very minor fault I can point out is the lack of detail in the darkest part of the tree on the left.
A 15	Starry Starry Night Tongariro National Park	Highly Commended	I love astro images and this one looks great, a well exposed foreground with lots of detail. Three minor things though. 1 – the focus on the stars is a fraction too soft and there are very slight trails. 2 – the colour cast on the foreground is just a little bit too green. 3 – The very definitive line between the land and sky, this would have looked much more realistic with some slight feathering between the layers while blending them together. The black matting with white beading looks fantastic on this image and the high gloss print really makes it pop. If the three issues I pointed out were dealt with this would have certainly been an Honours.
A 16	Sunrise in technicolour	Accepted	The processing on this one is a little bit on the dark side, I would have liked to have seen it be a bit brighter to make the clouds and colours really pop. The matting has also let this one down a little bit with the white border of the print showing on the top and bottom, maybe it should have been printed slightly larger or the cutout on the mat needed to be slightly smaller.
A 17	The 12 Apostles	Highly Commended	Great colour pallette, good composition and nice subject although it is a little bit too soft. I would have liked to have seen the image to be a bit sharper. The print size looks to be slightly to big for the matting size, especially on the sides.
A 18	The Dome, Mount Taranaki	Accepted	This image seems to be lacking a defined subject. I know this area quite well having spent many days and nights around there shooting the mountain and I think a wider angle would have helped here to show more of the dome itself on the left

			side or just changing the composition to get rid of the ridgeline on the right and focus more on the dome itself and have the chasm (where the river cuts through the rock leading to Bells Falls) more to the right hand side. The image overall also looks quite soft and a little bit underwhelming.
A 19	The Dunes	Honours	I love everything about this image and I would happily hang this on my wall. Fantastic detail in all parts of the image, with superb sharpness and contrast in the foreground and a nice moody sky. I dont usually like square crop, but it works very well on this image and the print is a perfect size for the matting, I'm glad you didnt put the image directly in the middle of the mat, it looks good being slightly towards the top.
A 20	Winters Glitter	Merit	A nice subject, but I feel the processing has let this image down a bit. The rocks on either side of the river are too bright and instantly draw the eye towards them rather than creating a pathway leading the eye towards the falls. The waterfall itself needs to be a bit brighter and more white rather than grey. Also there is a little bit of halo-ing around the trees directly above the waterfall. It is a nice print size and the size ratio between print and matting is good.
A grade Open			
A 21 open	Arachnitecture	Merit	I love the title of this image and the idea behind it. The centre of the image is nice and sharp, however it gets a little bit soft towards the edges and could have benefitted from slightly tighter crop. I would also have like to have seen this printed slightly smaller as the matting looks to be slightly out of proportion to the print size, slightly more matting on the sides would have looked better.
A 22 open	Grandma	Highly Commended	A nice strong image with great processing done on it, I would have liked to have seen slightl more space to the top of Grandma's head – just 2-3mm more would have really made this image stand out more for me. Good balance between image and matting, I'm sure Grandma would love to have this print on her wall.
B Grade set subject			
B 1	Low Tide Raglan	Accepted	A nice subject the could have worked really well, I like the

			stream leading the eye into the image, but unfortunately it has been over sharpened too much to the point of losing detail. The very dark hill is also quite distracting.
B 2	Pending Storm	Highly Commended	Nice dramatic sky in this shot, maybe a little bit more contrast in the sky would have really made it pop. The composition is OK, I like the cliff line leading the eye through the image, but I would have liked to have seen the rocks and stream in the foreground a bit higher in the frame, and the vertical stick on the far right hand side is slightly distraction – but that's just me being really picky. The black matting works well on this image.
B 3	Porteau Cove British Columbia	Merit	This feels like it could have been a great image, but unfortunately it just looks like a holiday snapshot. The foreground is too messy and overexposed which makes the hill on the right look far too dark in comparison and the ute is very distracting. I like the moody sky and think that if you shot it from the waters edge it would have worked very well.
B 4	Pukekohe Onion Harvest	Accepted	The composition on this could have been shot from a bit lower down and/or further away as the onion sacks at the bottom have all been cut off. Also not as sharp as I would have liked, it appears to have had an overzealous dose of noise reduction for some reason. Flat muted light doesn't really help either.
B 5	the Pilbara	Highly Commended	A nice composition on this image, I really like the layers the trees in the midground adds to this scene but it's just a shame it was shot in harsh middle of the day light as it makes the colours appear to be a bit washed out, I feel this image would have been a real cracker if shot in the golden hour with a bit more contrasting light. Foreground is also very soft and I would have liked to have seen more sharpness overall in the image.
B Grade open			
B 6 open	Iris	Merit	Slightly soft focus on this lets it down a bit, I would have liked to have seen the water droplets and stamens of the flower to be a lot sharper, as it is they get a little bit lost in the overall image. Also the stamens being off center makes it a bit off balanced. The texture matting also distracts a little bit from the image, I feel a smooth plain white mat would have looked better.

