

Whanganui Camera Club DPI Competition

Colour my world

Judge: Kay Goosen-Cooper

Title	Result	Feedback
B Grade Open		
Left Hanging	Honours	Wonderful cross lighting shows all the delicate detail of the dress, with a great tonal range from pure white to pitch black – I love the subtle highlighting of the wire mesh and the rather worse for wear slats.
Make Your Own Music		A good idea which hasn't quite worked – I like the one sharp knob being on a third, and the way the others fade off into fuzziness - however, the very, very out of focus keys at the bottom of the picture dominate the image – they are a major distraction.
B Grade Set Subject		
An explosion of colour		While this is very striking, there is a confusion to it, with your eye darting from one bright area to the next, without really being able to settle – there's just too much going on – one solution would be to move in, concentrate on a smaller area, and simplify the image – good colour and it's sharp throughout.
Brightening their day	Merit	The cyclist balances the building well – the rocks in the foreground an interesting, but not distracting, element – the muted tones of the surroundings makes the gentle colours of the building really stand out.
colour my world		When tackling a sunset or sunrise, one must be very careful of what you put in front of them – this scant bit of foliage is not really enough – particularly when the sky is so out of focus – another point is, try to get some detail in the silhouette, rather than just have it plain black.
colour of coke	Merit	A bit of a hotch potch, but in a nice way – everything is sharp and there's quite a circular composition to it, with the outside cans swirling around the middle one – nice bright colour – gosh, it's making me thirsty.
Colourful Throne		Unfortunately, this is really not sharp, and it should be – the colours are great and what a joy it must be to use it! – I'm sure you could have made a much

		more dynamic picture with this subject – move in, take just a bit of it – lie on the floor and note what you see from there – try this again, there so much potential.
Disco time	Merit	Although this one appears to be not sharp, anywhere, it doesn't need to be – the colours are psychedelic, as they should be, and I particularly like the areas where two overlapping colours make a totally new one – it's full of the fun, music, dancing and colour of a really hot disco and the photograph gets that message across very well.
Let the light shine in	Honours	This is just such an amazingly evocative image – the homeliness, the tranquillity, the welcoming feeling and those beautiful colours of this person's world.
Lime		Unfortunately the fruit is not quite sharp, and that is vitally important in this case – there are some really distracting highlights in the background which need toning down – I like the bright colour and the wonderful cross lighting, which shows the form and texture of the fruit – if it were mine, I'd crop off about half the area to the right of the lime, and up to the leaf tips on the left – this will simplify it and reduce some of those distractions.
Love	Highly Commended	What a vibrant blaze of red – I find that tiny light band above the roses distracting, and I'd crop it off – the slope of the tiers of flowers adds movement to the composition – good on you for moving to the side and taking your shot from this angle.
Pretty in Pink	Merit	Very pretty – it's a pity she is carrying that nasty plastic bag, as it does grab the attention somewhat – I'm glad the other figure is in black, because it makes her so muted – there are several areas in the background which could be toned down a bit – like right at the end of the alley, where there are some highlit structures – overall, a quite successful image.
Pretty in Pink 2	Merit	A well thought out photograph with a strong composition and a beautiful range of harmonising colours – but there are some obvious distractions – I suggest you crop off the left hand side, to remove the three bright splashes there – you could also crop off the top to get rid of the bright light at the top right – these actions would not alter the composition, but would simplify the image.

Simply red		Just a bit too much included here – your eye doesn't really settle anywhere and there should be some sort of eyecatch in it – great colours and nicely sharp.
Summer time	Highly Commended	A good arrangement of harmonising colours – I think the blue whatever it is, holding up the hat clashes rather – I'd have used a colour-matching object instead – love the lighting on the hat, which shows off the texture so well – maybe just a sliver off the bottom, to eliminate all the base of the table, would improve it – simplify as much as you can – less is nearly always best.
Sunset Glow	Merit	A rather nice sunset – I like the details you can see in the poles – they are not just black and featureless = most of the buildings are muted and the lights, and their reflections, add that third dimension – love the bird on the pole and the water is very serene.
Up Up and Away		Obvious dull lighting means this appears flat and 2 dimensional – you appear to have just stood up, and fired away, never a good idea – move in – get down on the ground and look up – get a ladder and look down – don't include the whole object and wait for some better lighting.
wild flowers		What a pity you haven't quite gotten the flowers sharp – the middle one in particular, really needs to bounce off the screen – on the other hand, the background needs to be much more out of focus – the flowers are an intense yellow, and work well against the green – I think the lighting is rather too flat – the group of blooms form a good, compact composition.
Year of the dog		I really feel you are just photographing someone else's art – you've added nothing, such as, using a different angle, getting lower to the ground, looking down on it, or moving right in – the colours of the dog are rich, but the background is very messy.
Zooming Lights	Honours	What an unusual colour palette – one usually thinks of reds and whites, with a bit of green or amber, thrown into the mix, when considering street lights – maybe they are not street lights! – who cares what they are, it's the end result we are interested in – well done on getting it just right, because it's not the easiest thing to Zoom in, or out, while trying to click the shutter – congratulations.
A Grade Set Subject		

3 2 1 Go		This has a very limited but subtle palette – love the triangle , which, along with the swimmer, helps to make a reasonable composition – I think you need just a bit more of interest, to be a really strong image.
After the rain	Honours	Brilliant! – that so sharp raindrop is right on the third, therefore it's a very strongly balanced composition – fabulous colour – the diagonal sweep of the petal adds movement and power – great subdued background.
Bed sitter	Highly Commended	The yellow band in the background is very bright and tends to overpower the image – however, in another sense it adds movement – the turquoise window is very close to that magic third – if it were mine, I'd crop off the base through the middle of the heavy black window frame, thereby removing the distractions at the bottom.
Bud on Bloom	Highly Commended	I love the contrast of the sharp bud against the slightly fuzzy flower head – I'd prefer the bud to be just a tad lower in the photograph, as it appears to be almost disappearing from the frame – the colours are rich and exciting – the slightly angled stem adds movement to the image.
Cafe Tabletop		Great, bright colours – however, the table cloth clashes badly with the flowers in the pot, making it a very confusing image – while it's a good idea, the flowers are just plonked in the centre – there appears to be little creativeness.
Caldwell's Flamingo	Honours	Brilliant darkened corners hold the image together – the light blue background is a great foil for the dramatic flamingo – I wish I'd taken this.
Clematis	Highly Commended	Again, this has that nice darkened frame around the main subject – the vivid pink flower against the acid green and dull grey, make it leap out of the picture – the flower is sharp, but a smidgen central – there are a couple of bright blobs which could be toned down a bit.
Coloured Confusion		This really is confusing – I think if you could tone down the background, one could concentrate more on the flower – I would love to know what the flower is, as I do not recognise it at all – rather too central and static.
Earthware	Highly Commended	What a pity the jar top and bottoms are cut off – it just makes me a tad uncomfortable – otherwise, the colour is rich and the lighting is marvellous – it really shows up the rounded shapes – the steps balance the large jar very well, and disguise the fact that the central jars are very central.

Emerging colour		Beautiful colour and nicely sharp – the bud is very straight up and down, whereas if it was at an angle across the picture, the image would be more dynamic.
Go	Honours	This is a very simple technique, but one which is hard to master – I wonder if you stood there for ages, taking multiple shots, or whether this was one of those rather rare times when all the elements just fell into place – a very monochromatic colour scheme keeps it simple, so all the attention is concentrated on the central GO.
Hello		Yes, this is certainly colour, and lots of it – but what a messy background – by A Grade I expect more creativeness and better composition.
Living the Outdoors	Merit	The motorcyclist is on a third and brightly lit, against the in shadow, but brightly coloured background – it's good and sharp and I really like the long, low format you have used – it gives the rider plenty of room to move into, which adds movement and dynamics to the image.
Mooring Chain		In my opinion, there is just too much out of focus here – rich colours but that's not enough to carry it.
National Colours	Merit	I'd like to see those houses in the background muted into obscurity – otherwise, I love the canopy of bright colour arching over the central group – the use of reducing most of the image to black and white, while retaining the gorgeous colours of the flags is brilliant.
Night Lights	Merit	This appears to be very sharp throughout, letting your eyes wander right through the picture – it's symmetrical without being an exact mirror image – it's a tad static, but the converging lines add some dynamics.
Orange Shed	Honours	Judges are the worst people out – they lambast your favourite images and then glorify one that you can't see the merit of – this photograph breaks all the so called rules and thereby warms my heart – bright colour almost on the edge, a narrow strip of another bright colour at the base and too much grey cloud – but I love it.
PinkLady		Nice clean lines to this building, spoiled by the writing at the base and the small areas of bright yellow at the top – these both distract from the building itself – I'd also like to see that corner upright, just above the first i in Victoria, perfectly vertical – also, maybe the top of the corner to be included.

Pukekura lights	Highly Commended	For some strange reason, this makes me think of a Spanish dancer – her bright pink skirt and arms ending in more bright pink hands – then her magnificent mantilla, cascading down from her head – you have taken this creatively and added an extra dimension to what was there.
R&B		Or Red and Blue – the juxtaposition of the cars with the veranda signage is certainly eye-catching – but the children are all walking out of the frame and to further distract us, we have the word “ravel” on the adjacent canopy.
Red in Shanghai		You know, this is a great, well balanced picture of Shanghai – the tower is counter-balanced by the troop of men in the lower left corner – but the miniscule touches of red are just not big enough – one has to hunt for them, therefore I don’t think it fits the Set Subject.
Romantic sunset		I have difficulty with sunsets, because so often the photographer relies too much on the glorious colours and forgets about composition and the actual subject matter – this one is almost sliced in two by the horizon – the rocks add a little interest, but I think the people are just too insignificant - I do like the shadowed area at the lower left, is nicely mirrored by the clouds in the upper right.
Skye		When making portraits, it is vital to watch out for distractions in the background – even if you had tried to mute the clutter, this would still be a smidgen stiff – you have such a lovely model to work with, go and do her justice.
Splash Down	Highly Commended	Even though this doesn’t have those subtle shades in the water of “3 2 1 Go”, it has a different, but strong, composition – here we have a central eye-catch surrounded by a radiating arch, which is sliced through by the narrow band of contrasting colours in the foreground – some thought and creativeness has gone into making this, and it shows.
The last Jaffa		While the sky is full of delicate bands of colour, the sun is almost out of the frame – the very black and very big silhouette is more of a distraction than anything else.
The Song Man	Honours	While this appears rather over-contrasty, I think that adds to the atmosphere – love the movement in his hand, the sharpness of his other hand and the placement of his head on a strong third – the colours of the figure are strong and clash wonderfully with the gentler colours of the

background