

World in Close Up Prints

Judging panel: Basil, Heather and Ray

Number	Title	Result	Feedback
	BS		
B1	Bellbird in bottlebrush	Merit	Well captured bellbird with eye and head nice and sharp. Bellbirds are not easy subjects to isolate from their background which can diminish impact. Some careful post processing may have reduced the distracting bright spot behind the head? We enjoyed the lovely tones in the soft background.
B2	Briar Rose	Accepted	Lovely image of a rose, with good depth of field. We felt that the image could have been stronger with a less close crop on the right and sharper focus on the centre. The water droplets add an extra dimension to the image.
B3	Cattle close up	Honours	This is a beautifully composed and balanced image. Sharp focus on the eye, lovely lighting, colour tones and excellent use of negative space. We can only say well done.
B4	Halequin Ladybird	Merit	High impact macro image of a yellow ladybird against purple morning glory flower. Good focus, composition, depth of field and use of diagonal lines. Presentation could be improved with a more conventional mat and perhaps some vignetting might minimise the impact of the pollen specs. We loved the bold colours.
B5	Kookaburra	Accepted	We enjoyed seeing a kookaburra for a change! The artist's statement helped us to understand the context. We felt that, while the portrait format works, a little off the top may have improved the balance. As with the bellbird, capturing a kookaburra in the wild is challenging with the neutral lighting and complex background, so well done.
B6	Pollinate me	Honours	There's a lot to enjoy in this well composed and beautiful macro image. Lovely curved lines, subtle colour tones, nailed the focus in all the right places. You are making good choices as a photographer.
B7	Water droplets on one of the plant leaves....	Highly Commended	Another impactful image with excellent composition and colours. There is some banding in the print and we found the three white specs on the water droplets distracting. Otherwise a beautifully simple image - three spots short of an Honours!

	BO		
B8	Eel at Lake Rotoiti	Merit	The lines of the eel and ripple in the water make for a good composition and we liked the matching tone of the top right element. The eel lacks definition but that is not surprising being underwater. The use of glossy paper worked well with the slimy eel. Well done.
	AS		
A9	Climbing slaters	Accepted	Fits the brief well. Nice lighting, good focus and contrast. Unfortunately, we struggled to find a focal point, so our eyes kept moving around the image looking for something to rest on. Nevertheless, we did enjoy seeing the detail captured in this busy macro world.
A10	Dandelion seeds	Honours	Definitely a wonderful world in close up! Beautifully sharp throughout, good composition and well cropped with the dandelion head standing out crisply on the plain blue background. Love being able to see each red seed and its tiny umbrella.
A11	(no image number 11)		
A12	Eye of the goat	Merit	Good impact from this well cropped monochrome image. The sharp focus around the eyes and eyelashes falls off nicely into the corners. Perhaps a lower perspective would have allowed us to see into the eye more? We like the way the softened edges create a vignette-like effect.
A13	Food for bees	Accepted	The good lighting ensures that the bright yellow centre of this hibiscus stands out from the very soft background. We can see how appealing it would be to bees! While recognising the intentional shallow depth of field we felt there was not quite enough in focus to create a strong impact. The subtle diagonals of the colour gradations work well to give structure to the blurred background.
A14	Grooming gannet	Highly Commended	Wonderfully soft textures and lighting in this well captured image of a beautiful gannet. The blue eye just pops out at you and we loved the way his bill is buried in his feathers. We suggest the use of a black or blackcore mat might have better defined the boundaries of the image.

A15	Growing tall	Highly Commended	The combination of great depth of field with a sharp focus on the little tan toadstools nicely emphasises the story of these tiny fungi lost in a big world. Perhaps you could experiment with a square crop to take out some of the empty space in the top third of the image? We loved the colour tones and green highlights in the leaf-littered foreground.
A16	Holy Lichen	Merit	Technically a great image with astute composition. The prolific lichen gives us an indication of the age of the cross. In the artist's statement the photographer wonders how often it is cleaned! Despite the subject matter, we felt the image overall was lacking in atmosphere. The blackcore mat works well in defining the boundaries of the image.
A17	Lacecap Hydrangea	Honours	Wonderful depth of field in this well composed image. The leaf on the left leads your eye into the beautifully focussed centre. The lighting is exquisite and sets the flower off against the soft background and bokeh on the right.
A18	Male monarch butterfly feeding on ivy flower	Honours	The matte paper is an inspired choice to show off the bold lines and sharpness of this pristine butterfly, contrasting against the subtle background bokeh. Excellent lighting and focus on both the monarch and the ivy flower. Another beautiful image.
A19	Ponga bug	Merit	Great printing and the choice of metallic (?) paper enhances the stunning textures of this tree fern cross-section. We found the luminosity of the little green bug drew our attention but unfortunately its lack of definition lets the image down. We loved the bold ponga pattern with its bleeding resin.
A20	The Eye of the ostrich	Honours	Just wow! A wonderful high impact image. Amazing detail throughout. The clarity of the reflections in the eye - especially the eyelashes diverging within the iris - is great. We could almost identify the photographer!
A21	Thistle heads	Highly Commended	Lovely sharp focus gives us lots of fine detail in this image of dried teasel heads set against a mottled green background. We like the way the curving bract stretches out into the negative space. In our opinion the tight crop enhances the composition and the neutral mat works well to complete the overall presentation. After much deliberation we just feel it lacks that X factor to lift it to the next level.

A22	Tunnelweb spider	Highly Commended	You've nailed the focus perfectly, right between the eyes of this impressively scary spider, beautifully framed by his oval world. Perhaps a squarer crop could have reduced the distracting elements in the surroundings and focussed our attention more on the spider? The details we can see in the spider and his web are awesome!
A23	Watchful silence	Highly Commended	The matte paper and grey mat board perfectly enhance this strongly composed and well cropped image. You can feel the presence of the elephant. The texture and detail of his (or her) skin makes you want to reach out and touch it. The colour tone of the elephant's eye was the subject of considerable debate and, in the end, we had to agree to disagree on its potentially detracting effect on the image as a whole.
A24	Young sparrow	Honours	A well caught close up shot of this gawky youngster. Excellent focus throughout a nicely constructed image. Amazing detail in the head and feathers set off against an uncluttered background. The blackcore matting enhances the overall presentation.
A25	All mine	Highly Commended	Great story of this little boy engrossed in his icecream. Thanks for the artist's statement which paints a bigger picture for us. The tight crop, top and bottom, accentuates focus on the subject, the image is sharp and composition is good. Better control of exposure could have maintained detail in the white of the icecream. Is he worried the sun will melt his icecream before he can eat it?
A26	Lemon bucket orchestra	Highly Commended	Great composition of the "Balkan-Klezmer-Gypsy-Party-Punk-Super Band from Toronto" (we looked it up!) with a crazy sense of order. Tells a great story, but we found some background elements in the image distracting. Works well in black and white.
A27	Off the wall	Highly Commended	We had lots to discuss with this one! Technically superb quadtych which tells the story of the passage of time. We wondered if it would have had more impact if the images were larger and felt the fourth image didn't match the other three. Harmonious colours, lovely presentation, good choice of paper and matting.

A28	The lady sings the blues	Honours	Great construction, dynamics and angles. We loved the smile, her teeth and expression. The black and white treatment has given a clean sharp feel to this striking image.
A29	Elegant dove	Honours	Well captured dove in an unusual pose which adds interest. The unique range of tones and good depth of field successfully separates the dove from the background. We did have a concern about a blemish on the image but thought it may be post submission? Superbly printed on metallic paper and well presented.