

Whanganui Camera Club

AV Competition March 2017

General comments:

We have had a very enjoyable few days watching your AVs several times and would like to congratulate everyone on the effort they have made. We know that AVs take considerable time and effort to create. As long as you have kept a working copy of your AV you can consider the suggestions we have made and decide if you want to try them on your AV. We can assure you that most successful AV workers have several versions of each programme as they think of improvements or someone suggests something different. Just be careful to include something in the title of each version so you know what you have done to each one. Consider entering them into the Tauranga AV Salon which closes on 7th June. You will find all the information on the Tauranga Photographic Society website. Later in the year consider entering the JSMT as well.

A significant number of the AVs finished on the credit slide which just sat there while we waited to see if something else was going to happen. We suggest finishing on a blank slide so it is clearly the end of the AV and the programme can be closed down.

Because programmes saved as .avi start as soon as the desktop icon is clicked, we suggest either starting with a blank slide or making the first slide longer so there is time for the image to load, the video controls to disappear and the audience to tune in to what they are going to see. Do not start the music or narrative immediately either but give us time to get ready.

A number of AVs had gentle zooming in and out and some panning. Generally this worked well if several slides in a sequence, zoomed the same direction but it was distracting when one zoomed in and the next one zoomed out in the opposite direction. Zooming is much more effective if there is a purpose - for example it carries the viewer in the direction of the action or towards an important element in the story. If the action is happening along a road but the zoom goes across the road this is not in keeping with the story and it doesn't work as well.

Our eyes pick up small inconsistencies very quickly and one that was noticeable in a number of AVs was variation in the size of the files. Images that are even a few pixels different on either the vertical horizontal side will be noticeable when they change. This means cropping images to exactly the same size.

Title	Feedback	Result
Collaborative		
Melbourne - The Young Years	<p>The title indicated that we were going to see something of early Melbourne but nearly all the images were related to mining in Ballarat. Melbourne was certainly affected by gold mining but as a port, huge population growth and from the wealth that the mining brought to the area. These images were well taken and gave a good idea of the early years in Ballarat. If you are using a song as part of your AV, it is important to listen to the lyrics as they help tell your story. In this case the lyrics talked of winter but nothing in the photos indicated that. There was some random zooming which was not noticeable at times but at other times it was intrusive.</p>	Acc
Through the Looking Glass	<p>This was an interesting story with some really good sequences such as the cicada. We liked the way the boy with the magnifying glass provided continuity. The photography was excellent but the story was not strong enough to fully hold our interest for the length of the programme. We suggest taking some of the images out and keeping the AV just to the length of the single piece of music.</p>	Merit Winner
Experienced		

De-Evolution	<p>While we got the idea of maybe a regression in evolution the rest of this AV was beyond us. We felt there was something we were missing so we called on the expertise of two other experienced AV judges. It was suggested that this AV leans very heavily on being familiar with the shows that the imagery has come from, in particular 2001 A Space Odyssey.</p> <p>As a viewing experience, the format is unusual and we feel that the audience will either be intrigued or will quickly dismiss it because they cannot make any sense of it.</p> <p>It appears as if a lot of thought and effort has gone into this production. Despite our lack of understanding we were interested to try to work out the author's intention in presenting this AV in this way.</p> <p>One of the competition rules is that the photographs must be the original work of the entrant. Copying someone else's art work or images, no matter how it is done, does not meet this requirement. For that reason we have not been able to accept this AV.</p> <p>Please note, both the Tauranga AV Salon and Jack Sprosen also require the photography or most of it to be the original work of the author, which is similar to AV Salons in several other countries. However there are some competitions which do allow greater freedom in the use of third party images and if the author wishes to test the AV in a different forum we would suggest entering it in one of those Salons.</p>	Not Accepted
Glimpse of Southern England	<p>As the title said, these were glimpses of South East England but otherwise they were not connected in anyway to tell us a story of the South East. We suggest selecting some of the more interesting places and developing the story of those places further. Another suggestion is to show us the characteristics from the Cotswolds to Lands End without breaking it into segments. Check that you do use apostrophes correctly. We did enjoy the photography and we would love to know more about this area.</p>	Acc

Monarch	This was a good subject for an AV and you told the whole story of the Monarch. When you write titles on slides, it takes our attention away from the actual image. Only use them when it is necessary, for example to tell us something we cannot see on the screen. We thought the music supported the mood of the AV. The images were all the same length which gave a static, peaceful feel to the AV. We did like the way you followed the whole story through and especially the originality showing the development of the chrysalis.	Acc
One Man's Vision	This told an interesting story of a moment in time. It is a good historical record for the community. We liked the photojournalism style photography which suited this event. To tell more of the story we would like to have seen some photos of the construction and maybe something about Ohakune to give it more of a setting.	Acc
Pastoral	The word pastoral implies land for grazing sheep or cattle so it didn't prepare us for the images in this sequence. Consider a different title that introduced the viewer to the subject of the AV. The photos were lovely and there was progression of colours through the programme. Our main concern was that there was no connection between the images and the music. The flowers were peaceful but the piece of music was energetic. The last slide was on the screen for a very long time waiting for the music to finish. It would have been preferable to have found some more photos to extend the AV.	Acc
Taste of Kowloon & Hong Kong	The photographs conveyed an interesting glimpse of Hong Kong from the central city to the island of Lantau. You have organised the images well to give interesting glimpses of Hong Kong finishing with the night photos of the Sound and Light Show. We suggest changing the title to Taste of Hong Kong as this covers the whole area.	Merit

Temples in Thailand	This was a well told interesting story with the images and sound track working well together.. The sound track was appropriate and the music was ducked (lowered) so the words could be easily heard. We liked that we were told more about these temples than we could actually learn from just looking at the images.	HC
The Beauty	These are beautiful images which show the beautiful light. Try putting the photos in a different order so they follow a natural order - the early morning light, through the daylight to the sunset and evening light. Consider the value of all the images to the story you want to tell and remove any that don't move the story along. It is distracting to have the image size changing frequently. Choose an image size and crop your photos to fit that size.. There is a good linkage between the images and the music and we loved the way it finished. You have the images and music and the idea for a lovely AV - it is worth working on it to improve it and entering it in another competition.	Acc
The Doors That I Saw	We liked the way you started the AV - the written information set the scene and was on long enough for us to read it easily. The break between the music of the introduction and the start of the AV was rather a jolt. One suggestion is to fade out to a black slide after the text and fade the music at the same time and then fade both images and music in to start the second part of the story. The variety of doors is a fascinating subject for an audio-visual. You made a good effort to group different styles of doors together but it needed more variety to avoid us looking at door after door. We suggest exploring these doors more such as the hinges, door knobs and carving or decoration on some of the doors. The music was not appropriate and we could not see a connection between a California Lullaby and Mediterranean Europe. Consider music which is more typical of southern Europe - maybe some gypsy music would be suitable.	Acc

The Whangaehu Estuary	The way you sequenced the images told an interesting story of this estuary. Taking a little more care with the technical side of your production could take it to the next level. Ensure that all the images are exactly the same size. A piece of music has a natural ending and if you cut it off before the end it is noticeable and spoils the AV. You have good images and the potential for an interesting Natural History AV	Acc
Venus Fly Trap	The introduction worked well and the sequence of images built up the tension as they told the story of these insect eating plants. This is an excellent natural history audio-visual - well done.	Honours Winner
Wat Ban Rai - Thailand	These lovely photos told the story of a fascinating place. Although only part of the commentary was in English, there was enough information for us to understand what the AV is about. Having said that we would love to know more.	Merit
Novice		
Diverse Japan	Your title did introduce us to the story you told in your AV. The photography was lovely and it is worth organising these photos in a different way to tell a story or carry a theme through. One suggestion is to group similar images together: architecture, cityscapes, people. Another suggestion is to select places or events and tell us more about them. For this type of presentation we suggest shortening the AV to hold people's attention. The music you chose worked well to set the feeling of Japan.	Merit

Down Brunswick Road	<p>We really liked the photographs and the way you used them to illustrate the story of the song. We noted the way you had turned the road golden towards the end of the AV - well done. Our main concern was with the random panning and zooming. In places we were taken along the road which was relevant and then the next image zoomed out which gave the feeling of being taken backwards away from where we had been going and at other times we were taken across the road rather than along it. Avoid the use of random panning and zooming but rather use it deliberately when you want to create a particular effect or mood.</p>	Merit
Some times we die	<p>We liked the variety of images you used. Each image showed something different which held our attention. We also liked the way the song and the photos worked together. Your AV was let down rather badly by the music being cut off at the end. Either use the whole of the track or if it is too long you will have to learn some editing techniques. A song which is an entity in its own right and seldom more than about three and a half minutes which often works well for an AV.</p>	Merit
The Reclaimed Forest	<p>We did appreciate the text which told the story but felt it took up too much of your AV. The text was easy to read and at an appropriate speed. The information was interesting and relevant and we suggest trying a spoken narrative to get this information to your audience while they are looking at some of the images on the screen. This was an interesting documentary, which you illustrated with interesting images. The variety of image lengths and the effective use of timelapse worked very well.</p>	Merit Winner