

Whanganui Camera Club Nature DPI competition 2017
Judged by Phil Melgren (Invercargill)

Title	Result	Feedback
A Grade Open		
AO Disgorged Floodwater Silt Whanganui River	Accepted	An image which keeps me guessing, only the title helps me work this out. Great texture, a change in lighting may provide more interest in creating shadow providing lift to the image. As it is I find the image flat.
AO LA Back Street	Merit	Clever treatment in this image, shadows, and highlight on the image of Christ, colours pop, exposure handled very well. I keep looking and finding more as my eye searches around this image. The image of Christ draws my eye. Well done.
AO The Dread Dimension	Acceptance	Blaze of colour makes me gasp initially – in a good way, the colours pop, it's very busy. Then my eye wanders looking for a point of interest, but it can't rest any one spot.
AO The window washer	Honours	Well-handled, action shot, with filter of water on window pane, great colours, good exposure the action holds my interest. Well composed and captured. Well done.
A Grade Set Subject		
AS Adult and immature spoonbills	Highly Commended	Good capture of this group of Royal Spoonbills. The Spoonbill at the front centre & the right front birds are crisp & sharp. Good detail & well composed.
AS Black Tailed Gull	Accepted	Great action with beak open, however, slightly soft, needs to be a little sharper.
AS Brachyglottis bidwillii Mt Ruapehu	Accepted	Member of the flowering Aster family Good capture with context of surrounding plants. A different angle, perhaps a lower angle may improve this image.
AS Cicada	Honours	Great macro shot of the head & legs of this Cicada. With macro photography depth of field is always a challenge. Having the wings in focus would have made this an outstanding photo.
AS Common Wasp	Merit	Outstanding macro shot of the head of this wasp. Crisp, love the detail with the droplets of moisture and hairs on the wasp body. Good clear shot of the mandibles. Not a creature I like to get too close too!
AS Coprosma acerosa drupes	Accepted	Great capture of the Coprosma acerosa fruit, clearly visible are the blue flecking on the translucent berries. This is a little underexposed making the image as a whole slightly dull.
AS Earina autumnalis closeup	Accepted	The Easter Orchid, or Raupeka. Great capture of these New Zealand native orchids. Slightly underexposed, veins in flowers clearly visible, perhaps only slightly underexposed, great detail.

AS Eastern Rosella(Platycercus eximius)	Accepted	Tight crop, great colours on this small parrot. I would have lightened the eye slightly as it's a little dark. Good use of such a neutral background colour.
AS Flax Tui	Honours	Loving this Tui, super detail of the feathers, beautifully crisp & sharp, great colours, exposure handled really well, great composition. Super eye detail, pollen dust on its head, background handled well out of focus.
AS Goslings & Geese	Highly Commended	Great capture, handled very well. Good exposure, colours bright, great composition. Nice and crisp & sharp. Well done!
AS Keep Calm and Carrion	Highly Commended	Great title, made me laugh. Well composed, a great capture. Personally, I'd have cropped in a little more, keeping both Black Backed Gulls in shot. Great feather detail, so nice & crisp. Could be a little underexposed, but there is a balance in capturing the white feather detail without blowing them out. Well captured.
AS Kereru	Accepted	Well captured portrait shot of a Kereru with a sprig of Kowhai in its beak. Good depth of field. Great feather and eye detail, nice & bright colours. Well exposed, I like the interest in the Kereru's body hidden amongst the Kowhai. Well composed.
AS Kidneyfern	Merit	Nice macro shot of this Kidney fern. Lighting has been handled very well. Great detail on the fern edge. You've handled this shot well, a good capture.
AS Kingfisher	Accepted	Well exposed, good feather detail, colours bright. I'd have given this image a harder crop as there is a lot of empty space which doesn't add to the impact of the image.
AS Little Shag drying plumage	Merit	Great capture of this Little Shag drying it's wings. The head and body are well handled, wonderful feather detail. The eye is crisp & sharp. There is no detail to the wings and this could be improved by lightening the shadows a little. The leaves to the left of the bird could be darkened slightly as the reflections off the water in the background could be toned down slightly more to ensure they don't distract.
AS Monkey Nakhon Sawan Thailand	Merit	Well handle photo of this monkey. Great exposure, wonderful detail of face and fur. Great colours. I would tend to crop in slightly more as there is too much dead space out to the right.
AS New Zealand Kingfisher(Halcyon sancta vagans)	Not Accepted	Very under exposed. Also not sharp, but soft with nothing in focus. Full of potential, but hasn't delivered in this instance
AS Nocturnal Visitor - Hedgehog	Merit	Great capture of the face of this hedgehog. Well exposed, sharp, good clear eye, snout & facial hair & spines. Good use of shadow keeping the background from distraction. Well seen.
AS Nurseryweb spider with prey	Accepted	Great macro shot with lovely crisp detail right down to the hair on the spiders legs. Eyes nice & clear. Exposure handled well, colours nice & crisp. The slug too has been captured well. Debateable if a Nursery web spider would tackle a slug. But this is a good macro capture.

AS Pastural Drailles	Not Accepted	I'm not sure what the photographer was trying to capture here. Random trees on a hillside, with a track / road cut into the hillside. Obviously pastoral, as the title states. My eye wanders over the photo looking for a point of interest, but not finding one.
AS Praying Mantis	Accepted	Great capture if a Praying Mantis, sharp, good exposure, colours bright. The background is nicely out of focus.
AS Rengarenga	Not accepted	NZ Rock Lilly, exposure is good, however the photo is soft and not sharp with only the stamens in sharp focus.
AS Stumped	Accepted	Californian Quail, good exposure, great feather detail, nice & sharp. Background nice & neutral
AS Takahe	Accepted	Nice capture of Takahe head, good feather detail, great colour, well exposed. Shame you've cut the feet off, even though the head is the subject.
AS White faced heron	Accepted	Good feather detail, sharp & well exposed. The background of the waves with white water tends to swallow the Heron up as it merges in. But a good capture of a White faced Heron in its natural environment.
AS Wildflowers Namaqualand	Accepted	I like the angle used here, it has a great effect. From the green of the wildflowers, through to the flower heads and the sky. While my eye does tend to wander around looking for a central point Namaqualand is well known for its wild daisies. The overall effect works. Great texture, well seen.
B Grade Open		
BO Blur	Accepted	The title says it all. The colour comes through well and exposure has been well handled. My eye roves around the image trying to work out what it is you've actually captured & then blurred, but I can't.
B Grade Set Subject		
BS All the ducks in a row	Accepted	All "ducks" in a row? These are clearly geese. The light is harsh, the white flowers in the bottom right are blown out, as are some aspects of the geese themselves. Little feather detail.
BS Black lace tops	Merit	Great capture. Good exposure, sharp, and shows off the delicate nature of the flowers well. Background not distracting. Well seen.
BS Boletus scaber	Accepted	Great exposure, good sharp detail of the fungi, perhaps a lower angle would further improve this image.
BS Bottlebrush	Accepted	Bottlebrush flower with rain drops. The moisture adds interest in that the stamens take on an almost sticky appearance. Slightly soft, also slightly underexposed.

BS HoneyBee	Merit	Great macro shot of a honey bee. Sharp, well exposed, great detail around the head of the bee. The foreground is slightly burnt out, but the sharpness of the honey bee draws my eye. Well captured.
BS Im On my way	Accepted	You have some dust spots and other intruders on your lens / sensor. Always, always check for these. Slightly underexposed. Good composition.
BS Inside Waitahinga	Accepted	Shots inside bush can be tricky but you've handled the exposure well. No overly dark or burn out areas. Well captured.
BS Jew's Ear Fungus-Auricularia	Accepted	Macro shot, with too much out of focus. The pieces of fungi I'd expect to be in focus are not. Very narrow depth of field. Possible use of a tripod & cable release may help? Good angle, but alas too soft, my eye wanders looking for something sharp to focus on.
BS Muriwai Gannet Colony	Merit	Great capture. Horizon, straight, great exposure, sharp, bright colours. A novel take on a much-photographed colony. Well done.
BS Oh what a web	Accepted	Cobweb with water droplets, great background, the strongest focus is the centre of the web, where my eye is drawn. However, the centre is slightly soft, needs to be sharper.
BS Preying Mantis	Merit	Great macro shot of this Preying Mantis. Good exposure, background with no distractions.
BS Python Pool	Accepted	Well handled exposure of this popular spot in Australia. Reflection captured well, sharp, good colour.
BS Under Mirkwood	Accepted	Well exposed, sharp, though my eye tends to wander looking for a point of interest. However, great colours and shot of New Zealand bush. Fortunately no massive spiders, though a shame you couldn't capture elves or Hobbits.
BS White capped fungi showing gills	Accepted	Too soft, my eye wanders looking for a sharp image to focus on. While there are a few spots which are sharp, overall this is too soft.
BS Wood Pigeon - Hemiphaga Novaeseelandiae	Accepted	The head, eye & beak are all out of focus. You have handled lightening the Kereru's belly well, as taking a shot with sky as the background invariably puts the belly in darkness. What lets this shot down is the lack of sharpness in it. Use of a tripod & cable release may help.
BS Zebra	Accepted	The Zebra is standing in shade with bright sunlight behind it. While some of the grass is burnt out, you have done a reasonable job of combining the exposure of bright light and shade. Perhaps the brightness could be darkened a fraction more. The Zebra is sharp and central to the image. The pose of the Zebra is almost attempting to intimidate me.