

Nature and Mankind Prints - Panel: Bev, Vonnie and Diane H		
Title	Feedback	Result
B Grade Set Subject		
British Blue	Very strong composition of a very strong cat. We stepped back to view and appreciate this one! The fern leaf in the corner is a really nice touch compositionally and colour-wise. No extraneous details.	Highly commended
Bug Love	A human - nature interface moment caught! Accentuating the area of the face and the interaction with bug would have made the message more powerful as the background of the 'moment' is much lighter than the area of real interest. Perhaps a lower angle of viewing would help - if you had the opportunity. Perhaps try reframing to a vertical of only the face and insect? Well seen opportunity.	Accepted
Do you come here often? Pond life	Pond Life Sharp as a tack, but we found the second finger a distraction- and have to admit to not seeing the fly on the second finger until it was pointed out - even though the title gave us a hint! A bit of Photoshop to bring the fingers together more, might assist the vision of some judges - and the composition! Definitely shows the seeing eye of the photographer	Accepted
Feeding the goats	Interaction of a moment caught. Well done. These moments are precious. Composition captures all participants - even the eye of the little goat through fence. We felt the lower half of the composition didn't add to the story and maybe a horizontal format of the top half of the image only would help involve the viewer more?	Accepted
Hungry Shag	Very expressive capture of the bird's posture with excellent focus and exposure of the black feathers. Well caught. As is often the case in these moments the background can be distracting. Maybe a slight dark vignette on the image or cloning out the top left black area especially, would help. Please ask if you are unsure how to do this.	Merit
Kaka, Zelandia	Very well proportioned composition in the format with no extraneous details. The eye and beak area are sharp and the story is told well.	Highly commended
Mountain Goats	Very clever juxtaposition of goats and skyscrapers. Well seen. More contrast in the image may help. Slightly tight crop at the base but this may have been unavoidable. Definitely worthy of a bigger size print. Clear message - well done.	Merit
Rainbow Lorikeet	The immediacy of this image really tells the story of the caged bird. It is strongly placed in the frame. The partially out of focus netting is not a detractor as the colour definition and feather detail is so strong.	Highly commended
Tiger Tiger	Viewer stopping. Sharp and in your face message. Maybe the foreground bamboo could be darkened slightly to give more emphasis to the stunning portrait above it. Complementary overall colour scheme.	Merit

Wanna be free wallaby	Wanna be free wallaby. A rhyming title is always memorable! Well done. Gives a very sad feeling - the use of downward line in uncluttered composition helps here. A little more contrast may give punch to the message?	Highly commended
You would be Lunch	Very commanding title and angle of shot leaves no doubt of its truth! Good clear composition. The judges had discussion on whether the white fur on left could be made less vibrant and whether the white blobs and blue line at the top added or detracted from the message. We agreed to differ!	Highly commended
B Grade Open		
Abandoned	Strong monochrome presentation well suited to the image. The whole picture tells a story and raises questions. The eye moves through the image and the car acts as a starting and ending point for the story. Dark corners right top and bottom stop the eye leaving the scene. Well seen	Honours
City Highlights	Dramatic afternoon lighting and dark sky give a powerful setting. We found the composition somewhat confusing though as there were so many highlights. The large area of cream building dominates but does not link well to the other areas of highlight. There were several images within this one. Maybe the strongest could be a panorama of the skyline roofline and dark sky?	Accepted
Inner City Lighthouse	Very subtle lighting in this architectural image. The repetition of light and shapes in the two windows is a positive echo. Perhaps deleting or darkening the three areas of light on the left may give stronger emphasis to them? Well seen pattern.	Merit
A Grade Set Subject		
Above the Clouds	Well seen moment. Centre of focus, the end of wing and the bold clouds are strongly placed in the composition. The upward line of composition is strong. The judges were not sure the area of engine on the left edge added to the image or not? Panorama format suited the subject.	Merit
Breakfast is served	Served'? The moment captured - drama and a gripping scene. Shows immediacy and vibrancy of the fresh meat capture. Golden light adds dimension. One judge thought the framing a bit tight and would have liked to have seen more space on the left for the energy to dissipate. The mounting of the print needs to be more firmly attached to the matt - the clubroom lighting accentuated the folds unfortunately. Compliments on the photographer's fast action.	Highly Commended
Café sugar thief, Blue faced honey eater	Blue faced honey eater. Colour is stunning. Sharp clear image. Sugar bowl adds to composition's story.	Highly Commended
Can I reach it?	Clear story in uncluttered image. The strong post on the left echoes the upright body of the animal. It is a pity the spot of light did not catch the eyes. Expression reflects the message/title.	Merit

Feasting on Roadkill	Clean clear image. The moment and angle of the bird is well caught.	Highly Commended
Freeze framed	The judges had quite some discussion on this one. Is it a picture of the icicles or the 'moment'? The AS read afterwards indicated the photographer may have also been undecided? The moment is highlighted. The icicles take up two thirds of the image. One judge felt a softer blend on the edge of the highlight might help. The composition is different and intriguing.	Merit
Lonely day at the zoo	An image which remains with you. The face and position of the animal tell the story. The composition of recurring triangular shapes, muted colour, even lighting and low angle taken, really capture the mood. Well captured	Honours - TROPHY WINNER
Meerkat alert	Clear image, with the meerkat well placed in the composition reflecting their natural pose. Perhaps a slight crop at the bottom to remove the lit section of tail would avoid the distracting light spot on the edge of the image?	Merit
Open the door	As sharp image taken from a low angle but one which still shows detail of the frog. Well done. The upper area and the AS gave food for discussion but the judges were not convinced. Does the light area at the top add to the story or is the frog in a more powerful position if that area were cropped a little? A title which indicates the frog's situation rather than being the frog's personal statement may have been more appropriate?	Accepted
Perspective	Expansive panorama which makes the point -when you locate the figure. Should he/she be bigger - or is that the very message you give? The colours of the image and the matt, work really well together.	Highly Commended
Porcine Peace	This image had the judges asking questions! Well captured texture and enfolded shapes closely cropped but the focal point is unclear- maybe there isn't meant to be one? There is a definite sense of unease with the image- yet the title is Porcine Peace?Hmmm... Very sturdy mount!	Accepted
Sky garden	Definitely man and nature working together to soften the outlook from those apartments and create a more restful interior. Green matt echoes green message. Angle of shot is excellent giving towering perspective of building against the vivid blue sky. Perhaps the white patch of writing only on the bus on the right edge would be better removed as it is distracting and not relevant?	Highly Commended
St Bathans, 2019	Tonal range is lovely. Good leading line and framing takes you into image. Soft lighting and tonal range now hide harsh past. A fence and tree plantings indicate man even if the viewer is not aware of St Bathans's Blue Lake and gold mining history. Would an AS indicting that history have been helpful?	Highly Commended
Taxidermy Trio	This image opens discussion on the practice of taxidermy. The placement of the window frame gives the composition balance - well managed. No distracting elements.	Merit

Tiger, Auckland zoo	Clean clear image of the tiger capturing open stance and gaze. Is there a story here? Maybe it's the topic of whether zoos should exist? Maybe a little more of the environment would tell the tale?	Merit
Water feature bather	Bather'? 'Visitor' maybe? Uncomplicated simple composition works well. Triangle shape acts well as a frame for the bird and the grey semi-gloss matt is very complementary.	Highly Commended
Water ways	Well titled. The eye is enticed in by the main surfer and then discovers other parts of the story - the trio of surfers and the ship on the horizon. The AS is effectively and succinctly expressed.	Highly Commended
A Grade Open		
Grasshopper on web	Simple clear image. Detail well captured. A different angle adds interest.	Highly Commended
Guardian angel	Lighting captures the mood but 'the story' is quite 'short'?	Merit
Nature still life	A thoughtfully composed study inviting the viewer to read the message. A serious tone indicated by the sombre tonal range. The flax flowers make the connection. Beautiful.	Honours
Stafford, 2019	Colour tones and composition of shapes is very strong and well seen. The viewer's eye is attracted to the lighter headstone in the background and this is frustrating as it is not able to be read very easily. Is it important to be able to read 'Stafford town'? There is conflict about whether to look at in-focus but detail-less foreground headstone or blurred brighter background. Maybe that is the photographer's message about headstones and cemeteries?	Highly Commended
Tweedledee	Tweedledee. Tweedledum. These two independent images have similar comment. They are delightful tomtit portraits which would make a wonderful diptych. The background colours behind the birds are soft and natural - the matching tones in the birds breasts and background are effective. Is the white vignetting slightly overpowering? Is it confusing with two sets of names – the species on the image and the separate different titles?	Highly Commended
Tweedledum		Highly Commended
Weevils	(With apologies to the photographer but we found this to be a rather entertaining image as we made comment. Maybe after four hours of judging and as this was the last entry our concentration was slipping?) Is this photo-stacking? Have they been caught in the act? How could a photographer keep the antennae in focus with all this going on? It's a very well balanced composition. We stopped this point and agreed that it certainly told a story simply and without distraction! Well done.	Highly Commended