

Number	Image Title	Grade	Judge's comments
1	AO A mystery package for Waverley	Highly Commended	I am really curious to see this statue unwrapped. It already looks magnificent. The horse and rider stands out nicely in front of the town. This is a great story. You may try to delete the car directly behind the statue to put more focus on the hero of the image.
2	AO Colours of sunset	Highly Commended	Colours of orange, yellow and violet arc across the sleepy pasture. It gives me a warm and fuzzy feeling. The lone tree draws us into the image but there is nothing to balance it at the other side. I feel the image would be stronger without it. A lovely story about the end of a day.
3	AO Hellebore Hyperbole	Merit	The photographer did a good job featuring this luscious bouquet with its rich green and purple flowers. I love the wave -like curve. Lightening up the image would reveal valuable hidden details, particularly in the centre. The black background is a great choice.
4	AO Lake Outlook	Highly Commended	This scene gives me a sense of peace and contentment, even though the dark, bleak sky warns of a pending storm. The monochrome treatment paints the sky, trees and water very well. The white vegetation at the front of the image catches my eye and I am continuously drawn back to it. I have to try to overlook it to enjoy the rest of this lovely image.
5	AO No one at home	Honours	The starkness of this image gives me the chills. It feels barren, cold and lonely. The white plastic blowing in the wind adds a bit of life. I see a lot of precision has been taken here. This adds to its appeal. Excellent work.
6	AO Oops	Merit	This series tells a great story of a jockey navigating the rails. All hope seems to be riding on this jump. The rider has a determined look on her face. Her body appears to be a bit stiff. The image is brightly coloured but a bit soft on both the jockey and horses face. Great action and excitement.
7	AO Panorama in gold	Honours	My first instinct is to explore these rolling hills and valleys. I would take the centre path for the best view. The colours are lovely, the light divine and the image is sharp. Excellent.
8	AO Pollen harvest	Acceptance	This is a very interesting macro image. All the colours are very vibrant. I find the strong colours and elements competing with each other. I can't determine a clear focal point.
9	AO Slalom	Merit	Exciting action shot with the surfer skilfully tackling the mammoth wave. The expression on his face is priceless. To put more focus on him I would suggest cropping in on both the right and left sides. The left crop at the yellow part of the rope and the right crop just past the surfer's head. You may want to adjust your exposure as part of the water in front is overexposed hiding valuable detail.
10	AS Australian coot	Acceptance	This Australian coot proudly looks over his territory. Placing him in the centre would give him more room to look into. Insufficient depth of field may have resulted in the image being soft. Also, check to see if your sensor needs cleaning. There are little white specs throughout. The reflection is a great backdrop for the coot.
11	AS Billy Goat Feeding on Gorse	Acceptance	It's great seeing the goat help us get rid of the dreaded gorse. Every little bit helps. The goat stands out nicely against the green grass. Lens softness may have resulted in the goat's face being out of focus. Experiment with different compositions. Seeing the entire animal would have made a stronger story.

12	AS Black Swan	Honours	The photographer did a fantastic job capturing the elegance of the black swan. The swan's pose is perfect, the colours are beautiful, and the image is sharp. Well done.
13	AS Busy Bees	Highly Commended	Two bees sharing a pollen treat is a great story. The bees are pin sharp with great catchlights in their eyes. I would suggest a tight crop, that includes just the bees and the stamens. Concentrating on the bees would make the image stronger. Great work.
14	AS California Quail	Honours	This confident Quail seems very focussed on where he's going. The blurred background has just enough information that we can imagine what's there. The various patterns of his feathers is gorgeous. Great colour, composition and sharpness.
15	AS Common Myna	Honours	Both the Mynas seem to be transfixed on something. The birds sitting diagonally on the spit branch makes for a lovely composition, as does the square format. Technically, I can not fault this image. Well done.
16	AS Dandelion and Fly	Honours	I can't even imagine how big one dandelion seed looks to this wee fly or even how long it would take him to navigate the dandelion's circumference. The central composition and square format works well here. Great spotting.
17	AS Escargot without the Cuisine	Acceptance	The thin translucent threads add interest to the background and lead us into the image. The snail's central position is good. He is very sharp. I feel that the intensity of the vibrant colour of the ground fights with our primary subject. A more restrained colour would have made the snail the hero of the image.
18	AS Fallow Deer	Honours and Trophy winner	The expression on the deer's face is priceless; innocence and wonder. It appears to have been a bit surprised by the photographer. The muted background of grasses compliment the colour of the animal. Well spotted.
19	AS Female Blackbird	Highly Commended	The blackbird is very sharp, accentuating all the beautiful feather detail. The foliage adds to the story. To put more focus on the bird, try cropping out some of the leaves on the right. Well caught.
20	AS Food searching Wax eye	Honours	Not content with the Chinese Lantern the Wax eye looks for other food. The bird is nicely displayed on the branch. I love the detail in his soft feathers and the subtle colours throughout the image.
21	AS German wasp on Rhododendron	Merit	The Rhododendron seems to be inviting the wasp in. The composition works well with the insect leading us right through to the stamens. The image seems to have a gray cast where the wasp and bloom aren't as bright as they could be. Fabulous story.
22	AS Horopito Emu	Acceptance	The expression on the Emu's face makes me smile. I could hear him saying, "Oh, what ever." I feel if the background was blurred the Emu would have stood out more. He seems lost in his environment. Parts of the image are underexposed.
23	AS Juvenile Nankeen Night Heron	Honours	What a perfect pose. The Nankeen must have know a photographer was near. His eyes are very alert. You have captured him beautifully. The detail in his feathers and the trees are fantastic. Great Capture.
24	AS Male California Quail on guard	Merit	This quail must have been on guard duty for quite a while. One of his legs appears to be getting a rest. The light on the bird is exquisite. The detail devine.. A few more supporting elements are needed for a stronger story.

25	AS Monarch Butterfly	Highly Commended	Dressed in orange and black the monarch takes centre stage, bursting with enthusiasm. The subtle background really shows off the butterfly. Take care choosing the flowers. They should be the best you can find. Nice catch.
26	AS Old Man's Beard	Honours	The abstract nature of this image really appeals to me. I love the way the Old Man's Beard fills the frame. I feel like I'm watching a graceful dance. The lights peeking through is delightful. One bright spot on the top of the image draws my eye but not enough to alter the score. Great work.
27	AS Silver eye (Tauhou)	Highly Commended	This is one of my favourite birds, especially when it sits still enough for me to capture. I love the bird sitting on a diagonal branch showing all his fantastic feathers and gorgeous colours. If I was going to change anything, I would crop the two blooms in front of him. He looks hemmed in. Great job.
28	AS The Humble Bee	Highly Commended	The complementary colours and composition in this image is gorgeous. The vibrant purple bloom providing nourishment for the hungry bee who has a beautiful catchlight in his eye. The complex texture in the stems add to the story. Toning down the sharpness a bit would strengthen the image. Thank you for this treat.
29	AS Thrush with worm	Acceptance	Great capture for both the bird and photographer. I feel a little post production could really transform this image. Right now the bird blends into the background. Try boosting the contrast and saturation. Good try.
30	AS Unwanted Agapanthus	Merit	Unwanted agapanthus is the perfect title for this image. The dark flowers look sad and forlorn bending over each other, ready to fall. The black flowers stand out against the cold, blue water. Determining a focal point in this image would add to the composition by telling the viewer what you'd like them to see first.
31	AS Wasp Orange Ichneumonid	Acceptance	This wasp is sharp and interesting to look at but the image needs more. The stark, white background does nothing to support the story. Placing the insect on some greenery would have made a world of difference.
32	AS White Butterfly	Highly Commended	If I was a butterfly, or any other insect for that matter, I would be attracted to this gorgeous purple flower. Love the detail in the butterfly. All the colours unify the image and work well. Dialling down the sharpening a bit would make the image stronger.
33	BO Light in the mist	Merit	I feel drawn towards the light; making my way down the track and under the bridge. The central composition works very well with a number of leading lines showing us the way. Brightening up the image a bit, particularly at the end of the bridge would draw our eye further. It may also highlight the sign a bit more. Good job.
34	BO Past moving	Highly Commended	This old fella has seen a lot of miles that's for sure. His windows, wheels, lights and fender are long gone. The diagonal angle of the truck draws us in with its lovely texture and colour. The paddock is the perfect home for it, adding heaps to the story. Leaving a bit more room in front and adjusting the exposure to lighten up the trucks interior would show hidden details. Good shot.
35	BO Rustic Doorway	Highly Commended	If doors could talk I reckon this one would have heaps to say about all the comings and goings throughout the years. The rusty corrugated iron, the overgrown branches and the neglected wooden structure all tell a wonderful story. I feel a little more room around the entire image would be beneficial.

36	BO View from Tower Bridge downstream	Acceptance	There is heaps to explore in this image, the docks, buildings and the colourful boats. There's even a sailor visible on the front one. I feel a longer lens may have resulted in a sharper image. Seems like a great place to try again.
37	BS Bee Landing	Acceptance	Photographing a bee all set to land is a great capture. He is obviously attracted to the lovely purple bloom. I could see this image cropped into a square format to include just the bee, flower and those pretty flower buds. A faster shutter speed may have resulted in the bee being sharper. Great try.
38	BS Butterfly Lunch	Honours	This butterfly looks like he's settling down for a huge feast. The image is sharp, the colours magnificent, and the composition is perfect. Well done.
39	BS Defensively Bright	Merit	The flowers, buds and leaves fill the frame beautifully. It's a very happy image. Working on a good composition would give the viewer an idea of what you wanted them to focus on. You are almost there.
40	BS Don't Leaf Me	Merit	This title made me laugh. The image is very good. It is sharp, the colours are lovely and the composition is perfect. I feel that this image would have done better in the open category. In my opinion, the manmade elements detract from a nature study.
41	BS Swallows at Rest	Highly Commended	The swallows remind me of notes of music with all of them doing their own thing. The juxtaposition of the hard, solid wood and the soft swallows is wonderful. Lightening up the exposure would give us more detail in the birds. Great creative image.
42	BS Ulex Europaeus	Merit	Admiring these lovely flowers I find it hard to believe they are considered a noxious weed. The sunny yellow blooms look beautiful with the brown buds and green spiky leaves. To strengthen the image I would suggest cropping up from the bottom up to the first full bloom. Also try darkening the white areas at the top of the image.
43	BS Young Heron at Roost	Acceptance	This heron has a very apprehensive look on his face. Maybe this is the first time his parents have left him on his own. He stands out nicely against the background of twigs and branches. A longer lens may have been needed to capture more detail in the bird. Good effort.