Grade	Image Title	Award	Comments
A Grade	AO A Kea Couple	Merit	Nice capture of a pair of Kea's. The expression of the two birds is well caught and shows a connection between them. The framing of the kea with the leaves is appealing and there is a good distance in front of the birds in the direction they are facing. The green tones in the birds and leaves complement each other.
			However, the bright areas on the leaves draws the eye away from the subject. Things to consider in future images could be changing the perspective or angle of your shot, trying a different composition that minimises the foliage in the foreground or compensating for this at capture to retain all the detail. This can then help when using simple (as opposed to more complex software like lightroom) post processing software that you can find on your phone, for example, to lower highlights and lift shadows which could alleviate this issue.
			As this image title is about the couple, a slightly deeper depth of field to ensure the second bird was sharp as well could have improved the image but the depth of field that has been chosen has separated the kea from the background well, but the background on the left is very distracting due to the nature of the substrate and the lack of focus. While we can't always pick our background, possibly choosing to crop this out and lose some of the tail of the bird would strengthen this image.
			The birds are pin sharp which shows the detail in the feathers and the and the beautiful colours off well. There is a sharp focus on the dominant eye of the front kea. Overall the couple look very cute together.
A Grade	AO Cicadas Moulting	Highly Commended	Nice 'macro' shot of a Cicada emerging from its chrysalis. The sharpness is the first thing that grabs attention. The fine hairs and detail on the legs and body are caught with precision. The wood below is interesting in texture and not distracting. The image is nicely lit with a dark out of focus background to bring the viewers attention to the centre image.
			The lower body of the shell is what seems to be the main focus but it would have been good to see a little more of the head. This would have balanced the image better and, in conjunction with that, the placement of the subject in the frame could work better with more room behind the cicada shell than in front. We wondered if a 90 degree turn of the image, with the cicada then facing up as we would expect to see on the side of a tree or post, would feel more dynamic.
			This image is well exposed, well focused with a good depth of field, has good colour tones, good subject separation and good visual dimension. Well done to the photographer.
A Grade	AO Gold Leaf	Highly Commended	A sharp capture of a leaf with well defined edges and good detail in the image. This is a good 'graphic' still life image which could be used in advertising.
			When looking at this leaf for a while we wondered about the story. We may have missed what the photographer was trying to portray. we felt that there was a disconnect between the leaf and the lettering in the background due to this lack of understanding.
			The light is this image seems a little confusing when we think of the light sources, the direction and strength of the light as well as where shadows fall. When taking a photo that's not edited, the reality of making sure those subtle and not so subtle light sources, shadows and highlights are correct. When we make a composition, or start tweaking our images with photo editing software, we have the daunting prospect of making sure all the light sources, shadows, mid tones and highlights match and that we don't push them too far in one direction or the other. In this image we felt the light source on the bottom left corner was too bright for the highlights that are on the leaf from this source. In contrast, the top right corner is not bright enough for how bright the hotspots are on the corresponding highlights on the leaf. Don't get me wrong, this is no easy task and something that others have struggled with.
			This is a good effort and we encourage the person to continue to play with these creative endeavours.

Grade	Image Title	Award	Comments
A Grade	AO Jurassic Park	Merit	A nice atmospheric image. This would have been a difficult scene to photograph with a huge amount of texture tones and shapes. This does mean that sometimes it's hard to know where to rest your eyes and where the main subject/focus is. The highlights in the water and overall colours have been handled well and Jurassic Park is a fitting title.
			We feel that the highlights at the top of the image pull your eye up and away from the scene. As mentioned, we found it hard to know what the subject isthe reflections in the water, the logs at the end, the marginal grasses or the trees and foliage? One solution for this could be to crop the image to just the leading lines of the edge of the water to the interesting log at the back. This would mean cropping out the lighter part at the top of the image and bringing the sides in. A similar effect could also be achieved by not cropping and the use of vignette, darkening the edges with a gradient towards the middle but being careful to not overdo it.
			All in all this is an interesting scene that has mood and depth. We enjoyed searching through the image looking at the many details and searching for mysterious things in this Jurassic Park.
A Grade	AO Peacock Moth	Honours	Happily scrolling through images and writing up comments and then this alien thing appears on the screen. This is not something you see everyday and unique is good. But not only unique, this image is sharp. One of the most important things with macro photography, besides light, is that all the right things are in focus and all the not so important things don't have to be, This image for me meets the bill.
			While the light is a touch flat and including the tip of the wings would have been nice this image has great colour tones, good separation from background, has character and is a peak into a world we don't normally see or necessarily look for. The lighting may be a little flat but that won't stop us from awarding this image an honours.
A Grade	AO Sweet As	Merit	An endearing image of a little girl that has a timeless quality to it. The pinks are stunning and the leading line caused by the edge of the foliage nicely leads you in the same direction as the little girl is looking.
			We felt that the perspective the photographer has chosen is quite removed from the scene and wonder if a lower angle more on the child's level would have been more engaging. A close in portrait crop may strengthen image and a subtle vignette may help with the bright areas top and bottom of the frame.
			Come sit with me. This image for me has a story as told by the body language of the sweet little girl. A great addition for any parents or grandparents wall.
A Grade	AO Tug Master maneouvres shipres	Highly Commended	This is a lovely image that highlights the sense of scale between massive cruise ships and the much smaller tug boats used to guide them through the harbour. The photographer has shown their skills in photography to get this super clear image at this time of day.
			The mirroring of the yellow colour in the sky with the yellow lights on the boat and reflections balances this image well. The capture/crop of this image has enough space on the right for the big boat to move into. The perspective has been chosen well with the land in the background having some separation from the black line at the bottom of the boat.
			This is an image that could well be used for advertising. Well done
A Grade	AS Work in progress	Accepted	"This image took us a little time to figure out as it feels like two images in one. The image on the left with the hair stylist and the customer and on the right, the man's reflection with the tools of the trade and bottles on the bench.
			Couple of things to note. Watch for focus. The picture on the wall is sharper than the subjects. Also try and look out for giving the subjects some breathing room in the direction they are facing, in this case there seems to be a wall blocking the view. This causes the image to look a bit unbalanced.
			We found the reflection in the mirror and the items on the bench interesting and wonder if there was an opportunity for an image just there?"

Grade	Image Title	Award	Comments
A Grade	AS A good race was run	Merit	The first thing that captured us about this image was the horse's eye. So expressive.
			There are a few things to be considered in this image which would lead to a stronger presentation. The Jockey's face is not in focus and the writing on the breeches is which has the effect of pulling the eye down towards this area. A tweak with the cropping would also add impact. As there is not a lot of information that adds to the story in the right hand side of the frame. Cropping in from that side and possibly moving in closer would strengthen this image. Giving more room in front of a moving object or in the direction the object is looking or moving towards can more often than not help with composition.
			This image has a good story though and evoked mixed emotion as we took in the details from the setting, to the eye then to the blood in the horse's nose.
A Grade	AS Airbrush Artist	Highly Commended	With previous experience shooting on a bright sunny day at a market under a shaded gazebo, it takes skill to capture images well in those conditions.
			The range of contrast is often huge and outside the ranges of our cameras, our eyes do a much better job. You have to be cautious where you place the blown out highlights in the background as there is a high chance you're not going to be able to recover them later. We felt that this photographer has handled that well in this image. The bright areas behind the face accentuate the shape and give good subject separation. We like the depth of field chosen, it reduces busyness but at the same time still gives context to the image.
			When photographing, what is essentially street photography, waiting for that moment that elevates the image I feel is important. It may not ever come but then it just might and an image will be stronger for it. In this case we would have liked more engagement with the subject - more than just a side on view. Also the photographer could look at cropping up from the bottom to bring the viewer in closer to the action without losing any details of the story.
			A peak though into the world of an artist.
A Grade	AS Cone Man	Highly Commended	A well spotted interesting looking man at work with character. Great depth of field with good subject separation from the background. We will see a lot of bright and fluro colours tonight which we feel is hard to get right in post processing or even in camera. In this case we think that the photographer handled it well.
			Again a little more interaction with the man's facial expression with the environment or with the photographer, we felt, would have made a stronger image.
A Grade	AS Encountering Hippopotamuses	Merit	An image that makes us think about heading back off traveling. The composition of this image is nice with the boat to the left and a straight horizon line in the distance. The trees on the horizon balance the image well.
			Unfortunatly, the title is the only hint to the hippopotamus which are way in the distance of this image and not easily seen. We also feel the colours in this image are a little washed out.
			A greater depth of field may have been more appropriate so that not only the boats, which are nice and sharp especially for an image taken out on the water, but the hippos were more in focus as well.
A Grade	AS Fuse Lighter	Highly Commended	A great dynamic image. Fast enough shutter to get what is needed in focus and slow enough to show motion and movement at the edges of the blast.
			There is some colour on the wheel which may be lens flare which is a little distracting. We know that you can't always move to get a better shot but more of the man's expression would have elevated this image.
			The brights are well captured without blowing out and the colours have been handled well. A difficult shot that has been captured with some skilful photography.

Grade	Image Title	Award	Comments
A Grade	AS Garbos	Highly Commended	This is a well captured image full of interest and detail.
			The overall image seems a little dull with lighting that seems a little flat. The bright edge on the left top side of the image has a tendency to pull the eye and we wondered if a vignette or a crop here would help keep the viewer in the frame. We also felt that the image lacks a natural flow for the eye to follow.
			We liked how there is enough distance in front of the man walking left as well as in front of the truck and feel this has been framed up well. Maybe try different cropping options as a portrait crop of just the workers and the back of the truck may be a stronger image.
			There is lots of story here and this is a good documentation street cleaners at work in France.
A Grade	AS Get Me Out Of This	Merit	This is an interesting image which could be straight out of a magazine. Whites can be tricky to deal with and we felt the photographer has handled these well.
			There is a little clutter in the background which pulls us away from the task in hand and what the title of the image alludes to. A tighter crop into the action of the suit and mens faces could be an option without losing too much information. Due to the photographer's good choice of depth of field means the sign behind can still be made out but still allows for good subject separation from the background.
			If editing is something that the photographers does then a subtle lightning up the subjects eyes could help viewers focus on the face and expression.
A Grade	AS Guide Ingrid	Accepted	What an expression caught. Good clear capture of Ingrid's face with not a lot of shadow covering her eyes so that we can clearly see her expression.
			What we felt lets this image down is the lack of sharp focus on Ingrid's face and especially her eyes. We also wondered if the photographer had tried this image in black and white as the background is quite bright and vibrant and maybe competing with Ingrid for attention. Black and white can also be a good option for bright sunny days where there is high contrast. Also we would note that it is always the best practice to not crop though the middle of the female chest.
A Grade	AS Hay Maker	Merit	The rush before the storm. Long shadows with clouds looming on the horizon.
			This image to us felt like we were viewing the scene from far away. This may have been the intent of the photographer but we wondered if a crop to the top and bottom would bring the viewer into the action and make those clouds on the horizon more menacing. While the image may be taken on rolling hills, straightening the image to make the truck bed a tad flatter, rather than the vertical on the hay bales, gives a better feel balanced feel to the overall composition. The hay bale on the left is also just kissing the edge of the image and giving it a bit more space in the image would have helped the leading line that those bales have to the clouds in the distance. The image is overall well exposed but a lot of detail has been lost in the back of the tractor leaving a dead space in the image. Lightening up the shadows just a tad here could also help.
			These really are just picky little things and overall a good image depicting haymaking in New Zealand and other countries alike.
A Grade	AS Herding goats in Petra	Highly Commended	Great storytelling image. With interesting landscape and what is commonplace there but vastly different from what we see in New Zealand.
			It's a very bright image which fmay be a little top heavy, with the only bit of real green in the image on the top right corner pulling my attention away. We felt that a crop down from the top to remove this would bring the viewer back down to the story of the man and his goats without losing the feel of the location.
			We liked how the photographer has captured the man as he came around the corner and back towards them so that you could see his face. We also liked the balance of the few goats lagging behind the main group.
			Quite often in animal images you just get to see a whole heap of backsides as the animals are running or moving away but here the photographer has captured, on closer inspection, interesting body language on a good portion of these goats which tell their own stories. A well spotted image.

Grade	Image Title	Award	Comments
A Grade	AS Hot work	Merit	The photographer made a good choice in converting this image to black and white, which removes all distraction of colour in quite a busy scene.
			One letdown in this image is the lack of focus on the man's face. We felt it would have elevated the image if both the sheep and the man's faces had been in focus, instead the eye keeps going past them to the dangly bits on the trees which seem to be sharper. As with the hay bail earlier just watch where your subject or subjects kiss the edge of the image, here it's the sheep's hoof, and maybe think about giving them a touch more space within the frame.
			A good depiction of the hard work of sharing sheep.
A Grade	AS In the thick of it.jpg	Merit	Again a good choice to convert to black and white especially in such harsh light. He's definitely in the thick of it.
			Highlights are a little blown out though with loss of some detail. These hot spots also have the eye going all over the place pulling them away from where the action and story is happening. The texture of the trees and sawdust all around also feels a little overwhelming on the eyes. Our suggestion is to have a play around with crop so that not only he he in the thick of it but so is the viewer. Right up close to the action.
			This is another image with good story, showing the size of the tree, the wedge to help the bar from being pinched and the amount of work still to be done.
A Grade	AS Nail Technician	Highly Commended	Another great black and white conversion. A voyeuristic look into a stranger getting their feet done.
			We wondered though if a tighter crop would bring you further into the story. Retaining some of the door and door handle would still give it the perspective of outside looking in but also bring you right into the action. The door on the right may be a little too bright but overall we felt there has been good handling of the shadows and highlights.
			Good focus on the foot and tools. Good separation of foreground and background with a good choice of depth of field.
A Grade	AS Nailed	Highly Commended	The detail of the story captured here has been done well. Nice and sharp on the subjects.
			We were distracted from it though by the busyness of the rest of the scene. With such a wide depth of field all the information can be seen from the writing on the signs to the building way in the back. We felt that a crop would be a simple solution, taking you right into that action without losing sense of the place that the image was taken.
			Good control of exposure and colours.
A Grade	AS New Zealand Glass Works Whanganui	Highly Commended	This image has a unique perspective that you don't often get which, for me, gave this image a lift. There were coordinated oranges in the line, gas bottle, glass and t-shirts.
			A hard image to frame up with empty space in the right hand corner and clutter in the right. Possibly a tighter crop, or a rotation, would enhance the image and bring better balance. If the photographer is into editing their images then you could choose to bring down the hot/bright patch in the middle top of the frame a little to help keep the eye in the scene going on.
			There is a nice triangle formed by the glass blowing, ladies standing and the table and it's a detailed scene but not busy and we found it comfortable for our eyes to move around.
A Grade	AS Shearer	Highly Commended	A nicely framed depiction on the hard work and sweat it takes to shear sheep. A warm toned image that we found appealing.
			When we first looked at this image our eyes went straight along his back and out the side of the image. For us, the greater space on the right of the scene, compared to the left, and the latch on the door is like a leading line out of the image. More space in the direction the subjects are facing would help alleviate that. A crop along the right edge would also achieve this but not quite as well as allowing more space in front of the subjects than behind
			It's great to see the motion and movement in the arm while maintaining detail and sharpness in the man and sheep.
A Grade	AS Someone has to do it	Accepted	The colours and fluro have been handled well in the image.
			The art on the wall dominates the image and the brightness of the area of overexposure/brightness around the persons left hand and the toilet is confusing. The story that is there with the lady and her not so fun job of cleaning the toilets is missing. The toilet is cut off and there is also a lot of detail in the top area of the image that doesn't add anything to the story. A slight tilt down of the camera and maybe a different crop would alleviate this in the future.

Grade	Image Title	Award	Comments
A Grade	AS Spray Painter	Merit	This was not how spray painting looked when we were young. Not so much attention then was paid to covering up, use of a mask and having a separate area to spray paint in.
			The image does feel a little bit cold with the black and white conversion and it makes us wonder how it looked in colour.
			This is a good illustrative image that wouldn't be out of place in a manual or book about spray painting. The image has been well exposed with a good choice of depth of field. A clear and uncluttered scenewe
A Grade	AS The Gift of a Smile	Highly Commended	A bright and cheerful smile. This image made us feel good - a sunny smile on a sunny day. We liked the balance of colours, colour tones and leading lines and they all came together to make an appealing photograph.
			One of the difficulties of a street photography like this is nailing the focus. Unfortunately what lets this image down is the girls eyes and face are not sharp.
			This image is a good example of engagement between subject and viewer which rises above any technical issues the image may have to invoke feeling.
A Grade	AS Thread Gold	Merit	When someone has a fear of heights this is not where they would like to be hanging out! We think the photographer has chosen a good perspective and framed this image well. Having the context of the street below lets the viewer know how high it is.
			The roof in the corner on the left hand side is a little bright and keeps pulling the eye away from the subject. Maybe darkening this down a little would help.
			The image is sharp and well exposed with good contrast. You can even see some water droplets coming down.
A Grade	AS Tree felling on the Kaimais	Merit	A great action shot as the tree starts to fall. The exposure has been handled well in this image especially as it can be difficult when shooting into a bright sky. We think the photographer has made a good choice in how to frame the image with a bit of blue either side of the tree.
			The image is a little static with the tree frozen in mid motion and maybe a little blur would have given the viewer more of a feeling of the tree falling. With so much white in the background, maybe a change from portrait to landscape and a tighter crop would give a different perspective and make a stronger image.
			The image is nice and sharp with the focus is spot on.
A Grade	AS Wool handler and shearer	Honours	This image for us has it all. Good lighting that's been handled well, story, elements in the scene are placed well, good depth with foreground elements and background elements, great subject separation, good focus, great black and white conversion, good contrast, well exposed
			Any faults in this image, if any, can be overlooked due to the impact of this image. Well done.
B Grade	BO Coffee Time	Highly Commended	Bright and cheerful birds to brighten anyone's day. These cheeky little guys/gals obviously want their caffeine fix. We felt like we could put out a hand and it would jump on to say hello.
			The inside of the cup is quite bright and if using post processing this could be brought down a little. There is some clutter in this image and we feel cropping could remove some of those distractions. The bird in the background detracts a bit and would have been better to either been as sharp as the front bird, removed or the photographer could have waited until the bird had moved to the right a bit to give some separation of the two birds.
			The little bird in the foreground has been captured nice and sharp and this makes for a cute image.
B Grade	BS Coaching for the win	Highly Commended	A well exposed image that has captured the glory of the game well. We can feel the fun these boys had out on the field.
			A shallower depth of field could have been chosen to eliminate the distractions in the background without losing context of the story. And a slight crop in would eliminate the bleachers on the edge of the frame on the left and bring the viewer into the action in the circle a little more.
			A cool image of a team who look like they have had a good game.

Grade	Image Title	Award	Comments
B Grade	BS Dodging the Wires	Accepted	Not a job for the faint of heart! Though if there was a good photo shot from up there I'm sure many of us would do it just for that. Including the wires in the image has given a unique perspective than if the image had been taken from a different angle without them.
			Going slightly lower down and angling the camera up would have given the bucket a little separation from the wire on it's corner but still not impeded the view of the chainsaw. A little pan to the left, if possible, would also help as there is lots of empty space behind the man. It's a shame that the sun was in the direction it was as the shadow has obscured the man's face. Maybe waiting for the tree to start falling would have added something else for the image.
			Exposure of the sky has been handled well.
B Grade	BS Hot Work	Accepted	The motion of the bitumen has been captured well. The hot spots from the sun have helped separate it from the wall behind and it has the feel of motion.
			Moving around and getting an angle of the the face if possible would have been more engaging or even a crop could bring you more into the action and story of the image. Also consider whether straightening the fence would improve the image.
			It's always difficult to handle exposure on a bright day.
B Grade	BS Lollipop Man	Merit	When you see the lollipop person do you ever think that it has to be one of the most boring jobs in the world? This is an interesting image with lots of detail and things to look at but at the same time not being too cluttered.
			We felt that the camera could have been panned to the right just a little to give some room to the truck in the background as there is a nice leading line down to the man standing next to the truck and then a leading line sweeping up the curve of the road which feels a little cut off. Another option would be to crop from the right into a square for a different perspective.
			There are opportunities, and potential, with this photo to make it a stronger image.
B Grade	BS Mahi at the Mill	Highly Commended	What a fascinating location for an image. Great textures and colour and a great choice of depth of field that give good separation from subject without losing too much detail of the building.
			The engagement between subject and viewer is nice but the posture of the girl looked a little staged. This may not be the case but that is how the body language came across. Watch for focus as the logs in front are sharper than the subjects face.
			A closer crop could have elevated this image. A nice image.
B Grade	BS Nerves of Steel.jpeg	Merit	Challenging peoples fear of heights again. These guys look like they are as comfortable up here as they are on the ground. The exposure has been handled really well on this image. We like the shadows of the men and think it adds an extra dimension to the photo.
			We found the lines quite busy at the top of the image pulling attention away from the story on the roof and wondered if a crop removing this would help. There is also a fuzzy part at the bottom and a slight crop to remove most of this may help the viewer feel like they are right up there on the roof with the workers. We assume that there was not a lot of choice on what angle this image was taken. When there is a chance, watch for where items like the wires are, as in this case the top of the roof and the powerline meet and try to give a little more separation.
			Well done on spotting and capturing this image.
B Grade	BS Percy the smiling Sandwich Board volunteer	Merit	What a lovely portrait of Percy. He has a very engaging expression and face which draws people in.
			It seems that the image has been taken to just fit him in, with the top of the frame touching his hair and his foot cut off at the bottom. An additional slight crop at the top and a larger one at the bottom to just below the sandwich board would bring the viewer into where the story is. A shallower depth of field would also strengthen the image by removing background distractions.
			This is an clear and sharp image and I'm sure one Percys family would enjoy.

Grade	Image Title	Award	Comments
B Grade	BS Power	Highly Commended	More heights! A solid documentary shot of the job of the power men. Good leading lines and the choice of a square crop was a good one. The cloudless sky helps deliver an image that is already busy in a way that is not overwhelming.
			The subjects are separated well from the surroundings, though it is a shame that their eyes are obscure by shadow. Try experimenting with different crops and remember to look for areas where straightening can improve the visual aspects of the image.
			Great capture with well handled colours and good focus.
B Grade	BS Thatching	Highly Commended	This image could bring back memories of peoples time in England when they saw thatched roofs. A great story here of the labor it takes to restore a thatched roof. This image has been well exposed on what is another bright day.
			A crop top and bottom would bring the viewer into the story more without losing too much context of where the image was taken.
			The art of thatching a roof is well depicted. Well done.
B Grade	BS The Armed Defender	Merit	Not a photo that you often get the opportunity to take in New Zealand. We think the juxtaposition between his casual clothes and the seriousness of his gun and uniform is great.
			Without context, as the viewer we were unsure of why he is there and if he is alone or not. We understand that sometimes with these opportunities that there is not a lot of options of what shot you get. Waiting for the moment where there is more engagement would strengthen this image.
			There is good subject separation between the man and the background, though we feel a shallower depth of field could have been chosen to bring the focus more onto the armed defender. A closer crop may have also worked to strengthen this image.
			A good documentary shot
B Grade	BS The Building Inspector	Accepted	The body language captured by the photographer on the man with the documents under his arm adds an element to this image which helps to tell the story to the viewer. He is placed well in the images as his face is not impeded by the bars.
			Another image tonight that we have seen taken on a bright day and for me the harsh light is really unforgiving. For us, picking the right light is right up there at the top with the important considerations when taking an image.
			A crop to the left side would also strengthen the lines made with the scaffolding and make this image stronger.
B Grade	BS The relaxed fence painter	Merit	We found that the inclusion of the not painted, partly painted and painted parts of the fence add to the story in this image
			We would encourage the photographer, if able bodied, to play with perspective for example getting lower to the ground for a more unique point of view
			A well exposed image which documents the laid back style of the painter.
B Grade	BS Worth Doing.jpeg	Accepted	The composition in this image has been handled well, such as the poll not impeding the view of the painter or the open door of the van. We have a clear view of what is going on.
			The image in our opinion is let down by the lack of focus and flat lighting.
			A good documentary photo that could work well in a series of images as the restoration progresses.